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New EPI study shows no Black progress in 50 years

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Contributor

Late last year, *"The Washington Post"* wrote that African Americans were the only group that showed no economic improvement since 2000. They based their conclusions on Census data. This year, there was even more sobering news in a report by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). The new study issued found "no progress" for African Americans on homeownership, unemployment and incarceration in 50 years.

Much of what was included in the EPI study was stunning data on African American economic progress. Fifty years after the famous and controversial Kerner Commission Report that identified "white racism" as the driver of "pervasive discrimination in employment and education" for African Americans, EPI concluded that not much has changed.

The EPI study stated the obvious and pointed to glaring statistics.

Regarding the justice system, the share of incarcerated African Americans has close to tripled between 1968 and 2016, as Blacks are 6.4 times more likely than Whites to be jailed or imprisoned. Homeownership rates have remained unchanged for African Americans, over the last 50 years. Black homeownership is about 40 percent, which is 30 percent behind the rate for Whites.



A recent Economic Policy Institute study revealed that Blacks haven't made any progress in homeownership, unemployment or incarceration in 50 years. (Pixabay)

Regarding income, perhaps the most important economic metric, the average income for an African American household was \$39,490 in 2017, a decrease from \$41,363 in 2000.

A press release about the report said that, "Black workers still make only 82.5 cents on every dollar earned by white workers, African Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be in poverty than Whites, and the median White family has almost ten times as much wealth as the median Black family."

In 2017, the Black unemployment rate was 7.5 percent, up from 6.7 percent in 1968, and still roughly twice the White unemployment rate.

In 2015, the Black homeownership rate was just over 40 percent, virtually unchanged since 1968 and trailing a full 30 points behind the White homeownership rate, which saw modest gains over the same period.

President Trump has bragged about the Black unemployment rate has reached record lows and homeownership has reached record highs under his presidency. What Trump leaves out is the overall statistical data over many years.

Much of what the data shows is connected to systemic policy problems that have been persistent for decades.

See EPI, Page 16



Supporting Blacks in the military

-See Page 3



Texas school breakfast improving

-See Page 4



NNPA panel addresses education

-See Page 5



Noted author inspires local students

-See Page 6



Carrollton event to help local pets

-See Page 7



Snaphots from the NNPA Press Week

-See Page 8



Dreamers take in a full week at Disney World

-See Page 9



Sister Tarpley: Women's History Month

-See Page 15

INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Carrollton / Irving / Plano	7
City Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Church Directory	14-15
Toyota	16

People In The News...

See Page 2



Chief U. Renee Hall



Sen. Kamala Harris



Dr. Grace LaJoy Henderson

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Chief U. Renee Hall

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) released "Spotlight on H.R. 5050: The Bill that Changed Everything for Women Business Owners." This white paper, sponsored by The PNC Financial Services Group, reflects on the provisions that transformed the course for women business owners and highlights the current areas for improved policy and better women involvement.

In honor of Women's History Month, NAWBO/DFW hosted the Women in Leadership Seminar on March 20 at the Bill J. Priest Business Innovation Center. This



local event featured keynote speaker, U. Renee Hall, who made history in Dallas as the first female police chief. Dr. K.L. Newhouse, Deputy District Director for U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson 30th District of Texas will present NAWBO

Dallas/Ft. Worth with a Congressional Commendations letter.

The white paper includes anecdotes of NAWBO leaders who played a role in H.R. 5050, as well as assessments of the current status of women business owners from NAWBO leaders and luminaries in the women business owner community, including SBA Administrator Linda McMahon and NWBC Chair Carla Harris. Right now, women own an estimated 11.6 million businesses employing nearly 9 million people and generating nearly \$1.7 trillion in revenues.

Noteworthy sections of The Women's Business Ownership Act included:

- Erasing the need for a male relative or husband to co-sign a business loan,
- Establishing the Women's Business Center program,
- Creating the National Women's Business Council, and
- Requiring the Census Bureau to include women-owned c-corporations, which expanded research beyond the self-employed and into bigger women-owned businesses.

"I am a second-generation owner of Marfield Corporate Stationery. My father started the company in 1968, yet my mother ran the company for several years as 51% owner and operator. I recall that my mother applied for a

bank loan in the early – mid 1980's and was declined unless my Father co-signed the loan. He did, and they got the money. They would not do it unless my Father signed even though he was not and had not been active in the business for a time," said Lee Ann Packard a NAWBO member of the Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter. The Dallas/Ft. Worth chapter partners with micro-lending organizations, local government and corporations that have a goal to do business with women owned firms.

"Women business owners have come a long way since HR 5050, but we still have a way to go," says Tarsha Polk, President of NAWBO

Dallas/Ft. Worth chapter. "There is still a disparity in women getting access to capital and government contracts."

Opportunities for future engagement and policy include:

- Expanding access to capital,
- Providing for research that assesses and meets the needs of women business owners,
- Targeting support for women of color and women in tech,
- Giving WBCs the tools to create more of an emphasis on business expansion, and
- Providing an avenue for more women involvement in procurement.

Sen. Kamala Harris

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Contributor

United States Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.) received the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) 2018 Newsmaker of the Year Award, during a recent ceremony on Capitol Hill.

The NNPA is a trade group that represents more than 200 Black-owned media companies that reach more than 20 million readers in print and online every week. Dozens of NNPA member publishers traveled



to Washington, D.C. to celebrate Black Press Week.

"The theme of this year's Black Press Week is 'Celebrating 191 Years of the Black Press of America: Publishing Truth to Em-

power,'" according to a press release about the gathering. "Black publishers, media professionals, civil rights leaders and lawmakers from across the country attend the annual event."

Harris, a graduate of Howard University and the University of California Hastings College of Law, is the second African American woman senator in U.S. history.

"My friend and fellow freedom fighter and heroine should be honored and I'm so proud to be here to present this award," said NNPA Foundation Chair and *San Francisco Sun Reporter*

publisher Amelia Ashley-Ward.

Ashley-Ward said that she remembered when Senator Harris was campaigning to become the district attorney in San Francisco, more than a decade ago. When the race got tough, Ashley-Ward said that the Black community and the Black Press rallied around Harris.

"The Sun Reporter rented a cable car. We put some powerful women leaders on that cable car with you," Ashley-Ward said, speaking directly to Harris. "We took you all over the city...you told your story, you were

running against the White establishment...Kamala won handily in that race and she's been on a meteoric rise, since then."

As San Francisco's district attorney, Harris worked to, "reduce recidivism by offering nonviolent, low-level drug trafficking defendants job training and other life skills education as an alternative to jail," according to *The Los Angeles Times*. Her office reported that during the first two years of the program, "less than 10 percent of those who graduated from the program were re-offenders — compared to 53 percent of drug offenders

statewide who returned to prison or jail within two years of release."

As California's Attorney General, Harris, "joined other state attorneys general in brokering a \$25-billion nationwide settlement deal with the nation's five largest mortgage institutions for improper foreclosure practices during the recent housing market crash," *The Los Angeles Times* reported.

During a recent Judiciary Committee hearing, Harris, "criticized President Trump's proposal to arm teachers...following the

See HARRIS, Page 12

Dr. Grace LaJoy Henderson

(BlackNews.com) -- With the divide caused by years of inequity touching the colored communities in the American culture, many parents and educators are seeing a great disparity of brown main characters in children's picture books. However, children's author and illustrator Dr. Grace LaJoy Henderson is helping to change that with the release of her new children's book series comprising of six books. Although the author initially created The Gracie Series for entertainment, the series is now playing a role in solving the need for culturally relevant books for diverse young readers everywhere.

"The Gracie Series was published at a time when ed-



ucators are beginning to recognize the need to include books, in the classroom and school libraries, which feature main characters that look like their brown students," said Dr. Grace LaJoy, while talking about her book series. "The main character in this book is a little brown girl named Gracie, who gets into

interesting situations. Gracie is inspired by my own childhood," she added. According to the author, the series is helping parents and educators to connect with their children in a more alive and dynamic way.

The Gracie Series has already received a phenomenal response from educators, such as school principals, teachers and librarians, and they are adding these books to their classrooms and libraries. According to the author, she wants her readers to laugh and she wants teachers to have fun while engaging their students in humorous stories; while using the discussion questions in the back of each book to enhance reading comprehension skills. Moreover, she wants readers to learn valuable lessons from the key themes,

which are determination, persistence, resilience, problem-solving, acceptance and family. These themes are prevalent throughout the series.

In addition to The Gracie Series, Dr. Grace LaJoy is an author of 26 books and her work is being recognized worldwide. This illustrated book series shares her great ideas, thoughts, wisdom and insight in order to inspire future generations. According to the experts who have read these books, the best feature of these stories is that they are entertaining and teach morals in the most exciting way possible.

The Gracie Series is available at Amazon.com in hardcover, softcover and Kindle eBook. To learn more, go online to www.gracelajoy.com or watch The Gracie Series video.

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Blacks in the Military: We must defend those who defend us

By Ben Crump
NDG Special Contributor

The military is one of our nation's most revered and essential institutions, filled with courageous men and women who willingly sacrifice so much for our nation's greater good. It is a point of pride among African Americans that black soldiers have served in the military since the American Revolution and the War of 1812 – long before they were even recognized in law as full-fledged people.

So I was particularly touched to be selected as recipient of an award given in the name of one of the first true black military heroes, Colonel Charles Young. Born in neutral Kentucky while the Civil War was still raging, Charles Young in 1889 became only the third African American to graduate from West Point and, later, the first black U.S. national park superintendent and first African American to achieve the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army. We also share a brotherhood through the same fraternity, Omega Psi Phi.

In March, the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers Na-

tional Monument will mark his 154th birthday, where it will be my great fortune to receive the Trailblazer Award. This will be presented during festivities at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Ohio.

Every award, every honor, is something to be cherished. But it is particularly humbling to be recognized in the name of such a trailblazer. I have spent my career working to bring justice to African Americans and all people of color, just as Colonel Young spent his life dispelling common myths about what blacks were capable of — or, more accurately, what most folks figured they were not capable of.

In Colonel Young's day, it was simply an accepted fact that blacks would not receive the same kind of opportunity as their white counterparts. For example, Colonel Young was denied becoming the 1st black general of the military, even though he was more than qualified, simply because white superior officers did not want to take orders from a black general. They claimed that he was not medically fit enough to receive

such a promotion – in true Colonel Young fashion, he rode his horse over 100 miles to prove his fitness for duty.

Just like Colonel Young, the Buffalo Soldiers heroically showed just what black soldiers were capable of contributing through hard work, dedication and service at a time when half the country did not want to even acknowledge they were whole citizens.

In the end, Colonel Young died 26 years before President Harry Truman issued an executive order officially ending racial segregation in the military. At least, that was the idea. The reality is that racism continues to infest all branches of our military, even if more subtly.

The nonprofit advocacy group Protect Our Defenders carefully examined almost 10 years of data to identify racial disparity in the military. Not surprisingly, they found it in abundance. Their report last year found that across every branch, black service members are as much as 2.5 times more likely to face military justice or disciplinary action than their white counterparts.

“Military leadership has been aware of significant

racial disparity in its justice process for years, and has made no apparent effort to find the cause of the disparity or remedy it,” the organization declared. The report also showed that the problem was progressively getting worse, not better.

The example of men like Charles Young show us that people of color can endure, and even thrive, within the nation's military despite a culture of racism, whether official or otherwise. But it's equally clear that people of color should not have to overcome such a challenge, in the military and in society in general.

I am committed to doing everything within my power to see that the oppressed find justice wherever possible. That is why it is such a tremendous honor to be recognized in Colonel Young's name.

It is time for our nation to live up to the promise that Charles Young saw when he looked at America.

Ben Crump is a nationally known civil rights attorney and advocate, and is the founder and principal of Ben Crump Law, www.ben-crump.com.

Trump may galvanize black voters in 2018 and beyond

By Peter Kelley
U. Washington

African-American voters who dislike and feel threatened by Donald Trump and his presidency are much more likely to vote and to engage with politics, according to new research.

The findings, the researchers say, indicate sentiment against Trump and his policies creates an opportunity for African-American mobilization as the country heads toward the 2018 midterm elections.

“Our findings suggest that political strategies that highlight the racially regressive politics of Trump and reactionary conservatives may serve as a powerful motivating force,” says lead author Christopher Towler of California State University, Sacramento.

In a paper in the Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, Towler and Christopher Parker, professor of political science at the University of Washington, used information from the 2016 Black Voter Project Pilot Study—an ongoing project overseen by Towler—to examine African-American political engagement in the post-Obama environment. The study consisted of 511 responses from African-Americans located in six battleground states with significant black constituencies.

The researchers found that:

- Black voters who “strongly disapprove” of Trump are 30 percent more likely to have voted in 2016 than those with no opinion of Trump.

- Black voters who strongly disapprove of

Trump were more than 40 percent more likely “to express confidence in their 2018 midterm participation” than those with no opinion of Trump.

The researchers also found that black voters holding negative opinions of Trump in 2016 voted at rates similar to the high turnout of 2008 that sent Obama to the White House.

“It might be time for progressive politicians and party leaders who depend upon African-American political engagement for success to take note, and potentially shift their mobilization strategy in black communities to emphasize the damaging effects of Trump and the reactionary conservative movement on racial progress,” Towler and Parker write.

Such a scenario, they

write, could be enough to spark a national black political counter-movement, returning to the high engagement shown under President Obama. Such a movement could “swing battleground states and once again exert an African-American voice into the local, state, and national political conversation.”

Parker connects the research to the 2018 political landscape: “Exit poll data that examine recent high-profile elections in Virginia and Alabama suggests that Democrats pulled out wins thanks, in large measure, to the black community's turnout,” he says. But until now, he adds, there was little explanation for why black voters turned out in such large numbers.

Source: University of Washington

Texas School Breakfast Report Card shows improving breakfast participation

WACO – There is good news for Texas school children who start their day off with a school breakfast, according to the Texas School Breakfast Report Card produced by Baylor University's Texas Hunger Initiative. Thanks in part to the passage in 2013 of Texas Senate Bill 376 – the “Universal Breakfast Bill” – and the implementation of alternative service models, Texas has become a national leader in school breakfast participation, moving up to 10th in the state rankings.

“We’re able to step back



Tella Chen / Flickr

and look at this data as a whole, which allows us to see which schools are having success and how to replicate that,” said Kathy Krey, Ph.D., director of the

Texas Hunger Initiative. “Then we’re able to offer guidance and resources to help schools across Texas—and the U.S.—increase participation in school break-

fast, improve their performance, and ultimately, reduce childhood food insecurity.”

Now in its fourth edition, the Texas School Breakfast Report Card provides an overview of the school breakfast program, the benefits of school breakfast, creative models for serving breakfast and proven success strategies. This edition looks back at breakfast participation over the last several years, highlighting successes and opportunities to increase participation over the next few years. It also compares 2016-2017 school breakfast participation to

2013-2014 participation and shows the potential for growth, both in number of students served and reimbursements gained, if each Texas school district had the 70 percent benchmark, a national goal set by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC).

“We’re excited that we’ve seen increased participation and progress toward our goal over the last several years,” Krey said. “In particular, the increase since the Universal Breakfast Bill was passed demonstrates that, when school districts, state agencies and

elected officials work collaboratively, significant change can be made. We look forward to continuing this collaboration and bringing an end to food insecurity in Texas.”

Regular consumption of breakfast is associated with these educational benefits:

- Improved school performance
- Higher attendance rates
- Better concentration and alertness
- More energy and better attention
- Short-term benefits in improving selected learning skills, particularly memory

Older adults may be more prone to false memories

By Matt Swayne
Penn State

Researchers have discovered that as people age, they may be more likely to rely on a type of memory—called schematic memory—that helps them remember the gist of an event, but not necessarily the details.

This inability to remember details could lead to difficulty in distinguishing between a memory of something that really happened and something that a person thought happened, but did not—a false memory.

“If your spouse asks you to go to the grocery store to get milk, eggs, and bread, but you go to the store and pick up orange juice, tomatoes, and cereals, you may have had a false memory,” says Nancy Dennis, associate professor of psychology at Penn State. “If we really want to understand memory issues in aging we have to understand false memories, just as much as we need to understand forgetting.”

Get the gist?

Because the brain is continually bombarded with information, schema—or gist—memory helps organize this rush of data. However, if older people rely too



Kevin Dooley / Flickr

much on schemas to remember things, Dennis suggests it could lead people to believe that false memories are actually real and, ultimately, lead to more confusion.

Just as people physically age differently, individual differences in brain aging also seem to be important, especially in how people retrieve false memories as they age, according to the researchers.

“Just grouping people by age in our lab hasn’t worked out, in terms of saying, this is where older adults differ from younger adults,” says Dennis, who worked with Christina Webb, a graduate student in psychology. “But, what we have seen consistently is that when we look at brain activity during memory retrieval, we see increasing activity in the middle or superior temporal

gyrus, which tracks increases in false memories.

“This suggests that older adults who make the most false memories tend to show more activity in this region. This region has been associated in other studies, such as language studies, with gist or semantic processing. So, we’ve concluded that this region supports gist processing related to memory retrieval,” Dennis says.

This study is the third time that research carried out by the team has found this result. Previous work found this pattern of brain activity when people falsely remembered simple objects and faces.

What’s going on in the brain?

The researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging—fMRI—technology to monitor brain

activity of a group of older adults after they memorized certain pictures and researchers asked them to recall what objects were in the scene.

While the brain generally processes both real and false memories in the hippocampus, different sub-regions of that part of the brain may be responsible for processing and retrieving real and false memories. As people get older, memory processing also moves more toward the back of that region.

“The fact that much of this activity shifts to a different sub-region of the hippocampus—from anterior to posterior—does suggest that there are processing differences that are taking place as you age,” says Dennis. “While we don’t know exactly why this shift is happening, it’s something we need to further investigate.”

Dennis says the findings indicate that future research might look at how to train older adults to focus on details to decrease the number of false memories.

“If age is the only factor maybe there’s not much we can do,” says Dennis. “But if it’s age along with this re-

liance on gist processing, then, we might be able to find some interventions that will allow older adults to focus more on the details and maybe move them away from relying on gist processing too much.”

The researchers recruited 20 older adults with a mean age of about 75 years old. They asked participants to look at 26 different pictures of common scenes—for example, a farmyard—and asked them to remember as much as they could about the scenes. The researchers showed participants the scenes for about 10 seconds.

Later, researchers showed participants pictures of objects that were either in the scene, or related to the scene, but not actually in the scene. They also asked participants to look at pictures of objects not commonly associated to the scene. The researchers then asked the subjects which objects were in the picture to determine if they had remembered correctly or were creating false memories.

The researchers report their findings in the *Journals of Gerontology*. The National Science Foundation supported this work.

Source: Penn State

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Dallas Water preps for its annual 'Fix A Leak Week'

From March 19 - 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is celebrating their annual Fix a Leak Week, which over the last decade has helped Americans become educated on the huge impact even a small leak dripping in their home can have on the environment.

Small home leaks waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, which is enough to provide water all year to 11 million homes. The average single household alone wastes more than 10 thousand gallons of water a year just from leaks that go un-

seen or unfixed. This amount of annual water waste is why ten years ago, the EPA introduced Fix a Leak Week to help educate Americans on finding and fixing leaks in their home.

The most common leaks found in the average home come from worn toilet flap-

pers, dripping faucets, and leaking pipe valves. Fortunately, these leaks are incredibly easy to spot and fix, requiring only a few basic tools that will pay for themselves in water savings. By spotting and fixing these minor leaks in our home, your water bill can drop by ten percent.

To celebrate, Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) Water Conservation Management is hosting a series of DIY workshops during Fix a Leak Week 2018. These workshops are free and open to the public. Call DWU Water Conservation Management at 214-670-3155 to register

today.

Workshop: DIY Irrigation
• Date: Saturday, March 24, 2018

• Time: 9 a.m.- noon & 1 - 4 p.m.

• Location: Richland College, 12800 Abrams Rd. Dallas, TX. 75243

Garland voters to consider Council, Mayor and Charter

Garland voters should do their homework before going to the polls for the May 5 election. In addition to the normal City Council elections, voters will consider 36 proposed amendments to the City of Garland Charter, as well as a special election for mayor. Details are available on the City Secretary's webpage.

City Council

Per the normal election schedule, City Council seats for Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5 are up this year. Candidates are



as follows:

District 1 - David Gibbons (Incumbent)

District 5 - Rich Aubin

(Incumbent)

District 2 - Rex Wisdom
Deborah Morris

District 4 - Jim Bookhout

Special Election for Mayor

Mayor Douglas Athas resigned in January, leaving one year on his final two-year term. The filing deadline is Monday, March 5, for candidates to run to serve for that portion of the mayor's term.

The mayor and City Council members are limited to six years in office or three consecutive two-year terms.

Charter Amendments

The largest portion of the

May 5 ballot will be devoted to 36 proposed amendments to the City Charter.

The Charter is the City's overarching governing document.

A complete listing of proposed amendments, as they will appear on the ballot, will be made available at GarlandTX.gov, on the City Secretary's page. Additional documents and video of City Council discussions about these recommendations also are available on the website.

Early Voting and Election Day

The last day to register to vote in the May 5 election is Thursday, April 5. Early voting in person begins Monday, April 23, and runs through Tuesday, May 1. Voters will need to vote at their normal polling locations on Election Day, May 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For early voting schedules and locations, or to look up Election Day polling locations, visit DallasCountyVotes.org

For students, 'Hidden Figures' author's visit adds to inspiring story

(UT-Dallas) Like the women featured in the book and movie *Hidden Figures*, UT Dallas student Reem Dawelbeit plans to work in a field where she will be among a small percentage of women and even smaller percentage of African-Americans.

The mechanical engineering junior said the story of the African-American female mathematicians and engineers who played a critical role in NASA's space program showed her that other women already have started a path.

"When you're a minority or a double minority, you read *Hidden Figures* and you see the movie and it's inspiring because you realize that you're not the first person to do this," Dawelbeit said. "To have these trailblazers in front of you who were an integral part of our history, in the NASA space launch, I found that incredible."



Shetterly met with a group of UT Dallas student leaders before her recent lecture at the University. (UT-Dallas)

Dawelbeit was one of many students from UT Dallas, area high schools, middle schools, elementary schools and nonprofit groups inspired by *Hidden Figures* who packed the recent Distinguished Lecture featuring the book's author, Margot Lee Shetterly, at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Texas Instruments sponsored the lecture, held in the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building's lec-

ture hall, and a private reception with Shetterly was sponsored by the George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Memorial Distinguished Lecture Series. Dr. Kelli Palmer, assistant professor of biological sciences in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, moderated the event.

While *Hidden Figures* has helped many young women see what is possible, Shetterly emphasized the need

for everyone to tell more stories of other "hidden figures," or unsung heroes in our communities. She said people often ask her why they had never heard about the contributions of the women portrayed in *Hidden Figures* before.

"The only way to make the American story a true story is to make it a complete story," Shetterly told the audience. "When storytellers strive to present a more expansive and truer

view of our shared past, we open the door to a more inclusive and more equitable vision of our shared future."

Before the lecture, Shetterly met with UT Dallas student leaders who asked her questions. Argelia Simon, a mechanical engineering senior in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, was one of several students who shook Shetterly's hand and posed for a photo with the author.

"I was inspired by the movie," Simon said. "Thanks to that, I got introduced to engineering."

"The fact that Margot Lee Shetterly took the time not only to visit the UT Dallas community but to meet with leaders of these organizations meant a lot to me," said Dawelbeit, a leader in the UT Dallas chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Before she enrolled in the program, Dawelbeit said

some told her that mechanical engineering was not a career for women. Just as discouraging was the fact that only 1 percent of all bachelor's degrees in engineering are awarded to black women, according to the National Science Foundation.

During the meeting with student leaders, Shetterly shared advice she learned from the women she interviewed.

"Don't take no for an answer," Shetterly said. She described a scene in *Hidden Figures* in which mathematician Katherine Johnson, who calculated trajectories for many NASA missions, insisted that she attend meetings previously attended only by men.

"It's a great lesson for all of us. If someone says no and they are the obstacle between you and whatever your goal is, keep asking or keep pushing. Eventually, you will find a way."

Parents, Black publishers discuss excellence in public education during Black Press Week

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Contributor

Educators and education experts discussed parental engagement, equity in education and teacher diversity, during a special breakfast session for the NNPA's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Public Awareness Campaign in Washington, D.C.

The session took place during the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) Black Press Week, an annual celebration of the relevance and lasting legacy of Black publishers.

Panelists included Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes; DNA Educational Solutions and Support CEO Dr. Robert L. Kirton Jr.; NAACP Washington Bureau Chief Hilary O. Shelton; Prince George's County School Board Member Curtis Valentine; and Dr. Lannette Woodruff, an ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) taskforce



Panelists discuss the role of the Black Press in education during a breakfast session hosted by the NNPA ESSA Public Awareness Campaign, during Black Press Week in Washington, D.C. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

member for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Elizabeth Primas, the project manager for the NNPA's ESSA Public Awareness Campaign, served as moderator for the session titled, "Striving for African American Excellence in Public Education: The Role of the Black Press" at the Dupont Circle Hotel in Washington, D.C.

on Friday, March 16.

"I'm pretty fired up about education," Rolark Barnes said of the current state of education in the Black community. "As we celebrate 191 years of the Black Press in America, it's important to remember that the education of Black people is rooted in the Black Press and the Black Church."

Rolark Barnes also reminded the audience that one of the founders of the

Black Press, Samuel Cornish, graduated from the Free African School and became a minister, before he started the Freedom's Journal.

Shelton noted that the Black Press has been the voice of the Black community for a very long time; the NAACP Washington bureau chief also said that education is the bridge over troubled waters.

Kirton recounted a false,

yet familiar adage that suggested that "The best way to hide something from Black people is to put it in a book." Kirton used the saying to shine a light on the paucity of high-quality education options in the Black community.

"I got into the [education] fight, because I want to make a difference," Kirton said.

Valentine advocated for increased parental engagement in our schools at every level.

"We need policies that are more welcoming for our parents to come in," Valentine said.

Woodruff agreed.

"We want programs in our schools, so that children understand what [parental engagement] is all about," Woodruff said.

In 2017, the NNPA received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support a three-year, multi-media public awareness campaign focusing on the unique opportunities

and challenges related to the implementation of ESSA, according to a press release about the campaign.

Under the ESSA, states have more flexibility under federal regulations to design customized solutions to improve elementary and secondary education in the nation's public schools. The law also ensures that every child, regardless of race, income, background, or where they live have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education; ESSA received bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015.

The NNPA selected Primas, a decorated and award-winning educator, as program manager and she famously refers to all of her students as "her children."

"My children" are all of the children in schools that have been underserved, undereducated, and for all intents and purposes, forgotten about," Primas said.

Students of color need to see more people of color (That shouldn't be controversial)

By Nate Bowling

I spent most of my first year of grad school sitting in the back row of class with my hood up. There were nearly 40 of us in the cohort. Two were Black.

My hoodie was an act of silent dissent. Today, I completely understand when my students want to do the same, even with me in front of the room. Academia and public schools are spaces where people of color often feel underrepresented, unwelcome and unheard.

From third grade through high school, I was a student in a series of neighborhood public schools. Afterward, I went to community college and then on to a public liberal arts college where I earned my bachelor's and eventually my master's degree. Each phase in my ed-

ucational journey shared two characteristics:

1. The further I progressed, the fewer Black and Brown classmates I had.

2. As I progressed, regardless of the demographics of the student population, the faculty and administrators were uniformly nearly all White.

That needs to change.

An organization I am part of, the National Network of State Teachers of the Year, recently released videos designed to provoke conversations that will lead to this kind of change. Called Courageous Conversations About Race in Schools, the videos provide an effective starting point for real discussions that should be happening in schools—particularly in colleges and universities—across this country.

Research tells us that upwards of 80 percent of U.S. teachers are White. Different research tells us that nearly 80 percent of teachers are female. Obviously, those Venn diagrams overlap in a largely White and female workforce.

At the same time, because of higher birth rates among immigrant populations and the "mysterious phenomenon" of disproportionately high numbers of White children in private schools, the majority of the population of students in public school are students of color, and those numbers are headed even higher, based on enrollment numbers in lower grades.

Schools systems need to do a better job of attracting and retaining effective teachers of color. Students of color need to see more

people of color in positions of expertise and authority, and teachers need to be conversant and literate in the cultural traditions that are present in their classrooms. None of these statements should be controversial.

The lack of representation is an equity issue, and to resolve it we can look to lessons elsewhere in our society. During the Vietnam War the Pentagon realized that majority Brown platoons of soldiers and Marines wouldn't take life-or-death orders from a uniformly White officer corps. The Pentagon thus underwent an intentional effort to diversify the officer corps. Since then, the Pentagon has submitted amicus curiae briefs in every major affirmative action case before the U.S. Supreme Court because they understand that

representation matters.

Time for a representation disruption

The word "disruption" gets hurled around frequently in business and increasingly in education. Usually, it's about handing Silicon Valley tech bros a metric-ton of venture capital to sprinkle the #EdTech™ fairy dust of the moment. But I'm going to argue that when it comes to teacher diversity and representation in schools, we actually need disruption.

In my neck of the woods the numbers are especially grim: There are only about 800 Black teachers in all of Washington State. In my 12-year teaching career, I have never worked with another Black male general education teacher.

There's no reason for me

to be alone. We see talented students of color all over higher education because universities know how to recruit them. As Jeff Duncan-Andrade says, "Look at any college football or basketball team and tell me colleges don't know how to recruit Black talent. When I was a kid I thought Georgetown was an HBCU."

But it can't just be student athletes. We need to bring in students who can increase teacher diversity. It's imperative—and it's well within our power.

Nate Bowling is a high school government teacher in Tacoma, Washington, who was named the 2016 Washington State Teacher of the Year and a finalist for National Teacher of the Year. His blog is called A Teacher's Evolving Mind.

Irving to host Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise vendor workshop

The City of Irving will hold the Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise vendor workshop March 29. The workshop will focus on

developing a subcontracting relationship with prime contractors and vendors.

Representatives from Austin Commercial and

Women's Business Council Southwest will discuss steps to foster and maintain business relationships between subcontractors and prime

contractors. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions during the presentations.

Workshop registration will be 5:30 p.m. March 29 at the

City Council Chambers, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Presentations are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

The city encourages every-

one interested to RSVP with MWBE program administrator Deborah McVean at (972) 721-3753 or dmcvean@cityofirving.org.

Carrollton holds Paws on the Square event to benefit local pets

Bring the family (both furry and otherwise) to Downtown Carrollton (1106 S. Broadway Street) for a tail-wagging good time and learn how to keep our community safe and friendly for pets. The City of Carrollton will host its 3rd annual Paws on the Square: Play, Shop, Learn, Adopt event on Saturday, April 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine. The free event brings people, pets, animal welfare organizations, and pet-friendly companies together.

Browse the pet-focused vendor booths where you'll find everything from pet accessories to people food. Put your competitive pooch through an agility course filled with dog toys and pamper your pet with calming



Michael Sealey / Flickr

dog yoga sessions at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Adrienne Abraham, owner of Pawtastic Snacks-Mobile Dog Barkery, will return with her fabulous truck of treats for the four-legged friends.

"In general people love the truck and we welcome pups on board to sniff out their favorite snacks," Abraham said. "Last year, the crowd was

great. The doggie fro-yo was a huge success as people strolled around the Square on a warm spring day."

This year, Pawtastic Snacks plans to bring out some new doggy snack flavors including bacon and peanut butter, banana and peanut butter, and apple juice and cheddar.

Onsite adoptions will be

provided by Operation Kindness.

Come out to meet your new best friend and add a canine kid to the family. Last year, 10 lucky dogs found their forever homes through Operation Kindness' mobile adoption program, and 39 Carrollton pets were registered with the City. The event also raised more than \$450 in donations for the Carrollton Animal Services & Adoption Center.

Want to foster, adopt, or volunteer to transport dogs to their future home? Cane Rosso Rescue supports local dog rescue groups, and a network of foster homes will be on the Square to answer your questions.

Low cost \$5 vaccinations will be provided by the Texas

Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) from 12-2 p.m.

The event will also include free City registration with proof of rabies vaccination for Carrollton residents. Pet registrations are not only helpful in reuniting lost pets with their owners, they are also required by City ordinances.

A DJ will be onsite for the entire event, so you can sit and enjoy the tunes while your dog sniffs out a personalized doggy snack at the doggy goody bag bar.

Two caricature artists will also be available to capture your pet's best pose.

Stop by the Dog Kissing Booth to hug an adorable animal. The booth is accepting donations for kisses in sup-

port of Carrollton Animal Services.

"There are few opportunities each year that focus on the special relationships between pets and their human companions like Paws on the Square does," said Carrollton Animal Services Manager Carl Shooter.

All dogs must have ID tags, be on a leash at all times, have a current rabies vaccination (or about to receive one), and be accompanied by someone 18 years or older.

The first 250 attendees will receive a doggy trash bag dispenser in the shape of a fire hydrant.

For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/pawsonthesquare.

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Allen

Saturday, March 24 is when the **Eggcellent Family Adventure** will take place at the Allen Civic Plaza. Kids can bring their Easter baskets and visit tables hosted by civic organizations and local businesses to receive eggs, candy and other goodies. There will also be an egg drop competition presented by Chick-Fil-A Allen which cost \$10.

Dallas

First Baptist Academy at 7894 Samuell Boulevard will host **Easter Egg Scramble** on March 24 at 10 a.m. This is a free Easter event with an Easter Egg for ages 12 and under. There will be bounce houses and face painting, too.

Girls in Politics Initiative is hosting **Camp Congress for Girls Dallas 2018** on March 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Camp Congress for

Girls Dallas 2018 is a leadership program that introduces girls ages 8 to 15 to politics. Camp begins with a lesson on the structure of our political system. Each girl will choose to run for a seat in the US House of Representatives, the US Senate or for the presidency.

The camp fee includes all program materials, lunch, snack and a GIP logo t-shirt. The camp general registration fee is \$160 and the Girl Scout registration fee is \$120. More info at <http://www.girlsinpolitics.org/>.

Frisco

On March 24-25 the **Arts in the Square** returns and will feature over 120 of some of the best local and regional artists selling their handmade creations. Artists compete in categories such as Fine Arts/Graphics, Pottery, Textiles, Glass, and more.

Sit and relax by Simpson Plaza, listen to local musicians, watch ongoing performing arts, enjoy interactive art activities, and treat yourself to the food and spirits available at the variety of award-winning restaurants on site. Visit frisco.com

Garland

The **Easter Egg-Stravaganza** returns with family fun activities and the annual Firewheel Town Center Egg Hunt! The Easter Egg Hunt will take place in the Park on March 24 at 1:45 p.m. for children ages 12 and under.

For children ages 5 and under, an alternate and optional Egg Hunt location will be available in the gated playground, alongside the main Egg Hunt. Visit garlandtx.com

Pet Photos with the Bunny will take place in the Park on March 25 at 6

p.m. Bring your furry friend to visit the Easter Bunny and have a special commemorative photo made during this special limited engagement session. The Easter Bunny Photo Experience is located across from the Park, next to Sweet & Sassy with parking available immediately in front of the space or in the back.

A Park with several grassy areas is located in front of the Easter Photo Experience. Please escort your pet to the Park prior to seeing the Easter Bunny. Visit garlandtx.com

Irving

The City of Irving has scheduled a **Minority/Women-Owned Business vendor workshop** on Thursday, March 29 for consultants and contractors interested in doing business with the city. This workshop will focus on developing a subcontracting relationship with prime con-

tractors and vendors. City-ofIrving.org

Lewisville

March 24 is the date the Lone Star Toyota of Lewisville Railroad Park hosts the **Funny Bunny Festival**. You will be able to take a ride on the Boogie Woogie Choo Choo train, snuggle up with some lovable animals from our petting zoo, pose for a picture with Mr. or Mrs. Funny Bunny and fill your Easter basket with lots of goodies from our sponsor/vendor tables and egg hunts.

There will be three different egg hunt times. Egg hunts are designated for ages 13 and under. City-ofLewisville.com

Twice weekly **Pilates in the Plaza** classes begin in Wayne Ferguson Plaza, 150 W. Main Street, and will take place weekly on Thursday at 6 p.m., and Saturday at 8 a.m. Attendees must

bring their own yoga mat for the free classes.

Audrey Green-Redier, with Pilates in the City, will teach the fundamentals of the exercise and will add weekly progressions so that any level can benefit from the restorative and strength conditioning. These classes are for anyone interested in learning or deepening their practice, developing strength, grace, and core.

McKinney

The annual **Arts in Bloom** festival featuring art from local, regional, and nationally acclaimed artists will blossom throughout Historic Downtown McKinney Friday, April 13 through Sunday, April 15. The event, which features artwork, music, wine garden, food and shopping, is hosted by McKinney Main Street, the McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC) and the shops in downtown McKinney.

Snapshots from the NNPA Press Week...



Above, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) speaks to the publishers and press gathered for the 2018 NNPA Press Week. Harris was named the NNPA 2018 Newsmaker of the Year.

At right, NNPA National Chair Dorothy Leavell (left), NNPA President Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. (second from right), and NNPA Foundation Chair Amelia Ashley-Ward (right) congratulate 2018 NNPA Torch Award winner Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) (second from left).

Last week the National Newspaper Publishers Association celebrated Black Press Week in Washington, D.C.

During the convention, newsmakers and dignitaries joined the publishers who represent more than 200 Black-owned media compa-

nies around the country for special sessions, the annual Torch Awards dinner and more at The Dupont Circle Hotel.



At left, Thurman Jones (left), publisher of the North Dallas Gazette, visits with Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, pastor of Dallas' Friendship-West Baptist Church.

At right, former Chairperson of the Democratic National Committee Donna Brazile was on hand to address members of the NNPA during the national Press Week.

Brazile spoke of the "State of the Black Press in 2018," noting the Black press is routinely carving out stories the mainstream media won't touch.



Disney Dreamers Academy 2018 inspires teens to dream big

By Carla Meadows
NDG Contributor

As a mom of two college-bound teens, I understand how important it is to motivate students to excel, inspire them to dream big, and encourage them to work hard to help make their dreams today become a reality tomorrow.

That's why I was super excited to meet 100 teens from across the country who were doing just that at the 2018 Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and ESSENCE.

This remarkable group of teen achievers attended a fabulous, fun-filled and ed-



Students enjoy both the visit to Disney World and the immersive workshops they participated in during the all expense-paid trip for 100 Dreamers which took place in conjunction with ESSENCE and Steve Harvey. (Courtesy photos)

ucational trip to Walt Disney World Resort to take part in the Dreamers Academy.

The students were selected from thousands of applicants who answered a series of essay questions about their personal stories, the

people who are most influential in their lives and dreams for the future.

The kids, who range from ages 13-19, received an all-expense paid trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, where they experi-

enced once-in-a-lifetime educational and mentoring program designed to inspire them to dream big and discover the world of possibilities that will help them prepare for their future.

Disney refers to these se-

lect group of teens as "Dreamers" and offers them an amazing four-day educational adventure to explore their career interests.

One of the most impressive parts of the program is the intentional time spent with each student. The Dreamers get incredible opportunities to be on stage or explore Disney behind the scenes.

That's where the magic really happens.

Disney turns into a virtual classroom where students can discover their interests and pursue their passions by exploring new career possibilities. That's because Disney Dreamers Academy al-

lows students to participate in an array hands-on, immersive career-oriented workshops.

These "Deep Dives" give the kids a chance to examine professions in more depth, ranging from animation to marine biology. Each student is also given important tools such as effective communication techniques, leadership skills, and networking strategies.

Best of all, Dreamers get a chance to develop relationships with other students while gaining valuable insights from Disney experts and accomplished executives and entrepreneurs.

Bishop Arts' 3rd annual Down for #TheCount festival kicks off March 29

The Bishop Arts Theatre (BATC) has announced the 3rd Annual Down for #TheCount, One-Act Play Festival, March 29-April 15, 2018. Down for #TheCount is a call to action for American theatre and the female community at large to celebrate the female voice and experience.

Currently, approximately 22 percentage of American theater productions have been written by women, for women of color the numbers are even lower – a dismal 3 percentage. This festival seeks to change those numbers locally and nationally and to give a platform to the voices and perspec-

tives of women on the American stage.

Originally called the New Play Festival, six playwrights were selected to participate in its inaugural year. After recognizing the need to raise awareness for female playwrights, the festival evolved and was renamed the Down for #The-

Count One-Act Play Festival.

Now in its 3rd year as the Down for #TheCount One-Act Play Festival, BATC has invited playwrights from all over the country including DFW local playwrights Mariam Olbaidullah Baig and Linda Jones and nationally recognized

playwrights Ife Olujobi, Katherine Craft, Kristiana Rae Colon and Tsehaye Geralyn Hebert to feature their work on the BATC stage. The diversity of America featured on stage through the diversity of these playwrights promises to make this festival a night of exciting, humorous, and

heartbreaking stories played out on the BATC stage.

General Admissions tickets range from \$18-\$30. However, for preview night on March 29 tickets are only \$12. Discount tickets are available for groups of 15 or more and may be purchased by calling 214-948-0716 x305.

Sociologie Wine to host 'Raise Your Glass Dallas' at Texas Discovery Gardens

Sociologie Wine is pleased to present "Raise Your Glass Dallas," a Boho chic garden party featuring wine, food, fashion, and live music hosted at Texas Discovery Gardens on Sunday, April 15 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dede McGuire, of K104 FM's "Dede in the Morning" show, will serve as the event MC for the afternoon.

"We are absolutely thrilled to present this premier spring wine-tasting event that will lift the community through cheers and celebration," said Amy Hampton, founder of Sociologie Wine. "The day will be filled with wine, fashion and music, all while highlighting women-owned businesses and supporting



charitable community partners and nonprofit organizations that benefit women and girls."

A highly anticipated wine-tasting day party, "Raise Your Glass Dallas"

is an elevated experience of chic style, grace and cocktails that will be set in the scenic Fair Park backdrop of the beautiful Texas Discovery Gardens. This delightful affair will feature

Sociologie Wine's newest wine parings, tantalizing bites prepared by local chefs, specialty vendors for shopping, live entertainment by independent performance artists, exhibits by talented visual artists and music by Grammy award-winning DJ Babey Drew. Guests can also enjoy customized wine cocktails made by local mixologists, swag bags filled with amaz-

ing surprises, a life-sized frame for capturing social media photos, and an array of fun games on the lawn.

Open to the community, tickets range from \$50 to \$200 and are available for purchase at www.raiseyourglassdallas.com. A percentage of proceeds raised at this year's event will benefit local charitable and nonprofit organizations that serve women and girls: Dal-

las Women's Foundation, IGNITE, PeopleFund and Step Up.

Sponsorships are also available and range from \$1000 to \$5,000. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact cheers@RaiseYourGlassDallas.com. For event updates, stay connected on Facebook and Instagram @RaiseYourGlassDallas.



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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Follow North Dallas Gazette on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up on all the latest!!!

The Monologue Project goes live with free online resource

The Monologue Project announced their online resource featuring 30 original monologues from nationally recognized writers for theatre is now available to the public. <http://bishopartstheatre.org/the-monologue-project>.

Hosted by The Bishop Arts Theatre Center, The Monologue Project's online resource features original works from such award-winning writers as Amy Evans, Pia Wilson, Charlayne Woodard, Dominique Morisseau, Mfoniso Udofia, Cori Thomas and Chisa Hutchinson. Celebrating Women of the African Diaspora and their impact on theatre and the world, the monologues run the gamut from intensely moving to fiercely funny.

By making these works available for free online as a resource, The Monologue Project aims to increase the number of audition-length monologues for Women of the African Diaspora. Hearing voices that have not been heard and providing greater opportunity for Women of the African Diaspora will be of benefit to all.

"We write because we speak our truths out loud. Black women actors deserve to tell stories where they are exploring their humanity without restriction or burden of pseudo un-balanced loyalties," said Dominique Morisseau contributing playwright for The Monologue Project.

Participating Monologue Project Writers (in alphabetical order): Mando Alvarado, Chrystal Bates, France-Luce Benson, N'Jameh Camara, Zina Camblin, Kia Corthron, Gethsemane Herron-Coward, LeKeithia Dalcoe, William Duell, Kim El, Aleesia Etinoff, Amy Evans, Rob Florence, Imani Maryahm Harrington, Dave Harris, Yona Harvey, Chisa Hutchinson, Levi Jelks, Christine Toy Johnson, Jewell McPherson, Dominique Morisseau, Ife Olujobi, Maxie Rockymore, Bianca Sams, Daniel Talbott, Cori



Thomas, Pamela Turner, Mfoniso Udofia, Bria Walker, Keith Wallace, Amy Gijssbers van Wijk, Pia Wilson and Charlayne Woodard.

Get your pom poms ready - Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader auditions are May 5

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders are holding a

nationwide search for their 2018 squad. Preliminary auditions are set for May 5, 2018 at AT&T Stadium. The first round of auditions includes an OPEN call and candidates may obtain an application by visiting www.dallascowboyscheerleaders.com/auditions.

This May, CMT will go

behind closed doors for an up-close view of young women vying for a coveted spot on the roster for one of the nation's most beloved treasures in the 13th season of the series, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders: Making the Team.

Interested candidates:

- Must be at least 18 years of age by May 5, 2018
- Must hold a high school diploma or G.E.D
- Must live in (or relocate to) the DFW Metroplex if selected
- Must have reliable transportation

• Must have all necessary documentation to work in this country in this capacity

• Must be able to attend all rehearsals

During the preliminary round, candidates will have the opportunity to perform "freestyle" dance moves in groups of five for the judging panel. At the end of the performances, the judges' selections for callbacks will be posted. Successful participants will then advance to a semi-final round, personal interview and finals round of competition. Training Camp Candidates will be selected

from the finalists before becoming members of the 2018 squad.

"We look for ladies with a special sparkle to serve as world class performers and goodwill ambassadors for the Dallas Cowboys," said Kelli Finglass, Director of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. "The ladies selected for the 2018 squad must be talented entertainers who are well spoken, poised, attractive and approachable for fans worldwide. This is a unique opportunity for them to perform as dancers on the largest stages in the world.

Senate lawmakers are seeking to gut Fair Housing

By Charlene Crowell

In just a few weeks, civil rights and housing advocates will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Just four days following the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congress passed the law on April 10, 1968.

On the following day, President Lyndon Baines Johnson's signature made it unlawful to discriminate in housing sales, rentals and finance. Although race, color, religion and national origin were the original protected classes, in later years the Act was amended to include gender, people with disabilities and families with children. With each revision, businesses such as banks, and other lenders, realtors, landlords, insurance companies -- even governments that previously used zoning and restrictive covenants to deny housing access -- were all obliged to adhere to new standards of inclusion.

Fast-forward 50 years, and much of Black America and other people of color

still find that the promise of fair lending remains just that. Our collective experiences as a people provide painful reminders of how full and equal access to credit -- particularly in mortgage lending -- remains an unfulfilled promise.

These long-standing concerns have somehow failed to be included in a new draft legislative proposal on Capitol Hill. In the name of housing finance reform, a working proposed bill by Senators Bob Corker of Tennessee and Mark Warner of Virginia would eliminate the current requirement of a "duty-to-serve" all markets, particularly those like communities of color and rural areas. Instead, the promise of inclusion would be replaced with the vague business judgment of a so-called "guarantors' decision".

If allowed to be enacted into law, government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, would be eliminated and fair lending requirements could be weakened. We're talking trillions of

dollars being affected by such a so-called reform without any assurance that fair housing promises made half a century ago will remain. At the end of 2016, the GSEs - Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, along with Ginnie Mae together held \$16.7 trillion in mortgages on the nation's secondary market.

It's the kind of policy development that usually fails to attract major headlines but affects literally millions of unsuspecting potential homeowners across the country. Once mortgage applicants are approved for loans, the bulk of them are sold to the secondary market, most often to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Their sale enables the original lender to free up capital to make more loans to consumers.

Fortunately, the National Urban League and the Center for Responsible Lending joined forces to oppose this proposal before it can pick up more lawmaker support.

A report co-authored by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) and National

Urban League critiques this Senate proposal and criticizes recently published papers supporting it. Senate GSE Reform Proposal: A Blow to Affordable Housing and Harmful to the Overall Housing Market, calls for a system that supports opportunity for current and future generations to achieve homeownership. It also criticizes the current legislative proposal as reserving homeownership only for those who are financially well off.

"Although much of the housing market has recovered in recent years, many Americans have either not benefited or have even lost ground," said National Urban League President Marc Morial. "Millennials and people of color deserve the opportunity to pursue their own American Dreams. And existing homeowners, especially older Americans need buyers when they are ready to downsize or retire. The financial glue connecting these generations is affordable mortgage credit."

Morial is right. This year, new discriminatory housing

and lending lawsuits in Sacramento and Houston are reminiscent of earlier ones filed in Baltimore, Los Angeles, Memphis, Philadelphia, and other locales. When fair housing problems persist with 50 years of civil rights laws, consumers cannot afford a rollback of robust existing oversight and enforcement.

Not that long ago, taxpayers bailed out risky and ill-advised private sector practices that targeted Blacks and Latinos for high-cost, risky mortgage loans that were designed to fail. Our communities bore the brunt of the 7.8 million foreclosures and a trillion dollars in lost wealth.

If housing reforms are to be enacted, then open opportunity to all credit-worthy borrowers with strong enforcement. Civil rights leaders, housing advocates and others will not stand by to witness the repeal of key public interest mandates that

enable mortgage credit to be available in all regions of the nation. Replacing the public interest mandate with weak incentives will greatly harm the overall housing market.

The entities under assault are Freddie Mac, the acronym for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and Fannie Mae, the name given to the Federal National Mortgage Association.

"Our recent housing past is replete with risk that eventually harmed consumers, communities, and the entire economy," said CRL President Mike Calhoun. "A doubtful structure of guarantors awarded unenforceable duties is simply not in our nation's best interest. Now as the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act nears, housing finance reform should embrace housing affordability, taxpayer protection, and a duty-to-serve all markets and all credit-worthy borrowers."

McKinney creates consolidated application process for housing and community development funds

The City of McKinney encourages eligible organizations to apply for funding under one consolidated process for the Community Support Grant (CSG) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds for program year Oct. 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2019 must be used to benefit

McKinney residents and meet at least one program objective including but not limited to benefit eligible income persons for services that may include homelessness and prevention, aging, education, workforce development, housing support, youth, and disabled persons; preventing slum or blighted areas; or addressing an urgent need.

The application proposal

portal will be accessible on March 27 through April 18 at 4 p.m. Applications will only be considered for those agencies attending the pre-application workshop or requesting technical assistance, all others will be disqualified.

Applications will be reviewed by the Community Grants Advisory Commission (CGAC) and a public hearing for funding presenta-

tions will be held May 9-10 each evening at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The application portal may be accessed online or may be obtained by contacting the Community Services Administrator, Shirletta Best, at 972-547-7577 or sbest@mckinneytexas.org.

Please visit www.mckinneytexas.org/grants for more information.

Getting down to basics: Business Planning 101

By Rhea Landholm

The most effective development strategy for rural communities is small entrepreneurship -- locally-owned and operated small businesses.

The first step in creating a small business is having a great idea.

Next is writing a good



Jeff Eaton / Flickr

business plan to help you make superior business decisions. Business plans are also crucial to obtain financing.

Think of a business plan as a resume for your business that should be written down and formalized. In general, it contains:

- Executive summary: a concise overview of the entire plan.
- Market analysis: a description and outlook of your

See BASICS, Page 14

RAC

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EEO

Texas Association of Builders announces B2T website

AUSTIN – The Texas Association of Builders (TAB) announced its Builders2Trades (B2T) website. This B2T site will serve TAB builder, developer and remodeler members while providing work opportunities for skilled tradespeople

and suppliers in and around Texas. Texas has a critical workforce shortage and is in need of trades professionals as well as building products and services. Before Hurricane Harvey and after, Texas has been lacking enough ex-

perienced construction trades professionals to meet demand. TAB's goal is to match its members with the necessary skilled trades and/or services needed through this website. Whether tradespeople are just starting in their careers

or already to the journeyman level, the Builders2Trades website can help them find steady work that will keep them fulfilled. TAB builders and remodelers have building projects from simple home remodels to new multi-residential/multi-use

complexes. This website is significant as it's beneficial to tradespeople, giving them the ability to upload their information in one central database for TAB builder, developer and remodeler members to view. Suppliers can also

benefit by adding their company's name to the B2T Products/Services search that builders and trades professionals will use to find suppliers in their areas. The great thing about the B2T platform is that it's free to submit information.

HARRIS, continued from Page 2

deadly school shooting in Parkland, Fla., saying it doesn't make sense," The Hill reported. Harris also praised students who have risen up to push lawmakers to enact new gun safety measures.

Ashley-Ward encouraged attendees to read Harris' biography online before adding: "The real reason you are who are is because you didn't forget where you came from."

Dorothy Leavell, the chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Crusader Newspapers in Chicago and Gary, Ind., called 2018 "the year of the woman."

Leavell said that to honor Harris as the Newsmaker of the Year was just another one of the perks of being the chairman of the NNPA.

"We are proud of you and we are with you and all of our Congressional Black Caucus members," said Leavell, speaking directly to Harris.

The junior United States Senator said that she was "incredibly honored" to accept the award, particularly from Ashley-Ward and the Black Press, whom she acknowledged as truth tellers and guardians of information.

"This is a room full of leaders," Harris told the crowd gathered in the Rayburn House Office Building. "And, when you can connect your past to your present and have those connections remain strong, it's very empowering."

In a powerful 12-minute acceptance speech, Harris spoke of the importance of unifying a nation divided by racism and classism.

Harris said that it's im-

portant to understand that "we all come from somewhere and it's important that we remember from whence we came."

The Black Press best represents the vehicle in which real and important stories can and have been told, Harris said.

"The Sun Reporter and all the Black newspapers know that the best way our voices can be heard is when we use our voices to tell our stories instead of leaving others to tell it," she said. "The Black press always played a role in making sure that our community has something it can trust."

Harris, raised in Oakland, Calif., made history when she became, "the first woman, the first African American and first Indian American in California history to be elected state attorney general," when she defeated Steve Cooley in the 2010 election, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.) praised Harris as someone who hasn't taken her eyes off the prize—she sees the big picture, he said.

"The U.S. Senate used to be a billionaire's club, a boy's club, a White man's club," said Richmond.

"Now we have a strong woman, a [strong individual in the Senate] and it's important that our kids see someone that they can be like."

Harris said America is at a crossroads.

"This is an inflection moment. It's similar to when my parents met, as they were active in the Civil Rights Movement," Harris said. "This is a moment to fight for who we are, to fight for the spirit behind and the principle behind the words from 1776 that we all should be treated equal."

Harris continued: "Charlottesville made it obvious

that racism is real in this country. We have inequities based on race, gender and socio-economic standing. Let's speak the truth."

Harris said that the country needs to confront the disparities that exist in our educational system and reform our criminal justice system.

The senator, who took office in 2017, said she believes in America and that Americans can do better.

"I can't think of a moment in time when it's been more important than ever to support the Black Press," said Harris. "Especially, in the face of powerful voices

trying to sow hate and dissension in this country."

In an effort to combat that hate and dissension and spread love and unity, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, announced that the NNPA has partnered with the NAACP to register more than 5 million new Black voters in 2018.

"Come November, we're going to have the largest Black voter turnout in American history," said Dr. Chavis, to the applause of the crowd gathered for the Newsmaker of the Year ceremony. "This is a payback year!"

MWBE Vendor Workshop

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MWBE Program Administrator
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Upcoming DFW area job fairs

March 22 and 29 Custodial Fair

Diverse Facility Solutions is a janitorial service which provides staff with high profile clients.

Applicants must be able to pass a Federal Background check. Receive a \$100 bonus after completing 100 days of employment. The job fairs are each Thursday in the month of March at 5005 W. Royal Lane, Suite 156 in Irving.

March 24 Gaylord Job Fair

The Gaylord Texan is hosting a hiring fair from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They are looking for full time, part time and seasonal jobs. Open position include Housekeeping, Dishwashers, Cooks, Housemen, Banquet Servers, Restaurant and Pool Bar Servers, Bartenders, Bus drivers, Sedan drivers, Maintenance, Security/Loss Prevention, Shipping & Receiving, Customer Service, Front Desk, Food & Beverage services and more.

For more info, please visit www.careers.marriott.com

March 29 CCA/Goodwill Hiring Fair

CCA and Goodwill Job Connection host a hiring fair from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Come dressed for success and bring at least 20 copies of your resume. There will be on the spot interviews. Some of the companies present include Nebraska Furniture Mart, Waffle House, Target, the University of North Texas and more. The hiring fair will take place at the Lewisville Library. 1197 W Main St in the Community Room.

For more info, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com>

April 3 Health Workshops

SMU Health Professions Spring Swing will provide interested applicants an opportunity to gain medical experience with PhysAssist Scribes. With more than



300 facilities close to colleges across the country, they provide students access to real-world learning. They offer full- and part-time positions with flexible schedules, allowing students to achieve the work-school-life balance they need to excel. For more info visit iamscribe.com.

April 14 The Heights Workshop

Richardson church to host all-day workshop for the unemployed and underemployed

A free Job Search Workshop by Career Transition Ministries will be held 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, April 14 at The Heights Baptist Church, 201 W. Renner Rd. at US-75 in Richardson.

Free lunch and materials are provided. The all-day workshop will teach proven job search skills, including:

- finding your job focus
- resume critique and development
- using the Internet and Social Media for job search
- effective networking skills

- creating a 30-second elevator presentation
- interviewing techniques
- developing a 2-minute verbal resume and more.

Doors open at 7:45 a.m. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. in the Mezzanine. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. Register online at <http://www.theheights.org/jobseekers/>

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

April 14 Teacher Job Fair

Dallas ISD hosts a Teacher Job Fair at Ellis Davis Field House 9191 S. Polk St. from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dallas ISD gives talented educators a chance to become one of those teachers and make a difference for kids in the Dallas community. Dallas ISD invites you to join the team and teach where you're needed most, in Dallas. Make sure to bring plenty of resumes!

April 20 PetSmart Hiring Event

PetSmart is looking for pet lovers to work at their distribution center in Ennis. The

positions are full-time direct hires, not temp positions.

Within the first six months you can earn up to \$17.94 and enjoy paid time off 90 days from hire, health, vision and dental as well 401k saving plan. After 100 days you re-

ceive a \$500 retention bonus; and eligible to receive \$500 for referring a friend for hire. They are located at 2880 S. Oak Grove Rd. in Ennis. Open interviews are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.



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www.garlandpurchasing.com

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Paid Internship opportunity for writers, college students in the Dallas Area

The *North Dallas Gazette* has an internship position available. The goal is to provide students and aspiring writers an opportunity to gain published clips, experience and professional feedback.



The position is for up to 20 hours a week at \$8.00 per hour. Applicants must have reliable transportation.

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The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the employment of its personnel.

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO BELONG)

NOTICE: Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

Discover Hope and Help for daily living; and, you don't have to be a member to come. The Connect-2-Reflect (C2R) meetings are held in comfortable and relaxed homes, one in Carrollton and one in Plano, refreshments are served. Call the church for details.

March 25, 9:45 a.m.

You're invited to our "Prayer and Meditation" at 9:45 am. You will be blessed and inspired. You don't want to miss this as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

March 28, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Woodson, Pastor Larry Gardner, Pastor Bernadette, and others conducting a study on the book of Ephesians with supporting chapters and verses. Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you; it's Time to Grow in the Word of God.

April 1, 10 am

This is no April Fool's Day.

Bethel's pastors and members invite you to join us as we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on this Easter Sunday. Our Total Praise Team is doing a special production with Dance Choreographer Helena Webb, you don't want to miss this special praise dance.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

March 25, 8 a.m.

Join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall; followed by our Sunday Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

March 28

Join us in 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. 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
1609 14th Street

Plano, TX 75074
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Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

March 23, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 7 p.m., (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

March 25, 10 a.m.

Ladies, it is women wear white day, and don't forget to join us at 3 p.m. for a fellowship meeting with Pastor Rush.

March 26, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP) (Uniting the Body of Christ Among Nations)

March 25, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

March 28, 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

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH (Abiding in Christ)

March 25, 7 a.m.

Join us for our Early Service or our Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God, you will be blessed.

March 28, 7 pm

Join us at our Wednesday's Intercessory as we pray to God for others. Call the church for details for details.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown, Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459
nmzbcofdallas@aol.com

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Come and connect to God through Shiloh; grow in

Christ through the study of God's Word; and Serve God through service to each other and to the world. John 12:26.

March 25, 2018

You are invited to our morning worship at 10 a.m. Sunday School will begin at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you at our services.

March 28, 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; it's all for His glory and His honor. We are, "Growing in

Christ through the study of His Word."

April 1, 8 am & 11 am

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. We would love to have you at our services.

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see. Be blessed of the Lord.

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BASICS, continued from Page 11

industry, target market, and market test results, if available; lead times for your product or service; and evaluation of your competition.

- Company description: the nature of your business, as well as the factors you believe will make your business a success.

- Organization and management: the organizational structure and details about ownership, delineating roles

and responsibilities.

- Marketing and sales management: the marketing strategy (market penetration, business growth, distribution channels, and customer communication) and the business sales strategy (sales force and sales activities).

- Service or product line: a description of products or services; copyright and patent information; and research and development ac-

tivities you have done or will do.

- Funding request: current and future funding needs, how you will use these funds, and any plans that will affect future funding needs.

- Financials: historical financial data (income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements); prospective financial data (pro forma income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements); and capital ex-

penditure budgets for any major investments.

- Appendix: any additional information. This may include credit history, product pictures, letters of reference, legal documents, and a list of your attorney and accountant.

For more small business resources, visit cfra.org/small-business.

Rhea Landholm can be reached at rheal@cfra.org, Center for Rural Affairs.

Women's History Month, Part III



Sister Tarpley

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

Sarah E. Goode was the first Black woman to be granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, for her invention of a folding cabinet bed in 1885. She showed other Black women the possibilities.

Marie Van Brittan Brown, a nurse who invented a pre-cursor to the modern home TV security system. The crime rate was high in Brown's neighborhood, and the local police didn't always respond to emergencies.

The Browns filed a patent for their closed circuit television security system in 1966, and it was approved on December 2, 1969.

Sheila Lynn Jeter, patents for creating a non lever driven toaster; handheld, multi-functional devices in one housing including a stapler, staple remover, pencil sharpener, hole punch, calculator, tape measure, architectural and engineering scale.

Lyda Newman, an inventor and women's rights activist. She received a patent for an improved model of hairbrush. She also fought for women's right to vote, working with well-known women's suffrage activists.

Alice Parker, a heating unit that would warm up your house and regulate its temperature. The heating furnace provided central heat throughout a house.

Shirley Ann Jackson, she first developed an interest in science and mathematics during her childhood; a graduate of MIT she received a bachelor, and doctoral degree, all in the field of physics; she was the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from MIT.

Jackson also fostered advances in telecommunications inventing the portable fax, touch tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting.

Annie Easley, she was a computer scientist, mathematician, and rocket scientist. She was a leading member of the team which developed software in Computer Codes for the Centaur rocket stage and one of the first Blacks to work as a computer scientist at NASA.

She started working for NASA in 1955 for the Lewis Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space administration (NASA) and retired 34 years later.

Madeline M. Turner was an American inventor. She invented Turner's Fruit-Press, which paved the way for further development of the fruit press. She was granted U.S. Patent 1,180,959 in April 25, 1916

and exhibited her invention at the Panama-California Exposition.

Turner lived in Oakland, California. Her fruit press allowed fruit to be pushed into an opening and cut in half. The fruit would be shifted between different plates until juiced. The press resembled a form of an assembly line. The fruit press was called "ingenious" by a patent review committee member.

Erica Baker, (born 1980)

is an engineer and engineering manager in the San Francisco Bay Area, famous for being outspoken in support of diversity and inclusion. She has worked at several companies, including Google. She attained notoriety in 2015 for revealing that she had started an internal spreadsheet where Google employees reported their salary data, to better understand pay disparities within the company.

Based on the spreadsheet,



Bessie Blount Griffin

a number of her colleagues were able to negotiate pay raises. Baker reported that a number of her colleagues sent her peer bonuses for starting the spreadsheet, but her peer bonuses were denied by management.

The spreadsheet sparked discussion on Google's pay disparities, non-transparency in pay determination, and potential gender and ethnicity differentials in pay.

Janet Emerson Bashen, on January 2006 became the first Black woman to hold a patent for a software invention, the LinkLine is a web-based application for EEO

claims intake and tracking, claims management, document management, and numerous reports. Bashen was issued a U.S. patent for a "Method, Apparatus and System for Processing Compliance Actions over a Wide Area Network."

Bessie Blount Griffin, Physical Therapist and Inventor who worked with injured soldiers during World War II. She recognized their need and desire to do more on their own, and she invented an assistive device that permitted people who had lost limbs to feed themselves.

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NDGtv

North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**

Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

LIFE

Sundays | 10:30 AM

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NDG Book Review: *Down the River Unto the Sea*

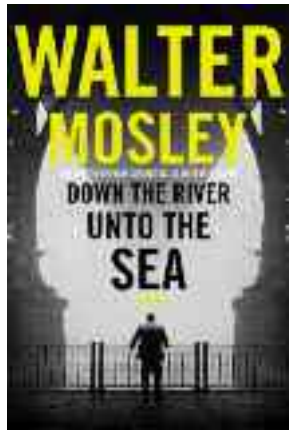
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Something's wrong.

It may look just fine, but you know better. Call it intuition, call it plain-as-day, but there's something off, something not-quite-right about a situation and it's gotten under your skin. You can't ignore it and you can't let it be. As in the new novel, "Down the River Unto the Sea" by Walter Mosley, it's time to set things right.

The last thing Joe King Oliver needed was that letter.

Joe was already skittish and uneasy in his own skin,



and he certainly didn't trust very readily. That's what happens when you're wrongly accused of a crime but you spend ninety days in Riker's anyway, in solitary confinement, listening to

other men scream, waiting to be killed. Yes, though that all happened more than a decade ago, it still simmered in Joe Oliver's soul.

But that letter.

It came from a woman who wrote that her name was Beatrice but she was Nathali Malcolm once, long ago, when she was coerced into setting him up. When her lies and accusations sent an innocent man to prison.

Through the years, Joe couldn't figure out why it happened, let alone who'd done it. He left Riker's broken, with a lost marriage, a lost NYPD job... just lost. Weeks after his release, his

only friend stepped in quietly and helped Joe with a PI business, and that's where Joe was when he read the letter.

He didn't want revenge – not completely, anyhow – but he did want his name cleared. This letter could do that, just as it could stir up a thousand bad dreams. So when a beautiful woman came to his office with a suitcase full of money and a story of an activist who was railroaded straight to jail for a double-cop-homicide, the time seemed right to fix a few wrongs.

But the more Joe looked at his case and that of the ac-

tivist, the more he saw similarities he couldn't ignore. In solving one injustice, could he solve another? And was it safer to trust a real demon, than to live with the demons in his life?

Here's the thing I love best about Walter Mosley novels: the main characters are solid. You feel like you could lean on them all day, and they'd never budge.

That's Joe King Oliver, and that's "Down the River Unto the Sea."

And yet, there's wiggle room in this book: Mosley doesn't destroy readers' fun by telling who done it in this noir whodunit. Instead,

we're allowed the same dawning realization that Mosley's Joe has, and that just sharpens the gasping you'll do while reading. Add a swirl of street-darkness, a few soulless characters and some clueless ones, a bit of pure evil, and you'll be turning pages far, far into the night.

This is one of those books that leaves you a little breathless – not only while you're reading, but once the back cover's closed, too. For anyone who loves hard-bitten PI thrillers, reading "Down to the River Unto the Sea" couldn't be more right.

State Fair of Texas contributes \$4 million to the City of Dallas for Fair Park

The State Fair of Texas aims to preserve its historical Fair Park home by helping to fund necessary improvements to its buildings and facilities. In 2018, the Fair is giving the City of Dallas \$4 million to help pay for major maintenance and improvements at Fair Park, with the decision on how to allocate these funds at the discretion of the Park and Recreation director.

In addition to the \$4 million, the Fair will complete several other projects in Fair Park throughout the year as part of its annual effort to improve State Fair operations and the overall guest experience. The Fair loves to call Fair Park home and is proud to contribute to the preservation of its historic structures.

As part of its lease agreement with the City of Dallas, the State Fair and the



Park and Recreation Department share excess revenues from each year's Fair. The Park and Recreation Department then determines how and when their portion of the money is used. For the past three years, the Fair has voluntarily given the contributions to the City to be used at their sole discretion, although the Fair's contract calls for the City to consult with the Fair on capital improvement projects at Fair Park. That totals \$15 million given to the City for them to use at their discre-

tion over the past three years. The Fair also currently pays more than \$1.3 million per year in rent to the City of Dallas, with escalators in place throughout the contract.

In 2017, the Fair and the City shared more than \$11 million. The Fair gave \$6.5 million of this to the City of

Dallas to use for Fair Park projects, with spending decisions at the discretion of the City. Then the Fair contributed another \$4.5 million in 2017 to support additional projects in Fair Park, going toward the improvement of State Fair operations.

"Funding from the State

Fair of Texas annual net revenues provide a critical supplement to the city's general fund budget, by allowing us to address major maintenance needs at Fair Park," said Park and Recreation Director Willis Winters. "We could not adequately maintain Fair Park without the financial assis-

tance from the State Fair."

Many people don't realize that the State Fair is a nonprofit organization.

The Fair's main revenue source is admissions and parking from the event, as most of the coupon revenue goes to the concessionaires and ride operators, who set their own prices.

EPI, continued from Page 1

In the press release about the EPI report, EPI economic analyst Janelle Jones said that it's clear that structural racism is the root cause of the economic inequality between Blacks and Whites.

"Solutions must be bold and to scale, which means we need structural change that eliminates the barriers that have stymied economic

progress for generations of African American workers," said Jones.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a congressional correspondent for the NNPA Newswire. Lauren also works independently as a political analyst and communications strategist. You can reach Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

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