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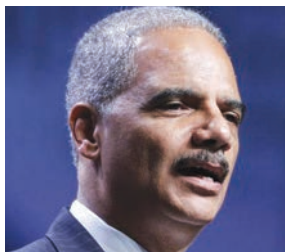
## Justice Department gets smart on crime

By FREDDIE ALLEN

(NNPA) In a stunning turn in criminal justice policy, Attorney General Eric Holder announced steps the Justice Department will take to address over population in federal prisons by changing mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines and pushing non-violent

drug offenders into rehab programs instead of prison cells.

In a speech Monday at an annual meeting of the American Bar Association in San Francisco, Holder said, "Today, a vicious cycle of poverty, criminality, and incarceration traps too many Americans and weakens too many commu-



Attorney General Eric Holder

nities. However, many aspects of our criminal justice

system may actually exacerbate this problem, rather than alleviate it."

Holder also acknowledged, that "too many Americans go to too many prisons for far too long, and for no good law enforcement reason."

Nearly 219,000 Americans are locked up in fed-

See CRIME, Page 6

## Congregation size shapes view of racial inequality, Baylor study shows

WACO - Congregation size has an impact on how people view the reasons for racial inequality in America, according to a new study by researchers at Baylor University and the University of Southern California.

Those who attend very large congregations do not



Sunday mornings in America still segregated

tend to attribute social divisions between blacks

and whites to discrimination or lack of quality education, but to something other than structural failings in society, said Ryon J. Cobb, a postdoctoral research associate at USC's Roybal Institute on Aging.

"Size of the congregation matters above and be-

yond denominational affiliations, religious traditions and political beliefs," he said. "It's not just that you attend or that you pray, but where you go."

Cobb and Baylor University sociologists Kevin Dougherty, Ph.D., and Jerry Z.

See BAYLOR, Page 11

## 50 Days until open enrollment - What Texans need to know to get covered

Monday, Aug. 12 marked 50 days until open enrollment for the new "Health Insurance Marketplace" that will allow uninsured and underinsured Texans to compare prices and buy a quality health insurance plan. Nearly five million Texans will be eligible for new benefits, but

few of them know what is coming.

The Get Covered America team is working to spread the word to consumers across Texas about their health care options and let them know how they can enroll. Staff and volunteers are going door to door, talking to folks at

churches and community centers, and working with partners like Neighborhood Centers, Texas Health Institute, Texas Association of Community Health Centers, and Lone Star Circle of Care to make sure every Texan is aware of the opportunity to enroll

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COVER STORY

Texas leading the charge to eliminate racial inequalities through its Centers for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities

# RACISM WRONG

Popularis

See RACIAL, Page 9



## Kris Jenner vs President Obama

See OBAMA, Page 10

COMMENTARY

## The GOP's Whites-Only Gambit

By LEE A. DANIELS

(NNPA) The Republican Party, which has lost the last two presidential elections by appealing to the worst racial attitudes of White conservative voters, has come up with what it declares is a winning strategy for 2016: Appeal to the worst racial attitudes of White conservative and White Democratic-leaning voters.

The conservative echo chamber of political operatives and pundits has even produced a, to coin a

phrase, white paper explaining how doubling down on its failed national strategy of 2008 and 2012 will work in 2016. More about that later.

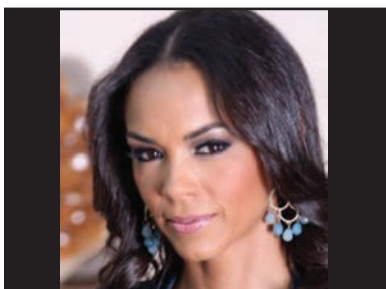
One might consider that notion a modern version of the 1956 Southern Manifesto, the Congressional segregationists' call for "massive resistance" by White Southerners to the 1954 Supreme Court Brown school desegregation decision. Or an updating of GOP standard-

See GOP, Page 3

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## People In The News...



Dawn Neufeld



Vedika Agrawal



Dean James

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## Dawn Neufeld

Dawn Neufeld is a guest scheduled to appear at the Urban League of Greater Dallas Young Professionals Mistruths in Reality Forum. The event is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Pads @ Aloft Dallas Downtown. Panelists will discuss the negative images of women and girls of color in reality television and media. How do those mistruths impact the advancement of women and girls, as well as their views of one another and themselves?

A 2011 survey of girls ages 11 to 17, conducted by the Girl Scouts of America, found that half of the girls watched reality television on a regular basis. Many were surprised to learn 70 percent of the girls watching reality television thought it was okay to be disrespectful to others.

"We are excited to hear from this diverse group of ladies on the varying portrayals of women and girls of color in the media and television," said Akilah S. Wal-

lace, event creator, Dallas Women's Foundation staff member, and strategic alliance chair for Urban League of Greater Dallas Young Professionals. "As the studies show, this discussion is relevant to today's society and our future. Join us in helping to uncover the positive and negative impacts on women's self-image, professions, families, career advancement and relationships."

"If there's one thing I've learned in life, it's that collaboration and strategic partnerships are critical to achieving your goals. No



one person and no one organization can cure all that ails our society; rather, it takes everyone working together to truly move the needle towards positive change," said Roslyn Dawson Thompson, president and CEO of Dallas Women's Foundation.

"Dallas Women's Foundation could not be more proud to support this event, which is absolutely aligned with our focus on advancing women's leadership. And we could not be more excited to partner with the young professionals of so

**See NEUFELD, Page 14**

## Vedika Agrawal

The entering cohort was chosen from nearly 1,200 applicants from high schools in 30 states and five countries. Fifty-eight applicants were invited to the annual selection weekend, from which the final 21 students were chosen.

The incoming class of 2013 will include eight students from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Ten others are from out of state, and one is from Romania. Collectively, this group has an average two-part SAT

score of 1520. Eighteen of the 21 are National Merit Scholars, five were high school valedictorians, and two were Presidential Scholar nominees.

"UT Dallas and the McDermott Scholars Program have again proved their ability to attract some of the nation's best and brightest students," said Molly Seeligson, director of the McDermott Program. "I am so pleased that our institution and program will have the opportunity to benefit from



the contributions of these remarkable young people while we help them to realize their potential."

As McDermott Scholars, the students will have educational expenses covered for the next four years and will participate in a wide variety of cultural and educational enrichment experiences in the Dallas area and beyond.

Vedika Agrawal is a National Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar with distinction, and was ranked fifth in her class. Agrawal is a dancer in the Indian classical style of Kathak, and has organ-

ized and emceed dance productions for her school. She was president of the Junior World Affairs Council, vice president of Math Club, and a member of Spanish Club, Health Occupation Students of America and the National Art Honor Society.

Agrawal is also a painter. She has worked on her school's mural and with school children through afterschool art classes. She speaks Hindi and is learning Spanish.

Vedika will major in molecular biology at UT Dallas.

## Dean James

CEDAR HILL - The inaugural Labor Day Jazz Explosion benefitting Operation

plex," says PLUGG Management CEO, Marcus Jordan. "This event promises to be a

guitarist has toured and recorded with such artists as Dav Koz, Rick Braun, Gerald Albright, Kirk Franklin, Tower of Power and Wayman Tisdale. Harper and his Mark Harper Project & The Mark Harper Acoustic Band repertoire include Jazz, Latin Jazz, CuBop and R&B.

Also performing are Fort Worth's own Tatiana Mayfield, Dallas' favorite soulful son on saxophone, Don Diego, New Orleans native Vandell Andrews and San Francisco Bay Area native Dean James.

"We want to thank the City of Cedar Hill for really embracing this event," continues Jordan. "We are certain this will be a terrific vehicle to drive visitors into the city and help further establish the Valley Ridge Amphitheatre as a burgeoning entertainment venue. Since Cedar Hill is centrally located, we hope folks from Ft. Worth,

Dallas, Arlington, Grand Prairie and other areas around the Metroplex will be encouraged to come out and join in the fun!" The celebration is expected to draw approximately 2,000 persons into the city for the Labor Day Weekend.

A portion of the proceeds from the concert will be donated to Operation FINALLY HOME. Founded in 2005, Operation FINALLY HOME is a non-partisan/non-profit organization with the mission to provide Americans the ability to honor and thank America's wounded and disabled veterans and the widows of the fallen who have sacrificed to defend our country in the global War on Terror. Severely wounded and disabled service members return home to confront extreme hardships, from physical and emotional disabilities to financial ruin, joblessness and homelessness.

Dismayed by their plight, Operation FINALLY HOME addresses the most pressing

need of our returning heroes -- a home to call their own.

**See JAMES, Page 11**



FINALLY HOME will take place on Saturday, Aug. 31 at the Valley Ridge Amphitheatre in Cedar Hill at 6 p.m.

"I wanted to bring something new and different to the Southern sector of the Metro-

plex," says PLUGG Management CEO, Marcus Jordan. "This event promises to be a

fantastic evening of music and dancing with some of the hottest jazz artists in the country."

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## Letter to the Editor

In response to last week's cover story, *Humanizing the Trinity River Corridor Project*

My predecessor is correct; all of the so-called informative meetings which the city council for this area have scheduled have either been dead-ends (information from 2009 or before) or scheduled so that no one can attend (i.e., last year when parades were going on and all streets leading to downtown from West Dallas where the most important meeting was held were blocked off)? Why couldn't the meeting, if it was so vital to the residents, not be held in West Dallas where others before and after it were held?

The City of Dallas is notorious for limiting information and (putting it bluntly) lying about their intentions. Their plan is to raise taxes until no one can afford to pay them and

take private property and claim ignorance as to ownership so that no one else can buy it.

They do not give police and fire assistance nor will they clear out the drug houses. This in an attempt to drive out the decent citizens so that they can just come in and take the area, because they do not plan to compensate the current residents for their property.

They only cater to Habitat for Humanity to build housing in the area on property the City has seized. When did the area become Los Altos and La Bajada when it has been mostly black for decades? When did the redistricting take place? Why is everyone "unavailable" when serious and important questions need to be answered?

Why don't they just tell the truth?

Anonymous via  
NorthDallasGazette.com

## 3 Tips for girls to stay safe at college

Incoming college freshmen girls often are unaware that they a 1 in 4 risk of sexual assault, and 1 in 3 chance of dating abuse or other random violence. Just Yell Fire, a nonprofit has released the tips below and a free stay-safe film online.

**Parties** – A great social life is part of the college experience but remember Never put down your beverage and come back to it. Date rape drugs are prevalent on the college scene and are impossible to detect without a test kit. Go to parties as a group, watch out for each other, and leave together. Alcohol is involved in the majority of university sexual assaults and a nice guy can quickly

turn into a different and violent person when he is under the influence.

**ATMs and Parking Lots** – Cash machines and parking lots are frequent stops in college. Unfortunately the bad guys see ATMs in less-traveled areas as a hunting ground; ditto dark parking lots, the site of a high percentage of campus assaults. Make a very-public ATM your cash source and either avoid poorly lighted or deserted parking lots or go with a friend. Try to avoid parking next to vans, or if one has parked next to you, go back and ask a security guard to escort you to your car.

View free Just Yell  
See GIRLS, Page 11

## GOP, continued from Page 1

bearer Richard Nixon's adoption in the late 1960s of a "Southern Strategy" of appealing to Whites made anxious by Blacks' civil rights victories.

Or, one could say it's just a continuation of the stance against Democratic presidents the GOP adopted during the Clinton presidency in the 1990s – in the words of former Republican congressman, Vin Weber: a maximum ideological polarization. That attitude is a far distance from the claims GOP leaders made in the weeks between President Obama's re-election victory last November and his re-inauguration in January.

Then, they promised they had learned the benefits of "outreach" to the groups that made up the winning Democratic coalition – particularly women, Blacks, Latinos and gays and lesbians. Why, the Republican National Committee (RNC) even produced in March a much ballyhooed report that called for the party to leave its "ideological cul-de-sac," confessing that the party had "lost the ability to be persuasive with, or welcoming to, those who do not agree with us on every issue."

And how was that critique received by the GOP

party faithful? Well, Rush Limbaugh, the conservative talk-show maven whose tail still wags the Republican dog, immediately announced it showed the RNC had been "totally bamboozled," and GOP Congressional leaders comments' about it were tepid at best.

In fact, the GOP's actions and words beyond the RNC exercise underscored again that the party continues to be driven by a callous ideology that has prompted Republican legislators to double down on all the things which contributed to the failure of the Republican ticket in 2012: to enact more legislation restricting women's right to an abortion; to pass more so-called voter identification measures to suppress the Black vote; and to bellow their opposition to efforts to enact sensible immigration-reform measures.

Nothing exemplifies the GOP posture more dramatically and more crudely than Steve King, the Iowa Republican Congressman. King, whose specialty is making vicious jibes about women and people of color, last month denigrated the DREAM Act legislation that would establish an arduous, long path to citizenship for the children of un-

documented immigrants. "Some of them are valedictorians – and their parents brought them in. It wasn't their fault," King said, then added, "... But for every one who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds – and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they've been hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert."

Realizing they had a public relations disaster in the making, the GOP leadership disavowed King's comment. But the fact is King's anti-immigration stance and that of the GOP itself are one and the same: Both are designed to appeal to Whites anxious by the growing population and electoral clout of Black Americans and Hispanic Americans.

The solution essentially proposed by Sean Trende, a conservative pundit, and seconded by several of his fellow conservatives, is to minimize trying to broaden the party's appeal to Blacks and Hispanics and concentrate on building the White conservative voter turnout.

Trende's argument, laid out in four lengthy articles from June 21 to July 6 on the blog, realclearpolit-

ics.com, is well worth reading because it clearly reflects the political decisions the GOP leadership has already made to continue its past practice of just pretending to be interested in "outreach."

Black Americans would do well to pay special attention to Trende's June 25 article, which predicts a decline in both Black voter turnout and the actual number of Black votes going Democratic. The piece contains many assumptions about how Blacks will vote when Barack Obama is no longer at the head of the ticket that are wishful thinking – but that, nevertheless, progressive Blacks and Whites need to consider.

But there is an even more urgent question Trende's predictions about the Black vote raises but which he ignores: How much are his expectations of a decline in the Black vote in 2016 election dependent on the success of the voter suppression laws Republican-dominated state legislatures have put in place?

Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His latest book is *Last Chance: The Political Threat to Black America*.

## AARP's new health law tool for consumers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Last week, AARP announced new resources available to all Americans looking for facts about the Affordable Care Act including a new online tool called Health Law Answers. These resources

are a part of AARP's ongoing nationwide effort to educate Americans about the health care law and what it means for individuals - whether they have health coverage or not - by providing simple, clear-language informa-

tion about the law and resources for families to understand what the law means for them and how to access new available benefits.

The new tool - HealthLawAnswers.org - is a quick and easy way to get

customized information based on where you live, gender, your family size, income and insurance status. Answering just seven simple questions generates a report about what benefits may be available to you and your family

and where to find more information. The tool is also available in Spanish - MiLeyDeSalud.org.

For example, if someone is currently without health coverage the tool will let them know how the health insurance mar-

ketplace will work, provide resources about things to consider when shopping for coverage and then connect the individual with the health insurance marketplace in their state. The tool is

**See AARP, Page 13**

## Turning the tide on childhood obesity

DR. JANEY THORNTON, USDA DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

As the Department of Agriculture's Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, I am on a mission to make sure all of our nation's children have the best possible chance at a healthy life and a bright future. So, I'm very encouraged by some recent news from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): the rate of obesity among low-income pre-school children appears to be declining for the first time in decades.

The declining rates show that our collective efforts—at the Federal,

State and community level—are helping to gain ground on childhood obesity, particularly among some of the more vulnerable populations in our country. Low-income children are often at a big disadvantage when it comes to getting the food they need to grow up healthy and strong, which is why the nutrition programs and resources available through USDA are so vital.

Programs like WIC—with its new, healthier food package offerings for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and young children, including more fruits and vegetables and more whole grains—and the Child and Adult Care Food Program—with its increasing emphasis on nutrition and physical ac-

tivity for young children—are making a difference in the lives of millions of children.

Our efforts don't stop there. School-aged children are now getting healthier and more nutritious school meals and snacks, thanks to the support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative and historic changes implemented under the historic Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. We're supporting healthy, local foods in schools through our Farm to School grant program, and we're improving access to fresh produce and healthy foods for children and families that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

So what can you do to

make a change in your home and community? Parents and caregivers can use educational materials like Healthy Eating for Preschoolers and Nutrition and Wellness Tips for Young Children to help teach young children healthy habits from the start. Teachers, principals and school food service professionals can use nutrition education materials like the Great Garden Detective curriculum provided through Team Nutrition to motivate older children to eat healthy and try new foods. Kids can explore MyPlate Kids Place and take the MyPlate Pledge to commit to making healthy food choices at school and at home. And parents, teachers, and kids alike can get active and learn

about healthy foods with Let's Move! in school, at home and in their communities.

Don't get me wrong—we still have a long way to go before America's childhood obesity epidemic is a thing of the past. Far too many—1 out of every 8—preschoolers are still obese. Unfortunately, obesity in these early childhood years sets the perfect stage for serious health problems throughout the entire lifespan.

We at USDA are proud of our ongoing efforts to ensure the health of America's next generation, and we know that, combined with your efforts at home, we are beginning to see real results in the fight against early

childhood obesity.

*Dr. Janey Thornton serves as USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Deputy Under Secretary. Before coming to USDA, Dr. Thornton served as School Nutrition Director for Hardin County Schools in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and served as president of the 55,000-member School Nutrition Association during the 2006-2007 school year. Learn more about USDA's efforts to improve child nutrition and visit ChooseMyPlate.gov for quick, easy nutrition and diet tips for families.*

## TEXANS, continued from Page 1

in quality health care coverage that fits their budget.

### What Texans need to know:

- If you don't have health insurance — or if your insurance doesn't cover the care you need — starting October 1st, there will be a new way for you to find a quality health care plan for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Open enrollment starts October 1, 2013. Plans and prices will be available then. Coverage starts as soon as January 1, 2014.

- Depending on how much you earn, you might qualify for a low-cost health plan. Financial help may be available to lower your monthly costs or what you pay when you go to the doctor. To see if you are el-



*Government, churches and community groups work together to provide food, school supplies and other assistance for struggling families*

igible for financial help, try this calculator prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

- There will be a range of plans offered so you can find one that fits your life and your budget. All of the plans offered through the Marketplace will cover es-

entials, like doctor visits, lab work, hospital stays, emergency room services, maternity care, prescriptions, mental health services and more.

- Under the new Marketplace, health insurance plans will be clearly laid out so you can compare

coverage, rates, and options in plain, simple language without the fine print. Also, you can rest assured knowing that you and your family will be protected from the unexpected financial risk that comes with a sudden illness or broken bone.

- Best of all, no one will be turned away for having a pre-existing condition.

- You can take the first step TODAY by visiting healthcare.gov to create a personal Marketplace Account. The quick, easy process will help you find out what your options are and what information you need to gather to enroll once the Marketplace opens on October 1st.

- Visit GetCovered-America.org to sign up for updates, find out what's going on in your state, and

help get the word out to friends and family.

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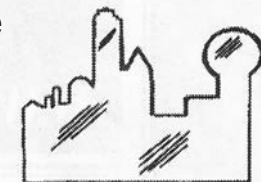
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## A Rockin' Good Time for Legal Aid

Six bands—all comprised of Dallas-area lawyers and judges—will take the stage in the ultimate pro bono rock concert to raise awareness for legal assistance for low-income residents of Dallas County. Attorneys by day, and band members by night, these 6 rock bands will play back-to-back at LAW JAM 4, a benefit concert for pro bono legal aid.

“The most fun place to be in Dallas, Texas, on August 17, 2013 will be the Granada Theater, where the coolest lawyer bands—Big Wheel, Black Dirt Tango, Blue Collar Crime, The Catdaddies, Noah Snark and Random Blue—will be rockin’ for pro bono,” said DBA President Sally Crawford. “This event raises money for the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, which provides free civil legal services to the poor. So

put on your t-shirts and jeans and get ready to party for pro bono!”

All proceeds will benefit the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, which assists approximately 3,500 families per year. In addition, a silent auction will be available.

The public is invited to join hundreds of lawyers who will attend the event. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at The Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave., in Dallas.

The \$35 general admission tickets are available online or at the door. Also, for \$100, you can purchase a “Groupie” sponsor package which includes admission and a beverage. For more information, or to purchase tickets, log on to [www.dbalawjam.org](http://www.dbalawjam.org).



Long time north Texas Congressman Pete Sessions has been active in blocking attempts by conservative Republican patriots to allow a House of Representatives vote on legislation to form a special committee to investigate the Benghazi, Libya attack.

Republican leaders have resisted the vote and thus the creation of the special committee arguing that existing committees are sufficient. I argue differently Mr. Sessions. A special committee solely focused on the issue, with dedicated investigators and significant subpoena powers may be the “break” that is necessary to deal with the tragedy that ended the lives of four Americans including the American ambassador to Libya. Almost a year after the incident and no one is in custody? No witnesses can be found by the Obama administration although they are being interviewed on CNN? The careers of veteran State Department officials have been threatened

## Re-thinking Pete Sessions

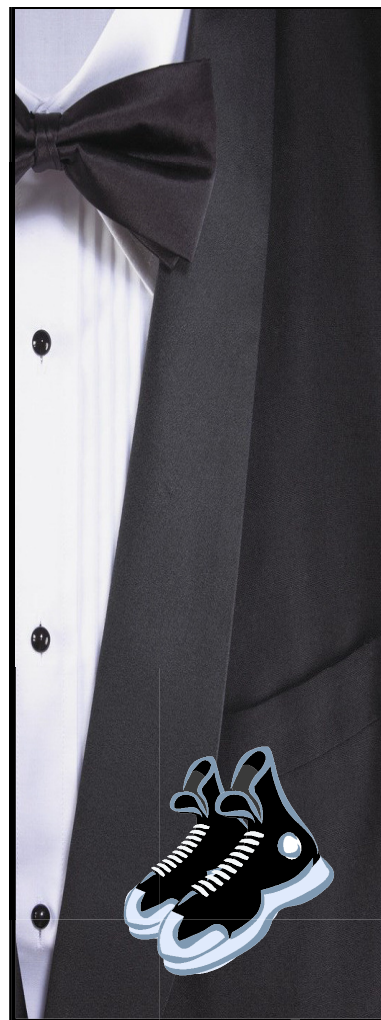
because they dared to speak out?

Rep. Pete Sessions - has been using his position

as Rules Chairman to prevent the resolution from even receiving a vote. Why is that Mr. Sessions? Why

are you seemingly working as hard as the Democrats to evade the truth? Over 160

See SESSIONS, Page 6



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## SMU Lyle School of Engineering earns national attention

highest salaries, as calculated by College Factual, a new site that uses outcome-based tools and rankings to guide the college selection process.

The ranking places SMU Lyle graduates right behind No. 18 MIT in terms of earning power. Other Texas uni-

versities making the top 50 list are Lamar University in Beaumont at No. 23, the University of Texas at No. 28, the University of Houston at No. 41 and Texas A&M at No. 45.

"SMU-Lyle is focused on producing innovative engineers who are committed to



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making a difference in their profession and in the world," said Marc Christensen, dean of the Lyle School. "Each Lyle student is deliberately

groomed to work with people in a variety of disciplines, which makes them valuable in any work environment. Challenging work is reward-

ing, but it's also gratifying to know that our students can expect to be well compensated after they leave us. We are very pleased to be recognized."

College Factual partnered with PayScale.com to identify average starting and mid-career salaries for each

field of study at top schools across the country, determining the rankings by averaging the two numbers for each school. The site identifies the average starting salary for SMU Lyle graduates as \$57,646 and the average mid-career salary as \$126,249.

## Apple-A-Day Contest with Grade A Prizes

An apple isn't just for the teacher. Great Clips will award Apple products to students and their families to make back to school great. Great Clips will give away 285 Apple prizes worth more than \$53,000 to winners nationwide.

Ten lucky first place winners will start school

with a brand new MacBook Air laptop valued at more than \$1,200. Twenty-five second place winners can take a break from homework to blast tunes on their new Beats studio headphones valued at more than \$200. Other prizes include iPod Touch devices, iTunes gifts cards and many more.

To enter, U.S. residents text "PRIZE" to 47328 and Canadian residents Text "PRIZE" to 7777 or go to Great Clips Back-To-School Give-away to enter. Contest entry period runs from July 15 - September 30, 2013.

BET and K104 are hosting the Battle of the Year Dance competition Saturday, Aug. 17 at Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill which is located next to AmStar 14 Cinema at 10110 Technology Blvd. E, in Dallas. Registration is scheduled for 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. with the contest kicking off at 2 p.m.

## Battle of the Year Dance this weekend

Each amateur dancer, between the ages of 13-30, must dance at least 60 seconds to the music found on [www.danceon.com/BOTYcontest](http://www.danceon.com/BOTYcontest).

The winner will win \$500 in cash and get a chance to compete for the grand prize, winning a trip to New York and an appearance on BET's 106 & Park. The Dallas winner's perform-

ance will be posted online and will compete against nine other markets for the grand prize.

The public is invited to attend and watch the competition and prizes will be given away throughout the afternoon.

For more information or to pre-register, call 214-520-5134 or email [DallasBATTLEcontest@moroch.com](mailto:DallasBATTLEcontest@moroch.com).

## CRIME, continued from Page 1

eral prisons. Even though, Blacks account for 13.1 percent of the United States population, Blacks take up 37 percent of the beds in federal prisons, according to Federal Bureau of Prisons. Roughly 47 percent of prisoners are locked up for drug offenses, many of them non-violent offenders. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Department of Justice spent \$6.6 billion housing federal prisoners in 2012.

Holder said that the Justice Department's plans would mirror policies that worked to reduce prison populations and recidivism in Kentucky, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio and other states. According to Holder, at least 17 states have improved recidivism rates and decreased prison populations without compromising public safety by shifting resources "from prison con-

struction and toward evidence-based programs and services, like treatment and supervision, that are designed to reduce recidivism."

Holder noted that while the federal prison population continues to increase, in 2012 state prison populations experienced the largest drop in a single year.

"The bottom line is that, while the aggressive enforcement of federal criminal statutes remains necessary, we cannot simply prosecute or incarcerate our way to becoming a safer nation," said Holder. "To be effective, federal efforts must also focus on prevention and reentry."

Holder also announced increased funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) that provides federal funding for advanced training and jobs for local law enforcement. Holder said that a new round of COPS grants would pro-

vide more than \$110 million to hire military veterans and school resource officers.

The Obama administration placed more than \$1.5 billion into the COPS program over the past four years, even as critics panned it and research that found it often contributed to over-policing in poor and minority communities and played only a limited role in the reduction of crime.

Still, members of Congress praised Holder's announcement. In a press release, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) said that she will introduce legislation that will "curb federal prosecutions of low-level and non-violent drug offenders; re-focus scarce federal resources to prosecute major drug kingpins, and give courts and judges greater discretion to place drug users on probation or suspend the sentence entirely."

In a separate statement, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) said that, "It is well documented that a disproportionate share of stiff mandatory sentences for low-level, non-violent crimes typically impact low income populations and communities of color."

Fudge continued: "The measures introduced by the Attorney General will provide a fair and balanced approach to sentencing while improving protection of our nation's vulnerable communities."

The Justice Department's "Smart on Crime" initiative will focus five key provisions:

- Prioritizing prosecutions to focus on the most serious cases
- Reforming sentencing to eliminate unfair disparities and reduce overcrowded prisons.

- Pursuing alternatives to incarceration and low-level, non-violent crimes.

- Improving reentry to curb repeat offenses and re-victimization.

- Surging resources to

violence prevention and protecting the most vulnerable populations.

"We must never stop being tough on crime," said Holder. "But we must also be smarter on crime."

**New Mount Zion Baptist Church is seeking a Senior Pastor who God has chosen to shepherd the congregation. We are a family-oriented church, located in North Dallas that draws people from the surrounding metropolitan area.**

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**Interested persons, please submit a letter of interest and resume to the following address: (Deadline: September 5, 2013)**

**Pastoral Search Committee  
New Mount Zion Baptist Church  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243**

## SESSIONS, continued from Page 5

of your own House members have signed a petition urging a vote.

"I've raised it to him; I've talked to him. It's his decision to make, but we're making a big mistake by not doing a select committee," Graham told *The Hill* in May. "We've commu-

nica-ted a lot, but we should probably do more in light of the building momentum in the House."

Mr. Sessions, we call upon you to do your sworn duty, we call upon you to think about the four slain Americans. We call upon you to do the right thing.



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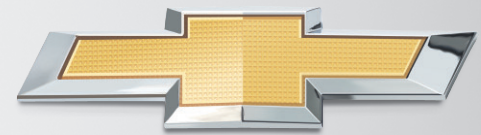
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— Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks  
President and CEO of Dallas Urban League  
Dallas, TX

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# Texas leading the charge to eliminate racial inequalities through its Centers for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities

BY: JACKIE HARDY,  
NDG CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

In 2005 and 2007, Senate Bill 6 and Senate Bill 758 (SB) introduced Texas legislation that directed Child Protective Services to examine and address issues related to disproportionality and disparities targeting specific sites (including Dallas); then later expanded to the entire state.

In 2010, the Center of Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities began with SB 501 passing a year later forming the Interagency Council (IC) led by Joyce James thus establishing the Center as the state of Texas Office of Minority Health.

Texas HHSC's website defines disproportionality as 'the overrep-

tance and training which includes: webinars; conferences and symposiums; training coordination/facilitation; technical assistance and support for conversations on race and institutionalized racism; leadership development; and organizational assessment. These services are available to the state's five Health and Human Services agencies and employees with support available to the juvenile justice, education, and health care agencies as well.

According to Stephanie Goodman, Communications Director of HHSC, one vital purpose for the creation of the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities is to recognize that vulnerable populations interact with multiple Health and

ment to *North Dallas Gazette*.

Texas has 11 Regional Centers for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities with D/FW being Region 3. Region 3 Centers are located in: Dallas, Plano, and Fort Worth, which serves Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant counties.

Each Center has a Disproportionality and Disparities Specialist. Maxine Jones-Robinson is one of the three Disproportionality and Disparities Specialists assigned to Region 3; where she currently serves Dallas County.

The Specialists responsibilities involve engaging the community and developing a Disproportionality and Disparities Advisory Committee to address disproportion-

the goals and strategies that will improve the outcomes for the vulnerable populations.

Father Charles Hubbard, Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Garland, serves on the Disproportionality and Disparities Advisory Committee for Dallas County. Hubbard's passion is with the Criminal Justice system particularly as it relates to the inequality of treatment among adult black males. He expressed his concern over the difficulty many of them encounter in trying to find decent housing and/or jobs that pay above minimum wage once they have met the obligations of their time served.

"As Michelle Alexander says, 'we have developing in our culture a vast underclass,' and it will eventually hurt society in general and obviously hurt the men in the center of that kind of system," adds Hubbard.

Organizing and facilitating town hall meetings are another important role of the Centers. The purpose for the town hall meetings is to bring awareness to the community about the issues of disproportionality and disparities; get feedback on issues impacting the community; and present an opportunity for community members to ask questions of various panelists and system leaders.

According to Goodman, the response to the town hall meetings has been great but they hope to see an increase with attendance in the effort to accomplish their goals for the meetings which are: providing community members with infor-



*Father Charles Hubbard Jr.*

mation on various systems affecting them; providing a forum that allows their voices to be heard; and getting community ideas on how health and human services can be improved.

"We would like to see these town hall meetings set up so that people will become aware of the reality of disproportionality; then they can talk about remedies and what can be done to change this," comments Father Hubbard.

Past town hall meetings in Dallas have entailed panelists from various agencies and systems including juvenile justice, child welfare, education, housing, and health and mental health services. Agenda items

town hall meetings a year in Dallas County.

We encourage all to participate and ask questions as well as share their issues, concerns and ways to improve their community."

The biggest challenge the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities face has been capacity due to the large number of requests received for technical assistance and training; but per Goodman, the experience has been really good in terms of number of people who are willing to engage the Center in a new and courageous conversation that seeks to move systems to greater accountability for equity of all populations.

"Ultimately, we hope our efforts improve the quality of life for all Texans by encouraging equity in human service practices," adds Goodman.

For information on how to sign up to get town hall meeting notices for Dallas County go to [www.hhsc.state.tx.us](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us); then click on "sign up for



resentation of a particular race or cultural group in a program or system compared to their representation in the general population. Disparity is defined as the condition of being unequal and refers to the difference in outcomes and conditions that exist among specific groups as compared to other groups due to unequal treatment or services.'

Since its inception, the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities has provided technical assis-

Human services programs and to identify opportunities for collaboration of various state and local agencies to reduce those barriers to equality; with the ultimate goal to eliminate disproportionality and disparities.

"Our goal is to bring awareness to the issue of disproportionality and disparities within systems and provide system leaders with the tools to identify policies and practices which create inequities within their systems," commented Goodman in a written state-

ality and disparities within HHSC systems in Texas.

"...The Disproportionality and Disparities Advisory Committees are made up of system leaders who seek to identify and address issues of disproportionality and disparities based on the data for the local communities," adds Goodman.

The Disproportionality and Disparities Advisory Committee, according to HHSC, also share the responsibility and accountability with systems leaders by contributing to

***"As Michelle Alexander says, 'we have developing in our culture a vast underclass,' and it will eventually hurt society in general and obviously hurt the men in the center of that kind of system," adds Father Charles Hubbard, Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Garland. He serves on the Disproportionality and Disparities Advisory Committee for Dallas County.***

discussed include communicating data by race and ethnicity based on some of the state's programs.

Goodman expressed, "We plan to have two

email update" box on the left margin or contact the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities Dallas office at 972-283-6426.

## NDG Gossip: Kris Jenner vs President Obama

By SHENICE SANDERS,  
NDG INTERN

Kris Jenner had much to say on her daytime talk show about President Obama comment on her daughter Kim Kardashian and rapper-boyfriend Kanye West.

President Obama, who has previously stated West as a "jackass" when the rapper famously stole the show from Taylor Swift, was interviewed by David Blum for *Kindle Singles*.

In the interview Obama gave his opinion on what he believes young Americans think of the "American dream." He blames exposure to the rich and famous for youth not having realistic ideas of what qualifies as success, he stated:

"The American Dream involved some pretty basic stuff. A good job where you felt some security. A good education... People felt if they worked hard they could get there... I don't think people went around saying to them-



President Barack Obama & Kris Jenner

selves, 'I need to have a 10,000-square-foot house'... I think, there has also been a shift in culture. We weren't exposed to the things we didn't have in the same way that kids these days are. There was not that window into the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Kids weren't monitoring every day what Kim Kardashian was wearing, or where Kanye West was going on vacation, and thinking that somehow that was the mark of success."

Kris Jenner was not pleased about what the Pres-

ident had stated and on Friday's episode she made it very clear how she felt.

"It's really great that people aspire to get a great job ... but I wasn't aware that you could only set the bar so high and that we could only dream so big," Jenner said after reading the president's remarks to guest co-host, E! News' Terrence Jenkins. "I was taught: Dream big, work hard and you could have whatever you wanted."

See OBAMA, Page 11

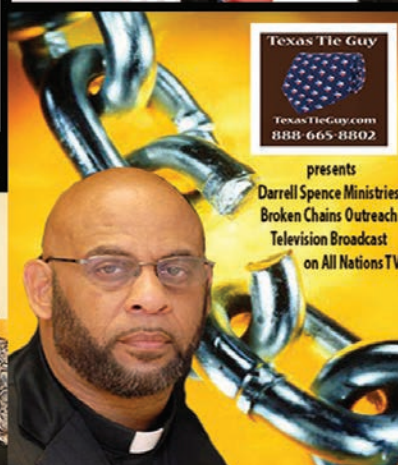
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## BAYLOR, continued from Page 1

Park, Ph.D., and doctoral candidate Samuel Perry of the University of Chicago's sociology department presented their findings on Monday in New York City at the 75th annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion.

The researchers drew upon a sampling of more than 3,000 individuals from data from the National Congregations Study and linked it to in-

dividual records from the General Social Survey.

Cobb noted that over the past four decades, the percentage of people attending larger congregations has increased, and researchers wanted to examine the role of congregational size in shaping attitudes about racial inequality. Previous research has shown that various aspects of Americans' religious lives shape Americans' understand-

ing of socioeconomic divisions between blacks and whites in America.

"Large congregations are more likely than smaller congregations to attract members of multiple races," said Dougherty, an associate professor of sociology in Baylor's College of Arts & Sciences. "Our research suggests that bigger congregations do little to challenge prevailing views on racial inequality. The

larger the congregation, the less likely a congregant is to accept discrimination or other structural explanations for the economic gap between blacks and whites. It's hard to solve a social problem when people disagree about its source."

In previous studies, racial background and political party identification were the primary drivers of racial attitudes and awareness of racism, said Park, an associate

professor of sociology at Baylor.

"African-Americans and self-identified Democrats tend to agree that lack of quality education and systemic discrimination explain the socioeconomic gap between blacks and whites," Park said. "When we account for congregation size, racial identity and political persuasion still remain strong predictors of one's beliefs about inequal-

ity. This suggests that the context of worship matters less since African-American believers in large congregations are more aware of systemic racism than their white counterparts in those same congregations."

Further research is needed to explore the reasons behind why those in larger congregations view racial inequality differently, Cobb said.

## JAMES, continued from Page 2

"We are excited to be partnering with the Dallas Home Dealer Association, Southstar Communities and the NFL Players Association to help benefit Operation FINALLY HOME," explains Jordan. "While this event is about bringing individuals to-

gether to celebrate Labor Day and to enjoy a wonderful night of music, it is also very much so about reaching out and giving a hand up to the brave men and women who risked their lives for the freedoms that we all enjoy as Americans."

The Labor Day Jazz Explosion at the Valley Ridge Amphitheater in Cedar Hill on Saturday, Aug. 31 begins at 6 p.m. VIP tickets are \$40 and include: hors d'ourves, non-alcoholic beverages and VIP Tent with lounge seating. General Ad-

mission tickets are \$20 and provide seating on the lawn only, guests are invited to bring lawn chairs or blan-

kets. Tickets are available at Sandaga 813 located at 813 Exposition Avenue in Dallas, contact Tim Austin

at 972-415-7491 or online at <http://labordayjazz.eventbrite.com/>.

## OBAMA, continued from Page 10

"I bet the President has some friends with 10,000 square foot houses and that [you] probably wouldn't mind going over there, Mr. President, when you were asking them to have a party for you while you were campaigning for dollars to run for president."

"I find it so odd that he's picking on Kim Kardashian and Kanye West. Well, Kanye West, first of all, doesn't go on vacation. Ever," Jenner said. "And Kim Kardashian is the hardest-working young lady in the world. She never sleeps, she never stops, she never

slows down and works so hard for what she's got."

So I started thinking about her 10,000 square foot house, and I thought, 'Wow, her job affords her to live in a 10,000 square foot house, and if I'm not mistaken, Mr. President's job affords him to live in a 55,000 square foot ho-use.'"

## GIRLS, continued from Page 3

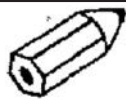
**Fire: Campus Life film online** – The Just Yell Fire nonprofit, created by and for girls and young women, produced a film that anyone can watch online. It raises awareness of the many dangers girls face at college and offers some avoidance strategies. Also included is a Dating Bill of Rights to remind girls they have rights in relationships, e.g. to report violence against them, to have friends outside of a relationship...to help stop dating abuse. Finally, there are some street fighting get away tips from expert martial artists that any girl can use to get away from someone twice their size, e.g. eye gouge, whiplap an ear.

Dallas Jessup, the founder of Just Yell Fire, is a recent college graduate who launched the nonprofit while still in high school. Over the years it has grown

it into a 1.8 million girl revolution across 66 countries while winning multiple social impact awards

for her stay-safe films.

Visitors can view the free online video at [www.justyellfire.org](http://www.justyellfire.org).



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**Citizenship Classes** at Irving Central Public Library - Each participant will be assisted to fill out the naturalization application. Free assistance from immigration attorneys. You do not need to know English to participate. Each Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. at 801 W. Irving Blvd

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

**Saturdays in August**  
**Addison Summer Series** from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Beckert Park

**Through August 15**  
**Arlington Peddler Show** in Arlington [peddlershow.com](http://arlingtonpeddlershow.com)

**Through August 16**  
*Summer Art Adventure Camps* at Irving Arts Center. <http://www.irvingartscen-ter.com>

**Mentoring in Medicine**, This event is hosted online register at <http://mimvc2.eventbrite.com> [www.medicalmentor.org](http://www.medicalmentor.org)

**Through August 17**  
**Fair Park Band Shell** talent contest at 1465 1st Ave, [www.TalentUnderTheStar.com](http://www.TalentUnderTheStar.com)

**Through August 18**  
**KRLD's Restaurant Week**

**Through August 24**  
**The Quarter Bar** at 3301 Mckinney Ave. <http://www.breadwinner-scafe.com/the-quarter-bar/>

**Through August 28**  
**Mesquite Championship Rodeo** in Mesquite [www.mesquiterodeo.com](http://www.mesquiterodeo.com)

**Through August 31**  
**Justicia: the Struggle for Mexican American Civil**

**Rights** in Dallas, Texas 1920-2012 at Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street, 214-671-0052

**Malleable Forms: an Exploration of Texas Sculpture and Clay** at Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street, 214-671-0052

**Through September 1**  
**Book of Mormon** at AT&T Performing Arts Center, <http://www.attpac.org>

**Through September 2**  
**Grapevine's 5th Annual SummerBlast** at Historic Downtown Grapevine, [www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com/SummerBlast](http://www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com/SummerBlast).

**Through September 6**  
**Gaylord Texan SummerFest Wonderland Adventure** in Grapevine [www.gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com)

**August 16 -22**  
**KRLD Restaurant Week** at area DFW area Restaurants. [www.krld.com](http://www.krld.com)

**August 16**  
**The 11th Annual Dallas Black Film Festival 2013** at the act of change, Inc

3200 S.Lancaster Rd suite 623, 214-413-9807

**August 17**  
**Art on the Square** in Glen Rose

**Audition for Hollywood Launch DFW** at Frisco Discovery Center in Frisco, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 682-888-7043

**Miss Dallas Latina 2013** at Latino Cultural Center, 469-355-4690

**Brave Young Voices** at Dallas Poetry Slam Team, 7 p.m. 214-948-0716

**Nepal: Free Health fair** at 1200 E Davis St, suite 113 in Mesquite, Texas 75149, 469-363-1940

**August 17-25**  
**North Texas State Fair and Rodeo** at 2217 N. Carroll Blvd, 940-387-2632

**August 17-18**  
**Dallas Home Show** at Fort Worth Convention Center, [http://www.texashome-andgarden.com/infostore/exhibitor\\_showlisting.asp?id=244](http://www.texashome-andgarden.com/infostore/exhibitor_showlisting.asp?id=244)

**August 17-19**  
**Lion's Club Balloon Festival & Fair** at Highland Village at Copperas Branch Park, Highland Park, <http://www.lionsballoonfest.com/>

**August 17**  
**Speedway Children's Charities Tony Stewart "Smo-ke Show"** at Texas Motor Speedway [texas.speedwaycharities.org/events](http://texas.speedwaycharities.org/events)

**August 17-25**  
**North Texas State Fair and Rodeo** at 2217 N. Carroll Blvd, 940-387-2632

**August 17-18**  
**Dallas Home Show** at Fort Worth Convention Center

**August 17-19**  
**Lion's Club Balloon Festival & Fair** at Highland village at Copperas Branch park, Highland park, <http://www.lionsballoonfest.com/>

**August 18**  
**Musical Accents presents Summer JAM 2013** at Plaza Theatre, 972-333-3677.

**August 19**  
**Gordon Lightfoot Live** in Concert at the Verizon Theatre at 8 p.m. [www.verizontheatre.com](http://www.verizontheatre.com)

**August 20 -21**  
**Women of Faith Conference** at American Airlines Center [womenoffaith.com](http://womenoffaith.com)

**August 21-23**  
**Fort Worth MusicFest** located in the parking Lot of 3520 E. Berry [www.fwmusicfestival.org](http://www.fwmusicfestival.org)

**August 20 -22**  
**23rd Annual Lions Club Balloon Festival and Fair** in Highland Village, TX. [www.hvballoonfest.org](http://www.hvballoonfest.org)

**August 23**  
**Little Elm hosting a Dive In movie** at Little Elm Park Beach 7:30 p.m.

**Gorilla vs Bear Live** at Granada Theater, [gorillavsbear.net](http://gorillavsbear.net)

**August 23 -24**  
**From Russia with Love Festival** at Bass Performance Hall, 817-212-4280

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## AARP, continued from Page 4

available in English and in Spanish and reports can easily be translated between the two. Individuals can also download their report, email it or save it, making it a great tool for family caregivers who may be looking to provide information to a loved one.

"We know there is a lot of information out there about the health care law and AARP is here to help people cut through the clutter," said Nicole Duritz, Vice President AARP Health Education and Outreach. "That's why we created HealthLawAnswers.org. Now in a few easy steps anyone can get a free, customized report connecting them to local resources and information that matters to individuals and their families."

In addition to HealthLawAnswers.org, AARP created an information-rich website called HealthLawFacts.org for consumers to quickly find resources and more detailed information on specific aspects of the law. AARP's suite of resources includes information for those who are currently insured, those without health coverage or fear of losing it and people with Medicare.

"Americans are looking for answers and information that matters to them and AARP is here to help," concluded Duritz.

For more information visit HealthLawAnswers.org.



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sources and assistance for job  
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grams for individuals.

**August 29, Noon**  
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Support Group" meeting at  
the Christian Works for Chil-  
dren, 6320 LBJ Freeway,  
Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-  
960-9981 to register.

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niversary Banquet, our picnic  
and to complete the weekend  
with our Anniversary Service  
on September 8.

**September 22**  
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parent's Day Celebration as  
we worship and praise God  
for all of His blessings.

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IN RICHARDSON**

**August 18, 8:45 or 11 a.m.**  
Join us in our Worship Serv-  
ices as we honor and praise  
God for His blessings to us.

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0567 or they may be submit-  
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sistance Center serves Collin  
County by responding to peo-  
ple in crisis for emergency  
shelter, clothing, food, and  
access to medicine and med-  
ical services for county resi-  
dents. Call the church or  
Allen's City Hall for details.

**August 17, 9 a.m.**  
Do not miss Lady Kirisma  
Evans' Confessions of a Wor-  
shipper at our W. Belmont  
Drive campus. Call the  
church for details.

**August 18, 8 a.m.**  
**And 9:30 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Worship  
Services at 8 a.m. as we  
praise God for the victories in  
our lives.

And stay for our 9:30 a.m.  
services as Lady Kirisma  
Evans continues with her  
"Confessions of a Worship-  
per" God will "Equip, Ele-  
vate, and Empower" you.

**August 18, 8 a.m.**  
**And 9:30 a.m.**  
You're invited to our 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, "Guaran-  
teed Victory". God will  
"Equip, Elevate, and Em-  
power" you; call the church  
for details.

**August 21, 7 p.m.**  
Join us for Wednesday Night  
Live in the Joycie Turner Fel-  
lowship Hall on Belmont  
Drive, with old school prayer  
and testimony. Also, come  
to our Corporate Prayer and  
our Kidz Zone (an environ-  
ment to equip children to  
grow and to show God's  
love.)

**Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,**  
*Ed.D.*  
*Senior Pastor*  
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www.theship3c.org

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**August 18**  
**8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
Join us for Worship Service  
as we praise and honor God.  
After both services ministers  
and deacons are available to  
meet with you for prayer or  
questions.

**September 27-28**  
Mark your calendars and join  
us at our Women's Revival.  
The theme is "Desperately  
Seeking Jesus for a Time of  
Revival" with speakers Min-  
ister Verna Whitaker, Minis-  
ter Andrea Mayo and Lady  
Cheryl Wesley.

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to surviving those often tur-  
bulent years. Not his sur-  
vival--yours. The event is  
designed to encourage, moti-  
vate, and inspire, the P.O.T.  
Boys Experience brings a  
shocking awareness to the  
adults in the teen's life.

**August 18, 7:30 a.m.**  
Join us this Father's Day as  
we worship, honor and mag-  
nify God's Holy name.

**August 19, 7 p.m.**  
Come to Monday School as  
we study the Word of God.

We will worship Him and  
praise His Holy name.

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ets to the Ringing Brothers  
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lasGazette for your chance  
to win. We just received  
more tickets for the  
Mesquite ProRodeo enter  
today.

## NEUFELD, continued from Page 2

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tions in our community – be-  
cause it truly does take a vil-  
lage to make the changes we  
all seek."

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- Keynote speaker Sil Lai  
Abrams, NABJ award-win-  
ning writer, anti-domestic vi-  
olence activist and founder  
of www.TruthInReality.org  
- Senior producer/writer  
for AMS Pictures, Kim  
Clemons  
- Film / TV producer/

consultant and philanthropist  
for ATG - Against The Grain  
Productions, Inc., Tammy  
Nguyen Lee,

- Owner and Founder,  
Marcos Productions, Anita  
Marcos,  
- Reality TV show star,  
Dawn Neufeld, of VH1 Foot-  
ball Wives  
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**Sunday Morning Worship**  
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9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday Night Live**  
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Allen, TX 75013  
7:00 p.m.

Nathan Stafford  
Lady Tasha Stafford



**Sister  
Tarpley**

Send email to: [salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

*This is another frequent requested column of mine. I believe that this story can be applied to any situation or change in your life; going away to college, going into high school, going into the workforce, or changing a job or a career path. The point of these stories is to be kind to everyone you meet; and to Trust God.*

#### WELCOME TO HOLLAND

BY EMILY PERL  
KINGSLEY

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability—to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it. It's like this . . .

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip to Italy. You buy guidebooks, and make wonderful vacation plans to see the coliseum, the Michelangelo David, and the gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Ital-

## Welcome to Holland



Miss Darby Dugay, a 7th Grader at Lincoln Middle School in Port Arthur, Texas is finding the DNA of a wheat germ at the Ross Perot Museum Downtown Dallas

ian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later the plane lands and the flight attendant say, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland? You say!"

What do you mean Holland? I signed up for Italy! I should to be in Italy. All of my life I've dreamed of going to Italy." Because of

**See HOLLAND, Page 16**

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## NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI  
SCHLICHENMEYER

Your best friend knows everything she needs to know.

She knows your secrets, and the dreams you hold. She chases away your insecurities, your sorrows are her burdens, your joy is her triumph.

Your best friend knows your heart, and loves you better for it. And in the new book **"The Sweetest Hallelujah"** by Elaine Hussey, a friendship that starts with

## The Sweetest Hallelujah is a beautiful novel by Elaine Hussey

a secret ends with a forever bond.

Dead Alice Watkins knew how to send a message to residents of Shakerag, Mississippi, on the north side of Tupelo.

When something bad was about to happen, everybody knew that Alice sent the odor of barbecue and notes from a blues harmonica around. Now, those things could be blamed on Tiny Jim's barbecue house and juke joint, it was true, but most folks knew a warning when they smelled one.

And lately, ten-year-old Billie Hughes smelled barbecue a lot.

She tried not to think about it, however, even



though she knew Mama was sick. That's because Billie knew something Alice didn't: if Billie could find her daddy, he'd fix everything. He was a famous musician in Memphis, and was surely rich. Billie

figured he was kind of like Roy Rogers, only black.

Betty Jewel, Billie's Mama, knew her daughter idolized the father she'd never met. Billie talked all the time about finding him, but Betty Jewel knew that Saint Hughes was no good. He ruined her life and her career. The only thing he'd ever give Billie was his last name.

Ten years after her husband, Joe, died, Cassie Malone still grieved deeply.

Not one day went by without her missing his hugs, his laughter. She couldn't bear to get rid of his clothes, or the empty crib for the babies they never had. She regretted most of all that they never

had children. Three miscarriages still made her ache.

Which is maybe why the ad in the weekly paper caught her eye.

"Desperate," it said. "Dying woman seeks mother for her child."

What would make a woman do that? Cassie had to know – though lynchings and Jim Crow laws would make it dangerous to find out. So she left her well-appointed Tupelo house, and stepped right into a secret...

I loved this book, but not for the story itself – which is wonderful and a little reminiscent of a certain Oscar-winning movie, only with a twist. I loved this book, but not for the exceptionally likeable characters.

No, I loved "The Sweetest Hallelujah" because of the way author Elaine Hussey has written it.

With words that will make you weep and descriptions that put you directly in the scene, Hussey tells a tale of racism, understanding, and a mother's love. There's conflict in here, and maybe a bit of controversy; some Southern hospitality, and a haint that plays a surprisingly large part in the story.

It's a beautiful novel. That's all.

If your book group is in need of a great title, give them this one: "The Sweetest Hallelujah." With that, they have everything they need to know.

## HOLLAND, continued from Page 15

unforeseen circumstances the plane landed in Holland, and there you must stay.

The important thing is that you are not in a horrible, disgusting, filthy place that is full of pestilence, famine, and disease. **It's just a different place.** So you must get new guidebooks; you must learn a new language. You will meet new people that you probably would not have met.

**It's just a different place;** but after you've been there for a while, you catch your breath, you look around, and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills. Holland has

tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

Everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy; they brag about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, "Yes, that's where I was going. That's what I had planned."

The pain will never completely go away; the loss of that dream is a significant loss to you. However, if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things about Holland.

"Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." 1 Peter 5:6 (KJV)

**Acorns, Pumpkins, and GOD--**A lady was walking through a meadow one day. As she strolled along meditating on nature, she came upon a field of pumpkins, and in the corner of the field stood a majestic oak tree.

Sitting under the oak tree the lady mused about the strange twists in nature. Tiny acorns hung on huge branches and large pumpkins sat on tiny vines. She thought, "God blundered

with this creation! He should have put the small acorns on the tiny vines and the large pumpkins on the huge branches."

Before long, the late autumn sunshine lulled the lady to sleep. She was awakened by a tiny acorn bouncing off her nose. Chuckling to herself, she amended her previous thinking, "Maybe God was right after all!"

In every situation, God knows more about the people and circumstances involved than we can ever know. He alone sees the beginning from the end. He alone knows how to create a

Master Plan that provides for the good of all those who serve Him.

Only God knows what lies ahead for your life. Today, trust in Him and His plan—it may seem backwards, but He always does

what is best for you. — Honor Books.

My favorite scripture, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..." Ephesians 3:20-21 (KJV)

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Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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Sunday Bible Class ..... 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 am  
Evening Worship ..... 3:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Class ..... 7:00 pm

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