

Trump signs 'seriously flawed' Russia sanctions bill

SEE PAGE 4



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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 45

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 3 - 9, 2017

50¢

Advances in STEM Should Include Opportunities for Young Girls and Minorities



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson with some youth who attended her Braintrust last year.

Innovations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields drive our economy and produce products and services that touch all of our lives. While the size of the STEM workforce is growing at an exponential rate, the growth in diversity of STEM professionals remains stagnant. As Ranking Member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, finding ways to encourage students of all backgrounds to study and enter STEM fields has been a priority of mine. A major factor contributing to the lack of underrepresented minorities and women in STEM is insufficient early access and engagement in schools. Students often miss out on opportunities and programs due to poor outreach in their communities. Lack of engagement leaves students unaware of the possible career choices in these fields. Because of the rapid growth in the STEM workforce, we must ensure everyone is aware of opportunities where they can share their talent and skills. And I will continue to advocate for more diversity and representation of women and minorities in STEM careers.

It is imperative that exposure to STEM education start at a young age. Fortunately, Dallas offers many camps and programs for students interested in STEM. Dallas ISD's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Department offers multiple free camps throughout the summer for children of all ages, and any high school student who is especially interested in STEM can apply to Dallas ISD's School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center. Several other local universities also offer programs for young aspiring innovators. The University of Texas at Dallas offers coding camps throughout the year, and Southern Methodist University hosts programs for promising engineers and mathematicians. By cultivating and nurturing young students from many different communities, we can be confident that we will see more diversity in STEM fields in the years to come.

Continues on Page 6

New Education State Plans Receive Mixed Reviews



Erika McConduit, the president and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana expressed concerns about ESSA state plans that she reviewed with a group of education policy experts. (Urban League of Louisiana)

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Education policy experts have expressed serious concerns about some of the state plans submitted under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law in December 2015. The law replaces the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act; states will begin implementing ESSA in the fall.

Erika McConduit, the president and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana, said that some ESSA state plans have failed to take into account the academic performance of historically disadvantaged students.

Continues on Page 4

More Than \$400K in Grants Awarded to 30 Community-Based Organizations

Feeding hungry children in Arkansas and meeting basic needs of homeless Mississippians are just two of the causes championed by 30 community-based organizations (CBO) receiving \$404,550 in Partnership Grant Program (PGP) funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB Dallas) and 31 of its member institutions.

Through this unique grant program, FHLB Dallas member institutions contribute \$500 up to \$4,000 to a CBO, which FHLB Dallas matches at a 3:1 ratio to provide the CBO up to \$12,000 in grant money. Grants are awarded annually through FHLB Dallas' member institutions via a lottery system. In 2017, FHLB Dallas awarded \$300,000 in PGP funds that were combined with the \$104,550 contributed by FHLB Dallas members for a total of \$404,550 to the organizations.

Partnership grants may be used to:

- Offset operational and administrative expenses
- Purchase or rent equipment or software
- Hire staff and/or consultants
- Secure training, consulting or technical support
- Sponsor special program-related events
- Conduct research or studies related to economic development

or affordable housing projects

• Hire professional contractors such as architects, engineers, grant writers or accountants

"The PGP is designed to promote and strengthen relationships between community-based organizations and FHLB Dallas members," said Greg Hettrick, first vice president and director of Community Investment at FHLB Dallas. "Through our members' firsthand community knowledge, these partnerships equip nonprofits to better address citizens' often-underserved needs."

Below is the complete list of the 2017 PGP grant recipients. For more information about the 2017 PGP grants and other FHLB Dallas community investment products and programs, please visit fhlbdallas.com/community.

Note: The grants below reflect only the matched amounts from FHLB Dallas.

Arkansas

Batesville

Member: First Community Bank

Sponsor: Habitat for Humanity of Independence County

Grant: \$6,000

Member: Merchants and Planters Bank

Sponsor: Main Street Batesville

Grant: \$12,000

Jonesboro

Member: Iberia Bank

Sponsor: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro, Inc

Grant: \$6,000

Member: Evolve Bank and Trust

Sponsor: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Jonesboro, Inc

Grant: \$3,000

Little Rock

Member: BancorpSouth Bank

Sponsor: Feed Arkansas Kids

Grant: \$3,000

Continues on Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE...

SPORTS - PAGE 5



(AP) - Beyoncé to buy stake in Houston Rockets

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

our
& faith
can move
mountain.
-MATTHEW 17:20-



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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

EDITORIAL PAGE

"THANK GOD FOR HIS STEADFAST MERCY"

PSALM 136:1:26

Rev. Johnny C. Smith
Editorial Columnist

What a wonderful hymn of praise we have before us that exalts God's steadfast and continual love (His mercy) toward us. We need to thank God for His great love in the intervention of our salvation through grace; in addition, the grand Apostle Paul describes God's rich grace in our salvation this way in Ephesians 2:4-7: "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love where with He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might shew the

exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

As we go through this wonderful psalm, it should be of interest to note that every verse is followed by the refrain: "for His mercy endureth for ever." As you look back over your life and you really think things over, you can't help from saying: "for His mercy endure for ever." From your earliest existence to the present moment; recalling how the Lord safe-guarded from the dangerous points of your life – the only thing that you can utter is: "For His mercy endureth for ever."

As we approach this psalm,

the psalmist in verses 1-3, summons the congregation to give thanks unto the Lord because of His hesed (loyal) love, His mercy. Have you really thanked the Lord today for His unusual love and mercy that He has shown to you? The psalmist cites as a reason that we should praise Him because of His mighty acts in creation in verses 4-9. He begins verse 4 by saying: "To Him who alone doeth great wonders: for His mercy endureth for ever" and goes on to announce His wonders: the heavens, earth, waters, sun, moon, and stars. The Lord is the creator of this vast universe and we ought to praise Him!

In verses 10-25, the psalmist

continues to cite a reason for praising Him and it was for God's mighty intervention in History of redeeming Israel from Egyptian bondage. Not only did He lead them out of Egypt but He sustained them in the wilderness in route to the Promise Land. Not only did the Lord safeguard and sustain Israel, but He manifested His love the third way by feeding all flesh (creature). The psalmist concludes this awesome psalm in verse 26 by saying: "O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for His mercy endureth for ever."

May God Bless!

New Education State Plans Receive Mixed Reviews

Continued from Page 1

There's also a lack of clarity on how many poor-performing schools would be identified as needing improvement, or what actions would be required to show they've improved, said McConduit, who served as one of the policy experts that recently reviewed more than a dozen state education proposals that were submitted to the Department of Education.

"While [we] do believe that states obviously have a vested interest in wanting to advance the outcomes of students, there is cause for concern when it comes to accountability," McConduit said.

Federal oversight has always provided a layer of accountability, ensuring there are checks and balances; those protections may no longer be available under some of the plans that have been reviewed, which worries education advocates, like McConduit.

McConduit, who earned a mass communications degree from Howard University and a law degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, said that as states transition from NCLB to ESSA, edu-

cation advocates don't want to lose any ground that has been gained in closing the achievement gap between Black and White students.

Recently, McConduit worked with a group of education policy experts organized by the Collaborative for Student Success and Bellwether Education Partners to review state accountability plans.

The Howard University graduate also took part in the Education Trust's "ESSA Boot Camp II: Advocating for Equity and Achievement in ESSA Implementation," which focused on rating systems for schools, and support and improvement for struggling schools.

McConduit said that it's difficult to say that ESSA will be successful across the board.

"What we have seen in the peer review process—not all states have submitted and we're looking at a fraction so far—some [state officials] have really focused on designing [good] plans," she said. "We've also been disappointed with some states who really did not resolve critical details in advance of submitting their plans."

As a reviewer and a leader of a civil rights organization, McConduit said that she worked deeply on Louisiana's plan, making sure that certain components were included.

McConduit said that she was disappointed to see how some states did not move to flesh out thorough plans.

"We know there are gaps, historic gaps, where there have always been groups of students left out of the mainstream," McConduit said.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ESSA requires, "each state to create a plan for its statewide accountability system. In particular, ESSA calls for state plans that include strategies for reporting education outcomes by grade for all students and for economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English learners."

NCES also said that, "states must specify a single value for the minimum number of students needed to provide statistically sound data for all students and for each subgroup, while protecting personally identifiable information (PII) of

individual students. This value is often referred to as the 'minimum n-size.'

The selection of smaller minimum n-sizes would ensure that more students' outcomes are included in a state's accountability system, but smaller n-sizes can also increase the likelihood of the inadvertent disclosure of personally identifiable information, education officials said.

"I'm cautious about these larger n-sizes," McConduit said. "Our goal is to make sure all these students are counted."

McConduit noted that she was heartened by the fact that states continue to place a strong weight on academics, while also including new measures of school quality, like the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses and college entrance exams, students earning industry certifications, and whether or not schools offer art and physical education.

McConduit said that those measures are "evidence of states, who want to see the needle move forward."

Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) at nnpa.org/essa.

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Perfect Assurance of God's Word



Written through the inspiration of God by Prayer Warrior Missionary Ms. CM Carter

Every good and perfect gift comes from above and cometh down from the Father of light (James 1:17). Each person who lives, moves and has his being has received numerous blessings from our Heavenly Father. This is an important truth that should not be forgotten. Now, this truth is manifested in numerous ways from time to eternity. To list a few: life,

Appreciation is one way to improve our life regardless of circumstances. When we truly appreciate what we have it always becomes more. If we are ungrateful or belittle what we have it becomes less. Little becomes much and even more than enough when we appreciate God first, others and self-worth.

We do well to follow the "golden rule" for abundant living. Let's make it a practice to never judge a person too quickly

life.

God's strengths is best seen in our weakness (II Corinthians 12:9). Acts 3:19: For a new start ask God for a new heart. Repent that your sins may be blotted out (Acts 3:13).

When studying the bible we must eat God's Word just as a new born baby desires milk. Jeremiah 15:16 "Your words

were found, and I did eat them..." slow down and digest the nourishment of God's Word, chewing and enjoying each morsel of truth. St. Matthew 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God".

Praying and reading God's Word will help to keep us stable and to face whatever may come our way to draw us closer to him. Hebrews 10:22-23 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." Morsels for perfect assurance of God's Word...

• The closer we are to God, the bigger our heart for others.

• We are uniquely designed to glorify God.

• Prayer is the voice of faith trusting that God knows and cares.

• Bitter feelings can be sweetened when we take them to God in prayer.

• When we live with integrity, we please God and influence society in a great way.

• No matter where we are in life, Jesus is only a prayer away.

• Success rises out of the seed of failure.

• In God's sight, true greatness is serving others.

• Following Jesus is not always easy, but it is always right.

Proverbs 3:13 "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding." Embrace God's Wisdom.

August change improves DART bus service

Several off-peak frequency enhancements will take place Monday, August 14, by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Customers should plan to obtain new timetables before bus schedule changes designed primarily to improve connectivity and on-time performance take place.

The changes are aimed at improving the DART customer experience and follow an extensive outreach process including social media, rider outreach events, public meetings, stakeholder interviews and participation of advisory and technical committees. More extensive service changes are planned for March 2018, with public meetings on proposed changes planned for September.

Details are available by calling DART Customer Service at 214.979.1111 or by going online to DART.org for adjustments to off-peak routes 24, 35, 444, 507, 521 and 531. Minor timetable revisions will occur on routes 39, 76, 155, 161, 183, 205, 208, 210, 283, 347, 350, 372, 374, 415, 444, 452, 463, 488, 501, 502, 504, 510, 527 and 549.

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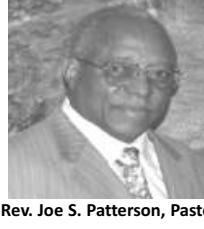
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Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

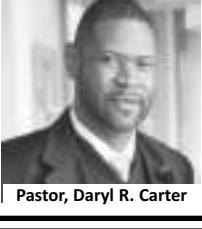
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
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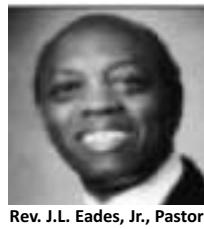
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P. 214-339-5800



Schedule of Services

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Mission (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study (Fri.) - 7:00 p.m.

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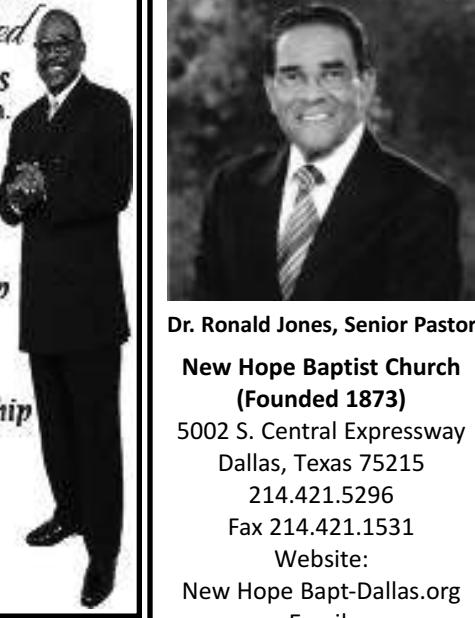
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NewHopeBapt-Dallas.org
Email:

1newhope4all@sbcglobal.net
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:45 AM
Wednesday Midday Bible
Study 12:00 Noon
Wednesday Mid Week Bible
Study 6:00 PM

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Rev. Dr. C.J.R. Phillips, Jr.
Email Address:
stphillipsmbc@att.net

Schedule of Activities

Sunday
Early Morning Worship- 8 AM
Church School- 9 AM
Morning Worship- 10 AM

Wednesday
Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.
Bible Class - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday
Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY
Church School 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Avana Club 5:30 P.M.
Evening Bible
Exposition 6:30 P.M.
The Lord's Supper
1st Sunday 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY
Music Ministry 6:15 P.M.
Avana Club 7:00 P.M.
Prayerline Fellowship 7:00 P.M.
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2 Timothy 3:16

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Patrick Worthey

Elders:

Harlee Glover
Fred Green
Raymond Hart
David Phillips, Jr.
Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Bible Class
9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship
10:45 a.m.

Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.

Bible Class - 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

Dallas West Church of Christ

3510 N. Hampton Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75212
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Calendar of Events

Sunday Bible School
8:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Song Practice
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class
9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
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9:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship

5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study

7:00 p.m.



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Trump signs 'seriously flawed' Russia sanctions bill

(AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed what he called a "seriously flawed" bill imposing new sanctions on Russia, pressured by his Republican Party not to move on his own toward a warmer relationship with Moscow in light of Russian actions.

The legislation is aimed at punishing Moscow for interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and for its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, where the Kremlin has backed President Bashar Assad. The law also imposes financial sanctions against Iran and North Korea.

Trump said the law will "punish and deter bad behavior by the rogue regimes in Tehran and Pyongyang" and enhance existing sanctions on Moscow.

The president had been reluctant to proceed with the bill, even after it was revised to include some changes that American and European companies sought to ensure that business deals were not stifled by new sanctions. Trump has expressed frustration over Congress' ability to limit or override the power of the White House on national security matters, saying that it is complicating efforts to coordinate with allies — a sentiment he expressed in Wednesday's statement.

Last week, the House over-

whelmingly backed the bill, 419-3, and the Senate rapidly followed its lead on a 98-2 vote. Those margins guaranteed that Congress would be able to beat back any attempt by Trump to veto the measure.

The president said Wednesday that he signed the bill "for the sake of national unity."

"The bill remains seriously flawed — particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch's authority to negotiate," Trump said. "By limiting the executive's flexibility, this bill makes it harder for the United States to strike good deals for the American people, and will drive China, Russia, and North Korea much closer together."

Trump's talk of extending a hand of cooperation to Russian President Vladimir Putin has been met with resistance as skeptical lawmakers look to limit his leeway. The new measure targets Russia's energy sector as part of legislation that prevents Trump from easing sanctions on Moscow without congressional approval.

Those limits, backed by Republicans as well as Democrats, resulted from lawmakers' worries that Trump might ease the financial hits without first securing concessions from Putin. Republicans refused to budge even after the White House complained that the

"congressional review" infringed on Trump's executive authority.

Moscow responded to a White House announcement last week that Trump intended to sign the bill, ordering a reduction in the number of U.S. diplomats in Russia.

Top members of Trump's administration voiced their unhappiness with the bill anew this week, echoing his sentiments that it poses more diplomatic hindrances than solutions.

"Neither the president nor I are very happy about that," Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Tuesday of the sanctions bill, which he had urged lawmakers not to approve. "We were clear that we didn't think that was going to be helpful to our efforts, but that's the decision they made," he said.

Tillerson conceded that he is unable to show that the U.S. has fulfilled Trump's objective of a new, more cooperative relationship between the former Cold War foes, noting only modest efforts in Syria as a sign the nations share some common goals. While he said Americans want the U.S. to get along with the nuclear-armed power, he did not address other concerns at home. U.S. intelligence agencies have accused Moscow of meddling in the 2016 presidential election to help Trump.

FILM REVIEW: DETROIT

By Dwight Brown (NNPA
Newswire Film Critic)

Black males.

A security guard Melvin Dismukes (John Boyega, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens") witnesses the event. Sometimes he's a part of the problem, and sometimes he helps the victims with supportive words: "Don't antagonize the guys. I need you to survive the night." An Air Force veteran named Greene (Anthony Mackie, "The Hurt Locker") is one of the hostages and Army Warrant Officer Roberts (Austin Hébert) is part of the posse. When the sun comes up and the bloodshed is over, the cops are arrested, a lame trial is held, and no one serves any jail time for the misconduct or homicides.

In this thinly conceived film, written by Mark Boal ("The Hurt Locker," "Zero Dark Thirty"), Blacks are not bright enough to fight the law or status quo (minus fleeting appearances by Congressman John Conyers, played by Laz Alonso), and Whites are generally one-dimensionally evil or complacent. Any viewer looking for more than a retread of anguishing racial injustice will be sorely disappointed. There is nothing of value here except an epoch of history and a little-known tragedy that corroborates that Black people have been the victims of violence and police brutality for decades, and specifically in the explosive 1960s.

Larry and his buddy Fred Simple (Jacob Latimore, "The Maze Runner") seek refuge at an \$11-a-night motel called the Algiers. There they meet two White girls (Hannah Murray, Kaitlyn Dever) and wind up talking to them in Larry's room. Shots ring out from an Algiers' motel window, which is near a National Guard prep area. The Detroit Police Department, Michigan State Police and Michigan Army National Guard swarm the hotel, which is now under siege. They are led by local White patrolman Philip Krauss (Will Poulter, "The Revenant"), who has just been reamed out by his commanding officer for shooting an unarmed looter in the back.

Krauss instigates an intimidation process, lines up some of the Black male hotel guests and the two White females against a wall in a hall and harass them. Verbal and physical abuse ensues. Krauss institutes a "death game": The cops take a victim into a room, close the door, fire a shot and pretend to kill him. This ruse is designed to instill fear into the others and scare them into rattling on the guy who fired the shot from the window. Before the night is out, the police murder three

Newly shot scenes are edited in with archival footage from the 1960s, thanks to editors William Goldberg (Heat) and Harry Yoon. The visuals, by cinematographer Barry Ackroyd (The Hurt Locker), are not in question. Other technical aspects of the film are on solid ground.

The ensemble acting is universally tepid; that might be, because so much attention was paid to the technical aspects and not the creating or recreating of characters that are three-dimensional. When

the dust settles, the only performance that resonates is that of Will Poulter as the despicable killer Krauss. He is a nightmare. If that is the persona that overrides everything, the writer and director have not served this event, cast or the viewer well.

What moviegoers reaffirmed from Lee Daniel's historical African American drama "The Butler" is that the Black community has survived and thrived against great odds. From Stanley Nelson's documentary "The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution" audiences found people who stood up against the machinations of local police and the vicious FBI. From Ava Du Vernay's "Selma," which chronicled Martin Luther King's crusade for equal voting rights and the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, viewers discovered that King's message and life achievements trumped the most distressing parts of his short life. In Steve McQueen's "12 Years a Slave," he picked a project that showed a free man who endured after being kidnapped into slavery.

After sitting through Detroit's two hours and twenty-three minutes of incessant tragedy, it is hard to come up with any salvation. It's a well-intentioned, fact-based story based on police records, news reports and the recollections of some of the participants. What the writers could not verify they embellished. (For example, the Krauss character is a composite and not based on a specific person, though Reed and Dismukes are.) If the filmmakers could create new characters and storylines, because the records were skimpy, they could have created one about a lone soul who became a community activist based on his/her experience from this tragedy. They could have given their audience one ray of light. One great, Black hope. But there is none.

The overwhelming feeling you'll likely have after sitting through this urban hell is despair, anger and hopelessness. The makers of "12 Years a Slave" and the other aforementioned films had far more vision than the creators of "Detroit." And, an ordeal without purpose is just an ordeal.

The Dallas Post Tribune Prayer List

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Wednesday, August 9

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L-80°H-100°
L-79°H-94°
L-75°H-93°
L-73°H-93°
L-74°H-93°
L-75°H-91°
L-74°**Beyonce to buy stake in Houston Rockets**

(AP) - Beyonce wants to buy a stake in a Houston basketball team.

The 'Love on Top' hitmaker - who was born in Texas - is reportedly keen to join an ownership group to bid on her home city's successful team the Rockets after owner Leslie Alexander recently announced his decision to sell the NBA franchise.

And it looks like it's not just the 35-year-old singer who will benefit from injecting some cash into the franchise in return for a ownership percentage, as Scott Soshnick of Bloomberg thinks she will be an "asset to interested parties by adding superstar sizzle to

any ownership group, likely helping the team with local and international marketing."

The brunette beauty shouldn't have any trouble making her investment as she is this year's second highest-paid celebrity at a staggering \$105 million, according to Forbes.

But, if she does need some advice, she can turn to her husband Jay Z as he owned a small stake in the Brooklyn Nets for a few years, which meant he then became a face of the franchise, before he sold his stake in order to set up his agency Roc Nation.

Beyonce's keenness to delve into investment comes just a few

weeks after she and the 47-year-old star reportedly put a \$90 million offer in on a hilltop mansion in Bel Air.

But as well as buying a house and juggling their careers, they've also got their hands tied up with their six-week-old twins Sir and Rumi and five-year-old daughter Blue Ivy.

A source said recently: "They've spent so much time working on their careers and both knew their marriage has suffered.

"From now on it's all about spending more time together, starting with Jay's new tour. Beyonce is bringing the twins and they will be together as a family."

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**90 STUDENTS
COMPLETE
DALLAS BLACK
DANCE THEATRE
SUMMER
ENRICHMENT
DANCE PROGRAM**

Ninety students learned both dance and life skills during Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2017 Summer Enrichment Youth Dance Workshop. The three-week program concluded Friday, June 23, 2017, with two showcase performances of the talented young dancers. The program was supported in part by The Hersh Foundation, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Rosemary Haggard Vaughan Family Foundation.

For six hours per day, boys and girls explored ballet, modern, jazz/hip hop, and African dance taught by professional dancers from Dallas Black Dance Theatre. In addition, participants benefited from enrichment discussions by community leaders and health professionals. Attorney Cicely Jefferson spoke on leadership, retired Registered Nurse Dr. Brenda Richardson cautioned against risky behaviors, Preston Place Counselor Von Eaglin offered positive ways to channel anger, Psychotherapeutic Yoga expert Laura Abbott Coan spoke on mindfulness, and Erica Henry, Deaf Ministry Leader at Concord Church, spoke on awareness of young people who are deaf.

Dallas Black Dance Academy has provided the Enrichment program for trained dance students between the ages of 7-13 years old for 27 years.

**More Than \$400K in Grants
Awarded to 30 Community-Based
Organizations**

Continued from Page 1**Louisiana****Alexandria**

Member: Red River Bank
Sponsor: GAEDA Revitalization Corporation
Grant: \$12,000

Crowley

Member: First National Bank of Louisiana
Sponsor: Empowering the Community for Excellence
Grant: \$10,350

Elton

Member: St. Martin Bank & Trust Company
Sponsor: Keagan's Center Inc.
Grant: \$7,500

Lafayette

Member: Home Bank, N.A.
Sponsor: Step Up Acadiana
Grant: \$7,500

Member: Home Bank, N.A.
Sponsor: Open Doors Louisiana Inc.
Grant: \$6,000

Lake Charles

Member: First Federal Bank of Louisiana
Sponsor: Project Build a Future
Grant: \$3,000

Member: First National Bank of Louisiana
Sponsor: Project Build a Future
Grant: \$12,000

Monroe

Member: Origin Bank
Sponsor: NOVA Workforce Institute of NE LA
Grant: \$3,000

Member: Progressive Bank
Sponsor: NOVA Workforce Institute of NE LA
Grant: \$3,000

New Orleans

Member: Home Bank, N.A.
Sponsor: HousingNOLA
Grant: \$6,000

Member: Iberia Bank
Sponsor: Central City Housing Development Corporation
Grant: \$6,000

Member: Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company
Sponsor: Committee for a Better New Orleans
Grant: \$12,000

Mississippi

Member: The First, A National Banking Association
Sponsor: Coalition of African American Communities
Grant: \$5,400

Member: Community Bank Coast
Sponsor: Coalition of African American Communities
Grant: \$3,750

Hattiesburg

Member: The First, A National Banking Association
Sponsor: R3SM, Inc.
Grant: \$12,000

Member: The First, A National Banking Association
Sponsor: The Lighthouse Rescue Mission
Grant: \$3,000

Member: BancorpSouth Bank
Sponsor: The Lighthouse Rescue Mission
Grant: \$12,000

Indianola

Member: Trustmark National Bank
Sponsor: Mississippi Community Financial Access Coalition
Grant: \$12,000

Member: State Bank & Trust
Sponsor: Mississippi Community Financial Access Coalition
Grant: \$12,000

Jackson

Member: BancorpSouth Bank
Sponsor: Corporation for Global Community Development
Grant: \$12,000

Member: Trustmark National Bank
Sponsor: Corporation for Global Community Development
Grant: \$3,000

Rolling Fork

Member: Bank of Anguilla
Sponsor: Rolling Fork Visitors Center & Museum, Inc.
Grant: \$7,500

New Mexico

Member: Southwest Capital Bank
Sponsor: MainStreet Las Vegas Corporation
Grant: \$6,000

Moriarty

Member: Wells Fargo
Sponsor: Estancia Valley Foundation for Economic Education & Development
Grant: \$7,500

Tucumcari

Member: Tucumcari Federal Savings & Loan
Sponsor: Tucumcari Main Street Corporation
Grant: \$12,000

Texas

Austin
Member: Frost Bank
Sponsor: HousingWorks Austin
Grant: \$4,500

Member: Texas Capital Bank
Sponsor: Economic Growth Business Incubator (EGBI)
Grant: \$7,500

Dallas

Member: TBK Bank, SSB
Sponsor: 2nd Saturday CDC
Grant: \$12,000

Houston

Member: CommunityBank of Texas, N.A.
Sponsor: Credit Coalition
Grant: \$12,000

Jacksonville

Member: Southside Bank
Sponsor: A Circle of Ten - Network for Collaboration
Grant: \$2,700

Member: Austin Bank Texas NA
Sponsor: A Circle of Ten - Network for Collaboration
Grant: \$3,300

Lufkin

Member: Austin Bank Texas NA
Sponsor: Lufkin Neighborhood Strong
Grant: \$12,000

Member: Citizens National Bank
Sponsor: Lufkin Neighborhood Strong
Grant: \$12,000

Pearland

Member: Comerica Bank
Sponsor: PowHer Play, Inc.
Grant: \$7,500

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Advances in STEM Should Include Opportunities for Young Girls and Minorities

Continued from Page 1

Ever since I was first elected to the Texas State House, I have dedicated my career to bringing attention to these issues and the advancement smart policies to address them. While in Congress, I have introduced the STEM Opportunities Act that would increase diversity in STEM in colleges and universities, enrich our STEM workforce and create more role models for female and minority students much earlier in the pipeline. More recently, I cosponsored a bi-partisan bill, H.R.3316, the Code Like a Girl Act of 2017. This bill, introduced by my colleague Congresswoman Jacky Rosen (D-NV), requires the National Science Foundation to support education and research projects to increase the participation of early elementary and even pre-K school girls in coding and other computer science lessons and activities. Research shows that elementary school boys are more likely to take a computer science class than elementary school girls. We must start early if we are going to increase the participation of women and minorities in STEM. The U.S. Department of Commerce notes that women make up only 24 percent of the STEM workforce, though women account for half of the general workforce in the United States. New faces and ideas in this field will undoubtedly lead to new innovation in the STEM disciplines.

Every September in Washington, D.C., I host a Science and Technology Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference in order to educate youth about the opportunities in STEM. Last year, at the 24th Annual Science and Technology Braintrust, I addressed the importance of diversity in the STEM professions. This year, we hope to engage a robust discussion on how to build careers in STEM and identify resources for students made available by various businesses.

I am very hopeful to see so many young girls and minority students take on an interest in these fields. I am confident they will grow to become some of our greatest innovators. To maximize positive change, it is our duty to expand and transform the STEM field to include more diverse students. I pledge to continue my work on educating and diversifying the future generation of STEM scholars.



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Spiritually Speaking:

Do You Love You?



James Washington
NNPA Member

By James Washington (The Dallas Weekly/NPPA Member)

place at the table in Hell's Kitchen?

I personally think the concept of loving God is pretty easy to comprehend. Most of us, dare I say, are arguably trying to accomplish this in one way or another. It's the loving your neighbor as yourself that's causing the problem. The devil is having a field day with this one. Count how many people you can't stand at this very moment. Take your shoes off and add to your list those people, who if they died tomorrow, you would be among those who would say 'good riddance.' The devil has us so confused and dumbfounded on this issue that we can't see that the hatred we harbor for others, the contempt we feel for people we don't even know, masks an underlying reality that won't allow us to love our neighbor. In actuality, we hate ourselves. You see the devil has tricked us into hating the mirror image of who we really are. Deep down inside we hate in others that which we might become, because we really don't like what we have become. Hello, somebody!

This love thing is pretty well documented throughout the Bible and Christ certainly clarifies its importance in the above passage. Remember this is the Son of God talking. The single most important thing I can do to abide in God's will is to possess love in my heart for God and my fellow man. Is that it? Yeah. That's it! If that's as close to a guarantee as we can get, why are many of us hell bent on doing the things that will insure our

perfect man is not perfect, so he entices us into hating the imperfection of others; their flaws and faults, their weaknesses and shortcomings. All the while, being imperfect ourselves.

Isn't it interesting that most people, who claim being

saved, tell you they first had to realize that God through Jesus' sacrifice loved them warts and all? The stories come from former drug addicts, adulterers, petty gossips, murderers and greedy self-absorbed takers in life, who wished they knew how to have a healthy respectful loving relationship with another human being. One by one, they, we, line up and confess that once we accepted that God indeed loves us, then and only then, are we able to love ourselves and subsequently love others just like they are; all imperfect, all flawed children of God, all welcomed at his eternal table. At this point, one sees God in every man, every woman and every child, because once you accept that God resides in your own sinful soul, you can see God in others.

God knew you before you knew you and he loved you anyway in spite of what He knew you were going to do or become. As incredible as that sounds, it's true. It's called love. God's point is so simple. If He's got it for you, the least you can do is have it for others. Step back, Satan. I love me and I ain't got nothing, but love for you too.

May God bless and keep you always.

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