

**"I am what I am, everything I wanna be"
- Donald Glover (Childish Gambino)**



The Dallas Post Tribune

2726 S. Beckley Ave • Dallas, Texas 75224
P.O. Box 570769 Dallas, Texas 75357 - 0769

ISSN # 0746-7303

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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 20

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 16 - 22, 2017

Caged Bird

by Maya Angelou

*A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.*

*But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.*

*The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.*

*The free bird thinks of another
breeze
and the trade winds soft
through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on
a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own*

*But a caged bird stands on
the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a night-
mare scream
his wings are clipped and his
feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.*

*The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.*

Celebrate Black History Month at the MLK Center

Thursday, February 23, 2017

MLK Black History Month
Thursday
February 23, 2017
11:30am - 2:00pm
MLK Recreation Center
2901 Pennsylvania Ave.
Dallas, TX 75215

"Expose to Greatness"

Honorable Tiffini A. Young
Dallas City Councilmember

M. Zeronda Smith
Director Office of Risk Management
City of Dallas

Constable Tracey Gully
Dallas County Constable
Precinct 1

Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew
Director of Community Affairs/Strategic Alliances
State Fair of Texas

Mrs. Shari Hicks
Vice President of Corporate Banking
Frost Bank

For more event information contact the MLK Jr. Community Center
2901 MLK Jr. Blvd. Bldg. A Dallas, TX 75215-4790 www.dallasmlkcenter.com
www.facebook.com/mlkcdallas | www.twitter.com/mlkcdallas

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center will host a panel discussion focusing on the challenges minority women face while serving as leaders in the public sector and in Corporate America. This event is on Thursday, February 23, 2017, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the MLK Recreation Center. There is no cost to attend.

This year's theme, "Expose to Greatness," extends the mission which is to inspire, educate, celebrate, and galvanize the community of South Dallas and surrounding areas.

"We are so thrilled to present this phenomenal event to the South Dallas

community in efforts to make a positive impact. February is a month for citizens to remember and learn that if it had not been for a great historian named Carter G. Woodson creating Negro History Week in 1925, there would be no Black History Month. This gives the community a chance to embrace its culture in a nation that is diverse and is built on immigration," says Pamela Jones, Manager of the MLK Community Center.

The panelists include the Honorable Tiffini A. Young, Dallas City Councilwoman; Ms. Zeronda Smith, Director of Risk Management for the City of Dallas; Dallas County Constable Tracey Gully; Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew, Director of Community Affairs and Strategic Alliances for the State Fair of Texas; and Mrs. Shari Hicks, Vice President of Corporate Banking at Frost Bank. The panel will be moderated by Pamela Jones. All media is invited to attend.

Rachel Lindsay named ABC's first black "Bachelorette"



This image provided by ABC shows Rachel Lindsay, who ABC named as its first black woman to be the "Bachelorette" for the 13th season of "The Bachelor" spinoff. The announcement came Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live." (Mitch Haaseth/ABC via AP)

(AP) - ABC has named a black woman as its "Bachelorette" for the first time in the show's history. Rachel Lindsay will lead the 13th season of "The Bachelor" spinoff. The announcement came Monday night on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

The news is somewhat of a spoiler for fans of the ongoing season of "The Bachelor." The 31-year-old attorney from Texas has yet to be eliminated from the dating show, where she is competing for the affections of Nick Viall. Nevertheless, Lindsay told Kimmel on Monday that she's ready to find love and a husband. She also encouraged the audience to send any interested suitors to apply for the show.

"The Bachelorette" begins airing on ABC in May.

T.BLANCO'S MEXICAN CANTINA GRAND OPENING ON FEB. 22



T. Blanco's Mexican Cantina, Photo Credit: Thomas White

T. Blanco's Mexican Cantina, a fine Mexican cuisine, is hosting its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 22, 2017. The ceremony will start at 10:30 a.m. with an official opening hosted by Addison Chamber. The day will follow with a grand opening party starting at 5 p.m., which will be also a celebration of the National Margarita Day. T. Blanco's is located at 15207 Addison

Road, Addison, TX 75001, to some known as an old-Sambuca location. T. Blanco's is a family business owned by Thomas White, his sons: Hunter White and Mason White, and a partner Carson Sample.

T Blanco's is celebrating its grand opening on the National Margarita Day. Margarita is the most popular Mexican cocktail, according to statistics, Americans are consuming 185,000 margaritas per hour on average (Brown-Forman, 2008). T. Blanco's is going to serve free margaritas and other popular cocktails, light bites from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on February 22. There is also going to be a DJ and a raffle, in which attendees will have a chance to win a Margarita Party for 10 friends at T. Blanco's and many other fun prizes.



www.BamaMomma.us

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Alternatively, purchases can be made via phone (330) 333-2071, Mon-Fri 11am-3pm (EST).

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DFW Airport's Travelers Can Now Enjoy Renovations at Terminal A

SPORTS - PAGE 5



Giants release Victor Cruz after 7-year run, Super bowl ring

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SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK



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The Dallas Post Tribune is published weekly by the Tribune Publishing Incorporated, 2726 S. Beckley, Dallas, Texas, 75224, Bulk Rate [1345]. Postage is paid to the Dallas Postmaster. Send address changes to The Dallas Post Tribune, P.O. Box 570769, Dallas, Texas, 75357-0769. THE DALLAS POST TRIBUNE is not responsible for unsolicited materials. Address all correspondence to EDITOR, The Dallas Post Tribune, P.O. Box 763939, Dallas, Texas 75376-3939 or e-mail production@dallasposttrib.net. All articles should be addressed to the appropriate staff member. Advertisements, articles, editorials, letters to the editor and cartoons appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent the philosophy or views of The Dallas Post Tribune.

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 - 2) We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel any advertisement contract.
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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



Colleen White, Ed.D.
Editorial Columnist

A Little Bit of Faith: A Valentine Gift Worth Receiving

February is the month for love. Those who are in love or want to be in love look forward to February. Cupid has aimed his arrow at the hearts of people who have their eye on the prize-love. But the greatest love of all is the love the Father has for us. It's difficult for us to accept His love because we may feel as though we are not good enough or that we have not done enough. It's like we feel as though we have to be perfect for Him to

love us, but that is far from the truth.

Have you ever received a box of candy and a few of the chocolates were broken? This is how we are viewed by our Father. All of us are broken in some way. Yet, He still loves us. Just because we are a little broken does not mean He wants nothing to do with us until we are mended. That's a lie that we tell ourselves. He wants us even more because we are so broken. In the

book of Revelation, it says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). What does this mean? This means that God is near and He desires to enter our lives. However, we have to accept Him. He will not force His will on us. If we are willing to accept Him into our lives and have fellowship with Him, we'll have

a love story that will never end.

This would be a wonderful Valentine gift to receive. IT would be great to receive a gift of new life and fellowship with Christ for Valentine's Day. So instead of waiting to receive a gift that will fade or be forgotten after a few days, receive the gift of new life in Christ this Valentine's Day instead. Amen? Amen.



Dr. J. Ester Davis
Editorial Columnist

Etiquette: Like Berries on the Vine

First etiquette . . . Do unto others quote.

Your dog is cute, but dogs do not shop. And they are not welcomed everywhere. Please do not announce deaths in a text. Say 'excuse me', when you bump into any human being. Learn to write and spell correctly in English. Use your turn signal more often than your mouth or middle finger. Your phone is not a vital organ. You can live without it. Try an hour a day.

What is etiquette? My simply definition is . . . etiquette is not something you do, it is who you are.

Etiquette is like berries on the vine. If you don't do anything about it, it fails and falls to the ground.

I hear so many express that etiquette is dead. Or, where is etiquette? I do admit that it has two faces. One, the example is not intently set and it has not been taught. Etiquette is paramount in our everyday lives. I hesitate to demote it to a lost art, but it is an endangered institution. However, segments of our society uses it very well. . . separating the wheat from the grass. Meaning blatantly that even though you may be overqualified for that job or promotion, you are not a 'fit' for the success of the mission.

Where is all of this going? How do you explain a society that is declining before your very eyes? What is the answer? What pieces of the puzzle is missing? I am sad-

dened by the lack of common manners as I go about my day. Recently, on the evening news, an unbelievable disturbance occurred. Because of their discomfort with the matter, passengers started deplaning as the pilot spoke. People with drones and guns, endanger other citizens every minute of the day, due to their lack of competence and respect. Additionally, we bump into people of other cultures, disabilities and dismiss the courtesies due.

Al Jarreau died this week at age 76, and I just loved that song "We're In This Love Together". He was a marvelous entertainer. You know the words . . . 'cause, we'eere in this love together'. As I started writing this article and groovin' to Al Jarreau's chords on the internet, the two loves just merged into so many thoughts. The love for ourselves and our society is 'something we never want to lose'. The love for God's magnificent creatures is something we do not want to lose. 'Like berries on the vine. . . we need to get sweeter. . . not deeper in mayhem. The sheer fact is whatever it is . . . we are all in this "love" together.

Thanks, Al Jarreau for the memories.

**Ester Davis can be reached at esterday.com
Join us @ROPP for Girls, Concord Baptist Church,
Feb. 25, with Women of Wisdom(WOW). Thanks
Dr. Hollie-Theodeaux for "Marriage Forever Couples"
held at the Dallas City Hall Flag Room.**

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BE KIND! Never speak harsh words. Be kind and gentle with your tongue. For it has been said that the tongue can be like a sword. Think long before you criticize your neighbor. Your tongue can be nasty. Living is one of the most beautiful things in the world. But the tongue can kill!

Articles throughout The Dallas Post Tribune reflect the views of their authors, and not necessarily those of this publication.

African American Education Archives and History Program to Induct Nine Honorees

Texas State Representative Yvonne Davis will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the 2017 African American Education Hall of Fame Program and Luncheon on Saturday, April 8 at noon. The event will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 800 N. Main Street, Duncanville, Texas. Ticket reservations are \$75 and include lunch. A table for 10 is \$750. Deadline for dinner reservations is March 30.

The honorees are:

Deceased: Mildred Newton Finch and Annie Heads Rainwater

Living: Joseph T. Brew, Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones Fears, Michele Anderson Goady, Kathryn Mitchell, Lucious Leon Newhouse, Jr., Shirley Ison-Newsome, Dr. Jimmy V. Scales, Sr.
This event is an annual opportunity for the African American Education Archives and History Program Steering Committee to recognize persons who have made out-

standing contributions to the education of African American students in Dallas County. Individuals and organizations submitted nomination forms to advocate for the worthiness of the individuals for this coveted award.

The public may make tax-exempt contributions "in honor of" or "in memory of" any person you choose for a minimum of \$25. The names of individuals will be included in the printed luncheon program. The deadline is

March 23. Make contributions payable to AAEAHP and mail to AAEAHP, P. O. Box 411091, Dallas Texas 75241

For more information about this event, and how you may support and attend the 2017 Hall of Fame Program, please call Mr. Melvin Traylor at 214-376-9673, Ms. Gwen Brantley at 972-298-6980 or Dr. Roscoe C. Smith at 972-741-8213.

TRINITY CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC. CELEBRATES ITS 10TH "DIAMOND AND SNEAKERS" GALA

The Trinity Chapter of The Links, Inc. is proud to announce the celebration of its 10th Anniversary of its signature "Diamonds and Sneakers" Gala.

The Gala will be held on March 4, 2017 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel at 6:00 p.m. The stunning evening of diamonds and sneakers will include dinner and dancing with the popular David White Band. The Gala supports an enrichment program which was developed by the Trinity Links in 2000 for Dallas Independent School District elementary and middle school girls

called SoSMAART. The programs are held at T. L. Marsalis and Atwell Middle School.

SoSMAART, which stands for "Students Set on Math, the Arts, Aviation, Reading and Technology, and is designed to stimulate girls' interest in the STEM fields of study and broaden their career objects in life. Over 1000 girls have benefited from the SoSMAART program over these years and Trinity has seen tremendous results with these young ladies. The Trinity Links have received many awards and recognition for this success-

ful program.

The Gala also supports Scholarships for Excellence awards each year for deserving high school graduates who will pursue higher education. Trinity is proud of the recipients of these scholarships who have attend universities across the country and many pursue graduate programs and professional careers.

Sonya Hoskins serves as president of the Trinity Chapter of The Links, Inc. with over 50 active members. "We are so excited about celebrating our 10th year of the "Diamond and

Sneakers" Gala and appreciate all of our supporters who have attended over the years", says Ms. Hoskins.

The highlight of the evening will be the Diamond and Sneaker contest as participants strut their stunning and creative sneakers across the room. This will be an evening of fun and celebration.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets for the Diamond and Sneaker Gala are available. For more information visit www.Trinitylinksinc.org.

Church Directory

African Methodist Episcopal

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Monday School
(Bible Study)
7 p.m.

Men's Fellowship
Friday
8 p.m.

Women's Fellowship
1st Sunday
4 p.m.



Church Motto:
"To Know Christ, To Grow In
Christ and to Share The Gospel
Of Jesus Christ with Others"



Dr. Ronald Jones, Senior Pastor

New Hope Baptist Church
(Founded 1873)

5002 S. Central Expressway
Dallas, Texas 75215
214.421.5296
Fax 214.421.1531

Website: New Hope Bapt-
Dallas.org

Email: 1newhope4all@
sbcglobal.net

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Wednesday Midday Bible
Study 12:00 Noon

Wednesday Mid Week Bible
Study 6:00 PM

Morning Worship 10:45 AM

Saint Phillips Missionary
Baptist Church

6000 Singing Hills Drive
Dallas, Texas 75241

P. 214-374-6631



Rev. Dr. C.J.R. Phillips, Jr.

Email Address:
stphillipsmbc@att.net

Schedule of Activities

Sunday

Early Morning Worship- 8AM

Church School- 9AM

Morning Worship- 10AM



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Dallas, Texas 75219
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www.mountzionbaptist.org
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SUNDAY
Church School 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Awana Club 8:30 P.M.
Evening Bible
Exposition 5:30 P.M.
The Lord's Supper
1st Sunday 5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
Music Ministry 6:15 P.M.
Awana Club 7:00 P.M.
Prayer/Bible
Fellowship 7:00 P.M.



Rev. Johnny C. Smith
Pastor

True Lee Missionary
Baptist Church

3907-11 Bertrand Street
Dallas, Texas 75210
P. 214-421-9435
F. 214-421-0324



Pastor Donald R. Parish, Sr.

Sunday Church School
9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.

Monday Mission Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Prayer & Bible Study Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Radio Station Broadcast
Every Sunday @
9:30 a.m. til 10:00 a.m.
KPYK 1570 AM

Church of Christ



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www.marsalisavenuecoc.org

Come Worship and Study with Us!

Sundays	
Bible Study	8:45 AM
Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Children's Bible Hour	10:00 AM
Evening Worship	5:30 PM
Wednesdays	
Bible Class	10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Bro. Lamont Ross, Senior Minister

Greenville Avenue Church of Christ

1013 S. Greenville Ave
Richardson, Texas 75081
P. 972-644-2335 F. 972-644-9347



Minister S.T. Gibbs, III

Associate Ministers:
John Bradshaw
Ben Myers
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
P. 214-631-5448

Website: www.dwcoc.com



Sammie Berry
Minister

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.

Sunday Radio Broadcast
7:30 a.m. on 970 AM

"The Congregation Where
Everybody is Somebody"

Church of Christ at Cedar Valley

4013 N. Dallas Avenue, Lancaster, Texas 75134
P.O. Box 510, Lancaster, Texas 75146 (Mailing)
469-567-1822 (Phone) 469-567-1823 (Fax) www.coccv.org



Samuel Bailey, Minister

Sunday Bible Study
8:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship
5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 p.m.

Cedar Crest Church Of Christ

"A Church of Christ in the Heart of Dallas with Dallas at Heart"

Sunday
KHVN (970 A.M. Radio)
8:00 a.m.
Bible Class
8:45 a.m.
Children's Worship
10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

2134 Cedar Crest Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75203-4316 • (214) 943-1340 • Fax (214) 941-3305
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Greater New Zion Baptist Church

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Rev. Joe S. Patterson, Pastor

Services
Bible Study
Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Carver Heights Baptist Church

2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216
P. 214-371-2024

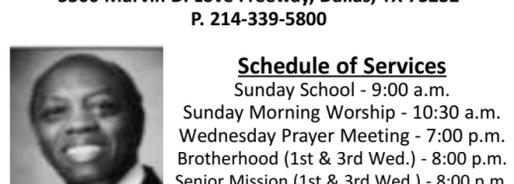


Pastor, Daryl R. Carter

Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.
Early Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church

8350 Forest Lane, Dallas, TX 75243
P. 214-349-7701



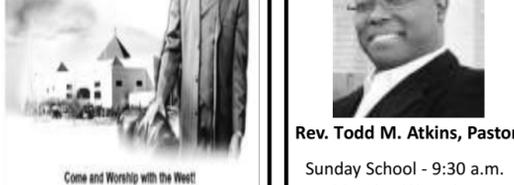
Dr. David E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Church School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Services - 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Revival Services - 7:00 p.m.

Visit us @ www.greatercornerstone.org
"A Good Understanding Wins Favor" Prov. 13:15

Greater Providence Baptist Church

5300 Marvin D. Love Freeway, Dallas, TX 75232
P. 214-339-5800

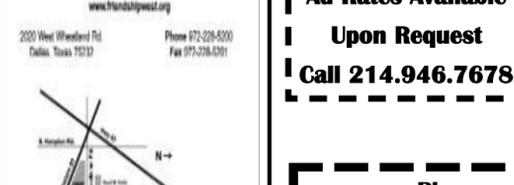


Rev. J.L. Eades, Jr., Pastor

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.

Salem Institutional Baptist Church

3918 Crozier Street
Dallas, TX 75215
P. 214-428-3797
Website: www.sibcdallas.com



Rev. Todd M. Atkins, Pastor

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

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Call 214.946.7678

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

1819 N. Washington Ave.
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www.pilgrimrestdallas.org

Worship Opportunities
Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:45 am
5th Sunday, Combined Worship:
10:00 am
Word Out Wednesday Bible Study
12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm



Dr. Curtis W. Wallace
Senior Pastor

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12noon
Wednesdays: 7pm
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Sister Gloria Blair - First Lady



Dr. Wendell Blair, Sr. - Pastor

Our Church Motto:
"The Church where the
Bible is our Guide"
2 Timothy 3:16

Services:
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Friendship West Baptist Church

"Making Disciples To Make A Difference"
Matthew 28:19-20



Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III - Senior Pastor

Come and Worship with the West!

The vision of Friendship-West must be shared by all those who contribute to and partake of her legacy of becoming a Christian community within the community that transforms the community.

SUNDAY SERVICES
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SPORTS PAGE



7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, February 16	Friday, February 17	Saturday, February 18	Sunday, February 19	Monday, February 20	Tuesday, February 21	Wednesday, February 22
H-66° L-48°	H-71° L-57°	H-76° L-59°	H-78° L-62°	H-70° L-60°	H-72° L-60°	H-74° L-59°

Giants release Victor Cruz after 7-year run, Super bowl ring



AP PHOTO

(AP) — The New York Giants said goodbye to Victor Cruz after a seven-year storybook run during which he developed into one of the NFL's most feared receivers and a fan favorite, helping the franchise to a Super Bowl title before being slowed by injuries.

The Giants announced the parting Monday as they released the 30-year-old Cruz and starting running back Rashad Jennings in moves that will save the team roughly \$10 million in salary cap space.

The moves came about a month after the players helped the Giants get back into the playoffs for the first time since playing in

the Super Bowl in 2012.

"Victor is one of the great stories of the National Football League," general manager Jerry Reese said. "It has been amazing to see him grow from an undrafted free agent to a Pro Bowl player and one of our go-to guys during the Super Bowl XLVI run. He will always be one of the great Giants."

Cruz has 303 catches for 4,549 yards and 25 touchdowns in his career. His receptions and yardage totals are 10th in Giants history, and his 25 touchdowns are 17th.

An undrafted free agent out of Massachusetts, Cruz grew up roughly 10 miles from the Meadowlands. He

solidified his spot on the roster in 2010 with three touchdown catches in a preseason game against a Jets team coached by Rex Ryan.

Cruz was also a leader on the team and up front with reporters.

"I did some great things there. There are so many experiences, times and moments that I shared in that building with that team in that jersey," Cruz said. "Those can't be replaced or forgotten."

A knee injury and a calf problem caused him to miss most of the 2014 season and all of the following season. He made a remarkable return this past season but was limited to 39

catches and one touchdown, which was the only time he got to celebrate with his salsa dance in the end zone.

He was generally the third option for Eli Manning behind Odell Beckham Jr. and rookie Sterling Shepard.

Jennings, who will turn 32 next month, joined the Giants as a free agent in 2014, after four seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars and one with the Oakland Raiders. In three years, he played in 40 games and rushed for 2,095 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also had 94 receptions for 723 yards and two scores.

The Giants' leading rush-

er this past season with 593 yards, Jennings' career totals include 3,772 rushing yards and 25 scores.

"Rashad is a pro's pro, on and off the field," Reese said. "He came to work every day and did everything we asked him to do, and always worked extra to get better at his craft."

Jennings, who missed three games this past season with a thumb injury, reached the playoffs for the first time in his eight-year career. He became expendable — for now — with the development of rookie Paul Perkins.

"It's an honor to play here, playing for a team that has so much history, a

team that falls under great leadership and high character," Jennings said. "In the mecca of everything, the relationships I've built are priceless. The people, the fans, teammates, ownership, I've been blessed to play with the Giants and see that side of the NFL."

Cruz and Jennings plan to continue their careers.

"I think there is still a lot of miles left on this body," Cruz said. "I'll definitely be searching and looking for work as the time comes."

Jennings echoed that sentiment.

"I know me and my skillset that I bring to the table," Jennings said. "I have more football left in me."

Cardinals' Alex Reyes to have Tommy John elbow surgery



(AP) — Just a day after pitchers and catchers reported for spring training, the St. Louis Cardinals were handed a significant blow.

MRI results showed that rookie pitcher Alex Reyes, 22, will require Tommy John elbow surgery and miss the entire 2017 season, the club announced on Wednesday.

"It was determined that'd he'll require Tommy John (surgery)," Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak told reporters at the team's spring training facility in Jupiter, Fla. "It's obviously very disappointing. We had very high expectations for him."

"The thoughts going through my head, 'It sucks,'" Reyes said.

The loss of Reyes is a big setback for the Cardinals, who are trying to catch the Chicago Cubs in the National League Central. Reyes was expected to play a key role with the Cardinals this season as potentially their fifth starter. He's armed with a deadly 97 mph fastball and billed as baseball's top pitching prospect.

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What Parents and Students Should Know about Charter Schools

Continued from last week...

(NNPA) - With a city decimated and its residents scattered across the country, the state education leaders and state legislature—pushed, no doubt, by the masterminds of the corporate-driven reform movement—met in Baton Rouge to authorize the takeover of Orleans Parish Public Schools, a plan that had been designed and put in place long before Katrina. In order to facilitate the wholesale takeover of public education in New Orleans, the legislature had to amend state law to raise the minimum school performance score from 60.0 to 87.4. Before this, only five schools in Orleans Parish had scores that designated them as failing. After amending the law, more than 100 schools were deemed failing. In short, the takeover was manufactured by slight of pen.

Of course, there is inherently nothing wrong with raising the bar—if the plan is to keep it high. But it wasn't. When it became evident that charter schools weren't performing miracles, keeping the higher standard did not work for the architects of the reform. So they went back to their buddies in the state legislature, who were happy to amend the law again to lower the minimum SPS a school needed to have in order to hide the failure of the very reform it ushered in. Today, elementary and middle schools only need to have a 66.2 SPS to earn a "C." The SPS for a high school can be as low as 70 to earn a "C" letter grade. This sort of legislative maneuvering makes measuring real progress or any regression impossible.

But this much is clear—as of right now only five of the charter schools under the all-charter RSD have school performance scores higher than 87.4—the score used to declare public schools as failures and hand them over to charter operators more than 10 years ago. To put it another way, most all of these campuses—now being heralded as the answer to all that was wrong with public education—would have been taken over by the state after Hurricane Katrina. Of course, that's a lot like giving someone a one dollar bill, but trying to convince him it's worth \$5 by taking a magic marker and writing a big "5" on George Washington's face.

Now add to all of this mayhem, the fact that charter schools in New Orleans and elsewhere have developed notorious reputations for their failure to adequately serve special needs students; or that the loss of neighborhood schools and bussing students all over the city has wreaked havoc on families that have had to send their children to bus stops as early as 5:30 in the morning to go to a "C" (if they are lucky) school 20 miles away from their

homes; or that with the proliferation of charter schools has come the promulgation of non-elected charter school boards that use the people's money without the people's oversight effectively resulting in taxation without representation; or that with this so-called reform has come the same mismanagement and misappropriation of public dollars under the control of some charter operators for which the elected school board and public school system were often criticized and denigrated prior to the takeover; or that the billions in funding that came to Louisiana to stabilize public education after Katrina was doled out as grants to private charter management companies and used to provide Teach for America recruits with signing bonuses while more than 7,000 veteran educators and school employees were fired without cause or due process; or that this entire reform is funded by major corporations with their eyes fixed on profiting from our children as opposed to serving them and providing a quality education.

It is worth noting that all of this started under the watch of a Democrat governor, Kathleen Blanco, and has been sustained and heavily funded at both the federal and state levels under the executive or legislative leadership of Democrat officials, who must be held responsible for their continued role in undermining public education.

Did we mention that only five of the charter schools in the all charter RSD-New Orleans actually have SPS scores higher than the scores of the schools taken over by the state after Katrina?

These schools, the so-called miracles are failing—the numbers say so. How much more homework does The Post need us to do?

Even when we look at the performance of the handful of public schools—both traditional and charter—currently under control of the Orleans Parish School Board, we perceive their claims of tremendous success with a jaundice eye, recognizing that the local school system—after being pilfered of its schools by the state—was left with those schools that were its top-performing academies and magnet campuses prior to Hurricane Katrina. We have also watched as this local school board—all but co-opted by pro-charter, pro-reform advocates—has abandoned its role in creating more traditional public schools.

Yet, The Post and The Times can't seem to understand why a freeze on more charters is in order. Well, there may be some pretty decent writers at these fine publications, but they obviously failed all their math classes if they can't discern that something just isn't adding up with the frenzied and furious push to put a charter school on every corner despite little or no real evidence of their success. In fact, here in New Orleans—ground zero for all things charter school—the evidence tells that most of

these schools are performing as bad or worse than the traditional public schools they replaced.

So yes, it is high time the farce ends.

And this is just what we know is happening in New Orleans. We at The New Orleans Tribune know because we have been talking and writing and fighting about it for more than a decade now. And what has and is happening here in New Orleans, Louisiana should be enough for every state board of education and local education agency across America to think twice before approving another charter.

But, the folks at the NAACP and Black Lives Matter have examined the charter school situation across the nation and found legitimate reasons why the rollout of more charters needs to come to come to halt—at least for a while. If our tales of woe weren't enough, there are the concerns being raised across the country.

They are looking at what has been in happening—the targeting of low-income communities for the closure of traditional public schools, the selective admissions practices that often result in extreme segregation, the fiscal mismanagement, the diversion of and lack of accountability for taxpayer funds, and the violation of civil and educational rights—in places like North Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, New York and California, as well. They want evidence of the success of charters—not empty claims of success or examples of artificial achievement like we've seen here. What is so wrong with that?

Give us one real reason charters can't wait.

Here at The Tribune, we applaud the NAACP and Black Lives Matter for the courageous leadership and independent voices on the issue of charter schools. We know exactly what it is like to speak the truth on this topic and the misuse of charter schools to what seems like no avail. We hope that adding their voices to the chorus will force others to pay attention.

To be sure, it's about time someone called for a moratorium on charter schools. Maybe if The Post and The Times did their homework or at least decided that they weren't going to be swayed by the all the big money and big names pushing this reform, they would see that too.

Here at The Tribune, we applaud the NAACP and Black Lives Matter for the courageous leadership and independent voices on the issue of charter schools.

Anitra Brown is the managing editor at The New Orleans Tribune. You can reach Anitra by email abrown@mckennapublishing.com.



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Comerica Bank, FHLB Dallas Award \$21K Grant to Oak Cliff Nonprofit



Oak Cliff nonprofit The Business Assistance Center was presented with a \$21,000 grant through the Partnership Grant Program from FHLB Dallas and Comerica Bank.

The Business Assistance Center (BAC), an Oak Cliff, Texas-based nonprofit, has been awarded a \$21,000 grant through the Partnership Grant Program (PGP) from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB Dallas) and FHLB Dallas member institution, Comerica Bank. The grant was presented to BAC at a ceremonious check presentation today in Dallas. It marks the third PGP grant to the organization, which received \$30,000 in two PGP grants in 2009 and 2012, bringing its total grants to \$51,000 to date.

The BAC will use the 2017 grant to support its Micro-Enterprise Training/Incubation program. A "micro-enterprise" is a local business established through a small investment that employs 10 people or less.

Ken Green, president of Green & Associates, is one of thousands of individuals and business owners helped by the program. Mr. Green founded his firm in 2005, which today continues to provide youth and adults with life skills and personal development training.

A region comprised of 34 diverse neighborhoods in southwest Dallas County, Oak Cliff's population in 2016 totaled 275,381 people, according to U.S. Census reports.

In 2016, FHLB Dallas awarded \$225,000 in PGP funds to assist 23 CBOs. Combined with the \$96,200 from member institutions, a total of \$321,200 was awarded last year.

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