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Same sex marriages is NOT a civil rights issue

BY SHIRLEY DEMUS TARPLEY
NDG RELIGION EDITOR

As a God-fearing Christian, I believe that Same-Sex Marriages are wrong, period! There is no justification for them. They are against God's Law. He destroyed the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of this "abominable sin."

I know the debate is often framed as a civil rights issue. Supporters claim, "It's like the Black race, it's a Civil Rights" issue." However, per an article by Alveda King released on May 29, 2012 entitled "My Uncle Martin Luther King, Jr. and my Daddy, A.D. King Did Not March For Same Sex Mar-



riage."

She continued saying, "Dr. MLK, Jr. was fair and compassionate with Bayard Rustin, his openly homosexual staffer who left the movement at the height of the campaign when he attempted to convince Uncle M. L. that homosexual rights were equal

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New ad targets Backpage.com over child sex trafficking controversy

A new ad is launching Monday that portrays a 13-year old survivor of child sex trafficking who was advertised by her pimp on Backpage.com. The ad is the latest step in a string of efforts aimed at convincing Village Voice Media to shut down the adult section of its website, Backpage.com, where children and teens have been ad-

vertised by others for sex.

Sponsored by FAIR Girls -- a social service organization dedicated to preventing the exploitation of girls worldwide with empowerment and education -- the 30-second ad will debut online and air on television in the Washington, D.C. market on Sunday on ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos.

It also will air several times next week on cable.

The ad can be viewed here: <http://www.fairgirls.org/page/sign-petition>

The true story of a 13-year old girl who was repeatedly advertised for sex by her pimp on Backpage.com was the inspiration for the ad. The girl's experience of exploitation began when she was

only 9 years old. At 12, her trafficker started marketing her on Backpage.com. To protect her identity, a young actress and activist, Victoria Pannell, plays the part of the survivor.

The ad calls on the public to sign a petition on SignOn.org, which demands Village Voice Media close the
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Humana Active Outlook® Walking Program launches to improve senior health through physical activity and socialization

Walking program now available to seniors at the Dallas Humana Guidance Center and online after pilot showed improved health outcomes

Humana Medicare Advantage members and seniors in general now have a new option to improve



their health and well-being through walking and socializing with the launch of the Humana Active Outlook® Walking Program. The walking program is free of charge and available at the Dallas Humana Guidance Center, as

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FINAL week to enter Embassy Suites - Dallas Galleria - details at Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette.com

COVER STORY

Family Promise of Irving partner with churches and business community to offer assistance to families



Day Facility at the Family Promise of Irving

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Beasts of the Southern Wild tells the story of Beauty in the Beast

For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com

COMMENTARY

Healthcare momentum shifts toward Obama

BY GEORGE E. CURRY (NNPA) Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act two years ago, polls have consistently shown that a slight plurality of Americans have opposed the measure. But public opinion now seems to be shifting in President Obama's favor, with a slim plurality supporting the landmark healthcare measure.

The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, released a week after the Supreme Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of the Af-

fordable Care Act (ACA), shows that 47 percent approve of the Supreme Court ruling, 43 percent oppose and 10 percent are uncertain.

Not surprisingly, as is the case with so many social issues, there is a deep political divide, with 83 percent of Democrats preferring to keep the law as is or expanding it and 79 percent of Republicans wanting to repeal it. Independents are divided, with 49 percent wanting to keep or expand the law and 41 per-

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People In The News...



Dr. Henry Masters



Dr. Aletha Maybank



Carole Simpson

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Dr. Henry Masters

St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church began a new chapter on July 1, 2012 as Dr. Henry Masters delivered his inaugural sermon as the new Senior Pastor. Masters is coming from the historic Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, where he served for the past 11 years. Rev. Zan Holmes served the past few months as interim pastor following the resignation of Tyrone Gordon.

For St. Luke, it's a

new pastor, and for Dr. Masters it is described as a homecoming. Masters is a native of Waco, and graduated from both Paul Quinn College (although it was located in Waco at the time) and Southern Methodist University's (SMU) Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Masters served as the Senior Pastor at Hamilton Park and St. Paul United Methodist Churches in Dallas. He was also the District Superintendent for the North Texas Council of the

United Methodist Church from 1990-1997.

St. Luke is one of the largest African-American United Methodist Churches in the Metroplex, and continues to play a historic role in the development of African Americans in Dallas. Dr. Masters is coming from the largest United Methodist church in Los Angeles. Masters is passionate about urban ministry and is a frequent guest lecturer and speaker on the subject. Dr. Masters serves on numerous boards and provides leadership to various church, civic and com-

munity boards and agencies.

While at Holman in Los Angeles he ministered to his congregation along with a second flock of nearly 30-thousand listening live on the radio. Masters' leadership is well documented receiving numerous honors including being one of 65 Lilly foundation scholars at Duke University, participation in a symposium in conjunction with the opening of Africa University.

The Texas native is married to Rev. Dianne Masters, who is also an ordained United Methodist

Minister. The Masters have been married almost 40 years and have 3 adult children and several Grandchildren. St. Luke invites the community to attend their 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. Sunday service at their location along RL Thornton Freeway in East Dallas.



Dr. Aletha Maybank

Last month at the Crowne Plaza in Times Square, Manhattan, Dr. Aletha Maybank received the Network Journal "40 Under Forty Achievement" award, an honor given to African-American professionals under 40 years old who are making great strides within their industry and a significant impact on their community.

Dr. Maybank has been the Assistant Commissioner for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since 2009. She

also serves as the Director of the Brooklyn District Public Health Office. She holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, an MD from Temple University School of Medicine, and an MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She is Board Certified in both Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine/Public Health.

Dr. Maybank received the "40 Under Forty Achievement" award for her local, national, and international efforts in public health and policy development. For several

years, Dr. Maybank has worked to dissolve health inequities and barriers to health care for racial and ethnic minorities both domestically and abroad. In 2010, she made two missions to Haiti to provide post-earthquake health care assistance.

This honor is one of many for Dr. Maybank who has previously been recognized for her public health contributions with various awards and honors from several organizations including NV Magazine's Movers and Shakers 2010, the National Coalition of 100 Black Men, EMG Communications, as well as the Hip Hop Loves

Foundation. She has also been a television guest doctor on Fox 5's Good Day Street Talk, BET's 106 & Park and NY Public Television's Q&A.

"In public health, we have a wealth of information that is very beneficial to the communities that we serve," says Dr. Maybank. "However, there exists a tremendous gap in knowledge related to



knowing this valuable information by our communities. My ultimate vision is to be a powerful "messenger" through media." The "40 Under Forty" honoree will host Love + Politics II on June 27, 2012 at NYC's exclusive Parlor Lounge. This is the second year for Dr. Maybank's highly successful signature event; an evening of honoring young leaders that use their political power or celebrity to promote

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Carole Simpson

Upon learning that those following in her footsteps were experiencing



many of the racist and sexist incidents she faced

down in her four decades-long career as a broadcast journalist, former ABC News Weekend Anchor Carole Simpson felt compelled to write her memoirs. NewsLady recounts Simpson's trail-blazing career, the obstacles she overcame and the animosity that made her leave it all behind. Now, previously unpublished material has been included in the soft cover version of her book, in which she points out the problems

she had with women and other black employees.

"There are some controversial aspects to this new version," says Simpson. "I talk about the 'dirty little secret' in black America. We are prejudiced against each other."

The NewsLady re-release expands on the behind-the-scenes look at Simpson's life, painting a dim portrait of the prejudices against her race and gender that complicated an already difficult climb in the competitive television news industry. Additionally, she gives her take on the controversial rise and fall of Max Robinson, the first African American to anchor a major nightly newscast. Simpson reflects on her time working with Robinson, who died of AIDS at age 49. "This really may be one of the few

things written about Max Robinson since his death," says Simpson.

Despite the final insults she received at the hands of now-deposed ABC News President David Westin, which caused her to leave her 24-year stay at the Disney-owned company, "NewsLady offers remarkably frank advice for others to help avoid the problems she surmounted. Simpson covered everything from presidents and politics, to the federal government and America's social problems. She paved the way for other women and minorities to gain opportunities in the television news industry, serving as the first woman to broadcast radio news in Chicago and the first African American woman to become a correspondent and anchor for a major network.

Candidly honest, reflective and revealing,

News Lady gives readers See SIMPSON, Page 4

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Romney's Disastrous Prescription for the Black Jobless Crisis

(New America Media) GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney has managed an incredible feat. In a Google search of millions of references of his campaign speeches, interviews and his writings, I could not find a single word he has written or spoken about the greatest economic crisis that faces any of the nation's voter constituencies. That's the crisis of black unemployment.

The release of the Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment figures for June found that the chronically high jobless numbers among blacks, especially the jobless numbers among young black males—which

have been at Great Depression levels—have jumped even higher.

In more than a dozen major urban areas, nearly one in four blacks are unemployed. The closest anyone in the Romney camp has come to acknowledging the severity of the crisis is a terse, vague and perfunctory statement from a black Romney campaign advisor. She knocked the Obama administration for allegedly not "talking about" black unemployment.

Will Romney Break His Silence at NAACP? Romney will have his chance to break his silence on the problem when he addresses the NAACP's annual con-

ference in Houston on Thursday.

If his past performance is any guide, he'll almost certainly make his stock pitch that he'll grow jobs with massive corporate tax cuts, sharply pare down regulations on business—starting with repeal of the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory reforms—and spur free-market, not government, initiatives. This supposedly will unleash the awesome power of private industry to create thousands of new jobs that will lift all battered ships. Expect Romney to claim that blacks will be major beneficiaries of this supposed unfettered job surge via private industry.

Conservatives have not changed this threadbare script for creating jobs for minorities since Ronald Reagan. The only wrinkle to it has come from black conservatives, who delight in taunting civil rights leaders with the refrain, "what have the Democrats and Obama done to end black's economic misery?"

Romney's black advisor repeated that line in defending Romney's economic prescription for blacks. This is all, of course, pure economic mythmaking that ignores too much history.

During the late 1990s, joblessness tumbled to its lowest levels in two

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cent favoring repeal.

A clear majority of Americans – 56 percent – are tired of the political bickering and want opponents to "Stop their efforts to block the law and move on to other national problems." An even larger 82 percent of Democrats share that sentiment.

However, if Republicans have their way, that is unlikely to happen soon. According to the poll, 69 percent of opponents want to "Continue trying to block the law from being implemented." Among independents, 51 percent favor moving on to other issues, and 41 percent are for continuing the fight.

Because the Affordable Care Act was modeled after the health plan created by Mitt Romney when he was governor of Massachusetts, Romney is in an untenable position as he tries to draw a nonexistent distinction between what he did as governor and what Obama is supporting as president. That political contortion, delivered in the midst of blistering attacks on what Romney characterizes as "Obamacare," has led to major flip-flopping in the camp of the Republican standard bearer who is trying to shed that label.

Central to the debate is Chief Justice John Roberts' majority opinion that ACA is constitutional under Congress' powers of taxation. A

key provision of the health law is the individual mandate, a requirement that those who can afford it must buy insurance or face a financial consequence.

Obama has argued that because a person has the option of purchasing health insurance – a choice one does not enjoy when it comes to taxes – the punishment for failing to comply should be more accurately described as a penalty, not a tax.

Romney's problem is that he made the identical argument as governor. For political reasons, however, Romney does not want to repeat that argument as Republicans try to use the ruling as proof that the president's signature legislation is a massive tax hike on Americans.

On the CBS News broadcast "Face the Nation," House Speaker John Boehner said, "It's now a tax, since the court says it's a tax." That is directly at odds with what Romney said as governor.

Eric Fehrstrom, a senior advisor to Romney, said in an interview on MSNBC: "The governor believes that what we put in place in Massachusetts was a penalty and he disagrees with the court's ruling that the mandate was a tax."

But "the governor" promptly threw Fehrstrom under the bus.

"While I agreed with the

dissent [that a health mandate is not a tax], that's overtaken by the fact that the majority of the court said it's a tax and therefore it is a tax," Romney said in an interview with CBS News, contradicting himself and his senior campaign aide.

Politics aside, past polls showing most Americans opposed to the Affordable Care Act may have been misleading. Although the public expressed opposition to the law, when the actual provisions of ACA are described, there is widespread support – even among Republicans.

A poll released last month by Reuters/Ipsos found:

•Eighty-six percent of Republicans favor "banning insurance companies from cancelling policies because a person becomes ill."

•Eighty percent of Republicans favor "creating an insurance pool where small businesses and uninsured have access to insurance exchanges to take advantage of large group pricing benefits."

•Seventy-eight percent of Republicans support "banning insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions."

•Fifty-seven percent of Republicans support "providing subsidies on a sliding scale to aid individuals and families who cannot afford health care insurance."

•Fifty-four percent of Republicans favor "requiring companies with more than 50 employees to provide insurance for their employers."

•Fifty-two percent of Republicans favor "allowing children to stay on parents insurance until age 26."

These findings prove that the Obama administration has done an extremely poor job conveying the benefits of the Affordable Care Act to the public. If Romney wants to make this a campaign issue, Obama should gleefully borrow a page from Ronald Reagan when he told Congress in 1985 that he would veto any bill that would raise taxes.

To those considering testing his resolve, the actor-turned-president, borrowing a line from Harry Callahan played by Clint Eastwood in the film Sudden Impact, said, "Go ahead, make my day."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA) and editorial director of Heart & Soul magazine. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge.

There are several safe options for weight-loss surgery

Two common weight-loss surgery methods could do a better job of treating Type 2 diabetes than standard, nonsurgical approaches, according to two new studies published online by *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The early research, which received media attention worldwide, found many patients who underwent weight-loss surgeries were able to stop taking their diabetes medications within 15 days or so. While both studies only researched a small number of patients, most of those who had the surgeries showed no signs of diabetes two years after their operations and the patients' cholesterol levels and other heart-risk factors also improved.

While it's common to recommend weight-loss surgery for a diabetic patient who is overweight

and has a body-mass index greater than 35, the patient and his or her physician must determine if surgery is appropriate for the individual patient and which procedure would be best.

To share more about the various options and discuss the procedures available at Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale, Dr. Bassam Zakhour, a general surgeon on staff, will host a seminar at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12, at Sunnyvale Medical Plaza next to the hospital. There's no charge for the seminar, but reservations are required and may be made by calling 877-554-TRMC (8762).

Dr. Zakhour, a general surgeon in private practice in Mesquite and board certified by the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, will discuss:

Roux-en-Y or gastric bypass - This procedure creates a small pouch at the top of the stomach, and attaches the pouch to middle part of the small intestine. Bypassing most of the stomach and sections of the small intestine, gastric bypass reduces the amount of food that can be eaten and absorbed.

Sleeve gastrectomy - The surgery restructures the stomach into a banana-shaped tube in order to restrict the amount of calories the body absorbs. Sleeve gastrectomy allows for normal digestion and absorption of food.

Lap-Band surgery - Lap-Band places a silicone ring, often called a band, around the stomach. The procedure creates a smaller stomach pouch by regulating the flow of food from the upper part of the stomach to the lower portion.

SISTERBRATION and BLOGALICIOUS hosting Tweet Up For Women's Health at Tower Club Dallas

Tweeters, bloggers, PR professionals and social media enthusiasts are invited to help raise awareness of women's health. To help kick off the national #iamSHE campaign celebrating minority women's health, SISTERBRATION and BLOGALICIOUS are presenting a Tweet Up event, Tuesday, July 17 from 6 - 8 p.m.. The event welcomes all to tweet and interact through social media platforms while in attendance using #iamSHE. Co-hosting this event are Dallas bloggers, Jennifer Johnson and Valerie Rowe-kamp.



Presence at the event is not necessary to participate in the event, as homebodies and travelers may join the Tweet Up virtually. SISTERBRATION is inspiration for healthy living and the widespread dissemination of healthy messaging to their audiences, while encouraging women to adopt and maintain

a healthy lifestyle.

Founded in 2009, the mission of BLOGALICIOUS online community and annual conferences has remained the same - to celebrate diversity in social media and to serve as a supportive platform for its members to grow their blogs, brands and businesses. Join the BLOGALICIOUS community in Las Vegas for BLOGALICIOUS Weekend 2012, September 28-30.

Tower Club Dallas is located at 1601 Elm Street in Dallas. They will provide complimentary bites and swag bags for those who register at <http://iamshetu.eventbrite.com/>.

Methodist Patient-Centered ACO is the only DFW program selected for CMS' program

Methodist Health System's new Methodist Patient-Centered ACO (MP-CACO) was named among 89 new accountable care organizations (ACOs) selected to participate in the Medicare program coverage nationwide by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Methodist's was the only program selected in the

Dallas-Fort Worth area, and one of only five selected in Texas, with more than 200 physicians presently partnering in MP-CACO.

ACOs are organizations formed by groups of doctors and other health care providers that have agreed to work together to coordinate care for people with Medicare. These 89 new

ACOs have entered into agreements with CMS, taking responsibility for the quality of care they provide to people with Medicare in return for the opportunity to share in savings realized through high-quality, well-coordinated care.

"The Methodist Patient-Centered ACO is committed to transforming health

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straightforward strategies in dealing with adversity in the workplace in words laced with experience and courage. Simpson's is a story of triumph over great odds in the news and in the trenches.

"I recount events in this book that show how many tried and how many succeeded in doing me harm," says Simpson. "But before, during and after my television career, I was able to overcome

and prospered. I was blessed."

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Dallas Bar Association hosts Christmas in July for local charities

The Dallas Bar Association's Community Involvement Committee is holding its annual Christmas in July program, which collects donations to benefit local charities. This year's recipients are Austin Street Centre, North Texas

Food Bank, Genesis Women's Shelter and The Family Place.

Donations (including non-perishable food, bed linens, baby and toddler supplies, clothing and toiletries, housewares, cleaning supplies and laundry de-

tergent) will be accepted on Friday, July 27, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Belo Mansion. (2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX, Locke Room). The charities will send trucks to pick up the donated items that afternoon.

Congresswoman Johnson leads discussion on violence against the homeless

On Tuesday, July 10, 2012 Congresswoman Edie Bernice Johnson, the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, and the National Coalition for the Homeless, hosted a briefing on violence against the homeless. The goal of the briefing was to raise awareness about the violence facing homeless men, women, children, veterans, elderly, and the disabled.

"Protecting some of the most vulnerable people in

this Nation should be a top priority of this Congress," said Congresswoman Johnson. "Raising awareness is just one component of finding a comprehensive solution to that not only protects the homeless from violence, but also reduces the total number of people living on the streets."

The panel included experts from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, law enforcement, a former victim of violence.

Congresswoman Johnson is one of four co-founders and co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, she has also authored legislation to include hate crimes against homeless individuals in the uniform hate crimes statistics collected by the Department of Justice. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

UT Arlington to host 12th Annual Texas Autocross weekend

The University of Texas at Arlington will host a formal Formula Society of Automotive Engineers race for the first time during the 12th annual Texas Autocross Weekend July 13-15.

Schools attending the weekend event include UT Austin, Texas A&M, Wichita State, University of Kansas, University of New Mexico, University of Missouri and University of South Florida.

The UT Arlington Formula SAE racing team will have at least eight cars running in the event.

Included in the UT Arlington fleet will be its groundbreaking hybrid car – a project two years in the making. In May UT Arlington won the GM Best-Engineered Hybrid Award at the 2012 Formula Hybrid competition at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

"The judges saw that our car was very sophisticated, so we proved our point," said Bob Woods, mechanical engineering professor and UTA Racing sponsor. "We wanted to create a car that would

dominate the competition, and we did that. The GM, Chrysler and Ford people would hardly let our students leave."



The hybrid car starred in the endurance race, averaging 34-second laps in comparison to 44-second laps for the second-place hybrid team.

"We were the only team to have a huge crowd of people to watch us during the endurance race," said 2012 team captain Lena Gerry. "That felt really good."

Texas Autocross Weekend begins Friday, July 13, with an open house in Woolf Hall for participating schools. Teams will compare notes and make final adjustments to their cars before racing begins at 9 a.m. Saturday.

In the past, the Sunday

race was held at venues such as Pennington Field in Bedford, but this year it will take place in Lot 49 at the corner of Cooper Street and Doug

Russell Road. The race, sponsored by the Sports Car Club of America, begins at 9 a.m.

Saturday and Sunday festivities are free and open to the public. "If you've never seen these cars in action, you'll be amazed," Woods said. "These cars are fast."

Woods said the program complements what students learn in a classroom.

"Real-world employers value the experience these students gain as part of the racing team," Woods said. "It's a program that's not all based on what happens on the track. They learn team-building, how to solve problems and come up with new technologies."

UT Arlington's FSAE team is in its 30th year, and has won a record eight international titles. The team just placed second out of 66 schools at the Formula SAE West competition in Lincoln, Neb., June 20-23.

City of Plano introduces four communication tools

Keeping the Plano community informed and engaged in dialogue is an important component of the Plano City Council's 2012 Strategic Vision.

To increase dialogue opportunities four new programs have joined the City's communications arsenal enabling citizens to connect with the City through computer, smartphone or tablet applications. Each is offered at no cost with some requiring online subscription.

Engage Plano is an online town hall forum where participants are encouraged to propose ideas and pro-

vide feedback on a variety of City of Plano municipal topics.

My Tax Dollars is a handy tool enabling residents to figure their estimated property tax and compare tax rates among neighboring cities.

Through Plano City News, subscribers can stay informed about Plano municipal government activities and services, including messages from City Council and updates from City Council meetings.

Blackboard Connect contacts citizens with emergency or important City an-

nouncements via any combination of messaging they choose: calls, texts or emails.

Through the City's web portal, Connect With Us, these four new tools are available at no cost, along with options for other communications, such as Facebook and various municipal departmental notifications and news.

The City of Plano does not sell any telephone, email or personal information. Any subscriptions are confidential.

Learn more: www.plano.gov/connectwithus

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well as in 17 markets across the U.S. and online.

Humana is gearing up the national walking program this month after the pilot program showed promising results. The six-month pilot, which began in November 2011, enrolled more than 1,000 seniors who took 173.5 million steps, walked 66,624 miles (equivalent to 2.5 laps around the earth at the equator) and burned nearly 3 million calories. Local Humana Guidance Centers will be holding walks and other events throughout the summer to encourage participant activity and recognize their efforts.

Seniors are encouraged to join the walking groups, which meet at least once per week at the Guidance Centers, for instructor-led group walks and to learn proper walking and stretching techniques. Each participant will receive a free pedometer at sign-up to track their steps and calories burned. At the end of each outing, participants upload their steps at a Guidance Center computer kiosk, which tracks steps taken, distance and calories burned.

"The Humana Active Outlook Walking Program

is another way for us to provide a meaningful service and engage face to face with seniors in communities where they live to improve their physical and mental health at the same time," said Emily Allen, director of Consumer Experience for Humana. "We are inspired by the success of the pilot and encourage all of our members and seniors in general to take part in this free wellness program."

The program aims to positively impact seniors' health by motivating and engaging them to take action and improve their fitness level and mental outlook by walking. Each local walking program will include variety on the walks by taking the groups through different environments, such as local parks, sports complexes, malls and other accessible areas.

Many participants are reporting improved health outcomes – both physical and mental – from participating in the pilot walking program. One participant,

over time, was able to participate in walks without her cane; another is encouraged by the pedometer to get moving outdoors more often; a former smoker increased her stamina, breathes easier and lost six pounds; and several participants who lost loved ones reported feeling better and less lonely after the group walks.

For a look at the Humana Active Outlook Walking Program, including testimonials from some of the participants, check out the short video on Humana's YouTube channel:

http://youtu.be/0e5c_PlvBrQ.

To learn more about the program or to sign up, seniors can contact the Humana Active Outlook at 1-800-817-7413. Participants are invited to attend a "Walking Orientation" at their local Humana Guidance Center, meet the Walking Instructors and other participants, and pick up their pedometers.

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Keepin' It Real! Youth Summit 2012

The ninth annual Keepin' It Real! Youth Summit for middle and high school students will be held on Saturday, August 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Mountain View College (MVC), 4849 W. Illinois Avenue in Dallas, Texas 75211.

The summit is FREE and offers a day of workshops on health, wellness, finances, and other topics today's teenagers face. In addition to workshops and breakout sessions, attending teens will participate in a College/Community fair, as well as enjoy keynote speakers, food and entertainment. The summit is



for youth, ages 12 through 18, with a goal of providing teenagers the information and tools they need to offset issues or enhance areas of productivity. The summit will also establish a strong foundation for a

successful school year and a future of achievement. Finally, teens will build self-confidence and meet new friends.

Although the key focus is on learning, participating teens will also be en-

tertained by local artists such as steppers, singers and musicians. There will be free food, door prizes, and lots of giveaways. Also for the ninth year, Backpacking for Education (BFE) returns. BFE is a program that supplies attending youth with backpacks filled with school supplies and well wishes for a safe and productive school year.

"Hundreds of middle and high school students from across the metroplex participated in last year's event and already this year, many have confirmed plans to attend. That's because the Youth Summit

provides a unique opportunity for students to discuss issues and interact with professionals who serve as role models, inspiring students to greater achievements," said Sharon Jones-Scaife, Executive Director, Teens Reaching Teens, Inc.

Teens, youth organizations, YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs, and more from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex are invited to make plans now to attend. Advance registration is required and can be done online at www.keepinitreal.org or www.teengraffiti.com. Additionally, sponsors and vendors are invited to contact Teen

Graffiti magazine to secure their participation in this highly anticipated and successful event. Current sponsors include: Teens Reaching Teens, Incorporated, Teen Graffiti Magazine, SJS Graphic Arts & Printing, Dallas County Community College District, Mountain View College and Shirley Langley, CPA (Atlanta, GA).

To register your teen group or for more information on sponsorship opportunities, vending or entertainment, please visit www.keepinitreal.org or www.teengraffiti.com or call (972) 496-9457.

July is African American Bone Marrow Awareness Month

Eleven-year-old Valaria Fenderson of Atlanta is quietly fighting for life while waiting for the bone marrow transplant that could cure her sickle cell anemia. Her battle against this inherited blood disorder – which most often strikes Africans and African Americans – has kept her in pain and taken her in and out of hospitals for most of her young life.

Today, a bone marrow transplant is Valaria's only hope for a cure. According to her mother, like many



Valaria Fenderson is a 11 year-old in Atlanta needing a bone marrow transplant in her fight against sickle cell anemia.

African Americans who need transplants, Valaria

doesn't have a matched bone marrow donor.

Established in 2009 by the U.S. Congress, Be The Match® is recognizing African American Bone Marrow Awareness Month throughout July to raise awareness about the critical need for African Americans to join the Be The Match Registry®.

Patients usually find a suitable donor in

someone with a similar ethnic background. But just 7 percent of the nation's 10 million registered potential bone marrow donors are African American.

To improve this number, Be The Match is hosting registry events nationwide to encourage more African Americans to step forward and join the Be The Match Registry. Patients and donors from cities across America will also travel to Washington, D.C. on July 18 to meet

with members of Congress. These advocates will share their personal stories and encourage Congress to continue its support of the program.

For more information on how you can make a difference visit www.swabplusdna.org and www.bethematchblog.org.

Irving YMCA to hold school supply drive

The Irving YMCA is holding a "Supplies for Success" drive to benefit local low-income families in Irving that cannot afford school supplies. The drive will be held from July 1 to August 5 and the YMCA will accept

paper, binders, pencils, batteries and backpacks, as well as financial donations.

For a complete listing of needed supplies, please contact the YMCA at dfox@ymcadallas.org or 972-600-5017.

PROGRAM, continued from Page 4

care locally," said Tim Kirby, president, MP-CACO. "We are transitioning our primary care clinics to medical homes and working in partnership with our medical staff to improve quality while reducing cost. We are excited to be part of the journey with CMS as we work together to improve the health of the Medicare patients we serve."

Participation in an ACO is voluntary for providers. The Shared Savings Program, and other initiatives related to ACOs, is made possible by the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Federal savings from this initiative could be up to \$940 million over four years.

"Better coordinated care is good for patients and it saves money," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "We applaud every one of these doctors, hospitals, health centers and others for working together to ensure millions of people with Medicare get better, more patient-centered, coordinated care."

According to CMS, the 89 new ACOs will serve 1.2 million people with Medicare in 40 States and Washington, DC. The 89 ACOs announced this week bring the total number of organizations participating in Medicare shared savings initiatives to 154.

In all, as of July 1, more than 2.4 million beneficiaries are receiving care from providers participating in Medicare shared savings initiatives.

To ensure that savings are achieved through improving care coordination and providing care that is appropriate, safe, and timely, an ACO must meet quality standards. For 2012, CMS has established 33 quality measures relating to care coordination and patient safety, appropriate use of preventive health services, improved care for at-risk populations, and patient and caregiver experience of care.

ROMNEY, continued from Page 3

decades. Help-wanted signs were everywhere. Deficit spending was not a major White House or congressional flashpoint because the government had a healthy budget surplus. There was far less flight of capital to off shore havens back then, or ballooning trade deficits.

Most important to the joy of conservatives, corporations and medium-size businesses expanded and created tens of thousands of new jobs. Yet, the unemployment rate for young black males was double the level for white men. And just as the latest jobless figures show again, in major urban areas the proportion

is triple that of white males.

Private industry did not wipe out the nagging racial gap in employment.

Half of Blacks Jobless for a Year or More - The Congressional Black Caucus reports that at least half of all unemployed black workers have been out of work for a year or more. Many have given up looking for work. The U.S. Census does not count those who have stopped looking among the unemployed.

The black unemployed, like the poor in all groups, have few powerful advocacy groups and are mostly nameless and faceless. They make up no defined constituency that Mitt Romney

can court and bank on to vote for him in any substantial numbers.

The NAACP is certainly not the place where he'd find those votes. His prescription for knocking down black joblessness then is more than failed and flawed. It's disastrous. But that's not what the NAACP and blacks would ever hear from him.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. He is an associate editor of New America Media and host of the weekly Hutchinson Report on KPFK-Radio and the Pacifica Network. Follow him on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/earlhutchinson>.

Miss Dallas, DaNae Couch Crowned 2012 Miss Texas



DaNae Couch, Miss Dallas was crowned the 2012 Miss Texas by the reigning 2011 Miss Texas Kendall Morris, at the 77th Miss Texas Scholarship Pageant held tonight at the Allen Event Center, Allen, TX. The 23 year-old from Coppell is a

graduate of Baylor University and is currently attending Texas Tech Law School. Her talent during the show was Talent: Twirling to "You Can't Stop the Beat" and her Platform Topic was Hope for Family Recovery: Life Beyond Addiction.

SPARKLE Singing Challenge this Saturday at Valley View Center

Dallas will host the *SPARKLE* Singing Challenge, sponsored by Sony Pictures and Myspace, happening Saturday, July 14, beginning at 1 p.m. The Dallas winner will receive \$500 in cash and a chance to compete for the national Grand Prize. The Grand Prize winner will win a trip to New York, an appearance on BET's *106 & Park*, a recording session with the Punch



Monkeys producer and writing team, and a Myspace homepage feature.

Amateur singers between

the ages of 13 and 40 will be asked to sing a 60 second a capella version of one of two songs: *CELEBRATE* or *SOMETHING HE CAN FEEL*. Clips from the songs, official rules, along with more information about the contest, can be found at www.myspace.com/sparkle.

Contestants will be judged by Celebrity Judges: Cheryl Winston of Capitol

Records, Demetrius Lloyd of Sony Music and gospel recording artist and actress VirLinda Stanton.

To pre-register and reserve audition spots ahead of time, email DallasSingingChallenge@Moroch.com or call 214-520-5646.

SPARKLE, starring Jord-in Sparks, Whitney Houston, Derek Luke, Mike Epps, Carmen Ejogo, Tika Sumpter, Omari Hardwick and CeeLo Green, opens August 17 in theaters everywhere.

Petition gatherers not tied to, nor endorsed by Town

Prosper residents should be aware that the Town is taking no position on the efforts by some individuals and groups who are seeking signatures on a petition to hold an election that would allow the off premise sale of all alcohol, according to Town Manager Mike Land.

"We are neither endorsing nor sponsoring any as-

pect of the petition, and residents should know that the Town is completely neutral on the topic," he said.

A group called "The Better Business for Prosper" has submitted an application to Town Secretary Amy Piukana to hold a referendum in November. To hold the election, the group and its supporters, must ob-

tain the signatures of at least 773 registered Prosper voters.

The petition signers would be verified through Denton and Collin Counties' voter registration lists. The Town currently allows beer and wine sales off premise and the petition would allow residents the opportunity to vote to in-

clude all alcohol sales off premise.

"The Town has been informed that some residents are confused and think the Town is backing the petitioners," said Land, "however, the Town is impartial and neutral and is merely following all Election Code guidelines."

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So Many Choices . . . So Many Screens

BY CHERYL
PEARSON-MCNEIL



Cheryl Pearson-McNeil

I've said it before – we are spoiled rotten. Reviewing Nielsen's latest *Cross-Platform Report, How We Watch from Screen to Screen*, I can't help but smile and remember the earlier days of "watching television." (You, know the one screen, the only option we had). I suspect a good many of you sometimes get a bit nostalgic, too (even though now we probably would be hard-pressed to part with any of our current technological conveniences). Before flat screens, HD, satellite, DVR, cable, hundreds of "channels" and the internet, plus a growing number of devices to watch "TV" – we had one, maybe two (if you were lucky) TV "sets" in the house. Before we had all of these fancy remotes, people actually got up to *manually* turn a dial to change stations, adjust the volume and turn

the set on or off. Back then, which wasn't actually all that long ago, there were maybe five broadcast stations – the three major networks ABC, CBS and NBC, followed by PBS and maybe an independent station or two which required a tweak of your TV *antenna* to achieve a clear picture, and you know the secret tool was that aluminum foil. I know a lot of y'all know what I'm talking about.

Today, of course, we can watch video or media content whenever, wherever and however we want – on actual

televisions that are connected to either cable, telephone company or satellite subscriptions, game consoles or timeshifted viewing (DVR, on-demand and cloud-based DVRs); or on our computers, tablets or mobile phones through on-line streaming with Netflix, Hulu and other video apps. We're talking everything from new movie releases, to our oldie-but-goodie TV shows and everything in-between.

However, even with all of these cool technological choices, the latest *Cross-Platform Report* revealed that television remains the platform of choice for watching content. Now, the television as certainly gone through a few facelifts, but it is still one of the main sources we use. The number of people who have HDTV sets grew by more than 8 million over the past year.

Live and time-shifted TV reigns supreme; accounting

for more than 33 hours of viewing per week on average among Americans. Our community, however, is not average as we continue to top those numbers. The study shows that African-Americans still over-index in traditional TV viewing, clocking more than 57 hours a week in front of our televisions. The average African-American household also owns four or more televisions. Yes, this is great for darting from room to room without missing a beat of your favorite show; but, I personally stay super-glued to my comfy couch and only watch one of the four TV's in the house.

Even though all Americans watch more traditional television than any other platform, the *Cross-Platform Report* shows that traditional TV viewing actually declined one half of one percent (or about 46 minutes per month) after consistent year-over-year growth. This is at-

tributed to simply leveling off after a period of sustained growth, weather, economic factors or the plethora other viewing options available to us we've already named. Of our total month-ly viewing time, all TV homes (including those with cable provider-enabled time-shifting and homes with DVRs) report watching 13 hours of timeshifted TV. In homes with DVRs only, that number jumps to 27 hours and 30 minutes per month. In the African-American community, those numbers are nearly 9 hours and just over 22 hours, respectively.

Americans also watch video on our mobile devices, which are increasingly becoming mini, handheld TVs. Last time I mentioned, 54.4% of Blacks owned smartphones and 50.4% of U.S. mobile subscribers owned smartphones. And, of all American smartphone owners, 33.5 million people now watch video on their

phones—an increase of 35.7% since last year. Blacks, Hispanics and Asians all average four hours and 20 minutes a month of viewing on our smartphones. White Americans average three hours and 37 minutes a month watching video on their mobile devices.

So, what does all of this mean? For one thing, it means the media industry may one day have to redefine the terms "TV household" and "TV viewer." And, as I repeatedly try to remind us all, our choices mean that marketers are going to have to pay closer attention to our community and the significant combined buying power our choices represent. The operative word being *power*.

Cheryl Pearson-McNeil is senior vice president of public affairs and government relations for Nielsen. For more information and studies go to www.nielsen-wire.com.



Eugene Henry Tinner

We are celebrating the 88th birthday of someone very special today, July 12, 2012:

Eugene Henry Tinner; someone whose faith inspires others, a person who understands that there is more to life than what's here on earth. He is a witness to all that know him, a sign that God is alive; that He is good and His mercies are renewed every morning.

You are a wonderful husband; an excellent father; grandfather; great grandfather; a friend to all and our extraordinary and distinctive World War II Veteran.

We truly thank God for you, we love you and we know that God will continue to bless you with a long and healthy life.



Family Promise of Irving partner with churches and business community to offer assistance to families

BY: JACKIE HARDY,
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the Great Recession, Americans managed to avoid the shame of the long soup lines seen during the Depression of last century. However, quietly the lives of many families were turned upside down resulting in a plunge out of the middle class toward poverty, hunger and even homelessness.

Seeking to assist struggling families in Irving, community activist Anthony Bond has issued a challenge to the community.

"I have begun a private initiative to pledge \$100 personally and I want to issue a challenge to at least 1,000 other citizens of Irving to match my pledge to Family Promise of Irving to help raise \$100,000 for the homeless families of Irving," challenges Bond.

Family Promise of Irving (FPI), located at 121 B South Story Road, is a 501 (c)(3) faith-based non-profit organization helps families with children in situational homelessness find a permanent solution through direct case management.

"While there are services in Irving that provide limited and temporary assistance for people in need, there was no organization whose focus was on permanent solutions for families with children," Ann Park, FPI Board of Director President said. "900 children were identified as homeless during the last school year in Irving ISD. That translates to 200-250 families at some time during the school year who were without a permanent place to live."

FPI is part of a nationally based organization launched over 20 years ago with affiliates in over 40 states via its Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). IHN consist of partners within the faith-base com-



FPI Director Athena Clark and supporters at the recent ribbon cutting.

munity (i.e., host and/or buddy churches) who act as the marshal in working with the families to provide support in the areas of housing, donations and volunteers. The ultimate goal is always seeking to help the families become fully independent.

A family of four with an annual income of \$23,050 is considered to be living in poverty, according to the 2012 Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines. In 2010, the American Community Survey reported Texas as one of the 12 states with a poverty rate above 17 percent as it stands at 17.9 percent.

FPI has served the needs of low-income and homeless families since June of 2010. According to Parks, a significant amount of the families in need of FPI services have income levels that barely meet their basic needs and do not have medical insurance, making it hard for families to save for unexpected expenses. It also becomes harder for families to survive on only one income.

"...the two major factors that lead to homelessness are insufficient income, and the lack of affordable housing. Family Promise has also seen an increase in the number of clients who have lived a

middle-class lifestyle who have been affected by the recent economic downturn," Park said.

As a result of Grace Point Church of Irving donating the rent-free space on Story Road, Director Athena Clark is able to concentrate on the families they are serving at the Day Facility. The Day Facility is a

year round, with hours of operation designed to give the families a place to come during the day. Families can shower, do laundry, store personal items, use the telephone and search for a job on the facility's two guest computers. It also gives the families a permanent address they can use when applying for jobs. The FPI Day Facility is operated on a volunteer basis where volunteers are needed to handle basic administrative duties such as answering phones, data entry, and inventory management of supplies.

Families are generally given 30 days to utilize the full services provided by FPI, but according to Clark

the 30 days can be extended on a case-by-case scenario. The national average time it takes for families to reach full independence is about 60 days through FPI facilities.

"The goal is the families are up and running from the first week they are here," Clark said. "We do comprehensive case management and we set goals on a weekly basis...they are on a track to get where they have to be."

The Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce helped FPI establish business relationships with local businesses looking for opportunities to give back to the community. These companies have provided financial assistance and allowed their employees the opportunity to volunteer

The business community is not the only to lend their hand to FPI. The faith community in Irving is also lending their support. The Irving Bible Church (IBC) was the first of 11 local churches who committed to serve as a host church. Each host church agrees to house three to five families at one time.

"We are committed to Family Promise in every way possible-financially, recruiting, and developing volunteers and sharing the story of how Family Promise is part of breaking the cycle of homelessness in Irving," Pastor Bryan Eck of IBC said through a written comment. "Our facility is open to these struggling families along with letting them meet other families and individuals in our church who want to support and love them," he continued.

Park said that IBC and other host congregations are

essential partners who provide stable and supportive environments families need as they work towards independence.

Park shared, "As a coalition of local faith communities who provide volunteers, overnight lodging, and meals FPI is able to operate at one-third the cost of other nonprofit organizations."

Eck shared how profound this organization has been for both the church and the people of IBC and encourages other churches to consider partnering.

"[T]he church can no longer be quiet while hurting and struggling families in Irving do not have a place to stay and feel loved and supported during their time of need," Eck said.

For more information on volunteering or to make donations contact FPI office at 972-313-1500 or visit: www.familypromiseirving.org.



Chris Wallace, Greater Irving COC

their time, knowledge and personal and professional skills. These companies also helped to recruit the current ten Board of Directors, with plans to expand to 15 in upcoming months.

"We are involved because we are looking for that future workforce," comments Chris Wallace, President of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce.



Host Church Responsibilities:

Provide private sleeping space and linens for families in the program for 7 nights once a quarter (FPI provides the beds)

Provide common area for meals, homework, relaxation, and two bathrooms (men/women)

3 Daily Meals during time of hosting the families

Evening Volunteers as well as volunteers to provide following:

- o Meals
- o Drivers for the network van
- o Set up the area where the families stay
- o Companionship and support for the families

Day Facility Needs:

Weekend Volunteers (approx 10-15 to work 2-3 hour shifts)
3-4 Personal Computers

Top FPI Needs:

Host and Buddy Congregations (target goal is 13 host churches, a host church provides facility to house families, currently have 11 and a buddy congregation partners with another church to share in the volunteering duties. Time commitment for host and/or buddy church is open-ended)
Funding (Corporate and Individual)
Affordable Housing Options

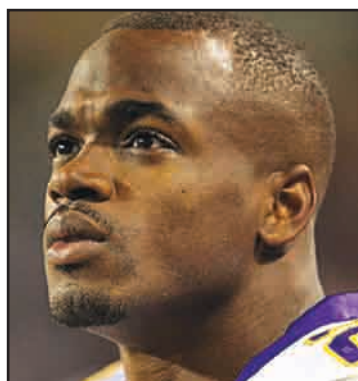
Requirements to Participate in FPI Program:

Must be Drug-free & Sober-free
Smoke-free environment (have designated areas for those who smoke)
Must have criminal background check (there is no exception to those with a violent

NDG Gossip: NFL Minnesota Vikings Running-Back Adrian Peterson arrested

BY KENDRIA BROWN
NDG INTERN

It was time-out for the Minnesota Vikings player Adrian Peterson when he went to a Houston County jail for resisting arrest. His official charges were "resist arrest/search unclassified." He was arrested in the early morning hours of Saturday, and



Adrian Peterson

was freed about eight hours later on \$1,000 bond.

The NFL player was at a Houston night club enjoying rounds of alcoholic beverages, when he insisted on having another drink before the club closed. The nightclub manager noticed Peterson, who already has a rowdy bar reputa-

tion, drank heavily that night when he tried to get a final drink.

When the manager refused, Peterson mocked him and was approached by an off duty-officer in the club, informing the player it was time to leave. Peterson hit the officer in the shoulder. He was told to put his hands behind his back, but he declined. An-

other officer was summoned and tried to arrest Peterson as well, but he was able to resist arrest from both officers. This evading of arrest caused a third officer to intervene, and Peterson was finally subdued and taken to jail.

Normally Toxicology tests would ensue after this erratic behavior, but not in Peterson's case. For some

reason, he was not given sobriety tests despite his intoxicated behavior.

The Minnesota Vikings stated "We are aware of the situation; we will withhold further comment until more information is known."

It would not be a bad idea for Peterson to stay out of the nightlife for a little while.

Beasts of the Southern Wild tells the story of Beauty in the Beast

BY ALVIN STARKS
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In this fairytale, Cinderella doesn't have a Fairy Godmother; she is actually motherless on all fronts. Nor does she



have glass slippers. In fact, she does not have shoes at all. In this fairytale, the protagonist may be destined to work in servitude and she's absolutely fine with it. *Beasts of the Southern Wild* is provocative and rich with many themes. Benh Zeitlin, in his debut feature, has sculpted a masterpiece, creating a fascinating world to explore, a world of chaotic beauty, terror and mythical wonder. Electing to choose a cast of nonprofessional actors was ingenious. He may have found Hollywood's next big star.

The narrator and protagonist of the film is a six year-old girl named Hushpuppy (Quvenzhané Wallis) who lives in a fictional Louisiana bayou called The Bathtub along with ailing father, Wink (Dwight Henry). Hushpuppy's father is a serious alcoholic who lives in a separate house connected to hers by a wire. Darwinism never rang truer in their environment. Hushpuppy is abandoned by her father for a few days and she has to fend for herself while sleeping among the animals, who happen to be her friends.

In a nonchalant tone, Hushpuppy says, "If daddy doesn't come back soon, I'll have to start eating my pets." This is the way of the land in their world, an understanding that you must

do anything to survive and it is not sugarcoated in the slightest.

Their home, the Bathtub, is a decaying, swampy, primitive civilization inhabited by society's outcast. There is a dearth of food and the place is bereft of resources that most families rely upon each day. Houses are makeshift, crafted with branches, random pieces of scrap metal, rope, leaves, and wood. The houses are part mobile home, part treehouse. Even boats are made of pick-up truck beds. The residents of the Bathtub spend their days drinking heavily, fishing, and scavenging. The parents train their kids, like animals, to be self-reliant. They also teach their kids to believe in a folklore type tale of ancient beast called aurochs that have a symbolic role in the film.

As the people sing, dance and celebrate simply being alive and free, there is always a foreboding tone of doom looming in the atmosphere. There is a storm coming and the people can sense that the storm would be the storm of storms. Some of the residents of the Bathtub

have the foresight to flee and relocate. While others either are bereft of the means to pack their things and relocate or are just too prideful to abandon their home.

Hushpuppy's father, Wink, is an interesting character. In the real world, Dry World in their lexicon, his fathering tactics would result in CPS taking Hushpuppy away and land him a spot in prison. Wink tries to rally his neighbors together and inspire them to stay in their homes in an effort not to abandon their land. Then the storm comes. When the storm hits with cataclysmic force, to lift his daughter's spirits, Wink reacts by climbing onto his roof and shooting a gun into the sky as if the storm could be killed. This mad and invigorating scene of individual defiance against impossible and inhuman forces, is a testament to the resiliency of the Bathtub's people. The storm came and took everything except their hearts. Despite Wink's deteriorating health and Hushpuppy's youth, father and daughter weather the storm.

Zeitlin, who will soon be introduced to Oscar voters, and cinematographer Ben Richardson create a sense of systematic chaos with constant, searching camerawork. *Beasts* is shot on location in Louisiana from Hushpuppy's point of view for the most part. To accurately depict what Hushpuppy sees through her eyes and her perspective, Zeitlin shoots from the hip, with the wobbly, watchful intensity of a young girl.

The mumpsimus dialogue shines through the film adding a level of authenticity. After the storm, the survivors find refuge in a floating shack and proceed to have dinner. Hushpuppy

struggles to crank open her crab with her bare hands. Wink scolds his daughter and orders her to, "beast it, beast it." As Hushpuppy struggles, a symphony of chants, "beast it, beast it," fills the room. Hushpuppy savagely cranks open her food and feasts in triumph. Hushpuppy's scenes of struggle and perseverance uplifts the tone of the film in every regard.

Beasts of the Southern Wild is a bayou fairytale wrapped in a nightmare of epic proportions. It is a Rubik's Cube, enclosed in an enigma,

placed at the center of a labyrinth and guarded by mythical beasts. Zeitlin's film can be interpreted in various ways. The story is chaotic and at times it seems like nothing holds the film together but at times the narrative is precisely focused. The film could be an allegorical interpretation of the plight the people of New Orleans endured during Hurricane Katrina and in its aftermath.

The film can be characterized as a celebration of freedom. It can also be about a father teaching his daughter to be

self reliant while maintaining happiness amidst the most dire circumstances. There are many lessons to be learned from this film that are taught to the viewer by the mesmerizing Hushpuppy.

The lesson that resonated most and is explicit throughout the film entirety is, one day everything on our plates will fall on the floor and no one will be there to pick it up except us.

Beasts of the Southern Wild is showing at the Angelika Theater in Dallas and Plano.

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MARRIAGES, continued from Page 1

with civil rights. Uncle M. L. did not agree, and would not attach the homosexual agenda to the 20th century civil rights struggles. People can be compassionate without endorsing sin." God Himself instructs us to 'love the sinner but hate the sin.'

Homosexuality is a choice and also an abomination to God but being Black is not a choice. I am extremely glad that God made me to serve Him and He made me Black.

Abomination has a different meaning to God than sin. The definition of an abomination according to the dictionary is, "Something abominable; extreme disgust and hatred; loathing." I have read that its a stench in God's nostrils.

The definition of *Civil Rights*: The nonpolitical rights of a citizen; especially: the rights of personal liberty guaranteed to United States citizens by

the 13th and 14th amendments to the Constitution and by acts of Congress.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was the Abolition of Slavery, not homosexuality. "Either slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution's Citizenship Clause provides a broad definition of citizenship that overruled the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* ruling by the Supreme Court (1857) which indicated Blacks could not be citizens of the United States. The Due Process Clause prohibits state and local governments from depriving persons of life, liberty, or property without certain steps being taken to ensure fairness.

In summarizing the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-19:29): Three angels visited Abraham, God's handpicked founder of His chosen nation, Israel. They came disguised as men, travelers along the road. Two of them went down to Sodom and Gomorrah, to observe firsthand the wickedness in those cities.

The Lord revealed to Abraham that he was going to destroy the cities because of the evil ways of their people. Abraham, bargain with God to spare the cities if there were fifty righteous people in them, then ten.

Lot and his family lived in Sodom and when the two angels arrived at Sodom that evening, He took the two men to his home and fed them. Then all the men of the city surrounded Lot's house and said, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." (Genesis 19:5,

NIV) Lot was so infected by the wickedness of Sodom that he offered the homosexuals his two virgin daughters instead. Furious, the mob rushed up to break down the door.

The angels struck the rioters blind! Leading Lot, his wife, and two daughters by the hand, the angels hurried them out of the city. The girls' fiancés would not listen and stayed behind. Lot and his family fled to a tiny village called Zoar. The Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, destroying the buildings, the people, and all the vegetation in the plain.

It does not matter what President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, General Colin Powell, or the NAACP says. It does not matter how many of the various entertainers of our society, or many individuals "come out of the closet." It simply does not matter what anyone else says about

"same sex marriages being right and/or good for America and the world. God's Word has stood the test of time for over 2,000 years. America is only 236 years

old. When we are all dead, God's Word will yet stand, and His Word will judge us all.

Remember God has the last word.

The Word of God in the King James Version is very clear on what it says about same sex marriages. Below are the verses related to this subject, to read them in their entirety visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com.

Genesis 19:5 (God's disgust with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah)

Leviticus 18:22-23 (about sodomy)

Leviticus 20:13

Deuteronomy 23:17 (about male hookers)

Judges 19:22-24

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 Samuel 20:17-41 (about male to male's love vs. male to woman's love)

2 Samuel 1:26 (about male's lust)

2 Samuel 19:1-6 (about male's lust)

1 Kings 15:12 (about eradication)

1 Kings 14:24 (about eradication)

Job 36:14 (about male hookers)

Joel 3:3 (about male hookers)

Romans 1:24-27 (about boy hookers)

Dear Friends,

As the District Attorney of Dallas County, I am proud to support Domingo Garcia. Domingo is the only 33rd District congressional candidate who has a strong history and track record as a coalition builder. He also cares about the needs of our community.

- Domingo Garcia marched for civil rights alongside Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery and Caesar Chavez.
- He led busloads of African American and Hispanic leaders to stand up for immigrant rights in Arizona.
- Domingo served as trusted confidant and Texas campaign manager for Rev. Jackson during his historic campaign for U.S. President.

Domingo Garcia built support from all corners of Dallas and successfully fought for single-member city council districts. As the result, all residents of Dallas now have a voice and fair representation at Dallas City Council. As Dallas' first Hispanic Dallas Mayor Pro Tem, Domingo worked with the late Al Lipscomb to establish the Citizens Police Review Board, bringing an end to racially motivated police crimes.

As a Texas State Representative, Domingo Garcia built the coalitions needed to win passage of the landmark James Byrd Hate Crimes Act. He also sponsored the 10% Rule which has leveled the educational playing field for minority students who want to go to college.

As a lifelong democrat, Domingo Garcia supported Barack Obama from the earliest days of his presidential campaign; served as a local co-chair for the Obama campaign; and, today, advises President Obama on minority outreach for his re-election campaign.

Domingo Garcia is the only choice for the 33rd Congressional District. Voters in the 33rd Congressional District deserve a coalition builder with a proven track record. We need someone in Washington D.C. who will stand alongside President Obama and fight for education, safer neighborhoods, and a stronger economy. We need Domingo Garcia because he will work for all of us ... not special interests. On July 31, I encourage you to vote for Domingo Garcia, Democrat for Congress.

Sincerely,



Craig Watkins
Dallas County District Attorney

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Tuesday July 31, 2012

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Community Calendar

Visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com and click on *Community Calendar* for more events!

Through September 23
Sandy Lake Amusement Park in Carrollton. Admission is \$2 and children under 3 years old is free (see family coupon for free admission online) and coupons for rides are \$.50. Info: sandylake.com

Through September 9
The Magic School Bus Kicks up a Storm at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park at 10:30 a.m.; Book readings are on June 23 (Ms. Fizzle appearance), September 1, and September 8; Admission is \$7-\$10; Info: 214.428.5555

Through September 14
Shark Feedings on Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

Through September 15
Shark Dissections on Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

Through December 8
New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissiahae5@gmail.com

Through July 12
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Wyly Theater www.DallasTheaterCenter.org

Through July 22
Dallas Summer Musicals-Cathy Rigby is PETER PAN at the Music Hall at Fair Park; Tickets \$15-\$75; Info: 214.413.3940

July 12
"The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman." Lecturer and actor Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux will give a live storytelling performance in which she will dramatically relate tales from the life of the famed African-American

abolitionist, Union spy and Underground Railroad operator. 6:30 p.m. at Lewisville Public Library

July 13
Silver Rail is a variety band performing 7 – 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center in Garland

FREE Ego Trippin' & Pencil Whippin' writing workshop is 4 p.m. at 2700 Broadway Blvd, Garland - 972-675-8827

July 14
B.L.A.S.T. - Babysitter Lessons & Safety Training for ages 10 up at TCU; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu

'Hairepy Session' appreciating our hair and heritage is 10 a.m. at 2700 Broadway Blvd, Garland - 972-675-8827 free event for the youth

July 14-15
Discovery Days: Discover Underwater Worlds at the Museum of Nature & Sci-

ence in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

July 21
A Little Look at Manners, Courtesy, and Kindness for Grades 2-3 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 & Grades 4-5 at 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at TCU; www.lifelong.tcu.edu

July 22
Upcoming Special Spiritual Event Services with Rev. Larry Gardner at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church, 1944 E. Hebron Pkwy. In Carrollton at 10 a.m.; Info: www.lwaypr.com/RevLarryGardner.html

Gospel Brunch at House of Blues at 11 am; Info: 214.978.2583

Shark Sunday: Shark Stewards Texas at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; 214.428.5555

July 23
Greater Highlands AARP Chapter 3881 meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Lake Highlands United

Methodist Church located at 9015 Plano Road, Dallas.

July 26
VNA's July Bereavement Luncheon at noon features Linda Jones discussing "Writing to Heal" at the Church of the Incarnation, Dallas

July 27
Ken Savage & the Best Kept Secret: From the Ides of March in the 70's, to the current Tower of Power - a great horn section has always added excitement to any great rock song. If you like classic R&B and great Funk- you should the show 7 – 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center in Garland

July 28
B.L.A.S.T. II – Babysitter Lessons & Safety Training w/ Certification in First Aid & CPR for ages 10 up at TCU; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu

July 29
Nicki Minaj Pink Friday Tour at Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie at 7:30 p.m.; All ages; tickets starting at \$80; Info: axs.com

American Idol Live! Tour 2012 at American Airlines Center at 7 p.m.; Info: 214-221-8326

August 1 – 12
Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus: Fully Charged at American Airlines Center. Ticket are \$15 - \$100 at www.Ticketmaster.com

August 3
Six of the Matter: A taste of everything. If you enjoy country, classic rock, current hits, dance/ disco, get ready to party 7 – 9 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center in Garland

August 5
Life in the Deep Ocean at Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park part of Shark exhibition - Dive to the darkest depths of the oceans to discover the animals that call this strange world home.

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MAYBANK, continued from Page 2
awareness for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Maybank is available for guest appearances, columns on health, and for comments on any health related issues. Her expertise includes preventative health, food and fitness, maternal and child health, cancer, HIV/AIDS, community health, and health inequities. To learn more about Dr. Aletha Maybank, read her profile on the Network Journal's 40 Under Forty Class of 2012 page at www.tnj.com/2012/aletha-maybank.



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The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is requesting written proposals from transportation providers to manage and operate the Hurst-Euless-Bedford (HEB) Transit Project, a demand-responsive service within the Cities of Hurst, Euless and Bedford. In 2001, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded NCTCOG \$1.5 million (federal) in Job Access/Reverse Commute funds for the Northeast Tarrant County Job Access Program. The purpose of the funding is to provide new or expanded transportation services to employment and employment related opportunities. The HEB Transit Project has been in operation since August 2006 and provides transportation disadvantaged individuals trips to and from work and work-related appointments within the Cities of Hurst, Euless and Bedford. The provider will be responsible for scheduling, dispatch, and general operation of the service. The initial contract term will be for a period of twelve (12) months with four (4) optional one-year renewals available at NCTCOG's sole discretion. The budget for this project is approximately \$125,000 per year.

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 pm, on Friday, August 3, 2012, to James Powell, Senior Transportation Planner, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available at www.nctcog.org/rfp by the close of business on Friday, July 6, 2012.

NCTCOG encourages participation by disadvantaged business enterprises and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability.

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Call 972-423-8833 for AFFEFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFEFFECTxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals.

July 19, Noon

Come to a “Between Jobs Support Group” meeting at the Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-960-9981 to register.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister

1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

July 22, 10 a.m.

You’re invited to a Special Spiritual Event Services with speaker, Rev. Larry Gardner, Associate Pastor.

Terrance S. Woodson D. Min
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 15, 9:35 a.m.

You’re invited to our Sunday

School at 9:35 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

July 18, 7 p.m.

Come to our Wednesday’s Bible Study to learn more about God’s Word and help us to praise and worship His holy name.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor

4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766

www.biblewayirving.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

July 14, 11 a.m.

Ladies you are invited to our Women of Wisdom meeting as we study and discuss God’s Word. Call the church for details.

July 18, 7:30 p.m.

Come to Bible Study as we go further in and deeper down into God’s Word and we give Him all of the glory and praise.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor

701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200

www.followpeace.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN “The Ship”

Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

TheShip3C’s Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

July 15, 9:30 a.m.

Join us and experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. We will praise God for His blessings.

July 18, 7 p.m.

You’re invited to our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God’s love.)

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.

Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.

Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

July 15

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m.

Timothy Jones,
Lead Pastor
21 Prestige Circle
Allen, TX 75002
214-383-9993

www.rockbridgechurch.com

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

July 14, 12 p.m.

All Senior Citizens are invited to our Double Nickel (55 and above) Luncheon @ the New-some Center on Amcott Street in McKinney. Activities include lunch, bingo and door prizes. Come and bring a friend. If you are homebound, we will deliver to you. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than the Friday, (July 13th this month) before the luncheon and leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you need.

July 15 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Education Ministries, stay for our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.; and you’re invited to join us for our Friends and Family Day as we fellowship, worship and praise God.

Dr. Charles Wattley
Senior Pastor

1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.com

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

July 15, 8 a.m.

And 11 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

July 18, 7 p.m.

You’re invited to our Midweek

Service as we worship and praise God.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.

Senior Pastor

920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695

www.smbcplano.org

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

July 15, 7:30 a.m.

Join us as we worship, honor and magnify God’s Holy name.

July 16, 7 p.m.

Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God, worship Him and praise His Holy name.

Pastor Rickie Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Road
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VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL, (VBCI DALLAS)

July 15

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WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Early Prayer

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Monday – Thursday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer will change people, things and situations.

July 15, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday School with Minister Greg Mason and teachers for the adult class and for the children class; then stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we honor and praise God for His goodness.

July 17, 7:30 p.m.

You’re invited to our School of The Prophets as Pastor Voss; who is also a prophet, bring the Word of God; and we worship and praise His Holy name.

July 19, 7:30 p.m.

Join us in our Gift Stirring Night as Saints of God bring God’s Word and reveal their God-given talents.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor

2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
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Story Elementary
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Allen, TX 75002
9:30 AM

Wednesday Night Live Service
200 Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
7:00 PM




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**Sister
Tarpley**

Mr. Eugene Henry Tinner is a man that God has ordained and honored today, July 12th with 88 years of good health and strength. I have found him to be a God-fearing man that is compassionate and has great humility. He loves his family unconditionally, he is good man at home, in his community, at his church, around his friends and neighbors at all times. He has been a personal friend of mine for over 45 years.

I affectionally call him "Father." I started this as a joke, I told him that with six children, I might as well be child #7, it soon was no longer a joke; he has always treated me like a personal member of his family. But through the years, I have witnessed him being a great husband and father. He is a long-time faithful member (over 50 years) at First Baptist Church of Hamilton

Park where the late Dr. J. Lee Foster was his first pastor and now Dr. Gregory Foster is the Senior Pastor and Rev. Anthony (Tony) Foster is the pastor.

He has been married to my personal and good friend, Mrs. Euphemia (Phemia) Clement Tinner for 64 years and they have lived in the Hamilton Park Community for over 50th years. The Tinner's have six adult children: Beverly, Renee, Rebecca, Regina, Reginald, and Wilford.

They are the proud grandparents of eight: Naarah, first grandchild of the Tinner's is a graduate of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, Jordan, Joshua, Lee Ann, Ebony, a senior student at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, Jared, Leeah, and Joseph and three great grandchildren: Joshua Aaron, Jr., Jacob Elijah and Kaylana Marie.

Mr. Tinner, through the years has been a member of the Hamilton Park Civic

League, serving in many positions including the Executive Board; he has been a role-model Boy Scout Leader for the younger boys in the community. He retired in 1987 from Eastman Kodak after maintaining a perfect attendance for his entire working career. He was tardy only once, this was during a snowstorm; he left home two hours early and was only thirty minutes late that day. I wouldn't even tell anyone I was late, Eastman Kodak never recorded him as being late that day, so why should he?

Mr. Tinner completed his duties in the Army CC Camp in 1941, went into the United States Army in 1943 and received his honorable discharge in 1948.

He was grateful and felt blessed of God when he received an official autographed picture and a congratulations card from President Barack and Mrs. Michelle Obama for his years of service in the Army

and his birthday on July 12, 2010.

He served in the Philippines and in Tokyo, the capital city of Japan, located on Tokyo Bay on the eastern coast of Honshu Island. He was in Tokyo, Japan the same time as Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur, who was fired by President Harry S. Truman in 1951 because of the constant friction between General MacArthur and the Joints Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

Mr. Tinner said that President Truman was the president who had the sign on his desk in the Oval Office, "The Bucks Stops Here" and he also coined the phrase, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." Mr. Truman was the president who gave the orders to drop the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945.

When Mr. Tinner was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas he was an engineer who



Mr. Eugene Henry & Mrs. Euphemia (Phemia) Tinner celebrating Father's Day 2012

helped build bridges and Houston, the Philippians roads while at Fort Sam and in Japan.

TRAFFICKING, continued from Page 1

adult section of its website. Pannell is the sponsor of the petition.

View the petition here: <http://www.signon.org/sign/village-voice-media-please/>

The ad also calls on the public to contact 26 major advertisers in Village Voice Media's 13 flagship publications, including the Dallas Observer, and ask them to join the human rights movement by immediately discontinuing their advertisements in Village Voice Media newspapers until the company closes the adult section of Backpage.com. The two major advertisers identified in the Dallas Observer are Bud Light and The Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

FAIR Girls' appeal to advertisers follows similar requests by Groundswell, the social action initiative of Auburn Seminary and convener of a coalition of 700 clergy speaking out about Backpage.com, four U.S. Senators, Change.org, and other activists. Their collective efforts have resulted in several national brands, including AT&T, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, and IHOP,

ceasing their advertisements with Village Voice Media.

Learn more about the advertiser effort here: <http://www.signon.org/sign/village-voice-media-please/>

"Almost every single sex trafficked girl we have assisted in the U.S. this year was sold by her pimp using the adult section of Backpage.com. In the past year, the number of girls we have assisted has more than doubled. For us, this is not just a campaign. This is about protecting real girls from being victimized," said Andrea Powell, Co-founder and Executive Director of FAIR Girls.

"Backpage.com is the common denominator in the overwhelming number of our sex trafficking cases. It enables pimps to advertise children for sex. Shutting it down will go a long way towards protecting these girls and supporting our law enforcement efforts," said Laura Neubauer, Chief of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Sex Trafficking Unit.

According to an analysis by the trade organization AIM Group, Backpage.com is the leading U.S. website

for prostitution advertising, generating an estimated \$2.6 million monthly, or \$27.4 million annually, from the sale of online escort ads.

"Backpage has made the trafficking of girls its business model. We must call for the end of any business venture that profits from the exploitation of vulnerable children," said Malika Saada Saar, Executive Director of the Human Rights Project for Girls, a human rights organization dedicated to protecting the rights of vulnerable young women and girls in the U.S.

Since August 2011, 51 of the nation's attorneys general, 700 multi-faith religious leaders, 53 leading anti-trafficking experts and organizations, 19 U.S. Senators, state and city lawmakers around the country, over a dozen prominent musicians, nearly a quarter of a million citizens, and others have called on Village Voice Media to exit the adult ad business.

"As a teenager, I was advertised by my pimp on Backpage.com. This year, one of the men who bought me put a knife to my throat

and almost killed me. The police rescued me, and with the help of FAIR Girls, I'm rebuilding my life. I am 20 years old now, but I continue to see girls, often much younger than me, who are sold by pimps using Backpage.com. This has to stop," said a sex trafficking survivor who wished to be identified as Nina.

AD TRANSCRIPT

"I thought he was my boyfriend,

I thought he loved me for real.

But he made me work everyday.

He threatened me, he made me take drugs, he raped me a bunch of times,

and then he sold me to four, sometimes five, men a day for \$100 an hour.

One time there was ten men in one day.

I thought they would kill me, I thought I would never get away.

My pimp advertised me online at Backpage.com.

That's how these guys buy me.

I'm 13."

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NDG Bookshelf



By Terri Schlichenmeyer
NDG Contributing Writer

Some people can sing like angels.

They can lift their voices in such a way that makes you absolutely sure you're hearing heaven. With words, they can make you cry or dance.

Some people can run faster than sound. Others can wiggle their noses or ears. Some have a way with babies or dogs, know how to turn sugar into cupcakes, or can do magic with numbers.

NDG BookShelf: A Golden Voice is an uplifting summer read

One way or another, everybody has a talent that other people recognize. But, as you'll see in *A Golden Voice*, author Ted Williams (with Bret Witter) almost squandered his on the streets.

By his own account, Ted Williams had a happy childhood filled with visits to Coney Island, subway rides, and lots of toys. Though his Bedford-Stuyvesant neighbors were mostly poor, his parents weren't: Julia and Al Williams, long-married and childless when they adopted Ted, were well-off and Ted, a people-loving "giver" was happy to share his good fortune with friends.

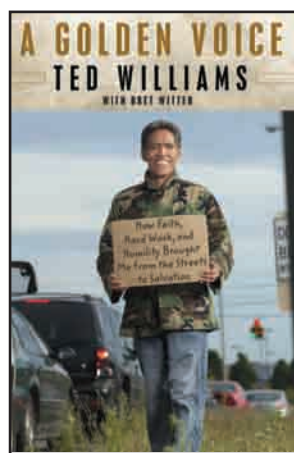
Williams was indulged, and when he became obsessed with radio at age 12, his mother treated

him to a tape recorder for Christmas. It was a life-changer.

Williams remembers how he carried that tape recorder around, inventing commercials and pretending to be like his radio-announcer heroes. Coincidentally, puberty hit around this time and, to his delight, he received a gift of a golden voice.

The voice took him to a tiny radio station in South Carolina. It took him to Columbus, Ohio, where he worked his way up to the top: Columbus' number-one disc jockey, in demand from advertisers, concert-goers, and record-promoters.

But Williams, ever the people-pleasing performer, loved a good time. Getting alcohol was easy at concerts, as was cocaine.



It was a tiny step from cocaine to crack.

Within weeks, Williams lost his job. He often didn't return home, so he lost his family. He lost three different families, in

fact, as well as several homes, possessions, sometimes his freedom, and his dignity. Getting "rock" was all he wanted. He didn't care about anything but smoke.

But then, as he hit bottom once again, he began to remember something that he'd learned nearly twenty years before, a bit of a Psalm that became a lifeline: "Acknowledge Him...."

A Golden Voice is a bit of a conundrum.

Self-professed people-pleaser and author Ted Williams certainly pleased me with this memoir (with Bret Witter). There's a little bit of braggadocio in this book, enough wry humor to bring a smile, and plenty of humility – all of which fits the person we get to

know and matches the man we saw online in the video last year. I liked that riches-to-rags-to-spiritual-riches tale.

What does not fit are the chapters by Williams' girlfriend, Kathy. While they're a horrifying accompaniment to illustrate the depths to which Williams descended, her personal story is not his story.

Still, those chapters don't distract from a memoir that is both worshipful and worrisome at the same time, so if you're looking for a book to enjoy, this is the one. For you, *A Golden Voice* will uplift yours.

A Golden Voice by Ted Williams, with Bret Witter (Gotham Books, \$26, 256 pages).

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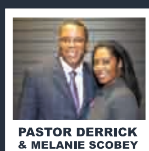
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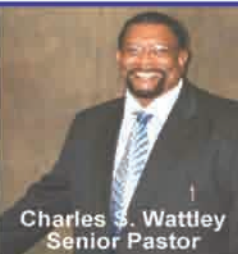
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