

# "IT CAN WAIT, PLEASE DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE"



## The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

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50¢

# WE MUST STOP GUN VIOLENCE!



By Dr. Theodore Lee  
Publisher, The Post Tribune Newspaper

President Obama recent call for sensible gun legislation is extremely important to the safety of our nation. According to statistics released by the FBI, firearms are used in approximately seven to ten murders in the United States. Many of our cities throughout our country have become war zone with young people and innocent bystanders being slain.

During a tearful press conference in the White House earlier this week, President Obama said that he would take executive action to deter the use of fire arms. He said that he would enhance the current background check procedure to also include online sales of gun and sales of firearms at gun shows.

Obama, who is a former constitutional law professor, said that measures to increase the safety of Americans could be accomplished without violating the second amendment rights that critics of any gun reform legislation are quick to point out.

He implored the Congress to pass sensible gun legislation. "Once Congress gets on board with common-sense gun measures, we can reduce gun violence a whole lot," he said. Many members of Congress are supported by the National Rifle Association, the nation's largest lobby group, and are afraid to support any legislation that affects guns, even though the majority of Americans polled are in favor of reforming the current system.

*Continues on Page 6A*

## MARCO RUBIO RETURNED TO TEXAS FOR DALLAS RALLY



(AP) - They say everything is bigger in Texas. Well, for Republican presidential contender Marco Rubio, he hopes the support for his campaign is huge when he makes a stop in Dallas.

Rubio held his first public appearance in Dallas since he launched his presidential campaign in a rally at 4:30 p.m. at the Westin Park Central Hotel in North Dallas. Afterward, the senator attended a fundraiser hosted by former Texas Rangers owner Tom Hicks.

He has already made a handful of fundraising swings across the state since launching his campaign for the GOP nomination.

Rubio is ending this year with stops in Iowa, where recent polls show him to be usually a distant third behind Donald Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. The Iowa caucuses are Feb. 1.

The Texas primary elections are March 1.

## GRAMMY-WINNING SINGER NATALIE COLE DIES AT 65



States (AP) - Natalie Cole, the daughter of jazz legend Nat King Cole, who carved out her own considerable success with R&B hits like "Our Love" and "This Will Be" before triumphantly intertwining their legacies to make his "Unforgettable" their signature hit through technological wizardry, has died. She was 65.

While Cole was a Grammy winner in her own right, she had her greatest success in 1991 when she re-recorded her father's classic hits - with him on the track - for the album "Unforgettable ... With Love". It became a multi-platinum smash and garnered her multiple Grammy Awards, including album of the year.

Cole died Thursday evening at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles due to complications from ongoing health issues, her family said in a statement.

"Natalie fought a fierce, courageous battle, dying how she lived ... with dignity, strength and honor. Our beloved Mother and sister will be greatly missed and remain UNFORGETTABLE in our hearts forever," read the statement from her son Robert Yancy and sisters Timolin and Casey Cole.

Natalie Cole had battled drug problems and hepatitis that forced her to undergo a kidney transplant in May 2009. Cole's older sister, Carol "Cookie" Cole, died the day she received the transplant. Their brother, Nat Kelly Cole, died in 1995.

Natalie Cole was inspired by her dad at an early age and auditioned to sing with him when she was just 11 years old. She was 15 when he died of lung cancer, in 1965.

She began as an R&B singer but later gravitated toward the smooth pop and jazz standards that her father loved.

## AlumNow: Asking Questions Leads Skyline Grad To A Broadcast Journalism Career

Asking questions has always been part of Kacinda Crump's DNA from an early age. Today, this Skyline High School graduate (1989), is putting that natural inclination to work as a producer for the 10 p.m. newscast at FOX 4. AlumNow, the Hub feature that profiles Dallas ISD alumni, checked in with Crump for an update.

**What are you doing now?** I'm a television news producer with KDFW-TV FOX 4.

Briefly list a few of your career and/or personal highlights.

Alabama Associated Press Awards Best Newscast 1998 &1999

**What was your favorite subject or activity/involvement in high school?** Journalism (newspaper & yearbook staff) because I was allowed to question my classmates during interviews and I'm naturally inquisitive.

**Who was your favorite teacher?** Mr. James Huggins, 10th-grade science, because he took time out with

students to make sure we individually understood the lesson and Mrs. Shirley Black, 5th-grade language arts-she was no nonsense, strict, but fair.

**What lesson did you learn in high school or beyond that has served you well through the years?**

**Become as well rounded as possible; it will give you options in case your original plans don't work out!**

**What advice, if any, would you offer to high school students today?**

Start strong, and work hard; it determines how you will start off your college career.

College/University and degree earned: The University of North Texas, 1993.



**AlumNow!**  
DALLAS ISD ALUMNI PROFILE

Kacinda Crump  
Journalist, KDFW-TV Fox 4  
Skyline High School  
Class of 1989



# Dallas: Too Busy Growing To Hate!



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**A Little Bit of Faith: Show Love**

By Colleen White

Sometimes as Christians, we can be a little smug if we are able to quote scripture at the drop of a dime, or we feel as though we are in the right about something thus we are unable to have compassion for the other person, we are not showing Christ-like love. However, this is not how we are supposed to be. In the book of Corinthians it says, "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2).

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

**EDITORIAL PAGE****The Transformative Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 2016**

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
NNPA News Wire  
Columnist

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**Credo of The Black Press**

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.

There is no debate concerning the irrefutable fact that The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the greatest leaders recognized, admired and affirmed by millions of people across America and throughout the world. King's activism and leadership changed America and the world, as did Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela in their respective global impacts.

As we prepare to celebrate the 87th birthday of Dr. King as part the official federal holiday celebrations, I believe it is very important to focus on how Dr. King's legacy today is still relevant and transformative for all people who cry out for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a devoted man of faith and a committed freedom fighter for the establishment and building of "The Beloved Community." Dr. King was clear about the ultimate goal of the Civil Rights Movement. His vision went beyond changing laws and winning victories against the forces of injustice and repression. Social change for Dr. King was not an abstraction or just a dream or an unreachable goal, but it was a realistic, achievable and tangible outcome of the struggle for freedom and

equality: "The Beloved Community"

In his own words, King emphasized, "The nonviolent resister must often express his protest through noncooperation or boycotts, but non-cooperation and boycotts are not ends themselves; they are merely means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent. The end is redemption and reconciliation. The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness."

Today, in the bold tradition of Martin Luther King, Jr., we salute the Black Lives Matter movement. It is being led by young, gifted, talented and courageous activists, who are using nonviolent civil disobedience anew to challenge racial injustice and the wanton police violence and murders that have become too frequent against Black Americans and others.

But today we must also assert in King's transformative tradition that "All Black Lives Matter!" In other words, yes we have to stand up effectively against police brutality and prosecutorial misconduct. Yes, we urgently have to reform the criminal justice system in its totality. Yet, we must also stand up effectively with our activism to stop the self-destructive violence and murders that too many of us perpetrate on each other in our own families and communities.

In principle and in faith, the truth is we have to be against all forms of violence and all forms of the destruction of humanity. There is no justification to take the life of another human being. It would be a gross contradiction to everything Dr. King worked and sacrificed for if we remained silent about the surge in self-destructive gun violence that prevails today in too many of our

communities.

Reconciliation for Dr. King was not reconciling or compromising to leave injustice or racial bigotry in place. However reconciliation was the active and involved process that resulted in specific social transformation that inured benefits to all people. The success of the Civil Rights Movement under Dr. King's leadership not only benefited Black America, but also the success of this movement for change provided benefits to all people.

King never suspended his faith in the God of justice and liberation. He refused to bend his principles and beliefs on the effectiveness of nonviolent social change activism and multiracial movement building. The organization of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) by Dr. King and other Black church leaders was a prophetic step forward that kept the Black church in America at the forefront of the battle for civil rights and human rights. King was an intellectual genius who stood on the universal theological principles of the oneness of God and the oneness of all humanity.

In my younger years, I personally worked with Dr. King, Golden Frinks and Milton Fitch in the North Carolina SCLC. I witnessed firsthand how Dr. King transformed and inspired the consciousness of people to believe and exert a grassroots power to promote social change. We could use that kind of grassroots power today to get a massive voter turnout.

Dr. King was not a "weak" leader who sought to appease or to entertain the powerful in the high places and principalities of oppression. Martin Luther King, Jr. was in complete solidarity with the poor and marginalized, but yet determined to end poverty and injustice

wherever those evils were manifested.

Thus, we should also revisit Dr. King's economic justice demands. It is my opinion that if Dr. King were alive today he would be encouraging "principled youth entrepreneurial development." Participating in the U.S. economy as business owners that help to financially sustain our communities should be a priority.

In his last public speech on April 3, 1968 on the night before his tragic assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, without fear Dr. King asserted, "The nation is sick; trouble is in the land, confusion all around... But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. And I see God working in this period of the twentieth century. Something is happening in our world. The masses of people are rising up. And wherever they are assembled today, whether they are in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; or Memphis, Tennessee, the cry is always the same: 'We want to be free.'"

In 2016, "We want to be free!" We want an end to racial injustice and all manifestations of inequity and inequality. But we realize from the living legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. that we all should remain vigilant and active. Let's keep Dr. King's transformative legacy alive and vibrant with renewed energy and support.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjamin-chavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>.

**Blackonomics: Black Consciousness vs. Christianity - Part Two**

By James Clingman  
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Again, this is not an attempt to proselytize or to shape your thinking regarding religion or spirituality. Rather, this is an attempt to delve into a subject that is often brought up among Black folks and used to separate us instead of bring us together around practical economic/public policy solutions.

By example, in 1843, Christian minister and abolitionist Henry Highland Garnet, gave an inspirational speech that shocked the delegates of the National Negro Convention. Known as the "Call to Rebellion" speech, in which Garnet encouraged slaves to turn against their masters.

"Neither god, nor angels, or just men, command you to suffer for a single moment," said Garnet. "Therefore it is your solemn and imperative duty to use every means, both moral, intellectual, and physical that promises success."

In response, Frederick Douglass spoke out against the speech to the convention. Garnet responded to Douglass' rejoinder, but the

convention did not sanction Garnet's approach to abolition. To misunderstand the message here is to fall into that same trap of divisiveness; this is an attempt to build a bridge between "conscious" Blacks and Black Christians.

Can one be a Christian and also have a Black consciousness? This does not simply mean giving fiery sermons on Black consciousness, but having no track record of doing anything to back up the rhetoric. It means doing the work that comes with being conscious. Last week's column cited Garvey's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words to illustrate their Black/Christian consciousness rhetoric, but they also have a voluminous record of working, according to their beliefs in both areas.

Too often we get so deep into Black Christian/Black Consciousness conversations and fail to get to the work of either. Seems some of us are convinced that it has to be either or. We can choose to be one or the other, but we can also choose to be both. My contention is that we can get the maximum from both camps, not by arguing or putting one another down, but by marshaling our forces for our collective economic and political benefit.

Here is a cross-section of three contemporary "Conscious/Christian" individuals. Father George Clements, the Chicago based Catholic Priest who founded the One Church-One Child program in the 1980's and then moved on

to become an integral part

of the MATAH Network, the only Black-owned and operated distribution network. Father Clements never compromised his Christian beliefs and yet has always stood strong in his own Black consciousness.

Richard A. Rose, a Church of Christ Minister in Cincinnati, Ohio, now retired. I have seen, firsthand, his dedication to Christian principles; and through conversations about his childhood I learned about Rose's Black consciousness, the most outstanding act of which took place during the planning and construction a new church building. Rose insisted on hiring a Black architect and then a Black builder to do the work. Imagine our collective economic benefit if all contracts to build Black churches were awarded to Black architectural and construction firms.

Then, there is Jonathan Weaver, an A.M.E. Pastor in Bowie, Maryland. Also a Harvard Business School graduate, he has such an extraordinarily high level of Black/Christian consciousness, and he uses it to teach about economic empowerment by inter-weaving relevant economic information into his sermons. Weaver has demonstrated the power of Black Conscious Christianity via establishing and working for twenty years now with the Collective Empowerment Group (CEG).

Other unapologetic Black Conscious Christians, like D.C. Pastor, Willie Wilson, stress and do the work of empowerment; they understand that, as Booker T.

Washington said, "Not everyone goes to church, but everyone goes to business."

Likewise, there are many non-Christians with what I call an "active" level of Black consciousness, who far exceed the work of some of our most noted Christian leaders, many of whom are only interested in their own self-aggrandizement and "prosperity."

Imagine the progress we would make if we combined these groups' efforts. Howard Thurman said, "What, then, is the word of the religion of Jesus to those who stand with their backs against the wall? ... They must recognize fear, deception, and hatred, each for what it is. Once having done this, they must learn how to destroy these or to render themselves immune to their domination."

"James Cone and the theologians of Black Consciousness in South Africa agreed that White missionaries had preached a form of Christianity that helped to sustain racist and colonialist oppression... But this was not the fault of the Gospel itself; it had resulted rather from an interpretation of it that served the selfish interests and sinful appetites of Europeans." Black Power to Black Consciousness, University of California Press

Marcus Garvey's words, referring to the "injunction of Acts 17:26," said "If Negroes are Black, and Negroes are created in God's own image, then God must in some sense be Black."

It's time for the "Collection." Say, "Ashe" or "Amen."

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY

DALLAS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROGRAM HOSTS MONTHLY LEGAL CLINICS FOR DALLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS

In the month of January, the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, will hold 10 free Legal Clinics for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines. All clinics begin at 5:00 p.m., with the exception of the Veteran's Clinic, which begins at 2:00 p.m.

Schedules and locations are as follows:  
East Dallas (Grace United Methodist Church-4105 Junius at Haskell)  
Thursdays, January 7; and January 21

South Dallas (Martin Luther King, Jr. Center-2922 MLK Blvd., Room 122)  
Tuesdays, January 5; January 12; and January 26

West Dallas (3107 N. Winnetka Dallas, TX 75212)  
Thursdays, January 14; and January 28

Garrison (Salvation Army-457 W. Avenue D, Garland, TX 75040)

Thursday, January 21

Friendship West Baptist Church (2020 West Wheatland Rd., Dallas, TX

75232)  
Wednesday, January 20  
St. Phillip's Community Center (1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas, TX 75215)  
Tuesday, January 19

The clinics offer free legal advice and consultation in civil matters for those who qualify under Legal Aid's income eligibility guidelines. Applicants are asked to bring proof of income, identification, legal papers, etc. with them to the clinic. For more information, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/>. For media inquiries about these clinics, contact DVAP Managing Attorney Michelle Alden at (214) 243-2234.

## Dallas ISD provides video and FAQ about the new open carry law

The Dallas Independent School District is providing the public with helpful information about what impact, if any, the new open carry law will have on its schools.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the new open carry law and Dallas ISD. In addition, Dallas ISD has created a public service announcement - "Schools Are Gun Free Zones" - in English and Spanish.

How will the firearm law impact Dallas ISD?

It remains illegal under the new law for a licensed gun holder to bring their firearm onto school property. This means, for example, it remains illegal for a parent to carry their firearm as he or she walks their child on campus

property up to the front door of the school. It is also still illegal for a licensed gun holder, including a teacher, to bring a firearm into a school.

Will it still be illegal to bring a firearm to a school function?

Yes. It is still illegal for a licensed gun holder to carry a firearm to school or district functions such as sporting events, field trips, or board meetings.

Will there be information posted at schools about the new open carry law?

Yes. Every Dallas ISD

school will have two new large signs stating that even though the new open carry law is in effect, a licensed gun holder is still prohibited from entering a school with a firearm.

Why will it still be illegal under the new law for a licensed gun holder to carry a firearm on school property?

The new law does not replace the existing Texas Penal Code Section 46.03, which states that a person commits an offense if the person carries a firearm "on the physical premises of a school or educational institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or educational institution."

Anyone with further questions can call the Dallas ISD Police Department at 972-749-2300.

## Dallas Public Library hosts first Teen Film Festival

Dallas - High school students age 14 to 18 are invited to enter the Dallas Public Library's Teen Film Festival.

All entries must be filmed entirely on a cellphone and relate to the question "How has technology affected your life in your community?" Films should be under three minutes long, including end credits. Prizes will

include gift cards to the Angelika Theater, Photojojo Lens Set and a 16 GB iPad mini 2.

To enter, upload films to YouTube and email the video link by Jan. 27 to art@dallascityhall.com. Be sure to include the filmmaker's name, age, and high school. Judges will select first, second and third place

winners with honorable mention going to the best short made by a filmmaker age 14 to 15.

Films selected for screening will be shown at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., first floor auditorium, from 2 to 5 p.m. Jan. 30

## A HIGHLY COMMENDABLE CHURCH I THESSALONIANS 1:1-10



ful model for our present congregations.

Paul had fond memories of this exemplary church because of their spiritual successes in verse 3. First, he remembered their work of faith. They exhibited a vibrant trust in God. Second, he remembered their labor of love. They actively served others. Third, he remembered their patience of hope. They remained steadfast as they anticipated the Second Coming of our blessed Lord. Certainly, this church should be commended for exhibiting these worthy virtues. So, according to verse 3, this church was to be commended because it was a worthy church. Because of their spiritual successes, in verse 3, Paul was assured that the believers were among the elect of God in verse 4.

In verses 5-6, despite the believers being persecuted for their belief, they received the gospel with joy of the Holy Spirit. They could readily receive the gospel because Paul and co-workers' preach-

ing among them was supported by their honest report. It has been often said: "I'd rather see a sermon lived than preached." Our message among others must be backed by a life of purity. Preaching and a pure life is a powerful testimony! What we preach must be backed with a life of practice. In other words, practice what you preach. In verses 7-9, this church in Thessalonica was truly exemplary for she became a model for other believers in Macedonia and Achaia. This church was especially noted for being a witnessing church. The church at Thessalonica shared their faith. The faith of these believers had spread, for it had been reported that these believers had turned from idols to serve the living and true God (v. 9).

Not only was this commendable church a worthy church (vs. 3-6), and a witnessing church (vs. 7-9), but it was a waiting church (v. 10). Although these believers were quite active in service, they waited with a sure hope

of the coming of Christ from heaven. Notice that the object of their wait is Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of their afflictions because of their faith, they waited on the One who died but rose triumphantly for them. They could wait because their faith was rooted; their love was vibrant; and their hope was sure.

Jesus Christ, the object of our wait, gives us blessed assurance. I know that He is coming back for His church because the word of God says so. In the midst of your faith being tried, we have the blessed assurance that He is coming back, for St. John 14:1-3 says - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." May God bless!

## The Dallas Post Tribune Prayer List

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Mr. & Mrs. Ball  
The Baylor Ball  
Mr. Jimmy Ball  
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Mrs. Gwen Brewer  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown  
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Mrs. Adrienne D. Carr  
Mrs. Alavastine Carr  
Mr. & Mrs. James Carr & Kids  
E. Lee  
Mr. Terry & Mrs. Runnette  
Umber & Families  
Camp Wisdom Church Family  
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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Service 9:00 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 Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

Bible Class 11:00 a.m.

## ST. PAUL AME CHURCH

2300 Metroplex Ave Dallas, Texas 75215

214-421-1344

www.spacdc.org

## Services

Church Sunday School 8:30 a.m.

Morning Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Additional Services available during the week for more information visit www.spacdc.org or call 214-421-1344

## Friendship West Baptist Church

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

Dr. Frederick G. Raynes, III - Senior Pastor

Rev. James C. Hayes, Jr. - Associate Pastor



# SPORTS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, January 7

Friday, January 8

Saturday, January 9

Sunday, January 10

Monday, January 11

Tuesday, January 12

Wednesday, January 13

H-66°  
L-45°H-68°  
L-43°H-48°  
L-31°H-42°  
L-28°H-42°  
L-31°H-50°  
L-38°H-54°  
L-38°

### Finding Romo's No. 2 is Cowboys' Top Priority



(AP)- Backup quarterback wasn't on the list of needs a year ago when Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones thought he had maybe his best offseason. Tony Romo's No. 2 is the top priority now after Romo missed 12 games with a twice-broken left collarbone in a first-to-worst season of 4-12.

It was the biggest drop-off in wins in franchise history following a 12-4 year that included the NFC East title, a playoff win and Jones' belief that he addressed the biggest weaknesses - pass rushing was the most glaring - coming out of a divisional-round loss to Green Bay.

"I'm just really taken aback by the fact that we're sitting here with four wins after this year," Jones said following the Cowboys' worst season since a 1-15 showing in 1989, the year he bought the team. "Last year you guys made me executive of the year. This year, I'm on my way out."

Well, that's an exaggeration because Jones has always said he won't fire himself as GM. But the reality is that three different quarterbacks - incumbent Brandon Weeden, followed by in-season additions Matt Cassel and Kellen Moore - went 1-11 starting in place of Romo.

There are three ways Jones can go at quarterback:

A commitment to the future through the No. 4 pick in the draft, although that's pretty high considering the 35-year-old Romo has at least two years left before salary cap considerations make it reasonable to move on without him.

A veteran along the lines of former Cowboys Jon Kitna and Kyle Orton, who was paid \$3 million per year for two years as Romo's backup before forcing his way out so he could start in Buffalo. Weeden's base salary was just \$660,000 this season.

A former first-round pick who flamed out early in his first stop, which was the case with Weeden. Yes, this could bring former Texas college stars Johnny Manziel (Cleveland via Texas A&M) and Robert Griffin III (Washington via Baylor) into play.

Things to consider with the Cowboys potentially drafting the highest they have since taking Hall of Famer and three-time Super Bowl winner Troy Aikman No. 1 overall in 1989:

The Hardy question: Jones and coach Jason Garrett were noncommittal on the potential return of defensive end Greg Hardy. He started quickly after his four-game suspension over his domestic violence case, but was quiet late in the season.

Rest of the rushers: If Hardy doesn't return and the Cowboys don't go after another free agent, they will be looking for an elite rusher among a handful of younger players. Second-year end DeMarcus Lawrence had seven sacks in the final eight games and finished with a team-best eight.

Replacing Murray: Darren McFadden turned out to be a solid replacement for 2014 NFL rushing king DeMarco Murray, who went to Philadelphia in free agency. McFadden played all 16 games for the second straight season after battling injuries his first six years, getting the second 1,000-yard season of his career.

Secondary changes: Starting cornerbacks Brandon Carr and Morris Claiborne didn't have an interception; it was the second straight year without one for Carr. With Orlando Scandrick returning after missing all of 2015 with a knee injury, it seems unlikely Carr and Claiborne will return.

Linebacker shuffle: Sean Lee might have to move back to the middle if the Cowboys don't bring back enigmatic veteran Rolando McClain. Lee led the Cowboys in tackles for the first time since 2011, but the injury question will always hang over him.

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## We Must Stop Gun Violence

*Continued from Page 1A*

The president was brought to tears when he spoke about the 22 elementary school children who were killed in a mass shooting while sitting in their classroom in their school in Sandy Hook, Connecticut in 2012. The father of two young girls, Obama knows the pain that the loss of a child can cause.

"Every time I think about those kids, it

gets me mad," he said. And by the way, it happens on the streets of Chicago every day." The president said that every shooting could not be stopped but that one act of evil or a senseless shooting could be stopped if the American people decided to act.

I urge all Americans to write, call, email and fax their Congress members, their Senators and the

White House, letting them know that you support the moves being made by President Obama. These lawmakers need to know that we are repulsed with the continued violence that has made all of us prisoners in our homes after dark, afraid to venture out because we might encounter a madman with a gun.

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## United We Stand... Divided We Fall!!

*This media has called for unity and togetherness for the last decade, hoping to reach the goal of a better society.*

At this time in history, it is imperative that **HISPANICS, BLACKS, WHITES** and all races work together to accomplish a sense of unity. For several years, this media has called for the togetherness of all people -- **WHITE, BLACK, BROWN, ETC.**

As members of a civilized society, our mission must be to motivate, educate and elevate all people. **WHITES, BLACKS, HISPANICS, NATIVE AMERICANS** and other minorities can no longer afford to be divided. All must equally be given an opportunity to elevate themselves. **So, the cry is neither BLACK nor WHITE, rather, it is for the right.** Studies have revealed that it is not the Black race that dominates the welfare rolls, nor is it the Blacks with the highest percentage of social diseases. Let us not fall prey to the propaganda that Blacks alone are in need of rising from the ashes of despair. All races must improve their social and educational status.

Facing the complexities of the Twenty-First Century, our beloved country can no longer be about seclusion, separation and segregation. This country was founded on the right to be free in speech, assembly, education and religion, and on that premise the United States of America emerged into a strong country, but, the country is now threatened from within because of the spirit of division. With the percentage of Blacks and other minorities projected to dominate the workforce during the next decade, we need to start now to prepare people who can compete. If that potential workforce is denied access to education and the mainstream, how then can we expect to keep America secure, prosperous and stable? Too much is at stake. We can no longer afford to be divided. The economic, education and social pie must be shared -- not only as a matter of justice, but of necessity. While there is no strength in the division of a country, there is a mighty fortress in a country united. Does it not make good sense to strive to live together in harmony for the safety and success of us all? Our national security demands it. United we will stand, but divided, we shall ultimately fall.



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## PAULA WATKINS: FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOUNDER



For more than 30 years, Dr. Paula Watkins has spent her professional career focusing on improving the student achievement gap in the core academic areas of mathematics, writing, reading and languages for school districts in the State of Michigan. Realizing that every facet of the education process from recalibrating the learning environment to staffing, administration, managing governance, updating curriculum, instruction and analyzing testing metrics, Watkins has found all of these elements crucial and a fundamental

framework for academic excellence. Watkins previously worked as CEO of Vision Education Center, an Education Management Organization for several charter schools in the Michigan areas. Watkins received her PhD from Oakland University.

So, when Watkins learned several years ago, the State of Michigan had expanded the Charter School legislation to include virtual education, she knew that finally after researching and studying methods for distance learning, coupled with core strategies for academic success at brick and mortar institutions, it was a perfect time for her company to put their knowledge in place to create a technological infrastructure. Virtual Schools are full time online schools of choice options that deliver all curriculum and instruction via the internet. Online charter enrollment has more than quadrupled since the Michigan law went into effect, demonstrating the allure of cyber schools for some Michigan students.

According to the National Education Policy Center, in 2011 there were approximately 320 virtual school sites in the United States.

Today, Dr. Watkins is CEO of The Cyber Education Academy located in Redford, MI., making her the first African American female and founder of a Virtual Education institution in the United States. "Our goals are to improve the graduation rates of urban, suburban and rural children and we have recognized that in order for us to improve these statistics educators have to look at intervention strategies. The Cyber Education Center provides an option for students. We are graduating students."

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