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# For Black homeowners, the great recession has not yet receded

By Freddie Allen  
Senior Washington  
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Most economists agree that the Great Recession, sparked by the housing market crash, officially ended in 2009, but the fallout from the crisis will continue to hurt Black families, especially Black homeowners, for decades to come, according to a new report commissioned by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

“In 2007, median wealth excluding home equity was \$14,200 for blacks as compared with over six times that amount, \$92,950, for whites. Home equity, therefore, made up 51 percent of total wealth for the typical white homeowner in 2007. For the typical black homeowner this same year, on the other hand, home equity constituted a far larger 71 percent of total wealth.”

The report continued: “The fact that blacks hold the bulk of their wealth in home equity likely explains, at least in part, why black wealth, on a percentage basis, declined more than white wealth during the housing bust and subsequent



Great Recession.

The report conducted by the Social Science Research Council found that even though Black families and White families lost wealth during the Great Recession, White families lost less and recovered faster than Black families.

White wealth levels, excluding home equity, showed signs of recovery between 2009 and 2011, measuring zero losses, while 40 percent of non-home-equity wealth held by the average Black family evaporated during the same period.

And while the typical Black family shed another 13 percent of their non-home-equity wealth, from

2009-2011, White families, on average, saw their home-equity wealth losses “slow to zero.”

“Not only were Black homeowners devastated by the housing market collapse, they are now being left behind,” said Rachel Goodman, a staff attorney with the ACLU’s Racial Justice Program. “It is very much a tale of two recoveries.”

The report said that between 2007 and 2009, the average White family lost 9 percent of the equity in their homes, compared to average Black homeowner who experienced a 12 percent fall in home equity.

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## Lupus strikes Black women more often

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## Expunction clinic offered in Dallas

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COMMENTARY

## Ferguson is still everywhere if you're Black

By Rika Tyler and  
T-Dubb-O

It's been almost a year since our fallen brethren Michael Brown Jr. was fatally shot in Canfield Apartments in Ferguson, Mo. by Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson.

Wilson got rich, famous, and a vacation after killing Mike Brown, a phenomenon that is occurring all too often across the U. S. In fact, an

MXGM (Malcolm X Grassroots Movement) study has reported that every 28 hours a Black person is killed by police. Accountability is the key. Accountability is the answer.

As you may remember, Wilson was not indicted and the community of the Saint Louis and Saint Louis County Region still suffers for it. Ferguson's

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Denise Rolarke Barnes



Jaylen D. Bledsoe



Devin Duvernay

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## Denise Rolarke Barnes

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - When America's first Black newspaper was published on March 16, 1827, Black people were still enslaved. Nearly two centuries later, the issues of Black America - though not as severe as human bondage - are still urgent and continue to undermine America's promise of freedom and justice for all.

This is the reason that 21st century Black newspapers remain focused on "pleading our own cause" as was expressed in the first editorial by abolitionists Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm in the Free-



dom's Journal. The editorial concluded, "Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations, in things which concern us dearly."

In this regard, Denise Rolarke Barnes, the new chair

of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), says the federation of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers will continue to - not only thrive - but grow as it begins its 75th year. With most newspapers in an economic struggle industry wide and Black newspapers enthralled in a historic battle against advertising discrimination, Barnes says NNPA's new leadership team will encourage a keen focus on issues that continually plague Black communities, while initiating strategies to expand.

"Housing, the large foreclosure rate, the issue of the lack of police-community

relations, the unwarranted deaths of young Black men at the hands of police, the big issue of Black on Black crime - We need to take responsible positions on all of these issues because this is what our community looks for, but this is also what I think our advertisers will be looking for. They want us to take a stand on these issues," says Barnes in an interview with the Trice Edney News Wire.

"I'd just say look out because we're going to flex our muscles. And we're looking forward to doing our jobs on a broader scale and speaking stronger. And I know the publishers are prime for it."

The flexed muscle of the Black Press recalls the powerful logo made famous by the historic Richmond Planet. The newspaper's banner carried a drawing of "a flexed, muscular black arm with lightning bolts radiating out of its clenched fist", as described by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Barnes, publisher of the *Washington Informer* Newspaper for more than 20 years, was given the leadership charge by her fellow publishers in a June 19 election held during the NNPA Annual Convention in Detroit. As publisher, she follows in the footsteps of her father, the late Calvin

Rolark, who was widely known as a business and community leader as well as publisher of the *Informer*, which he founded more than 50 years ago.

The executive committee elected alongside her also includes publishers who are well-entrenched leaders in various communities: First Vice Chair Karen Carter Richards, *Houston Forward Times*; Second Vice Chair Francis Page, Jr., *Houston Style Magazine*; Treasurer Janis Ware, *Atlanta Voice* and Secretary Shannon Williams, *Indianapolis Recorder*.

"Many of us are second generation publishers.

See BARNES, Page 8

## Jaylen D. Bledsoe

On Tuesday, June 9 Jaylen D. Bledsoe, National Motivational Speaker, Teen Entrepreneur Technical Prodigy and Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of the Jaylen D. Bledsoe Global Group in partnership with Educational Presenters Network, a K-12 Professional Development Speakers Bureau founded by Pamela Brown-Matthis announced the launch of his second national entrepreneur youth conference, "Young Entrepreneur University" to be held in Frisco, Texas July 20-25 Mon.-Fri.



9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Sat. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Frisco ISD Career and Technical Education Center 9889 Wade Blvd, Frisco, TX 75035.

The "Young Entrepreneur

University" is a set of interactive digital programs and camps designed to educate students on entrepreneurship. The goal is to inspire and educate 9th-12th grade students on entrepreneurship, and the processes needed to successfully launch a venture.

The mission is to first, give the understanding and knowledge of entrepreneurship, and secondly, offer the opportunity of entrepreneurship to minority students.

The length of the conference is six days plus a "Final Pitch" and Awards/Scholarship Day.

Successful teen entrepreneur, Jaylen Bledsoe started his business at 12 years old with only the guidance of the internet, supportive Godparents, and a friendly business attorney. At this point in time, he had no true formal educational exposure to the world of business, specifically entrepreneurship.

After starting his business, Bledsoe Technologies, LLC, as an Information Technology Consulting firm (himself as the only employee) at the age of 12, he quickly saw the business grow. Bledsoe Technologies grew from just

Jaylen to over 150 concurrent contractors working under him within 2 years. Due to his success in the technology field and growth of his business, Jaylen garnered clients such as Steve Harvey and Jordin Sparks to guide the growth of their businesses and brands as a consultant.

He has also spoken at leading national conferences on Youth Entrepreneurship, Youth Motivation, and STEM, including clients such as Walt Disney World's Disney Dreamer's Academy, Facebook, KSwiss and Stanford.

Jaylen having spoken to

over 25,000 students in 2014, he noticed a lack of minority youth having the aspirations of becoming an entrepreneur or even the basic understanding of entrepreneurship. Jaylen was recognized by *EBONY* Magazine as one of America's Top 100 Influential African Americans in 2014.

Contributors include: Ann and Del Harris, Pat and Emmitt Smith Charities, The Acts Foundation, Educational Presenters Network, The Fashion Club of Texas, PDQ, Chick-fil-a, The Boys and Girls Club of Collin County and Frisco ISD.

## Devin Duvernay

As one of Sachse High School's star athletes, incoming senior Devin Duvernay is used to being followed by the spotlight. Considering the 17-year-old has already made Sachse history and is one of the nation's top recruits, it comes as no surprise that Duvernay is looking forward to making the most out of his senior year. And that is something the Mustang community is excited to see in 2015-16.

"Devin is a model student. For several years now, it has been well known that he is a very talented athlete," said Principal Ray Merrill. "With a great foundation from his parents and



educators at all levels, Devin has taken that talent and exceeded the already high expectations others had of him. I hope everyone in Mustang Country is as excited about this year as I am."

A gifted football and track athlete, Duvernay demonstrated his exceptional talent by becoming

the campus' first UIL State Track Meet Champion in May—a satisfying win for the committed competitor.

"I dedicate about three hours a day to school athletics," Duvernay said. "I felt great and relieved when I won gold in the 100-meter dash because all the hard work I put in paid off."

Sachse Head Football Coach Mark Behrens was not only proud of Duvernay's UIL performance, but glad that he will be remembered in Sachse sports permanently.

"It has been a blessing to be able to coach football in general, but to have an athlete like Devin is something that does not happen every day. So it has really been special, for sure," Behrens commented. "We have had other state champions at

other schools in the district, but he will always be Sachse's first. He is what you want in a student athlete. Not only is he a leader in the building, but on the field and track as well."

Duvernay's athletic prowess is exactly why he is entering his senior year ranked the nation's No. 2 football wide receiver recruit. The hometown sensation has currently racked up 45 college offers, and will have even more eyes on him this fall season.

"It feels great to be ranked No. 2 because I know what I bring to the table. It is a blessing to be able to perform on a high level, and get my talents noticed," the humble player stated.

Photo courtesy of Mark Behrens / GISD.

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# Tear down the walls of economic inequality

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

After a spirited debate, the South Carolina House and Senate voted overwhelmingly to remove the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds at the urging of Gov. Nikki Haley, who quickly signed the measure into law. The flag was lowered for the final time on Capitol grounds Friday morning. Many South Carolinians hailed its ceremonious removal as a “new day” for their state as well as a fitting tribute to State Senator Clementa Pinckney, one of the nine massacred at

Emanuel A.M.E. Church, where he was the pastor.

Revulsion from the Bible study slaughter sparked conversations all over the country about the Confederate flag. An Iowan who sold ice to Walmart with a confederate logo (go figure) was told he had to change his logo or sell his ice elsewhere. The U.S. House of Representatives has banned display of the Confederate flag on sites maintained by the National Park Service. Mississippi Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker say the Mississippi flag should be redesigned to remove the Confederate symbol.

At the same time, support for the Confederate flag is unwavering. A poll conducted for CNN found that 66 percent of Whites consider the Confederate flag more of a symbol of Southern pride than racism, a view shared by only 17 percent of Blacks. While 72 percent of Blacks consider the flag a symbol of racism, only 25 percent of Whites agree, with the remainder of them saying the flag represent each point of view equally, were undecided or expressed no opinion.

Removing the flag from public places and putting it in museums is a victory for those who reject this sym-

bol of racial subjugation. Still, every economic statistic screams racial subjugation.

President Obama had it right (if belatedly) when he said that employers are more willing to employ Johnny than Jamal. Last month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that Black unemployment rate was 9.5 percent, more than twice the 4.6 percent rate than Whites experienced. Some economists will say that African Americans are less educated than Whites, explaining part of the unemployment rate gap.

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## FERGUSON, continued from Page 1

response sparked a movement and uprising from people of different congregations, ethnicities, genders, and ages nationwide to stand up against this system and be a voice for Black, brown, and oppressed people.

Since the killing of Michael Brown, there have been numerous similar killings and then protests, rallies, direct actions, and more. Yet it will not stop. From private attorneys to the Department of Justice, there have been several investigations of shootings of unarmed African-Americans; yet we still cannot fully attain the transparency or accountability that we deserve from police officers. Ferguson is still everywhere if you're Black.

Therefore, we must start moving in a way to create our own narrative. This means doing our own investigations of these incidents involving officers, who are sworn to protect and serve us. The system itself also needs investigating.

In other words, we need policies that establish accountability. Accountability by police would mean them taking responsibility, being liable and answerable for these travesties of justice. Looking at what accountability actually means, can

we as a nation say our police departments are truly held accountable for their fumbling of community relationships?

The constant mistakes, bad judgement, racist motives and lack of transparency would result in immediate termination in any other fields in this country. Why don't normal morals and human standards apply to police officers?

They tell us police have the right to make it home. Well shouldn't every citizen in this country have the right to make it home? Or how about the right to be able to sleep in your home and not be killed due to reckless gun fire by police like 7-year-old Aiyana Jones who was killed by Detroit police during a raid at her home. Final charges against Joseph Weekley, the cop who shot her, were dismissed early this year.

We must hold these officers accountable. In the Saint Louis Region there have been at least 10 more police involved killings since Michael Brown Jr. which happened in August of 2014. Around the nation, there are too many names to name with similar circumstances with no transparency and no justice in the system: Kimberly Randall King, Vonderriitt Myers

Jr., Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, and more recently Freddie Gray of Baltimore.

Fortunately there are indictments of the officers in the Freddie Gray case, but for the most part around the country, there is currently no way to hold these departments accountable. It seems as if they run the nation and we serve them instead of the other way around.

During protests in Ferguson, municipalities established many unconstitutional rules. For example, they refused to wear name badges even after the Department of Justice said they were legally obligated to do so. They refused to identify themselves. They continued to use illegal unnecessary force against citizens. Ferguson Police officers even issued a five-second rule stating that a person could be subject to arrest if they stood still for longer than five seconds while protesting. A federal court ruled against it. Yet, police officers are still on the normal predator policing tactic.

The Department of justice released a report confirming all the racial targeting that the Ferguson police department practiced against people of color and oppressed people in general. Yet, police still use shoot first tactics because

there is no one holding them accountable. Ferguson is still everywhere if you are Black.

*T-Dubb-O, a Hip-Hop artist, is a director for Hands Up United, a grass roots organization building towards the liberation of oppressed Black, Brown and Poor people through education, art, civil disobedience, advocacy and agriculture.*

*Rika Tyler, a community organizer and advocate for children, is a program director of Hands Up United. She works to ensure programs are aligned to serving the community of Ferguson and the Greater St. Louis area.*

*This article is second of an op-ed series on behalf of the Civil Rights Coalition on Police Reform. The coalition, convened and led by the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, is comprised of over 30 national civil and human rights organizations, faith and community leaders working to address the nationwide epidemic of police brutality and lethal shootings, claiming the lives of Black men, women and youth; and provide necessary reforms to change the culture of policing in America. For more information, please visit www.lawyerscommittee.org.*



# Lupus disproportionately affects Black women

By Shantella Y. Sherman  
Special to the NNPA from  
the Afro-American Newspaper

Lupus, or systemic lupus erythematosus, is a chronic and often debilitating autoimmune disease that impacts more than 1.5 million Americans. Characterized by intense fatigue, exhaustion, joint pain, and memory problems, lupus is three times more common among the Black female populations than any other group. And, while lupus affects women in their childbearing years, the onset of lupus in Black women is earlier and more likely to develop into severe organ problems.

Among health officials lupus has been termed everything from “unpredictable,” to “misunderstood,” and is difficult to diagnose. Additionally, lupus remains a challenge to treat, according to the Lupus Foundation of America, existing outside of the national health dialogue with few awareness efforts in place. The exact cause of lupus is not known, though researchers believe that there are hereditary genetic markers that keep the immune system from functioning properly. Additionally, a number of factors can trigger lupus attacks, including viral infections, such as mononucleosis.

No two cases of lupus are alike. Some people develop kidney problems, for example, while others get prema-



ture heart disease, and others suffer from strokes or develop lung inflammation.

In recent weeks, lupus activists from around the country visited Capitol Hill, where they successfully lobbied for more than \$32 billion in research funding for the National Institutes of Health and to elevate lupus on the nation's health care agenda. The funding would not only aid researchers in studying the disease, but also supply a collective guideline for diagnosis, treatment, and outreach that could be utilized by professionals and patients alike.

“Our research has shown that, on average, individuals with lupus suffer symptoms for four or more years and visit three or more doctors before they receive a diagnosis of lupus,” said Sandra C. Raymond, president and CEO of the Lupus Foundation of America. “I’m pleased to see a collaborative effort among advocacy groups, researchers, physi-

cians and leaders in public health and government to provide critical tools that will help reduce the time to diagnosis and improve medical care for people with lupus.”

Dr. S. Sam Lim, associate professor in the Division of Rheumatology at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., found, in a study of Black women diagnosed with lupus, that those impacted ranged in age from 15-44 and exhibited a range of symptoms from a skin rash to kidney (renal) failure.

“These are young women in the prime of their careers, family, and fertility. This means a severely compromised future, with a disease that waxes and wanes, affecting every aspect of daily living for the rest of their lives,” Lim said. “These data directly reflect the burden of lupus in our community. These are mostly young, minority women who are going to dialysis in-

stead of working and caring for their families.”

And despite the widespread prevalence of lupus, medical research has remained underfunded relative to its scope and devastation making the one in every 250 Black women diagnosed particularly vulnerable to misdiagnoses. Scientists are baffled as to why. Even with the famous 10-year Lupus in Minorities: Nature Versus Nurture (LUMINA) study, which tracked a sizeable multi-ethnic, multi-regional, and multi-institutional group of lupus sufferers, no consistent cause for the racial disparity was found. Genetic and ethnic factors were noted, however, to be more important than socioeconomic ones in influencing the disease's growth.

Lim said several organizations, including the National Lupus Patient Registry, provide tremendous resources to those impacted by the disease. He said that 20 years ago, only 40 percent of people with lupus lived more than three years following diagnosis, with current therapies, most now live a normal lifespan.

“We have to build the next line of research projects to determine the additional ‘whys’ of the disproportionate rates in minorities and poorer outcomes as well as other important questions involving the role of the immune system and genetics,” Lim said.

# Garcia issues blood drive challenge

Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia is challenging the cities of Irving and Grand Prairie in a blood donation competition. Which city can raise the most blood donors by Aug. 9.

Blood donations help keep the supply robust for emergencies and accidents; it's these events that require a ready blood supply before they happen. Blood donations are typically low in the summer months, and Dr. Garcia is challenging these two communities to step up to the plate and donate.

Irving residents can donate at any Carter BloodCare donation site, as well as at these upcoming mo-

bile donation bus events:

- July 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Infinite Agency, 220 E. Las Colinas Boulevard

- July 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Paychex, 8605 Freeport Parkway

- Aug. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Irving City Hall, Parking Lot, 825 W. Irving Blvd.

Donation centers can handle more traffic than the mobile donation stations, and anyone wanting to donate is recommended to make a reservation. Be sure to let the Carter BloodCare staff know your donation is for the Irving-Grand Prairie challenge and specifically on behalf of Irving.

# A movement pushes for safe vaccines, parental rights and protecting children

By Charlene Muhammad  
Special to the NNPA  
from The Final Call

SANTA MONICA, Calif. Participants in Health Freedom rallies on the West Coast were vocal and vowing to repeal a new law mandating vaccines for all public school children.

They also demanded that Congress subpoena a federal CDC whistleblower to showcase charges about a vaccine's link to autism in Black boys.

Many mourned and questioned the sudden deaths of three alternative health doctors who treated patients with autism at rallies in

Santa Monica, Huntington Beach and San Francisco.

When Governor Jerry Brown signed the controversial SB277 into law June 30, he said while the law required school children be vaccinated, it explicitly provides an exception when a physician believes, in his judgment, one is warranted.

But hundreds of parents, children, doctors, and activists, who marched from the Santa Monica Pier to Santa Monica City Hall, and who met July 3 at the pier in Huntington Beach and at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco say that's problematic.

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## Dallas Bar offers expunction clinic in West Dallas community center

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, will hold a free Expunction Clinic for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines at the West Dallas Multipurpose Community Center located at 2828 Fish Trap Rd. monthly, every third Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Texas law allows individuals to permanently remove information about an arrest, charge or conviction from their permanent records in certain circumstances. This is called an expunction. Once a person's record is expunged, all information is removed from the criminal record and that person can deny the incident ever occurred. Records eligible for expunction include an arrest for a crime that was never charged; a criminal charge that was ultimately dismissed; certain qualifying misdemeanor juvenile offenses; conviction of a minor for



certain alcohol offenses; conviction for Failure to Attend School; arrest, charge or conviction on a person's record due to identity theft by another individual that was actually arrested, charged or convicted of the crime; conviction for a crime that was later acquitted by the trial court or the Criminal Court of Appeals; and conviction for a crime that was later pardoned by the Governor of Texas or the U.S. President.

Not all individuals with records

eligible for expunction above qualify to receive an expunction. If a person does not qualify for an expunction, they may qualify for a Non-Disclosure Order. This order does not completely destroy all record of the offense, but will limit the accessibility of the

records.

Volunteer attorneys will provide free legal assistance for low-income Dallas County residents to assist with expunction and non-disclosure orders.

If residents need assistance before or after the Expunction

Clinic, they can attend one of the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program's other legal clinics held in the Dallas area several times each month. For a full listing of the clinic, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/get-help/>.

## 83 Percent of minority students in SMU STEM program go to graduate school

(SMU) The U.S. Department of Defense recently awarded the STEMPREP Project at Southern Methodist University a \$3.78 million grant to support its goal of increasing the number of minorities in STEM fields.

The grant follows a \$2.6 million grant in 2014. According to a report just released from the Executive Office of the President, 21 percent of Hispanic men and 28 percent of black men have a college degree by their late twenties compared to nearly half of white men. The 2013 U.S. Census Bureau reports that African Americans make up 11 percent of the U.S. workforce but only 6 percent of STEM workers. Hispanics make up 15 percent of the U.S. workforce, but just 7 percent of the STEM workforce.

To create more diversity in STEM fields, the STEMPREP Project, based at the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University (SMU), recruits bright, science-minded middle school students for the first phase of the 10-year program. One hundred seventh and eighth grade minority students live

on the SMU campus through August 1 for six weeks of college-level biology, chemistry, statistics and research writing and presentation classes, laboratory techniques course, and the creation of a final in-depth research presentation on a disease. Each day begins with class at 8:30 a.m and wraps up after study hall at 8:30 p.m.

Eighth-grader Walter Victor Rouse, II wants to be a heart surgeon and professional basketball player to honor his grandfather, Loyola basketball standout Vic Rouse, who died from heart disease before Walter was born.

As a STEMPREP student, Walter is part of a program that boasts an impressive success rate – 100 percent of STEMPREP project students who finish the program attend college. And 83 percent go on to graduate school to become physicians, pharmacists, dentists, researchers or engineers.

Moses Williams, executive director, founded the program in 1990 when he was director of admissions for Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

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# Garza Early College aerospace scholar soars toward astronaut dream

Hugo Duran could not contain himself when he got the biggest news of his life.

He learned he had just been selected as part of the High School Aerospace Scholars program and would spend a week this summer studying under the guidance of some of the nation's top engineers and scientists at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"I was in physics class, and I jumped out of my chair screaming," Duran said. "Everyone was looking at me, and I didn't even care because it was so much hard work trying to get into the program—something



Trinidad Garza Early College student, Hugo Duran, will join dozens of students across Texas at NASA's Johnson Space Center for the High School Aerospace Scholars program.

that I really wanted to do."

Duran, who had to complete tons of research, develop projects and write essays (the longest was 3,000 words) to be considered for the program, developed an interest in aeronautics at a very young age.

"I was always fascinated by airplanes when I was a young boy, and when I was about eight, I told my mom that I wanted to be a fighter pilot and eventually an astronaut," Duran said. "This is another step closer to my dream. It'll be a challenge, but with my work ethic, I'll make it."

Duran is one of 270 stu-

dents across Texas who will participate in the program. The students will work in teams to develop a mission to Mars. His team is the Alpha Team, and it's their job to develop the space base where the astronauts will live. Other teams will develop space suits, rovers, and rockets.

In addition, the students will participate in NASA briefings and tours. The week will conclude with the students presenting their projects to senior staff

members at the center, their parents, members of the Texas Legislature, and others.

"I think the most interesting part of the program will be working with engineers, rocket scientists and the people from NASA and seeing how their lives are and how they got there," he said.

Duran, a rising senior at Trinidad Garza Early College High School, will spend July 12-18 participating in the NASA program.

## Congress struggles to replace 'No Child Left Behind'

By Jazelle Hunt  
NNPA Washington  
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — As Congress works toward a comprehensive education policy that will replace the Bush Administration's No Child Left Behind, two different bills from the House and Senate are up for consideration.

No Child Left Behind expired in 2007 — the law was the last time the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) was renewed.

If either of the current proposals is signed into law in their current states, it could spell difficulties for Black and Brown children, according to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

"I always say that education is the civil rights issue of our time," he said. "The next question we as a nation should be asking is whether Black children, Latino children...children around the nation — are they receiving the quality of education they need and deserve? And too often the honest answer is, not even close. There should be nothing political or ideological about this; this is about fighting for kids' educational opportunity."

Secretary Duncan believes that Congress' resist-

ance to federal oversight will weaken whatever law is passed. Neither the House's Student Success Act (SSA) nor the Senate's Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA) gives the Department of Education the authority to hold states accountable for educational outcomes, create national standards/mandates, or pass judgment on a state's education system.

Also, neither bill closes the ESEA's "comparability loophole" — a loophole that allows states to skimp on state and local funding for needy schools, forcing them to rely heavily on federal Title I money. As a result, high-poverty schools remain under-resourced and saddled with underpaid, inexperienced teachers, because the state won't match the federal funds.

"Education will always be a primarily a local issue, but [there is] a clear federal role here on several levels. First of all, taxpayers...are putting billions of dollars out to states every year for poor children, for English language learners, for children with special needs," Duncan said in an interview with the NNPA News Service. "And there's no real accountability. Transparency by itself doesn't change a kid's opportunities."

The similarities between

the laws end there.

In general, the SSA seeks highly flexible public education by prohibiting almost all federal involvement, allowing states to create and rely on their own education plans instead. There are guidelines for what these plans must address, including a system to find and correct racial disparities, or deal with ineffective teachers. But the bill painstakingly avoids telling states how they should meet these guidelines.

A state can also create whatever curriculum it wants — as long as it includes at least math, literacy, and science, and state tests to go along with the curriculum. States would also be largely responsible for holding themselves accountable for their own strategies and all students' academic success. The Department of Education would only be responsible for reviewing the states' self-evaluations to make sure tax dollars aren't misused. In that case, Secretary Duncan is only allowed to issue recommendations and public reports.

The SSA also includes a controversial "portability provision," which would direct Title I funds wherever a low-income student is enrolled. Even a well-resourced public school or a

private school could receive Title I funds if it has a single low-income student.

"House Republicans have chosen to take a bad bill and make it even worse," Duncan said in a statement after the SSA was passed in the House. "This bill — which was passed in an entirely partisan fashion — represents a huge step backward for America's students. They deserve better."

The Senate's ECAA attempts to provide state flexibility and more support than No Child Left Behind did, while still providing some federal guidelines. For example, while states would create their plans, the plans must be aligned with college entrance requirements or career/vocational education standards, and must include high standards for early childhood education programs, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

Under the bill, states are encouraged to use a variety of data in fostering and measuring student achievement, including projects, portfolios, and annual state exams. Both states and the Department of Education would share "best practices" from schools around the country.

The ECAA also sets aside

See CONGRESS, Page 11

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## RECESSION, continued from Page 1

"This disparity may stem from the fact that blacks were more exposed to predatory loans and other types of toxic mortgages and ballooning interest rates as compared to whites, leading to disparate rates of delinquency and foreclosure," the report said.

Over the next two years, that slide in home equity would shrink to 2 percent for White families and 6 percent for Black homeowners. Further, these losses slowed to only 2 percent between 2009 and 2011 for White households, but for Blacks, home equity values continued to decline by 6 percent.

"While White home equity began to recover quickly after the housing crisis stabilized, this was not the case for Blacks," the report said. "This difference likely emerges as a result of Blacks' disproportionate exposure to predatory loans and other deceptive mortgage schemes."

The Great Recession had a profound impact on the course of Black wealth and the racial wealth gap in the United States. Researchers predicted that, without the Great Recession, the ratio of White to Black median wealth would have decreased "from 4.4 times greater in 1999 to four times greater by 2031." Instead the gap will widen and the average White family's wealth is predicted to be 4.5 times greater than the average Black families wealth.

"By 2031, White wealth is forecast to be 31 percent below what it would have been without the Great Recession, while Black wealth is down almost 40 percent," stated the report. "For a typ-

ical Black family, median wealth in 2031 will be almost \$98,000 lower than it would have been without the Great Recession."

Researchers also indicated that the home equity values the adult children of Black families that took losses during the recession will also suffer.

"Without the Great Recession, by 2050, home equity values for Blacks and Whites whose parents or grandparents owned a home at some point between 1999 and 2011 may have approached parity," the report said. "As a result of discriminatory lending practices and the Great Recession, our analysis suggests that the next generations of Black families will still have home equity values only 70 percent of their white counterparts."

Citing a joint study by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Treasury Department, the ACLU study noted that, "as of 2000, 'borrowers in Black neighborhoods [were] five times as likely to refinance in the subprime market than borrowers in White neighborhoods,' even when controlling for income."

When Bank of America bought Countrywide Financial in 2008, the bank's track record of troubling mortgage-lending practices and a discrimination case came with the deal. In 2011, Bank of America settled the case with the Justice Department for \$355 million. The Department alleged that Countrywide had engaged in "discriminatory mortgage lending practices against more than 200,000 qualified African-American and Hispanic borrowers

from 2004 through 2008."

In 2012, the Justice Department settled a fair lending case with Wells Fargo Bank, over allegations that the financial institution, "engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against qualified African-American and Hispanic borrowers in its mortgage lending from 2004 through 2009," a statement for the Justice Department said.

Investigators also found that minorities were steered into subprime mortgage loans at higher rates than

similarly qualified White borrowers.

The settlement included \$184.3 million for minority borrowers and another \$50 million in resources for direct down payments to help residents living in communities hit the hardest during the housing crash.

But it's going to take more than settlement money to help Black homeowners guided into subprime mortgages, who were crushed during the housing market crisis as they continue you struggle almost

six years after the end of the recession.

In the press release about the report, Sarah Burd-Sharps, the co-director of the Social Science Research Council's Measure of America project, said that, "Steps can be taken right now to help close the growing racial wealth divide, and to ensure that the next generation has the benefits of assets and savings that bring a more secure future."

The report recommended that policymakers closely monitor current lending

practices at banks to protect low-income and minority borrowers from discrimination. The report also suggested that lawmakers clarify legislation governing access to credit and that they give regulators more power to guard consumers against racially disparate practices in servicing mortgage loans.

Goodman concluded: "This study makes clear that the devastating impact of the financial crisis on Black families' wealth will continue until policymakers address this pressing issue."

## SMU, continued from Page 5

"As a gatekeeper, I realized there were not a lot of minorities being considered," he says. "I wanted to change that."

After participants in the STEMPREP program finish the junior high component,

they spend their senior high and college summers working in university, U.S. government and private research laboratories in Philadelphia, Bethesda, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver.

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### ESPLANADE

PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

JULY 2015

July 15	July 16	July 22	July 28
<b>HISTORIC WALKING TOUR</b> 12-1 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Meet at Parry Ave. Gates <i>Dallas Center for Architecture highlights Fair Park's transformation for the 1936 Texas Centennial exhibition &amp; its ongoing preservation efforts. RSVP to info@DallasCFA.com!</i>	<b>SUMMER MOVIE SERIES: "PADDINGTON"</b> 8:30 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza <i>See all the action on this 33' screen. Bring chairs/blankets. Food trucks/concessions onsite. No coolers. Free parking!</i>	<b>HISTORIC SPOTLIGHT</b> 6-7:30 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Hall of State <i>Dallas Center for Architecture details Fair Park's history through varied topics, speakers &amp; tours. RSVP to info@DallasCFA.com.</i>	<b>CABARET MUSICAL SERIES featuring DENISE LEE, Vocalist</b> 7:30-9 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Women's Museum <i>New York-style cabaret features the smooth sounds of award-winning songstress Denise Lee performing her original stage show! Concessions available. Free parking!</i>
<b>SUMMER PATIO MUSIC SERIES featuring SONGBIRD JONES</b> 7-10 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza <i>Outdoor setting makes this a special night under the stars. Bring chairs/blankets, coolers &amp; picnics! Free parking!</i>	<b>FOOD TRUCK FRENZY</b> 11 AM-2 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza <i>Enjoy Crazy Fish, Ruthie's Rolling Café, Texas Burrito Co. &amp; Butcher's Son! Free parking!</i>	<b>SUMMER PATIO MUSIC SERIES featuring BLANDELLES</b> 7-10 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza	<b>July 29</b> <b>SUMMER PATIO MUSIC SERIES featuring MRS THESIS</b> 7-10 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza
	<b>July 21</b> <b>ART IN THE PARK</b> 6-9 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza <i>Get creative with Sip-n-Doodle Paint Party! First 50 participants register free. \$25. Register www.fairpark.org!</i>	<b>July 23</b> <b>SUMMER MOVIE SERIES: "BOXTROLLS"</b> 8:30 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza	<b>July 30</b> <b>SUMMER MOVIE SERIES: "MALEFICENT"</b> 8:30 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Exposition Plaza
		<b>July 27</b> <b>PROJECT SEW</b> 10 AM-8 PM <span style="float: right;">FREE</span> Women's Museum <i>Sew with others! Bring sewing machine &amp; tools! Go to www.fairpark.org to sign up!</i>	

PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



## BARNES, continued from Page 2

We're fairly young and are committed to the legacy that was left by those who started in this industry. We understand what our responsibilities are and we're looking forward to continuing to make a difference through the stories, the photographs, and the editorials that you'll find in Black-owned newspapers," said Barnes.

She ticked off several initiatives foremost on her mind that the association must explore in coming months and years in order to expand and strengthen its membership. Among them are:

- Since NNPA operates off of sponsorships and advertising, there must be new ways to help corporations understand the value of Black newspapers. That will be a major effort now through a national advertising sales team currently being established.

- Increase, solidify and grow online presence in order to engage readers who may not readily pick up newspapers. Currently, the two NNPA websites are NNPA.org and BlackPressUSA.com. Most NNPA

member newspapers also have their own individual websites. The NNPA Foundation, which includes the D.C.-based NNPA News Service and Blackpressusa.com, run by Editor-in-chief George Curry, has a separate board.

- Create genres through which readers can exchange opinions and thoughts surrounding the issues and articles in Black newspapers.

- Consider broadening the NNPA membership base to fully include those newspapers that only publish online as well as helping to bring back members that may have become defunct due to economic difficulties.

- Provide greater support and service to newspapers that are evolving into multimedia companies.

- Support the staff of the national office, also based in Washington, D.C., in order to maximize the success of the policies set by the board.

Barnes' term as chair is two years, after which she could run for a second two-year term. The executive committee heads a 22-member board of directors,



Denise Rolark Barnes, the new chair of the NNPA addresses the national gathering with Dr. Ben Chavis in the background. (Photo: NNPA).

including representatives of five regions. The board establishes policy and directives for the Washington, D.C. headquarters, which is led by NNPA President/CEO Benjamin Chavis.

Chavis' stature as a former member of the recently pardoned historic Wilmington 10 as well as his civil rights leadership as former NAACP executive director, has raised the visibility of the organization to a new level over the past several years. Barnes, who replaces former chair Cloves Campbell of the Arizona Informant, says she will build on the new growth forged by Campbell during his four-year tenure.

"NNPA for so long didn't have a president and didn't have a staff; therefore the publishers were actually in-

volved in the day to day management of the association. Now, we have the benefit of both of those, the president, the staff and the National Office. And so, the board now can get back into the business of creating pol-

icy," she said.

The fact that the NNPA national office and chair are now both located in the nation's capital is an additional advantage from a standpoint of infrastructure, she said. Amidst the home of the federal government, the U. S. Congress, she says she will work the relationships garnered by her and her father over 50 years for the maximum benefits for NNPA.

"We serve as the voice for the Black community; we speak truth to power, we influence legislation and I think when folks see that we're still an integral part of our community because of the positions that we take on

behalf of our community, it will show that we have the kind of value that's worth investing in," Barnes says.

"Some may not always appreciate the positions that we may take. But, it's not about liking what we do. It's being respected for what we do."

She concluded, "We give you stories about communities that are working hard to support their families, to build communities, to contribute to this nation and to the world and I don't ever see a day - to be honest with you - where the Black press will not play that critical role in this country and across the world."

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# Balloonacy returns to Dallas Children's Theater stage

(Dallas, TX) Now all families will have the chance to see or see again, the highly acclaimed show directed by Dick Monday featuring Karl Schaeffer and a tenacious red balloon, *BALLOONACY*.

The highly interactive, non-verbal play, *BALLOONACY*, had people

expressing all kinds of emotion in 2015 so DCT is bringing it back in April 2016! The immersive experience had DCT's youngest audience, in soft seats on the floor directly in front of the stage, talking back to the man on stage, helping him as he makes his way precariously through the

early stages of a new friendship with the balloon. Sweet, inventive and packed with physical comedy, this play shows how, with a little imagination and acceptance, companionship is everywhere.

DCT also announces a daring new initiative, launched through the Baker

Idea Institute entitled Play in Progress.

Created for the curious and the adventurer, it will allow participants to have a role in the creation of a new script through two free immersive workshops and to share responses and ideas prior to a play's publishing through one free staged

reading.

In October, there will be a staged reading of *LUCHADORA!*, a bilingual play about a young girl who discovers her father's life is in danger.

In January and April, participants will join DCT's Resident Playwright, Linda Daugherty, in investigating

and exploring ideas for a new play about how technology screens are shaping our lives.

Entry into the staged reading and the two workshops is free with a reservation.

For more information, visit [dct.org](http://dct.org) or call the box office at 214-740-0051.

## Hangin' with NDG Entertainment...



NDG VP of Entertainment Jessica Brewer has a quick chat with Daymond John backstage at the recent "Tap the Future" event hosted by Miller Coors held in Dallas. Stay tuned to the North Dallas Gazette on Facebook and Instagram for the chance to win tickets to attend the hottest local events as an NDG Entertainment guest!!!

## 'Amy' provides insight into the tragic life of Amy Winehouse

By Nina Garcia

Just when you made the assumption Amy Winehouse was just another talented musician who died too young because drugs, you learn there is perhaps more to this story. Viewers will perhaps take the time to reconsider after seeing "Amy."

Director, Asif Kapadia, depicts Winehouse's life from the start of her career to the devastating time of

her death. He uses unfiltered clips and home-videos. It brings a sense of rawness to the movie viewer. You will get a better perspective on how she dealt with the rise to fame.

The movie will also see how her relationships with family, friends, husband, producers, and the record label played a part in how she dealt with the limelight. It is more protagonist than antagonistic to my surprise. You will also come to find

that in addition to her dysfunctional life Winehouse was also battling with bulimia.

Amy Winehouse was vibrant and true to herself with much unique talent to offer the world. She progressively goes down a path of destruction which all seems to be inevitable.

Fans can see Amy at Alamo Drafthouse Theaters and Angelika, check local listings for other locations.

## Would you like to see the Ringling Brothers Circus for free?

Congratulations to the two lucky winners to see the Ringling Brothers Circus in Dallas. The beloved circus is coming to town and you can still win tickets by visiting our Facebook page, leaving a comment and sharing a post on your wall. Show us your creativity and tell us why you love the circus and perhaps next

week your name will appear as our lucky winner.

**Myra Mendoza Hernandez** - *I like the circus because it's fantasy. It's a chance to see an alternative to how we live everyday. It's beautiful to look at and to be able to see someone else's creativity come to life is a real treat.*

**Chantrell Lacy** - *I like*

*the circus for the pageantry that is preented by the animals.*

*The Clowns are an added plus when they do the unexpected!!! A highlight is always the faces of children that light up with every move of the music, lights and display of entertainment by the animals. Not like the zoo. FUN FUN!!*

## Win Tickets to MegaFest!

Tyler Perry will be at MegaFest, Joyce Meyers will be at MegaFest - will you be at MegaFest 2015? The show from Aug. 19-23 will showcase spiritual leaders as well as entertainment headliners such as Sheryl Underwood. One of the most anticipated events is the International Faith & Family Film Festi-

val (IFFFF).

The film festival will not only show leading films but for filmmakers panels will discuss Writing the Vision for Film, Diversity in Hollywood and Marketing in Faith. If you want to make your mark in entertainment IFFFF is not to be missed.

Anyone can enjoy the

programs by purchasing their ticket at [mega-fest.com](http://mega-fest.com).

Or even better NDG readers can visit our Facebook page and leave a comment on who they want to see at MegaFest this year. Share on your Facebook wall for a chance to win tickets for two to the festival.

## Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

**NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to T. D. Jakes' Mega Fest. LIKE! SHARE! WIN!**



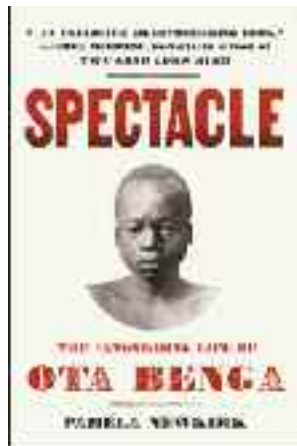
# NDG Book Review: *Spectacle* a well-penned work

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The animals look a little restless.

Maybe they're hungry, bored, or tired of being watched. They seem angry. Observing these creatures caged, it's easy to believe that wild animals shouldn't be penned like this – and in the new book "Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga" by Pamela Newkirk, neither should humans.

When visitors arrived at the New York Zoological Gardens in the Bronx on September 6, 1906, they were probably there for more than just the "sunny and warm" day. Chief curator William Temple Horna-



day knew that, and he stood at the gates, directing people to what he claimed was his "best attraction yet."

At the very end of the Monkey House, past the chimps and baboons, visitors looked upon an orangutan penned with a "103-

pound, four-foot eleven-inch chocolate-colored" man that Hornaday claimed was a cannibal and that he knew as Ota Benga.

What he didn't know, exactly, was how Benga got from Africa to America ...

Samuel Phillips Verner had once hoped for recognition as a scientist and explorer, first traveling to Africa as a missionary, then as a hired acquirer of artifacts.

Known as somewhat of an expert on "pygmies," Verner had procured several young Africans and brought them to America. Rumor had it that he'd "gone insane."

Whatever it was that drove Verner, he often cre-

ated stories to fit the moment. He said that Benga asked to come to America.

He claimed he'd saved Benga's life in the Congo, which is possible because of atrocities being committed on behalf of King Leopold of Belgium. For a fee, he offered to leave Benga with Hornaday, and said he'd return shortly.

Instead, Verner appeared to have dumped Benga there, and fled.

Within days of Benga's appearance in the cage, local ministers demanded his freedom, and they hired a lawyer. At first despondent (his appearance at the Zoological Gardens wasn't his first experience), Benga

became combative with handlers. Hornaday was forced to turn him over to Brooklyn Howard Colored Orphanage.

For the first time in years, Benga was free...

But was he? Author Pamela Newkirk leaves readers hanging, not on purpose but by necessity because "... the true story will probably never be known."

What is true, though, is that this is one shocking account; my hand flew to my mouth in astonishment by the time I was on page 8 of "Spectacle," then it got more intriguing:

while Benga is the obvious focus of the book, his story is told more through

his capturers, his handlers, and his helpers. Indeed, Newkirk introduces us to shady characters, as well as many good people, and she does it with a sense of the times in which things occurred.

Then she'll squeeze your heart dry with an ending that... ouch.

This book may take a little getting used to. It's loaded with early-twentieth-century national and world history, and you'll need to call forth everything you learned about that time – but I think it's worth it. Five minutes with this book, and you'll know that "Spectacle" is a well-penned work.

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## Enter to Win! Ticket Giveaway

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## Business owners invited to Midtown Express task force meeting in Irving

SouthGate Constructors, the lead contractor for the Midtown Express project, will host its next Business Owner Task Force 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 22 at its Field Office, 2220 Chemsearch Blvd., Suite 100. Any businesses or business representatives along or near the Midtown Express Corridor are invited.

The meeting is intended for business owners along the Midtown Express corridor to learn about up-

coming traffic impacts, as well as ask project experts questions about construction near their businesses. This meeting will focus initial utility work and other upcoming construction.

Parking is free at the SouthGate Field Office. Participants should contact the Midtown Express Public Information team at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting with translation service requests.

## CONGRESS, continued from Page 6

funds solely for states to reward the best teachers and supports and interventions for less effective ones. Additionally, the state plans must distinguish between low-performing schools and those that need support for less-controllable factors, such as a high migrant student population.

Even the bill's supporters have reservations, however. Last month, the Congressional Tri-Caucus, a coalition of the Black, Asian, and Latino Congressional caucuses, issued an open letter stating that while they appreciate the bill's bipartisanship, it does not yet "do enough to protect the historically disadvantaged and vulnerable students the ESEA is intended to serve."

A few amendments have been made since then, including guidelines for disabled students, increased access to STEM lessons and opportunities for "underrepresented" students, and better means of identifying and supporting homeless students.

Duncan hopes the final law will draw on best practices from school districts around the nation; cap the amount of time spent on standardized testing; close the comparability loophole; compel states to intervene and support the lowest-performing five percent of its schools; and grant the Department of Education Department the authority to implement and enforce these benchmarks.



The Senate will likely vote on a final version of the ECAA this week. When it does, key members of both chambers will have to find a way to combine their proposals and send one bill out for the President's signature. If he rejects it, it's back to the drawing board — or the ESEA just won't be reauthorized anytime soon.

"Everyone has their opinions and debate is healthy

and important. So I'll just [reiterate], this is a civil rights law," Duncan told the NNPA News Service.

"This is fighting to increase equity and opportunity so that every child has chance at life. Educational opportunity has to be the equalizer in our nation, the one thing that will help equality the gap between the haves and have-nots."

## WALLS, continued from Page 3

Others will cite other factors, such as occupation and location. Race still plays a role in unemployment rate differentials.

White men and White high school dropouts have about the same unemployment rate as Black high school graduates, and highly educated Blacks always have higher unemployment rates than less well educated Whites. While education pays off for Blacks, as those with better educations are paid more than those with less education, Whites get a greater return on education than Blacks.

If we want to remove vestiges of racial subjugation, we ought to pay attention to unemployment rate differentials and work as hard to eradicate them as we did to take down that Confederate flag in South Carolina.

How?

President Obama could sign an executive order directing the Department of Labor and other federal departments to target money and programs to the inner city or, more specifically, to African Americans. In these closing months of his presi-

dency, he has used executive orders for other purposes. Why not use one to ensure that Jamal gets treated the same way as Johnny?

In addition to Jamal and Johnny, how about Tamika and Theresa?

Though the unemployment rate gap is smaller between Black and White women, there are gaps in pay and working conditions. Because more than 40 percent of Black families are female-headed, low pay for Black women translate to different living conditions for Black families.

Similar differences are measured in the poverty rate, where more than a quarter of Black families live in poverty, compared to fewer than 10 percent of White families.

Average pay for an African American family is about \$31,000, compared to about \$52,000 for White families. Congress has been hostile to any poverty-prevention programs, fighting to reduce food stamps programs and pushing back on Obama-backed legislation to increase the minimum wage.

In the midst of legislative hostility, could President Obama do anything to lower poverty and especially the gap in the poverty rate? Certainly appointing a Presidential Commission to propose legislation on poverty prevention would be a first, if only symbolic.

The wealth gap is staggering. African Americans have a scant 2.5 percent of our nation's wealth. The median wealth for White families is \$120,000, compared to \$7,000 for Black families. The wealth gap is partly a function of the inability for African Americans to attain wealth, certainly during slavery and the Black Codes era, and beyond. There were exceptions, of course, but the gaping wealth gap affects the quality of life for African Americans.

What to do?

The president might consider the Institute of the Black World's proposal for a John Hope Franklin Commission for Reparatory Justice to explore the possibility of, among other things, reparations.

Taking down the Confederate flag without tearing down the walls of racial economic inequality is a

partial victory. While I am elated that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has expressed her opposition to the Confederate flag as a symbol of hate and White

supremacy, I wonder if she will fight to end the institutional racism that results in higher unemployment rates, lower incomes, and less wealth for African Ameri-

cans.

*Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. She can be reached at [www.julianne-malveaux.com](http://www.julianne-malveaux.com).*

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# Black women see job prospects improving with June report

By Freddie Allen  
Senior Washington  
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Job prospects for Black women improved in June, as they recorded better employment numbers than the other major adult groups, the latest jobs report by the Labor Department shows. The jobless rate for Black women over 20 years old fell nearly a full percentage point last month, from 8.8 percent in May to 7.9 percent in June. The unemployment rate for White women declined just one-tenth of a percentage, from 4.3 percent in May to 4.2 percent last month. The unemployment rate for Black men over 20 years old also improved, but not as quickly as for Black women — falling from 10.2 percent in May to 9.7 percent in June. It was still more than double the 4.2 percent unemployment rate for White men, which hasn't changed since May. As the number of Black women entering the labor market increased last month, the share of adult Black women that have jobs compared to the

total population of Black women, known as the employment-population ratio (E-POP), also increased. The E-POP for Black women climbed from 56.5 percent to 57.1 percent in June, compared to the E-POP for White women, which receded from 55.1 percent to 55 percent in June. The E-POP for Black men decreased from 61.5 percent in May to 61.2 percent in June and the ratio of workers in the White male population didn't budge in June and was the same as it was in May at 69.1 percent. William Spriggs, an economics professor at Howard University and the chief economist at the AFL-CIO, a national labor group, took to Twitter to note that the jobless rate for Black women fell "for right reasons," due in part to the growth in the employment-population ratio. In a later tweet, Spriggs wrote: "Despite waves of state and local minimum wage hikes, employment in food services continued to trend up +30k in June, +355k over the year." For years, groups that advocate for small businesses have expressed fear

that increasing the minimum wage would lead to higher prices for consumers and less job opportunities for those who often need them the most: young people, poor people and people of color. With each company, city and jurisdiction that announces immediate or future plans to raise the minimum wage, those fears begin to fade away.

The national unemployment rate edged down from 5.5 percent in May to 5.2 percent June, but the E-POP also dipped from 59.4 percent to 59.3 percent. The economy added 223,000 jobs last month, but the jobs numbers for April and May were revised down, shedding 60,000 jobs.

Still reeling from the broad sequestration cuts that went into effect in 2013, the public sector, where Blacks tend to find jobs at higher rates than in the private sector, didn't add a single job in June and has only added 8,000 jobs this year, Elise Gould, the senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a progressive think tank focused on low- and middle-income families, wrote in a

blog post at EPI.org.

In a separate blog post, Gould wrote that wages

have only grown 2 percent since last June, another clear indicator of the un-

even recovery. "Employers don't have to offer big wage

See WOMEN, Page 13



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## Workers affected by Texas floods in six more counties may now apply for assistance

AUSTIN — Victims of flooding in six additional counties may now apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) as a result of an amendment to the Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA 4223-DR). Workers who lost their jobs and self-employed individuals who have been unable to work due to storms in

Angelina, Erath, Frio, Jim Wells, Montgomery and Trinity counties may apply for DUA. Applications for DUA for these six counties must be submitted by August 12, 2015.

Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) website contains more information about Disaster Unemployment Assistance. Individual

Assistance provides affected residents and businesses access to federal disaster aid programs including unemployment benefits for workers who temporarily lost their jobs because of the disaster or self-employed individuals.

Individuals affected by the severe storms in these counties can apply for ben-

efits online through Unemployment Benefit Services or by calling a TWC Tele-Center, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 800-939-6631. Individuals should specify that their applications are related to the damage caused by severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding in one

## VACCINES, continued from Page 4

Judgment belongs to parents, not doctors, politicians, the government or big pharmaceutical companies who have bought them off, they told The Final Call.

They are pushing a ballot initiative to overturn the law.

It was filed on July 1 by former assemblyman Tim Donnelly.

"This bill really takes away the rights of American parents in a way that we've never experienced before," said Dr. Andrew Wakefield, a world-renowned gastrointestinal surgeon and researcher.

The government is forcing parents to take the risks, but if their children are damaged, pick up the pieces alone.

The damage amounts to lifetime costs of caring for a child, misery, suffering, loss of attention to siblings, fear, sleeplessness, deprivation, and poverty that go along with having a child with a lifelong condition, Dr. Wakefield told The Final Call.

State Senators Richard Pan and Ben Allen and Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalaz said they introduced the bill in an effort to keep all children safe.

The law removes personal belief exemptions for public school mandates that

children be up to date for 10 specified vaccines, including measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), by the time they are enrolled in daycare, preschool, or K-12 education.

That means parents would be forced to give their children more than 40 doses of federally scheduled vaccines or homeschool them, activists said.

"We move forward. We take action. We go door-to-door. We educate people," said Wendy Silvers of the Million Mamas Movement, which is dedicated to empowering mothers, building healthy families and communities, and creating a culture of peace.

The task is to inform people and arm them with the truth so they can make informed, confident choices, she said. "It's like Brother Tony talks about, truth to power, but I believe that truth is power," she said.

Ms. Silvers said there's already an effort to recall Sen. Pan and a recall of Senator Holly Mitchell, who backed SB277, was expected to begin at press time.

"We need to stop saying that these people are powerful, because in the sight of God, they look like ants," said Student Minister Tony Muhammad, also Western Region representative of the

Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan.

He invited Health Freedom demonstrators to join the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March gathering, "Justice or Else!" in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 10, 2015.

"The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan said, 'When they come after our children, they have declared a declaration of war. And we cannot sit back, not only to let them attack Black children but no children will be attacked in this day and time,'" Min. Muhammad told the energetic gathering.

"When we go to D.C., we're going to demand that Congress bring Dr. Thompson and subpoena him—not in a closed meeting—we want the meeting open," he continued, referring to the federal whistleblower who charges the CDC has omitted information on the MMR's vaccine's impact on Black boys.

Dr. William Thompson, a senior scientist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, wrote that he and co-authors omitted data suggesting Black males who received the MMR vaccine before age 36 months were at increased risk for autism in their 2004 article published in the journal Pediatrics.

"My concern has been the decision to omit relevant findings in a particular

study for a particular subgroup for a particular vaccine. There have always been recognized risks for vaccination and I believe it is the responsibility of the CDC to properly convey the risks associated with receipt of those vaccines," he continued.

"Thimerosal. This is an ingredient in this drug — vaccines — that contains mercury in a dose that begins to disturb the cells of the brain, particularly in Black males," said Minister Farrakhan. But Congress refuses to subpoena Dr. Thompson so he can discuss the issue under oath, he said.

Minister Farrakhan learned about the problem from Atty. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., progeny of the famous Kennedy family and the son of U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy Sr. and the nephew of President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy brought his concerns to Minister Farrakhan through Min. Muhammad, who, along with Rizza Islam X, Dr. Brian Hooker (Focus Autism Foundation), Michelle Ford (Vaccine Injury Awareness League) and others visited Minister Farrakhan at his home and gave the details of how Mr. Kennedy had tried to sound the alarm throughout the Black community to no avail.

raising interest rates in an effort to prevent inflation. In a brief statement about June's employment situation, Gould wrote, "In light of this jobs report, it is more

than obvious that the Federal Reserve needs to stay the course — if they act too soon, they will take the remaining wind out of the economy's sails."



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## WOMEN, continued from Page 12

increases to get and keep the workers they need," Gould explained. "And this remains true even as a jobs

recovery has consistently forged ahead in recent years." Gould cautioned the Federal Reserve against



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**July 20, 7 p.m.**  
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# Footprints - A new version and take time



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I read these long ago; they caused me to ponder and gave me comfort. Perhaps you have read or heard these before. You may read these for the first time, or read these again, which ever, these are things to enjoy and make you think.

Imagine you and the Lord are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace.

But your footprints are a disorganized steam of zigzags, starts, stops, turn-arounds, circles, departures, and returns. For much of the way, it seems to go like

this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's; soon they are paralleling His consistently. You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens. Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His larger footprints are your smaller ones; you and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. Your footprints inside Jesus' footprints seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints; the two footprints have become one.

This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags are all over the place. There are stops,

starts, gashes in the sand. There are a variable mess of prints. You are amazed and shocked.

Your dream ends. Now you pray: "Lord, I understand the first scene, with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But You walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with You." "That is correct," said the Lord.

"And when the smaller prints were inside Yours, I was actually learning to

walk in Your steps, following You very closely." "Very Good . . . You have understood everything so far."

"When the smaller footprints grew and filled in Yours, I suppose that I was becoming more like You in every way." "Precisely," said the Lord. "So, Lord, was there a regression or something?"

The footprints separated, and this time it seemed worse than at first." There is a pause as the Lord an-

swers with a smile in His voice. "You didn't know? It was then that you had a victory, you did a Holy dance!"

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven: a time to weep, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4) -- Author Unknown

**TAKE TIME:** Take time to "Think", it is the source of wisdom; and wisdom comes from God. Take time to "Dream", it is the fountain of the future. Jesus said that without a vision,

the people perish. Take time to "Play", it is the way to stay young at heart; and to enjoy life to the fullest.

Take time to "Reflect", it is the way to know God; and to know God is to love God. Take time to "Smile", it is the road to happiness; and it takes less muscles to smile.

Take time to "Laugh", it is the music of the soul. Take time to "Love", it is God's greatest gift; and God is Love.

*Take time to Pray, it is the greatest power on earth; and a wonderful way to talk to God. --Author Unknown.*



One of the many exquisite quilts at the Bob Bullock's Museum in Austin, Texas; they are on display through August 31, 2015; the display is a history lesson for all race, creed and colors in the United States.



## Avenue F Church of Christ

1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074

972-423-8833

[www.avefchurchofchrist.org](http://www.avefchurchofchrist.org)

Early Sunday Morning .....8:00 am  
Sunday Bible Class.....9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 am  
Evening Worship.....3:00 pm  
Iglesia de Cristo Services .....5:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 pm

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on  
KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings

## MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

300 Chisholm Pl. Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

Answers you need, Hope for today  
is waiting for you...

- Sunday School for all ages 8:30 am
- Sunday Morning Prayer 9:30 am
- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

Pastor  
Sam  
Fenceroy



Pastor  
Gloria  
Fenceroy

[www.mocop.org](http://www.mocop.org)

Radio Programs

"Vision & Truth Live"  
Call Pastor Sam  
Every Sun. 9:00pm-10:00pm  
KWRD 100.7 FM THE WORD

"Truth Made Simple"  
Listen to Pastor Sam  
Mon.-Fri. 5:25pm- 5:30pm  
KCCR 1040 AM

## Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Serving the Plano Community for 128 Years

Founded 1884

920 E 14th Street, Plano, TX



Isiah Joshua, Jr.  
Pastor



SMBC: A church Focused on  
Excellence while Teaching  
the Word, Preaching the  
Gospel, Reaching the World

Worship Times: 8 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Mid-week: Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Church: Every 3rd, 4th,  
and 5th Sunday at 10:45 a.m.  
AWANA: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Contact Information: 972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

**Second Keyboardist Needed: Please Call For Info**

[www.thefirst.org](http://www.thefirst.org) Fellowship Christian Center Church 972.398.9856

200 W. Belmont Drive • Allen, TX 75013  
A Kingdom Building Church

Pastor: Dr. W.L. Stanford, Sr.

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
9:00 am  
1555 Fishers Lake  
Allen, TX 75013  
9:30 am

**Wednesday Night Live**  
7:00 pm  
200 W. Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013

Isiah Joshua, Jr.



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