THE WASHINGTON
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▲ *President Barack Obama addresses the nation as Vice President Joe Biden and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan listen. / Photo courtesy of Khalid Naji-Allah*

Obama Calls for a United Nation

Final State of the Union Address Comes at Time of Fear, Divisions

By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor

President Barack Obama delivered his final State of the Union address on Tuesday, Jan. 12, speaking to Americans who have increased fears of terrorism and feelings of anger due to a Congress that has been more dysfunctional than effective during his two terms in office.

In addition, the president attempted to remain focused, communicating a message of hope and unity despite being in the throes of an election season that has been rift of vitriolic statements from Republican candidates who hope to regain control of the presidency.

The White House, prior to his comments, indicated that Obama would give a "non-traditional" speech that would go above the "day-to-day noise of Washington," honoring our long-time ability to live, work and play as "one American family."

Unfortunately, despite his campaign slogan that emphasized our ability to work together even in the face of differences, the president has been confounded on every front by a Republican-controlled House and Senate.

Still, he refused to allow any personal disappointments impact his message, taking full advantage of one of his last and best opportunities to address the nation and to provide a framework for November's presidential election.

The president spoke to several issues including guns, immigration reform and refugees from the Middle East. And even with the U.S. coming off of one of its best years for job creation since the 1990s, Americans remain deeply concerned about personal finances, not to mention national security.

"The majority of people in this country are a lot more sensible than what you see in Washington,"

UNION *Page 11*

Poll: Council Seat Gray's for the Taking

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

If Vincent Gray wants a second go around in District politics, voters are poised to grant the former mayor's wishes.

A new poll just released by the North Carolina polling firm Public Policy Polling, revealed that among African-American voters Gray has the highest favorable rating of all elected officials.

Currently, Gray's favorable rating among Blacks is 57 percent, while Muriel Bowser, who beat Gray in the 2014 mayoral race, holds a 53 percent favorable rating and At-Large Councilman Vincent Orange stands at 44 percent.

That's a key figure since Gray is contemplating a run for either Orange's seat or that of Yvette Alexander in Ward 7.

GRAY *Page 9*

Metro Faces Lawsuits One Year after Smoke Incident

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

Dennean Baker wiped tears from her face Tuesday, Jan. 12 as she recalled the tragedy she and hundreds of others encountered one year ago after smoke filled a Metro train at the L'Enfant Plaza Metro station in Southwest.

Baker and 86 others who claim they suffered physical and mental anguish plan to sue Metro for its lack of compassion and negligence and will seek financial compensation from their injuries on that fateful day Jan. 12, 2015.

Baker sat alongside former passenger Jonathan Rogers and their two attorneys during a press conference at the National Press Club in Northwest to formally announce the filing of lawsuits against Metro on the one-year anniversary of that incident. Carol Glover, 61, of Alexandria, Virginia, was the only person who

METRO SUITS *Page 11*



▲ *Millions of Americans, along with others around the world, will celebrate the birth of the Rev.Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (born Jan. 15th) on Monday, Jan. 18. Scores of citizens will participate in events that will include marches, forums, debates and musical tributes all paying homage to the leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Here in the District, many will take part in the 10th Annual MLK Walk & Parade, a signature Washington Informer-sponsored celebration. In addition, The Washington Informer will include a supplement in next week's edition, highlighting events from the week that honored Dr. King. / Courtesy photo*

Social Sightings Is Everywhere!
The CoLumn
By Dr. Charles Vincent & "Mickey" Thompson Vincent





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Safeway Makes Food Donation to Capital Area Food Bank



Craig Muckle
Safeway Mgr. of Public Affairs & Govt. Relations for the Eastern Div. Office Safeway, Inc.

Safeway's Eastern Division, represented by Craig Muckle (Safeway Mgr. of Public Affairs & Govt. Relations) & Steve Burnham (Division President), delivered five truckloads of food to the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, DC. Nancy Roman (President and CEO) was on hand to receive their donation. This holiday season, Safeway donated nearly $950,000 of food. In early December, Safeway also donated 510 cases of turkeys, 1,957 cases of produce and 1,157 cases of assorted meats and other products. Meeting its commitment to good food and wellness, The Capital Area Food Bank provides meals to 12% of the Washington metro area population. Also representing Safeway were: Stacy Brown (VP Gov. Aff & Legal Counsel), Tom Lofland (VP Mkt & Merchandising).
For further information contact: Craig.muckle@safeway.com



Jack Jacobs, Craig Muckle, Stacy Brown, Nancy Roman & Steve Burnham



Nancy Roman
CAFB President



Capital Area Food Bank Representatives & Workers with Safeway Eastern Area Division Representatives



Shamia Holloway (Communications & Event Mgr.) & Christel Allen Hair (Sr. Dir. of Strategic Partnerships & Comm. Engagement)

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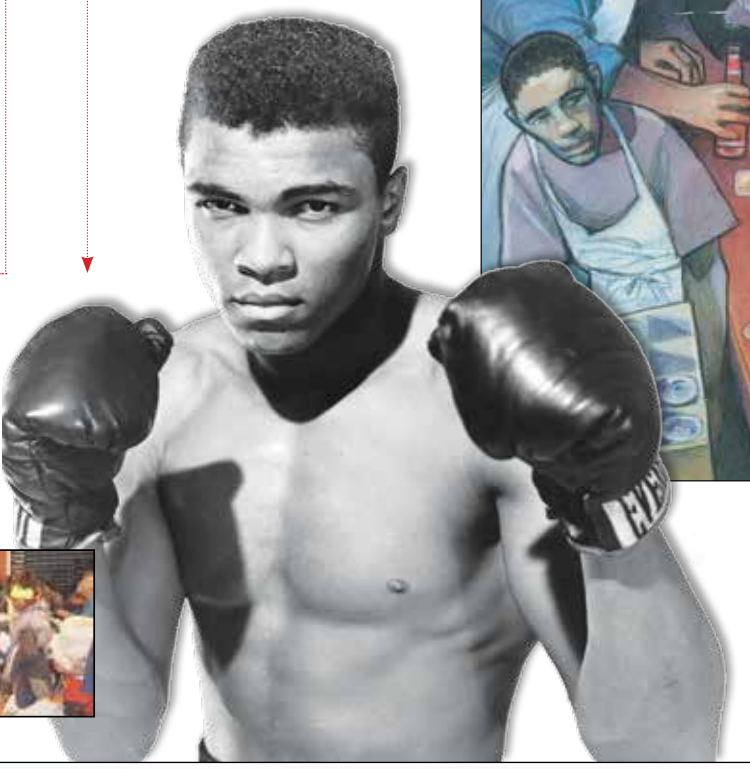
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10th ANNUAL MLK PEACE WALK & PARADE
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016

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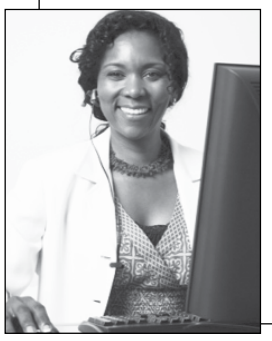
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WI HOT TOPICS

COMPILED BY D. KEVIN MCNEIR / WI EDITOR

Redline Sports Bar Faces Discrimination Lawsuit



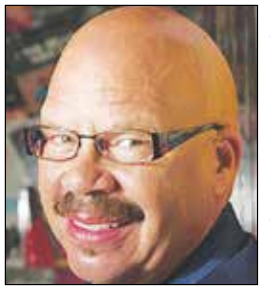
Proceedings have been postponed by Judge Reggie Walton in a D.C. federal courtroom in a civil rights case based on allegations from one former Redline Sports Bar employee, Briggitta Hardin, who claims that the Chinatown venue "implemented discriminatory policies" that denied employment and even patronage to Blacks.

Hardin's complaint, first filed in November 2011, says she was hired and subsequently fired after meeting the restaurant's owner, Mick Dadlani, on the basis of her skin color.

In their answer to Hardin's complaint, filed in February 2012, Dadlani and Redline deny the allegations.

In an email to The Washingtonian, who first brought the story to light, the attorney for Redline said, "As the litigation is pending, we cannot respond to any of the specific factual allegations," said Sundeep Hora. "Mr. Dadlani and Redline are pleased that they will finally be able to respond to the allegations in the Complaint and put this lawsuit behind them."

Tom Joyner to Move to AM Station



Radio legend and the first Black nationally syndicated host, Tom Joyner, 65, will be moving from 102.3 FM to WOL, 1450 on the AM dial.

Radio One, owner of both stations, will bring syndicated host Russ Parr, 56, into Joyner's time slot in the District and Baltimore, beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

In earlier reports, some believed that Joyner was being forced into early retirement in order to make room for younger talent. But as we all know, Joyner, whose long-running "Tom Joyner Morning Show," has an extensive fan base, is far from being ready to begin sitting on beaches and sipping on colas.

In addition, Joyner remains under contract with Reach Media until the end of 2017.

A spokesperson for Reach Media said, "There have always been refinements and updates to the show, as well as market changes due to local conditions, and there may be some in the future; but Tom Joyner and the Tom Joyner Morning Show continues to be strong and is a daily party with a purpose. Reach is committed to Tom Joyner for the long term who remains committed to radio, his audience and the future."

No matter where Joyner goes, one thing is certain – those who have grown up listening to "The Fly Jock" will continue to support and enjoy his unique style, along with his co-hosts that include Sybil Wilkes and J. Anthony Brown.

Alfred Street Baptist Donates $1M to Black Museum



Historic Black Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, recently announced plans to donate $1 million to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture. They were joined by Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture along with the Rev. Howard-John Wesley, pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church, Patricia Johnson, chair of the ASBC Deacon Board and James McNeil, chair of the ASBC Board of Trustees during a ceremony during which the check was presented.

Alfred Street Baptist Church traces its history back to the early 1800s.

Their pastor spoke admirably about his church.

"ASBC has always been a leader in community outreach and missions within the faith-based community," Wesley said.

He noted that this is the first time a faith-based organization had donated $1 million to the Smithsonian.

Washington Auto Show, Red Cross to Host Military Tribute Day



In honor of the dedicated service of U.S. troops, The Washington Auto Show® will host Military Tribute Day, presented by Audi of America, on Tuesday, January 26. Produced by the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA), the Auto Show will offer free admission to all active-duty military and veterans who present a valid military ID or DD214 and photo ID.

In addition to free admission, Military Tribute Day will feature education and outreach of military special services by the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region. The Red Cross' Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) program dates back to the establishment of the American Red Cross by Clara Barton in May 1881. Today's American Red Cross workers proudly carry on this tradition through the SAF program, which serves as a critical line of communication between the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

The 2016 Washington Auto Show is open to the public from January 22-January 31 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

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Mayor Bowser Holds Herself Accountable

Nine-of-131 Campaign Promises Accomplished

By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer
@dreamersexpress

Inspired by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Accountability Report, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser released a similar summary to show what her administration has acted on from her campaign promises more than a year ago.

Bowser along with a Transition Committee, Cabinet members and other stakeholders noted which goals are done, launched, to launch, not done or have been reconsidered on Monday, Jan. 11 at the Kellogg Conference Center in Northeast.

"When I was elected, I pledged to put District residents first and to help our great city reach its full potential," Bowser said. "I am proud of our first year in office. We laid the groundwork and positioned the District for future growth and prosperity."

In the year since being inaugurated, nine of the mayor's 131 campaign promises have been completed, 94 have been launched and are currently being implemented and 18 are in the planning phases.

"Fourteen months ago we promised a fresh start and pledged to create a pathway to the middle class," Bowser said.

She asserts that she set the stage for a successful first year with a budget engagement that gave residents input on how funds would be spent through citywide town halls.

"Last year we closed a 192 million budget gap," Bowser said. "One hundred million went to affordable housing and $145 million was used as our down payment to end homelessness."

The mayor touts that examples of promises that have been completed include: recruiting a highly-experienced Fire & Emergency Medical Services Chief Gregory Dean; launching the Office of Public-Private Partnerships; and creating the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity.

"One of the things that we have said from the beginning is that we will invest in all eight Wards," Bowser said. "We have made the single biggest investment in Ward 8, dare I say in the history of our city."

Other campaign promises on which she has made good include Kids Ride Free on Rail that allows District youth, five to 21, who attend public school to get to and from school and to school-related events for free.

The mayor said this program stands as another example of her mission for pathways to the middle class, as well as giving those families striving to the middle class a break.

"Many Washingtonians love the progress D.C. is making, but they're anxious as to where they fit in," Bowser said.

Bowser also declared an overhaul on the city's Crime Lab, success of Alleypalooza and the District's delegation to China last year as high points of her accountability report.

Another proud accomplishment for the mayor included extending the ages of participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program [SYEP] to 22 - 24.

"The expansion of SYEP from 22 through 24 has made a significant difference especially for those who are vulnerable," said Courtney Snowden, Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity. "This office the mayor created is to help expand prosperity in neighborhoods that have been overlooked."

Snowden contends that programs such as The L.E.A.P. Academy and Launch D.C. have helped indigent District residents forge a new path.

"We've seen more than 100 people go through the L.E.A.P. program, and secure jobs for themselves," she said. "This is also a part of our crime prevention program. You don't have time to go commit crime if you have a job."

Even with an overwhelmingly positive accountability report, Bowser insists she remains focused on creating jobs for residents.

"We will continue to build a better, stronger government that is responsive to the needs of our hardworking and passionate residents," Bowser said. "Our promise is that every District resident – across all eight wards, and in every corner of this city – deserve a highly-effective and innovative government." **WI**



▲ *D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser shares her first annual Accountability Report with the audience during a press conference on Monday, Jan. 11 at the Kellogg Center at Galludet University in Northeast. / Photo by Patricia Little*

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WEEK OF JAN. 14 TO JAN. 20

Black Facts

JAN. 7

1873 – P B S Pinchback was elected to Senate.
1878 – The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that race separation on trains unconstitutional.
1895 – Blacks organized the National Steamboat Company in Washington, D.C. The company sailed a steamboat, the "George Leary," between DC and Norfolk, Virginia.
1907 – An earthquake hit the island of Kingston, Jamaica with a magnitude of 6.5 damaging every building and taking over 1,000 lives.
1930 – Ernest Just becomes vice president of the American Association of Zoologists. Just was perhaps the most noted Black zoologist in American history. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, he was a brilliant student who graduated from Dartmouth magna cum laude. He taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C. for years and helped a group of students organize the Black Greek letter fraternity – Omega Psi Phi. Just died in 1941 of pancreatic cancer.

JAN. 15

1908 – Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc., the first Greek-lettered African-American sorority was founded on Howard University's campus in Washington, D.C.
1929 – Martin Luther King Jr., was born on this day in 1929. He first rose to national prominence as the country's premier civil rights leader when he successfully led the Montgomery bus boycott.



1961 – One of the original super groups – **The Supremes** – signs with Black record company Motown on this day in 1961. The name was later changed to Diana Ross and the Supremes and the R&B singers rocked to international fame.
1998 – James Farmer receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award a citizen can receive.

JAN. 16

1901 – Hiram R. Revels, the first African American elected to the United States Senate, dies on this day in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Revels, a politician, minister and educator was of Black and Cherokee decent.
1941 – The first Army Corps Squadron of Black combat pilots, Tuskegee Airmen, was formed.
1950 – Dancer-producer **Debbie Allen** is born on this day in Houston, Texas.
1974 – Boxing champion **Muhammad Ali** named the Associated Press Athelete of the Year.

JAN. 17

1927 – Multi-lingual singer, dancer, and actress **Eartha Kitt** is born in a small plantation town called North, South Carolina. Kitt died December 2008 at the age of 81.
1942 – Muhammad Ali born this day.

JAN. 18

1856 – Daniel Hale Williams is born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. He becomes a pioneering surgeon and is generally credited with performing the first open heart surgery.
1973 – Political analyst, civil rights activist **Ben Jealous** is born.
1989 – The Temptations, Otis Redding, Stevie Wonder, and Bessie Smith were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
1990 – D.C. Mayor Marion Barry was arrested for drug possession in an FBI sting.
2006 – Theodore McMillian passed away. He was the 1st African American to serve on the Missouri Court of Appeals, and the 1st African American to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

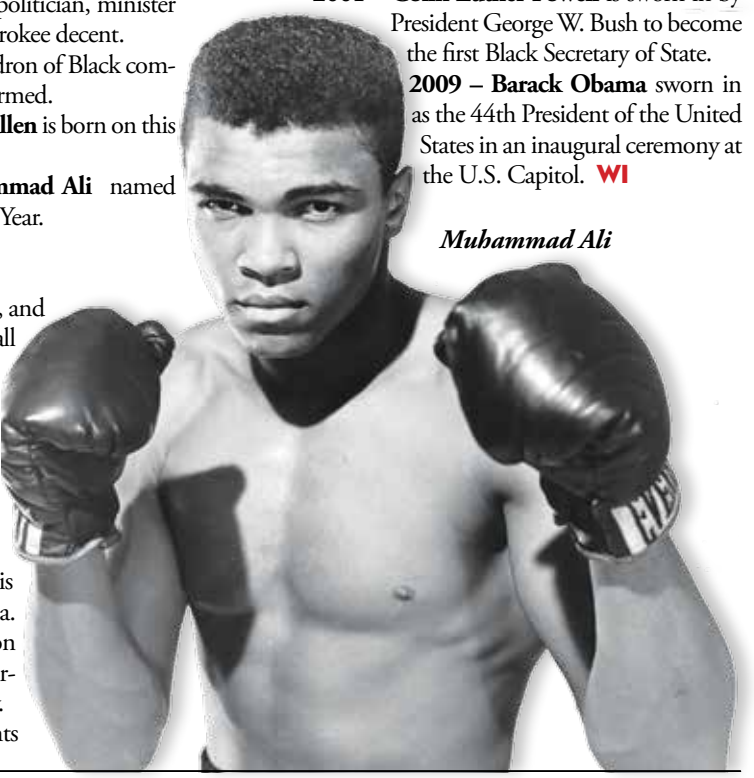


JAN. 19

1918 – The founder of Ebony and Jet magazines, **John H. Johnson**, is born on this day in rural Arkansas City, Arkansas. Shortly after the death of his father, Johnson's mother moved the family to Chicago where Johnson attended high school during the day and read self-help books at night laying the intellectual and motivational foundations for the eventual building of his publishing empire. Interestingly, among Johnson's classmates at Chicago's DuSable High School were Nate King Cole, Redd Foxx and future businessman William Abernathy. Johnson died in 2008. His wife Eunice Johnson died a year later.
1961 – The Professional Golfers Association Tour lifted its Whites-only clause.

JAN. 20

1900 – Black North Carolina Congressman **George H. White** introduced legislation to make lynching any American a federal crime. But opponents allowed the bill to die in committee and thus it never came up for a vote. It is estimated that 105 Blacks were lynched that year.
1947 – Josh Gibson, perhaps the most famous and outstanding athlete to play in the old Negro Baseball, League dies on this day in 1947.
1986 – The first national holiday in honor of civil rights legend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated.
2001 – Colin Luther Powell is sworn in by President George W. Bush to become the first Black Secretary of State.
2009 – Barack Obama sworn in as the 44th President of the United States in an inaugural ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. **WI**



Muhammad Ali

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY ELTON HAYES

VIEWPOINT

A GROUP OF ARMED MILITIA MEMBERS HAVE OCCUPIED FEDERAL PROPERTY IN OREGON TO PROTEST WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS LAND OVERREACH BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE MEDIA'S AND LAW ENFORCEMENT'S REACTION HAVE MADE SOME QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A DOUBLE STANDARD IN THE AUTHORITIES' HANDLING OF THE STANDOFF. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?



RODNEY SARAUW
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think that there definitely is a double standard in how the Bundy militia is portrayed, opposed to how protestors of different ethnicities would have been portrayed. I think the media would have handled it a different way and I think the police would have handled it a different way. I think it's unfair and it shows just how much of a double standard exists.



TRACI SARAUW
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think had this been people from a different background – such as people of color – they would have been treated differently by the Justice Department and the local law enforcement agencies in Oregon. I think the authorities' actions would be much harsher and they would have happened a lot sooner. I think the standoff would have ended by now and it would have resulted in the loss of lives.



JASON SNIPES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In general, I think the media's coverage of the Oregon standoff has been very biased. And it's crazy to see how the media doesn't call the militia members terrorists or hooligans or thugs. Meanwhile, if black folks in Ferguson, Missouri, would have shown up with semi-automatic weapons, they would have been dead. It's unfair. Law enforcement is actually reacting the way it should, by deescalating the situation and making sure that no one loses their life. I just wish we were afforded the same protections. It's a complete double standard and I don't think the media is giving it enough attention.



RUSSELL JONES
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

In Ferguson and Baltimore the police brought out the riot gear, yet the police officers in Oregon are shaking hands after meetings with the people in the militia. It doesn't make any sense. The media has covered it differently, as well. The folks in Oregon are referred to as members of a militia, while the protestors in Baltimore were called rioters and people with malicious intent. There is a double standard.



RASHAD BAILEY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think there's been a bias in the way the standoff has been covered. The people in Oregon's actions are being categorized as a civil liberties issue, rather than being categorized as violent acts. I can't imagine a group of Mexican farmers or Black Lives Matter protestors holding a town hostage with no intervention from state law enforcement. I think this is another example for us to reexamine how we look at different people and different situations, and learn to judge them fairly based on what is happening.



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DC Council Hears Proposal to Raise Traffic Fines



Ward 3 Council Member Mary Cheh chairs the Council Roundtable of the Committee on Transportation Friday, Jan. 8. / Photo by Nancy Shia

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

District residents, community and business leaders converged on City Hall where most voiced their dismay over a proposal some called "draconian" and "fiendish" that would increase a fine for excessive speeding to $1,000.

The council's transportation and environment committee held a nearly three-hour hearing at the John A. Wilson Building in Northwest to discuss the city's plan on traffic fines and safety measures, with the hot-button topic being a fine increase from $300 to $1,000 for motorists who exceed posted speed limits by at least 25 mph.

"I am cognizant of the environment, but when you look at the total picture it hurts minorities," Northeast resident Evanna Powell said Friday, Jan 8 after giving her testimony. "People can lose their [driver's] license, their job and their health with these high fines."

Powell was among more than a dozen people who spoke at the hearing in regards to the Department of Transportation's plan to improve safety with eight new penalties and 12 increased fines for existing infractions that include:

- $50 to $500 for a driver striking a person on a bicycle;
- $250 to $500 for overtaking another vehicle stopped at a crosswalk, or intersection for a pedestrian;
- $50 to $200 for not coming to a complete stop when turning right on red.

The added fines would charge motorists $100 for speeding in locations such as school zones, near playgrounds and senior centers. A $500 fine would be charged for these offenses: not yielding to a transit bus; not slowing down when an emergency vehicle is responding to an incident; and failure to proceed with caution when approaching near a crash scene.

The plan is in conjunction with Mayor Muriel Bowser's Vision Zero initiative that aims to eliminate all fatalities and injuries on District's streets by 2024. The document can be viewed at www.dcvisionzero.com.

After the hearing, Leif Dormsjo, director of the transportation department, said the mayor didn't support the $1,000 fine but officials will continue to review the plan to ensure safety and target "super speeders."

"I think in all probability we're going to make a change there, [but] I don't know the magnitude of that change," he said. "The status quo in regards to excessive speeding is unacceptable and any movement we can make to discourage that type of [be-

TRAFFIC FINES *Page 38*

Bowser's Traffic Plan Pushed for Zero Fatalities

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

The top three traffic concerns in the District are speeding, distracted drivers and people ignoring traffic signals, according to a survey from Mayor Muriel Bowser's Vision Zero initiative. The 102-page plan equipped with charts, safety strategies and other colorful images pushes for one message: no fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by 2024.

"When we talk about eliminating fatalities and serious injuries to walkers, bikers and drivers we mean business," Bowser said on her Twitter account Friday, Jan. 8.

Some statistics highlight from 2010 to 2014, about 131 people died in a vehicle, on a bike and walking. During that same timeframe, 73 of those deaths occurred on streets where the speed limit was 25 mph.

About $500,000 is being used from the current fiscal year budget to institute education programs, safety measures and enforcement. The five city agencies that will help complete this process for a year are the Department of Public Works, school system, Office of Disability Rights, Department of Transportation and the deputy mayor's office for health and human services.

Department of Transportation Director Leif Dormsjo explained how the city had 26 deaths, 12 of those pedestrians, two years ago. The city had the same number of fatalities last year, with 14 being pedestrians.

"Vision Zero is simple: the zero means zero deaths and that is the only goal that motivates the policies and strategies in our plan."

The most talked about portion of the plan dealt with proposed new fines and an increase on current penalties, specifically one from $300 to $1,000 for drivers who exceed 25 mph above the posted speed limit.

Dormsjo said the mayor doesn't support that fine. However, it's listed in the Vision Zero section "Enforcement Act of 2015."

Aaron Goggans of Southeast doesn't trust the mayor's plan.

"While we all want our roads to be safer, Bowser has consistently shown that her vision for public safety and human services is to criminalize and increase penalties," said Goggans, a member of the Black Lives Matter movement in the D.C. area. "Part of the fallacy of the mayor's proposal is assuming the reason that people [won't hit bikers if the penalty is higher.] I hope the government could have enough trust in people that there [are] other reasons why people wouldn't want to hit bikers." **WI**

GRAY *from Page 1*

/ Photo courtesy of Vincent Gray Campaign



The poll surveyed 1,569 likely Democratic voters.

It revealed voters favor Gray in an At-Large bid by 32 percent to 20 percent over Orange. In a potential Ward 7 race, Gray's support is larger as his margin over Alexander would be 48 percent to 32 percent.

Interestingly, while voters put Bowser's job approval rating at just 45 percent, the incumbent mayor's favorable rating among all voters stood at 57 percent while Gray garnered just 42 percent and Orange 28 percent.

However, in Ward 7, Gray's favorable rating is a whopping 64 percent while Alexander's is 47 percent.

Gray, who was exonerated last month after a lengthy investigation into alleged campaign finance impropriety that cost him re-election to the mayor's seat in 2014, was treated unfairly by the media and prosecutors, according to Black voters surveyed.

The poll also included the following questions and responses:

"Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: As mayor, Vincent Gray was treated fairly by the media."

Approximately 49 percent of Black voters said the media treated Gray unfairly; 29 percent said he was treated fairly.

Meanwhile, 21 percent of white voters said the media treated Gray unfairly; 63 percent said he was treated fairly.

Pollsters than posed the question: "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: As mayor, Vince Gray was treated fairly by Federal investigators?"

A total of 45 percent of Black voters said the media treated Gray unfairly while 31 percent said he was treated fair.

By contrast, 34 percent of white voters said the media treated Gray unfairly and 49 percent said he was treated fair.

While the poll shows a bit of a racial divide on the issues, it took place as Gray contemplates a run for council either in Ward 7 or At-Large.

Breaking down the responses by gender, 41 percent of women citywide agree that the media treated Gray fairly while 35 percent said the media treated him unfairly and 24 percent said they weren't sure.

Meanwhile, 51 percent of men throughout the District said Gray was treated fairly, 35 percent said he was not and 14 percent said they were unsure.

Also, 44 percent of men in the poll said investigators treated the former mayor fair while 41 percent said they did not and 15 percent weren't sure.

Thirty-six percent of women said investigators treated Gray fairly while 37 percent of women said he was treated unfairly by investigators and another 27 percent weren't sure.

A whopping 91 percent of those surveyed overall said they are likely to vote in the June 14 D.C. City Council elections.

As of Dec. 31, 2015, there were 435,903 registered voters in the District, including 330,861 Democrats, according to the D.C. Board of Elections. About 51 percent of Blacks are registered voters in the District, an overwhelming majority being Democrat.

During the height of his re-election campaign and while leading Bowser in most polls, Gray was accused of being complicit in a $630,000 shadow campaign scheme run by D.C. businessman Jeffrey Thompson, who cut a deal with then-U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Ronald Machen.

"I had to change the beginning of my State of the District Address to talk about this because on the same day as the address was Machen's press conference," Gray said in a December interview with The Informer.

"I was outraged and this was shameful on the part of Machen. Prosecutors have a code of ethics which include not interfering with an election. I don't know how you can't interfere more than what he did," Gray said.

It wasn't until December 2015 that the new U.S. Attorney, Channing Phillips, finally announced that Gray had been exonerated.

Now, with a public poll showing such favorable results, it appears Gray is ready to launch a comeback and he's already touted some facts that probably haven't been lost on local residents, particularly voters, including how he boosted the city's financial reserves, how under his guidance, Wall Street raised the District's bond rating with several projects, like City Center and the Marriott Marquis, being completed under his watch and how he facilitated meetings with MGM who will open a $1.3 billion casino resort in Prince George's County next year bringing hundreds of jobs to the District. **WI**



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Bowser Partners to End Human Trafficking

By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer

In recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Monday, Jan. 11, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a new partnership with the US Department of Homeland Security [DHS] Blue Campaign and the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV] to introduce new anti-trafficking initiatives that will increase efforts to combat human trafficking.

Chair of the Blue Campaign Maria Odom, delivered the message that those who are being trafficked are societies most vulnerable at the newly renovated Office of Human Rights in Northwest.

"Human traffickers prey on the vulnerable people in our communities," Odom said. "Some are searching for love, protection or a better life."

"We must be committed to addressing those vulnerabilities that lead people down that path," she said.

The Blue Campaign – which works with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations to prevent human trafficking – will include a public awareness campaign and workplace posters to help the public identify and report suspected trafficking.

Odom contended that the fight should be combatted at airports and borders and with immigration laws.

"This partnership is special because trafficking is happening here right in our nation's capital," she said. "Not a single institution can fight this alone."



▲ *Mayor Muriel Bowser and Maria Odum, Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security sign a partnership to fight Human Trafficking during a ceremony at the DC Office on Human Rights Monday, January 12 in Northwest. / Photo by Roy Lewis*

Odom asserted that taking down traffickers remains a hard task because of a number of different factors.

"Victims rarely self-report because many of them are in fear and many don't know what is happening to them is illegal," she said.

Bowser and Odom both agree that there remains no clear data on who or how many people are being trafficked in the District, but Bowser did have a few specifics.

"Human trafficking victimizes men and women of all races and ages," Bowser said. "There have been 486 reported cases here in the District since 2007."

Bowser believes that if opportunities are created individuals would not turn to sex work, which when asked if she thought that it can be voluntary in some instances, she responded, "I don't think so."

Odom added it's a serious issue.

"Shockingly we don't know what trafficking looks like; it's a new form of slavery, but we don't have the data. We are working on the data piece – it is our highest priority," Odom said.

The Blue Campaign public awareness materials, which urge the public to recognize and report human trafficking, will be placed throughout the Metro system by District government.

The workplace posters with the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline number will be posted at relevant District agencies; interested businesses will be encouraged to post them as well.

The materials will be made available to the public later this month.

In addition to the partnership-related initiatives, the DMV joined the DC Human Trafficking Task Force, which works to increase the prosecution of traffickers while identifying and serving victims.

The DMV will also partner with Truckers Against Trafficking to distribute anti-trafficking materials to residents with a commercial driving license, and will train all of its Service Center staff on human trafficking awareness.

"Our city is better than this, and we do not stand for any abuse of human rights," Bowser said. "This new partnership builds on the District's longstanding commitment to combat and prevent this atrocious crime." **WI**

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▲ *Courtney Dredden Carter of NE DC enjoys reading the newspaper at one of her favorite spots on H Street in Northeast. / Photo by Patricia Little*

UNION *from Page 1*

Obama said during last week's CNN-sponsored town hall meeting on the gun issue.

Symbolically, during the State of the Union address, Obama left one seat empty in the first lady's guest box to emphasize the impact that gun violence has had on Americans.

He said he wanted to talk about more than the usual laundry list of hoped-for proposals – the rhetoric historically posed by presidents in their final conversation with the nation. And at the end of his speech, he chose to employ words of encouragement, saying "I believe in change because I believe in you."

"For my final address to this chamber, I don't want to talk just about the next year. I want to focus on the next five years, ten years, and beyond. It's change that can broaden opportunity, or widen inequality. And whether we like it or not, the pace of this change will only accelerate. America has been through big changes before – wars and depression, the influx of immigrants, workers fighting for a fair deal, and movements to expand civil rights."

"Each time, there have been those who told us to fear the future; who claimed we could slam the brakes on change, promising to restore past glory if we just got some group or idea that was threatening America under control. And each time, we overcame those fears."

"We did not, in the words of Lincoln, adhere to the 'dogmas of the quiet past.' Instead we thought anew, and acted anew. We made change work for us, always extending America's promise outward, to the next frontier, to more and more people. And because we did because we saw opportunity where others saw only peril – we emerged stronger and better than before."

Obama said that progress, far from inevitable, would only come due to the result of choices we make as a country. He addressed four questions: First, how do we give everyone a fair shot at opportunity and security in this new economy? Second, how do we make technology work for us, and not against us -- especially when it comes to solving urgent challenges like climate change? Third, how do we keep America safe and lead the world without becoming its policeman? And finally, how can we make our politics reflect what's best in us, and not what's worst?

He then offered his answer to the four questions.

As Obama moved through his hour-long speech, social media blazed on sites such as Twitter with random thoughts on the president's last speech using the #SOTU. Some took jabs at Ryan, who appeared to be bored with the speech. Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson tweeted how he will appeal #Obamacare "and put control of health care back to the hands of We the People."

Others on social media focused on the more mundane – like fashion. Dozens praised the look of First lady Michelle Obama's dress and hairstyle.

But one frequent critic of the president, Black television host and commentator Tavis Smiley, said the president has essentially failed Black Americans – a message he shares in his new book, "The Covenant With Black America: Ten Years Later."

Smiley and scholar Cornel West have been engaged in a one-sided feud with the president ever since they were not invited to the White House during his first term in office. Both have delivered harsh words to the president, who has only ignored their saber-rattling.

However, true to form, Smiley has also attacked others including Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump who he recently called an "unrepentant, irascible religious and racial arsonist" for his



▲ *First lady Michelle Obama continues to support the legacy and efforts of her husband, Barack Obama. / Photo courtesy of Khalid Naji-Allah*

comments about "undocumented immigrant criminals and calling for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S.

Nikki Haley, governor of South Carolina and a rising star in the Republican Party, gave the response from her party, following the president's address.

"Like the president, we too want to talk about a brighter future for America," she said. "His election broke historic barriers and inspired millions of Americans. And he has talked about grand things – but his record has often fallen short of his grand words."

Americans, unemployed, crushed by debt and facing the most dangerous terrorist threat since 9/11 are frustrated. The president has been unwilling or unable to deal with that. Still, Democrats don't bear the blame alone. Republicans need to own that truth. The public's trust has been broken – we must find a way to fix it," she said. **WI**

METRO SUITS *from Page 1*

died.

"I'm still scared when I walk up the escalator to get on," said Baker of Northeast, who used the transportation service, Uber, to attend Tuesday's news conference. "My daughter picks me up when I need to get around and get to places. If not, I just have to get up a whole hour, or two hours earlier, to go where I need to on the bus."

Rogers, who lives in the city's Ward 5 neighborhood, admits the counseling sessions he goes through are difficult.

"I have never had doctor's appointments every other week before. It makes it difficult at work when you have to add that to your schedule," he said while choking up after the news conference. "Where I go to my therapist I go right by the church where Carol's funeral was held [Capitol Hill Baptist in Northeast]. She died senselessly."

Officials with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority have said an electrical malfunction caused the train to fill with smoke in the Yellow Line tunnel at L'Enfant Plaza. Hundreds evacuated the station and dozens were treated for injuries either on-site or at local hospitals.

The National Transportation Safety Board continues to investigate the smoke occurrence but a final report has not been released.

Sherri Ly, a spokeswoman for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, said Tuesday the agency doesn't comment on acting or pending litigation.

Metro General Manager and CEO Paul J. Wiedefeld released a letter Monday, Jan. 11 to explain how the agency has improved since last year's incident.

Wiedefeld, who began his first day Nov. 30, said the agency made several steps to improve safety such as better coordination with emergency responders, inspecting and making repairs to the ventilation systems and providing new training for train operators.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser released a statement Tuesday to announce all 1,600 fire and emergency employees received training on how to better communicate with Metro personnel in the tunnels and on rail cars.

"In the aftermath of the Metro tragedy, I instructed our first responders to evaluate how we could

METRO SUITS *Page 45*

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Prince George's County Council Holds Annual Retreat

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – Prince George's County Council held its annual retreat in Maryland's state capitol to prepare and review this year's legislative priorities that focus on economic development, zoning and other topics.

The theme for this year's work session held Jan. 5-7 at the Loews Annapolis Hotel: "Focus on the Future: Forward with Purpose."

"We really want to take a look at how we move forward as a body," Council Chairman Derrick Leon Davis (D-District 6) of Upper Marlboro said on the retreat's first day, Jan. 5. "As a council, we want to look at the tools that are in the box and how we use them more masterfully to create more opportunities for Prince George's County."

One item discussed for more than an hour stemmed on a possible deficit in the fiscal year 2017 budget.

The county's $3.1 billion in expenditures could exceed revenues by $73.1 million. Some of the reasons for a possible shortfall include merit increases for employees, public safety classes and additional staffing in Homeland Security, sheriff and other government agencies.

Thomas Himler, deputy chief administrative officer for budget, finance and administration, said possible deficits loom until at least 2020, even with the revenues from the MGM Casino at National Harbor scheduled to open later this year. However, figures for next year's fiscal spending plan could decrease during budget talks because it wouldn't go into effect until July 1.

"It's good to follow up and look at a lot of different things [to balance the budget]," Himler said. "We want to be transparent as we develop the budget."

Some council members asked how it would affect bringing in new recruits for public safety, especially more police officers.

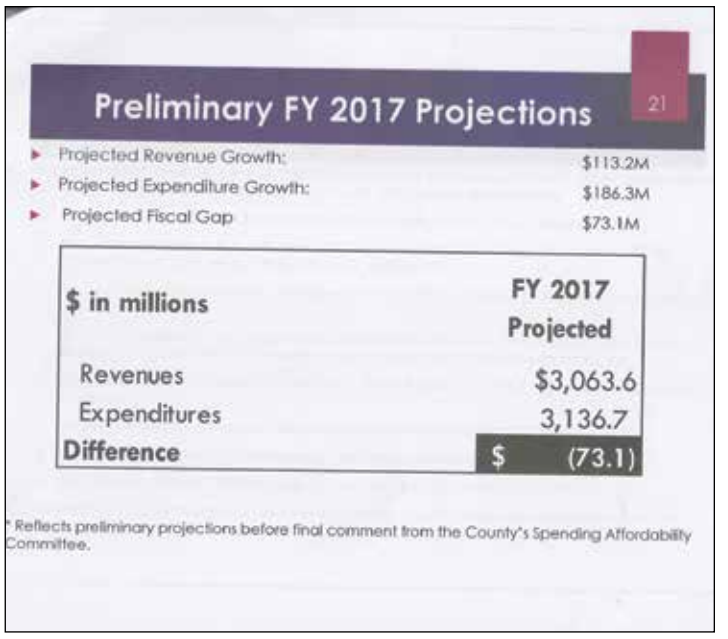
A budget document highlights 50 officers would come three police academy classes. The Fire Department would bring in 30 recruits from two academy classes and the Department of Corrections would receive 25 from three of its classes.

A spotlight on the county's fiscal outlook showed the median home sales price increased by 6 percent at $233,000 last year, compared to $219,700 in 2014. Also, the home prices between January and November last year was 16 percent greater versus the same time period three years ago.

"I see the numbers are shifting in the right direction, but we are not out of the woods," said Councilwoman Deni Taveras (D-District 2) of Adelphi.

Meanwhile, Himler said the current fiscal year budget could have a $400,000 deficit, but is optimistic that would be eliminated by the end of the fiscal year. This year's spending plan had residents pay a 4 percent tax increase.

On the retreat's second day Jan. 6, council received a brief update on the General Services Administration's proposal to relocate the FBI headquarters from the J. Edgar Hoover building in Northwest to one of three locations: Greenbelt, or Landover, in Prince George's, or Springfield, Virginia.



▲ *A graphic shows Prince George's County faces a possible $73 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2017. / Courtesy of Prince George's County*

"The final decision [by GSA] on a site and a developer is currently scheduled for November 2016," said David Iannucci, economic development deputy in the county executive office. "We are actively involved and making good progress."

He said the federal government has narrowed its choice to four firms as potential developers to work on the FBI project. He said officials continue to prepare various documents and seek a contractor to analyze both the Greenbelt and Landover tracts.

GSA wants to leverage its assets and swap the Hoover building to a private company for a more modern structure. It would include a 124,000 square-foot utility plant, 60,000-square-foot visitor center, and a 9,000 square-foot truck inspection facility.

In order to attract new businesses and retain and expand current ones in Prince George's, officials said various incentives must be offered.

For example, provide tax-increment financing, or TIF, to help leverage major development projects for public improvements.

Also, businesses can apply for money toward land and building acquisition and other uses through the county's Economic Development Incentive Fund. If a business maintains a long-term investment in the county, then a loan could be forgiven and applied as a grant.

So far, more than 4,000 jobs have been retained and another 3,300 jobs created thanks to the EDI program, according to county data.

Himler announced a lofty goal to boost economic development.

"One hundred thousand jobs [equal] $50 million of income taxes. I try to keep it simple," he said. "We continue to focus on economic development. It's a goal we want to shoot for and we think it's achievable."

WI

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Business Exchange



By William Reed

The African American National Museum Opens 2016

Black slaves built the Capitol and White House for free. But the roles that Blacks in building business should be recognized in constructing the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The Smithsonian Institution museum is on a 5-acre tract on the National Mall, adjacent to the Washington Monument on Constitution Avenue between 14th and 15th streets in Northwest D.C.

The public should be proud of the Blacks making the museum and a reality. When it opens in 2016, the NMAAHC will feature exhibition space for African American history and culture, as well as a centerpiece venue for ceremonies and performances. It will be a place to learn about the richness and diversity of the African-American experience and what it means to Black lives. The National Museum was created in 2003 by an Act of Congress as part of the Smithsonian Institution. This site is between the Washington Monument and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. This museum will be the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture.

Black pride is a movement encouraging people to take pride in being Black. The slogan has been used in the U. S. by African-Americans to celebrate heritage and personal pride. The Black pride movement permeated into the work of African American popular musicians. The Impressions' song "We're a Winner" became a movement virtual anthem, as did James Brown's "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud.

The museum's director, Lonnie G. Bunch III, calls it a place that will "manifest the dreams of many generations." Bunch who has spent the last 30 years in the field, is regarded as one of the nation's leading history and museum professionals. Bunch has gotten 82,000 people join as contributing museum members. But, the concept goes back to the early 1980s, when Tom Mack (the African-American chairman of Tourmobile, a tourist bus company) founded the National Council of Education and Economic Development. Mack's intention was to use the nonprofit group to advance his ideas about economic development, education, and the arts in the Black community. Mack was a major player in the nation's capital's $6.2 billion tourism industry, as chair and owner of Landmark Services Parking and of the Hospitality and Transportation Services joint venture.

The companies Bunch has chosen to build the NMAAHC have strong bona fides in construction and their communities. Construction is being done by Clark Construction Group, Smoot Construction, and H.J. Russell & Company. Clark was awarded a $290 million construction contract as part of a joint venture with Smoot Construction and H.J. Russell & Company, two of the largest minority-owned construction firms in the nation. The Clark/Smoot/Russell team is made up of three distinguished and diverse companies with unparalleled experience in building museum projects combined with the strength, stability and resources of nationally-recognized construction management professionals. Clark Construction Group is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, and has annual revenue in excess of $4 billion. Smoot Construction is one of the largest minority-owned construction firms in the country. The Smoot Corporation's entities trace their roots back to 1946 to the commercial masonry contracting business established by Sherman R. Smoot, in Charleston, West Virginia. Since its founding in 1952, H.J. Russell & Company became the fourth-largest minority-owned business in the nation. The architectural and engineering firm of McKissack & McKissack (which was the first African-American-owned architectural firm in the United States) was founded in 1905, by brothers Calvin Lunsford and Moses McKissack III whose father and grandfather were trained builders. The NMAAHC will be the deepest museum on the National Mall. Excavators dug 80 feet below grade to lay the foundations. Mass excavation being done by third-generation Black construction firm is nearly complete. Almost 350,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated during construction – enough to fill 32,000 dump trucks. Washington, D,C.-based Shelton Federal Group LLC is headed by Rose Shelton. Its predecessor is R S Shelton Landscaping Excavating And Hauling Inc. of Ashland, Virginia. **WI**

William Reed is publisher of "Who's Who in Black Corporate America" and is available for projects via busxchng@his.com.



Estate Planning as an Economic and Community Development Initiative

By Aimee D. Griffin, Esq.

The Griffin Firm has chosen business and estate planning as its principle areas of practice because of its commitment to economic and community development. Our practice is located in the urban core and primarily serves clients who live within urban centers. We demonstrate our commitment to economic development by supporting entrepreneurship and small businesses. Small businesses have been recognized as the economic engine of the nation. They employ local people without access to or preference for larger corporations. This economic benefit strengthens the community. Small business ownership empowers a community with an economic base that fosters relationships, stability and community involvement. The successful small business owner is able to create an economic platform for his family as well as his employees.

With more than twenty years of supporting entrepreneurs, we at the Griffin Firm understand that economic development plans need to project beyond the life of the entrepreneur. The succession and estate planning of a small business is critical to support families and communities by transferring created wealth from generation to generation. The Good Book tells us that our "people perish for the lack of knowledge" as well as a "good person leaves an inheritance for his children's children." The legacy we create in growing, nurturing and educating our children can be easily dismantled if we don't plan to transfer it carefully.

In our work, we are able to rejoice with families who create the plans of succession where their "empires" resulting in the maintenance of their "empires" which can provide for the creators and lay a foundation for upcoming generations.. We also mourn with the families we support through the loss of property that has been accumulated through their hard work. These tragedies happen when a home is lost through a reverse mortgage, Medicaid liens or unanticipated tax burdens.

More than anything, we love the opportunity to educate people on how to build assets through entrepreneurship and business development as well as strategically planning for their estate to enable their family to enjoy the fruits of their labor for generations to come.

We have had people claim they were simply "not ready" to create an estate plan including a 93-year-old mother! Not one of us knows the exact hour when we will need our plan, but my promise is that there is no detriment in planning and not using the plan but there is a world of detriment in not planning but needing a plan.

Many of us are inspired to build a legacy for the betterment of the people we care about. The cost of not planning is great for your family and for your community. The number of homes that are lost through foreclosure and the probate process is significant in our community. This loss drives down the property values throughout the community.

If we employ the steps necessary to build up our individual economic conditions, our families and our communities will prosper.

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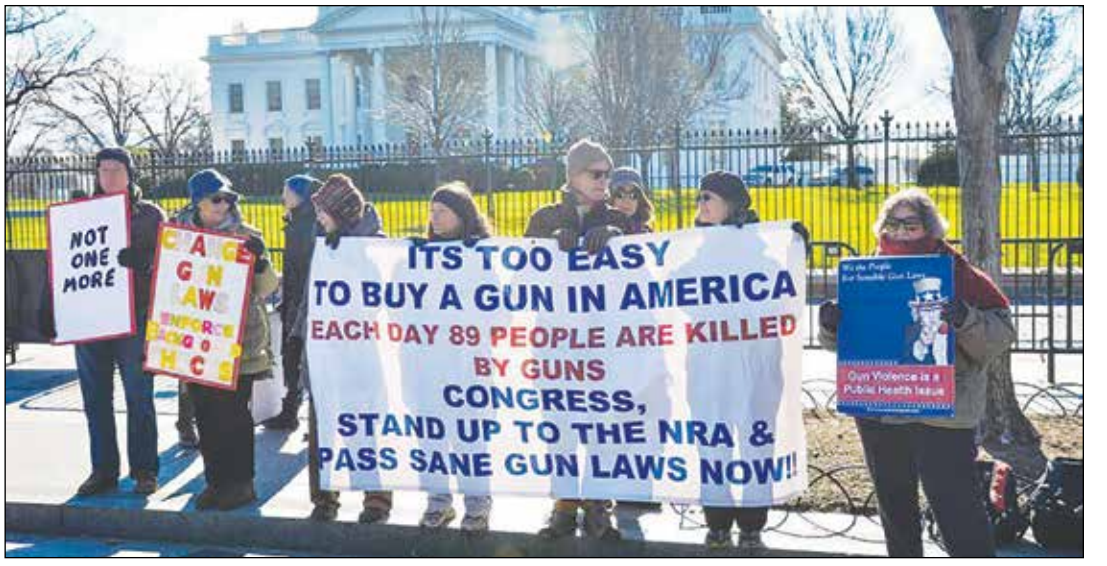
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Like Obama, District Police Wary of Guns



A rally calling for legislation on gun violence prevention and gun control is held outside the White House on Jan. 4. / Photo Courtesy of Xinhua/Bao Dandan

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

President Barack Obama's desire for stricter gun laws to keep weapons out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them is an aspiration shared by many and a mission supported by the Metropolitan Police Department.

"The president's efforts will help reduce illegal gun ownership and trafficking throughout the country, including the District," said MPD spokesperson Aquita Brown.

"Because almost all gun crimes in the District are committed by guns illegally brought into the city, we need to stem the flow of illegal guns outside the District in order to combat gun crimes," Brown said.

Cleary frustrated by a Congress that he said has failed to act, Obama on Jan. 5 rolled out gun control measures that will require more gun sellers to get licenses and more buyers to undergo background checks.

Obama said the executive actions he unveiled in the East Room of the White House are designed to reduce gun violence. His actions include provisions under four separate categories that involve keeping guns out of the wrong hands by using background checks; making communities safer from gun violence; increasing mental health treatment and reporting to the background check system; and shaping the future of gun safety technology.

The need for those measures is no more evident than in the District, MPD officials said.

Despite an overall drop in crime, D.C. still had a 54 percent increase in its murder rate last year, officials reported.

At 119 homicides for 2015, the murder rate surpassed that of each of the last four years. Breitbart News Service reported that in 2012, there were 88 murders in the District while the number increased in 2013 to 104 and in 2014 to 105.

Assistant Police Chief Peter Newsham reportedly blamed the higher murder rate on guns.

"A greater percent of those arrested for homicide have prior convictions for felony violent crimes," Newsham said.

"And a lot of times more than one gun was represented at the crime scene. That means either there were two shooters and one victim, or those involved were shooting at each other."

The chief noted that police have regularly discovered more shell casings littering the ground of crime scenes, so criminals may be using modified magazines to be able to shoot up to 40 rounds at a time.

After announcing his executive actions on gun control, Obama attended a Town Hall meeting televised live on CNN on Jan. 7.

The president also has plans to address the subject in other forums, White House officials said.

Obama's executive actions include expanded background checks that he said would make clear that anyone who's in the business of selling guns must obtain a license, regardless of whether they sell firearms online or at gun shows.

Currently, only federally licensed gun dealers are required to contact background checks on those who buy guns.

The president said the FBI will hire more than 230 examiners and other staff to help process background checks and a rule issued by the ATF will clarify that a dealer shipping a gun is responsible for notifying law enforcement once it determines it was lost or stolen in transit.

"There is an app to help us find a missing tablet, if we can do it for the iPad, there's no reason we can't do it for a stolen gun," Obama said.

The president's actions also included conducting or sponsoring research into smart gun technology and instruct federal agencies to regularly review the availability of smart gun technology.

"If a child can't open a bottle of aspirin because of safety caps, we should make sure they can't pull the trigger on a gun," he said. "We are going to advance research and work with private sector to update technology."

Finally, the White House proposes a $500 million investment to improve mental health care, as many mass shootings and gun violence have allegedly been carried out by gun owners who are mentally ill.

"Improving the information for national background checks and eliminating loop holes for the checks may help," said Brown, the MPD spokesperson.

"The president's direction to the US Attorney Offices to focus on gun crimes, and the budget request for more agents for Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, may also help us in the District," Brown said.

"We appreciate our strong partnerships with our local ATF and USAO offices, and know they support our commitment to public safety in the District." **WI**

Maggie Anderson: Committed to 'Buying Black'

Lawyer, Businesswoman Honored by US Black Chamber

By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor



▲ *Maggie Anderson*

Maggie Anderson, along with her husband John and their two daughters, made history and gained the nation's attention in 2009 when they decided to live solely off businesses and professionals coming from the Black community for an entire year.

The real-life case study, a first of its kind, called The Empowerment Experiment, resulted in a landmark study conducted by Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business and proved with data compiled from the Anderson's journey that with incremental support of Black businesses, one can breathe new life into the Black community and improve the American economy as a whole.

Their 2009 adventures have also been chronicled by Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago Tribune reporter Ted Gregory, along with Anderson, in a co-written book entitled, "Our Black Year: One Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy."

Anderson, along with New York Life executive Eugene Mitchell, joined members of the US Black Chamber [USBC], Inc. in Northwest for the USBC's "Centers of Influence" Luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 12. The luncheon took place at Ben's Next Door where USBC founder and CEO, Ron Busby, served as the host.

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, Busby, Anderson, Mitchell and others continued their discussion during the "Buying Black, Spending Smart" – a Community Town Hall, held on the campus of Howard University.

Anderson said while she appreciated being honored, the luncheon, part of a $50 billion Empowerment Tour, was not about her but rather about continued efforts to create $50 billion in wealth and one million jobs in the Black community.

Many describe her as the Rosa Parks of economic empowerment.

"I am honored by the comparison to Rosa Parks but I can't and would never compare my sacrifice to hers," she said. "She put her life on the line. That sacrifice, that willingness to take a stand that so many of our people selflessly offered and endured, inspired me. I conceived of and conducted The Empowerment Experiment in her honor because I learned from and wanted to continue the movement she inspired," said Anderson who lives in Oak Park, Illinois.

During her year's journey, Anderson experienced several Black businesses that provided inferior service or products – but she said she remains committed to buying Black.

"Supporting our community will necessarily involve dealing with inferior businesses . . . just like Chinese and Italians do when they go out of their way to support their own. The difference is that they don't publicly bash their own people. They don't celebrate the opportunity to buy culturally significant products from companies that do not proactively represent or reinvest in their community."

As for supporting Black businesses and service providers, Anderson had this to say.

"Black businesses are not going to get better and stronger on their own. The consumers must be proactive and public about their desire to support them. This pride and solidarity has to be evident so that our businesses can be competitive and our best entrepreneurs can become business owners. It is just like other cultural traditions and institutions that are failing now as a result of our own lack of unity."

"So much damage has been done, the community is so far behind, and so much of the problem has to do with how Black people's willingness to unite and struggle for our collective economic advancement and how everyone perceives Black businesses and poor Black neighborhoods. All of that can change with education and dialogue," she said. **WI**

FINAL PITCH

The Reality PITCH Competition

By Inez Kelley
Kelley Media Marketing, Inc.
www.finalpitchtv.com

I ran across an article several days ago that immediately caught my attention. The declaration proudly proclaimed '2016Will Be the Year of The Underdog Entrepreneur!' The sentiment expressed by Robin Bruce with Forbes. Inc., seems to mirror the long held belief of the FINAL PITCH brand.

What we are witnessing from the stampede of startups coming out the gate racing towards the unicorn status is significantly losing steam. 'Unicorn' is a term given to startups who achieve a valuation of $1 billion dollars or more. Both founders and the venture community have ridden this wave in hopes of becoming the next Snap-Chat, Uber and alike. Failure to reach these lofty goals have left investors less optimistic causing a pull back on the "fail and fail fast" approach. Something is happening. The once hard held belief of dumping capital into the booming hyper-Tech industry is taking a back seat. There is a grassroots shift moving towards the 'grow slow' and take more precautionary measures to insure sustainability.

Investors are exhausted from exhausting their funds on the mega deals. For that reason, many banks, investors and lenders are starting to come back around to the 'underdog' founder. These are the businesses once considered 'too small' or not 'scalable enough' to produce the quick and immediate return. But the steady as you grow is proving to be more palatable on the purse, mostly due to losses not being as gianormous (giant/enormous) and a lot easier to recuperate.

And now in 2016, tech-mania has had it time in the sun, (thou Tech will always have its place). With the sustainability of lifestyle businesses and it's attracting the attention of the venture community, it appears the 'underdog/lifestyle' industry is once again looking like the bell of the ball.

Look out for the FINAL PITCH Workshop 'TRAJECTORY 2016!' Coming this March

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NBC Health Expo Targets New Generation

By Joya Patel
WI Contributing Writer

The 2016 NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo, the largest health event in the D.C. area, returned to the District Jan. 9-10, at the Washington Convention Center in Northwest. The two-day health expo engages families from across the Greater Washington Area, inspiring the region to stay active as the New Year rolls along.

The health fair offered free health screenings, information booths, demonstrations, forums filled with advice, open health enrollment and engaging healthy fitness activities. The two hundred plus exhibitors, nonprofit organizations, health professionals, and volunteers focused on entertaining families with a variety of fun ways to engage in healthy living. New events for the health fair included: a healthy book festival with health experts and authors; a yoga stage presented by Mind the Mat; and most notably the Changing Minds Pavilion with a focus on mental and behavioral health and wellness for all ages.

The Changing Mind Pavilion was an initiative launched by NBC4 in 2014 to bring awareness to mental and behavioral health, mental illness, and stigma associated with mental health. The forum served as a safe place for people to have an honest conversation about their mental health. NBC launched the public awareness initiative as a method for people to feel empowered to take a holistic approach to health by taking care of themselves mentally, physically, and spiritually. The focus being on ending stigma, educating and informing the community on mental illness, creating an open forum, and encouraging treatability. The lineup of mental health topics included: stress, depression, bullying, child and adolescent health, as well as Seasonal Affective Disorder. The primary organizations involved were Adventist HealthCare, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Outstandingly, the health expo inspired lifestyle change to a new generation of youth by introducing wellness as a way of life. Families from the DMV area flocked to the Convention Center to engage their children in hands-on activities, introducing healthy lifestyle change in the community where they live, play and learn.



▲ *The annual NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, January 9-10. / Photo by Nancy Shia*

Lenny and Mia Gibson, from Woodbridge, Virginia, have attended the expo for three years in a row.

"I make the NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo a family weekend to keep updated on health information, expose my children to healthy living, and make it a part of our family," they said.

Zakhele Thwala, a Capitol Hill resident and a soccer player at Northern Virginia Community College, mentors children interested in playing soccer and shared his passion for the game.

"I come to the Health Expo to share my soccer skills, pick up health related information, and serve as a volunteer at activities being offered," he said.

Daryl Dudley III, a longtime District resident, could not help but gravitate towards the Washington Nationals' section of the fair. His mother, who also lives in the District, watched while her son swung at the tee-ball station set-up.

"After my husband was diagnosed with diabetes we took on a lifestyle change to become healthier as a family," she said. "The health expo is a great way to learn about new activities in the community, pick up healthy eating recipes, and introduce a healthy lifestyle to our son."

Many of the volunteers at the health fair were local adolescents interested in getting their community healthy. DC Health Link volunteers Austin Holmes, Donovan Fennelly and Christine Petrin promoted enrollment for the upcoming year with flyers stating "Shape Up . . . Sign-up."

As a student majoring in health policy at GW, Christine Petrin believes in volunteering to promote better health in the community.

"It is important for families in D.C. to find the best health plan for their families and sign-up for health insurance," she said. "As a student in healthy policy, I am passionate about promoting health services delivery in the community."

The DC Health Link flyer included a statement about the importance of signing up for insurance in 2016 in order to avoid a fine when filing 2016 taxes.

One youth said she learned a lot from helping out at the health fair.

"Playing games, promoting healthy behavior and getting younger kids interested is what I love," said Brianna Davis, a ninth-grade student at Bishop McNamara. WI



Dr. Gilbert Daniel, Internal Medicine and Maribel Torres, RN, Chief Nursing Officer

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Protecting Frozen Pipes Vital During Winter

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

Cecelia Venable has gone through it twice over the last three winters.

First, the single mom of two daughters would notice what she called a little bubble in her ceiling. The bubble would gradually grow.

"Then, splash, we're drenched," said Venable, who lives in Northeast. "Each time, the pipes have burst and I've found that the reason is that my house hadn't been properly insulated. Well, that's taken care of now," she said.

When the outside temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, water pipes in homes with little or no insulation are likely to freeze and break.

A one-eighth inch crack in a pipe can spew out more than 250 gallons of water a day, destroying floors, soaking furniture and ruining personal items and potentially causing mold, according to Dave Phillips a spokesman for State Farm Insurance, which has provided valuable tips for residents as old man winter starts to rear its cold head.

"Both plastic and copper pipes can freeze. But, unlike natural disasters, this disaster is preventable," Phillips said in an email.

"Cleaning up after a pipe burst is time consuming and made even more difficult by the frigid temperatures."

In cold and warmer climates alike, pipes freeze for a combination of three central reasons, including quick drops in temperature, poor insulation and thermostats set too low.

There are a number of preventative steps to take to keep pipes from freezing, including before the cold weather appears.

Insulating pipes in crawl spaces and the attic, even if living in a climate where freezing is uncommon should help because exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing, State Farm officials said, noting that the more insulation used, the better protected pipes will be.

The company also recommends that residents heat tape; thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes.

Also, residents should seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Homeowners should look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes, and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze, Phillips said.

A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep pipes from freezing, so residents should let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.

Further, keeping thermostats set at the same temperature during both day and night, even if an individual is in the habit of turning down the heat during sleeping hours as further drops occur in the temperature – more common overnight – could catch residents off guard and freeze pipes.

Additionally, cabinet doors should be opened to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

Traveling in the winter months might be good for the soul, but pipes shouldn't be forgotten and residents should set the thermostat in a house no lower than 55°F (12°C).

Perhaps asking a friend or neighbor to check an empty house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing would be advantageous, Phillips said.

Shut off and drain the water system. Be aware that if a resident has a fire protection sprinkler system, it may be deactivated when the water is shut off.

So, what if the pipes still freeze?

"First step: Don't panic. Just because they're frozen doesn't mean they've already burst," Phillips said.

"If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucets turned on and call a plumber. Do not use electrical appliances in areas of standing water: You could be electrocuted. Never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame because it could cause a fire hazard. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house."

"You may be able to thaw a frozen pipe with the warm air from a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of pipe."

If the pipes have burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house and leave the water faucets turned on. "Make sure everyone in your family knows where the water shutoff valve is and how to open and close it," Phillips said. **WI**



E. T. Williamson's home sits damaged after a water pipe burst, causing water to freeze inside and outside the home. / Photo courtesy Kirthmon F. Dozier/Detroit Free Press

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Happy New Year from DC Office on Aging

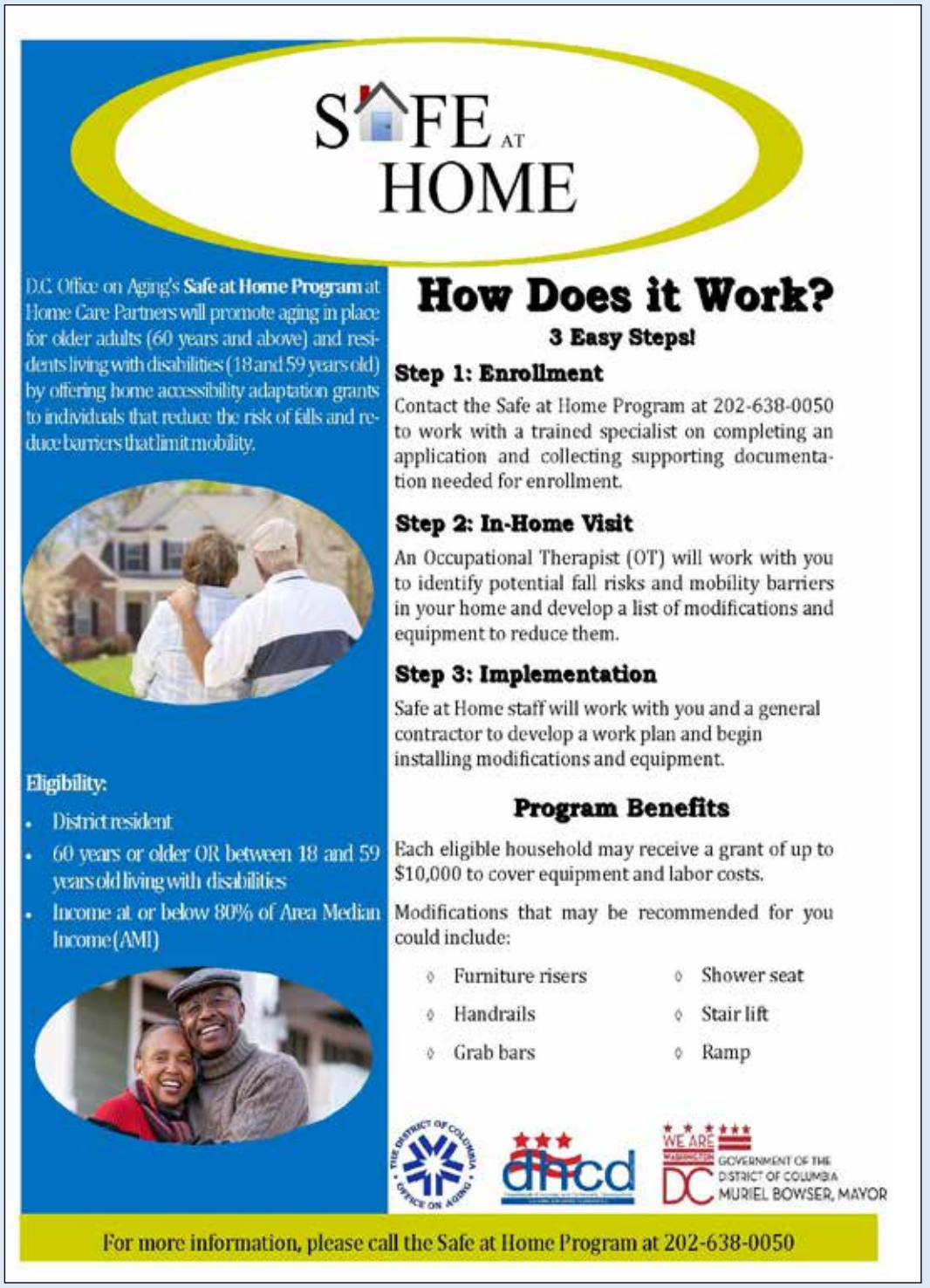
Laura Newland
DC Office on Aging
Acting Executive Director



On December 18th, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced my appointment to serve as Executive Director of the DC Office on Aging. I am honored and excited to continue implementing the Mayor's vision for DCOA.

In the new year, DCOA will be starting new initiatives to strengthen the administration's commitment to make DC an Age-Friendly City. Age-Friendly DC is a coordinated, comprehensive and collective-action effort to ensure all DC residents are active, connected, healthy, engaged and happy in their environment and community.

Beginning this month, DCOA, in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), will begin the "Safe at Home Program." This program will provide a grant up to $10,000 for seniors and people living with disabilities to make their homes accessible. These adaptations may include ramps, grab bars, and shower cut outs. Safe At Home fills a gap in the District's current home modification programs as DHCD's Single Family Residential Rehab Program (SFRRP) is a loan program for modifications of $10,000-$30,000. Safe At Home will work closely with DHCD to make appropriate referrals for larger projects.



District residents 60 years or older or between 18 and 59 years old living with a disability and with an income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) are eligible. If you are the only one living in your household, your income would need to be under $61,152; and if you live with your spouse or partner and filed a joint tax return, your household income would need to be under $69,888. Please contact 202-638-0050 for more information.

DCOA is also partnering with the National Council on Aging to offer BenefitsCheckup, an online service that provides customized benefits eligibility information for seniors and people living with disabilities. The questionnaire is available online, takes 10-15 minutes and doesn't require any sensitive personal information - such as a social security number. Since November, DCOA staff and all of our community partners have used BenefitsCheckUp. It includes more than 2,000 public and private benefit programs from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Finally, DCOA will soon be conducting an assessment that will review current aging programs, senior wellness centers, senior center facilities, and other programming specific to seniors living within the District to make recommendations for new programming opportunities, including areas without brick and mortar senior wellness centers.

With this evaluation, we will be able to examine the current service and programmatic needs of older adults living in the District of Columbia and develop a strategic road map to help us meet you where you are at. We will also gain valuable demographic data, which will help us make informed funding decisions and determine impact across the city.

To find out more information about these important projects please visit our website at www.dcoa.dc.gov or call 202-724-5626.

As you can see, we have a lot of plans in 2016! I'm excited to lead such a great staff of dedicated professionals as we continue to advocate for older District residents, people living with disabilities, and their caregivers.

DCPS BRIEFS

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM



Nearly 40 partnerships with local businesses and organizations, aimed at benefitting DCPS students, have been established through the Adopt-a-School program. / Photo courtesy DCPS

School officials are celebrating an exciting addition to DCPS partnerships this year called the "Adopt-a-School" program.

Throughout January, nearly 40 partnerships established through this program will be featured. Listed among the partnerships are D.C. United, Wells Fargo, Takoma Park Baptist Church, and the Young Playwrights' Theater.

To learn more about how individuals and organizations can get involved, visit DCPS' School Partners page.

DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

At least 11 dual-language programs will be offered to DCPS students during the next school year. While the newest programs will open at MacFarland Middle School and Roosevelt High School, Houston Elementary will offer the first dual-language program east of the Anacostia River.

ROLE MODELS FOR BROWNE EC STUDENTS



Warren Lodge No. 8, a nonprofit, charitable fraternal order, has adopted Browne Education Campus in DCPS' "Adopt-a-School" program. / Photo courtesy DCPS

Warren Lodge No. 8, a non-profit, charitable fraternal order, has adopted Browne Education Campus in DCPS' "Adopt-a-School" program.

The District-based lodge has been active with Browne EC – which includes 3-year-old classrooms through 8th grade – since October.

Lodge members have helped with distribution of donated food, coat drives and taking middle grade students on college tours. The lodge is currently planning a father-daughter luncheon for April.

"It's important for us to be positive African-American role models for students, so they can see that they can be successful if they just work hard, and that there are people in their community willing to work with them to achieve their goals," said Daryel Dunston, the lodge's executive director. "Just to see and to be able to interact with the kids, and to talk to them about their goals, and just get to know them and their stories is very refreshing. It also encourages me and the members of our organization to want to do more."

OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY ABROAD

DCPS students will list among four hundred 8th-and 11th- graders who will have an opportunity this summer to study abroad.

DCPS students in the 8th- or 11th-grade, who are enrolled in a World Languages course, are now eligible to apply for one of the fully-funded study abroad trips that are being presented all over the world this summer in places like Spain, Costa Rica, France, and Ecuador.

Applications are open through Feb. 15, and all student travel candidates must submit a Student Application, available via www.dcpsglobaled.org. Travelers must also obtain a passport and the necessary visas and vaccines prior to trip departure, and DCPS Study Abroad will cover the costs of visa and passports for all travelers.

POSSE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Sixteen DCPS high school seniors have been honored with full college scholarships from the POSSE DC Foundation. In this scholarship program, students join a 'posse,' where they get extra support from peers.

- **Arrie Jones,** Anacostia High School
- **Dwayne Whittaker,** Ballou Senior High School
- **Demi Stratmon,** Benjamin Banneker Academic High School
- Matlhodi Sebolai, Duke Ellington School of the Arts
- **Austin Ray,** McKinley Tech High School
- **Chauncey Cannon,** McKinley Tech High School
- **Michaela Pratt,** Phelps ACE High School
- **Eden Elam,** School Without Walls
- **Daniella Butler,** School Without Walls
- **Taylor Gaskins,** School Without Walls
- **Joseph Seyoum,** School Without Walls
- Betsy Dennis, School Without Walls
- **Diamond Pinder,** School Without Walls
- **Rebekah Armstrong,** School Without Walls
- **Matthew McAllister,** School Without Walls
- **Sean Wright,** Woodrow Wilson Senior High School

CAMPUS EXPANSION AT ACHIEVEMENT PREP

Recent funding by City First Bank will be put toward construction of a 45,000 square foot addition to Achievement Preparatory Academy in Northeast.

In a community where there are few quality public education options, Achievement Prep will increase access to a Tier 1 education for children PK3-8 living in Ward 8 by creating approximately 300 additional high quality school seats.

The facility will also provide a multi-purpose space with 100+ capacity that will be made available to the community for ANC meetings, voting and other uses.

In addition to retaining 74 permanent jobs, Achievement Prep will hire approximately 14 teachers and four mental health practitioners.



New construction at Achievement Prep will include a multipurpose space with 100+ capacity that the community can use for ANC meetings, voting and other purposes. / Photo courtesy Achievement Preparatory Academy WI

DCPS CALENDAR

Jan. 15: **Term 2 midterms/ finals begin**
Jan. 18: **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)**
Jan. 21: **Term 2 midterms/finals end**
Jan. 22: **Records Day (Students dismissed at 12:15 p.m.)**

Don't forget to apply through the My School DC Lottery. Enrollment deadlines are Feb. 1 for grades 9-12 and March 1 for PK3-8.

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PGCPS BRIEFS

SCHOOL LOTTERY



The County's Charter Public School Office will accept online lottery applications for the 2016-17 academic year through Jan. 29. / Photo courtesy PGCPS

Online applications are currently being accepted for the 2016-17 charter school lottery.

Parents and students have an opportunity to secure an available seat in a Public Charter School through the lottery process.

The computerized lottery system will assign a random number to each application, sort them based on the randomly-assigned number and assign a sequential number. The lowest random number is assigned number one, the next lowest number two, and so forth. Applications are then sorted by school. Placements are determined by space availability. Submission of an application is not a guarantee of placement.

The Charter School Office will accept online applications for the 2016-17 school year through Jan. 29.

Interested families must complete an online application at http://lottery.pgcps.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS will award $151,000 in scholarship dollars this school year to PGCPS graduating seniors as follows:

Chief Executive Officer's Scholarship - $5,000 to 5 PGCPS graduating seniors

Leadership Scholarship - $3,500 each to 15 PGCPS graduating seniors

Student Service Learning Scholarship - $3,500 each to 15 PGCPS graduating seniors

Technical Scholarship - $3,500 each to 2 PGCPS graduating seniors

Trade Scholarship - $3,500 each to 2 PGCPS graduating seniors

Culinary Arts Scholarship – 3,500 each to 2 PGCPS graduating seniors

To download applications, visit the PGCPS website.

BOOK DONATIONS

Prince George's County Public Schools recently received $200,000 worth of donated books and furniture from The New Carrollton Public Library Branch – a generous gesture that will support the district's academic focus on literacy.

Earlier this month, Shari Blohm, supervisor of PGCPS' Library Media Services, and several of her colleagues collected more than 15,000 books to distribute among five elementary and high schools. Columbia Park, Flintstone, and Cooper Lane elementary schools will each receive a third of the Children's Literature publications, while Oxon Hill and Suitland high schools will each receive half of the books from the Teen Section for their libraries.

"We are so thankful for the donation from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System," said Blohm. "This donation gives our students access to a greater selection of reading materials that will help develop or strengthen their love for reading."

Schools CEO Kevin Maxwell added that in order for students to succeed, officials have to promote literacy across all content areas. "The donation puts additional books into our schools and into the hands of our students," he said.

The donated materials include fiction and nonfiction hardcover and paperback books. Tables and chairs, study carrels, early childhood displays, and shelving were also donated and will be distributed to the recently opened Kenmoor Early Childhood Center.

The New Carrollton Public Library Branch temporarily closed in December 2015 for renovation.

BADEN ELEMENTARY RECEIVES GRANT

Baden Elementary School in Brandywine, Maryland, lists as one of just three schools in the state of Maryland to receive the Verizon Technology Grant, which was recently presented to school leaders in the form of a $10,000 check.

"We are super excited about winning the grant and the opportunities it will present to our students," said Principal Antron Huff, Baden Elementary School. "There is such a thirst for knowledge among our students in the areas of science, math, and technology, and we are simply thrilled to develop and expand some of the programs we have here."

The grant will help support the school's efforts to increase student engagement and achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math. Huff added that the grant would fund an afterschool STEM program and support both a Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation lab and Traveling Science program.

"Verizon cares about its customers and investing in the communities we serve," said Lawrence Graham, director of State Government Affairs, Verizon. "Verizon is pleased to make an investment in the interests of Baden Elementary School students, specifically their love for the study of science, technology, mathematics, and engineering."

YOUTH ENRICHMENT REGISTRATION

Registration has begun for Prince George's County's premier Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

County youth between the ages of 15 and 19, will have an opportunity to participate in career development, life-skills training and job training sponsored by Prince George's Community College.

Meanwhile, the application period for Summer Youth Employment opens on Friday, Feb. 22 – and closes March 25 – for positions in Prince George's County government.

All county residents ages 15-19 are welcome to apply. For more information, visit: http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/summeryouth/Pages/default.aspx WI



There isn't much that D.C. musician and entrepreneur Marcus Johnson can't do. He has both an MBA and JD degree, he owns his own record label (Three Keys Music), he has a wine company (FLO Wine) among other lifestyle brands, he serves on the board of the Boys and Girls Club, and he runs a recording studio and a publishing company. But tonight is all about his first love: jazz. Johnson's approach to music composition and performance is similar to his business strategy: innovative and independent. As a self-taught keyboardist and pianist, Johnson has a style all his own that has earned the respect and admiration of his contemporary jazz peers. Even while based in Washington, D.C., he is on the cutting edge of "Euro Jazz," having formed JURIS, a musical collaboration with acclaimed Parisian DJ and producer Young Pulse.

Johnson's AMP performance will draw from his 15 studio albums, including his latest work, Live and Direct. Johnson says Live and Direct "represents one of the most difficult, yet gratifying journeys in my career…based in the idea that music can be created at both the live and studio level…rarely are they put together, but when they are, a unique music experience is created." If you aren't familiar with Johnson's work already, think funky urban groove music along the lines George Duke or Herbie Hancock. Don't miss the opportunity to catch this living legend in action as he continues to innovate and inspire both on and off the stage.

Get tickets at: http://bit.ly/1mLu021

Two Rivers Public Charter School
INTENT TO AWARD A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT
Lindamood Bell In-School Tutoring Services

Two Rivers Public Charter School intends to enter into a sole source contract with Lindamood- Bell Learning Processes for learning center on campus services using proprietary Lindamood- Bell instructional materials and Lindamood-Bell staff. The cost of this contract will be approximately $70,000. The decision to sole source is because Lindamood-Bell is the exclusive licensed center in the District of Columbia that provides in-school learning centers staffed by Lindamood-Bell staff using Lindamood-Bell materials. Lindamood-Bell instructional materials are currently used by Two Rivers staff and additional capacity outside Two Rivers staff is needed for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

Your Support Is Stacking Up



The Pepco Holdings-Exelon Merger: Affordability, Reliability and Sustainability for DC.

The merger will provide **$72.8 million** for bill credits, low-income assistance, renewable energy and energy-efficiency programs in the District. **Millions more** will go to local charities and workforce development. That's why tens of thousands of DC residents support the Pepco Holdings-Exelon merger.

For more information or to show your support, visit *PHITomorrow.com*.

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EDITORIAL

Have We Forgotten the Sacrifices and Example of Dr. King?

On Monday, Jan. 18, America will pause once again to honor the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As King said, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

King's words remain significant and poignant almost 48 years after his tragic death.

But while we will participate in marches and rallies, celebrate with marching bands and honor guards during parades and even discuss his words and writings during roundtables and forums, the question remains whether we are doing the "King thing" more as a perfunctory act or whether it has true relevance to our lives and the future.

King, in his book "Why We Can't Wait," said "Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, 'Wait.' But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim . . . when you see the vast majority of your 20 million Negro brothers and sisters smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see the tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky . . . then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair."

How could King have known that his words would become prophetic?

How could he have realized that what he described in the early 1960s, what he saw and experienced, would be illustrative of what many in the Black community deal with almost five decades into the future?

The notion of waiting tends to be recommended by those in power – those who have privilege, education and economic stability. But for those who continue to suffer, who stand in long lines, rain or shine, along with their children, in order to receive their monthly check, for those who live day-to-day wondering how they will pay the rent, buy food and stay warm, waiting is not an option.

Today, more Blacks have acquired the accoutrements of middle- and upper-class society than at any other time in this country's history. But even more of our people continue to lag behind – locked up and locked out – hopeless.

The power of movements like Black Lives Matter and other grassroots initiatives, led mostly by those under the age of 30, have gained such momentum, in part, because of the words and example of men like Dr. King.

Our youth have learned their lessons well. And they have added their own spin to the long-fought battle for equal rights.

We honor the life of Dr. King and urge you to do something for someone in need on the day of his birth – remember the "least of these."

Doing that, we know, will be the ultimate way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Long live the King. **WI**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun Owners Should be Responsible

I would first like to let you know that I have owned a gun legally most of my life. My father taught my brothers and me how to shoot and hunt when we were very young, and I, too, have taught my son and daughter how to shoot a gun and how to hunt with a gun. I am a firm believer in the Second Amendment of the Constitution because I believe that every man and woman have the right to bear arms. So when I read your article, "Emotional President Calls for Increased Gun Control," in the January 7, 2016 edition of The Informer, I thought to myself, "why are the so-called gun rights people so upset?" The President is not calling for someone to take our guns away, nor is he saying we can't buy any more guns. Am I missing something here? What I am reading is that he wants to tighten background checks, so people who shouldn't have guns can't legally buy them, that's all. So what is so wrong with that? I think big money is getting in the way of common sense. Gun show promoters have a lot at stake and they are pouring big money into fighting anything that looks like an infringement on their right to let vendors buy and sell guns to the public at their shows. That, to me, is the real issue, background checks and the gun show sales. Once we solve that issue I think a lot of this rhetoric will die down.

Kenneth Salvager
Prince Georges County

Yes, I Am a Redskins Fan

"Hail to the Redskins!" The whole DMV is buzzing about our upcoming play-off game against the Green Bay Packers. I haven't seen this much burgundy and gold around town in years -- hats, scarfs, jackets, jerseys, gloves, and car flags -- man, it's everywhere! And that's great for our team and our city, because to me this is the only way for us to be that "one city" that politicians talk about. Oh yeah, another thing is that we don't have to look at that disgusting blue and tin color of that other team that is always showing its ugly self from time to time around here. Here's wishing victory comes to the Redskins on Sunday, but if not, we made the playoffs and from where we came that's coming a long way and we are moving in the right way. GO SKINS!!!

Bobby Morris
Washington, DC

Readers' Mailbox

The Washington Informer welcomes letters to the editor about articles we publish or issues affecting the community. Write to: lsaxton@washingtoninformer.com or send to: 3117 Martin Luther King Jr Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20032. Please note that we are unable to publish letters that do not include a full name, address and phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Guest Columnist

By Wade Henderson

Supreme Court Puts Reliable Government Jobs At Risk

Both of my parents worked in stable government jobs, so I had the privilege of growing up in a family that owned a home, a car, and set me on a path to college and even law school.

Among members of the African-American middle class, my story isn't at all uncommon. If you asked any African American over the past century what the pathway to a stable career was, they'd probably say "a government job." That's because when people of color were subject to widespread discrimination, unionized public sector jobs such as teachers, postal workers, and administrators were often the only opportunities available.

But those jobs are under attack at the Supreme Court, and this should alarm anyone who cares about economic mobility.

The court is considering a case called Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, which could destroy the ability of government employees to receive the benefits that unions secure through collective bargaining like fair pay and safe workplaces.

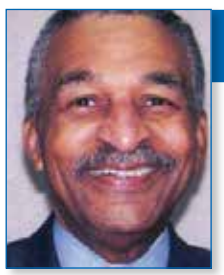
The lead plaintiff is a lot like thousands of other teachers in California whose wages and benefits are a direct result of the California Teachers Association's bargaining on her behalf. But Ms. Friedrichs sued because she doesn't want to contribute to the union. If the California Teachers Association loses, the impact could be widespread, as any public sector worker anywhere in the country could decide not to pay their fair share of dues, effectively starving their union.

Ms. Friedrichs isn't just acting on her own behalf. She is being represented by the Center for Individual Rights, the same organization that sued to gut the Voting Rights Act and to eliminate race-conscious admissions for colleges. This lawsuit is another part of a coordinated campaign to use the Supreme Court to roll back long-standing civil rights protections that people fought and died for in the streets.

Civil rights groups have filed a brief in the case because a ruling against the California Teachers Association would undermine the ability of the nurses, firefighters, postal workers, and teachers that built the Black middle class to thrive.

The reality is that women and people of color still experience pernicious barriers in employment, including unequal pay, discriminatory treatment, and unpredictable schedules.

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Guest Columnist

By James Clingman

Tamir Rice: The Shame of It All

It's not surprising that no one will be punished for the death of Tamir Rice. Since the youngster's killing, the police, Cuyahoga County prosecutor Timothy McGinty and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson have refused to do anything except look for ways to sweep it away in hopes that it will be forgotten, just like previous similar acts of lethal aggression against Black people.

The report stated Rice's death was caused, "by the failure…to exercise due care to avoid injury." In other words, the 12-year old boy caused his own death. The mayor apologized, not for the killing, but for the words used to describe the cause of the killing. Rice was shot for holding a toy gun 1.7 seconds after the cops pulled up to his location in a park. No warning, no command to drop the gun, and no attempt to speak to Rice; they shot first—immediately, and now we are asking the questions.

McGinty described the events leading up to Tamir's death as a tragic series of errors and "miscommunications" that began when a 911 caller said a male who was "probably a juvenile" was waving a "probably fake" gun at people in a park. Has there been any disciplinary action issued against the 911 dispatcher for not relaying the entire message to the cops?

The fact that those caveats never reached Officer Timothy Loehmann — who shot the child within two seconds of arriving on the scene — was more than just an administrative misstep. Like the 911 call that led to John Crawford's death in an Ohio Walmart, for holding a BB gun, not "pointing" it at customers as the caller said, Rice's instantaneous execution reflects an utter disregard for Black life. That disregard began with Officer Loehmann's work history and emotional state not being fully vetted before he was given the power of life and death over the citizens of Cleveland.

Wanton violence against people who pose no threat to the police was on full display in a particularly striking case in 2012. Officers mistook the sound of a car backfiring for a gunshot, thus, according to The Guardian, causing 104 of the 277 Cleveland officers on duty that night to get involved. Cops chased down and fired 137 bullets into the vehicle, killing Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell, who were unarmed.

Regarding the last series of shots fired by Officer Michael Brelo, who said his life was in danger yet, in Rambo style, jumped on the hood of the car and started firing, Judge John O'Donnell said, "I cannot find beyond a reasonable doubt which of the fatal wounds he caused." Oh, I get it. New defense: Fire as many shots by as many cops as possible so no one can determine which cop fired the fatal bullet. Everybody walks.

CLINGMAN *Page 45*



Guest Columnist

By Armstrong Williams

Responsible Gun Ownership is not Only a Right but a Duty of Citizenship

It has been said time and again, but it bears repeating: About the only thing that restrictive gun laws have done in our country is prevent the good guys from defending themselves when bad guys attack. This maxim applies directly to the San Bernardino, California, situation, an immense tragedy in which 14 innocent people were gunned down by a married couple with Islamic extremist allegiances.

California has some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation, including a ban on assault rifles of the type that were used in the San Bernardino attacks. But that did not stop terrorists from obtaining the weapons illegally and using them on defenseless citizens. This sad story has repeated itself in numerous instances of mass shootings around the nation, from an elementary school in Newtown, Massachusetts to Umpqua Community College in Oregon.

However, the tide is starting to turn. Washington, D.C., Police Chief Cathy Lanier said in a recent 60 Minutes' interview that because deaths in mass shootings usually occur in the first few minutes (before first responders have a chance to arrive on the scene), members of the public should protect themselves by any means at their disposal, whether that means running away or trying to overpower the attacker. Lanier's statement is a stark departure from the usual advice given by law enforcement: stand by and wait for the police to arrive. But in the age of the suicide terrorist or mass shooter that advice is no longer applicable. People have to do whatever they can to protect themselves, even if that means killing an attacker.

On the other side of the debate, you have gun control advocates who argue that mass shootings are made more possible by permissive gun laws that allow deadly weapons to get into the hands of criminals. But that flies in the face of the obvious facts. Case in point is the city of Chicago, which has one of the highest murder rates of any major city in the U.S., while at the same time boasting some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation. Not only have thousands of people died by gun violence in Chicago over the past few years, police and first responders have rarely if ever prevented an active shooter from taking out innocent citizens.

Chicago has a concealed carry law that permits citizens to apply for a license to bear arms. However, the approval process is shrouded in secrecy. The city's "Concealed Carry Licensing Review Board" is being inundated by a flood of lawsuits over its refusal to issue licenses to law-abiding citizens. The suits allege that the review process violates citizens' constitutional rights to due process because it is conducted entirely in secret, does not provide a reason for refusal, and provides no administrative appeals process once a person's application is denied. The kicker of course is that these restrictive laws disproportionately affect

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Guest Columnist

By Charlene Crowell

CFPB Cracks Down on Illegal Debt Collections

As holiday revelers toasted the season, a key federal regulator took two steps to ensure that 2016 would bring an important change for consumers harassed by illegal debt collector actions.

On Dec.16 and in its third action against a large national payday lender, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ordered EZCorp Inc. to refund $7.5 million to 93,000 consumers and pay an additional $3 million in penalties for illegal debt on high-cost payday and installment loans.

CFPB found that EZCorp collected debts with a litany of illegal actions that included visits to homes and/or workplaces. Even worse, by requiring payments via electronic fund transfers, consumers often wound up with multiple charges. The required electronic withdrawals from consumer accounts frequently triggered additional overdraft fees charged by banks. CFPB's investigation, which began in July, determined multiple violations of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act's ban on unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

Days later, on Dec. 28, CFPB filed a proposed settlement in federal court that, once approved, will stop a Georgia-based law firm and its principals from flooding courts with lawsuits that were as faulty as they were prevalent in harming consumers. Some consumer advocates believe that this first-of-its-kind suit and settlement together set a significant precedent.

This second enforcement action culminated a July 2014 lawsuit brought by CFPB against a Georgia-based law firm, Frederick J. Hanna and Associates, for operating an illegal debt collection lawsuit mill. Specifically, CFPB charged the firm with two major violations:

- Intimidating consumers with deceptive court filings that enabled the firm to churn out hundreds of thousands of lawsuits over a four-year period from 2009 to 2014; and
- Introducing faulty or unsubstantiated evidence to support its lawsuits, resulting in the collection of millions of dollars each year – often from consumers who may not have owed debts.

"The Hanna firm relied on deception and faulty evidence to coerce consumers into paying debts that often could not be verified or may not be owed," said CFPB Director Richard Cordray. "Debt collectors that use the court system for purposes of intimidation should reconsider how their practices are harming consumers."

With court approval, Hanna and Associates and its principals will:

- Pay a $3.1 million penalty;
- End illegal collection and intimidation tactics;

CROWELL *Page 46*



Guest Columnist

By Harry C. Alford

It is Time to Deal With Concussions

First, let me make a recommendation. Everyone should see the movie "Concussion." Actor Will Smith will probably get an Oscar for his role. He plays Dr. Bennet Omalu, who links mental illness to football. His claim is that a high number of football players experience concussions and a noticeable number of them end up with mental disorders and extreme depression. He coined the term for this prognosis – chronic traumatic encephalopathy. He obtained support from other doctors and submitted his findings to a prestigious medical journal. It was accepted. That is when the National Football League found out about his research and all hell broke loose.

The NFL tried to discredit him. They hounded him and his wife. They actually had the FBI harass him and one of his partners. Then they pushed him out of Pittsburgh. Nearly broken, he left for California. But his study could not be refuted and the general public as well as football players started speaking up. The movie has a happy ending.

The first football player to catch the attention of Omalu was Mike Webster. I first met Webster on the University of Wisconsin campus. It was my senior year and Webster was a freshman center. Freshmen could not play varsity athletics at the time so Mike and the other freshmen were "practice bait" for the upper classmen. I love football, which is what led me to be a football player. Webster was probably born to play football. We were impressed by this freshman, who could handle the best of us during scrimmaging. We weren't wrong. Mike went on to star for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was selected to the Pro Bowl every year he played and at the end he walked into the Football Hall of Fame. Such a great rise to fame followed by a lifetime of sorrow and tragedy.

After football something started happening. People figured he had lost his mind – homeless, living in a vehicle, drugs and liquor. "Strong Mike" eventually died with most people in Pittsburgh assuming steroids were the cause. It was not! Omalu performed the autopsy and discovered the reason. His brain was a total mess. Finally, he surmised it was due to the violence to the head for ten straight years. He went on to prove this and that for two other Pittsburgh Steelers.

Concussions were common within my football experience. During my high school days, I guess I delivered a few of them to opposing teams. In college, I received a few light ones and one big one that put me into the hospital. Team doctors were in denial as well as the coaches.

ALFORD *Page 46*



Askia-At-Large

By Askia Muhammad

White American Hatred of Muslims is Nothing New

All over the United States, people are recoiling recently at vicious acts that are being committed with increasing frequency against Muslims.

Girls and women wearing headscarves have been beaten on the streets. Mosques have been firebombed and desecrated. An entire school was shuttered over an art assignment asking students to draw Islamic calligraphy. A teacher was suspended for wearing a scarf and for quoting a recent statement by Pope Francis concerning the "oneness" of the God of Abraham, who is revered as a prophet by Christians, Muslims, and Jews alike.

Such Islamophobic acts are not new. In fact, Muslims have been set upon in this country for 85 years and counting.

In the 1930s, shortly after Mr. Elijah Muhammad emerged in Detroit as the leader of the newly formed Nation of Islam, he and his followers were persecuted by authorities for withdrawing their children from the miserable, separate and unequal public schools and enrolling them in his University of Islam, where they were taught prayer, respect, cleanliness, mathematics and science.

How dare this Black man take children from the public schools and teach them independently? Today, of course, home schools and independent schools are so very chic among Whites and Blacks as well in this country.

In 1942, although he was 45 years old and well past the draft-eligible age, Mr. Muhammad was arrested and imprisoned for five years because he preached against the participation of Black men in the military forces of this nation that denied them even the tiniest shred of equality. In prison, Mr. Muhammad and his followers were starved because they refused to eat pork or vegetables prepared with pork. Today, after Supreme Court rulings in their favor, prisoners are permitted to choose diets that conform to their religious practices.

In the 1950s, Mr. Muhammad and his followers — Minister Malcolm X in particular — were persecuted and labeled "hate teachers" by the very same segregationists who denied millions and millions of Black people equal education, equal public accommodations, equal protection under the law. The "Black Muslims" were labeled in a documentary, "The hate that hate produced."

By the 1960s, the NOI had gained international prominence, and rather than be celebrated for the amazing work of reforming criminals, drug addicts, alcoholics and other "bad actors," Black Muslims were disowned by the so-called

MUHAMMAD *Page 46*

Local Artist Dike Continues to Make His Mark

Showcases His Latest Works in NE Lofts

By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor

At the tender age of two, Dike Markeith Harris recalls his mother's astonishment that he had already begun to produce impressive drawings of things around him.

Now 50, the Gaithersburg, Maryland resident has turned his love for art into a successful business. And on Saturday, Jan. 9, about 100 of his friends, fans, family and admirers packed the Artspace Lofts in NE for his show, "Mirrors: Reflections of Inner Light and Love."

Dike, as he prefers to be called, said he's always known he had a God-given gift.

"I've always known that I wanted to do something that had to do with art but it took me awhile to discover the best way to get into the industry," he said. "I've been a full-time artist for the past 10 years and I paint by instinct. I've come to realize that art is my passion," said the Camden, New Jersey native.

Prior to turning to his craft full-time, Dike worked as a hair stylist. He said he found the career to be lucrative, doing it for over 20 years. But it was never his first love.

"In many ways styling hair is another form of art," he said. "I made good money and made a lot of friends. But it wasn't my passion. I realized that at some point I would have to return to my first love – art."

During his years in high school in Montgomery County, he took advantage of the visual arts program at Albert Einstein where he honed his skills. He credits Howard Fleming, a well-established, internationally respected artist from D.C., for being both his mentor and his inspiration.



▲ *Local visual artist Dike (pronounced "Dee-Kay"), "The Artist Icon," showcases his artwork mixed with acrylic, glass and Swarovski crystals on Saturday, January 9 at the Victor L. Selman Gallery located inside the Brookland Art Space Lofts in NE DC. / Photo by Patricia Little*

"I was lucky to have good teachers along the way. Youth today need to have the arts in school again. It's a great outlet, it relieves stress and there are many children who, like me, were born to be creative," he said.

Dike's mediums include acrylic on canvas and mixed media. His signature has become his penchant for embellishing all of his paintings with mirrors and Swarovski crystals. He's been commissioned to complete portraits, abstracts and business logos.

"Right now I'm developing my own T-shirt line and plan on rolling it out in the spring," he said.

Dike's work has been featured throughout the Greater Washington Area at places that include: The Strathmore in Potomac, Bus Boys & Poets and the Alchemy of Art Gallery in Baltimore, where he held his last show.

Two of his portraits, of Bette Davis and Marilyn Monroe, now hang on the walls of Carolina Kitchen, a popular Maryland-based restaurant.

Of course, like any entrepreneur, Dike hopes that during his shows, someone will decide to purchase his work. But he said he has other goals too.

"Whenever the spirit instructs me to paint, I do it and that could be anytime of the day or night," he added. "But I really want my art to inspire and elevate viewers to a higher state of consciousness. Art, and music as well, is good for the soul – both have healing powers."

For more about Dike or to purchase his works, go to http://dike-artisticon.instaprints.com or email him at dike954@gmail.com WI



Taraji Wins Golden Globe Award

Denzel Washington Honored

By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer
@dreamersexpress

D.C.'s own Taraji P. Hensen, 45, stunned the 73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards when she won best performance by an actress in a TV drama series for her role as Cookie Lyon on Fox's hit series "Empire.".

Fellow nominees for the category included Viola Davis, Caitriona Balfe, Eva Green and Robin Wright.

This is Hensen's first nomination and win in this category. She is the third Black woman to win this award in the Globe's 73-year history.

Gail Fisher won in 1973 for the series "Mannix" and Regina Taylor won in 1993 for "I'll Fly Away."

"Who knew that playing an ex-convict would take me all around the globe," Hensen said. "I thought it would be Queenie, Will, I thought it would be my character from Karate Kid, but it's Cookie, who spent 17 years in jail for selling crack, okay."

Hensen's acting career started 20 years ago as an acting major at Howard University. She had minor speaking roles until the 2001 release of John Singleton's blockbuster "Baby Boy".

Since then she has had a steady climb up the Hollywood ranks with films such as "Hustle & Flow," David Fincher's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and "Think Like A Man."

Hensen also saw success in television with drama series such as "The Division," "Boston Legal," and "Person of Interest," however, none of them garnered the acclaim of Fox's "Empire" which debuted in the fall of 2014.

During her speech Hensen received the wrap signal from producers she responded in Lyon fashion:

"I've waited 20 years for this. You gon' wait," she said. "My fans have been praying for this, there all on Twitter like yeah I hope you get it! I need time."

Other notable moments of the night include legendary actor Denzel Washington, 61, receiving the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award.

The prestigious award is an honorary Golden Globe bestowed by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment.

Washington is the third African American to receive the honor following Sidney Poitier in 1982 and Morgan Freeman in 2012.

"I'm speechless, I thank the Hollywood Foreign Press for supporting me over the years they always made me feel like a partner or a friend," Washington said.

"I want to thank my mother for convincing my father that we needed more than 25 watt bulbs, he thought that…yeah I need my glasses," he said.

Although Washington couldn't see his written prepared remarks he went on to thank his family and late former agents.

In his illustrious career Washington has won two Golden Globes for "Glory" in 1989 for Best Supporting Actor and "The Hurricane" in 1999 for Best Actor.

Sylvester Stallone, 69, another fan favorite, took home his first Golden Globe of his career for Best Supporting Actor in the 2015 release of "Creed."

"I'm gonna try not to get emotional, because I am the sum total of everyone I ever met," Stallone said. "Thank you to the Hollywood Foreign Press, last time I was here it was 1977 and I was hit by a tumbleweed. It was a long time ago."

"I want to thank my wife and my children because actually having your love is the greatest of all," he said. "And most of all I want to thank my imaginary friend Rocky Balboa for being the best friend I ever had."

Shortly after the awards Stallone received blowback for not thanking Creed's star Michael B. Jordan and director Ryan Coogler.

Two days later he took to Twitter to apologize:

"Samuel Jackson is upset that I foolishly forgot to mention the brilliant Ryan Coogler and MB Jordan – he is right I owe them everything," he wrote on Twitter.

WI



▼ *Denzel Washington / Photo courtesy of independent.co.uk*



▲ *Taraji P. Hensen / Photo courtesy of kirotv.com*



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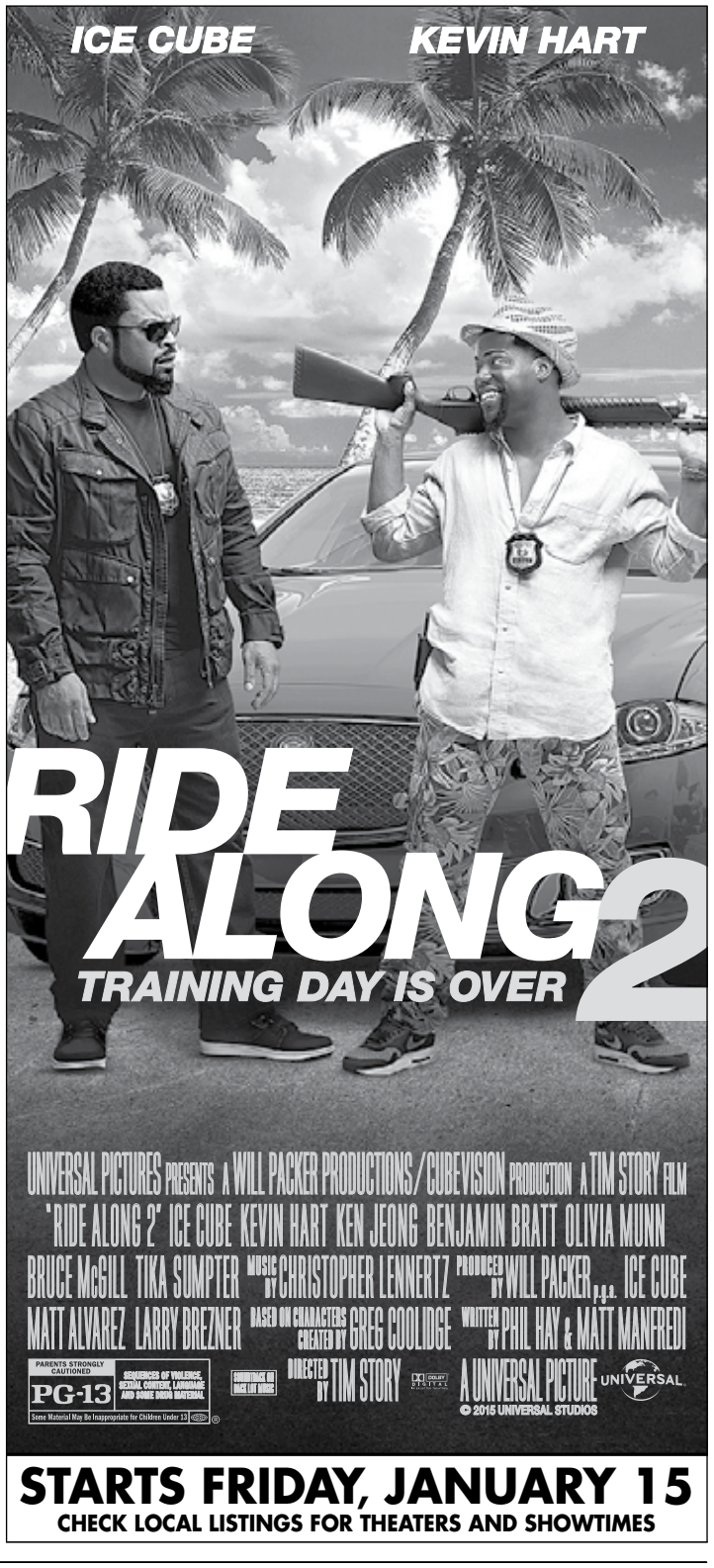
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Playwright Takes on Workers' Woes in 'Sweat'

By Eve M. Ferguson
WI Contributing Writer

Playwright Lynn Nottage has never been shy to take on the tough subjects, as evidenced in her latest play, "Sweat," which is now playing at the Arena Stage.

Nottage is perhaps best-known from her play "Ruined," which told the story of women who were raped in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Now Nottage addresses the hardships of working class African-Americans in the blue-collar community of Reading, Pennsylvania.

"'Sweat' takes place between 2000 and 2008, and it tells the story of these factory workers in Reading and what happens when the resurgence of NAFTA, the North America Free Trade Agreement, comes into play," said Trammell Tillman, who plays Chris.

Trammell hails from the DMV, having cut his teeth doing church plays in Largo, Maryland, where he lived for 16 years.

"All of these factory workers' jobs are at stake," he said. "We see the structure shift among this community of factory workers — these families and friends. Chris, who is the son of a factory worker, as well as a factory worker himself, is caught in the middle of deciding which route to take, to stick with the union or just leave and pursue his own aspirations."

Nottage spent two years researching the play, traveling to Reading, which is known to be among the poorest cities in the United States, which was experiencing rising crime and unemployment. She spent time talking to steel workers in Reading who had been locked out of their former factory jobs, which provided the basis for the story of "Sweat."

As Nottage works with her frequent collaborator, director Kate Whoriskey, this world premiere by the acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning artist explores America's industrial decline as characters reclaim what's lost, find redemption and redefine themselves in a new century. The work was co-commissioned with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Tillman, who is making his Arena Stage debut, is one of the original cast members and spoke about working the legendary playwright on the original play at Oregon Shakes, as the festival is known colloquially.

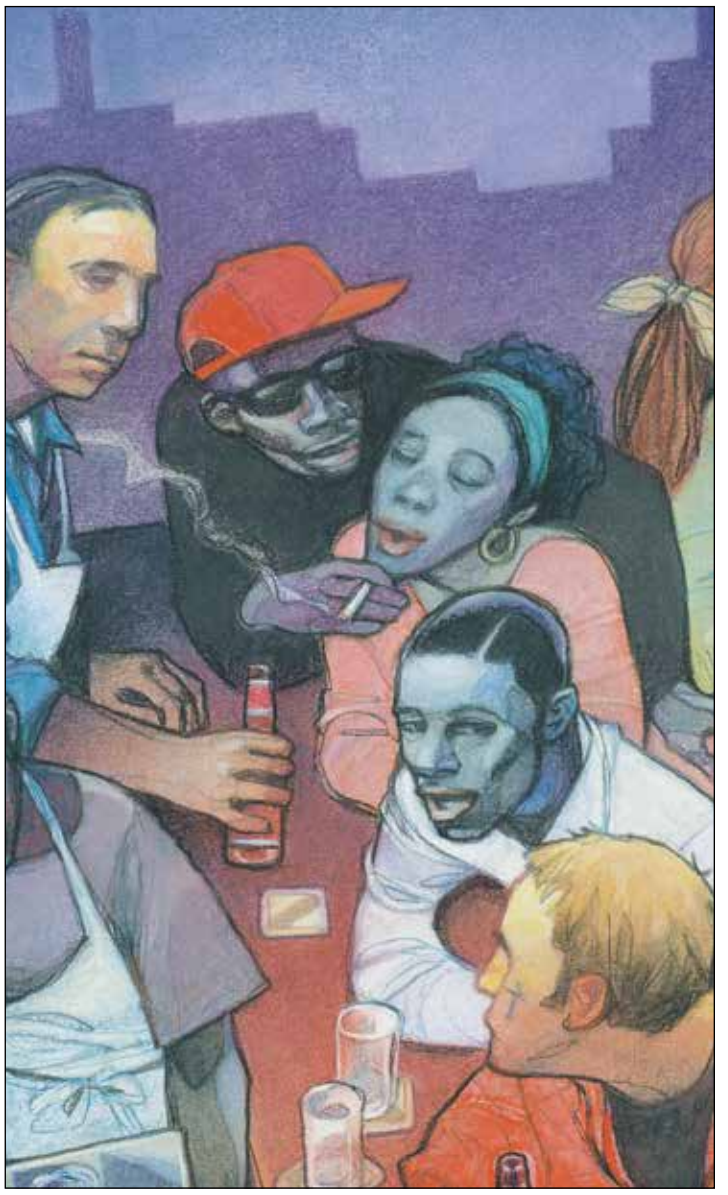
"In the summer of 2015 I was doing a project and I got an email from a casting director from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival asking if I was interested in working on a new play by Lynn Nottage, "Sweat," and of course I said 'yes.' After a long, arduous process I was selected to be part of the production at Oregon Shakes. There I was able to work closely with Lynn Nottage and Kate Whoriskey and really tackle this play."

"I was very strongly familiar with Nottage's work," Tillman continued. "When I got the call and started auditioning, I made it a point to become more familiar with her work, her style and invested in reading her plays. I wanted to really understand her style of writing, the way she presents her characters and the crafting of her stories."

"Lynn's writing is natural," Tillman added. "When you are listening to it and engulfed in it, the conversations are more colloquial amongst the people. Lynn has a way of crafting the characters – they are so rich, so natural and just easy that you almost forget that you are doing a play. It's very conversational."

In its East Coast premiere, "Sweat" draws on the strength of all of its characters, rather than to focus on one or two main characters. As an ensemble piece, most of the original cast was retained while three new cast members were added for the run at Arena Stage, which begins on Jan. 15 and runs through Feb. 21.

"The genius in Lynn's writing is that the style defines the subject," Whoriskey said. "The how defines the what. In writing a play it is customary to ask whose story it is. Usually a single protagonist is identified, but in 'Sweat' Lynn decided that the community is the protagonist in an age where unions are collapsing in favor of unbridled capitalism and self-marketing. Lynn changes the way we perceive character. She asks us not to choose a lead to empathize with but to watch individuals as a group going through crisis together." **WI**



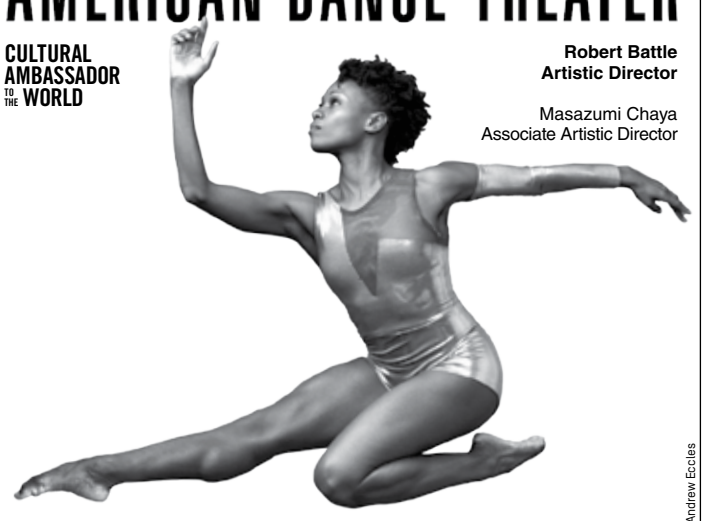
▲ *Illustration by Gary Kelley for Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Sweat, which runs January 15-February 21 at Arena Stage in the Mead Center for American Theater.*

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Rachael McLaren, photo by Andrew Eccles

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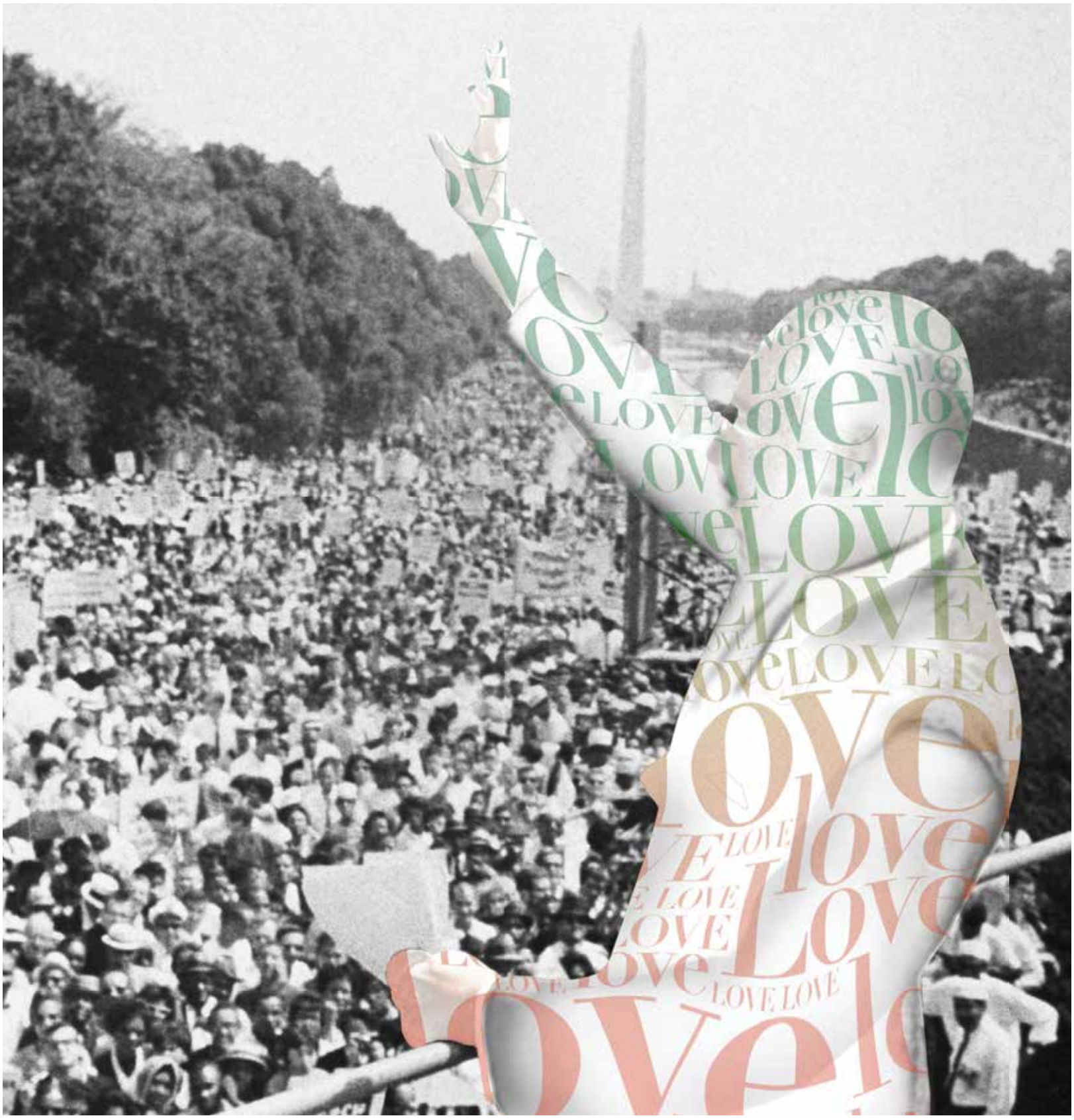
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Searching for Peace in the Middle East

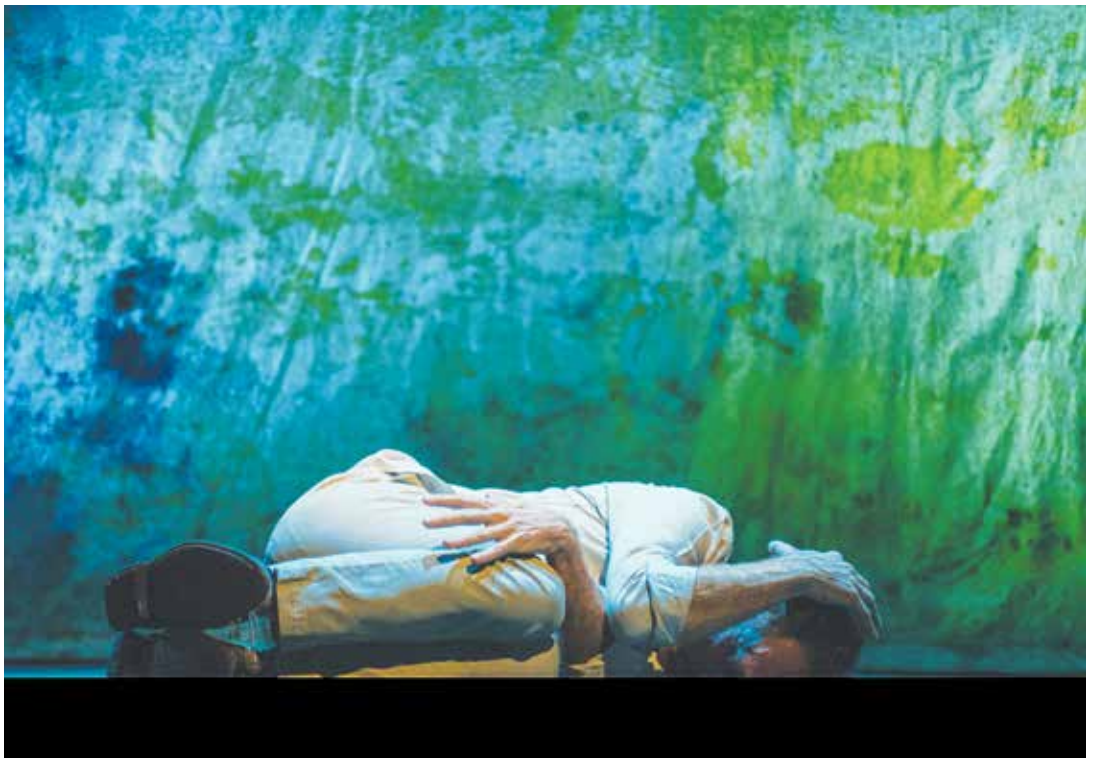
New Play, 'Wrestling Jerusalem,' Addresses Challenges of Daily Life

By Rachel Sudduth
WI Contributing Writer

The crowd leaned towards the stage in awe as actor and producer Aaron Davidman transitioned into more than 17 different Palestinian Israeli, British, and American characters in his solo performance during opening night showing of his acclaimed playwright, "Wrestling Jerusalem."

The dynamic solo performance will run until January 26 in Northeast at the Mosaic Theater, as part of the Voices From a Changing Middle East Festival. The five-play festival features well-known Israeli, Arab and American artists from all over the world, traveling to several destinations in the U.S.

According to a Mosaic Theater press release, Davidman says he wrote the play to answer the question, "How do you feel about what's going on in Israel?" Davidman continues, "'Wrestling Jerusalem' presents a range of voices . . . who each have reflections about their lives that illuminate aspects of the conflict and, hopefully, open our hearts to their perspectives."



Writer and performer Aaron Davidman in Wrestling Jerusalem at Mosaic Theater Company of DC Jan. 6-24, 2016. / Photo by Teddy Wolff



Wrestling Jerusalem writer and performer Aaron Davidman with Founding Artistic Director Ari Roth. / Photo by Teddy Wolff

Davidman sets the scene of the play by describing his first trip to Israel in which he was allowed to stay free of charge in a hostel as he further studied the Jewish written law, The Torah. He takes a journey to Israel in search of answers to one controversial question of the reasoning behind the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Through twists and psyche voices of everyday citizens in the Middle East, viewers are able to understand the argument and adversities each individual struggles with regardless of ethnic and religious background.

Names of several wars and massacre ring out from Davidman's voice, he screams, "1944-Massacre of Muslims" and "1948-War of Independence," painting the picture of the beginning of generational terror.

Yet, Davidman intertwines the expression of how many religious believers fight to accomplish peace in the Middle East.

Davidman correlates the Muslim religious beliefs to those who follow Christ. One character he performs says that Muslims "worship only Allah (God) and no other, while respecting all religion." Popular religious beliefs including Christianity and Judaism teachings demonstrated throughout the play reveal a universal desire for world peace.

"Babies feel what we feel, if the parents do not feel safe neither will the baby," said Davidman as he explains the psychological birth of the distraught younger generations growing up in the Middle East.

From the first Arab-Israeli War, tension between Arabs and Jews along with British forces have left an enduring mark on teens who are forced to live in constant fear of mass weapons of destruction.

For those who wonder whether Israel is a true democracy, Davidman expresses the contrast of feelings toward this idea from the various perspectives of Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs.

"Wrestling Jerusalem" calls for an end to human generation sacrifice and the resolution of pent up anger from years of conflict.

It is a play that is well worth the price of admission. **WI**



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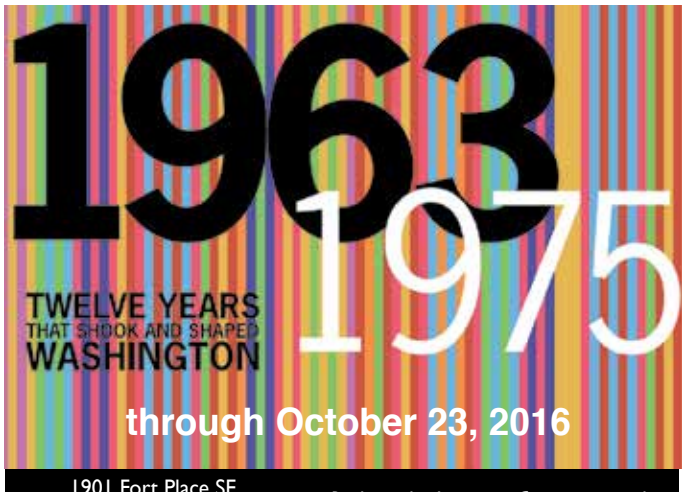
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WI Book Review

"Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King"

by Kathleen Krull,
illustrated by Laura Freeman
c.2015, Bloomsbury
$16.99 / $19.99 Canada
48 pages





Leaders come from surprising places.

The quiet girl that sits the next row over may know how to inspire people. The know-it-all in your class could own a business in the future. The kid everybody picks on might become President. But in the new book "Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Laura Freeman, you'll read about one woman who didn't necessarily want to be a leader. She only wanted to sing.

Born in April 1927, Coretta Scott grew up on her family's farm and was "a bit sheltered" as a girl; still, she was very aware that some things were unfair, which always made her angry. Everybody in Marion, Alabama, knew Coretta was a fighter, that she had "the guts to climb up and over the Rules," and that she had a temper, but there was one thing that calmed her: music.

Because her mother was the church pianist, Coretta was encouraged to sing solos as a very small child. She was known to rush through chores so she could spend time with her music; in high school, she was the school's most promising singer-musician. Later, she landed a scholarship at an Ohio college, where she studied music and education, "in case a career in singing didn't work out." From there, she attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Six months after arriving in Boston, she was introduced to a man named Martin.

At first, Coretta didn't think much of Martin Luther King, Jr. He wasn't her type, and he was awfully outspoken. On the other hand, he spun dreams of a wonderful future. Their dates led her to a church, to a concert, dancing, and eventually to marriage.

But being the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. wasn't always a happy life. Coretta worried about Martin constantly, though she was proud of him. Their work together on boycotts was making change, but there was always danger. She could do what she needed to do, though – as long as she had her music.

I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by "Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King."

So many biographies of King begin with her marriage to Martin, but author Kathleen Krull starts much earlier, putting an emphasis on Coretta Scott King's lifelong love of music and her desire to have a career, despite that woman generally didn't do that sort of thing back then. That gives the story a tone of determination and quiet inspiration, a note that gets louder as the book progresses. I especially like that Krull writes at length of King as a child, which will resonate with young readers who likely won't have any first-hand memories of this remarkable woman.

Don't feel guilty for enjoying this book before you give it to your 9-to-12-year-old. It's a quick and pleasant story you'll both like; in fact, if your child needs a biography to read this spring, you can put "Women Who Broke the Rules: Coretta Scott King" in the lead. **WI**

Horoscopes

JAN. 14 - 20, 2016

ARIES This week you need to balance keeping your eyes on the heavens and your head here on earth. Much work needs to be done before you can accomplish the task before you. If you let yourself, you can get a lot done this week. Soul Affirmation: I reward myself with high opinions of myself.
Lucky Numbers: 18, 21, 30

TAURUS Details might trouble you early in the week, but you don't have to go with that flow of energy. You can choose to focus your attention on the now and work through each task patiently. Things will clear up quickly if you forego idle dreams. Soul Affirmation: I search for ways to improve the way I see life. Lucky Numbers: 3, 17, 30

GEMINI A slight adjustment in your attitude could create a whole new vista for your outlook. What you think is not in conflict with what you do; it simply describes it. Look for a new way to describe your ideas and thoughts. Soul Affirmation: Happiness rules my week this week. Lucky Numbers: 36, 39, 53

CANCER A spirit of rivalry may have you envious this week. Forget about competition. Celebrate your uniqueness and know that no one really ever competes with you in the matter most essential -your good feelings about yourself. A good friend is waiting with a great surprise. Soul Affirmation: I allow the world to bring me my surprise. Lucky Numbers: 1, 23, 41

LEO It's a week tailor-made for your energies, so get out there and let every perfect moment flow toward you. You've got an abundance of pleasant feelings why not spread them around? Soul Affirmation: This week I forgive myself for everything that has happened. Lucky Numbers: 23, 34, 52

VIRGO Remember that you are an intensely physical sign, and you need to move your body in order to relax. Take a walk, go for a swim, play tennis, or scrub that kitchen floor. However you choose to move, you'll liberate your spirit and relax at the same time. Get going! Soul Affirmation: Success is mine because I feel successful. Lucky Numbers: 32, 47, 54

LIBRA You start the week feeling peaceful and wise. Discussions with a close friend may reveal the source of your inner freedom in a very tangible way. So talk about it. You've got everything good to gain.
Soul Affirmation: I let go of the old in order to make room for the new. Lucky Numbers: 16, 28, 29

SCORPIO A message this week may necessitate travel on your part, and you may feel obligated to do something you don't want to. Let the energy flow past you and do what you think is best. Who you are is who you are—be glad about it! Soul Affirmation: Time is the greatest peacemaker of them all.
Lucky Numbers: 12, 17, 22

SAGITTARIUS Accomplishment gives you a feeling of personal satisfaction this week, and you'll feel very happy with your abilities. Take care not to quarrel with a friend; be tactful when asked for your "honest" opinion! Let minor irritations pass you by, and you'll find your way into a very romantic mood. Soul Affirmation: I am willing to do more than my part to get the job done this week. Lucky Numbers: 33, 46, 55

CAPRICORN Avoid getting involved in any office politics or family feuds this week. The week's energy is excitable, but not necessarily exciting. Do your own thing and be proud of what you do. Let others do their own thing, so long as it doesn't hurt anyone. Soul Affirmation: A week of rejoicing is upon me. I celebrate. Lucky Numbers: 2, 40, 45

AQUARIUS Do you realize that you are the only one who can tell you what to think and how to feel? Let go of any behaviors that are keeping you from achieving the things you want to achieve. Be creative and positive this week. Soul Affirmation: All that I need is within me. Lucky Numbers: 20, 34, 45

PISCES Any nervous energy you may be feeling can be dispelled with some physical activity. You are doing just fine, so take long walks or try a yoga class and leave your worries behind you. Everything is working out in a perfect way. Soul Affirmation: The grandeur of my presence reflects the sunshine of my soul. Lucky Numbers: 4, 37, 53

Redskins Fans Enjoy Tailgating Festivities



Mike Jones family and friends came from Maryland and Virginia to tailgate prior to the Redskins vs. Green Bay Packers football game on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

Vernon Harrison, supervisor of Sports and Facility Events (S.A.F.E.), gives instructions to some members who were assigned the task of helping spectators cross the streets safely as they try to get to the Redskins vs. Green Bay Packers football game on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. / Photo by John E. De Freitas





The Deakin family and friends drove from Brookfield Connecticut, a total of four hours, to roots for the Redskins who took on the Green Bay Packers in the playoff game on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. / Photo by John E. De Freitas



Redskins center back Will Blackmon stops to sign autographs prior to the NFL football post season action on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

Alfreda Thomas and family who were Redskins season ticket holders since the team played at the old Griffith Stadium in D.C. came four hours prior to the game to tailgate prior to the Redskins vs. Green Bay Packers football game on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. / Photo by John E. De Freitas





▲ *Packers running back James Starks runs past Redskins center back Bashaud Breeland for a touchdown during NFL football action on Sunday, Jan.10 at Fed Ex Field in Landover. The Packers defeated the Redskins 35-18. / Photo by John E. De Freitas*

Green Bay Defeats Washington Redskins, 35-18



▲ *Green Bay Packers wide receiver James Jones is tackled by Redskins Will Compton and Dashon Phillips during NFL post season football action on Sunday, Jan.10 at FedEx Field in Landover. The Packers defeated the Redskins 35-18. / Photo by John E. De Freitas*



▲ *Redskins tight end Jordan Reed breaks away from Green Bay Micah Hyde and Ha Ha Clinton-Dix to score a touchdown in the second quarter of National Football League (NFL) post season playoff game on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. The Packers defeated the Redskins 35-18 before 81,327 fans. / Photo by John E. De Freitas*

▼ *Redskins quarter back Kirk Cousins gets protection from his players and pressure from his opponents during NFL post season football action on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. The Packers defeated the Redskins 35-18. / Photo by John E. De Freitas*



▼ *Redskins tight end Jordan Reed breaks away from Green Bay Micah Hyde and Ha Ha Clinton-Dix to score a touchdown in the second quarter of National Football League (NFL) post season playoff game on Sunday, Jan. 10 at FedEx Field in Landover. The Packers defeated the Redskins 35-18 before 81,327 fans. / Photo by John E. De Freitas*



CAPTURE THE MOMENT



Steve Burnham, Safeway division president, and Stacey Brown, vice president of government affairs, speak about Safeway's mission to fight hunger in the Washington area at the Capital Area Food Bank, on Wednesday, Jan. 6 in Northeast. / Photo by Roy Lewis

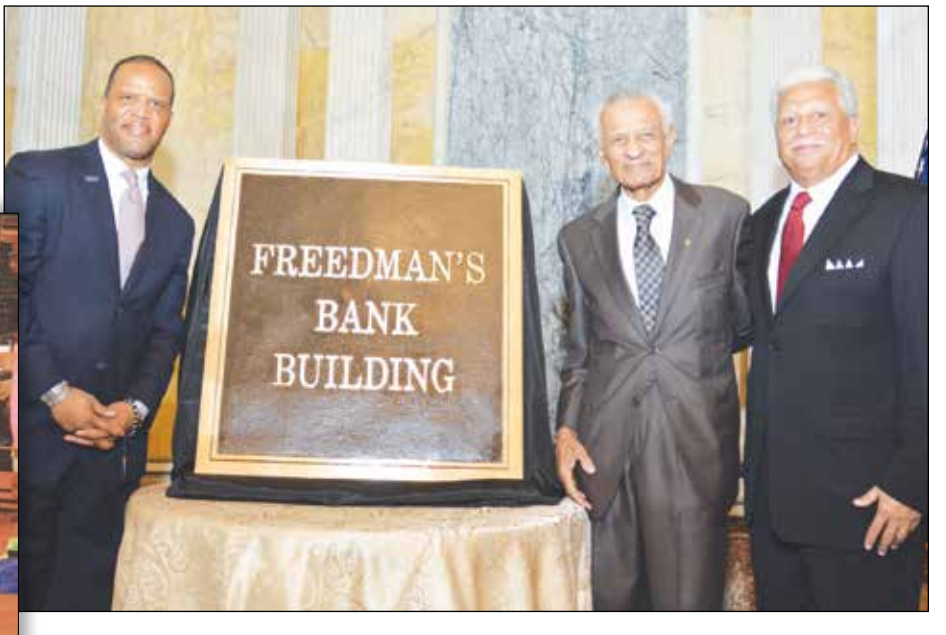


Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew, Ambassador Andrew Young, and Alden McDonald Jr., president and CEO of Liberty Bank and Trust, serve as guest speakers at the Freedman's Bank Naming Ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016 at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Northwest. / Photo by Patricia Little



Low income and homeless residents have the opportunity to receive gently used coats and a sack of potatoes at the Helping Hands Inc., annual coat and potato give-away on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the DC Armory in Southeast. / Photo by Patricia Little

C.T. Vivian, minister and close friend to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John Bryant, CEO and founder of Operation Hope, and Alden McDonald Jr, president and CEO of Liberty Bank and Trust, take a group photo after the unveiling of the Freedman's Bank Building sign at the Freedman's Bank Naming Ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 7 at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Northwest. / Photo by Patricia Little





Dan Pitts of Fellowship Lodge 26 breaks open a bale of gently used clothes at the Helping Hands Inc., annual coat and potato give-away on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the DC Armory in Southeast. / Photo by Patricia Little

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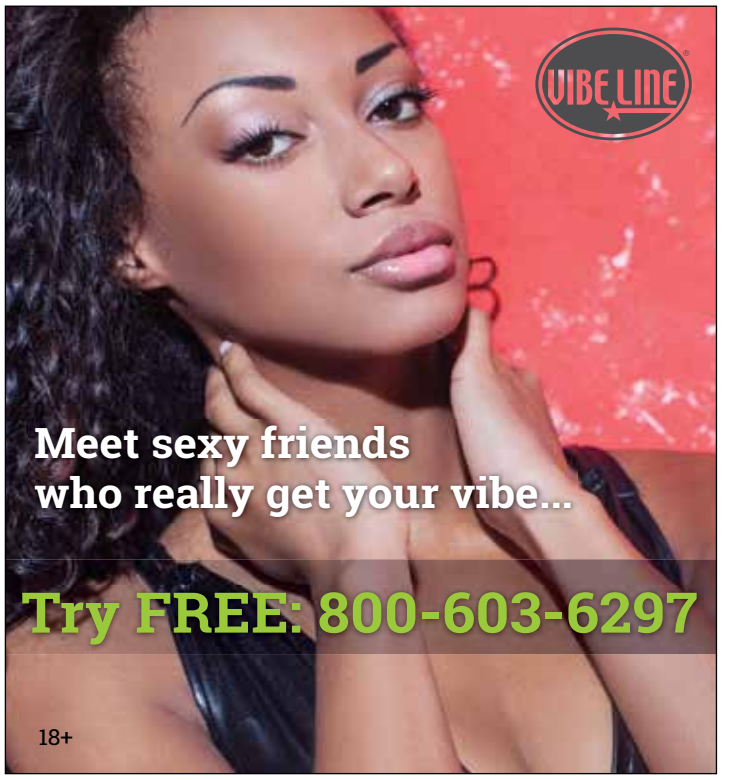
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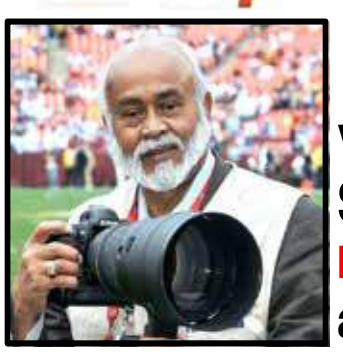
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TRAFFIC FINES *from Page 8*

havior] I think will be a win."

Dormsjo said the fines would align the District with other states. For example, he said nine states have a maximum speeding penalty of $1,000 and 13 states have maximum fines equal to, or lower than the District.

He said from 2010 to 2014, the District issued about 17,380 citations for driving more than 25 mph over the speed limit. About 60 percent were on city streets and the remaining 40 percent on freeways, or interstates, he said.

Meanwhile, the department had given a 30-day period from Dec. 11 for residents, business owners and others to provide verbal or written comments on the plan, but Dormsjo said it will be extended until Jan. 31.

"The proposed fines are a starting point," he said. "Our goal is safety and if there are ways to modify the proposed regulations to achieve this goal, we are very open to them."

Councilwoman Mary Cheh (Ward 3), who chairs council's transportation and environment committee, said there are other ways to deter people from speeding. For example, she supports cameras at every traffic light in the city.

In regards to the higher traffic fines, Cheh said it would hurt low-income residents.

"We know that poor people are ensnared by major fines in other aspects of our system of justice . . . and it's a downward spiral," she said. "I know there are folks who say, 'if you can't pay the fine, then don't do the crime.' But that's too simplistic and it doesn't really respond to the idea about legitimacy and proportionality."

Not everyone chastised the fine increases.

Tamara Evans, advocacy director with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association in Northwest, said safety should be the top priority.

"I think the focus is way too much on money and less on the behavior. When a person is driving more than 25 miles per hour over the speed limit and if they hit a person, that person is going to die," she said. "We want to send a clear signal that the most egregious and dangerous behaviors on our roads have serious consequences." **WI**

THE RELIGION CORNER

When We Fail to Plan, We Plan to Fail



with Lyndia Grant

We've been teaching the 13 principles to success researched for 20 years by the late Napoleon Hill, author of the best-selling book "Think and Grow Rich." Hill reminds us, "Richness is whatever it is you happen to want." This week, we talk about the need to move toward your goal with another of Hill's principles discovered during his years of study. Hill was a God-fearing man. He studied the Holy Bible six hours every day, three hours in the mornings and another three hours every night.

This principle is called "Organized Planning." Every man needs a plan to get to his goal. Once you have a plan you will know what steps are next. You've heard the cliché - If we fail to plan, we plan to fail.

As you travel along life's journey, unfortunately, you will see detours, you may get lost, the road is often bumpy and potholes abound, but without disciplined planning you may not last. Stay inspired!

Here are some affirmations to repeat daily. God created the Earth with spoken words. Say, "I feel good now; my worthiness is not in question; the Bible says anything I desire, can be mine; I am eager, full of life; I feel clear minded, adventurous, steady, confident, ready, fantastic, sure, unlimited, never finished, always unfolding, and I'm led by The Holy Spirit." Therefore, anything I want to know the Holy Spirit will answer.

When God gave you the idea of your dreams, it was just for you. I often remind my readers how no one other than you can know what God has said to you. Stay away from wondering "how" your plans will materialize. That is the providence of God." Write carefully those thoughts given to you by the Holy Spirit. Make organized plans. Then tweak those plans with the help of your role-model or mentor, someone you're sure who knows.

As you work your plan, go into action out in the world where God can inspire and put needed resources in your path, and watch miracles begin to happen. Your faith will have such a strong effect on manifesting those dreams into reality, you will be shocked. According to Neale Donald Walsch's "Conversations With God," he says, "There are no "dues to pay" for miracles. After all, in the Word, The Savior tells us to seek and we shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to us, ask, and it shall be given.

As you move toward your seemingly impossible goal, keep your mind stayed on Jesus, pray without ceasing, and renew your mind daily. Don't allow negativity to get in. Never mind what you think if those upstream thoughts do come along occasionally; never mind what "they" say - those hideous comments that anger or hurt. Keep working your plans, and go with the flow. The stream of life will take you down the river with ease!

Let's say you want to start a nonprofit business. Plan first things first: 1-Do you have a burning desire, faith, and do you utilize your imagination? If so, 2-write your business plan; 3-file your articles of incorporation; 4-ask IRS for your EIN number; 5-open a business bank account; and 6-file for your 501c-3 status. It must be done orderly one step after the other.

The Bible has many instances where planning was of value. The Parable of the 10 Virgins shows how planning and preparation made the difference: Matthew 25: vs 1-13 this lesson involves a strange marriage custom we don't fully understand, but the message rings loud and clear … the wise servant of God is the one who cares enough to plan and prepare. The wise virgins were prepared for the unexpected delay of the Groom. **WI**

Lyndia Grant is an author, inspirational and motivational speaker, radio talk show host and columnist; visit her new website at www.lyndiagrant.com and call 202-558-2107. Tune in Fridays at 6 p.m. to the radio talk show, 1340 AM, WYCB, a Radio One Station.

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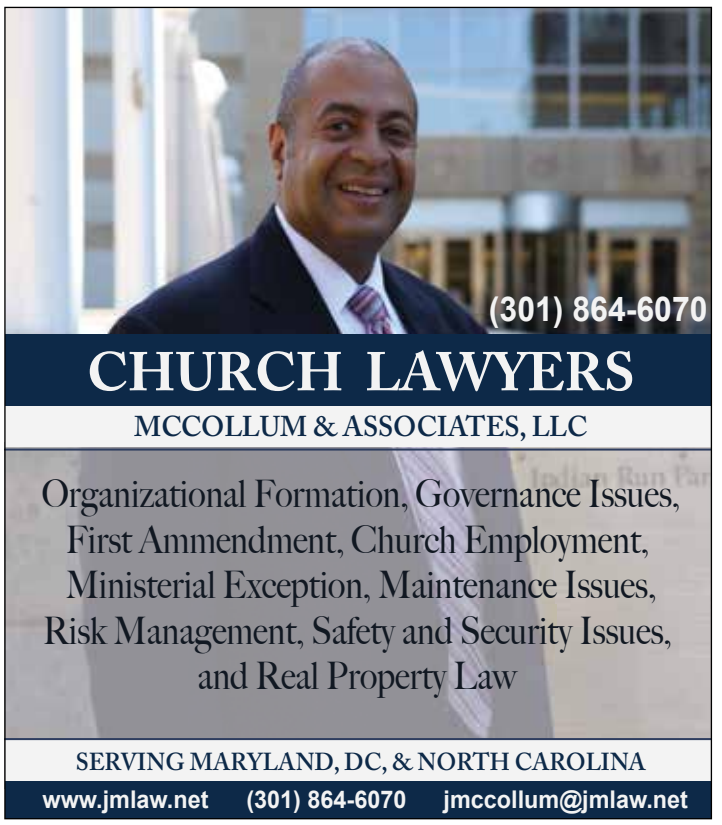
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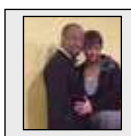
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Washington, DC 20034
Phone: 202-746-0113
Fax: 301-843-2445

Virgil K. Thomas, Sr.
Senior Pastor/ Teacher

Services & Times
Sunday School 8 – 9 AM
Worship Service 9 – 11 AM
Tuesday Night Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Wednesday Daytime Bible Study 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Motto : "A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment"
Website: www.turningheartschurchdc.org
Email: faithdefender@verizon.net

Historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Lyndon Shakespeare
Interim Priest

Foggy Bottom • Founded in 1867
728 23rd Street, NW • Washington, DC 20037
Church office: 202-333-3985 • Fax : 202-338-4958

Worship Services
Sundays: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with Music and Hymns
Wednesdays: 12:10 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

www.stmarysfoggybottom.org
Email: stmarysoffice@stmarysfoggybottom.org

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Pilgrim Baptist Church

Rev. Louis B. Jones II
Pastor

700 I Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547-8849

Worship Sundays: 7:30 & 11:00am
5th Sundays: 9:30am
3rd Sundays:
Baptism & Holy Communion
Prayer & Praise:
Wednesdays @ Noon & 6:30pm

www.pilgrimbaptistdc.org



Church of Living Waters

Rev. Paul Carrette Senior Pastor
Harold Andrew, Assistant Pastor

4915 Wheeler Road
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

301-894-6464

Schedule of Service
Sunday Service: 8:30am& 11:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:30pm
Communion Service: First Sunday

www.livingwatersmd.org



Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church

Rev. Dr. Michael E. Bell, Sr., • Pastor

2498 Alabama Ave., SE • Washington D.C. 20020
Office: (202) 889-7296 Fax: (202) 889-2198 • www.acamec.org
2008: The Year of New Beginnings "Expect the Extraordinary"

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00am and 11:00am
Sunday Church School - 9:15am & Sunday Adult Forum Bible Study - 10:30am
2nd & 4th Monday Women's Bible Study: 6:30pm
Tuesday Jr./Sr. Bible Study: 10:00am
Tuesday Topical Bible Study: 6:30pm
Tuesday New Beginnings Bible Study: 6:30pm
Wednesday Pastoral Bible Study: 6:30pm
Wednesday Children's Bible Study: 6:30pm
Thursday Men's Bible Study: 6:30pm
Friday before 1st Sunday Praise & Worship Service: 6:30pm
Saturday Adult Bible Study: 10:00am
"The Amazing, Awesome, Audacious Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church"



Crusader Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Alton W. Jordan
Pastor

800 I Street, NE • Washington, DC 20002
202-548-0707
Fax No. 202-548-0703

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00am
Holy Communion: 1st Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45am
Men's Monday Bible Study: 7:00pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00pm
Women's Ministry Bible Study: 3rd Friday -7:00pm
Computer Classes: Announced
Family and Marital Counseling by appointment
E-mail: Crusadersbaptistchurch@verizon.net
www.CrusadersBaptistChurch.org



Isle of Patmos Baptist Church

Reverend Dr. Calvin L. Matthews • Senior Pastor
1200 Isle of Patmos Plaza, Northeast
Washington, DC 20018
Office: (202) 529-6767
Fax: (202) 526-1661

Sunday Worship Services: 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion: 2nd Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:20 a.m.
Seniors Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Noon Day Prayer Service: Tuesdays at Noon
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Motto: "A Ministry of Reconciliation Where Everybody is Somebody!"
Website: http://isleofpatmosbc.org
Church Email: ipbcsecretary@verizon.net



Blessed Word of Life Church

Dr. Dekontee L. & Dr. Ayele A. Johnson
Pastors

4001 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 265-6147 Office
1-800 576-1047 Voicemail/Fax

Schedule of Services:
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday Morning Worship Service: 11:00am
Communion Service: First Sunday
Prayer Service/Bible Study: Tuesday, 6:30pm

www.blessedwordoflifechurch.org
e-mail: church@blessedwordoflifechurch.org



Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

Drs. Dennis W. & Christine Y. Wiley
Pastors

3845 South Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20032
(202) 562-5576 (Office)
(202) 562-4219 (Fax)

Services and Times:
Sundays: 10:00am Worship Services
Bible Study: Wonderful Wednesdays in Worship and the Word Bible Study Wednesdays
12:00 Noon; 6:30pm (dinner @ 5:30pm)
Sunday School: 9:00am – Hour of Power

"An inclusive ministry where all are welcomed and affirmed."
www.covenantbaptistdc.org



St. Stephen Baptist Church

Bishop Lanier C. Twyman, Sr.
Senior Pastor

5757 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, MD 20748
Office 301-899-8885 – fax 301-899-2555

Sunday Early Morning Worship: 7:45am
Church School: 9:30am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45am
Tuesday:
7:00pm/Kingdom Building Bible Institute
Wednesday: Prayer/Praise/Bible Study-7:30 pm
Baptism & Communion Service:
4th Sunday – 10:30am

"We are one in the Spirit"
www.ssbc5757.org
e-mail: ssbc5757@verizon.net



Third Street Church of God

Rev. Cheryl J. Sanders, Th.D.
Senior Pastor

1204 Third Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-347-5889 office
202-638-1803 fax

Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 11:00am
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study:
Wed. 7:30pm

"Ambassadors for Christ to the Nation's Capital"

www.thirdstreet.org



Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church

Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr.; Senior Bishop
& Evangelist Susie C. Owens – Co-Pastor

610 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 529-4547 office • (202) 529-4495 fax

Sunday Worship Service: 8 AM and 10:45am
Sunday Youth Worship Services:
1st & 4th 10:45am; 804 R.I. Ave., NE
5th 8 AM & 10:45am; Main Church
Prayer Services
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624 Underwood Street, NW
Washington, dc 20011

Dr. Raymond T. Matthews,
Pastor and First Lady Marcia Matthews
Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship Service: 10:00am
Wed. Noon Day prayer service
Thur. Prayer service: 6:45pm
Thur. Bible Study: 7:15pm



Campbell AME Church
Rev. Dr. Henry Y. White

2562 MLK Jr. Ave., S E
Washington, DC 20020
Adm. Office 202-678-2263
Email: Campbell@mycame.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 am
Sunday Church School: 8:45 am

Bible Study
Wednesday: 12:00 Noon
Wednesday: 7:00 pm
Thursday: 7: pm
"Reaching Up To Reach Out"

Mailing Address
Campbell AME Church
2502 Stanton Road SE
Washington, DC 20020



Twelfth Street Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
1812 12th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-265-4494
Fax: 202 265 4340

Reverend Dr. Paul H. Saddler
Senior Pastor

Service and Times
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am
Communion every Sunday: 11:00 am
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Bible Study Tuesday: 12 Noon
Pastor's Bible Study Tuesday: 6:30 pm

Motto: "Discover Something Wonderful"
Website: 12thscc.org
Email: Twelfthstcc@aol.com



Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Rev. John W. Davis, Pastor

5101 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20011
202-726-2220/ 202-726-9089

Sunday Worship Service:
8:00am and 11:00am
Sunday School: 9:15am

Holy Communion 4th Sunday 10:00am
Prayer and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00pm

TV Ministry –Channel 6
Wednesday 10:00pm
gsccm.administration@verizon.net



Mount Carmel Baptist Church

Joseph N. Evans, Ph.D
Senior Pastor

901 Third Street N.W.
Washington, DC. 20001
Phone (202) 842-3411
Fax (202) 682-9423

Sunday Church School : 9:00am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:10am
Bible Study Tuesday: 6: 00pm
Prayer Service Tuesday: 7:00pm
Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday 10:10am

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Shabbath Commandment Church

7801 Livingston Road
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
301-534-5471

Bishop Adrian A. Taylor, Sr.
Pastor

Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Service 11:00 a.m. Praise & Worship
Preaching 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Motto: "A Church Keeping It Real for Real."

Website: Shabbathcommandmentchruch.org

Email: Praisebetoyhwh@gmail.com



All Nations Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. James Coleman
Pastor

2001 North Capitol St, N.E. • Washington, DC 20002
Phone (202) 832-9591

Sunday Church School – 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 1st Sunday at 11:00 AM
Prayer – Wednesdays, 6:00 PM
Bible Study – Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
Christian Education
School of Biblical Knowledge
Saturdays, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM,
Call for Registration

Website: www.allnationsbaptistchurch.com
All Nations Baptist Church – A Church of Standards



King Emmanuel Baptist Church

Rev. Daryl F. Bell
Pastor

2324 Ontario Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232-1730

Sunday School – 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 am
Baptismal Service – 1st Sunday – 9:30 am
Holy Communion – 1st Sunday – 11:00 am
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study – Wednesday -7:30 pm



Emmanuel Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Clinton W. Austin
Pastor

2409 Ainger Pl.,SE – WDC 20020
(202) 678-0884 – Office
(202) 678-0885 – Fax

"Come Grow With Us and Establish a Blessed Family"

Sunday Worship
7:30am & 10:45am
Baptism/Holy Communion
3rd Sunday

Family Bible Study
Tuesdays – 6:30pm

Prayer Service
Tuesdays – 8:00pm
www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org



Florida Avenue Baptist Church

Dr. Earl D. Trent
Senior Pastor

623 Florida Ave.. NW • WDC. 20001
Church (202) 667-3409 • Study (202) 265-0836
Home Study (301) 464-8211 • Fax (202) 483-4009

Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.
Holy Communion: Every First Sunday
Intercessory Prayer:
Monday – 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Pastor's Bible Study:
Wednesday –7:45 p.m.
Midweek Prayer:
Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.
Noonday Prayer Every Thursday



Holy Trinity United Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. George C. Gilbert
SR. Pastor

4504 Gault Place, N.E.
Washington, D.C 20019
202-397-7775 – 7184

9:30AM. Sunday Church School
11:00 Am. Sunday Worship Service
The Lord's Supper 1st Sunday
Wednesday 7:00pm Prayer & Praise Services
7:30pm. Bible Study
Saturday before 4th Sunday Men, Women,
Youth Discipleship Ministries 10:30am
A Christ Centered Church
htubc@comcast.net



Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.
Pastor

4850 Blagdon Ave, NW • Washington D.C 20011
Phone (202) 722-4940 • Fax (202) 291-3773

Sunday Worship Service
10:15AM- Praise and Worship Services
Sunday School 9:00am
Monday: Noon Bible School
Wednesday: Noon & 7PM:
Pastor's Bible Study Ordinance of Baptism 2nd
Holy Communion 4th Sunday

Mission Zion Baptist Church Shall;
Enlist Sinners, Educate Students, Empower the Suffering, Encourage the Saints,
and Exalt Our Savior. (Acts 2:41-47)
www.zionbaptistchurchdc.org



Israel Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Morris L Shearin, Sr.
Pastor

1251 Saratoga Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20018
(202) 269-0288

Sunday Worship Service:
10:00 A.M.
Sunday School: 8:30 A.M.
Holy Communion1st Sunday:
10:00 A.M.

Prayer Service:
Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.
Bible Study:
Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.



Lincoln Park United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Diane Dixon Proctor, Pastor

1301 North Carolina Ave. N E
Washington, D C 20002
202 543 1318
lpumconthegrow@gmail.com
www.lpumcdc.org
Sunday worship 10: am
Holy Communion first Sunday 10: am
Sunday school 9: am
Bible Study each Wednesday @ 12 noon and 6:30pm
Motto: "A CHURCH ON THE GROW".



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Matthews Memorial Baptist Church

Dr. C. Matthew Hudson, Jr,
Pastor

2616 MLK Ave., SE • Washington, DC 20020
Office 202-889-3709 • Fax 202-678-3304

Early Worship Service 7:30a.m
Worship Service 10:45a.m.
New Members Class 9:30a.m.
Holy Communion : 1st Sunday -10:45a.m
Church School 9:30a.m.
Prayer, Praise and Bible Study:
Wednesday 7p.m
Bible Study : Saturday: 11a.m.
Baptism: 4th Sunday – 10:45a.m
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Christ Embassy DC

6839 Eastern Avenue, R1
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(202) 556-7065

Kelechi Ajieren
Coordinator

Sunday Worship Service
10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 P.M.

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St. Luke Baptist Church

Rev. Aubrey C. Lewis
Pastor

1415 Gallatin Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011-3851
P: (202) 726-5940

Sunday Worship:
11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Holy Communion: 11:00 a.m., 3rd Sun.
Bible Institute
Wednesday - 1:30 pm
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday - 12:00 Noon



Mount Moriah Baptist Church

Dr. Lucius M. Dalton, Senior Pastor

1636 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003
Telephone: 202-544-5588 Fax: 202-544-2964

Sunday Worship Services: 7:45 am and 10:45 am
Holy Communion: 1st Sundays at 7:45 am and 10:45 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Prayer & Praise Service: Tuesdays at 12 noon and 6:30 pm
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 1 pm and 7 pm
Youth Bible Study: Fridays at 7 pm

Web: www.mountmoriahchurch.org
Email: mtmoriah@mountmoriahchurch.org



Eastern Community Baptist Church

Damion M. Briggs
Pastor

8213 Manson Street
Landover, MD 20785
Tel: (301) 322-9787 Fax: (301) 322-9240

Service and Times:
Early Morning Message 7:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:00 AM
Sunday Church School 9:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st Sunday 7:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Prayer, Praise and Testimony Wednesday 7:00 PM
Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 PM

"Real Worship for Real People"
Website: www.easterncommunity.org
Church Email Address: ecc@easterncommunity.org



New Commandment Baptist Church

Rev. Stephen E. Tucker
Senior Pastor

13701 Old Jericho Park Road
Bowie, MD. 20720
(301) 262-0560

Services:
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Sunday School 10 AM
Wednesday Mid-Week Worship, Prayer & Bible Study - Wed. 7 PM

"A Church Where Love Is Essential and Praise is Intentional"



Peace Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Michael T. Bell

712 18th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone 202-399-3450/ Fax 202-398-8836

Sunday Morning Worship Service
7:15 am & 10:50 am
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:50am
Wednesday Prayer & Testimonies Service 7:30pm
Wednesday School of the Bible 8:00pm
Wednesday - Midweek Prayer Service -
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

"The Loving Church of the living lord "
Email Address pbcexec@verizon.net



Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry
Pastor

3000 Pennsylvania Ave.. S.E
Washington, DC 20020
202 581-1500

Sunday Church School: 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Monday Adult Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday Youth &
Adult Activities:
6:30 P.M.

Prayer Service Bible Study



St. Matthews Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington
Pastor

Worshiping Location
Knights of Columbus - 1633 Tucker Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
(240) 838-7074

Order of Services
Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday Morning
Prayer / Bible Study: 6:15 pm - 7:20 pm (Tuesday)

Theme: "The Kingdom Focused Church"
Matthew 6:33 and Mathew 28:18-20, KJV

Email: stmatthewsbaptist@msn.com
Website: www.stmatthewsbaptist.org



Rehoboth Baptist Church

Rev. Curtis I. Staley
Pastor

621 Alabama Avenue, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20032
P: (202) 561-1111
F: (202) 561-1112

Sunday Service: 10 am
Sunday School for all ages: 8:30 am
1st Sunday Baptism: 10: am
2nd Sunday Holy Communion: 10 am
Tuesday:
Bible Study: 6:30 pm
Prayer Meeting: 7:45 pm

Motto: "Where God is First and Where Friendly People Worship"



Salem Baptist Church

Rev. Alonzo Hart
Pastor

917 N St. NW • Washington, DC 20001
(202) 232-4294

The Church Where GOD Is Working....
And We Are Working With GOD

Sunday Morning Prayer Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:40 a.m.
Third Sunday -
Baptismal & Holy Communion:10:30 a.m.
Tuesday -
Church At Study Prayer & Praise: 6:30 p.m.



Shiloh Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith
Pastor

9th & P Street, N.W. • W. D.C. 20001
(202) 232-4200

Sunrise Prayer Services
- Sunday 7:00 a.m.

Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m
Church School : 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:55 a.m.
Bible Study, Thursday: 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting,Thursday : 7:30 p.m.



First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Reginald M. Green, Sr., Interim Pastor

602 N Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20001
Office:(202) 289-4480
Fax: (202) 289-4595

Sunday Worship Services: 7:45am & 11:00am
Sunday school For All Ages 9:30am
Prayer Services Wednesday
11:30am & 6:45pm
Bible Institute Wednesday at Noon & 7:45pm
"Changing Lives On Purpose "

Email: Froffice@firstrising.org
Website: www.firstrising.org



Mt. Horeb Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. H. B. Sampson, III
Pastor
2914 Bladensburg Road, NE Wash., DC 20018
Office: (202) 529-3180
Fax: (202) 529-7738

Order of Services
Worship Service: 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion: 4th Sunday 7:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m.
Prayer Services:
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 12 Noon

Email:mthoreb@mthoreb.org
Website:www.mthoreb.org
For further information, please contact me at
(202) 529-3180.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1471

Edythe Adline Smith
Decedent

Aimee D. Griffin
The Griffin Firm, PLLC
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20015
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

William Lewis Pitts, whose address is 3023 14th St., NW, Apt. 813, Washington, DC 20009, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Edythe Adline Smith who died on January 2, 2013 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

William Lewis Pitts
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1108

Catherine J. Wheeler aka Catherine Johnson Wheeler
Decedent

Aimee D. Griffin, The Griffin Firm, PLLC
5336 Wisconsin Ave., NW Suite 440
Washington, DC 20015
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Craig R, Wheeler, whose address is 1347 Jefferson Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Catherine J. Wheeler aka Catherine Johnson Wheeler who died on July 6, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

Craig R. Wheeler
Personal Representative

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Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1463

Maude Marie Dunn
Decedent

Aimee D. Griffin
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20015
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Thomas Dunn, whose address is 1505 Baytree Terrace, Bowie, MD 20721, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Maude Marie Dunn who died on March 22, 2015 without a Will, and will serve with Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

Thomas Dunn
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1459

Milliard C. Griffin
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Spencer Becton and Edna Becton Pittmon, whose addresses are 1348 W Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018 and 7607 Newburg Dr., Lanham, MD 20706, was appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Milliard C. Griffin who died on without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

Spencer Becton
Edna Becton Pittmon
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1450

Mary L. Curry
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Robert J. Curry, whose address is 118 49th St., NE, Washington, DC 20019, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary L. Curry who died on February 22, 2001 without a Will, and will serve with Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

Robert J. Curry
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 138

James O. Schoonover
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Catherine Donna Schoonover, whose address is 3 East Nelson Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of James O. Schoonover who died on October 28, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

Catherine Donna Schoonover
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1473

Kathleen Ann Pleasant aka K.A. Pleasant
Decedent

Louvenia W. Williams, Esq.
9500 Arena Drive, #260
Largo, MD 20774
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Sean C. Pleasant, whose address is 2028 4th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20001, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Kathleen Ann Pleasant aka K.A. Pleasant who died on October 24, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before June 30, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before June 30, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
December 31, 2015

Sean C. Pleasant
Personal Representative

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Register of Wills

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1490

Bonnie Davis
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Alfred H. Pimble, whose address is 4815 7th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Bonnie Davis who died on June 11, 2015 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 7, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 7, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Alfred H. Pimble
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 683

Acie L. Byrd, Jr.
Decedent

Gemma Antoine-Belton, Esquire
1101 L Street, NW, Suite 806
Washington, DC 20005
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Gemma Antoine-Belton, Esquire, whose address is 1101 L Street, NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20005, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Acie L. Byrd, Jr. who died on May 13, 2014 without a Will, and will serve with Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 7, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 7, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Gemma Antoine-Belton, Esquire
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration Number 2015 ADM 1501

Estate of
Lucy P. Brown

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Janell Debrew for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representative. Unless a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth.

In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate. Appoint a supervised personal representative. Appoint a disinterested member of the bar to serve as personal representative.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Personal Representative:
Janell Debrew
5807 Marlboro Pike Apt. 301
Forestville, MD 20747

TRUE TEST COPY

Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration Number 2015 ADM 1141

Estate of
Willie P. Seals

NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by Wesley L. Clarke for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representative. Unless a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth.

In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Personal Representative:
Wesley Clarke
1629 K St., NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

TRUE TEST COPY

Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 001152

Ralph E. Lewis
Decedent

Ronald Dixon
Bynum & Jenkins
1010 Cameron Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Ronald Dixon, whose address is Bynum & Jenkins, 1010 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Ralph E. Lewis who died on December 23, 2009 without a Will, and will serve with Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 7, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 7, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Ronald Dixon
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 15201

Edna Elizabeth Diallo
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Anthony Dike Diallo, whose address is 1345 30th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20020, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Edna Elizabeth Diallo who died on November 23, 2015 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 7, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 7, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Anthony Dike Diallo
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PROBATE DIVISION

Trust No. 2015 NRT 38

Christa McClure aka Christa Prinz
Name of Deceased Settlor

NOTICE OF EXISTENCE OF REVOCABLE TRUST

Christa McClure aka Christa Prinz whose address was 235 8th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003 created a revocable trust on April 5, 2010, which remained in existence on the date of her death on October 16, 2015, and Tipp K. McClure & Sarah McClure, whose addresses are T. McClure, 5511 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015, S. McClure 1689 Princeton Dr., State College, PA 1603, are the currently acting trustees, hereinafter the Trustee. Communications to the Trust should be mailed or directed to Tipp K. McClure, Trustee at 5511 Broad Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20015 and Sarah McClure 1689 Princeton Dr., State College, PA 16803.

The Trust is subject to claims of the deceased settlor's creditors, costs of administration of the settlor's estate, the expense of the deceased settlor's funeral and disposal of remains, and stautory allowances to a surviving spouse and children to the extent the deceased settlor's residuary probate estate is inadequate to satisfy those claims, costs, expenses, and allowances.

Claims of the deceased settlor's creditors are barred as against the Trustee and the trust property unless presented to the Trustee at the address provided herein on or before (6 month after the date of the first publication of this notice.) An action to contest the validity of this trust must be commenced by the earliest of (1) October 16,2016, (One year from date of death of deceased settler) (2), 6 months from the date of first publication of this notice) or (3) Ninety days after the Trustee sends the person a copy of the trust instrument and a notice informing the person of the trust's existence, of the Trustee's name and address, and of the time allowed for commencing a proceeding.

The Trustee may proceed to distribute the trust property in accordance with the terms of the trust before the expiration of the time within which an action must be commenced unless the Trustee knows of a pending judicial proceeding contesting the validity of the trust or the Trustee has received notice from a potential contestant who thereafter commences a judicial proceeding within sixty days after notification.

This Notice must be mailed postmarked within 15 days of its first publication to each heir and qualified beneficiary of the trust and any other person who would be an interested person within the meaning of D.C. Code 20-101(d).

Date of First Publication:
January 7, 2016
Tipp K. McClure
Sarah McClure
Signature of Trustee

TRUE TEST COPY

Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1534

Elizabeth Jean Whatley
Decedent

Ethel Mitchell
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1118
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Julius Whatley, whose address is 534 Newcomb St., SE, Washington, DC 20032, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Elizabeth Jean Whatley who died on December 4, 2014 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 14, 2016

Julius Whatley
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1527

Johnnie L. Horner
Decedent

Matthew F. Shannon, Esquire
1420 N Street, NW #102
Washington, DC 20005
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Herbert Horner, Jr., whose address is 6209 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Johnnie L. Horner who died on December 9, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 14, 2016

Herbert Horner, Jr.
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1510

William Blanger
Decedent

Law Office Muhammad & Associates
7306 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20012
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Jacqueline P. Nichols aka Jacqueline Blanger, whose address is 2419 30th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of William Blanger who died on August 14, 2014 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 7, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 7, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Jacqueline P. Nichols aka
Jacqueline Blanger
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1516

Helen Chavis Allen
Decedent

Johnnie I. Bartoni, Esq.
7600 Georgia Avenue, NW #405
Washington, DC 20012
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Christel Allen Hair, whose address is 7060 Wyndale Street, NW, Washington, DC 20015, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Helen Chavis Allen who died on December 2, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 7, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 7, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 7, 2016

Christel Allen Hair
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1537

Theresa Taylor
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Keith A. Moore, whose address is 765 Girard St., NW, Washington, DC 20001, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Theresa Taylor who died on August 8, 2015 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 14, 2016

Keith A. Moore
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1535

Christa McClure aka Christa Prinz
Decedent

Ethel Mitchell
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1118
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Tipp Karl McClure and Sarah Barbara McClure, whose addresses are 5511 Broad Branch Rd, NW, Washington, DC 20015 and 1689 Princeton Dr., State College, PA 16803 were appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Christa McClure aka Christa Prinz who died on October 16, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:
January 14, 2016

Tipp Karl McClure
Sarah Barbara McClure
Personal Representative

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Register of Wills

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METRO SUITS *from Page 11*

improve our response and ensure the safety of our passengers on public transportation," she said. "As a result, we have placed greater emphasis on station familiarization and inspection and improved our communications testing and incident training."

As for the plaintiffs' lawsuits scheduled to be filed in D.C. Superior Court, the attorneys outlined three reasons for them: demand Metro to explain what was in the smoke and what caused the incident; force Metro to make the rail system safer; and obtain compensation for their injuries.

"Metro is a member of this community. When you are wrong, then you say you're wrong," said Kim Brooks-Rodney, one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs with the law firm Cohen & Cohen in Northwest. "I think [Metro] knows enough that Metro could step forward and say to the community that the fire and the smoke that took place a year ago today, 'that's our fault.'"

Brooks-Rodney, a former assistant general counsel with Metro, declined to have Baker and Rogers provide their specific ailments. However, she said some of the conditions all her clients endured include asthma, headaches, sarcoidosis and nightmares.

"It has affected me. It has hindered me from getting to my appointments," Baker said as she tapped the corner of her eye with a tissue. "If I was on the Metro [train], I could almost get there in almost 35 minutes. Now it takes almost two hours. But we're still here with no answers [a year later]." **WI**

HENDERSON *from Page 26*

For these communities, unions have been vital to combatting discrimination and unfair treatment.

More than 30 percent of public sector union members are racial and ethnic minorities, and 55 percent are women. Wages for women union members are not only higher than their non-union counterparts, they are closer to those of male co-workers. Unsurprisingly, wages for African-American union members are also higher than their non-union counterparts. And unions improve the lot of all American workers by setting minimum workplace standards for all.

At a time of increasing inequality, the need for strong public sector jobs is especially critical. The Supreme Court should reject this rollback of collective bargaining. **WI**

CLINGMAN *from Page 26*

That's almost as good as the invention of the "Affluenza" defense (rich kid in Texas kills four people with automobile and gets probation), which suggests that rich folks are less responsible for their crimes than the rest of us because their actions are somehow skewed as a result of having too much money. Here's a thought: How about "Pofluenza" as a defense for "Po" folks?

As for Tamir, there are some who are unafraid. City Councilman, Jeff Johnson, has demanded that the Cleveland Law Department do a full review and file charges of negligent homicide against the officers involved in Tamir's death. Also, Basheer Jones held a press conference with a coalition of various organizations, to outline their demands in response to what they label as "Tamir Rice injustice," and promised there will be civil disobedience in response to the killing.

In contrast, other folks are asking LeBron James to refuse to play until justice is done. That will never happen, and even if it did it would have little effect except for news value. They should be calling on the folks who attend the games and pay millions to see James play. Oh yeah, they'd get some justice then. Money talks; T-shirts walk.

If police officers were required to have personal malpractice insurance, for instance, not paid by the municipality but by themselves, and if court awards had to be paid by insurance companies rather than by taxpayers, maybe there would be fewer killings. (See www.iamoneofthemillion.com and read Plank #3 of our political platform)

Injustice can and does lead to violence in return, and it could ultimately be one reason for young people turning to terrorism. While some naively think jobs will stop terrorism, a report, "The Age of the Wolf," cited an 18-year old boy who stated, "I did not join the Taliban because I was poor; I joined because I was angry."

There is a lot of anger out there about our broken criminal justice system. I believe economic responses will accelerate the process of repairing it. **WI**

WILLIAMS *from Page 26*

African-American applicants with no criminal records, many of whom have military backgrounds indicating that they would be responsible license holders. One wonders whether this process has in fact been designed specifically to prohibit inner city blacks from bearing arms and upholding their second amendment rights. This would not be the first time gun regulations have been used to selectively discriminate against inner city residents – people who are arguably most in need of protection.

We have to change our orientation towards bearing arms and realize that the nation's founders enumerated the right to bear arms in the U.S. constitution for a good reason. With proper training, guns can be our friend, and offer protection for our homes and families. People need to know, for example, that even in states like Washington, D.C.; there is a concealed carry licensing process that has been in place since 2008. It requires that one's firearm be registered and the carrier licensed. The licensing process requires training on the operation of firearms as well as the self-defense laws and situational awareness training. Many people may not be aware of this, but D.C. law has a lot in common with Florida's 'stand your ground' laws. In D.C., for example, there is no duty to retreat from a threat. You are justified in using deadly force if warranted to protect your own life, or even the life of a third party. The process for learning your rights and obtaining a legal carry permit can often be expensive and time-consuming, but when it comes to protecting one's life and the safety of one's family, it is a duty we have to embrace.

Race and socioeconomic background definitely play a role in the process of responsible gun ownership. Firstly, financial requirements to get through the licensing and registration process can be daunting. For someone with no prior training, it might cost upwards of $1,000 to get all the necessary training and certification (in New York it can cost up to $11,000). The second barrier is generally time. Training courses are demanding and require dedication to mastering the basics. The third thing is background, meaning if people have been involved in law enforcement issues in their youth that might hinder them from being licensed in the future.

In the immediate aftermath of the San Bernardino shooting, gun sales have skyrocketed all across the United States. People are looking to protect themselves and their families. In this day and time a knife won't help you, but a gun just might. People feel more empowered when they have learned how to defend themselves. It is a deeply American sentiment that to be robbed of one's safety and security is paramount to living under tyranny. And that is something we just won't stand for. **WI**











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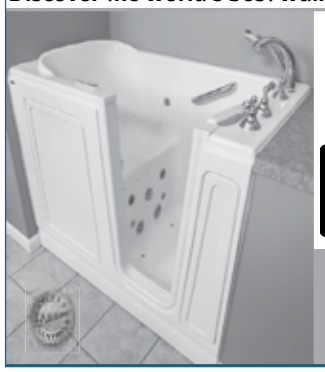
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CROWELL *from Page 27*

• Be banned from filing or threatening lawsuits without substantial and specific documentation on the affected consumer's debt; and

• Stop the use of deceptive court documents to support its cases.

In addition, three of the law firm's clients – JP Morgan Chase, Portfolio Recovery Associates and Encore Capital Group – must also revamp their debt collection practices and then refund millions to harmed consumers. These actions stem from separate collection cases.

"People struggling to pay their bills should not also fear harassment, humiliation or negative employment consequences because of debt collectors," concluded Cordray. "Borrowers should be treated with common decency…[W]e will not tolerate illegal debt collection practices."

Here's hoping that more deceptive and illegal lending practices are brought to an end in 2016. **WI**

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

ALFORD *from Page 27*

The coaches would conclude that, "he got his bell rung." They overlooked the possibility of serious long-term harm. "Learn to endure pain," was the mantra of one of my high school coaches.

When the pressure of the NFL Players Association (union) led into a class action lawsuit, the NFL finally caved in. More than 5,000 current and former NFL players joined in the action. It was settled and players and veterans are now being compensated. After years of denying it, the NFL finally admitted that there is truth in Omalu's study. The sham was exposed when Dave Duerson, NFL Hall of Famer and an NFL executive which made him a corporate insider, committed suicide. On his nightstand he left a letter which explained his deep depression and conclusion that something was wrong with him. He donated his brain for analysis.

The great Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett talks about his experience. Without warning he will lash out at family members and get violent. He states, "When there is a family get together and I show up my two daughters gather their children and leave." He can't stop these explosions and he is terribly depressed about it.

OK. So now we all believe that the problem exists. The NFL has created a process known as "Concussion Protocol". No one disputes the problem. But yet, there appears to be no effort being made to solve the problem.

There must be a well-funded and organized effort to find a cure and to work harder to prevent these injuries. The key to prevention lies in the football helmet. We must find a way to make it shockproof. The brain has no padding around it. Sudden shock makes it move around bouncing into the scull. The accumulation of such shock alters our mind. There are plenty of us walking around and may be in danger. Remember the effects don't show until later. I pray that I don't emulate others like Dorsett. Even worse, like my college buddy Webster. There were two other teammates of mine that went out in similar fashion.

Let's find the road to prevention. The sooner, the better. **WI**

ASKIA *from Page 27*

"orthodox" Islamic community (the community of immigrants who are themselves now viewed as suspects in American society, as not being "true Muslims" because of the doctrine Mr. Muhammad popularized of Caucasians being "blue-eyed devils."

Then in the late 1970s, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, shocked the world declaring the United States "the Great Satan." Case closed. Conversation ended.

In the 1980s, Mr. Muhammad's National Spokesman Minister Louis Farrakhan emerged into the political arena as a supporter of the presidential candidacy of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and it was "game on" once more.

Farrakhan — who does not teach hatred of Jewish people or of White people — was famously misquoted as saying Judaism is a "gutter religion." That mischaracterization stuck, and even today he is almost always referred to as an anti-Semite and a bigot in the corporate-owned "mainstream" media.

After the enormous success of the Million Man March in 1995, Farrakhan's esteem increased dramatically throughout the Muslim world, and he traveled around the world on three World Friendship Tours, extending and receiving the "right hand of fellowship" in Muslim capitals from Mecca, to Baghdad, to Tripoli, to Cape Town, to Kano/Abuja, Nigeria, to Istanbul.

Today in Western capitals Muslims are under siege. Some really bad actors have captured the world's attention, committing countless reprehensible acts and saying they are in the name of Islam. Beneficence and mercy are the way of Islam, not murder, kidnapping, raping and beheading innocents.

But the uncomfortable reality is that many observers see the mayhem befalling the once imperial colonial powers as "karma," or as a fulfillment of the biblical promise that "whatsoever a man soweth, so shall he reap." Indeed, at long last, America's "chickens are coming home to roost."

Sadly, Muslims who came to this country seeking a better life are too invested in living off of the "fat of this land" to be able to stand back, condemn the evils being done in their name, and at the same time condemn the evils committed by America.

Muslims, Christians, Jews — all people — must understand: Muslims are not the cause of America's problem. Muslims are the answer to the problem. **WI**



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EXTRA DOLLARS OFF SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL & HOME ITEMS

$20 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF $50 OR MORE.

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.
VALID 1/15 'TIL 2PM OR 1/16 'TIL 2PM.

macy's

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Excludes: Deals of the Day, Doorbusters, Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, cosmetics/fragrances, electrics/electronics, floor coverings, furniture, mattresses, rugs. Also excludes: athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, Jack Spade, jewelry trunk shows, Kate Spade, Macy's Backstage merchandise/locations, New Era, Nike on Field, The North Face, previous purchases, Samsung watches, selected licensed depts., services, special orders, special purchases, Tumi. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value & may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $25 or $50 or more, exclusive of tax & delivery fees.

the magic of macy's .com

ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 1/15-1/16/2016, EXCEPT AS NOTED.

OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO $100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of $100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.

A GREAT
MAN
A LEGENDARY
LIFE
A PROFOUND
DREAM

ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

of

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN MACY'S
IN CELEBRATING HIS LIFE,
LEGACY AND LOVE

macy's