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A push to address Black-on-Black violence

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — As cities across the country have mobilized massive street protests over police violence and misconduct, a familiar question has been raised by their opponents: Why does violence within the Black community garner less concern than police violence?

According to crowd-sourced database, Mapping Police Violence, 304 Black people died at the hands of police last year, 101 of them unarmed. But Black offenders were responsible for 90 percent of the nearly 2,500 Black homicide victims in 2013, according to data compiled by the FBI. Between 2002 and 2011, the homicide rate was 6.3 times higher for Blacks than Whites.

Detroit-based community organizer, Yusef Shakur is on a personal mission to end the community violence he once perpetrated. By the age of 19, he had co-founded a gang and was given up to 15 years in prison, where he met his father for the first time. Through positive guidance from his father and a personal decision to do better, Shakur left prison determined to repay his debt directly to his community.

“Urban environments are like a dried-up lake; so people turn on each other out of survival. They



Yusef Shakur (center) counsels a young man (Courtesy Photo).

don’t know what they’re doing is out of hatred and anger, they take it out on the person that’s next to them, because they don’t know how to take it out on the people downtown in the City Council building,” he says. “They don’t know how to articulate themselves...how to organize a boycott, so you take it out on other folks. Throw in drugs, lack of education, guns all those things are a recipe for genocide.”

Shakur’s organization, Restoring the Neighbor Back to the Hood, seeks to rebuild a sense of community in the “Zone 8” section of Detroit through back-to-school bag giveaways, block parties, survival kits for indigent residents and families, and one-on-one mentorship.

Fourteen years after his release, he is an award-winning organizer and remains embedded in his neighborhood as a positive influence, particularly on those who commit the crimes that have made Detroit infamous.

To him, the victims of these crimes are just as important as those slain at the hands of racist authority figures.

“When any [deaths] happen, there’s outrage. We know tons of people who get killed but the media doesn’t talk about it,” Shakur says. “There are folks who do candlelight vigils, folks crying on the floor and things, but there’s no media cover-

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COMMENTARY

Justice is not blind

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

When racist attitudes, either conscious or subconscious, are combined with the discretionary powers that law enforcement officers have, the result is a differential outcome, with African Americans more likely to be the targets of “blind justice.”

Most of our politicians and leaders are exploiting subconscious racism, and pandering to explicit

racial fears. Even worse, they are rewarded when they say they are “tough on crime.”

Soledad O’Brien documented some of these attitudes in her most recent “Black In America” series. Included was an interview with a young Black man was stopped more than 100 times as he stood outside his college. Of course, he’d done nothing wrong, but police officers, “doing their

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E. Clement Swan



DJ Young Music



Talmadge (TJ) Vaughns, Jr.

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E. Clement Swan

Durham, NC (Black-News.com) -- From unique restaurants, new condos to major hotel chains, the city of Durham, NC is expanding. And one African American woman and her team are ensuring that this growth includes a stress-free Bed & Breakfast for women. Her name is E. Clement Swan, and she calls her new venture "TheLRoomBNB".

Swan, is a national marketing consultant, former publisher of *NY SheBiz Magazine*, and organizer of the NY SheBiz and The Black Wall Street National



Conference. She researched this project for two years; every woman she interviewed said, "Where is it? I need a break now." She is a resident and entrepreneur of Durham, NC, originally from Queens, New York. She visu-

alized her mother, Gloria C. Swan, Registered Nurse; struggle as a single mom who raised five children - depressed and stressed out.

In her mom's memory, Swan and her team have created a safe space for women to relax, de-stress, rejuvenate, become renewed and engage with their peers.

As more women have entered the workplace deaths and stress related illnesses (strokes, heart attacks, depression) among women have increased. TheLRoom seeks to assist in relieving that stress offering periodic "Mini Breaks" that will allow women to "exhale" making

them more balanced and leading to better work, home and friend relationships.

Early funding from individuals and businesses helped secure the first LRoom house built in the 1920's. A soft opening occurred in February 2015. On April 25th, 2015 Swan and her team launched an Indiegogo.com Crowdfunding campaign to raise renovation funds

The Grand Opening is planned for late Summer 2015. TheLRoomBNB is a completely new unique paradigm in the bed & breakfast industry.

The goal is to help every

guest enjoy this welcoming place as they get away from family, job and household stress.

Guests can host meetings, gatherings, seminars, girl's night out, lectures or; just hang out with friends.

Arrangements can be made for contract services such as massages, riki, yoga, meditation, mindfulness training, manicures and pedicures.

The first location is in the trendy Central Park District of Durham, NC. Much needed renovations have begun on this 1920's house located at 107 West Geer Street. More funds are needed to fully remodel and

maintain this house. It has three bedrooms, two full bathrooms, large front porch with swing and private garden back yard. This is the perfect home for a relaxing bed and breakfast, women's retreat and meeting space in this amazing location.

Many have asked about duplicating TheLRoom brand in other cities and that is the plan once the funds are raised to complete this Durham model home. Even though TheLRoom is not finished; advance event space rental deposits are being paid and overnight inquiries are coming in.

DJ Young Music

By Stacy M. Brown
Special to the NNPA from
The Washington Informer

While most students are looking forward to a summer break that may include barbecues, a trip to the beach or a family vacation, one local high school standout is preparing to go on tour with music superstar Chris Brown.

Bernard Brooks III – better known as DJ Young Music – has created quite the brand for himself and a loyal following of fans who listen to him spin the latest tunes every Wednesday at



10 p.m. for District radio station WPGC 95.5 FM. Others know him as the official DJ for singer Ginuwine.

The 18-year-old wunderkind, who graduated

from high school on May 22, recently became the youngest artist to sign a distribution deal with eOne Entertainment, an international company with offices across the globe.

DJ Young Music has also been called upon to spin music for rap mogul Diddy and superstar Nicki Minaj's Super Bowl after-party.

What's more, with all of the immediate success, he's maintained a spot on his high school's honor roll.

If the accomplishments sound surprising for someone as young as him, it's certainly not to DJ Young Music.

"Some things you know

are going to come and some things you don't know are going to come," he said.

"Since I was 9 and 10 years old, I've been telling people what I was going to do and what I would accomplish. This isn't a surprise to me because if you put in enough hard work and have the heart, things will start coming," the young DJ said.

A good portion of his success can be attributed to a focus that's rare for most teens.

In what may have been an unintentional nod to a Snoop Dogg song, DJ Young Music said he keeps his mind on his music and

on earning money.

"The way I'm working, right now music is my friend. Music and money and, at the end of the day, if you're not helping me then I don't need you around," he said. "The majority of my time is spent doing radio mixes and the radio stuff is really serious."

In addition to his WPGC gig, DJ Young Music also spins for other stations in other markets.

He also noted that he has a project in the works featuring members of his own independent label.

"We have a compilation mix tape with me, my artists Frank Benz, Da-Rai and

other musicians," DJ Young Music said.

In December, he became the youngest artist to sign a full development deal that allows him to release music, films and soundtracks of new artists through his own label.

His "Something for the Streets, Vol. 2," mix tape has garnered more than 250,000 downloads. He says it's just the beginning.

"I'm in phase two of my life and right now I'm the youngest in history to touch the airwaves in Washington, D.C., with music and film deals and I have the number three independent song in the country," he said.

Talmadge (TJ) Vaughns, Jr.

Graduation season in Dallas ISD is happening May 29–June 7. In honor of Dallas ISD seniors, take a look at one of the Class of 2015 graduates before they take their anticipated walk across the stage.

Today we spotlight Talmadge (TJ) Vaughns Jr. at W.W. Samuell High School.

Awards/honors, involvement: Deloitte scholarship recipient (\$20,000), Plus Fellows (UNT-Dallas scholarship/Ambassadors program), ranked third in senior class, works full time (40 hours each week), featured as CW 33 Class Act, Founder/CEO of the non-profit GEELYFE (Greatness evolves eternally, let



your freedoms explore)

The biggest lesson I've learned in school: I've learned that hard work always pays off at the end. No matter how good you are at something, once you get comfortable and begin to slack off, a harder working individual will swoop in and take your place.

The teacher who inspired me the most: Ms. Fairfax, my AVID teacher, has inspired me a ton. She is a strong, hardworking woman, one of the most down to earth individuals that I've met throughout my entire high school career. No matter the situation, Ms. Fairfax attacks it with honesty. She is the teacher behind the success of many AVID students, and she continues to show appreciation for my work ethic, motivating me to continue on my route toward success.

Who/what motivates me: My mother is a huge motivational factor in my life. She is a single parent, raising me and my two sisters, and she works hard to make sure each and every

one of our needs are met. Watching my mother work has motivated me to chase dreams and build a foundation for my family. I look forward to the day when I can tell my mother she doesn't have to work nor worry anymore, because I'll take care of everything.

What's next: I am attending the University of North Texas-Dallas (full scholarship), where I will major in entrepreneurship. I aspire to be an innovator for my community and later my country. I want to build youth and teen centers to give younger people the opportunity to chase dreams at a young age, because growing up in my neighborhood, the opportunities are extremely limited.

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Media colors coverage of race

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

Discussions in the news media (I'd rather call it the “Views Media”) regarding the use of the word, “Thug,” are intriguing to say the least. The mayor of Baltimore, the president, and some in the media used the term during the unrest that followed the killing of Freddie Gray. Less pejorative words, or no description at all, were used for those who committed similar acts of violence in Lexington, Kentucky, after their basketball team lost, those who fought the cops during the May Day riots in Seattle, and now the motorcycle gangs in Waco, Texas, even after nine men were killed in what some “views” people called a “melee.”

Remember post-Katrina New Orleans? The media described Whites as “finding” food in stores; Blacks were said to have “looted”

food.

It is interesting how media folks use different words to portray groups of people. History is replete with examples of this duplicitous media response to criminal events by Black people versus White people.

A glaring example is the following observation by Frank W. Quillan in 1910: “When a Negro commits a crime the newspapers always emphasize his race connection by such headlines as ‘A Big Black Burly Brute of a Negro’ does such and such, and the whole race gets a share of the blame; while if the crime is committed by a white man, race is not mentioned, and the individual gets the blame.”

Little has changed in over 100 years.

Another more contemporary juxtaposition appeared on CNN during the week-end of May 23. A judge in Cleveland ruled that a po-

lice officer who jumped on the hood of the car, in which a Black couple had already been fired upon 122 times by 12 officers, was justified when he fired 15 additional bullets into the car. In the same news show, Poppy Harlow reported on a White female police officer in Omaha, Nebraska, who was shot and killed in the line of duty.

After hearing the relatives of the Black male victim say how great a person he was, how compassionate he was, how he was not carrying a gun and would never do that, and how he helped so many other people in his daily walk, Harlow never said a positive word about him in her response.

On the contrary, when she interviewed the friends of the female officer, after they described her in much the same manner as the Black man was described, one person even saying she

was an “angel,” Harlow responded by saying, “She even looks angelic.” First of all, Harlow literally described how an “angel” looks (I don't know how she knows that), and then she ascribed her characterization to the White female.

This is no surprise to anyone who watches any of the “views” shows, but it also speaks to the pervasive disregard and lack of even a modicum of compassion for Black victims – even when they were fired upon 137 times by 12 police officers. It didn't matter to Harlow what the Black victim's relatives said. He was certainly not described as looking “angelic.”

Now, let's take a closer look at Cleveland. Having recently written about the Tamir Rice case and the mayor of Cleveland saying Rice “caused his own death,” my outrage has been

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duty,” felt free to harass him.

In a more telling segment, two young men, one Black and one White, staged the “stealing” of a bike to show how members of the public responded to watching the apparent theft. The young men were dressed similarly – T-shirts, casual pants, caps. People walked by as the White guy did everything he could to break the lock on the bike, including using a chain cutter. One even offered to help him take “his” bike, even though he acknowledged it was not his.

Within moments of the Black man approaching the bike, White people, one or two of whom called 911, surrounded him. As opposed to the benign response the White guy got, the Black guy was simply assumed to be a criminal.

How does this play out on the streets and with officers of the law? Police officers use their discretion selec-

tively. A Black man (Eric Garner) selling loose cigarettes is manhandled, arrested, and dies when he is choked and cannot breathe. Most have seen the video by now, and wonder why Daniel Pantaleo was not charged with any crime, even though he used an illegal chokehold on Garner.

Pantaleo could have told Garner to move on, or he would risk arrest. Instead, Pantaleo and his posse of lawless cowboys chose to kill the man. Would a White man be similarly treated, or did unconscious racism play into the callous way Eric Garner was treated?

During the late 1990s, Mayor Rudy Giuliani's “stop and frisk” policies resulted in African American men being stopped more than five times as frequently as Caucasians, even though these frisks led to nothing more than the humiliation of Black men, some simply coming off the subway or walking down the street.

Hispanic men were stopped about three times as often as Caucasians. White men were stopped and frisked less frequently than others. Unconscious racism? Discretion? The law sanctions both.

Stop and frisk incidents increased dramatically with no concomitant increase in crime. However, since New York Mayor Bill Blasio took office, the number of stop and frisk incidents has dropped by almost three quarters, again with no increase in crime. It appears that whether stop and frisk occurrences are aggressive or gentle; the incidence of crime does not increase.

There are many occurrences where police can make discretionary decisions. First, they can decide whom to stop. Then, when they stop they don't have to arrest or frisk. A simple conversation that explains the reason for the stop will yield a more favorable outcome than wrestling someone to the ground, knee in his or her back, or hand-

cuffing someone without explaining why.

Police resistance to the use of body cameras suggests these officers know that they are out of order in dealing with the public. Once someone is arrested, the police have the right to charge him or her with a minor crime or let them go. Finally, prosecutors can decline to bring charges. All of these decisions can be minimized or maximized, based on discretion.

Justice is not blind when police officers use discretion to stop one segment of the population to harshly mistreat and let the other population slide. If police officers wonder why there is antipathy and distrust toward them in the African American community, somebody needs to tell them that their use of discretion suggests that justice is hardly blind.

Julianne Malveaux is author and economist. She can be reached at www.julianne-malveaux.com.

Wife helps marine get over his stubbornness and ask for help with potential health risks

For most guys, taking care of their health is not as high a priority as it is for women. Marine Staff Sgt. Mathew Barr, who suffered traumatic brain injuries (TBI) while serving in Iraq, was worse about it than most. Barr found it impossible to even ask for the help he needed.

"Marines are stubborn," he said, confessing he ignored signs of TBI for years. "There's a stigma for seeking help. You're seen as weak."

But Barr, who fought in the Battle of Fallujah in 2004 and Operation Steel Curtain in 2005, said his fits of anger and rage got to be too much. While he never struck his wife, Callie, he admitted to being very difficult to deal with and didn't understand why she stayed with him, but she did.

"I knew who he was," Callie Barr said of the high school sweetheart she married 11 years ago. When she reached a point after one argument where she considered walking out, Mathew broke down, crying and admitted he has demons. "That's what I needed to hear," she said, "and we worked through his issues together."



Marine Staff Sgt. Mathew Barr (in the plaid shirt) holds his 1-year-old daughter Evelyn while 4-year-old daughter Maelee (back to camera) watches Callie Barr read a poem at a recent caregivers recognition luncheon at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Not seeking medical help is already an issue for men in the United States. According to the Department of Health & Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, men are 24 percent less likely than women to have visited a doctor within the past year. In the military, a 2011 study sponsored by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs (VA) found while the rate of self-reported TBI in Iraq was at about 9 percent, that number increased dramatically to 22 percent a year after service members came back home. That rate rose even higher, to between 33 and 39 percent, after warfighters had separated from service

and started receiving treatment from the VA. While researchers offered no explanation for why the numbers increased, Barr, who's still on active duty, thinks he knows the reason.

"A lot of Marines don't seek treatment because their brothers died," he said, choking back tears. "But when I couldn't take care of my children (1-year-old Evelyn and 4-year-old Maelee) and my wife, it was time to get help."

Callie, who was recently recognized as a caregiver at a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, said the most important thing she could do to support Mathew was to stay by his side and make sure he received help.

"His problems were related to what happened to him. It's not just him being a jerk," she said. "So don't ignore the signs. Get the help you need."

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EMT Tech classes offered at Richland this summer

Richland College will be offering a summer session of its recently launched Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program, further expanding the college's health professions programs.

The summer session will run from June 30 to Aug. 29, with classes taking place Tuesday and Thursday evenings in addition to Saturdays. Funds are also available from the Texas Public Education Grant

(TPEG) to assist EMT students with financial aid.

EMT students at Richland College participate in ambulance ride-alongs, a rotation with the fire department and a shift in an emergency room at an affiliated hospital as part of their career preparation.

"The clinical internship is one of the most intense learning aspects of the program," said Lisa Smithart, Richland College's medical programs coordinator. "This

is where critical thinking really comes into play."

Students who complete the EMT program are able to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification exam. Those who pass may immediately start their career on ambulances or as patient care technicians in a hospital setting, or they may use it as a pathway to earning their EMT certificate through the Texas Department of Health and Safety

Service that will allow them to use their certification anywhere in the United States, pursue a paramedic certificate or even earning a firefighter diploma.

"Anyone interested in a career in medicine that requires prior experience to apply should consider this short pathway to gaining that experience," said Robert Sherard, Richland College EMT instructor. "The EMTs see a wide variety of medical and trau-

matic emergencies, during which critical thinking and rapid treatment can literally save lives. Without the actions of these healthcare professionals, many patients would not make it to the hospital."

Interested students must be 18 years of age and be current with their immunizations, valid CPR card and health insurance. Students must also possess a high school diploma or GED and be eligible to

work in the U.S. To receive TPEG funds, a student must be a Texas resident, show financial need and register for the Selective Service.

For more information on Richland College's EMT program, visit the website at <http://bit.ly/1FQBUNU>. Students interested in the EMT program who would like more information about TPEG funds should contact Richland College's financial aid office at 972-587-2599.

Finding strategies to recruit, retain women, minorities as computer majors

Linda Sax, professor of education in UCLA's higher education and organizational change division, is leading a multi-institutional effort to examine how effective computer science departments at 15 colleges and universities are at recruiting and retaining women and underrepresented minority students as computer science majors.

The project, titled, "Building Recruiting and Inclusion for Diversity" (BRAID), is being funded by Facebook, Google, Intel, Microsoft and other major corporate sponsors. The re-

search grant awarded to UCLA Education is for \$210,000 over the next three years.

The BRAID project is a collaboration among UCLA, Harvey Mudd College and the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology of Palo Alto, California. Among the universities they will be looking at are UC Irvine, Arizona State University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of North Texas and Villanova University.

Sax is currently in the first year of this mixed-

methods study and is interviewing department chairs, faculty, administrators and students. The quantitative elements of the study will involve surveys of students in introductory computer science courses and the faculty who teach them.

"What we're going to be looking at is what these schools do differently," noted Sax. "The mission behind BRAID is to see whether and how computer science department chairs change the culture of their departments ... and effect change with committed leadership from the top."

Sax said that BRAID's four-pronged purpose involves revamping introductory computer science courses, promoting double majors and the interdisciplinary relevance of computer science, outreach to high schools and the building of a sense of community within the discipline for women and minorities. The project aims to "create a model where computer science is taught in the context of why it matters and what implications it has for education, health care, environment, the arts... and to find ways for students to con-

nect with computer science through their own interests," she said.

"Because of longstanding

stereotypes, a lot of students might think, 'I don't want to

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SMU Offers New Doctoral of Liberal Studies Degree

Beginning fall 2015, SMU will offer a unique evening graduate program, the Doctor of Liberal Studies, featuring a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum. Just the third doctorate in liberal studies offered anywhere, the degree is aimed at adults interested in an individualized program designed to position them as community leaders.

"This degree is designed for the experienced adult learner who has earned a master's degree but craves the opportunity to do more," said Michele Mrak, executive director of graduate liberal studies at SMU's Simmons School of Education

and Human Development. "Guided by their own intellectual passion and commitment to their community, students in the Doctor of Liberal Studies program will pursue rigorous interdisciplinary study on a topic they select."

One of the first applicants to the program is Jennifer McNabb, a Dallas community college teacher in El Centro's Jail Education Program. She credits a class in SMU's Master of Liberal Studies' program with inspiring an entirely new approach to her teaching. After taking the class, "Inspiring Creativity Through Original Works of Art," she

created a program designed to expose imprisoned female offenders to the creative and therapeutic process of the arts for the jail's Resolana rehabilitation program. Instead of McNabb sharing her knowledge about art, her classes focus on the students' interpretation of the art, often leading to life-changing conversations.

"I use works of art to give women a voice and to empower them," McNabb says. "The classes create community and develop bonds between the women, which is an important step in treating the trauma that has been part of many of

their lives."

As a Resolana staff member, McNabb also developed a mentoring program for imprisoned 17-year-olds who are isolated from the rest of the prison population for their own protection but often overlooked by rehabilitation programs. She is dedicated to effecting change in the corrections system, beginning with studying the history, economics, politics and religious influences on the system as a doctor of liberal studies student.

"We need to understand the underpinnings of criminal justice to examine why

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VIOLENCE, continued from Page 1

age. But if it's a high-profile situation, that brings Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, then we see the outrage."

Many of the stories that have become major headlines and have fueled national protests began as local efforts. Trayvon Martin's murder, for example, only became a major media story after relentless social media campaigning and Sanford, Florida's "Justice for Trayvon" protests spread across the country – and it still took 44 days of action to secure George Zimmerman's arrest.

It was Zimmerman's subsequent acquittal that sparked the Black Lives Matter organization.

"The local is the national. There's no way that there would be a national conversation about state violence if local residents in Ferguson and St. Louis didn't take to the streets," said Patrisse Cullors, a co-founder of the nationwide Black Lives Matter activist network, which began in 2012. "The other piece is, there's lots of Black people, for the last 40 years, who have

been figuring [out] how do we deal with harm inside of our communities."

While the death toll of "Black-on-Black crime" is distressing, it is worth noting that most crime happens within communities and races. White offenders were responsible for 83 percent of White victims in 2013, and Latino offenders were responsible for 74 percent of Latino victims.

Cullors said that the tug-of-war between community violence and state violence is among the most common criticisms Black Lives Matter receives.

"The focal point is state violence, but that is not the end-all be-all. When myself, Alicia Garza, [and] Opal Tometi created Black Lives Matter, it was never just to talk about law enforcement or vigilantes. It was actually about a broader conversation about anti-Black racism and the impact in our communities," she explained. "It's about broadening what state violence means. If someone is homeless...if people in the community aren't able



Photo: Surlan Soosay / Flickr

to have jobs, that's state violence."

Shakur lives and works in the crosshairs between state and community violence. Sometimes, he uses the respect he's earned in his neighborhood by inserting himself to break up fights and conflicts. But he's also seen a police officer roll up to a group of young boys and hop out of the car to say, "I can't wait to put you in prison."

He believes that community violence and police/state violence are different issues that share a link as effects of White supremacy.

"Folks are not using a historical context. When Trayvon Martin gets killed or Michael Brown, et

cetera, it reminds you of Emmett Till. It reminds you of your grandfather getting lynched. It reminds you of the reality of being Black in America," he said. "But the work has to be twofold. It has to be 30 percent police, 70 percent on us. We have to do the work internally to restore interpersonal relationships. If we clean up what we have to clean up, it makes it easier for us to organize against the police, because the police are going to do what they're going to do."

Each of the Black Lives Matter co-founders is also a grassroots community organizer.

Cullors is a founding board member of Dignity and Power Now, a Los Angeles-based grassroots group working to empower incarcerated people, their families, and their communities. Alicia Garza has been involved in several grassroots groups across the Bay Area, including People Organized to Win Employment Rights, and the National Domestic Workers Alliance, where she has held leadership roles. Opal Tometi is executive director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, a New York-based Black advocacy group.

Cullors believes that community violence is largely a reflection of state violence, both literal and in the form of oppression. For this reason, the two issues, though separate, are not at

odds.

"Much of the harm happening in our communities has a lot to do with the trauma of living in a racist, capitalist country. The trauma of not having a job, the trauma of not being able to feed your own children. The trauma of being abandoned at a young age because your family are drug users, the trauma of being in the foster system," Cullors said.

She added, "Let's actually deal with the root causes of that trauma. The fight around intra-community violence is a fight about not only the state...but our conversation – it looks like an internal conversation – is about what do we do to take care of ourselves. Where are the spaces that we fight for our communities to have what they need so we don't harm each other? 'Black Lives Matter' means a new way of fighting for freedom."

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38th annual Garland ISD Special Olympics a success

Enthusiastic athletes, friendly competition and school pride were at center stage during the 38th-annual Garland ISD Special Olympics May 1 at Williams Stadium. Hundreds of students, staff and community members gathered to celebrate and motivate students with special needs.

“The 2014-15 Special Olympics was a huge success,” said Director of Special Education Nidia Parra. “The weather was ab-



Courtesy GISD

solutely beautiful, so it was a perfect day for competition. Special Olympics inspires the joy of sports and

focuses on what our athletes can do—not what they cannot.”

The outdoor affair fea-

tured a school parade, public recognition of graduates, multiple races and a motor activity-focused side station. Students were able to compete in 25, 50 or 100-meter runs, as well as a slalom-style race. Volunteers from Garland, Rowlett and Sachse Police and Fire Departments gave ribbons and stickers to participants as they crossed the finish line.

Participating in this competition-fueled event and receiving support from re-

spected community members, family, peers and staff impacts students on a physical, mental and social level.

“Every athlete is recognized for his or her performance,” Parra explained. “Sports are universal, understood and celebrated by all. The simple power of sport enhances our students’ self-esteem and confidence.”

This year marked the district’s first event sponsored by the official Special Olympics organization—a

development Parra is looking forward to expanding on in the future.

“We are very excited about the 2015-16 year, as the Special Olympics will include basketball and bowling, in addition to track and field,” she revealed. “This will give students the opportunity to compete in year-round sporting events. My hope is that the GISD Special Olympics continues to grow so that eligible students can participate in a variety of sports.”

Carrollton animal shelter offering free adoptions

Due to the recent flooding, the City of Carrollton Animal Adoption Center (2247 Sandy Lake Road) is brimming with animals and needs help from the community.

The Center holds more than 100 animals as of Wednesday, June 3. Because of this, adoption fees

will be waived and the first 20 unaltered animals to be adopted will come with a voucher for a free spay or neuter via the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP).

“We are housing a number of animals to support those that were evacuated due to flooding,” said Carl

Shooter, Animal Services Manager. “None of these animals are being placed for adoption, but they are increasing our demand for space, which is already very limited.”

The Animal Services team is working tirelessly to serve all of the animals in the shelter right now.

If an adoption isn’t feasible, donations are always welcome in the form of cash, food, litter, towels, blankets, or toys.

For a complete list of acceptable material donations, visit cityofcarrollton.com/animalservices.

For more information, call 972-466-3420.



Photo: AllThinks / Flickr

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Mayor's Summer Reading Club kicks off in Dallas libraries on June 6

School may soon be out of session, but reading is in! Throughout the week of June 6-13, all Dallas Public Library locations will kick off the Mayor's Summer Reading Club for kids and adults, offering a variety of family-oriented activities that may include performances, bounce houses, face-painting, balloon animals,

carnival games and more. (Go to dallaslibrary.org/msrc for a schedule of parties at each location.)

Guests are invited to attend the kick-off party at North Oak Cliff Branch Library from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., which will include princess/prince- and superhero-themed activities. Kids can get their photos taken with

Disney's Princess Elsa (from Frozen) and Marvel's Spider-Man, plus enjoy a variety of crafts including prince and princess crowns, bracelets, superhero capes and masks, and more. Refreshments will be served.

In addition, library staff will be recruiting children and adults to sign up for the Reading Club. And because

children model behaviors of the adults in their lives, grownups are especially encouraged to make reading a family affair by joining the Reading Club!

Young club members can earn weekly incentive prizes – from free books and fun foods to zoo, circus and baseball tickets – simply by reporting that they

have read 30 minutes per day in person at any Dallas Public Library or online at dallaslibrary.org/msrc. Grand-prize drawings will be held for kids who read at least 30 minutes a day for eight weeks. Adults can also enter grand prize drawings by logging books they read.

Regular reading keeps academic skills sharp, inspires

curiosity, enhances comprehension and vocabulary, and best of all, puts in place the habit for young people to become lifelong readers and learners.

The program is a collaborative effort between the City of Dallas Mayor's Office, the Dallas Public Library, Dallas ISD, sponsors and donors

Film Review: *San Andreas*, the action just never stops

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

If you live in California, a major earthquake is your worst nightmare. The thought of a 9.5 quake is almost unimaginable and terrifying. Quick, stand under a doorway or hide under a desk, it's coming and the aftermath is not all that pretty

in *San Andreas*. This adrenaline-pumping movie turns a nightmare into big screen reality as it takes the disaster film genre (*The Poseidon Adventure*, *Towering Inferno*, *Earthquake*, *Twister*) to a whole new level.

In the past, films of this kind often skipped on character development, realistic

dialogue and viable plotting and concentrated on the spectacle. Instead, TV writer Carlton (Nash Bridges, *Lost*, *Bates Motel*), working from a story by Andre Fabrizio and Jeremy Passmore (*Red Dawn*), has created three parallel storylines that add a human story to this worst-case natural disaster:

A Caltech seismologist, Lawrence Hayes (Paul Giamatti), and his research partner Dr. Kim Park (Will Yun Lee, *Hawaii Five-O*), have found a way to predict earthquakes. "Mass destruction. It's not a matter of if, but when," says Hayes. 2. A Los Angeles Fire Department and Rescue helicopter pilot, Chief Ray

Gaines (Dwayne Johnson), is dealing with the impending divorce from his wife, Emma (Carla Gugino, *Spy Kids*), and the breakup of his family after the death of his youngest daughter. 3. Gaines' surviving daughter Blake (Alexandra Daddario) is visiting San Francisco with Emma's new wealthy, duplicitous

boyfriend, Daniel (Ioan Gruffudd, *Horrible Bosses*). Cue the tremors.

The task of weaving the storylines into a viable drama as unfathomable carnage and chaos unfold is up to director Brad Peyton, who worked with Dwayne Johnson and producer Beau

See **THE ROCK**, Page 10



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Win tickets to see King Sunny Ade and his African Beats

NDG readers can win tickets to see Nigerian musician, singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and pioneer of modern world music, King Sunny Ade and His African Beats when they perform on Thursday, June 18 on The Shannon and Ted Skokos Pavilion at the Center's outdoor venue, Annette Strauss Square. For more details, visit the *North Dallas Gazette* Facebook page.

Since the evolution of juju music in Nigeria in the thirties no exponent has made a more lasting impact

in the genre than King Sunny Ade. As a singer, composer and guitarist, he has succeeded over the years in taking this Nigerian social music type to international heights.

Ade came on the scene in 1966 and made his first record in 1967. He however, blazed into prominence a year after with a hit single in praise of Stationery Stores football club which carved him a gold disc as a result of its massive sales. Since then Ade has been in the limelight.

The late sixties found

Ade searching for a credible sound identity, but it was in the seventies that he really got himself together, trying to perfect a sense of direction within the juju format. In the mid-seventies Ade adopted a new cultural dimension when he was influential like every other musician by the cultural wind that began to blow through Africa. He was influenced by Fela Anikulapo Kuti's Afro beat, evidence of which was prominent in his instrumentation.

The 1980s experienced a consolidation in Ade's or-

chestral arrangements which now took preeminence over every other element. He began to play with the confidence and authority of a super star. When Ade signed on with Island Records in 1982 as a result of attracting international attention, he was perhaps the biggest natural phenomenon on the Nigerian music scene.

Sunny Ade had the charisma to match his new status. He even had the air of regal candor to go with his title, "the king of juju music."



Courtesy ATPAC

THE ROCK, continued from Page 9

Flynn on Journey 2: The Mysterious Island. That film, however, left no indication that Peyton was perfectly capable of unleashing this monster. The moment-by-moment, never-stop-moving, continually astonishing 107 minutes of perfectly edited (Bob Ducsay, Godzilla), amazingly shot (Steve Yedlin, Carrie), well adorned (production designer Barry Chusid, The Day After Tomorrow) footage features 1,300 visual effects: Collapsing city skylines, a tsunami, the destruction of the Hoover Dam, farmland shifting like a deck of cards and bridges snapping like bread sticks. With Peyton at the helm, there is little time to breathe. And the few moments of respite, are reserved for fleshing out the characters and their dynamics.

The seismologist and his partner are the first to track the tremors that turn into huge shakes and his task is trying to get the word out there that a nine-plus earthquake is about to rattle and destroy California, from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Gaines first task is to rescue his wife from the top of a crumbling building in

downtown L.A. And their joint assignment is to find their daughter in San Francisco, after her soon-to-be new stepfather has abandoned her. Says a very irked Emma as she screams into a phone leaving a voice message for Daniel: "You left my daughter? If you are not

ardly; you want to witness his demise. Carla Gugino shows a feistiness that makes her character credibly brave. However, the weight of the film rests on Dwayne Johnson's shoulders, and brother-man is up to the heavy lifting. His portrayal of Gaines is humorous, vulnerable and courageous, all at the right times.



already dead, I'm gonna kill you!"

Paul Giamatti and Will Yun Lee don't overplay their serious roles. Alexandra Daddario as Blake, a fitting young heroine, is believable as the young woman stranded in S.F. looking for higher ground and a rescue. Ioan Gruffudd as the cad who leaves her is suitably deceptive and cow-

He is a far better actor than most of his movies would reveal. He's solid.

San Andreas starts with an action scene, ends with an action scene, and in-between the pace is almost as relentless as the wave of destruction. It just doesn't stop.

Visit NNPA Syndication Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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'10,000 Small Businesses' applications due by June 8

Small business owners who want to learn more about managing and expanding their businesses -- and about hiring great employees -- are invited to apply for the Goldman-Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Registration for the next class/cohort in the free program, which starts on Sept. 11, closes on Mon., June 8, 2015.

Interested small business owners can apply online now for the program; visit the Dallas County Community College District's website at www.dcccd.edu/10KSB.

Teaching small business owners how to run their companies more efficiently, plus providing capital to support their efforts, are key components of the 10,000

Small Businesses initiative created by Goldman Sachs, an internationally-known finance corporation.

In May 2014, the 10,000 Small Businesses program came to Dallas-Fort Worth -- and DCCCD delivers courses for the initiative through the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development at El Centro College.

The 10,000 Small Businesses initiative seeks out community colleges like DCCCD to deliver its education component of the program because they are at the center of economic development and they are accessible to many people who are in need.

Several graduates of the program already are seeing positive results.

Two graduates of the first

cohort of students, Dustin Gadberry of Gadberry Construction and Quincy Roberts of Roberts Trucking, both were named this spring among the 2015 members of the *Dallas Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" business people to watch in this area.

Additionally, David Shuttler, who graduated from cohort 2 and who is the president of Utility Solutions Systems Inc., was named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2015 Texas Small Business Person of the Year.

The program involves three key components: business and management education; access to capital; and business services.

The business education classes are designed to help small business owners de-

velop a business growth plan to help them increase revenues and hire new employees.

The course modules include: "You and Your Business"; "Growth and Opportunities"; "Money and Metrics"; "You Are the Leader"; "It's the People"; "Marketing and Selling"; "Operations and Processes"; "Being Bankable"; and "Action for Growth" (two parts). The 100-hour curriculum is taught in 11 sessions.

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in the program with DCCCD and Goldman Sachs are Action Texas Inc. and PeopleFund; those two institutions will use funds from the program to make loans to small business owners in the area.

For more information, call (214) 860-5798; send an email to 10KSB@dcccd.edu; or contact Cristin Thomas at cjthomas@dcccd.edu or <http://www.dcccd.edu/10KSB>.

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WOMEN, continued from Page 11

be a programmer," Sax said. "But if they want to be in the arts and they know how to program, they can work in their area of interest. There is computing in art and design, the digital humanities and countless other fields. There's a lot of overlap between what you can do in computer science and the applications in broader fields."

While the presence of women in computing has ebbed and flowed over time, women are still "vastly underrepresented in computer science," Sax said. She noted that only 18 percent of undergraduate computer science majors are women, with even lower representation for women of color.

"Women are so underrepresented in this field in a way that is more challenging to deal with than other fields," said Sax. In all the years she has spent tracking results of the Freshman Survey, Sax has seen that women have made progress in medicine; they're now more likely than men to

want to become doctors. The number of women who aspire to go to law school or have business careers has gone up. These are all areas that were formerly [dominated] by men, she noted.

But in computer science, as in engineering, there has not been that kind of progress. "In fact, despite numerous efforts to attract women to computing, the gender gap is only growing larger," Sax said.

She is continuing to secure more funding for BRAID, which she hopes to expand into a more robust study over time to examine how students who are retained in computer science programs develop a sense of identity within the field.

The multi-institutional nature of BRAID makes it unique, she said.

"Most of the work that's been done to look at what happens with gender in computing is done at single institutions," noted Sax. "From the start, the BRAID effort was developed with an eye toward evaluation and research [to see] how

computing is taught across institutions, and how differences between institutions might lead to increased retention and improvement for women and students of color."

BRAID has recently partnered with the Computing Research Association (CRA) to use the comparative data for students and women of color at non-BRAID institutions from CRA's annual survey of students in computer science.

"The ultimate goal is to diversify computer science," said Sax. "From a big-picture perspective, it matters because we all use technology. We all are reliant on technologies that are developed by a very homogenous, select few. Without the voices of diverse communities in developing computer applications, [everybody's] needs ... are not being met. We hope that the findings from this project will help make a difference."

This story originally appeared in Ampersand, a publication of the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

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Thackerville, Okla. – WinStar World Casino and Resort has a number of job opportunities. The casino is holding a job fair on Monday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Global Event Center.

Benefits include flexible hours, health, 401k and paid vacation time. Applicants need to have a government-issued photo ID and Social Security Card.

Call the WinStar job hotline at 844-WIN-JOBS. Applicants are encour-

aged to fill out an online application at <https://jobs.chickasaw.net> before attending the event.

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How women may be the difference makers in business leadership

Businesses do a poor job picking managers to lead their employees, collectively costing companies billions of dollars each year, according to a recent Gallup report titled "State of the American Manager."

The report is based on more than "four decades of extensive talent research, a study of 2.5 million manager-led teams in 195 countries, and analysis from measuring the engagement of 27 million employees."

The research yields a striking failure rate – 82 percent – when it comes to how well companies select their managers.

"On the plus side, with such an abysmal success

rate in hiring managers, we can reasonably expect improvement in the workforce," says Debora McLaughlin, CEO of The Renegade Leader Coaching and Consulting Group (www.TheRenegadeLeader.com), and author of "Running in High Heels: How to Lead with Influence, Impact & Ingenuity."

"More importantly, Gallup points out what many of us have known for decades – that including more women in leadership positions will reliably improve conditions within an organization's work culture."

An important criterion for how success is measured in

management is engagement, where women have a decided advantage. Those who work for female managers are, on average, six percentage points more likely to be engaged, and those who work for female managers outscore employees of male managers on 11 of 12 engagement items.

"While I am a strong advocate for women in leadership positions, I think it's safe to say that all of us, no matter our gender, have room to improve our management skills," says McLaughlin, an executive and business coach who offers insight into achieving management goals.

• Rigidity won't help you

retain top talent; be open. The ideal management style for today's business climate is evolving. The traditional top-down hierarchal structure is giving way in favor of a more collaborative team approach. That means being open to communication, empathy and encouraging inspiration in employees.

• Encourage engagement by focusing on an employee's strengths or positive characteristics. Of course, emphasizing someone's positive traits doesn't require you to ignore areas that could or should be improved. Clearly, if an em-

See WOMEN, Page 16

SMU, continued from Page 6

the United States has created such a punitive system," she says.

McNabb is a prime example of a potential Doctor of Liberal Studies student, Mrak says.

"Jennifer brings a multidisciplinary understanding of humanity to her academic work and her work in the community, enabling her to develop compassion for the human beings in the prison system and inspiring her to create changes in the system," Mrak says.

"When students like Jennifer graduate they will be experts in their chosen topics or issues, ready to make high-level contributions to their workplaces, society and the world. Completing the degree will empower people to make a difference in their communities."

Students will complete a 45-hour curriculum, including a doctoral thesis, in a full-time or part-time program that is distinct from a Ph.D. program. Rather than focusing on a specific discipline for advancement in an academic or research arena, the Doctor of Liberal Studies student will become an expert on a particular issue and prepared to become a community or workplace

leader. Just 15 to 20 students will be admitted to the program each year.

The DLS builds upon the success of SMU's long-running and successful Master of Liberal Studies program, created in 1963. More than 4,000 students have completed the 36-hour program, which enables students to create their own individualized curriculum or specialize in one of 10 tracks: American studies; communication, media and technology; creative writing; environmental sustainability; gender studies; global studies; human rights and social justice; humanities; organizational dynamics and arts and cultural traditions. MLS graduates have become successful playwrights, legislative aides, elected officials, human rights advocates, authors, artists and now, Doctoral of Liberal Studies students. SMU joins Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and Washington University in St. Louis as the only universities offering the Doctor of Liberal Studies.

"North Texas adults hungry for new knowledge have long supported the

Master of Liberal Studies at the Simmons School," says David Chard, dean of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. "The creation of the new Doctor

of Liberal Studies is a response to their request for advanced study as well as an opportunity for SMU to expand its role as a national leader in graduate liberal studies."



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June 7

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for Bible Classes at 9:30
a.m.; Morning Worship at
10:45 a.m. And don't forget
to come back at 5 p.m. for
our Iglesia de Cristo Serv-
ices (the Word of God in
Spanish.)

June 10, 7 p.m.

Join us for Bible study as
we worship and praise God
for His blessings. Prepare
to be encouraged by God's
plan to grow.

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doing through and with us;
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forget to come back at 5
p.m. for the Word of God in
Spanish at our Iglesia de
Cristo Services.

June 10, 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 cool Topics in Summer
months. Learn what God
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ship.org

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IN RICHARDSON**

**June 7, 8:45 a.m. and
11 a.m.**

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ing Services as we worship,
honor and praise God for
His blessings. Our May Se-
ries was "Caring for Your
Temple, Mind, Body and
Spirit."

June 10

Join us at 12 Noon with
Rev. Viveca Potter teaching
on the Word of God; come
back at 6:45 p.m. for Cor-
porate 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 Tu-
toring/Homework assis-
tance at 8 p.m.

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

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ALLEN
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June 7

Join us as we praise and
worship God at 8 a.m. in the
Joycie Turner Fellowship
Hall, 200 West Belmont
Drive in Allen; followed by
Morning Services at 9:30
a.m. at Bolin Elementary
School, 5705 Cheyenne
Drive in Allen and bring
someone with you; you will
be blessed.

June 10

You're invited to our
Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day
Live Prayer and Bible
Study and/or our Wednes-
day Night Live Prayer and
Bible Study at 7 p.m. to
learn more about God's
Word at the Joycie Turner
Fellowship Hall, 200 West
Belmont Drive in Allen. Be
encouraged by God's plan

for your maturity and His
glory; and most of all, be
prepared to grow.

June 26, 8 a.m.

All youth are invited to join
us for our "Hype Sunday
Worship Service" at our
main campus, 200 West
Belmont Drive, Allen, TX
75013.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
5705 Cheyenne Drive
at Bolin Elementary School
in Allen 75002 for Sunday
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June 4

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things shall be added unto
you." Mathew 6:33. The
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the Amazing Race. The
teams will read daily as-
signed scriptures and
RACE to finish reading the
Bible! Teams will also look
for the monthly clues to be
found in their reading and
receive encouragement
along the way. Start your
team TODAY! Sign up at
the information desk.

June 7, 7:35 a.m.

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

June 10, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our
Wednesday Bible Study to
learn more about God's
word and how it can lead
and guide you.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor
4215 North Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

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OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

June 6, 10 a.m.

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nial Tea Time!" You're in-
vited to join us for a conti-
nental breakfast, worship,
fellowship, shopping, testi-
monies, lunch and tea! Call
the church for details.

June 7, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Sunday Wor-
ship Service as we praise

and worship God.

June 10, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our
Wednesday's Bible Study
class; 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 and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
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June 7

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Early Morning Services at
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day School at 9 a.m. and
Morning Worship at 10:30
a.m.

June 10

Join us in Wednesday's
Bible Study class; you will
learn what God has to say to
us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown
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guide us in all truth and
righteousness.

June 10, 7 p.m.

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Wednesday's Bible Study to
learn more about God's
Word. Come and be en-
couraged by God's plan for
your maturity and growth;
and, it's all for His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
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Plano, TX 75074
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**June 7, 7:30
and 11:30 a.m.**

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as we praise, worship,
honor and magnify God's
Holy name.

June 8, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School
as we learn what God has to
say to us.

June 12, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to join
us for Men's Fellowship
night. Come and grow with
us.

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Coming out of Babylon



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"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies."

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive

not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

-Revelation 2-5 (KJV)

There is a day when God is going to judge the system of Babylon around the world. What is Babylon? Babylon is a system of doing business. The stronghold of this world is mammon and pride.

Dependence on money and misplaced trust are at the core of a Babylonian philosophy of life. Revelation 18 describes a time when God will judge this Babylonian system. It is the one place that we will see a system destroyed in one day, even one hour.

The popular belief is that Babylon is not a particular city, but a world system.

"How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart that I sit a

queen, and I am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her."

-Revelation 18:7-8 (KJV)

"Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her;

for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

As Christian believers we are called to acknowledge the signs of the times. When the Soviet Union fell, many knew it was going to happen because they could recognize the signs of the times.

God has a way of shaking things up. These shakings force us to determine who and what we will place our trust in.

"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the

great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

-Matthew 22:35-38 (KJV)

Are you still living in Babylon in the way you live? If so, expect to share in the sins of Babylon when God decides to judge her. Ask God to show you where you might be operating in a "Babylonian" sys-

See TARPLEY, Page 16



Ginghis Kang, Donut Business Owner in Irving, Texas.
Note: Last Week in Sister Tarpley's Picture of the Week, Navy retiree Betty Krause, should have been listed as living in the Atria Senior Living in Carrollton, Texas.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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Allen, TX 75013
7:00 pm.

Family Photo

NDG Book Review: Miss Jessie's is worth curling up with

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Starting a business is not for the faint of heart.

It takes brains and guts enough to step out of a comfort zone. It requires going against the grain, letting go of pride, and a dash of innocence. Starting a business is the worst, most difficult, wonderful, magnificent thing you'll ever do – but as in the new book “Miss Jessie's” by Miko Branch, sometimes it's also quite hair-raising.

Jessie Mae Pittman was born in 1919 to a sharecropper family in North Carolina, and grew up hating fieldwork. To avoid picking cotton, she taught herself to cook and later became renowned for her skills.



That independent self-sufficiency impressed her granddaughters; Miko Branch and her sister, Titi, were raised knowing that they'd someday be businesswomen.

Throughout their childhood, the Branch sisters learned and dreamed. They also toiled long hours with

their father at various family businesses, which was work they did for free. That eventually taught Branch the value of her labor and gave her a sense of what owning her own business might entail.

When it was time to enroll in college, Branch decided on a career in fashion but her schooling taught her what she didn't want. Upon graduating from Fashion Institute of Technology, she'd realized that she needed to work with hair; specifically, she wanted to work in a high-end salon that catered to a certain kind of clientele.

“There is a long, rich... complex history surrounding African-American women's hair that ties to...

self-image,” Branch says. As a woman with curls, she knew she could make a better product than what was available. She experimented with gels, crèmes, and technique before she and her sister opened a salon that ultimately grew into a full-fledged, hip and trendy mini-empire with products named after their grandmother.

But, like many fledgling entrepreneurs, the sisters made mistakes – one of which led to a split, lawyers, and a months-long parting that hurt Branch in more ways than one. It took two years, two moves, and too much money to fix what broke.

Business book or mem-

oir? Though it may appear more the latter, the answer is that “Miss Jessie's” is both.

Sometimes, of course, the story of a business is the story of its creators, and author Miko Branch takes her readers back nearly 100 years to see where the very roots of her company began. That's a very interesting tale but if it's not what you read a business book for, well, Branch has that part covered, too. She subtly includes business advice for entrepreneurs in nearly each chapter, and a

nicely succinct epilogue as a final takeaway. That serves to entertain and inform readers on one hand, while steadily encouraging entrepreneurship on the other.

Though I thought there was a bit too much repetition here, I did enjoy this by-the-bootstraps story of a growing company, and I think you will, too – especially if you're up for the unique format of it. Still, business book or memoir, “Miss Jessie's” is something you won't mind curling up with.

WOMEN, continued from Page 13

ployee is severely underperforming, then that must be addressed. However, if you can assume your employees are at least competent, then be proactive with your praise.

• Too many exceptional

women succumb to ‘off-ramping.’ Multiple studies have found that, on a woman's path to the C-suite, she faces an abundance of “off-ramp” options – life decisions that take her off her career path. And,

since the recession, the “on-ramps” have become scarce.

According to a 2010 study from the Center for Work Life Policy, 73 percent of women trying to return to work after a voluntary timeout for childcare or other reasons had trouble

returning to work or finding a job.

Debora McLaughlin is the best-selling author of “Running in High Heels: How to Lead with Influence, Impact & Ingenuity,” a how-to leadership companion for women in business.

MEDIA, continued from Page 3

heightened by the judge's conclusion in the killing of the two Black victims. He said the cop was justified in firing 15 more shots into the victims because it was “reasonable” to believe the threat had not been abated by the previous 122 shots. He also agreed that the cop was justified in believing his life was still in danger.

One officer involved in the car chase got on the radio and told the pursuing cops that the victims had no gun. Yet, the officer on trial said he was “scared to death,” in fear for his life. Does it make sense that his

extreme level of fear would cause him to expose himself to persons he thought were trying to kill him? He should have taken cover rather than jump on the hood of the victims' car.

It's that “Gorillas in the mist,” scenario, that “super human strength” contention, and that “running from the police” thing again. These two victims were doomed from the start of that car chase. Unlike the numerous “angelic-looking” Whites that police pursue for miles, only to arrest them when they finally pull over, this Black couple gets

122 bullets fired at them and then 15 more for good measure.

Duplicious utterances by folks in the media and the courts suggest that they think we are the stupidest people on earth. One last thought: Why do we chant “No Justice, No Peace,” and then brag about how “peaceful” the march was, despite not having received justice?

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. He is the author of *Black Dollars Matter: Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense*, which is available through his website; professionalpublishinghouse.com and Amazon Kindle eBooks.

TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

tem in your life.

Then plan for your success.

“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.”

–Jeremiah 10:23-25 (KJV)

Today, ask God to be the source of victory in your

life. Seek Him so that His banner wave over your life so that He might receive all the glory and honor. Be assured that He brings love and joy into every life, and that you are a better and richer person because of Him.



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