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Diverse coalition builds foundation for progress in Irving election victories

NDG's View

Irving leaders from the Christian, Hispanic, African American, Muslim, Asian, and business communities did something unusual lately – they worked together for the common good.



During the recent runoff City Council election these men and women from different walks of life pooled their resources and efforts then together enjoyed victory at the polls in Irving on June 15. This despite the attempts of Irving's Mayor Beth Van Duyne and her

supporters to fill the City Council with candidates more aligned to their conservative agenda.

DART Board of Directors Chairman John Danish won election over Loren Byers for Place 1. As with the national elections in

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Costly overdraft programs associated with high fees and closed bank accounts

BY CHARLENE CROWELL

A new report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) finds that overdraft fees continue to pose high risks to consumers, despite recent regulatory changes.

The report focuses on the dreaded overdraft charge – the fees banks and credit unions collect for covering customer transactions that exceed checking account balances.

Sounds simple; but many times the terms that accompany these fees are

complex, and too often the costs are out of proportion to the overdrawn amount. Variations in how transactions are posted to checking accounts and limits or the lack thereof on the number of fees allowed in a single day can be confusing and harmful to con-

sumers. Even though practices vary among institutions, one thing is particularly clear: consumers lose tens of billion to overdraft fees every year.

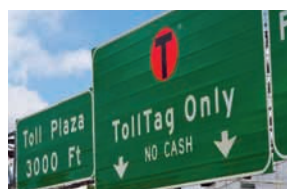
For customers with only marginal bank bal-

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NTTA announces a last chance grace period for toll violators

PLANO –As the result of a new Texas law, the North Texas Tollway Authority will offer a one-time grace period. Violators will have until Sept. 13, 2013 to pay their overdue tolls.

Under the law, the NTTA will provide written notice to habitual violators, those who owe at least one hundred tolls and have been issued at least two notices of non-payment in



the last year, informing them of the grace period. The NTTA will extend this offer to any toll violator who becomes a TollTag customer and pays all outstanding tolls immediately.

They will be responsible for the toll amount only during the grace period. Those who become a TollTag customer and enter a payment agreement must pay for outstanding tolls, plus an administrative fee equaling 10 percent of the amount of tolls due.

Recipients of the habitual violator notice may request a hearing before a Justice of the

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Vasavi Kumar



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COVER STORY

EEOC Sues BMW and Dollar General over background checks



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Kanye West's new album cover causes controversy

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COMMENTARY

Blacks More Willing to Make Privacy Concessions

BY GEORGE E. CURRY

(NNPA) Although the federal government secretly spied on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders in the past, Blacks are more willing than Whites to have their privacy rights invaded if it will help investigate possible terrorists.

A recent joint poll by the Pew Research Center and the Washington Post showed that a majority of Americans support the National Security Agen-

cy's tracking of telephone and Internet records of millions of Americans in an effort to make them safe from terrorists.

According to the poll, 56 percent of Americans support the NSA obtaining special court orders to track telephone calls of millions of Americans to investigate terrorism. Forty-one percent found the practice unacceptable and 2 percent were undecided.

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Vasavi Kumar

If you are a single woman and not having any luck dating, you are stuck in a pattern. And chances are that pattern is choosing the wrong guys.

Vasavi Kumar, LMSW, MSEd., is married to the man of her dreams, but it was not that long ago she was dating and making the same kinds of missteps we all do.

"If you take a look at your past four or five dating relationships and how they all ended, I guarantee you will see a pattern," advises Vasavi. "It's easy to put blame on how

bad the guys are, but at the end of the day, you choose who you spend your time with."

Here's how you can get rid of Mr. Wrong for good:

Give the nice guy a chance – Nice guys don't finish last! "I don't know why, but women seem to think that if a guy is a complete jerk, he must be worth the chase," says Vasavi. "I think it must be our innate nature to nurture. But that does not mean fixing and mending men who have issues that go way be-

yond cooking a meal or buying gifts. It certainly does not mean sleeping with them on the first date." Have you overlooked many good men because you were too busy going after the guys who didn't deserve your time or energy?

Don't get stuck in a "type" – Be open when choosing a date. Who made up the rules that in order to be in a happy relationship, your guy needs to be rich, and/or tall dark and handsome? "I understand preferences, but when you get



caught up in a mold of how you think things ought to be, that is when you get stuck – and falling for the same old guys, over and over again," recommends Vasavi.

Muzzle negative talk – Telling people how horrible your dating life is doesn't help one bit. Neither does griping about how there are no guys out there for you to date. That's nothing more than a silly old belief that has kept you right where you are, with crappy boyfriends who have now turned into exes. "Keep speaking negatively and the

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Sonja Steptoe

Sonja Steptoe, previously the deputy director of public affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce, has been appointed by the Obama Administration as the Census Bureau's associate director for communications. Her term began May 27.

"Sonja brings an impressive background to her new post," said Census Bureau acting director Thomas Mesenbourg. "She is an award-winning author, journalist and pub-

lic affairs leader in both the public and private sectors."

Before joining the federal government, Steptoe was director of global communications at O'Melveny & Myers LLP. She developed and guided the execution of internal and external communications strategies that helped the international law firm achieve its business development goals and enhance its brand image.

Prior to joining O'Mel-



veny & Myers in 2007, Steptoe was senior correspondent, bureau chief and deputy news director for Time magazine, based in Los Angeles. She joined the magazine in 2002 and interviewed and profiled such newsmakers as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev. Billy Graham, Pastor Rick Warren, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Walt Disney Company CEO Bob Iger and filmmaker Tyler Perry, among others. She also co-wrote cover stories on education issues and lifestyle trends. Her

essay on the racial, political and economic conditions in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina was part of the package of Time stories on the storm honored with two 2006 National Magazine Awards.

Steptoe also worked at People magazine, where she was a senior editor, handling human affairs and investigations. Steptoe was a staff writer and, later, a senior editor at Sports Illustrated from 1990 to 2001, overseeing

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Dr. Dennis Kimbro

When you change how you think about money, you will change what you

message of wealth-building and financial empowerment to Dallas June 19-

short-term sacrifices for long-term gain and take calculated risks when opportunity presents itself.

In his latest book, *The Wealth Choice* Dr. Kimbro shares the fascinating results of a seven year study of 1,000 millionaires like Bob Johnson, Herman Cain, T. D. Jakes, Kirk Franklin, Cathy Hughes, and Earl Graves. His book shows how they found their paths to wealth, what they did or didn't learn about money early on, what they had to sacrifice to get to the top, and the role of discipline in managing their success.

Dennis Kimbro is the author of four books, including the best-selling *Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice*, and a certified Napoleon Hill Science of Success trainer

and leadership coach. He has appeared on such shows as Today and Larry King Live, and has been featured in *Success*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *USA Today*.

Thursday, June 20 The Wealth Choice - Power Lunch- n-Learn - \$20
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fedora Northern Italian Dining, 1722 Routh St, One Arts Plaza, Dallas, 214-999-0009 Email Empowerseries@aol.com to RSVP.

Friday, June 21 2013 Book & Business Extravaganza Expo - \$25
4 - 5 p.m. at Agape Event Campus, 2350 E. Mayfield Rd., Arlington <http://www.bookandbusinessexpo.com/#!schedule/cyoz>

The Dock Bookshop – Free Reception & Book Signing Event 7 – 9 p.m.

at 6637 Meadowbrook Dr, Fort Worth 817-457-5700 thedockbookshop.com



do WITH your money. Keeping this quote in mind, national bestselling author and Clark Atlanta University professor Dr. Dennis Kimbro brings his

21. At a number of public events, Kimbro will share how to develop a wealth-generating mindset and habits, commit to lifelong learning, make

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Texas Republican Party At War With Women

AUSTIN – Last Friday, Governor Rick Perry vetoed the Lilly Ledbetter Act, which was authored and sponsored in the Texas legislature by Senator Wendy Davis and Representative Senfronia Thompson. The bipartisan bill would have provided millions of Texan

women access to legal mechanisms in Texas courts to seek damages from gender wage discrimination in the workplace.

Texas Democratic Party Executive Director Will Hailer made the following statement:

"Governor Perry's War

on Texas women will not be forgotten in the 2014 statewide elections. The Texas GOP talks a lot about outreach to women and communities of color, backed by money from the Republican Campaign Committee, but their actions speak far louder than words.

The Lilly Ledbetter Act is common sense legislation which benefits millions of women in Texas. Governor Rick Perry is the most prominent member of the Texas Republican Party. With leadership like this, we're looking at a blue Texas in the very near future."

Letter to the Editor: How do we fight for our homes?

As many look at the news headlines of foreclosure abuse and fraud we think about how can others and myself fight back. For the people that partic-

ipated in a recent June-teenth Parade and saw 8 to 10 foreclosed and abandoned homes on the parade route. The souls and spirits that got kicked out

of those homes and did not have anyone to turn to and did not know how to fight to keep their homes. How many illegal mortgage fees an miscella-

neous fees were attached to their mortgage debt making their situation even more crushing and hurtful.

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PRIVACY, continued from Page 1

However, on several key security issues, Blacks were more accepting of government intrusion than Whites.

For example, pollsters asked this question: What do you think is more important right now – (for the federal government to investigate possible terrorist threats, even if that intrudes on personal privacy); or (for the federal government not to intrude on personal privacy, even if that limits its ability to investigate possible terrorist threats)?

When you drill down to the race of registered voters who were interviewed, there were significant racial differences. Of Whites polled, 60 percent said yes, the government should be able to monitor everyone's email and online activities; 36 percent objected. Among all people of color, 67 percent said yes and 30 percent said no. But among registered African American voters, 75 percent – 15 percent more than Whites – replied that such invasions were fine with them while 23 percent objected.

Respondents were also asked: As you may know, it has been reported that the National Security Agency has been getting secret court orders to track telephone call records of MILLIONS of Americans in an effort to investigate terrorism. Would you consider this access to telephone call records an ac-

ceptable or unacceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism?

Overall, 56 percent of Americans said the NSA action was acceptable and 41 percent said it was unacceptable. A bare majority of Whites – 53 percent – found such activity acceptable, compared to 44 percent who considered it unacceptable. Among African-American voters, 62 percent found the practice acceptable and 37 percent found it unacceptable.

A similar divide appeared when respondents were asked: Do you think the U.S. government should be able to monitor everyone's email and other online activities if officials say this might prevent future terrorist attacks?

Fifty-five percent of Black voters said yes and 44 percent said no. Among Whites, the numbers were flipped. Only 42 percent said yes and 55 percent said no.

Amazingly, Blacks are more trusting of the federal government even considering its past abuses.

As I mentioned in a column last year: "From 1956 to 1971, the FBI operated a program called COINTELPRO, this is an acronym for Counter Intelligence Program. Initially established to spy on organizations suspected of communist ties, the program was expanded by J. Edgar Hoover to include the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Black Panther Party, the Nation of Islam, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the National Lawyers Guild and other left-leaning groups.

"A congressional committee, chaired by Senator Frank Church, issued a report that concluded, 'Many of the techniques used would be intolerable in a democratic society even if all of the targets had been involved in violent activity, but COINTELPRO went far beyond that...the Bureau conducted a sophisticated vigilante operation aimed squarely at preventing the exercise of First Amendment rights of speech and association, on the theory that preventing the growth of dangerous groups and the propagation of dangerous ideas protect the national security and deter violence.'"

The goal of COINTELPRO was to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, or otherwise neutralize" organizations that the FBI deemed "subversive." The FBI harassed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. until his final days.

Under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover and with the approval of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the FBI wiretapped King's home and office

telephones, decided not to tell King of credible threats on his life, taped what the FBI claimed were illicit sexual activities and mailed them to Dr. King's wife.

And perhaps in its most disgusting move, as David Garrow recounts in Bearing the Cross, a Pulitzer-Prize winning book about Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement, the FBI tried to get the civil rights leader to commit suicide.

An anonymous letter and copy of taped sex recordings were mailed to King at his SCLC office in Atlanta. The letter said, "There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation."

If anyone has reason to distrust the federal government's monitoring of its citizens, it's African Americans. Yet, we continue to hope against hope, placing our trust in people and institutions that have sought to destroy us.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA)*. 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 and *George E. Curry Fan Page* on Facebook.

How to stop smoking: Talk to your doctor about getting help

Quitting "cold turkey" isn't your only choice. Talk to your doctor about other ways to quit. Most doctors can answer your questions, give advice, and suggest medicine to help with withdrawal. Some of these medicines you can buy on your own. For others, you need a prescription.

Your doctor, dentist, or pharmacist can also point you to places to find support. If you cannot see your doctor, you can get some



medicines without a prescription that can help you quit smoking. Go to your local pharmacy or grocery store for over-the-counter medicines like the nicotine patch, nicotine gum, or nicotine lozenge. Read the

instructions to see if the medicine is right for you. If you're not sure, ask a pharmacist. Find more resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Talking to Your Doctor About Getting Help to Quit.

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, consult your doctor before using any type of medication. Find out more about the health effects of smoking on pregnancy.

Keep your kids busy learning this summer with Kids.gov

It's been happening for generations. Within days of the start of summer break, kids begin complaining "I'm bored!" But this generation of kids has something the others didn't: the free, safe and fun online world of Kids.gov.

Kids.gov is the government's official web portal for kids, full of activities for kindergartners through 8th graders and resources for parents and teachers. It's a great way to keep kids en-



gaged and learning between these ideas to battle boredom this summer:

"Just one more game!" You won't mind your kids spending time playing games online when they're learning about math, science, history

and more. In Kids.gov's Play Games section, they can enjoy adventures like solving secret codes from the National Security Agency, working on word puzzles about the earth from NASA, and experiencing the chal-

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Banks who have received 100s of billions of dollars in our taxpayer bailout dollars and cheap rates from the treasury to lend dollars to borrowers. I recall seeing my neighbor going through foreclosure up against the bank that has donated to politicians, has at-

torneys and lobbyists. My neighbor she was David going up against the bank that is Goliath.

Many allegations of wrongdoing against banks some of the criminal have been settled with our tax dollars. Monies for the national mortgage settlement are

being diverted by the Texas Legislature and not being used for direct mortgage relief.

Questions remain how do North Texas Homeowners fight back? Do we file individual lawsuits, class action lawsuits, contact local, state, and federal elected of-

ficials? Do we march? Do we protest? Do we peacefully hold up signs Do Not Foreclose On My Neighbors Home at the foreclosure auction across the street from the George Allen Courthouse. A Facebook group has been started Share Your North Texas Housing Crises Testi-

mony. Home ownership requires many responsibilities one very important one is fighting for your home. If there are lawyers and law firms out there your help and prayers are greatly needed please add what efforts you or your firm has done fight to keep and save our homes.

This will help give ideas that others can learn from.

Respectfully yours,
Emmanuel Lewis Jr
972.294.9893
bostondfw@yahoo.com
Precinct Chair 4624
Irving Citizens Police Academy May 2011 Class # 28

IRVING, continued from Page 1

2012 early voting provided a significant advantage in his 52 percent to 48 percent victory. Allan E. Meagher defeated Kensley Stewart 54 percent to 46 percent in a

race, which saw nearly 4,000 voters cast ballots. Both men received the majority of the votes in May but not the 50 percent plus required.

Even in light of the election and re-election of the first African American President of the United States, community activists declared this effort the first

time in over 20 years so many diverse groups were so galvanized to work together. Recent school board elections have shown the strength of Irving's long-

standing voter base: older and White. It is hoped by many that this victory will spur more engagement from the younger, ethnically and religiously diverse voters in the city.

According to community activist Anthony Bond, many of these diverse groups have plans underway

to organize in anticipation of the 2014 Irving mayoral campaign. They will meet monthly and strategize how they can register and educate the electorate they each represent.

Editor's note: See sidebar for list of community leaders involved in Danish and Meagher's election efforts.

Coalition of concerned leaders who care about Irving and made a difference in latest city council election

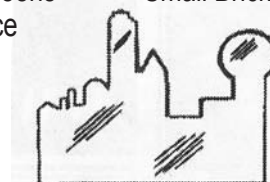
Anjum Anwar, President Pakastani Society of North Texas
Muneeb Awan, President, Association of Taxicab Operators in DFW Metroplex
Lisette and Rafael Carraballo, Owners IRealty
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Pastor William O'Neal, New Life Ministries Church
Pastor Pedro Portillo, Iglesia Santa Maria de Guadalupe
Carols Quintanilla, Executive Director, Accion America
Pastor Rob Robinson, New Beginnings Church
Mirza Sajid, Blanglesdeshin Leader in Irving
Dr. Raed Sbeit, Youth Leader Islamic Center of Irving
Pastor Joe Starks, Shady Grove Church of God in Christ
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YWCA reLaunch of reDesign Into One reSale Space

FORT WORTH – The YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County is proud to announce their newest social enterprise venture, reDesign, will officially relocate into the newly re-envisioned Resale space at 6500 Camp Bowie Blvd. on Monday, June 24th. Shoppers will be able to take advantage of the store's unique furniture and house-ware finds in the same location as the YWCA Resale Shop's clothing, shoes and accessories.

"Our vision is to be a combined shopping experience for customer convenience," said Stephanie Reyes, Director of

Social Enterprise. "We are eager to provide the opportunity for both Resale and reDesign customers on any budget to shop great finds under one roof and see the quality merchandise we receive daily. Our renovated merged space is a beautiful retail environment with affordable resale prices."

When additional space became available in the same shopping center as the YWCA Resale Shop in 2012, the organization took advantage of a short-term lease opportunity to carefully evaluate shopping interests. "Separating the clothing

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3rd Annual Father's Day dinner honors fallen Lancaster police officer

All Fathers are invited to attend the 3rd Annual Craig L. Shaw's Father's Day Dinner from the Greater Southwest Black Chamber of Commerce. The event is scheduled for June 23 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn of DeSoto.

Officer Craig Lamont Shaw served in Lancaster for

five years before he was killed on June 20, 2010 after responding to a local apartment complex. The police on the scene were searching for a suspect after discovering a male murder victim.

The cost is \$15 and guests are invited to RSVP at GSWBCC.org.



Curtis Report
by Barry Curtis

Let's go on the record first and loudly by saying that Edward Snowden is a traitor. Edward Snowden is the former NSA contract employee that released to the British newspaper *The Guardian* classified documents. These classified documents are thought to number in the hundreds at least.

Mr. Snowden the *traitor* had left the country well before the release of the documents making his way to Hong Kong where he is still thought to be in hiding. Mr. Snowden wants to position himself as a hero of sorts or a whistle blower as a result of the release of these documents. He has stated that he felt that this huge spy apparatus he worked for (the NSA) was engaging in activity that was inappropriate in the least and illegal in the

The cool spy (not really)

worst case scenario. Oh Really?

Mr. Snowden you are no hero or whistle blower. I am the first to admit that I have no love for the power grab by the NSA in an effort to gain access to our phone records. It is thought that the NSA has access to over 200 million Americans phone records, e mails and text messages. This intrusive, barbaric, tyrannical move is a threat to all our freedoms and must be dealt with. But that is the question: how do we deal with this?

This is how the traitor should have dealt with the issue. If he felt he was engaged in any activity that was illegal or at the least caused his person any moral hardships he could have quit. Second if he felt that the activity endangered our freedoms or actually violated the law, there are whistle blower statues that are set up across the federal employment landscape. These whistle blower stat-

ues are available on line thru the department of justice; there are toll free numbers to call and anonymous e mails to use to rat out a government abuse. These whistle blower statues are hanging in the break rooms of federal offices from coast to coast from the post office to the white house, but he couldn't go that route?

Mr. Snowden is a self-centered egotistical brat that created his own rules as he went along. Thinking only of his own selfish interest and not the nation's as a whole. That is not the mark of a hero. Mr. Snowden is a high school drop out that once bragged about having several possible employers fight over him. According to the FBI he boasted to other colleagues of his admiration for Bradley Manning, he is the pentagon employee that gave thousands of documents to *Wikileaks*. In addition he spoke openly of his affection for the actions of

Daniel Ellsberg of the Pentagon Papers scandals of the early 1970s.

This treacherous affair doesn't have the makings of a conscientious soul that was racked by his overwhelming sense of duty and obligation to the principles of freedom. No instead I smell a more sinister reason. According to the *New York Times* he bragged about learning mandarin Chinese, he adopted the religion of Buddhism, and was a fan of the Asian martial arts. In addition he ended up in Hong Kong, which is now administered by communist China. Interesting isn't it?

This all seems pre-planned, pre-meditated and well thought out. Mr. Snowden – Dr. Martin Luther King was a hero, Rosa Parks and President Ronald Reagan were heroes. Hero's make a stand and stay and face the consequences, they don't run and hide in the safety of the enemy.

Teach me how to read because I don't want to go to prison!

Only 12 percent of Black males are proficient in reading by 8th grade. Literacy is the civil rights issue for the 21st century. During the civil rights protests of the 1960s, African American students fought racism and segregation and advocated for social justice. School integration followed, and academic outcomes for Black boys have deteriorated ever since. There has been a 66% decline in Black teachers. Presently, White female teachers are 83% and Black males are less than 2%. Is the future for Black boys in the hands of White female

teachers? But Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, national educational consultant and best-selling author of the newly released *Changing School Culture for Black Boys*, says we cannot give up on Black boys. "We must be just as radical as we were in the '60s when we were fighting for our basic rights. Knowing how to read, write, and compute is a basic right in this country, but Black boys are not getting their fair share of the educational pie.

They should not be promoted to high school with elementary skills. It is tragic that large numbers of Black



Jawanza Kunjufu

males enter 9th grade with less than 6th grade reading and math scores. From the moment they walk through the metal detectors of their schools, Black boys are

treated with fear and disdain by the adults charged with their care. Nationwide, they make up 8.5 percent of the student population, however:

- Black boys are 80 percent of the African American children placed in special education and are retained more than any other student.
- More than 30 percent are suspended from school.
- They represent only

one percent of gifted and talented students.

• In some communities, the Black male dropout rate hovers at 48 percent.

Kunjufu reveals the true source of academic success or failure: school culture. Whether optimistic or pessimistic, for better or worse, it is school culture that births curriculum, pedagogy, principal leadership styles, teacher efficacy, ex-

pectations and most importantly, student engagement and academic performance.

"We have refused to enter the world of our boys. We know nothing about them or their culture, and therefore we misread their behavior and have no clue about what motivates them to learn," says Kunjufu.

"We educators must enter their world instead of

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longer you will stay single and frustrated," adds Vasavi.

"So stop perpetuating the self-fulfilling prophecies," says Vasavi. "Open your eyes to the nice guys who may be interested in you, stop insisting that you can only date your ideal 'type', and lose the loser talk."

Vasavi Kumar describes herself as "your kick-in-the-pants guide en route to your desired destination." With an out-of-the-box, rebellious approach, she inspires people to find freedom from their past to take charge of their future. A certified life coach, Vasavi (SAY VAH-sahvee) holds

dual master's degrees in social work and special education. She's co-author of the best-selling book *Succeeding in Spite of Everything*, and appears on TV as the "Keepin' It Real Guru" on Kansas City Live. Learn more at <http://VasaviKumar.com>.

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ATF express disappointed with NCTQ's teacher prep program reviews

WASHINGTON—Statement by American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten on the National Council on Teacher Quality's "Teacher Prep Review":

"It's disappointing that for something as important as strengthening teacher preparation programs, NCTQ chose to use the gimmick of a four-star rating system without using professionally accepted standards, visiting any of the institutions or talking with any of the graduates. Best-of and worst-of lists always garner attention, so we understand why NCTQ would use that device. While its 'do not enter' consumer alerts will make the intended splash, it's hard to see how it will help

strengthen teacher preparation programs or elevate the teaching profession.

"We need a systemic approach to improving teacher preparation programs and ensuring that every teacher is ready to teach. The AFT has called for, and is working to advance, this vision, including a rigorous entry assessment, or bar-like exam, centered on subject and pedagogical knowledge and demonstration of teaching performance.

"NCTQ's report identifies areas that the AFT agrees need attention and improvement, including helping prospective educators with early reading instruction in the context of the Common Core State Standards, work effectively with English lan-

guage learners, and become proficient in assessment literacy. However, we would prefer to collaborate on professional ownership of, and solutions to, these problems instead of talking about a punitive approach to shame and blame institutions.

"While we agree with NCTQ on the need to improve teacher preparation, it would be more productive to focus on developing a consistent, systemic approach to lifting the teaching profession instead of resorting to attention-grabbing consumer alerts based on incomplete standards."

View the AFT's December 2012 report, "Raising the Bar: Aligning and Elevating Teacher Preparation and the Teaching Profession."

NTTA, continued from Page 1

Peace to review their habitual violator status. The one-time grace period will run from June 14 - Sept. 13, 2013.

After that date, habitual violators who have not participated in the grace period program may be subject to a vehicle registration block, civil collections suit and an order of prohibition banning their vehicle from NTTA roadways. Vi-

olation of the ban may result in a Class C misdemeanor with a 500 dollar fine. Continued violation of the ban could result in vehicle impoundment.

Those who do not take advantage of the grace period offer will continue to owe all tolls and accumulated administrative fees after it expires.

The most efficient and economical way to travel on

an NTTA toll road is with a TollTag. TollTag customers pay the lowest toll rates; Zip-Cash customers pay 50 percent higher rates reflecting the higher costs of processing and collection. Those with outstanding toll violations should contact the NTTA Customer Service Center at 972-818-NTTA (6882) or visit NTTA.org.

IT Internships for low income adults

(BlackNews.com) -- Year Up is a one-year, intensive training program that provides low-income young adults, ages 18-24, with a combination of hands-on skill development, college credits, and corporate internships. Their program emphasizes academic and professional rigor, setting expectations high for quality of work and professional behavior. A strong structure guides students through the steps neces-

sary for achieving success in the classroom and the workplace.

For the first six months of the program, students develop technical and professional skills in the classroom. Students then apply those skills during the second six months on an internship at one of Year Up's 250+ corporate and government partners. Students earn up to 23 college credits and a weekly stipend, and are supported by staff ad-

visors, professional mentors, dedicated social services staff, and a powerful network of community-based partners.

Since its founding in 2000, Year Up has served over 6,000 young adults.

For more details on how to apply, visit: www.findinternships.com/2013/06/year-up-it-internship.html

To search hundreds of other internship programs, visit: www.FindInternships.com

Security experts offer free Electronic Security Guidelines for Schools

IRVING — The Electronic Security Association (ESA) recently completed the ESA Electronic Security Guidelines for Schools, a resource for school officials that are considering adding electronic security systems to a new or existing school security program. The Guidelines are now available for free public download on www.ESAweb.org.

The Guidelines provide an in-depth look at the various components that lead to an effective school security program. The Guidelines will give school officials an understanding of the steps nec-

essary for creating a security solution including overall security planning, assessment of threats, procurement types, contractor selection, how systems affect schools, equipment types, and system use. The Guidelines also illustrate the importance of community involvement and communication between schools and local responders.

The Guidelines are the consensus of a voluntary

panel of security industry experts that collectively have extensive and diverse experience in securing K-12 schools. The panel was led by David Koenig, an industry advisor, treasurer of ESA and partner of Capital Fire and Security in Madison, Wis.

"These days, schools are under more pressure to provide a safe environment for students, and technology is an

See SECURITY, Page 13

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Plano Earns 2013 CLIDE Award for Excellent Urban Development Plans

This week the North Central Texas Council of Governments announced the 2013 Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLI-DE) Award recipients and the City of Plano is honored to be among the winners. The City of Excellence is being recognized for the Downtown Plano Vision and



l to r: Patrick Kennedy, Mayor Pro Tem Lissa Smith and Phyllis Jarrell

Strategy Update, which details plans for the continued transformation of the historic downtown area into a vibrant urban center. The CLIDE Award was presented during the Council of Governments' General Assembly in Arlington.

The CLIDE is a biennial award that recognizes public and private sector devel-

opment and planning projects that typify one or more of the organization's "Principles of Development Excellence." Awards are given in several categories; the Vision and Strategy Update was recognized in the "Public Policy and Planning" category. Other Plano projects that are past CLIDE Award recipients include

the Downtown Plano Transit Village, Legacy Town Center, the Urban Centers Study and the Environmental Education Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Lissa Smith, Director of Planning Phyllis Jarrell and consultant Patrick Kennedy of Space Between Design Studio accepted the award on behalf of the City of Plano.

"It is an honor to have the Council of Governments recognize our Vision and Strategy Update for Downtown Plano with a CLIDE award. The award is also an acknowledgement of the special and distinctive place that our revitalized Downtown Plano has become," said Ms. Jarrell.

See CLIDE, Page 16

Champions Day June 22 at all 5 Hawaiian Falls waterparks

Saturday, June 22, is Champions Day at all five Hawaiian Falls waterparks. Special needs children and their families will have exclusive use of the park from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The parks will open to the public 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. but the Champions and their families can stay as long as they want at no additional charge.

"Special needs children deserve their own time at the park where they can splash and play with their families when it's a little quieter," said Emily Bennett, marketing director of Hawaiian Falls. "We've held Champions Day for the past several seasons now and they are very well received by the families."

The Champions (special needs children or



adults) get in free. Family members can purchase special discount tickets for \$5 each (regular admission is \$26.99) with a Champions Day coupon, available for download at <http://hfalls.com/championsday/>

"We want special needs families to play together at any of our five waterparks

before we open to the general public," explained Bennett. "They are welcome to stay and play all day for no extra charge. We do not require any records or certification. A parent knows if their child (or adult) has special needs, and that is sufficient for us. All they need to do is to go



to hfalls.com and print out the Champions Day coupon. We don't limit family members or ask for any identification, so if a favorite Uncle or Aunt wants to come with them, then he or she is only \$5, too. If a guardian is not directly related, but cares for a special needs child, then, of course,

they are welcome. We just want to bless these families."

Champions Day will be 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. this Saturday, June 22, then again Saturday, August 17, at all five Hawaiian Falls waterparks: Garland, The Colony, Mansfield, Roanoke and Waco.

Celebrating 10 years of bringing families closer together, Hawaiian Falls' regular operating schedule is daily 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday – Thursday and until 8 p.m. on Fridays through Labor Day. More information is available at hfalls.com.

Elvira Aguirre named Dallas ISD 2012-2013 Librarian of the Year

DALLAS—Librarian Elvira Aguirre, Adelfa Botello Callejo Elementary School, is the 2012-2013 Dallas ISD Librarian of the Year. For the past 39 years, she has worked with Dallas ISD students—30 years in the classroom teaching and nine years as a librarian.

Aguirre, known as a "young spirit in body and

soul," embraces new technology and new ideas, while using the best teaching techniques and classroom management skills developed in her nearly 4 decades in education. "Her warm personality, great professionalism, and desire to help students and teachers achieve in a caring environment makes her a natu-

ral life-long learner," states Gay Patrick, Dallas ISD Library Director.

Aguirre worked as the librarian at the old James B. Bonham and James W. Fannin elementary schools before moving to the new Callejo Elementary School last year. She also served in the classroom at Sam Houston and Ascher Silberstein

elementary schools, William B. Travis Academy/Vanguard and Harry Stone Montessori.

"No matter what is going on in our school, she always smiles. She reminds us that together we can accomplish anything," says Susan Bernicke, assistant principal, Adelfa Botello Callejo Elementary.

Minister Michael Pickett will lead DMMA's annual Sacred Choral Music Workshop

The Dallas Metroplex Musicians Association (DMMA) is hosting their annual Sacred Choral Music Workshop at Good Street Missionary Baptist Church June 24 – 28. The

workshop will end with a choral concert on June 29 starting at 5 p.m.

DMMA welcomes Minister Michael Pickett as the clinician of the workshop. He is the Minister of Music

at the Peasant Hill Baptist Church in Houston and will lead the nightly workshops. His gospel music compositions and arrangements can be heard on several national recordings and can be found

in the National Baptist Hymnal.

Registration is \$40 and rehearsals start at 7 p.m. every night. For additional information call 214-374-6037.

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Dallas ISD receives national recognition for innovative efforts to end childhood hunger

DALLAS- The Dallas Independent School District received a national award this week for its innovative efforts to end childhood hunger.

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) – the lead advocacy organization working to end hunger in America – presented the award for Innovative Anti-Hunger Work



during a benefit dinner held in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes Dallas ISD and its Food and Child Nutrition Services division for its exemplary and innovative work to reach more children in need through widespread implementation of Breakfast in the Classroom. Breakfast in the Classroom offers children the opportu-

nity to eat school breakfast when school starts rather than in the cafeteria 20-40 minutes before school. The program eliminates various barriers including commuting, bus schedules, stigma, and others to hungry students getting breakfast, and is proven to be one of the most effective ways to increase participation in school breakfast.

Research shows a range of benefits from offering Breakfast in the Classroom. In addition to fighting hunger, benefits include improved academic performance, less disruptive student behavior, fewer visits to the school nurse, and increased attendance.

Dora Rivas, the executive director of food and

See DISD, Page 16

SUMMER, continued from Page 4

lenges of being a Peace Corps volunteer.

“Can I watch a video?” They may have memorized the plots of all of the videos they own, but Kids.gov’s Videos section has lots of new things for your kids to watch. They can learn about the mysteries of tornadoes with a storm chaser or find out how to handle bullies from StopBullying.gov. And in the series of cool career videos produced by Kids.gov, they can learn about archaeology, meet an

albino alligator and her keeper at the National Aquarium, and see how money is made.

“Sorry about getting magic marker on the wall.” Sometimes a kid’s urge to be creative can be overwhelming. Give it a little direction with art projects from Kids.gov, including coloring pages, digital photography projects, and a special collection of interactive painting, collage making and animation projects from the National

Gallery of Art’s NGAkids Art Zone.

“Go out and play!” When your kids are ready for a break from the computer, go with them. Kids.gov’s Exercise, Fitness and Nutrition section for parents is full of ideas to keep your family in shape, like LetsMove.gov’s suggestions for working activity into your kids’ daily routine, and Recreation.gov’s collection of family friendly ideas for exploring America’s beaches, mountains, cities and everything in between.

PRISON, continued from Page 5

insisting that they adapt to ours. If we are serious about helping Black boys, then we must welcome their culture into schools with open arms.

Black male problems exceed academics. They include self-esteem, emotional, social, economic and psychological.” Schools must address the whole child. Based on his 39 years as an educational consultant, Kunjufu offers the following strategies to transform school culture for Black boys:

- Be open to learning about Black male culture and loop with master teachers every 3-4 years.

- Integrate aspects of Black male culture, such as money, rap and sports, into lesson plans.

- Develop positive relationships with Black boys. Call them "son."

- Incorporate Black male learning styles into lesson plans and pedagogy and use cooperative learning.

- Implement single gender classrooms and schools.

Changing School Culture for Black Boys offers over 100 solutions, best practices, and writing exercises for educators and parents.

For additional information, contact 1-800-552-1991, Fax# (708) 672-0466. P.O. Box 1799, Chicago Heights, IL 60412. Website: <http://www.africanamericanimages.com>, Email: customer@africanamericanimages.com.

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MEMBER FDIC

EEOC Sues BMW and Dollar General over background checks

BY FREDDIE ALLEN

(NNPA) The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency that enforces federal employment discrimination laws, filed lawsuits against BMW and the discount retailer Dollar General alleging that the companies broad use of criminal background checks discriminate against Black applicants and employees.

According to the EEOC, BMW fired dozens of Black employees at one of its plants in South Carolina during "a transitional period" that required employees to re-apply for their jobs. A BMW contractor performed criminal background checks that exposed criminal convictions that prevented the employees from getting re-hired. The Washington Post reported that 70 Black employees lost their jobs through the process.

"One woman with 14 years under her belt was let go after a misdemeanor conviction surfaced that was more than 20 years old and carried a \$137 fine, according to the EEOC's lawsuit," the Washington Post reported.

Dollar General withdrew job offers to two Black women after running criminal background checks. One woman had a 6-year-old drug conviction, but Dollar General disqualified applicants for that type of conviction for 10 years. Dollar General showed little consideration for the fact that the woman also listed experience working at another discount retailer for four years on her application. The other woman said that her criminal history report contained errors, including a felony conviction. Even after Dollar General management learned of the er-



rors on the report, the retailer still refused to change their decision, EEOC said in a statement.

Fair employment advocates say that errors on reports and incomplete records make it difficult for companies that rely heavily on background checks to make informed decisions.

"There's so much information that's out in cyberspace these days about criminal history records that employers have to be extremely careful about how they evaluate any one report," said Ray McClain, director of the Employment Discrimination Project for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a group that advocates for equal justice for all through the rule of law. "They need to use a consumer reporting agency that is very careful about not reporting erroneous information."

The EEOC filed the lawsuits based on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race and national origin, after the groups couldn't reach settlements. A statement by the EEOC said that the agency will seek

back pay and to enforce additional standards to prevent future discrimination.

"Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination against job applicants and employees on account of their race," said EEOC Chair Jacqueline A. Berrien in a press release. "Since issuing its first written policy guidance in the 1980s regarding the use of arrest and conviction records in employment decisions, the EEOC has advised employers that under certain circumstances, their use of that information to deny employment opportunities could be at odds with Title VII."

McClain said the BMW and Dollar General will have a hard time showing that there is any business necessity for excluding the Black workers that meets the standards of Title VII.

"The law requires that the employers show that they have proof that the requirement that they are imposing, that has such a disproportionate impact on minority workers, is job-related and consistent with business necessity," said McClain. "The biggest

problem is that [the companies] are cutting off their noses to spite their faces."

McClain continued: "They're excluding people who have perfectly satisfactory work ethics in the same job for no reason at all except for the fact that this person made a mistake a long time ago."

Instead of excluding workers by using criminal background checks, McClain said employers need to participate in more job fairs and services that target the formerly incarcerated.

A study by The Pew Charitable Trusts, titled, "Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility," showed that when ex-offenders find jobs, "they are more likely to be able to pay restitution to their victims, support their children and avoid crime."

offenders compared to White ex-offenders.

The Pew report said incarceration slashes the earnings that Black men would have made through age 48 by 44 percent. Incarceration erases half of what a White man would make through age 48.

A study titled, "The Mark of a Criminal Record," published in the American Journal of Sociology found that "whites with criminal records received more favorable treatment (17%) than Blacks without criminal records (14%) with criminal records when it came to receiving callbacks for employment opportunities.

The study also found that the Blacks were more likely than White to be asked about prior criminal history even before submitting applications.

The Lawyers' Commit-

- Consider only convictions and pending prosecutions;

- Consider only convictions recent enough to indicate significant risk;

- Do not ask about criminal records on application forms;

- Use a qualified consumer reporting agency (CRA) to conduct record checks; and

- Confirm all information from online databases with original source information.

The report also said that employers should consider evidence of rehabilitation when evaluating ex-offenders for future employment.

"People change over time. Some people with criminal convictions change their lives and become good citizens who can be good employees," said the report. "Appli-



Yet, even when they do find legal employment, the stigma associated with their former incarceration follows ex-offenders into the workplace.

According to the Pew study, "By age 48, the typical former inmate will have earned \$179,000 less than if he had never been incarcerated."

That stigma has a greater negative impact on the earnings of Black ex-

tee for Civil Rights Under Law in cooperation with The Legal Action Center, and the National Workrights Institute issued a report titled, "Best Practice Standards: The Proper Use of Criminal Records in Hiring" to help companies avoid running afoul of EEOC hiring guidelines.

The report detailed a number of recommendations and advised employers to:

cants with relevant convictions recent enough to be of concern should not automatically be rejected. Instead, he or she should be given the opportunity to present evidence of rehabilitation which the employer should carefully consider before making a decision."

Freddie Allen is the NNPA Washington Correspondent.

Movie Review: Twenty Feet From Stardom

BY DWIGHT BROWN

(NNPA) They can sing a joyful noise. In pitch-perfect harmony. Never missing a beat. Yet they rarely take center stage. Why? Background singers, are the unsung heroes of music. Without them, lead singers sound hollow. Now their voices are heard, in an enlightening documentary that is as illuminating as it is thoroughly entertaining.

Back in the day, backup singers just sang the notes on the page. In the '60s, a new breed of singer evolved, and these divas sang from the heart. Hard to say who was the first, but certainly, Darlene Love is one of the godmothers of the genre. Says Love, "God gave me this talent and I intended to use it." Love led the background group the Blossoms, who were introduced to the world on the '60s musical TV show Shindig. Love was the one in the center, with the puffy red hair who wailed like a gospel singer but sang rock, pop and soul music. You may not recognized her face, but you know her voice.



Photo credit: blackfilm.com

She sang lead on the Crystals record "He's a Rebel." Phil Spector, yes that homicidal Svengali who is now in prison for murder, was her boss and mentor. He kept her in a box. She never received credit for what she did, but everyone in the music industry knew who she was. Love's story is just one of many, but a fair archetype for the lives of backup singers who hid in shadows, recorded in dark studios but nonetheless left indelible impressions in pop culture.

Arguably the best background/duet vocal ever recorded (debate among yourselves) is Merry Clayton on The Rolling Stones' classic,

Gimme Shelter: "Rape. Murder. It's just a kiss away..." Clayton screamed the lyrics out as if she were warning a town that a rapist/killer was on the loose and they'd better hide. As iconic as that vocal is, Clayton's career as a solo artist was miniscule. And that is a theme that seems to resonate with nearly all the vocalists on view. Stellar solo careers seemed ironically evasive, considering the unadulterated talent.

Background singers have the chops. The ear. The voice. The skill. Yet quite often they're missing that killer instinct, relentless drive or the

See REVIEW, Page 14

NDG Gossip: Kanye West's new album cover causes controversy

BY: SHENICE SANDERS, NDG INTERN

There have been many rumors surrounding Kanye West's new album and his choice of artwork for the cover.

Weeks ago Kim Kardashian and Kanye's manager Don D both use social media to show a preview of the album cover. The same images appeared on iTunes for pre-order, but now several sources are reporting that the album cover is not official and not the final artwork.

On June 3 an image of the new album cover appeared on Kanye West's official website. The image was that of a simple plain CD with a piece of red tape covering one side with the name Yeezus.

The Grammy-winning artist has kept quiet about his entire concept of his sixth album, but he has been performing some of his new music such as Slaves and Black Skinhead on SNL and



other venues.

During one of Kanye's listening party last week he stated "I just felt that I would never be one of the great visual artists of the world." With that being said a lot of negativity has come from Kanye's album cover. Just recently another album cover was leak and went viral on the web. This image shows a caricature

of the rapper being crucified.

With the new unofficial album cover release some of Kanye's twitter fans have already stated they would not be purchasing the album.

Whichever album cover Kanye West chooses will be talk about for years to come.

Kanye West's sixth studio album title Yeezus is set to be released June 18.

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www.dontbelievethehype.org

President Obama kicks off National Small Business Week

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama hailed small business owners as the economy’s engine and our biggest source of new jobs. The President declared June 16-22, as National Small Business Week and stated, “America’s small businesses reflect the best of who we are as a Nation—daring and innovative, courageous and hopeful, always working hard and looking ahead for that next great idea.”

The President’s proclamation was issued before the U.S. Small Business Administration’s annual observance of National Small Business Week. This year marks the 50th anniversary with events being held in Seattle, Dallas, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. Each city will offer tips, tools and trainings for small businesses to start, succeed and grow. Also, in Washington, D.C., June 21, award winners from across the country, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be recognized for their accomplishments.

The President’s proclamation states: “In America, we believe that anyone willing to work hard and take risks can get their good idea off the ground and into the marketplace. It is a notion that has made our Nation bold and bright, and the best place to do business for generations -- from small-town



President Barack Obama

storefronts to pioneering startups that keep our country on the cutting edge. This week, we celebrate America’s entrepreneurial spirit, and we recommit to helping our small businesses get ahead.

“My Administration has been a proud partner in that important work from day one. We have cut taxes for small businesses 18 times, broadened their access to capital, and provided billions in loans so they can grow and hire. We have helped companies break into new markets abroad and export their products all over the world. Every step of the way, we have focused on making Government work better for business through initiatives like Startup America and BusinessUSA -- groundbreaking programs that connect entrepreneurs to resources that can spur their success.

“Together, we can build on that progress. At a time

when abusive patent litigation is stifling economic growth and putting companies of all sizes at risk, my Administration is taking action to protect innovators and keep our patent system strong. To create more opportunities for small businesses to compete and win in the global marketplace, we are moving forward on a Trans-Pacific Partnership that will boost our exports and level the playing field for American workers. We are implementing the Affordable Care Act so small businesses can make quality, affordable health insurance available to all their employees. And in the months ahead, we will continue pushing for tax reform that supports small businesses and keeps them at the forefront of our economic recovery.

“America’s small businesses reflect the best of who we are as a Nation -- daring and innovative, courageous and hopeful, always working hard and looking ahead for that next great idea. They are our economy’s engine and our biggest source of new jobs. So this week, as entrepreneurs across our country keep striving to turn their dreams into reality, let us keep investing in them and doing everything we can to help our small businesses succeed.”

Urban League and Miller Lite giving away up to \$400K in entrepreneurial competition

Are you thinking of starting a business with your friends? Or want to take your current business to the next level?

Some of the most influential companies in history started with good friends and a great idea. Just ask Daymond John, Entrepreneur and investor on ABC’s Shark Tank, who co-founded the iconic fashion brand FUBU (“For Us By Us”) with his friends.

Miller Lite, the beer that brings friends together for good times, is now turning great friends into great busi-

ness partners.

The Urban League is partnering with Miller Lite to Introduce Miller Lite Tap the Future™, the business plan competition where groups of entrepreneurs will compete to claim their slice of a \$400,000 prize pool. Along the way participants will receive advice and mentorship from some of the sharpest business minds out there, including Daymond John and Black Enterprise’s very own Alfred Edmond Jr.

If you and your friends are over 21 and have a great

startup idea, or a business that’s been around for less than 5 years, consider this your official invitation. Grab your friends and submit your business plan at www.MLTapthefuture.com But hurry, the last day to submit your plan is August 1.

No purchase necessary to apply or win. Open only to:

1) small businesses that have been in business for less than 5 years, and

2) teams of at least two people with a business plan

See URBAN, Page 15

STEPTOE, continued from Page 2

the development of a variety of stories and profiles. Her sports journalism experience also includes broadcasting work. From 1995 to 2001, Steptoe was a correspondent on HBO’s “RealSports with Bryant Gumbel” magazine show, where she investigated East Germany’s systematic doping of Olympic athletes — a report for which she received an Emmy Award in 1999 from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for Outstanding Sports Journalism. Her broadcasting experience also includes a three-year stint as national

correspondent for the CNN/NI sports network.

Steptoe earned a law degree from Duke Univer-

sity after receiving degrees in economics and journalism from the University of Missouri.\

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Fax:
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Seeking volunteers for clean up project in Dallas

Volunteers are needed to help and assist in the community clean-up. The clean-up will take place in the Cummings Recreation/ Robin Oaks area and will be held on June 29 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Volunteers are advised to meet at Fruitdale Recreation Center. For more information on how to get involved contact Daphne Fullmigher at 214-604-3603 or Tresa Gatson at 214-924-1617.

YWCA, continued from Page 5

from the furnishings last year helped us determine what mix of product would most appeal to our clients," continued Stephanie. "We used the last year to carefully review space dedicated and considered customer feedback, while making plans to maximize and update selling areas. One of the biggest benefits of our merger is that now our staff can collaborate with each other under one roof for creating a welcoming, interesting and service-oriented environment."

The lower level of Resale will reflect a retail or department store layout, clearly defining sections for shopping ease. The overall floor space will be increased by utilizing new wall display racks. Shoes, accessories and the popular name brand *Boutique* section will be dis-

played in clearly defined locations.

The upper level will feature reDesign's elegantly staged furniture and housewares. Vignettes can be found near the large open window spaces inviting shoppers to see everything from vintage trunks to name brand furnishings. Through designer-crafted displays, customers can visualize how they will feature furniture pieces in their own home.

YWCA Resale and reDesign creates important revenue to support the mission of YWCA programs serving women and children in our community. One-stop shopping begins at the new and improved location on June 24 with a *reLaunch* party set for Saturday, August 10.

Weeknights
Award-winning journalist **Cheryl Smith: Cheryl's World** provides informative talk, commentary and interesting guests tune in weeknights at 6 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon on Blog Talk Radio or call 646-200-0459 to listen.

Daily
Personal Views: Texas Black Folk Artists at African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.; 214-565-9026

Every Tuesday
Dallas Comedy House Open Mic at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448

Through Aug. 16
Summer Art Adventure Camps at Irving Arts Center, Info: www.irvingartscenter.com

June 20
Summer Cinema Clubhouse at The Colony Recreation Center, Info: www.visitthecolonytx.com

June 21
Till Midnight at the Nasher at Nasher Sculpture Center, Info: www.nashersculpturecenter.org

Log Cabin Village: West at 2100 Log Cabin Village Lane in Fort Worth, Info: http://www.worthgoing.com/event/detail/44178-0010//venue/detail/330213935/Log_Cabin_Village#

Crow Collection after Dark 2013 Summer Block Party at Crow Collection of Asian Art, starting time is 6:00 p.m. to midnight, Cost: free

Summer Solstice Family Celebration at 340 Country Club Ln. in Fairview from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Info: <http://moonlady.com/summer-solstice-family-celebration>

June 22
Countries, Cultures and Kids at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Info: <http://www.perotmuseum.org/>

DFW Chinese Culture and Talent Competition at UTD Confucius Institute, Info: <http://www.cca-dfw.org/pub/node/15>

Esther's Girls Organization at Collin College from 10:00

a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Info: <http://www.esthersgirls.org/>

1st Oak Cliff Jazz Fest/Art & Crafts Fair at Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Info: <http://www.oakcliffjazzfest.org/#sthash.E9BBUrw.pdps>

ESL English Summer Talk in Plano at Davis Library from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Info: <http://www.plano.gov/index.aspx?NID=203>

International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame Tour at 621 Six Flags Dr in Arlington from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Info: <http://www.meetup.com/Dallas-Goethe-Center/>

World Refugee Day Celebration at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Info: <http://www.catholiccharities-dallas.org/>

Countries, Cultures and Kids at Perot Museum of Nature and Science at 11 a.m.-noon; FREE; 214-428-5555

June 23
Mass for Africa in Arlington

at St Joseph C. Church, Info: 817-472-5181

June 23
For a Reason Fundraiser at Bahama Beach Volleyball Club from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/281670188637201/?fref=ts>

June 29
Texas Dream Cruise at FC Dallas Stadium, Info: www.texasdreamcruise.com

Stiletto Women Business Owners Symposium at Embassy Suite Hotel from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

June 30
North Dallas Community Baptist Church at 11 a.m. is celebrating Pastor & Wife 13th Anniversary and also the 13th Church Anniversary. Church is located at 1718 Trinity Valley Drive in Carrollton ndcbc.org

October 25
World Affairs Council H. Neil Mallon Award Dinner at Hilton Anatole, 2201 N Stemmons Freeway at 6:30 p.m.; 214-965-8403

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SECURITY, continued from Page 6

important part of that," Koenig said. "We are all proud to be able to gather our knowledge and offer schools a practical tool they can use."

With help from professional organizations for educators and responders, ESA is reaching out to school officials across the nation with hopes of alleviating the concerns that come with tackling a major security plan. The Guidelines are also being distributed via ESA's Chartered

Chapters and its members.

"Schools are a reflection of the local community and their security needs are handled mostly on a local level," said ESA Executive Director and CEO Merlin Guilbeau. "ESA is the perfect organization to address this subject and we are pleased to provide this new resource to the education community. With members in every state that are in touch with local security issues, we stand ready to

assist with real world solutions."

The Guidelines were published on June 18 and presented during a special luncheon at the 2013 Electronic Security Expo (ESX) in Nashville, Tenn. with special guest Michael Kehoe, Newton, Conn. police chief and first responder to the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy.

"This is a very comprehensive approach to security," said Chief Kehoe. "Each

school is unique: different locations, ages of kids, physical layout, and so on. This approach lets the assessment be individualized. I definitely support it."

Individuals interested in learning more about school security planning are invited to download the ESA Electronic Security Guidelines for Schools. For more information, contact ESA at SchoolSecurity@ESAweb.org

BANK, continued from Page 1

ances, the costs incurred by overdraft fees can remove available funds for other household needs.

"What is marketed as overdraft protection can, in some instances put consumers at greater risk of harm", said CFPB's Richard Cordray. "Consumers need to be able to control their costs and expenses, and they deserve clarity on those issues."

The CFPB found that overdraft fees on debit card and ATM transactions in particular are associated with higher rates of involuntary account closure. As a result, the affected consumers become less able to open a checking account at another institution.

The new CFPB report follows a 2010 rule by the Federal Reserve that required financial institutions for the first time to secure customer approval before enrollment in overdraft coverage for debit and ATM transactions. Wide variations in the number of "opt-ins" by institutions indicate that some are more aggressive than others in obtaining consent forms from their customers.

Following the announcement of the 2010 rule, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) noted that the rule did not address clear abuses that customers experience once they are enrolled, including the exorbitant cost of debit card overdraft coverage or re-ordering transactions to maximize fees. And because the size or frequency of the fees was not addressed, financial institu-

tions have the incentive to secure as many opt-in forms as possible.

Previous research by CRL has found that:

- Most debit card transactions that trigger overdrafts are far smaller than the size of the overdraft itself;

- Most consumers surveyed would rather have their debit card transaction declined than have it covered in exchange for an overdraft fee;

- In 2008, Americans aged 55 and over paid \$6.2 billion in overdraft fees; and

- Also in 2008, Americans aged 18-24 paid

nearly \$1.3 billion in overdraft fees.

CRL along with others including Pew Charitable Trusts have also called for banning institutions from processing transactions from the largest to smallest. This change would diminish the number of overdraft fees charged and thereby free-up consumer monies for other items.

In reaction to the CFPB report, CRL said, "We remain concerned about financial institutions that deliberately trigger overdraft fees by re-ordering daily transactions from the highest to lowest, often resulting in more fees from cus-

tomers. This deceptive practice remains far too common despite fueling widespread litigation. . . . We look forward to future studies by the CFPB that will shed even more light on an issue that affects millions of Americans each year."

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

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June 23, 2013 8 a.m.
Join us in Early Morning Worship Service; stay for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m. and for Father's Day Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.
Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister of Education
1026 Avenue F
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972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

June 22, 9 a.m.
All men are invited to come to our Men's Ministry Fellowship to learn more about God.

June 26, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word; and bring your children to our Children's Program; three things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play and have fun.
Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

June 23, 8:45 or 11 a.m.
Join us in our Father's Day Worship Service as we honor and praise God for His blessings to us.
Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at Jupiter Road on the Garland/Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

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June 23, 8 a.m. And 9:30 a.m.
You're invited to our Father's Day Worship Services as we praise God for the victories in our lives. Come and grow with us. You're also invited to a new series of teaching, "Guaranteed Victory". God will "Equip, Elevate, and Empower" you; call the church for details.

June 26, 7 p.m.
Join us for Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. 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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

June 23 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join us for our Father's Day Worship Service as we praise and honor God. Our theme this year is "SMBC: A Church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World." Also, after both services ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

June 26, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday Evening 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

June 23, 7:30 a.m.
Join us this Father's Day as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

June 24, 7 p.m.
Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God. We will worship Him and praise His Holy name.
Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.ibocjoy.org

Christmas in July in Arlington

Round The Clock Entertainment & Jtcxchange, Inc. have only one agenda: make a positive impact on the community. The non-profit organization will celebrate

Christmas in July on July 7 at The Center City Grill in Arlington. The organization is giving away 1,000 toys for boys and girls ages one to seven years-old.

"The toys are just one of many community outreach programs we are providing in DFW & beyond." For more information visit: www.jtcxchange.org

REVIEW, continued from Page 10

inane ability to walk in a room and take it over. That desire to steal the spotlight is an intangible element that can make solo artists with crappy voices (e.g. Madonna) superstars, and skilled musicians with golden throats, enigmas.

Hearing their stories, their successes and failures, is astonishing. Whether you're a music buff or a casual listener of AM radio, their lives are fascinating open books worthy of an in-depth documentary: Claudia Lennear, background singer for Ike and Tina Turner and girlfriend of Mick Jagger (he purportedly wrote Brown Sugar about her), was a Playboy Centerfold in her heyday. She is now a conservative, Spanish language schoolteacher. Lisa Fischer, a monster musician who hears notes only dogs can hear, started out as a background singer, and won a Grammy in 1991 for her single "How Can I Ease the Pain," off her debut album. She never recorded a solo effort again; but is content singing background, "I'm in love with sound vibration and what it does to people." "The Blend." The human voice is a pure instrument." Each singer has a unique tale.

In another filmmaker's hands, the personal stories of these talented artists might seem like shallow, two-dimensional profiles fit for VH1 drive-bys. With director Morgan Neville at the helm and Gil Friesen, an A&M executive who has since passed on, as producer, these musicians' stories are given a reverence normally reserved for legends. Which is probably the point of the film, giving the brick and mortar of the music industry the status they deserve. After all, these artists have left it all on the line for their craft. Some going broke in the process, others getting emotionally scarred. Many on the interviewees came of age in the '60s and '70s, and their experiences reflect those transformative times, as they dealt to race, segregation, gender, class, civil rights and social issues.

Two years in the making, and with 50 interviews under its belt, this thorough, well-paced (editors Jason Zeldes, Kevin Klauber), decently shot (Nicola B. Marsh and Graham Willoughby cinematographers) mélange of archival footage, photos, live heartfelt interviews and singing sessions is pure joy for the eyes, ears and mind.

An obvious exception to the rule about background singers never becoming viable solo artists, was Luther Vandross, who was most noted for singing backup on David Bowie's Young Americans, before winning Grammys for his solo career. He left a trail that few can follow, though they try. Judith Hill was one of the top 10 competitors on this season's The Voice TV show. She's most noted for singing with Michael Jackson on the documentary This Is It, and at his funeral. She is the poster child for skilled background singers finding it difficult to make the transition. She was voted off the program long before other singers with far less talent.

This doc is revealing, ironic, historic and transcendent. As you find out who sang back up on Whitney Houston's Greatest Love of All (The Waters Family), who became a housekeeper scrubbing other people floors when her career collapsed (Darlene Love) and who sang lead on an Oscar-nominated song from the movie The Color Purple (Tata Vega), you will be inspired by their courage, resilience and determination.

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Nathan Stafford
Lady Tasha Stafford



Send email to: salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

June is always a busy month for me; it's "Family Reunion" time in Mexia, TX on both sides of my family; as well as other families. My maternal side is 66 years old this month; and my paternal side is 36 years old this month.

Some interesting things about Mexia during the months of June, July, & August, is that every weekend, there are not only Family Reunions being held, but at least two and many times more, school reunions and church Homing Comings going on at the same time.

Juneteenth (Black's holiday in celebration of learning about Freedom from slavery on June 19, 1865) two years after it was signed into law; is going on in Mexia also. Juneteenth memorializes the end of slavery in Texas.

In many ways Juneteenth has come to symbolize for many older Black people, what the 4th of July means to the rest of Americans. For years in Mexia, the Comanche Crossing (Confederate Reunion Grounds, Old Fort Parker - The Old Fort - Fort Parker, is a place where Black people came to Texas.)

Long ago (to keep the family unit closer and in tact) families came together; they were not necessarily calling it a "Family

URBAN,

continued from Page 11

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Reunion" but they came together to catch up on family news and to support one another in any way that was needed.

When Alex Haley wrote "Roots," searching family history and family reunions became very popular. Many folks, especially African Americans wanted to know more about family members other than their grandparents and first cousins. They gathered with their families to discuss their ancestors, their heirs, meet new family members, cousins getting to know cousins, etc.

I believe that "The Family Unit" is one of the greatest institutions that God created; and when it is working properly (each member doing his or her part) there is nothing better to give strength and unity to the family, to help the family nurtured, grow, and keeping the world in balance for each member.

Families are: One of God's greatest treasures and the embodiment of all there is important in life.

Families are a refuge in good times and bad; a warm place of peace where acceptance reigns.

It matters not what you do or where you are, one thing you never doubt is your family. The members are always there, arms ready to embrace with healing hugs, and hearts with unconditional love to share.

Family Reunions



Pastor & Sister Billy Robinson, North Dallas Community Baptist Church, 1718 Trinity Valley, Carrollton, TX 75006, celebrating 13 years of leadership and the church's 13 years in Carrollton. Join them June 30, 11 a.m. or call 972-484-1185; and view their website www.ndcbc.org

A family is a gift that's never completely unwrapped; it is a present for which each is eternally thankful. -Becky Speckels Hare.

The Family Tree: I think that I shall never see the finish of a family tree. As it forever seems to grow from roots that started long ago; way back in ancient history times, in foreign land and distant climes; from them grew trunk and branching limb that dated back to times so dim.

One seldom knows exactly when the parents met and married then, nor when the twigs began to grow with odd named children row on row though verse like this is made by me; the

end's in sight as you can see; "Ties not the same with family trees that grow and grow through centuries!" -Author unknown.

Now is the time to forget the bad things that happened in the past; you can't bring back yesterday and its problems; the future is not here; you might not live to

see the future; but today, you have the chance to bridge a gap, to forgive and to love each family member.

As a young cousin of mine asked this year, "Why dos the younger generation

have to suffer because of things that happened long ago?" Get together with your family and your extended family; get to know each other; learn of new members that have been added to your family tree.



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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Sitting around all summer would've been so wrong.

And that's why you found a job that year between classes. No more parental hand-outs, no more wearing clothes your mom bought you, no more borrowing the car. With your own job, you had your own money to buy your own things, maybe help out at home, or sock some away. Finding work, yep,

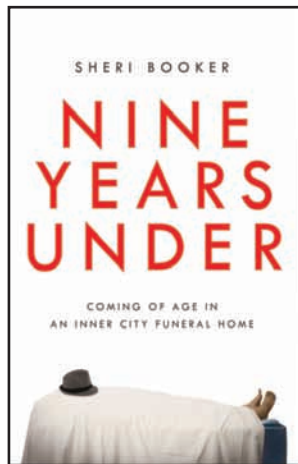
You are dead right - you will enjoy *Nine Years Under* by Sheri Booker

was the right thing to do.

For then-15-year-old **Sheri Booker**, the savings from her very unique job went towards college. In her new memoir, "**Nine Years Under**," she explains why it was a job she'd been dying to get.

Fifteen-year-old Sheri Booker felt "ignored by God."

She didn't realize that "hospice care was the beginning of the end," so when her Great-Great-Aunt Mary died of cancer, Booker was surprised – and lost. Growing up in Northeast Baltimore, she had few heroes. Aunt Mary was one of them, but Booker didn't feel like she had "permission to mourn."



She didn't feel like going to church, either, but her parents insisted. It was there that Booker ran into one of the church's deacons, Mr. Albert Wylie, who also owned one of Baltimore's many

African-American funeral homes.

He didn't ask her how she was handling her loss. Instead, he offered her a job.

For four hours a night, a few nights a week, Booker answered the phones and the door at Albert P. Wylie Funeral Home. She thought it might be weird, but it wasn't – it was interesting, and she did her work well. Soon, she was assisting with viewings and she learned her first lesson: never let clients see you cry.

But that was difficult. Witnessing the grief of families who lost someone elderly was hard enough. Wylie Funeral Home also did a brisk business with the city's

poor, the gang-bangers and drug addicts.

Still, it was a job Booker enjoyed and soon, she started doing errands for Mr. Wylie. Then she did paperwork, filing, and bookwork. Eventually, she dressed bodies and assisted as much as she legally could. She became an honorary member of the Wylie family for nine happy years, but in work – as in life – all good things must come to an end...

Looking for something with a great plot? Something different, delightful, but a little dark? Then you need "Nine Years Under."

With knowledge, a willingness to disclose, and a good amount of humor, au-

thor Sheri Booker not only shares the story of her tenure as a funeral home assistant and the duties she assumed, she also gives readers a sense of what goes on behind closed doors there. She weaves this information – some of which is graphic – in with observations on mourners, neighbors, and the industry as a whole. I loved that Booker finds a certain amount of comedy in death and preparing for its rituals, and her musings on funerals are priceless.

This is a wonderful, wonderful book that sounds squirmy, yet is anything but. So grab "Nine Years Under" – because if you think you'll like it, you're dead right.

DISD, continued from Page 8

nutrition services for Dallas ISD accepted the award.

"Ensuring our students are healthy and start each day ready to learn is a top priority," said Rivas. "We have seen a high level of positive academic and health outcomes – especially among low-income students – in our schools that have implemented Breakfast in the Classroom."

Since implementing a Breakfast in the Classroom pilot in the fall of 2010, participation of Dallas students eating breakfast at school has jumped by more

than 200 percent. Dallas was one of the first five school districts selected by the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom to participate in the program, a consortium of national nonprofits (including FRAC), which is funded by the Walmart Foundation. The success of the pilot prompted an additional 50 campuses to implement the program in 2012, and in November of 2012 the Board of Trustees established a policy for districtwide Breakfast in the Classroom.

The rapid, systemwide adoption in Dallas ISD is

what caused FRAC to honor the district with the innovation award.

"Through implementing Breakfast in the Classroom, Dallas Independent School District has shown its commitment to ending child hunger," said Jim Weill, president of FRAC. "Dallas is a leader in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to start the day with a good breakfast. We are proud to call Dallas ISD a partner in the work to end hunger and to award them for their dedication and innovation."

CLIDE, continued from Page 8

The arrival of DART rail service to Downtown Plano in 2002 ignited renewed interest and reinvestment in the historic downtown by developers and small business owners alike. City Council also established several revitalization and incentive programs to support Downtown's resurgence. Building on an earlier plan adopted in 1999, the "Vision and Strategy Update" establishes goals to continue and expand the revitalization programs outside of the core downtown area to the entire DART rail corridor from the Bush Turnpike Station

to the Parker Road Station. The plan envisions the addition of at least 3,000 new residential units within the rail corridor and the development or revitalization of 500,000 square feet of non-residential space. Street,

trail and sidewalk improvements are also planned to create a safe, pedestrian-friendly environment and better connections between the adjoining neighborhoods, mixed-use centers and transit stations.

Bible Way Community Baptist Church



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Sunday Worship 11:00 A.M.
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Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am
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Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 pm

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Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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10:30 AM
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7:00 PM
FRIDAY
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
7:00 PM

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Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm
ndcbf.org 972.437.3493

Dr. Leslie W. Smith
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Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church



Isiah Joshua, Jr.
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2013 Theme:
SMBC: A church Focused on Excellence while Teaching the Word, Preaching the Gospel, Reaching the World

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