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Newsmaker Gabby Douglas to Speak at Dillard Trailblazer Keith Hart



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One Month

Later

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New Orleans East One Month Later



Richard Pierre demolished his home after it was severely damaged by February's Tornado. Photos by Eric Craig.

Eric M Craig Multimedia Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 a EF-3 Tornado devastated New Orleans East. The tornado hit over nine miles of Chef Menteur Highway, damaging over 600 properties, and leaving over 10,000 people without electricity.

Later that day, the Office of the Governor reported six other tornados touched down in the State of Louisiana. Thirty-one people were injured in the tornado in New Orleans East, but there were no fatalities following the incident. Now, nearly a month later, much of the debris on Chef Menteur Highway, and in many of the surrounding neighborhoods, is cleared. But how has the aftermath impacted the residents of New Orleans East?

Starting Over After the Tornado

Richard Pierre said the New Orleans East Tornado destroyed both his and his 80-year-old mother-in-law's homes. The tornado totaled the foundation in his home and split his mother-in-law's home in half.

"I could hear the wind blowing, it sounded like a train. In every bit of 8-10 seconds it had hit, all the doors in the house blew off the frame," Pierre said.

The tornado demolished his porch, and cut down four of his sixty-year-old oak trees, and destroyed multiple cars parked at and nearby his residence.

"I dropped to my knees because I couldn't believe the amount of damage that happened in such a period of time" he added.

Pierre is currently demolishing and rebuilding both homes affected by the storm. His personal home was covered with wind and hail insurance; his mother-in-law's home was not. The mother in-law's home demolition and construction will be funded

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Cover Story

March 11 - March 17, 2017

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Roberta Hayes said she was fortunate to have limited damage during the Tornado.



FEMA has approved nearly \$2 million in funding for affected New Orleans East residents.

entirely through FEMA.

Pierre's home had six bedrooms and was 4,800 square feet. The new home will be reduced in sized, based on what the insurance will cover, he said.

"We're tearing it down so we can get on the process of rebuilding," Pierre said.

Pierre said that the FEMA Funds won't be enough to rebuild the home. However, the home is the least of his concerns.

"I think that when you're in it how we're in it, we're just trying to move forward," he said.

Pierre was more concerned that no lives were lost in the tornado.

"We had a lot of good times, great celebrations in our home. We had hundreds of relatives here every holiday. But it's going to be different now. But in life you don't bring anything in and you're not going to take anything out. You enjoy what you have, when you have it, and do the best you can. And we'll recreate new memories," Pierre said.

FEMA's Impact on New Orleans East

Roberta Hayes suffered exterior damage after the tornado. She said that the damage could have been worse if it wasn't covered by a two-story home closer to Chef Menteur.

Many residents were caught unprepared when the tornado hit. Hayes noted that many of her neighbors did not have wind and hail insurance, but only flood insurance. After Hurricane Katrina, it became a common practice among insurance companies to separate wind and hail insurance, Hayes said.

In lieu of insurance payments, Hayes received FEMA Funds to contract repairs on her home.

After the tornado, Hayes said the FEMA turn around was quick, but the money that she received wasn't fair.

"The amount of money that FEMA gave was not fair, but FEMA cracked down on a lot of people, making sure we do right by the money," she said.

Since Feb. 13, FEMA opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the East New Orleans Public Library on Read Boulevard. While the City has urged over 1,300 residents to utilize the FEMA resource, the number of residence who utilized services has not been disclosed.

Over \$1.78 Million in federal assistance has been approved by FEMA as of March 3, 2017.



While streets have been cleared, several homes remain damaged and unlivable a month after the tornado.



Olympic Gold Medalist Gabby Douglas to Speak at Dillard in Late March

Data News Staff Edited Report

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Gabby Douglas, the first woman of color to win an Olympic Gold Medal as the All-Around Individual Gymnastics Champion, will present her unique story of dedication and triumph at the next edition of the Brain Food Lecture Series.

The lecture will be held Tuesday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. in Dillard's Lawless Chapel and is free and open to the public.

Gabby Douglas began formal gymnastics training at the early age of 6 years old. By the age of 8, she had won her first major title as the 2004 Virginia State Champion. At the age of 16, she was selected to be a member of the U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics Team to compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. There she

became the first African-American Woman, as well as the first woman of color of any nationality to win an Olympic Gold Medal as the All-Around Individual Champion.

In addition, while winning a Team Gold Medal, she became the first American Gymnast to win Gold in both the All-Around Individual and Team Competitions at the same Olympics. At the 2012 U.S. National Championships, Gabby won the Gold Medal in Uneven Bars, Silver in All-Around, and Bronze in Floor. She was also a member of the Gold-Winning Team at the 2011 World Championships

After the London Games, Gabby was one of the most influential female athletes in the world and was at the center of pop culture. She made an appearance on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, was featured in an interview with

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Gabby Douglas was the first woman of color to win an Olympic Gold Medal as the All-Around Individual Gymnastics Champion. Photo by

Fernando Frazão/Agência Brasil. Oprah Winfrey and was named to URDAY, MAR 91 Barbara Walters List as one of the "10 Most Fascinating People of LAKEERONT 2012." Gabby has made cameos on Disney's hit show Kickin' It and the CW's The Vampire Diaries.

Obama, she led the Pledge of Allegiance at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. Gabby was also named the 2012 Associated Press "Female Athlete of the Year." In addition, Gabby has released two New York Times best-selling books titled Raising the Bar and Grace, Gold, and Glory: My Leap of Faith. In 2013, Gabby's life story was portrayed in the Lifetime Network's movie of the week called The Gabby Douglas Story.

In support of President Barack

"We are excited to have Gabby Douglas, a pioneer and champion in her sport, visit our campus," said Dillard President Walter M. Kimbrough. "It is even more impactful when you put this into the context of Women's History Month, which we celebrate throughout March. Ms. Douglas is certainly a history maker and we hope that she will inspire both our young women and young men to make some history of their own."

For more information contact the Dillard University Office of Communications and Marketing at (504) 816-4800.





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Data News Weekly

Trailblazer

March 11 - March 17, 2017

Keith Hart Living and Giving in the Key of Life

by: Edwin Buggage

There is an old adage that states 'music is a universal language.' In the case of Music Educator Keith Hart, it is a bridge that connects young people to overcoming obstacles and achieving their dreams, hopes and aspirations. "It started with middle school in seventh grade where I was privileged to have great teachers. Mr. Jones in middle school and Mr. Harris in high school; these were transformative teachers who taught music that had ways of engaging your morality and helping you make good choices. I was inspired by them and I now take those lessons and pass them onto the students I teach," remarks Hart, who has been in the classroom for two decades speaking of these early influences that inspired him in what has become his life's work of teaching young people.

There are many qualities Hart says that can make young people successful, but the one he feels is most essential is developing good habits, something he feels that would cause them to make better choices as they navigate their way through life. Speaking of this recipe for success, he remarks, "I impart on my students that habits defines your choices and these ideas of excellence and virtues be-



come the integrity and perseverance that will define your destiny."

He is dedicated to community uplift and feels that building a strong character is an important quality to possess and also respecting one's elders, something that's helped shape his value system. It is something he carries with him as he helps in shaping the minds of the next generation, "When I speak about being a success I am not simply talking about going to college or getting money. I am talking about obtaining the virtues that make you human. When I think about my life and its meaning and what defines it, my value doesn't come from money, it comes from the love of my family and my community. It comes from someone believing in you. Those who see

what others could not see and encourage you in your journey through life. This is an unbreakable bond I have of loving my community and appreciating how it's fed my soul. For that reason, I am indebted to do for others what so many have done for me to become the person I am today."

In his two decades of teaching he's been instrumental in helping change the lives of many young people. He says what gives him the most joy is when he sees the 'aha' moment when the light bulb comes on and the young people get the concepts he is teaching them." Continuing he says, "I love to see when a kid goes from saying 'I can't to saying and believing I can do anything' this is the most rewarding part of the work

I do as a teacher."

He says one of the things that are key to student success is helping in building their confidence. Speaking specifically about one of his many success stories he says, "Jerome had a problem with stuttering and verbally communicating with people, so much so that it would cause him to blow up and it would cause him to have bad relationships with teachers and other people. His parents had given up and I put him in a leadership position. I also told him when he feels stressed out when he experienced difficulties in reading to calm him down and dig into each word and he did it with reading and with music. He eventually became the band captain. This to me is one of many proud moments I feel when I see kids overcome obstacles and reach their full potential."

For over a decade Hart has been doing an outreach program working with young musicians from the community. His success is well documented with many of his students getting accepted into the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) with some eventually going on to prestigious colleges including the famed Juilliard School in New York. While he relishes his success, he says he would like to reach more people with his program. Speaking of what he needs to accomplish this he says, "We have the expertise but we need resources and space."







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Mardi Gras 2017 Round Up



Kichea Burt Photographer

While the Carnival season is over, there is still so much to reflect and remember. From Krewe de Vieux to walking parades on Mardi Gras Day, New Orleans fosters so much culture, and vibrant energies during the festive seasons. Here is a recap of New Orleans' Mardi Gras 2017.















Data News Weekly Data Zone

March 11 - March 17, 2017

Dillard Wins GCAC Championship, Moves to NAIA

Kaelin Maloid Data News Weekly Contributor

Dillard University Men's Basketball Team are the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference Champions for the second year in a row. Despite going 11-1 in the GCAC and receiving a firstround bye for the tournament, Dillard University Men's Basketball Head Coach, Mike Newell, said he "wasn't going to take anything for granted."

According to Newell, there's always a chance a player or team can get inspired.

Fortunately, both rounds the Bleu Devils participated in were blow-outs. In the first game, they demolished the Tigers of Edward Waters College 103-78, and in the Championship game, they beat the Panthers of Philander Smith 86-65, the only team in the GCAC to hand Dillard a loss this season.

Winning the championship for the second season in a row eased the snub for Coach of the Year and Player of the Year the Bleu Devils felt they had, according to Senior Demetric Austin, who was voted the MVP of the tournament. Both Newell and Austin agreed the Bleu Devils were going to party since they were, of course, in the City of New Orleans.

Next up for the Bleu Devils is the NAIA Tournament in Kansas City, Mo., which Austin says the Bleu Devils are prepared. Newell gave the Bleu Devils one day off, but after that, it's back to practice to prepare for the NAIA Tournament.











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Political Involvement Is Necessary, Not Sufficient



Julianne Malveaux NNPA Columnist

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The unfortunate election of Donald J. Trump to the Presidency of the United States speaks volumes about the limits of African American involvement in the political system. Don't get me wrong. I was born and will live and die a political junkie, obsessed with the minutiae of politics. Actually, I'm a recovering politician; having run for office, got my butt beat, and flirted with the possibility of doing it again for years. Politics is about making the rules of distribution, of deciding how laws determine who gets what, when, where and why. Politics, importantly, ensures that those, who make the rules are favorably disposed toward justice and fairness. Politics allows resistance, when

those elected don't follow the lead of their constituents.

Economics and politics are closely aligned. Economics also determines who gets what, when, where and why. "So-called" free markets determine the flows of economic distribution, but politics often regulates the way that these "so-called" free markets work. I say that these markets are "so-called" free, because we know that politicians distort markets to their liking. During a recession, for example, politicians agree that bankers need a tight rein on them that they can't simply exploit for the purpose of earning predatory profits. After a recession, some politicians might loosen the rein on bankers and decide to let predatory markets flow free.

African Americans have righteously focused on politics and the political system, especially during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement, when the fight for the right to vote was a priority. People like Fannie Lou Hamer were beaten within inches of their lives, because they were determined to vote. Medgar Evers was killed because he was organizing voters. We had a focus on laws. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "The law will not make you love me, but it will keep you from lynching me." And so we focus on the laws and on politics.

The Trump election reminds us of the limitations of politics, and the need to focus on the economic aspects of our lives. Political involvement is necessary, but not sufficient for Black progress. Every single economic indicator shows African American people lagging. Not much has changed since 1967, when Dr. King said, "Of the good things in life, the Negro has approximately one half those of Whites. Of the bad things of life, he has twice those of Whites. Thus, half of all Negroes live in substandard housing. And Negroes have half the income of Whites. When we view the negative experiences of life, the Negro has a double share. There are twice as many unemployed. The rate of infant mortality among Negroes is double that of Whites and there are twice as many Negroes dying in Vietnam as Whites in proportion to their size in the population." The numbers have changed some, but the bottom line is that AfricanAmericans are not full equal participants in our economy.

How do we fix that? How do African-Americans flex our full economic muscles? How do we reward those corporations that support equality, and punish, through selective buying and boycotts, those who oppose freedom and equal opportunity? How do we stomp with the big dogs like the Koch brothers who buy politicians with the same ease that some of us buy potato chips? Do we even stand a chance?

I think that we have to spend as much time and place as much emphasis on economics as on politics. I think we have to be clear that poverty is a profit opportunity for some corporations. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has already reversed the Obama executive order that would stop the use of private prisons for federal incarceration. But these private prisons are machines of predatory capitalism, and now that Sessions has approved their use, their stocks are soaring. So we have to ask ourselves if our pension funds, mutual funds, or other financial instruments invest in corporations like Corecivic (formerly

Corrections Corporation of America, \$CXW) and the Geo Group (\$GEO). Can we push our investors to withdraw investment from these funds? Or will we be willing, in the name of predatory capitalism, to profit from this chicanery?

Similarly, from Ava DuVernay's film "13th," we are reminded of the others who profit from the prison industrial complex, including those who provide meals (Aramark is one of those companies) and phone calls. How much discomfort do they impose on our incarcerated brothers and sisters to make a profit?

Politicians make rules, but money talks when the nonsense walks. We need to spend as much time focusing on economics as on politics. We need to follow the money when we see oppression. And we need to be clear that the clearest path to Black liberation is that path that focuses on economics.

Julianne Malveaux is an Author, Economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at www.juliannemalveaux. com at Amazon.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

Did Donald Trump Just Self Destruct?

John Slade WBOK 1230AM

There was a 1957 Science Fiction Film entitled "The Beginning of the End.' It was about giant grasshoppers who threatened to overrun the earth and wipe out humankind. That film comes to mind when I think of the Trump administration. It appears that millions of giant grasshoppers are swarming the White House these days. Trump, a few days ago, tweeted out the contention that President Obama somehow ordered the phone tapping of Trump Tower in New York during the 2016 Campaign to find criminal doing on his part. This of course roiled the news media on Sunday Morning News Talk Shows. The fantastical allegations show now only is Trump not fit for the office of President of the United States, but he doesn't know what



Donald Trump accuses former-President Obama of wiretapping Trump Tower during the 2016 Campaign. Image by DonkeyHotey

the President does or what powers the President actually has.

Trump, by admitting he thinks he's been phone tapped, tells us that if what he says is true, it means somebody is running a serious investigation on him or his political buddies. It also means that somebody, perhaps the GBI, convinced a judge that there was probable cause to warrant a wiretap. That means this Russia thing is getting bigger and that Trump is in trouble.

Now, where would Mr. Trump get such information? Well, it seems that on Thursday, March 2nd, there was a broadcast by Conservative Radio Host Mark Levin on the subject, and then, the March 3rd Briebart News Summary of the aforementioned broadcast. Now, there may be actual reporting on the substance of these allegations. The British Paper the Guardian reported that the FBI was rejected in its initial request last summer for a Foreign Intelligence Service Act Warrant to monitor members of the Trump cabal about possible ties to Russia. Later, the BBC confirmed that the FBI succeeded in getting a FISA Warrant on the second try, which, if true, means that the Trump White House is under severe scrutiny, such as Trump has never seen before.

Now, as to the accusations that President Obama ordered all this, well that is not how any of this works. The President cannot order some's phone tapped at all. Only an institution like the FBI can, and as was mentioned earlier, a judge has to be brought onboard. Plus, Obama has come out and refuted the allegations. All Trump has done

> Commentary, Continued on page 11.

Four Confederate Monuments to be Removed Later This Year

Data News Staff Edited Report

Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu issued the following statement on the decision made by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on the Confederate Monuments case:

"Today the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the City's ability to control its property. This win today will allow us to begin to turn a page on our divisive past and chart the course for a more inclusive future. Moving the location of these monuments—from prominent public places in our City where they are revered to a place where they can be remembered—changes only their geography, not our history. Symbols matter and should reflect who we



Robert E Lee Monument at Lee Circle. Photo by Paulscrawl.

are as a people. These monuments do not now, nor have they ever reflected the history, the strength, the richness, the diversity or the soul of New Orleans.

"These monuments will be preserved until an appropriate place to display them is determined.

"Once removed, we will have the opportunity to join together and select new unifying symbols that truly reflect who we are today," said Mayor Landrieu.

In February 2015, Mayor Landrieu signed an ordinance calling for the relocation of four Confederate monuments from prominent locations in New Orleans. The four monuments are: the Robert E. Lee Statue at Lee Circle, the Jefferson Davis Statue on Jefferson Davis Parkway, the P.G.T Beauregard Equestrian Statue on Esplanade at the entrance to City Park and the Battle of Liberty Place Monument at Iberville Street.

During a Special Meeting of the New Orleans City Council, Ordinance Calendar No. 31,082 was considered at the request of Councilmembers Jason Rogers Williams, Jared C. Brossett, James Austin Gray II and Nadine M. Ramsey. This ordinance declared that the four Confederate monuments are nuisances pursuant to Section 146-611 of the Code of the City of New Orleans and be removed from their prominent locations in New Orleans. The members of the City Council voted 6 to 1 in support of this ordinance.

It is anticipated that private dollars will be used to pay for the removal of these monuments. Bids for the removal will be released in the next day. The City will also now begin the legal process necessary to remove the Liberty Place monument, which is currently subject to a federal court order. Additional details will be announced as they become available.

Once removed, the monuments will be stored in a City-owned warehouse until further plans can be developed for a park or museum site where the monuments can be put in a fuller context.

Rep. Richmond Statement on Washington Press Club Foundation Dinner

Data News Staff Edited Report



Washington, DC – Congressman Cedric Richmond (LA-02) released the following statement regarding his comments during the 2017 Washington Press Club Foundation dinner:

"After a discussion with people I know and trust I understand the way my remarks have been received by many," said Rep. Richmond. "I have consistently been a champion for women and women's issues, and because of that the last thing I would want to ever do is utter words that would hurt or demean them. I apologize to Kellyanne Conway and everyone who has found my comments to be offensive."

Congressman Cedric Richmond (LA-02)

MCDONOGH 35

The National McDonogh 35 High School Alumni Association is reaching out to all graduates as it begins the celebration of the school's Centennial Celebration (1917 to 2017).

If you are a graduate or if you know of someone who graduated from the school, contact the alumni association at mcdonogh35alumniassociation@yahoo.com, mcdonogh35alumniassociation.org, or write to McDonogh 35 Alumni Association, P.O. Box 50306, New Orleans, LA 70122, ATT: Alumni Association.

Submit New Orleans school items to Orleans@nola.com. Include contact information.



Data News Weekly Fashion & Style

Let's Get Festive!



Delaney George Fashion Columnist

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Carnival season has come and gone but the celebrations in New Orleans are not stopping any time soon. It's time to trade in your masks and Mardi Gras ball gowns for sun visors and sun dresses, because it's festival season.

March will officially kick off the start of festivals, throughout the spring and summer seasons. In preparation for the walking, the heat, and classic New Orleans merriment, here are a few things you should buy to be fashionably festive for the entire festival season.

Keep it lose and flowy:

There's no heat like New Orleans heat, especially when surrounded by thousands of people at a local festival. To stay cool, short or long flowing dresses are perfect for the weather and comfy for the occasion. These dresses make it easy to maneuver, while giving off a style that is relaxed, simple, and cute. It can be paired with sandals to dress it down, or wedges to spice it up. The possibilities with these dresses are limitless.

Shades and Sun Rays:

From sun hats, to visors, we all need protection this festival season



reflective shades, perfect for festival season. Shot by: Delaney George.

from the powerful sun rays. So, why not do it with style? Colored visors and oversized sun hats will be the trend of the season, keeping many women cool, cute, and stylish. And you can never go wrong with a sassy pair of shades to bring out the attitude in any outfit. This season shades of all kinds will be seen at various festivals: blocking out the sun with fashion.

For more information on how to prepare yourself for festival season or where to purchase these great finds email Delinkey@yahoo.com or visit and direct message @Delannii on Instagram.



Local model wears a dress from YazzleDazzle.com that is lose and breezy for any hot festival day. Shot by: @ MissAcker via Instagram.



Local Fashion Blogger and Retailer Yasmine Davis or YazzleDazzle.com wears a short, cute and lose pink dress paired with pink heels and a multicolored hand bag. Shot by: Miesha Williams

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5 Ways to Retain Hair Growth



Destiny Johnson Natural Hair Columnist

I was so proud of myself after seeing my hair growth results after one full-year without heat or a blow dryer. I had heat straightened my hair last February for Valentine's Day and I also got a trim. I hate trims but it helped to restart my hair growth journey so I could finally grow out healthy hair for the rest of the year. My hair was around my shoulder blades when I had it straightened and trimmed in February 2016. I really disliked the fact that I had to get a trim because it took off about one inch of my hair. I promised that for the rest of the year and until next February, I would not get any trims and not heat straighten. After finally straightening my hair since last February, I was pleasantly surprised to see that my hair was now hanging around my mid-back. My



My hair was stuck right below my shoulders between 2011 and 2014 (left). In 2015, I decided to stop using heat so frequently and these are my results in 2017 (right).

hair was now the longest it had ever been in my adult life. My goal now is to be waist length by next February. I treated my hair delicately for one-year and here are 4 methods (that worked!) to help me grow my hair to even greater lengths.

1. I deep conditioned my hair weekly. Every Saturday, I used my favorite Deep Conditioner to hydrate my hair and strengthen my strands.

2. I only wore my hair in its natural state with no direct heat for one full-year. I wore my hair down about 75% of the time. I only wore buns and high ponytails if I wasn't wearing it down.

3. I finger detangled after washing instead of using a comb. I always use a wide tooth comb to help me comb out my hair but I try to use my fingers as much as I can before I delicately detangle the ends.

4. I did not trim my hair for a fullyear. I avoided trims while my hair was curly because my hair would not be totally even when I straightened it.

5. I babied my ends by sealing them with Jamaican Black Castor Oil after completing a wash and go. Your ends are a very sensitive part of your hair. Not attending to my ends in my previous hair journeys led to broken and unhealthy ends. Ignoring my ends kept my hair around shoulder length for years.

Happy Growing!

Follow me @seekyourcurls on Instagram

Wanted Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper, is looking for freelence writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more

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We can't wait to hear from you!



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is give ammunition to his enemies which are legion at this point.

Meanwhile, while President Obama was still in power about three years ago, according to the New York Times, he ordered up a top-secret project in cyber warfare to sabotage North Korean ballistic missiles, such that it would slow to a crawl their program to make nuclear tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles that could reach San Francisco. North Korea missile tests began to fail one after the other. By doing so, American antimissile efforts gained invaluable knowledge. The disaster resulted in Mr. Kim, the Leader of North Korea putting to death one of his high security officials. President Obama did this in secrecy, asked for no credit, and didn't boast about it even if it would've helped him politically in the 2016 election. All the while, being called cowardly and weak in his foreign policy dealings, he did his duty to the country of his birth as President of the United States. This information came out while Trump complained about his baseless allegations against President Obama. But the question remains: As Michael Flynn resigned from the position of National Security Advisor and Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescues himself from any Investigations into this White House, one must wonder who is next. We lost a great President on January 20, 2017. We gained a President who is more concerned about the check he is going to lose from the cancellation of "The Celebrity Apprentice," than he is about the security of this country. Meanwhile, the giant grasshoppers of growing scandal mass outside the White House. One can ask, is this the beginning of the end of the Trump Presidency?



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