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Black-on-Black crime is destroying communities

By Michael H. Cottman
Urban News Service

MILWAUKEE – Tory Lowe walked 100 miles across steaming-hot pavement from Milwaukee to Chicago because he is tired.

The 39-year-old human rights activist from Milwaukee said he's tired of young African-American men killing each other; he's tired of African-American children dying after being caught in the crossfire; he's tired of attending funerals for African-American men who were shot to death; he's tired of watching the city's homicide rate continue to climb. In August the city's murder rate reached 85, one killing shy of the overall total in 2014. Sadly, some African-American residents expect murders to reach 100 by year's end.

Lowe said his sojourn to Chi-Town in August was divine intervention: God told him to walk to Chicago to bring attention to the callous gang-infused gun violence in Milwaukee.

So he did.

"I had to walk to Chicago," Lowe told the Urban News Service. "It took me three days, my feet were sore, but we don't pay enough attention to black-on-black crime so I walked to find solutions to these senseless acts of violence."



Tory Lowe hugs a supporter during the dedication of Tracoli Peace Park. Named after Tracoli Surveyor, gunned down December 10, 2014 a block from his house as he walked a family friend home from school. Tory Lowe, 39, is a prominent activist in Milwaukee who advocates for the families of those who have been shot by police, even as he works to reduce violence in the community and challenges the administration of District Attorney John Chisholm and Police Chief Ed Flynn. (Photo by André Chung)

Lowe walked from Milwaukee City Hall to Chicago City Hall and spoke with folks along the way. His goal is to start a city-wide conversation and find solutions to help reduce the black-on-black violence in Milwaukee one step at a time.

"Forrest Gump didn't have a reason when he was running," Lowe said, "he just started running."

"We don't address black-on-black crime with the same intensity as racial injustice," he added. "But we need to because it's destroying our

communities. So I prayed and asked for solutions and God told me to walk to Chicago."

Lowe's cell phone rings constantly. Mothers are calling to ask him to investigate the shootings of their sons by police; relatives are calling to ask Tory to help find missing girls who are believed to be caught up in sex-trafficking rings; (police say Milwaukee is a hub for sex trafficking) residents are calling

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How to cure cell phone addiction

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Win tickets to Plano Balloon Festival

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DTC to present *The Mountaintop*

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COMMENTARY

Demonizing 'Black Lives Matter'

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Led by Fox News, conservatives are trying to discredit the #Black Lives Matter Movement by claiming incorrectly that it is a Black hate group that encourages the killing of police officers.

On the Aug. 31 edition of Fox & Friends, Elizabeth Hasselbeck asked, "Why has the Black Lives Movement – Black Lives Matter Movement – not

been classified yet as a hate group? I mean, how much more has to go in this direction before someone actually labels it as such?"

Conservative pundit Katie Pavlich, without a thread of evidence, told Fox's Megyn Kelly on Sept. 2 that Black Lives Matter is "a movement that promotes the execution of police officers."

At a news conference

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Ben Dickerson



Marcus Chapman



Serena Williams

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Ben Dickerson

Ben Dickerson served five years in the U.S. Coast Guard before making a move into education, first as a teacher, then assistant principal, and today, as principal of Edward H. Cary Middle School.

Dickerson is one of dozens of administrators who moved into the top job for the first time at a district school this year. The first-year principal says he's ready to take on the challenge of improving academic achievement.

It helps that Dickerson is familiar with the terrain of the northwest Dallas com-



munity where Cary is located. He's served there five years as a teacher and assistant principal at a neighborhood charter and as assistant principal at Thomas Jefferson before moving to Cary. He sees

the new assignment as a chance to put his knowledge and passion to work on behalf of the area's students

"Starting in the classroom was very rewarding, but I wanted to further my impact on this specific community," he said. "I really saw my ability to do that when I started off as an assistant principal in the charter network. Then I actually decided that I wanted to come to Dallas ISD because I kind of see this as Ground Zero. I felt that if I can affect change here I could have a greater impact."

As Dickerson sees it, the

principal position is akin to a lightning rod in that decisions made at the top often ripple out to every corner of the school, which causes him to think carefully about those decisions.

"I have to be very strategic in my decision-making and make sure I am always looking at things from a student focus because every decision I make has a ripple impact," he said. "I take care to be very intentional that everything I decide is in the students' best interests."

As a new leader, Dickerson feels he's developed a formula to turn around student achievement at the

550-student campus that received an Improvement Required rating from TEA last school year.

The formula calls for creating a consistent and stable structure to the school day, hiring caring, passionate teachers who really know their students, and individualizing instruction to meet the needs of the various student populations, especially English language learners, who are the majority of Cary's students.

Despite the challenges, the topic of students seems to enliven Dickerson. As he talks about his students, he leans in and projects pas-

sion, expressing the energy that propelled him to take on perhaps the greatest challenge an educator can face.

Undaunted, his body language and his words communicate that he's willing to do what it takes to see his students succeed.

"These students are amazing," he says. "They're sponges. They've surprised me at how well they've responded and how excited they are to be here."

Dickerson is excited, too. At 3:30 a.m. on the first day of school, he made a video of himself dancing to kick off the year in a special way.

Marcus Chapman

Marcus Chapman is a music historian, collector, author, and professional on-air personality known to radio listeners as MC Marcus Chapman. He was born and raised on Chicago's south east side, and was collecting music by the age of four. At age 17 he began researching music charts from Jet and Billboard magazines while attending Northern Illinois University. The following year he began his radio career at college station WKDI. Upon graduating with a Bachelors of Arts



Degree and a minor in Black Studies, Chapman became the youngest employee at Chicago radio station WGCI.

After being a studio assistant and show producer,

he joined the staff of on-air personalities; a staff that produced renowned alumni such as Tom Joyner, Doug Banks, Steve Harvey, and Rick Party. Chapman began building a significant following through his Friday night/Saturday morning show called "The Afterset", and made himself memorable to listeners by using a sound bite of legendary actress Eartha Kitt saying "Marcus darling" from the Eddie Murphy film *Boomerang*. He also worked at several record stores during this period.

After four years of being at the station, MC was the

host of WGCI's two hottest weekend shows and the city's number one weekly party. Chapman was then hired by Indianapolis radio station WTLC as host of their nightly 6 to 10 show. While helping WTLC achieve number one ratings at night, Chapman garnered attention from stations in various cities around the country. After nearly landing in New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Miami, Philadelphia, and North Carolina, MC was hired by Dallas-Ft. Worth station KKDA, alias K104. Following his stint in Dallas, Marcus returned to

Chicago and WGCI. During that time he also worked as a music researcher for the radio data company Mediabase. He tracked the daily playlists of numerous urban stations around the country, and submitted data that was used to compile weekly charts for the industry magazine *Radio & Records*. Chapman then relocated from Chicago to Atlanta, and was heard several times on that city's station WVEE (V103). As of 2015 he resides in Dallas again, and can be heard on Radio One hip-hop station KBFB 97.9 The Beat, as well as WIBT 104.7 The Beat in

Greenville, Mississippi.

Chapman recently released one of the best music books in history, *The Coolest Music Book Ever Made A.K.A. The MC 500 Volume 1* and it has gained national attention since its June debut. *The MC 500* highlights artists and groups from various genres including R&B, Hip-Hop, Rock, Funk and many more. This book is a walk through musical history and gives personal accounts from the artists as well as why the song is an important piece of music history as told by Chapman. The MC 500 Volume 2 will be released later this year.

Serena Williams

By Chelsea Lenora White
Special to the NNPA from
the *Houston Forward Times*

As the U.S. Open kicked off August 31st, Nike surprised all with the announcement of their newest partnership.

The renowned lifestyle and sportswear brand snagged tennis all-star Serena Williams to curate a trio of sneakers for their Greatness Collection in honor of her iconic tennis career.

The Nike Air Max 1 Ultra, Nike Roshe LD-1000 and NikeCourt Flare were the chosen sneaker silhouettes for the collection, boasting of slick designs like black and white mar-



bleized and leopard prints. The kicks also feature Williams' favorite affirmation reproduced in her own handwriting on the insole: "You are strong, powerful, and ... beautiful!"

Serena's Greatness Collection will be available on Thursday (Sept. 3) at Nike stores and online. Serena

will also be wearing her new kicks at the Open!

Serena, 33, made history this week by defeating her older sister Venus at the U.S. Open as she pursues her quest of a Grand Slam in 2015. The faceoff between the two siblings was the hottest ticket at the tournament when they faced off. Serena prevailed in the quarterfinal match, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

If Serena reaches her goal she will become only the fourth woman in professional tennis history to win each of the four major single titles in one season. The four tournaments are: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open closes out the famed Grand Slam.

Serena's next opponent is

Roberta Vinci and given the fact she has never lost a set to her in the four times they have played against each other, overconfidence is likely Serena's biggest opponent at this point.

Serena embodies style, power, beauty and courage. Like numerous A-list celebrities, Serena is recognized by the mere mention of her first name. Her remarkable tennis skills have sky-rocketed her to fame, but only her unique charm and drive could explain her successful endeavors outside of tennis in film, television, fashion and philanthropy. Her tennis ability combined with her off-court activity makes her one of the most recognizable names and faces in the world—an icon.

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marketing@northdallasgazette.com

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Black lives AND police lives both matter

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson
New America Media

It's not, and never should have been, an either or proposition to say black lives matter or police lives matter. The slaying of a police officer must and should be denounced with the same vigor, passion and outrage as the unwarranted slaying of an unarmed African-American.

The sad thing is that from virtually the moment that the black lives matter movement exploded on the scene in the aftermath of the Michal Brown killing in

Ferguson, Missouri there has been a low intensity verbal war over whose lives are more important, and when an officer is gunned down or an unarmed black is gunned down who, or even whether there should be an outcry. The debate is silly and dangerous.

Last December, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund which is a national organization dedicated to tracking the number of officers killed in the line of duty, and promoting awareness of the dangers to law enforcement and commemorating

those slain. It sounded the alarm that the number of police officers murdered in 2014 had leaped to 120.

This was a 20 percent increase over 2013, and it reversed a decade long trend. The brutal killings of two New York City police officers the same month along with the killing of a Tarpon Springs, Fla. police officer less than a day later upped that number to 123.

Though the number of officers slain so far in 2015 has plunged from the stunning number killed in 2014, the killing of officers has seemingly resurged with the

slaying of officers in Tennessee.

Louisiana, Texas, and Illinois. When one officer is gunned down ambush style, as was the case of Houston Deputy Daron Goforth, it will draw instant headlines and rage. It should.

However, it should not draw a finger point of blame at the civil rights organizations that have been at the forefront of protests over police killings. There is certainly no evidence of any conspiracy, or plot by police abuse protestors to wink and nod at the killing

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on Aug. 30, the Harris County Sheriff Ron Hickman acknowledged that no motive had been established for the previous day's fatal shooting of Deputy Sheriff Darren H. Goforth outside of Houston. But that did not prevent him from linking the brutal cop murder to the grassroots group dedicated to curtailing violence.

He said, “This rhetoric has gotten out of control.” So much so, he said, “to the point where calculated, cold-blooded assassination of police officers happen.” Hickman added, “We’ve heard Black lives matter, all lives matter. Well, cops’ lives matter, too. So, how about we drop the qualifier and just say lives matter?”

Of course, there is not a scintilla of evidence that the Black Lives Matter Movement has at any point remotely supported the killing of law enforcement officers. Rather, they have highlighted the troubling number of unarmed African Americans killed by police officers. And for that, they should be commended, not condemned.

After studying FBI data, USAToday found, “Nearly two times a week in the United States, a white police officer killed a black person during a seven-year period ending in 2012 ... The reports show that

18% of the blacks killed during those seven years were under age 21, compared to 8.7% of whites.”

Despite the highly-publicized killing of police officers in Texas and Illinois, the number of law enforcement officers killed over the first eight months of 2015 is 16 percent lower than it was over a similar period in 2014, according to FBI figures compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

So far, 26 officers have been killed this year by firearms, down from 31 over a similar period last year. More officers – 38 – died this year in traffic-related incidents than by gunfire and another 21 died from other causes.

Felony killings of law enforcement officers decreased by 50 percent from 1992 to 2013, from 10,000 to 5,000 annually.

In an attempt to shift the emphasis from the unjustified police killing of unarmed African Americans, conservatives are raising the issue of so-called Black-on-Black crime – as if that’s an issue that truly concerns them.

Fox reporter Doug McKelway said on Sept. 1, “The often heard mantra that ‘Black Lives Matter,’ some say, falls flat when you consider just how many Blacks

are killing other Blacks. That remains the majority of homicides across the country.”

Larry Elder, a Black conservative, made the same point, the same day on the same network: “This is about people whining and bitching and moaning about nonsense. If they really want to talk about Black Lives Matter, the fact is that last year 6,000 Black people murdered other Black people. Where are they on that? And the number one preventable cause of death for young black men is homicide at the hands of other Black men.”

If Elder and McKelway wanted to be accurate, they would have pointed out that just as most Blacks kill other Blacks, most Whites kill other Whites. Yet, there is no mention of White-on-White crime.

According to 2013 figures compiled by the FBI, of the 3,005 White homicide victims, 2,509 – 83 percent – were killed by Whites. Of the 2,491 Black homicides that year, 2,245 – 90 percent – were committed by Black assailants.

It's not just a matter of Blacks killing other Blacks and Whites killing other Whites – most homicides are committed by people who know their victim. The assailant is usually an acquaintance, spouse, or other

family member.

In its annual report on Black homicides, issued in January, the Washington-based Violence Policy Center found that in cases where the relationship between the killer and victim was known, 70 percent of the victims were killed by someone they knew; only 30 percent were killed by strangers.

Furthermore, 52 percent of the homicides involved an argument between the victim and the offender.

In an editorial, the New York Times accused “the Republican Party and its acolytes in the news media” of trying to demonize the Black Lives Matter Movement.

It said, “They [Black Lives Matter] are not asserting that black lives are more precious than white lives. They are underlining an indisputable fact – that the lives of black citizens in this country historically have not mattered, and have been discounted and devalued.”

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA) and BlackPressUSA.com. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.george-curry.com.

Nine tips to control your Smartphone addiction

By Dr. James Roberts

WACO – You’ve tried to escape it. You really have. But, the constant stream of dings and buzzes from incoming texts and emails are just too much to take. And, before you know it, you’re scanning your smartphone. Again.

Can the cycle be broken? Can people really put down their smartphones?

James Roberts, Ph.D., The Ben H. Williams Professor of Marketing in Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business, says it’s possible if people take the proper steps to curb their use.

“It’s all about finding your ‘digital sweet spot,’ that magical place where you are still plugged in but have carved out time for the things that really matter,” Roberts said. “You, your relationships and community are the bedrocks of living a happy and meaningful life. They are also the first things that suffer when our lives get



out of balance.”

Roberts, whose new book “Too Much of a Good Thing: Are You Addicted to Your Smartphone?” tackles smartphone addiction, etiquette and technology’s effects on relationships, offered nine tips to break away from smartphones.

1. No smartphones while driving.

“This is by far the easiest tip to implement and also the most important. Simply toss (place gently) your smartphone in the trunk of your car before you leave. It’s out of sight but probably not out of mind, but at least you’re

not texting while driving. Don’t get me started on the fallacy of multitasking and hands-free devices. You’re dangerous when you are driving and on the phone – hands-free or not.”

2. Establish “smartphone-free” zones and times.

“Smartphones should be forbidden in certain places at home and work. For those of you in romantic relationships, no smartphones in the bedroom. Talk about the thrill being gone! The dinner table should also be a smartphone-free zone. No phones within sight or earshot.”

“How much productive

time is lost at work due to people fiddling with their smartphones? Designate two or three times during the day when you are allowed to check your phone for messages, updates or other goodies that might need your attention.”

3. Don’t buy into the “Hair of the Dog” myth.

“I call this ‘Hair of the Dog’ because I am pitting technology against technology. There are a number of smartphone apps that you can use that monitor and control your smartphone use. Spending too much time on eBay? There’s an app for that. You can set time limits for anything on your smartphone that is particularly distracting or time-consuming. You can even have your smartphone text your spouse with updates on how much time you’re spending on social media.”

4. Resist the “poopie”

(selfies on the throne).

“Yes, unfortunately, this is a real thing. Let’s just make it a rule that smartphones should be banned from the bathroom. It’s just wrong, and it’s unsanitary to boot.”

5. Use airplane mode.

“Airplane mode is a nice compromise. It allows you the safety of having your phone with you in case of an emergency but also allows you to focus on the task at hand with no cellular interruptions. Did you know that the average American has an attention span of 8.5 seconds, which is shorter than the attention span of an everyday, garden-variety goldfish?”

6. Put out a contract on yourself.

“Social contracts are a great way to change behaviors. Simply write a contract that states explicitly what is acceptable or unacceptable use – and the punishment for

such behavior – of your smartphone and enlist your spouse, significant other, and/or kids to be the enforcers.”

7. Nix using your smartphone as an alarm clock.

“It’s too much of a temptation to check for the latest YouTube cat video before you start your day. No smartphone until you’ve showered, had your morning cup of Joe and made your bed.”

8. Go the “dumb phone” route.

“When it comes down to it, all we really need to be able to do on our phones is make and receive calls – and send texts, if you have teenage daughters. E-mail and social media are nice, but the dumb phone at least keeps us safe (the long-forgotten original purpose for cell phones) and is able to

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‘Texas Suicide Safer Schools’ report released by MHA Texas

AUSTIN - Mental Health America of Texas (MHA Texas) has released the “Texas Suicide Safer Schools” comprehensive report as support for Texas school districts, teachers and parents in honor of this year’s Suicide Prevention Week, Sept 6-12. Written by Drs. Scott and Donna Poland, national experts in school suicide prevention, in collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services and Mental Health America of Texas, the report stresses that although suicide is the second leading killer of older teens and the third leading killer of youth aged 10-24, Texas educators are empowered by recent legislation so they can make a difference in creating suicide safer schools.

According to Lynn Lasky Clark, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Texas, “the report will be particularly helpful to those

who need to know how to implement new laws relating to suicide prevention in schools.”

She points out that “House Bill 2186, just passed, requires all school district and open enrollment charter school staff orientation for new employees to include best practice suicide prevention training on an annual basis.”

Another bill passed in the last legislative session requires suicide prevention training for teachers in education training programs to also use a best practice based program (Senate Bill 674).

According to Merily Keller, MHA Texas statewide master trainer in suicide prevention, “the key to suicide safer schools is a comprehensive suicide prevention and postvention approach with training for everyone in a school, and plans and procedures that everyone understands and

can implement.”

The Suicide Safer Schools report points out that a pre-report survey done by the authors indicated that “although 100% of school staff surveyed in suburban districts indicated that they had the confidence and skills for intervening with a suicidal student, only 50% in rural districts and 40% in urban districts, expressed they were confident in their skills.”

Best practice based training programs for suicide prevention are reviewed in the “Suicide Safer Schools Report,” and are to be reviewed and posted annually on the websites of the Texas Department of State Health Services, (DSHS), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and each Texas Regional Education Service Center (ESC). The list is also available at the MHA Texas website, <http://www.texasuicideprevention.org>.



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Carrollton hosting sign-ups for youth basketball league

Registration for Carrollton Youth Basketball is open now through Oct. 2. The season runs from Nov. 7, 2015 – Jan. 30, 2016.

A Mini League for boys and girls ages 5 and 6 (as of Sept. 1, 2015) is \$80 per resident and \$100 per non-resident and that registration fee includes practices, eight league games, a jersey, and a participation trophy.

The Recreational League for boys and girls ages 7 through 14 (as of Sept. 1, 2015) is \$80 per resident and \$100 per non-resident and that registration fee includes practices, eight league games, playoffs, jersey, playoff trophies, officials, and scorekeeper services.

Teams are organized by a draft system based on age and school attended. Practices begin the week of October 26, but are not scheduled on school holidays.

Interested basketball players can register online at cityofcarrollton.com/signupnow, in person at Rosemeade Recreation Center

(1330 E. Rosemeade Parkway) or Crosby Recreation Center (1610 E. Crosby Road).

For more information on Mini or Recreational

League registration, visit cityofcarrollton.com/athletics, call Carrollton Athletics at 972-466-9833, or e-mail athletics@cityofcarrollton.com.

Citizenship mega-workshop offered

Saturday, September 12, the New Americans Campaign will help hundreds of lawful permanent residents take the first step towards becoming United States citizens through a free workshop.

Green card holders will get free naturalization application assistance from professional and trained volunteers. Individuals will also receive legal counsel by pro-bono attorneys and legal experts.

Services are available in Spanish, Arabic, Burmese and English.

The event is scheduled for Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. at the Santa Clara Community Center located at 321 Calumet Avenue in Dallas.

PHONE,

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help us connect with those we need to.”

9. Commit to it and do it.

“All of the above suggestions will come to naught if you are not totally committed to the cause. You must convince yourself that curbing your smartphone use is essential to your happiness before you embark on this journey. Without such steely resolve you will be sucked into the digital vortex that has lured so many of us into an existence where leading a meaningful life has been replaced by the continual pursuit of momentary pleasures.”

James Roberts is a Ph.D., The Ben H. Williams Professor of Marketing in Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business. He recently published the new book, “Too Much of a Good Thing: Are You Addicted to Your Smartphone?”

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McDonald's 365BLACK AWARDS

UT Arlington produces first active stereo 3-D planetarium show about NASA's SOFIA mission

A new active stereo 3-D show at The Planetarium at UT Arlington will transform learning for students and planetarium visitors interested in exploring the mysteries of our galaxy and beyond.

The Planetarium, which is part of the UT Arlington College of Science, soon will begin public showings of "SOFIA 3-D," a short science film based on NASA's research and outreach mission, Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, or SOFIA. The 3.5-minute film will also be shown prior to other future documentaries.

The NASA project has many goals, including the study of atmospheres of planets in the Solar System, such as Mars, and the study of comets. During its planned 20-year lifetime, SOFIA also hopes to inspire the development of new scientific instrumentation and nurture the education of young scientists and engineers.

"It has taken several years, but we are thrilled that we are finally able to introduce this significant film to the public," said Manfred Cuntz, a professor in the UTA Department of Physics and principal inves-



tigator on an \$88,000 grant from NASA, which among other activities funded the production of the film and equipment needed to install, test and produce content for the 3-D projection system.

"Studies of Mars are pivotal for many reasons, including that Mars may have harbored or is still harboring alien life. Comets are important because they represent the leftovers from the beginning of the Solar System, and may provide clues to the physical and chemical conditions within the nebula out of which our Solar System was formed," Cuntz said. "This aspect will also be helpful to the study of planet formation around stars other than the Sun, as well as to obtaining insight into the origin of life."

In 2009, planetarium staff developed "Unseen Universe: Vision of SOFIA," a full-length documentary,

which is available to local schools free of charge. Read more here.

"We are engaged in multiple SOFIA-related efforts at UT Arlington, and this film is directly aligned with our overall goal of enhancing and fostering science education," Cuntz said.

A software upgrade in 2012 provided a Digistar 5 projection system, which allows visitors to virtually fly from one location to another on Earth. The system also contains a comprehensive set of astronomical data.

The latest additions use active stereo glasses to project 3-D video on the immersive dome screen. The technology created several challenges for the development team to overcome. Creating content in 3-D required more powerful computers than previously used for content production.

Planetarium program co-

ordinator Amy Barraclough and director Levent Gurdemir spent several months working to procure enough computers and hardware to begin rendering video in 3-D.

"Additional challenges with software compatibility had to be managed as well," Gurdemir said. "Content is now created on 16 virtual servers controlled by one master computer, and this all means an even stronger experience for patrons of all ages."

The film, "SOFIA 3-D" is expected to be available for public showings starting in December. Visit www.uta.edu/-planetarium/ for a schedule of current shows and programs available at the Planetarium.

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Collin College cuts ribbon on new conference center

College officials and community leaders cut the ribbon on Collin College's new conference center building at a VIP sneak preview at the Central Park Campus in McKinney. The ceremony also marked a significant day in the college's history, as Sept. 3 was the day the college offered its first classes in 1985.

According to Dr. Bob Collins, who is a founding trustee and chair of the col-

See COLLIN, Page 7

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Disabled US Army Vet Receives Key to a Mortgage-Free Home in Garland

US Army veteran SPC Leo Perez and his family reside in a newly renovated, mortgage-free home in Garland.

On Friday, Aug. 28, Perez, his wife and children were given the keys to a three-bedroom energy-efficient home that was donated by Bank of America in partnership with Green Extreme Homes and the City of Garland through its GREAT Homes Program. The Home Depot also provided materials and volunteers for the project.

Richard Holt from Bank of America, Garland Mayor Douglas Athas, and Jean and Steve Brown of Green Extreme Homes, along with



dozens of volunteers and neighbors, greeted the Perez family as they arrived at their new home Friday morning.

Perez planned to make a career in the Army, but was suddenly disabled six years into his service. With Perez

unable to hold a full-time job due to his disabilities, his wife has relentlessly applied for jobs; however, her lack of work experience after dedicating her life to raising their children while

See VET, Page 12



Plano Balloon Festival takes flight Sept. 18

The Plano Balloon Festival takes off on Sept. 18 at Oak Point Park at 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway.

This action packed three day event for the weekend marks 36 years of fun for the family. The balloons

will begin to soar in the skies Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (weather permitting).

Special features for this year's event includes: entertainment on the FOX 4

Community Stage and KLUV Main Stage, Friday and Saturday evening glows, Saturday evening spectacular fireworks, special kids art activities in the Central Market Kids Fun Zone, and of course the

kaleidoscope of colors provided by the 40 hot-air balloons.

NDG Readers can win tickets to the Plano Balloon Festival, visit NorthDallasGazette.com for more info!

VIOLENCE, continued from Page 1

to ask Lowe to speak to African-American children for motivation; one man calls to ask Lowe to help organize a march for racial justice. Lowe takes every call – and follows up with everyone.

"I'm working 24-7," Lowe said. "When people call for help, I answer." He says he's counseled almost every family in Milwaukee who has experienced a relative dying from gun violence.

"Mothers call me when their sons have been shot," Lowe said. "For some black people, there is no way out. It's hopelessness throughout our community. Unemployment creates an environment for violence. We have to stop the violence but we must also address the root causes for the violence."

Lowe recently was asked to speak in a community

park where Tracoli Survevor was just 17 years old when he was gunned down near 84rd Street on Dec. 10, 2014.

His mother said a gang member shot Tracoli even though Tracoli didn't belong to a gang. Local officials renamed the park, "Tracoli Peace Park."

Lowe stood before dozens of school-age children and offered brief inspirational words about getting a good education and obeying their parents. He carries his own bullhorn wherever he goes because he said he wants to make sure his message is heard.

Families and friends in two neighborhoods last month held vigils for the latest victims of Milwaukee's escalating gun violence. One for 13-year-old Giovanni Cameron, who was shot to death by his 13-year-old cousin; another for

14-year-old Tariq Akbar, gunned down by a 15-year-old. Ten people were shot in just one week.

"What goes through my mind is, how in the name of all that is good and holy do I have a 15 year old carrying a semiautomatic pistol of high quality -- and using it with impunity," Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn told CBS News.

Flynn says the rising gun violence is a result of gun laws that allow people to carry concealed weapons and allow guns to be resold without background checks, black teenagers living in poverty and an overburdened juvenile justice system.

"Right now our offending community recognizes that it's more dangerous to get caught without their gun than with their gun," Flynn said, "I think we have a critical mass of offenders who've caught on to the

weaknesses of the law, and they're certainly taking advantage of it."

Flynn said that gunfire has become so common in Milwaukee that 80 percent of gunshots don't even get reported.

For Tory Lowe, the

senseless violence has to stop. He views himself is a one-man crusade against gun violence in the black community and said he walked to Chicago alone because he felt a sense of urgency.

"You would be hard

pressed in Milwaukee to find a 19-year-old black man who doesn't have a felony," Lowe said.

"Milwaukee is the worst place in America for black men. I don't know how it got this way, but it has to change."

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HIV/AIDS program receives resolution

A program designed to assist Dallas County residents with HIV/AIDS services was recognized with a resolution in Dallas County Commissioners Court.

Lionel Hillard, Ryan White Planning Council chair, Helen Turner Goldenberg, Ryan White Planning Council vice chair, and Zachary Thompson, Dallas County Health and Human Services director accepted the resolution presented by Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price.

"The Ryan White Planning Council, Dallas County Auditor's Office, Dallas County Health and Human Services staff, Ryan White-funded agencies, and the Dallas County Commissioners Court are to be commended for their ongoing commitment to Ryan White services in the Dallas Eligible Metropolitan Areas," said Commissioner Price.

The program was named



Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price presented the Ryan White Planning Council a resolution in Dallas County Commissioners Court. Left to right: Lionel Hillard, Ryan White Planning Council chair; Helen Turner Goldenberg, Ryan White Planning Council vice chair; Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price; Zachary Thompson, Dallas County Health and Human Services director. Photo by Wallace Faggett.

for a young man diagnosed with AIDS following a blood transfusion. Ryan White fought AIDS-related discrimination in his Indiana community and educated the nation about his disease. He died months before Congress passed the legislation in 1990. August 18, 2015 marked the 25th

anniversary of the Ryan White CARE Act.

The law created what is known as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. Funded at \$2.32 billion in fiscal year 2015, the program works with cities, states, and local community-based organizations to support a coordinated and

comprehensive system of care and treatment.

At the time the bill became law, more than 150,000 AIDS cases had been reported in the U. S., and more than 100,000 of those people had died.

Currently, more than 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, including over 16,000 in Dallas County. In 2014, 887 individuals were diagnosed with HIV and 400 were diagnosed with AIDS in Dallas County.

Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zachary Thompson thanked the court for the resolution and added, "The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program is vital to Dallas County residents who need assistance."

For more information, visit: <http://www.dallas-county.org/departments/rwp/c/index.php>.

Diane Ragsdale to be honored on Sept. 26

Diane Ragsdale, former Dallas City Councilwoman and visionary leader of ICDC- Innercity Community Development Corporation, will be honored for her many years of community activism, leadership and service on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 12 noon, at TBAAL - The Black Academy of Arts and Letters. Tickets are \$10 with all proceeds going to ICDC, a community based non-profit serving the South Dallas/Fair Park community.

For nearly 30 years ICDC has been "Building Lives and Revitalizing Neighborhoods" through its Affordable Home Ownership, Business Incubator and Community Education programs. Rev.

Frederick Douglas Haynes, III, Rev. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. and the Kirkwood Temple CME Church will lead tributes from the community.

Musical guests will include the famed SNCC Freedom Singers, Texas College Concert Choir, the Lincoln Alumni Concert Choir and TBAAL'S Young, Gifted and Black Artists.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the following locations:

- ICDC office at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, 75215 – 214-915-9900

- TBAAL Box Office, 1309 Canton St. (at Akard) Call 214-743-2400

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Celebrating 90 Years of Black College Football at the 2015 Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic

ALW Entertainment announces the 2015 Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic welcoming back SWAC rivals the Grambling State University Tigers and the Prairie View A&M University Panthers. This year marks the 90th anniversary for the classic football game and the 28th showdown between the two SWAC rivals in the classic. The Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic is the largest African American social event in the city of Dallas drawing over 60,000 alumni and fans. The historic game will be played during the opening weekend of the State Fair on Saturday, September 26, 2015 kicking off at 4 p.m. at the Cotton Bowl.

The Prairie View A&M Panthers are led by first year



head coach Willie Simmons who had a very impressive 3-year stint as offensive coordinator at Alcorn State, who won the 2014 SWAC and SBN Black College Championships. Simmons enters the classic looking to build a winning tradition over the G-Men. Coach Broderick Fobbs and his

Grambling Tigers will hit the field ready to continue their rich tradition against the Panthers. The 2014 contest between Grambling and Prairie View had the fans on the edge of their seats from kickoff to the end with Grambling winning 26-20. The 2015 Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic

promises to be another thriller between these two teams. Dallas "Will You Be There"?

The Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic is truly a come see experience that features the spectacular half-time showdown between the "World Famed" Grambling Tigers marching band and Prairie View's "Marching Storm" marching band with the Black Foxes. Great football, entertainment and fun fan engagement activities throughout the evening. Gates open at 3:00 p.m. with the Pre-Game Show starting at 3:20 p.m.

Southwest Airlines is the classic title sponsor with additional corporate support from McDonald's, Coca-Cola, United States Army, Bud Light and the City of

Dallas.

A ticket purchased by fans for the 2015 Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic includes admission to the world's largest State Fair and the incredible pre-game concert featuring national recording artist Lyfe Jennings performing on the Chevy Main Stage at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at ticketmaster.com or by phone by calling 1.800.745.3000. Tickets are also available on both campuses, all Williams Chicken locations, Catfish Floyds, Dave's BBQ, Friendship West Baptist Church, St. Johns Baptist Church (Grand Prairie and Southlake campuses) and City Federal Credit Union.

CLASSIC WEEK EVENTS include Friday, September 25, 2015: the Radio One Celebrity Golf Tournament at Cedar Crest Golf Course at 8 a.m.; The Comedy Get Down starring Cedric "The Entertainer", Eddie Griffin, D.L. Hughley, George Lopez and Charlie Murphy, 8 p.m. at the American Airlines Center. Saturday, September 26, 2015: Grambling State University Alumni - Dallas Chapter High School Battle of the Bands, 8 a.m. at Lancaster High School; Pre-Game Concert featuring Lyfe Jennings at 2 p.m. on the State Fair of Texas Chevy Main Stage.

WIN tickets to the football game by telling us which team you are supporting on our Facebook page!

Win tickets to *The Mountaintop*

Dallas Theater Center has announced complete details for *The Mountaintop*, a recent Broadway hit and the 2010 winner of Britain's Olivier Award for Best New Play.

Written by Katori Hall and directed by Akin Batabunde, *The Mountaintop* begins with previews on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. with a Pay-What-You-Can performance and runs through Sunday, Nov. 15. Press Opening is Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to *The Mountaintop* are on sale now at www.DallasTheaterCenter.org.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. is this extraordinary individual placed in a very ordinary situation with real human concerns that we all deal with" said Akin Batabunde, director of *The Mountaintop*. "The performance allows us to look at the extraordinary aspect of ourselves, in our ordinary world, through this one man who faced very similar is-

sues."

The Mountaintop gives audiences a unique perspective on Martin Luther King, Jr. as thoughts and emotions pulse through his mind during his last night on earth. Not just for history enthusiasts, *The Mountaintop* will surprise audiences with a theatrically spell-binding twist.

Set in Memphis' Lorraine motel just hours before the civil-rights leader was assassinated, audiences will view King as a man stripped of the mountain of mythology now woven into his remembrance. Crackling with metaphysical magical realism, *The Mountaintop* will throw lightning bolts of insight upon societal strengths in the intimate environment of the Studio Theater.

"*The Mountaintop* is an evening of breathtaking theater," said Dallas Theater Center Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty. "Katori Hall accomplishes some-

thing unique in her thrilling play that explores history, justice and legacy."

Tickets for *The Mountaintop* are on sale now. Ticket prices start at \$18 and are available online at www.DallasTheaterCenter.org or by phone at (214) 880-0202. All performances of *The Mountaintop* will take place at the Wyly Theatre (Studio Theatre), located at 2400 Flora St. in the AT&T Performing Arts Center, where it runs Sept. 16 - Nov 15, 2015.

DTC's Come Early sponsored by Wells Fargo will take place one hour before every performance and will be led by Tiana Johnson. DTC's Stay Late presented by Dr Pepper Snapple will take place after each performance and will be

DTC Brierley Resident Acting Company member Hassan El-Amin (*Colossal*, *Stagger Lee*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Les Misérables*) will play Martin Luther King, Jr.

See DTC, Page 10

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NDG Book Review: *Mess: One Man's Struggle to Clean Up His House and His Act*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Once again, you couldn't find your keys.

You were pretty sure you put them down on the kitchen counter. On top of last week's mail. Which you'd laid next to a shirt you bought on sale in April, breakfast dishes from who-knows-when, five plastic bags, and a dead plant. Yeah, your house is cluttered, but it's not so bad – which is what Barry Yourgrau thought until, as he says in his memoir *"Mess,"* he began to look around...

The apartment hadn't always been his.

It had, in fact, belonged to Barry Yourgrau's girlfriend once, and she'd bequeathed it to him when she moved and he needed a



place to stay.

So when Cosima knocked on the door of the apartment one afternoon, she was surprised that Yourgrau wouldn't let her in.

He couldn't, because Yourgrau was a hoarder "at wit's end."

Postcards, old calendars, paper bags, souvenirs, and bric-a-brac littered the floors of his home, covered with dust, stored in boxes,

slung across furniture and countertops. Not only were the rooms cluttered, but so was Yourgrau's mind: as a writer, he couldn't seem to stay focused. His home was too much of a distraction.

Cosima gave him an ultimatum: clean or else. So why not make it a "Project"? Yourgrau decided that de-cluttering – and understanding his compulsion to hoard – might make an interesting story, perhaps even a book.

A twin with a younger singleton brother, Yourgrau had spent his childhood helping his family to move; his father was a professor, and had worked his way around to a series of jobs. Yourgrau remembered his mother's death with deep sorrow, but recalled his father as "domineering." Still,

getting rid of their "stuff" was an emotional struggle.

But, then again, getting rid of his own possessions wasn't easy, either. Yourgrau sought counseling. He read up on hoarding and its psychology, attended a twelve-step program, accepted help from several places, spoke with other hoarders and experts, procrastinated, and tried tackling the mess on his own.

Of his struggles, he says, "A man who cannot let go: that would be me."

There are a lot of pages here in which "Mess" lives

up to its title.

That disappointed me; I had such high hopes for this memoir, but a first-half hodgepodge makes author Barry Yourgrau's story initially very hard to follow. It doesn't help that Yourgrau sprinkles his narrative with highbrow literary references and other edge-of-mainstream nods; a sense of mania and referring to people by a series of nicknames only adds to the chaos.

Fortunately, things turn around about halfway through the book. There,

Yourgrau starts to dig into the reasoning and psychology of hoarding by consulting experts, which tampers the frenzy. Indeed, the second half of this book is more introspective, more down-to-brass-tacks, and much more interesting.

Ultimately, I don't think this will help much if you need advice on hoarding or cleaning. It's just too cluttered for that but, if entertainment is your goal, here's your book. If you can, then, "Mess" is something to find.



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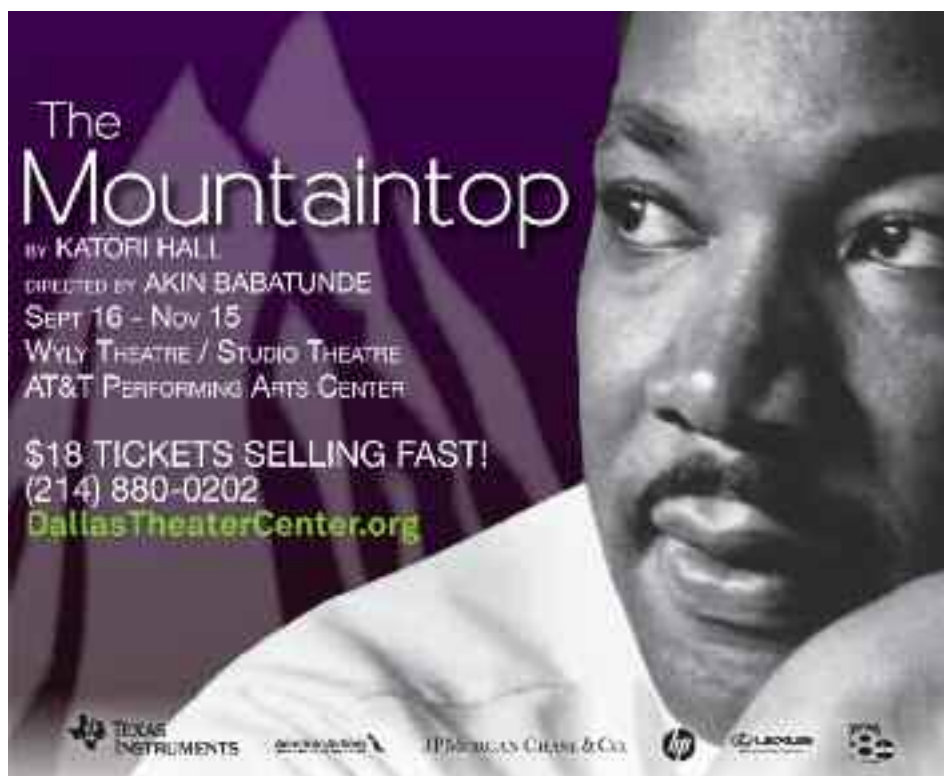
opposite Southern Methodist University graduate student Tiana Johnson (The Book Club Play) as Camae.

For this production, the Studio Theatre will be transformed into Memphis' Lorraine motel by set designer Bob Lavallee, light-

ing designer Alan Edwards, sound designer David Lanza and costume designer Claudia Stephens. Projection designer Chase York's vivid projections will transport audiences to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last night. Seating will be

General Admission.

Led by Hassan El-Amin. Patrons will have the opportunity to engage with artists, learn about the production and share insights about the play in a lively discussion. Details for Come Early and Stay Late are available online.



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SBA's Business Smart Toolkit encourages entrepreneurship in underserved communities

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL) recently announced the release of the Business Smart Toolkit, a ready-to-use workshop toolkit that equips faith-based and community organizations to help new and aspiring entrepreneurs launch and build businesses that are credit ready.

"We can't wait for aspiring entrepreneurs to come to us; we need to reach out to them where they are,"



said SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet. “The Business Smart Toolkit allows us to work more effectively alongside local partners in underserved communities to ensure that all Americans have

access to the government and private resources available to support their entrepreneurial dreams. Minority firms are a fast growing segment of the U.S. economy, generating \$1 trillion in economic output, yet

they typically encounter higher borrowing costs, receive smaller loans and face more rejections. I applaud NAGGL for joining the SBA to focus on expanding lending to underserved communities to ensure that all key drivers of the U.S. economy are able to contribute at their full potential.”

“Small business ownership takes courage and determination. We must promote and inspire entrepreneurship and the Business Smart Toolkit is an innovative way to bring the high-

est-level of business insight to American entrepreneurs across the country,” said Tony Wilkinson, president and CEO of NAGGL. “Our partnership with SBA unites our expertise and resources. Together, we hope this toolkit will inspire Main Street entrepreneurs to open their doors.”

The toolkit is designed to “train-the-trainer”, such as trusted community leaders, who have the ability and the desire to educate new and potential business owners through a series of workshops in collaboration with

the SBA's field offices and NAGGL members. The toolkit is intended to educate and enable small business owners – from those looking to open their first small business, to established business owners hoping to expand and grow. It contains a variety of small business and financial literacy topics that include business start-up basics, the essentials of becoming credit-ready, and resources for small business education and support. Download the Business Smart Toolkit from the SBA website.

Funding opportunities for minority businesses

MBE Capital Partners, Inc., a certified minority owned enterprise that is the leading funding source for small to medium Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), has developed a \$300 million capital program for the NY/NJ Minority Supplier Devel-

opment Council (NYN-JMSDC).

Structured to assist Council members with existing and future Fortune 500 contracts, funding through MBECF offers certified minority owned companies access to low cost of capital based on the

collective credit ratings of the average Fortune 500 buyers. The program is in response to the robust Fortune 500 minority procurement demand, coupled with the lack of bank financing available in the market.

Terrence Clark, NYN-

JMSDC President and CEO states, ““We are excited about the relationship we have formed with MBE Capital Partners and they have been responsive in developing a financial program that has been specif-

See FUNDING. Page 13

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What are the four phases of a sound financial plan?

Everything looks like a nail if your only tool is a hammer – that’s what financial planning expert Brad Berger finds himself telling clients all the time.

What does he mean?

“A lot of the people in the financial services industry have only a hammer; they have specific products to sell, so they present them as the perfect solution for you,” says Brad Berger, author of the book “Stop Trying to

Keep Up With the Joneses – They’re Broke Anyway” (www.LiveYourIdealLife.com).

“Some financial professionals tend to serve as salespeople, and clients can grow defensive and numb to the products an advisor might be pushing on them. But there are many tools available for financial planning that may be ignored at the expense of a product. Clients should better understand that there are other tools, including stocks,

bonds, mutual funds, REITs (Real Estate Investment Trust), annuities, insurance, real estate, commodities, futures, ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds), precious metals—the list goes on and on.”

Despite all of these tools that some financial advisors may ignore in this solution phase, there are also three other phases when creating a

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VET, continued from Page 7

Perez was deployed has become a roadblock. Perez is still pursuing his passion of serving others by becoming an EMS worker part time and is determined to maintain a stable environment for his family. They believe having a home of their own will be a solid first step in the right direction.

As part of Bank of America’s efforts to help revital-

ize communities and support the housing needs of those who have served and sacrificed for our nation, the company has donated more than 1,900 homes nationwide to military veteran-support charities and other nonprofit, community-based organizations.

The GREAT Homes program is administered by the City of Garland Housing

and Community Services Department and is an innovative approach to re-energizing Garland’s existing housing stock through energy efficient and aesthetic upgrades while maintaining the architectural integrity of Garland’s more mature neighborhoods. The program offers creative financing terms, which not only benefit the buyers of the homes, but provide a dollar-per-dollar return on investment back to the City.

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PLAN, continued from Page 12

sound financial plan. Berger reviews the phases.

• **Discovery.** It's important to focus on the "why" of financial planning before considering the "what." A computer can calculate the what, but it cannot tell you the why. It cannot define your personal values and your goals—and unless those are established first, how can you know that a potential solution is appropriate for you?

"That's why, in my firm, we use something called the Financial Road Map® to help clients articulate their values," he says. "Then we help them establish goals and milestones for reaching them. How will they feel when they achieve them? When do they want to attain

a particular goal, and how much money will that require? We look at their current financial situation to assess the possibilities."

• **Planning.** Here, it's important to make sure the right product is used for the right job. "In my opinion, there are no bad financial products, but there are many financial products applied badly," Berger says. Financial regulations keep these products out of the marketplace unless they have been vetted—at least somewhat. But such oversight tends to break down when it comes to whether the products are being used for the purpose for which they were designed. You could hammer in a screw as if it were a nail,

but in doing so you would be misusing both the hammer and screw.

• **Solutions.** Again, here is where some advisors try to push products. "In this phase, we collect all the pertinent numbers and review them, and we talk about approaches and products," Berger says. The goal is to uncover whether the client would object to a particular strategy.

"Because I'm an independent advisor, I'm not beholden to specific products," he says. "There really are many tools for folks to use when mapping their financial future."

• **Monitoring.** "We've uncovered more than 150 checkpoints for our clients during the course of a year," Berger says.

FUNDING,

continued from Page 11

ically designed for our members."

"With many corporate entities dedicating a portion of their spend to minority and women owned businesses," he continues, "the program will help MBEs manage aggressive growth schedules with our existing corporate partners."

The program was established in June 2014 at \$500 million. In March 2015, it grew by \$425 million and most recently it grew by \$300 million to accommodate the program's demand.

BOTH, continued from Page 3

of police officers, let alone to target them for attacks.

Nearly every activist organization at the forefront of the protests over the killing of Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and Ezell Ford, as well as their family members, instantly condemned the killings of officers. Civil rights groups have made it abundantly clear that anyone who tries to in any way intimate or justify the killings as some kind of retaliation or evening the score for the deaths of the blacks killed is sick, a provocateur, and a vicious murderer.

Civil rights groups have been emphatic that attacks on police officers are despicable and outrageous and reinforce the false and irresponsible notion that civil rights groups are anti-police. There's always been the recognition that police officers have a tough, and dangerous, job, and the overwhelming majority of officers do not harass, abuse, or engage in misconduct, and that they take seriously their oath to protect and serve communities and that includes communities of color. The protests have always been aimed at the few officers who don't and those officials who shield

them.

There are two other good reasons why those who swiftly denounce the killing of unarmed blacks by a police officer must just as swiftly denounce the slaying of a police officer by a deranged or misguided individual. This heinous act could derail the growing public recognition that police violence is a major issue that cannot be ignored. The first steps were being taken toward a national dialogue among law enforcement, including use of body cameras, a grand jury system overhaul, a systematic tracking of civilians killed by police, and a revamp of policies on the use of force by officers.

There is also the concern that the killings could heighten tensions between police and minority communities, with deadly consequences. At times when officers have been killed in the line of duty, some police officials have recognized that danger and quietly reminded officers to uphold the highest professional standards. This is crucial, because an officer killing stirs anger, outrage and fear among many police.

The other reason is that a failure to speak out when a

police officer is killed leaves the advocates for police reform wide open to the knock of a double standard; namely picking and choosing whose lives are important. Nothing could erode public sympathy and support for the victims of unwarranted police violence faster than that charge.

Officer safety is, and must, be of paramount importance to those who fight for police reform. Positive and proactive police-community relations, dialogue and engagement is a two way street. If there's the sense that one side doesn't give a hoot about officer's safety and lives, then the well will be hopelessly poisoned. That's a surefire prescription to escalate the

cycle of fear and violence between police and African-American communities. When that happens, we all lose.

Yes, black lives and police lives both matter, and it's an absolute must for us to keep saying that.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. He is a frequent MSNBC contributor. He is an associate editor of New America Media. He is a weekly co-host of the Al Sharpton Show on American Urban Radio Network. He is the host of the weekly Hutchinson Report on KTYM 1460 AM Los Angeles and KPFA 90.7 FM Los Angeles and the Pacifica Network.

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You are invited to join us 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 Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

September 15, p.m.

You invited to join us for Tuesday's Talk at the church.

September 16, 7 p.m.

Don't miss 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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972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

September 13, 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. Don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for the Word of God in Spanish at our Iglesia de Cristo Services.

September 16, 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 says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

September 20, 12 – 1 p.m.
How do you study the Bible? Join us for a new Bible Study, Senior Pastor Woodson will teach a one hour series on "How to Study the Bible God's way."

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

www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 13, 7:35 a.m.

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

September 16, 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 Greenvue Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

Remembering our 2015 Theme: Building the church for future. This is our goal for the future.

September 13, 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.

September 16, 7 p.m.

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.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

September 13

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 our Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

September 16

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 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.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D. Senior Pastor
5705 Cheyenne Drive
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013
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www.theship3c.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

September 13, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory.

September 16, 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
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 13, 9:45 a.m.

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday morning worship service as we praise and worship God.

September 14

Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

September 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Worship come and hear what God has to say to us.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor
11611 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75229
972-241-6151
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

September 13

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.

September 16, 7 p.m.

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 Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

September 13, at 8 a.m. And/or 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.

September 16, 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 and His honor.

September 19

Join us for Steps for Shiloh Scholarship Walk-a-ton. SHOUT's Annual Steps for Shiloh Scholarship Walk-a-ton will be at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano. These steps help to provide scholarships to our future graduating seniors. The first 100 registrants will receive a t-shirt. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall after worship service to sign-up.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr. Senior Pastor
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www.smbcplano.org

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September 13, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.

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September 14, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

September 18, 7 p.m.
All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. Come and grow with us.

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Three Ripe Tomatoes



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John paced up and down outside his cabin and asked, "Why did the Lord allow my wife to suffer so, to approach death with no hope of a doctor's help?"

Perhaps they should never have come to this lonesome jungle—with not a government outpost near.

Why did they come to Africa? But no! That was doubting God. He had sent them here, and He had blessed their work; souls had been saved, a church established. God wanted them here.

But why was God allowing his wife to die? She couldn't last the week out until the messenger would bring the doctor from the

coast.

And, that strange request of hers, three ripe tomatoes. She thought they would help her, give her nourishment to sustain her until the doctor arrived.

As far as John knew, there weren't three ripe tomatoes in all of Belgian Congo. There might be some canned tomatoes at their distant outpost, but ripe ones? They just did not grow tomatoes in this part of Africa.

John thought of praying for tomatoes, but considered it unreasonable to ask God for the impossible.

Tomatoes couldn't grow like the beanstalk in the old fairy tale even if he did have seeds, and he didn't.

Steadily the tropical fever was burning the very life from John's wife. By nightfall she was so weak she could not talk; lack of food had sapped her strength until she could only moan and whisper occasionally to her husband.

Only the prayers of the entire mission compound kept her alive through that night, alive to face another day of suffering—physical for her, mental for John.

As he leaned over her bed in the morning, again he heard her whisper, "If-only-I-had-three ripe tomatoes."

In agony John heard that dying request—three ripe tomatoes. If only it were humanly possible to get them.

He would go to any extreme. He picked up his wife's hot hand and gripped

it compassionately in his.

As he stood looking down at his wife, a native servant appeared at the door and said there was a near-by tribeswoman out in front who wanted to see him.

Reluctantly John left his wife and stepped outside. He had never seen this woman before, yet her tribal dress was familiar.

Questioning her, he found that his guess had been correct—a bush-woman from the tribe he had visited last month. But what was she

doing here at this season of the year?

His question was answered. She had been sent to him for advice. Food was scarce this season, but she was afraid to eat this queer fruit she had grown from seeds left her by a white man. Were they all right to eat?

As John peered into the basket she carried, he almost cried for joy, these tomatoes came now in answer to his wife prayers and in rebuke to his doubts.

And not only that, but the bewildered Black woman said that she had more! She scurried to get them at the

missionary's plea.

John's wife ate the tomatoes and lived until the doctor arrived with healing medicine, she lived for a successful ministry through the amazing appearance of three ripe tomatoes, that were planted, raised and ripened at the appropriate time by the hand of the all-wise God.

The seeds were sown long before—because someone prayed. The Black woman brought the tomatoes to the missionary—because someone prayed. --From Miracles and Melodies. Only God Can Do The Miraculous!



The Honorable Mr. Calvin Spann, one of the last remaining original Tuskegee Airmen passed on Sept. 6, 2015 at 90 years old. It was my great pleasures to meet him and for him relate some of his stories.



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