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# Ex-NFL star Warrick Dunn's wounded soul finds soulmates with single parents who need a home

By Curtis Bunn  
Urban News Service

When a New Orleans gunman ambushed, shot and killed Baton Rouge Cpl. Betty Smothers who was escorting a grocery manager in her cruiser to make a night deposit on Jan. 7, 1993, it was not the first time the mother of former NFL star Warrick Dunn had met her killer. Ironically, six years earlier, Smothers caught her future assassin, Kevan Brumfield, shoplifting but she let him go - giving him a chance to turn his life around - a chance he threw away when hid in the darkness and shot the 14-year veteran police officer in the forearm, chest and head.

His accomplice, Henri Broadway, also fired five times, striking Kimen Lee, a Piggly Wiggly assistant manager, who miraculously survived multiple gunshot wounds and took control of the cruiser where she drove to safety and called 911.

This is a story of contrasting lives - a famous football player who at 18 years old took responsibility for his five siblings after losing his mother juxtaposed against a killer with a long criminal record who worked only three months of his entire adult life. And it's a story of a justice system that for more than 20 years has



Proud and elated single mother in Atlanta shows her glee at receiving a new home as Warrick Dunn looks on. Photo by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

left Dunn with a wounded soul still waiting to heal from that fatal night that spun his world off its axis.

At the heart of his discord is the back-and-forth legal drama around the case leaving Dunn bitter about the justice system. Brumfield, who confessed to the crime, has been on death row since his 1995 conviction, but five years ago he won an appeal to determine if he is mentally disabled. Broadway remains on death row awaiting for his final appeal to be heard. A divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that Brumfield was eligible for a hearing on

whether he is intellectually disabled.

The court, in a 5-4 decision, threw out a 2014 appeals court ruling that barred Brumfield from asking for the special hearing in which a lower court judge subsequently found he was intellectually disabled.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who wrote the fiery dissent, retold the crime in detail and placed a picture of Dunn's mother clad in her uniform next to her police car to remind the court of the tragedy. Thomas dismissed Brum-

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COMMENTARY

## Sanders still lagging in Black America

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.  
NNPA Columnist

The emergence of the presidential campaign of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has reached the scale of "phenomenal." What many mainstream pundits originally believed to have been a marginal effort, exploded around the U.S. as enthusiastic crowds responded to Sanders's challenges to contemporary capitalism.

Yet in Black America, the campaign has yet to ignite a mass spirit. Sanders certainly has support within Black America, but it largely pales in comparison to the sentiment in favor of Hillary Clinton. The former Secretary of State has been quite shrewd and timely in responding to issues that are of concern to Black America. Even when, as in the case of her meeting

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Dr. Umar Johnson



Pope Francis



Jaecelyn Merseberg

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## Dr. Umar Johnson

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had only been buried for little more than a year when the Stonewall Riots during the summer of 1969 erupted in New York City, formally ushering in the Gay Rights Movement, and thereby effectively shifting the nation's attention from Black rights to Gay rights.

With the militant political agenda of the Black Liberation Army and Black Panther Party, the United States Power Structure needed to find a relevant social issue that could effectively challenge and replace the Black



agenda on television and in the newspaper.

For more than a decade, the Black civil rights movement had commanded the attention of the American public, and thereby the attention of the government.

In order for White Privilege to remain safe from a complete revolutionary overhaul of its power relationship to the Black underclass, a new minority issue would need to be "created" that did not posit the elimination of racism as its core goal.

With the FBI orchestrated murders of the Black Agenda's leading charismatic organizers in Malcolm X and Dr. King, the movement was left without a courageous symbolic messiah that could simultaneously command the attention of the mainstream media and the federal legislature.

The assassination of the late 20th Century's dynamic duo of Black Leadership, Malcolm and Martin, left a void that was to be filled with younger Black militant leaders who were in many respects more uncompromising than their legendary predecessors.

Rather than make the mistake of allowing this young Black leadership to establish a national movement, complete with a mainstream paparazzi following their every move, as X and King had done, the Hoover Gang decided to eliminate both Fred Hampton and George Jackson, despite the latter's incarceration,

thereby effectively cutting the head off of one of the most revolutionary potential leadership contingencies since the loss of King and X following their '65 and '68 state sponsored assassinations.

Dr. Umar Johnson is a School Psychologist, Educator and Political Scientist. He is author of the book "Psycho-Academic Holocaust: The Special Education and ADHD Wars

Against Black Boys." A kinsman to Frederick Douglass and former Minister of Education for the Marcus Garvey Movement, he is the founder of the National Movement to Save Black Boys (NMSBB). As one of the most requested Afrikan-American Scholars and Orators in the country he is a regular guest on television and radio shows throughout the world.

**To read Dr. Johnson's entire essay go to our website at [www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)**

## Pope Francis

By Marcelo Suárez-Orozco

Millions of Americans are eagerly awaiting Pope Francis' arrival.

In our interdependent and fragile world, the pope's voice carries a deep echo: From global warming to inequality, from homosexuality to divorce, the pope's message has a global resonance. Francis' humility and humane touch surely befit our troubled times.

If we didn't have Francis, we would have to invent him.



Francis has never set foot in the United States. He is a Spanish speaker coming to the United States, now home to the second largest number of Spanish speakers in the world. Like millions of

Americans, he is the descendant of poor Italian immigrants who escaped the ravages of poverty to find shelter in the new world. By the time his father, Mario José Bergoglio, arrived in Buenos Aires almost a century ago, some three million Italians had left for the United States and another three million had left for Argentina. Mario José could just as easily have taken a steamer to Boston or New York.

Pope Francis is the distant relative from the Old World coming to see this side of the family for the first time. When his American cousins listen to the Pope, there will

be joy and awe, enlightenment and wonderment.

Like in all such family reunions, there will also be misunderstandings.

Listen carefully to Francis talk about migration and the gap in understanding will be obvious. Two incommensurable sensibilities, the Ethic of Care versus the Ethic of Rules, will make for some awkward moments.

With 45.8 million immigrants, the United States leads the world in the absolute number of new arrivals. In our country, immigration is history and destiny: The fastest growing sector of the child population

is the children of immigrants. Immigrants made America and, moving forward, the children of immigrants will remake it.

Two features are at the center of this rich history. First, our repudiation of descent or bloodline as the only means of entry into the American family. The seal defining our American identity, e pluribus unum, announces to the world that ours is, above all, a nation of "consent." This explains the much lower bar of entry for immigrants to America than to other high-income countries. It also explains a shared reverence making the Con-

stitution, the Bill of Rights, and the idea that ours is a nation of laws our unique secular religion. Immigrants are welcome, like in no other country, as long as the Ethic of Rules reigns. Break the rules, migrate without papers, and the wrath of an indignant nation awaits you, today channeled with millenarian fervor by Donald Trump and his army of choleric followers.

We are witnessing a rapid rise in the numbers of migrants — voluntary and involuntary, unauthorized, and refugees. These flows have

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## Jaecelyn Merseberg

Ms. Jaecelyn Merseberg was born to Rear Admiral Jacob K. and Helen Edith Merseberg, Jaecelyn Merseberg. She moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area in 1996 from the 50th state, Hawaii.

Because of her commitment to stellar service and spirit of excellence for two years in a row, 2014 and 2015, Merseberg has been honored by Mayor Todd Meier and the Town of Addison proclaiming September 11th as Lady Jaecelyn Merseberg Day. She was also named as one of Dallas' 40 Most Influential People 2015.

She is sought after by some of Dallas' affluent to



co-chair galas and plan events as well as coordinate the schedules of some of Hollywood's elite when they pop into town and is recognized as one of the 40 Most Influential People in Dallas.

Merseberg is the former Ambassador for the restaurant conglomerate Buttons'

Food and Music in Addison; she is also known by many as Dallas' Ultimate Socialite and she currently serves as VP of Operations for Pho House Dallas.

Because of her commitment to stellar service and spirit of excellence as well as business savvy, BEYOND BEAUTY, Jaecelyn's personal brand, was born to facilitate with propelling other like-minded entities. Her endeavors have been fundamental in connecting individuals and businesses with entities that may not be well-known. She has been courted by some of Dallas' affluent to co-chair an "A-list" of events and coordinate the schedules of some of Holly-

wood's elite when they pop into town.

Merseberg is known to dine with royalty... To some she is "Her Royal Highness" -HRH for short. To others she is Dallas' Ultimate Socialite, because of her impeccable taste and ability to power shop, but to most of Dallas she IS Lady Jaecelyn Merseberg - a TRUE marketing genius.

Do not let the socialite status, couture clothing or celebrity friend list mislead you, Dallas' best kept secret, originally from Hawaii, was indeed born with a silver spoon.

Merseberg has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Cosmetology and a Bachelor Degree in Public Relations.

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# The GOP debate and the cowardly Mr. Trump

By Lee A. Daniels  
NNPA Columnist

Citizens of America: While you were distracted last week by, among other things, the Republican Party's marathon, second primary debate, the U.S. military, acting on orders from President Obama, completed its takeover of the American Southwest – suspending the Constitution and imposing martial law, taking residents' guns, and throwing those who resisted into secret detention centers.

Oh, wait: that's the bizarro-world version of the military's Jade Helm 15 “war games” exercise the conservative echo chamber hysterically claimed this spring was part of the president's plan to ultimately take over the country, dissolve Congress and declare himself president for Life.

In the real world the rest of us live in, the two-month exercise ended September 15th as quietly as it had begun. Military officials pronounced themselves satisfied that it had given members of the military's various special operations forces war-games training in an environment whose terrain approximated that of

the world's Middle Eastern and African hotspots.

It's worth recalling the fierce controversy that engulfed the Jade Helm 15 exercise for months before it began for two reasons. One is to understand how similar the tone of the lunatic claims made about it were to such other right-wing-generated Obama-era scares as: the supposed “death panels” of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare); the claims last fall that the death of one individual in Dallas who had been infected with the Ebola virus while in Liberia was the harbinger of an Obama-created epidemic about to sweep over America; and, my personal favorite, that President Obama's September 2009 nationwide speech to be piped to public school students in their classrooms was really his attempt to indoctrinate them in the tenets of socialism, or communism, or Islam – or all three simultaneously.

Adding up the mix of right-wing extremism, pathological idiocy and cynical fear-mongering in those conspiracy theories provides an excellent framework for analyzing the GOP's behavior in Congress and on the campaign

trail today – be it Congressional Republicans' plans to force another shutdown of the federal government or their staging purely symbolic votes against the Iran nuclear deal.

The “Gang of 16” Republican presidential primary candidates have left no doubt they're committed to this lunacy, too. Sampling the comments the contenders' made on such issues as immigration, foreign affairs and vaccinations for children during the debate at the Reagan presidential library, the *New York Times* editorial of September 17 described them as “a collection of assertions so untrue, so bizarre that they form a vision as surreal as the Ronald Reagan jet looming behind the candidates' lecterns.” The editorial's title: “Crazy Talk at the Republican Debate.”

Unfortunately for the country, “crazy talk” has become a chief requirement of Republican Party politics – the result of the GOP having so debased the honor of the practice of politics and having so denigrated “Washington” all these decades, and especially once the nation's first Black president took office. The

great irony is that, in part because of Obama's skill at out-maneuvering Republican attempts to undermine him, those chickens have come home to roost most sharply within the GOP itself: None of its current leading contenders for the nomination – Donald Trump, Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina – have ever held elective or appointive office; while the GOP Base is ignoring or punishing those contenders who have.

This is what happens when you debase the honor of politics – which, after all, is the art of the possible, of compromise, of trying to work through opposing, or just complicated, points of view, of tolerating difference. When you debase “politics,” you open wide the door of the cesspool of intolerance.

Fittingly, Donald Trump, whose callousness and racism have propelled him to the top of the Republican pile, has now shown in the most dramatic way the moral swamp that is the demagogue's true character. For all his promises to, as president, stare down this and that world leader to get what he wants, the cowardly Mr. Trump couldn't

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## SANDERS, continued from Page 1

with several activists from the movement for Black Lives Matter, she has handled matters in a way that has brought forward criticism, she still seems to be given the benefit of the doubt.

The Sanders campaign, which still holds the potential to shake up U.S. politics in very fundamental ways, has only a limited amount of time to reposition itself if it wishes to win the support of Black America and, I would add, much of Latino America. This repositioning goes much farther than who is hired to work on the campaign, as important as that happens to be, and more than anything else revolves around the extent to which

the campaign is understood to be embedded within our movements.

When John Edwards kicked off his ill-fated presidential campaign for the 2008 nomination, he did so in New Orleans. This was of tremendous significance. He aimed to talk about poverty and he did so by going to the city where race and class comingled in a demonstrable fashion in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Sanders, on the other hand, has done nothing similar. While he has spoken out on some matters of race, he needs to be discussing the massive financial crisis in Puerto Rico which, along the lines of what transpired in Greece, is destroying the

island and driving thousands to migrate to mainland U.S.A.

Sanders needs to sit down with key African American leaders in the cities of Michigan that, in many cases, have been disempowered by a racist, Republican state legislature. Sanders needs to visit Native American reservations to discuss land and environmental issues, not to mention, matters of economic development that go beyond the construction of more gambling casinos. And Sanders needs to add surrogates to his campaign to advance his message and to show the scope and breath of the campaign.

For the Sanders campaign to realize its amazing

potential, it must rethink its role in U.S. society. This will necessitate tapping the sentiment for change in communities of color – including but not limited to Black America – and listening carefully to the concerns and advice from the leaders of these communities. The campaign must guard against the tendency to become overwhelmed by enthusiastic crowds, for such crowds can also be a siren's song that leads the campaign to crash into the rocks. Crowds are great but depth of support is definitive.

*Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.*



## Arthritis Foundation celebrates 10th annual Dallas Bone Bash with Spooktacular Halloween-themed Gala at the Omni on Oct. 17

The Arthritis Foundation announced that it is “scaring up” overwhelming support to celebrate the 10th Annual Dallas Bone Bash, Big D’s premiere Halloween-themed costume gala benefiting the Arthritis Foundation North Texas. The spooktacular soiree is set

for Oct. 17 at the Omni Dallas Hotel. Visit [www.dallas-bonebash.org](http://www.dallas-bonebash.org) to purchase tickets and get event details.

Founded in 2006, the Dallas event has raised more than \$2 million to support the Foundation’s focus on finding a cure and championing the fight

against arthritis with life-changing information, advocacy, science and community programs. In North Texas alone, there are nearly one million people, including more than 7,000 children, living with the pain of arthritis every day.

Due to its phenomenal

success and popularity, there are now Arthritis Foundation Bone Bash events across the country, including 10 events scheduled in 2015. Over the course of the past decade, the Foundation has held a total of 87 Bone Bash events, which collectively

raised more than \$4,265,000 in the fight to end arthritis.

The local event, emceed by media personality Scott Murray, will honor Dr. W.Z. “Buz” Burkhead, Jr. and Dr. Rob Langdon, the gentlemen who started it all with the inaugural Bone Bash in

Dallas, Texas. Both Drs. Burkhead and Langdon are considered experts in the medical field and are esteemed amongst the Dallas medical community.

Widely known and respected for creating the

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## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day scheduled for Sept. 26

Unused and expired medicines can potentially end up in the wrong hands and lead to accidental poisonings. In fact, medicines in the home are a leading cause of accidental poisonings in the U.S. and simply throwing these substances in the trash or flushing them down a drain can result in harm to the environment.

That’s why Parkland Health & Hospital System, the North Texas Poison Center and local law enforcement agencies are joining together in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which will take place from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26 in the parking lot of Parkland’s Simmons Ambulatory Surgical Center, 4900 Harry Hines Blvd., in Dallas. The event is free and open to the public.

“Communities across the United States will be taking part in this event and raising awareness on the potential for abuse of prescription medications,” said Mike Yudzky, public health edu-

cator with the North Texas Poison Center, based at Parkland. “This one-day effort brings together community entities as well as law enforcement to help battle the common problem of what to do with unused or expired medications.”

Yudzky said there are several reasons why people should safely dispose of unused, expired and unwanted medications and offers advice on proper storage of medications in the home:

- Unwanted medications can be tempting to children and pets, and can result in unintentional poisonings.

- Expired medications are often ineffective because they have been kept past their expiration date or improperly stored.

- Unused medications can make your home a target of theft by drug abusers.

- Dispose of medications properly. Do not keep prescription medications around “just in case.”

- Inventory your medicine cabinet and other places you store your medi-

cines.

- Safely store the medicines you use by keeping them out of reach. Store medicines in a locked cabinet or medicine lock box.

- Always use the child-resistant medicine cap – and remember child-resistant caps are not childproof.

In addition to the unintentional poisoning risk of unused and expired medications to individuals, there’s also an environmental issue. Emma Donachie, Parkland Waste Stream Coordinator, said that when drugs are flushed down a drain or into trashcans, they can contaminate waterways and landfills.

“Contaminants from medications can leach into the soil and water and affect the health of humans and other species, as well, which can then impact people,” Donachie said.

During the event individuals can drive into the parking lot and hand medications to a law enforcement officer, no questions asked.

No intravenous materials,

such as solutions or syringes will be accepted at the event.

For more information about the event, visit

[www.parklandhospital.com/DrugTakeBack](http://www.parklandhospital.com/DrugTakeBack)

For more information about the proper way to dispose of prescription and

over-the-counter medications, contact the poison experts at the North Texas Poison Center, 1-800-222-1222.

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## Hamilton Park hosting 'Brain Smart University'

Unfortunately African Americans are hit hard with dementia in their later years. Research shows lifestyle and genetics are driving factors. It is a diagnosis as feared as cancer for the individual and the family.

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church is hosting Brain Smart University

on Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dementia experts will be on hand to share information on:

- How the brain ages normally;

- Diseases of brain aging, such as Alzheimer's disease;

- Lifestyle practices for improving successful brain aging;

- Current research up-

dates.

A free lunch will be provided at the event at Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, located at 11881 Schroeder Road in Dallas. They are also offering door prizes and giveaways.

Anyone can register by calling 214-648-0563 or by e-mailing - [adc@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:adc@utsouthwestern.edu).



## Fundraiser planned for South Dallas' ICDC

Diane Ragsdale has spent her whole adult life working for the uplift of poor and marginalized families, especially those who live in South Dallas. Now the community wants to thank her for her many years of community activism, leadership and service on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 12 noon, at

TBAAL – The Black Academy of Arts and Letters. Tickets are \$10 with all proceeds going to ICDC, a community based non-profit serving the South Dallas/Fair Park community.

After serving on the Dallas City Council from 1984-1991, Ragsdale created a

non-profit organization called South Dallas-Fair Park Innercity Community Corporation (ICDC)

to address the issue of decent affordable housing for South Dallas resident, as well as, those folks interested in moving to South Dallas. Since the early 1990's ICDC has build over

350 homes in South Dallas for low to moderate income families.

Community leaders are concerned that South Dallas is ripe for gentrification by developers and others who would push people out of the community.

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## DUNN, continued from Page 1

field's argument that his actions were the product of his disadvantaged background. The justice called it "striking in light of the conduct of Corporal Smothers' children following her murder. Most widely known is that of Warrick.

Though he had turned 18 just two days before Brumfield murdered his mother, he quickly stepped into the role of father figure to his younger siblings. In his view, it "was up to [him] to make sure that everybody grew up to be somebody."

Thomas closed by calling the majority decision disheartening. "It spares not a thought for the 20 years of judicial proceedings that its decision so casually extends," he wrote. "It spares no more than a sentence to describe the crime for which a Louisiana jury sentenced Brumfield to death. It barely spares the two words necessary to identify

Brumfield's victim, Betty Smothers, by name. She and her family—not to mention our legal system—deserve better." The court's decision means Brumfield, now 42, remains on death row, but his fate is in limbo.

"And that leaves me and my family in limbo," Dunn, 40, told Urban News Service. "You get to the highest court in the land and we still have issues getting peace? How can after all these years, someone now say, 'I have mental issues' when you can plan a robbery, commit an act and not have any remorse. That's not mental retardation. It's just a decision that you made.

"So, we still don't have peace with anything. How

is that fair to my family? That tells you about the justice system. It's hard to believe in the justice system."

Despite this turmoil, Dunn has changed lives—including his own. Two hours before discussing the legal case, Dunn handed the keys to a new home to the 144th parent since 1997. Warrick Dunn Charities independently and with other companies and organizations places single parents, first-time homeowners into new houses and provides financial support and home furnishings.

"I can't find the words to describe what Warrick Dunn did for me," said Derrick Gant, who walked with his pair of teenage sons into a three-bedroom house that was fully furnished and completely stocked with food and supplies, televisions and computer in January. "All I had to do was bring my clothes. It was amazing. I just wish I had the words to describe how grateful we are."

"I tell people he's fascinating," said Lisa Chester, the executive director of the Warrick Dunn Charities. "I didn't know who he was before I started working here. He was working on his MBA at Emory (University) and I was dealing with him on a daily basis. I learned quickly that he's totally humble, but he's extremely passionate about what the charity is doing. He's all about thriving so he can help as many people as possible." Dunn's good deeds extend beyond his charity. Tia Meriweather, who was awarded a house in suburban Atlanta in 2005, re-

called two years ago when one of her two sons was severely injured when struck by a car. A Dunn staffer saw the story on the news.

"Warrick Dunn reached out and offered to help in any way we needed," Meriweather said. "He came to the hospital. He stayed with us. He was amazing. So he's been with us through the highs and the lows. We'll never forget that."

Providing homes for single, first-time homeowner parents has been Dunn's way of honoring his mother. He admired her commitment and said he has used "changing people's lives for the better as therapy. The connection is there with my mother because I'm able to live out her dream. To see the joy when they open that door and to see how thankful they are really makes me speechless. Those are the times I can reflect on when I have a tough day. Changing someone's life for the better can help me get through those tough times."

Even though steady counseling helped, Dunn said he was bitter and often unhappy, even as he starred in the NFL for 12 years, earning millions and racking up more than 10,000 rushing yards for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Atlanta Falcons.

But what happened next was far more inspiring than his prowess on the gridiron. Dunn visited death row at Angola State Prison in Louisiana to meet the man who killed his mother in 2007.

"It was something I came up with and my counselor believed I had to do," Dunn said. "I had to forgive. For all those years after he

killed my mother, I was joyless. He took away the times I could have been smiling and enjoying life instead of crying.

"But I had reached a place where I was trying to take control back of my life. A lot of times, when you have issues, all your power is gone. And for so long my outcome was because of what I went through. I just got to a point where I needed to be at peace with myself and my future."

In his 2008 book, *Running For My Life*, Dunn went into great detail about that encounter with Brumfield.

Meeting Brumfield did not turn out as Dunn expected. He was stunned when Brumfield denied killing his mother—it was something Dunn knew was a lie and had not heard him say in the past.

Brumfield's posture prevented Dunn from asking the questions he came prepared to present: Did you think of the consequences of your actions? Do you feel remorse about your actions? What would you say to our family?

Still, Dunn said what he came to say—that he forgave Brumfield and that "at 18, because of your actions, I had to become a man and raise my sisters and brothers ... Things weren't easy on my family ... I was depressed for years..." "But," Dunn went on, "the biggest part was saying I forgave him. I needed to say that to move on. It was emotional for everyone there. Brumfield had tears in his eyes, too."

That visit changed Dunn's life, he said. He could go on changing other

people's lives having changed his own through the ultimate forgiveness.

And Dunn does so with little fanfare. "My sons didn't know who he was," Gant, 37, said. "But they do now. And his photo sits in a frame in the living room. That's how much he means to us."

Impacting others, facing Brumfield in prison, counseling and continually honoring his mother have combined to help Dunn become a happier person, he said.

"I'm in a much different place in my life. Counseling is important," said Dunn, who has also developed a

Children Bereavement Program. "In the black community, there's a misconception that if you go to therapy you're crazy. In reality, therapy is for people who are together and want to stay on the right path.

"A few years ago, I couldn't talk like this. I wasn't as open, as forthcoming, I was so shy and laid back, reserved. And over the years, I've learned to celebrate my mom and make her proud. I'm able to help spread her love to other parents who are doing the same thing she did for our family."

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# Frontiers of Flight Museum hosts Museum Day Live! celebrating girls in aviation

The Frontiers of Flight Museum, in association with the Smithsonian Institution, will open its doors free of charge along with over 1,400 other participating venues for the 11th annual Museum Day Live! on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This program, in which the Frontiers of Flight Museum will emulate the free admission policy of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, D.C.-based facilities, encourages learning and the spread of knowledge nationwide. The Frontiers of Flight Museum is located 6911 Lemmon Ave.

Inclusive by design, Museum Day Live! fulfills the Smithsonian's mission to make cultural education accessible to everyone. For one day only, the Frontiers of Flight Museum will grant free access to visitors who download a Museum Day Live! ticket at: [http://www.smithsonian-](http://www.smithsonian-mag.com/ist/?next=/museumday/venues/frontiers-of-flight-museum/)



[mag.com/ist/?next=/museumday/venues/frontiers-of-flight-museum/](http://www.smithsonian-mag.com/ist/?next=/museumday/venues/frontiers-of-flight-museum/)

The ticket is good for two admissions on Sept. 26, 2015 only.

Museum Day Live! at the Frontiers of Flight Museum will be particularly special this year as guests join to celebrate Girls in Aviation Day and welcome the fully restored Flagship Detroit DC-3 aircraft.

Local participating members of Women in Aviation International are participating in the Museum Day Live! event at the Frontiers

of Flight Museum to attract more young women to the aviation and aerospace community. They will host a special panel discussion that will bring all of the passion, exploration, learning, and excitement of aviation and aerospace with industry speakers on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Another special treat for visitors at the Frontiers of Flight Museum will be the arrival of the Flagship Detroit DC-3 aircraft.

The aircraft, built in 1937 and widely recognized as one of the most popular

passenger carriers in aviation history, has been beautifully restored by the Flagship Detroit Foundation and will be on display Sept. 25-27 at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. Rides are available by purchasing a \$150 membership from the Foundation on site.

## Flagship Detroit DC-3 Flights and Tours

- Heritage Flights @ 9 a.m. and 5-7:30 p.m. (Cost \$150)

- Static Tours @ 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## Unveiling of the large-scale "Electra" flown by Amelia Earhart @ 11 a.m.

The Museum Model Shop Volunteers will unveil their new model of Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Model 10 "Electra."

## Living History Performer @ 11:30 a.m.

"Amelia Earhart" will share her adventurous life in aviation with guests.

## Aviation Career Op-

## tions for Girls @ 1:30 p.m.

Women in Aviation International (WAI) Chapters will host this special panel discussion. The presentation is designed to introduce girls 6 to 18 the broad array of aviation careers open to them.

For more information on how you can participate in Museum Day Live! and join the national celebration of knowledge and fun at the Frontiers of Flight Museum on Sept. 26 visit: <http://www.flightmuseum.com/museum-day-live-2015>.

# Irving hosting Teen Jam

Irving youth and teens can join enjoy a late night party featuring music, games, food and fun. Disc jockey will play the latest tunes, while kids enjoy complimentary pizza and soda.

This event is open to all middle and high school students. Free admission with valid IPAR card or school ID.

This free event is Sept. 26 from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. at the Lively Pointe Youth Center located at 909 N. O'Connor Road in Irving.

# Ambition propels student to India for medical internship

Seventeen-year-old Alison Geason is a determined young woman who knows where she's going and isn't wasting time getting there.

Geason, a senior at the School of Health Professions at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, says she's known since preschool that she wanted to become a doctor. After serving a traditional internship with a local physician, she decided she was ready for the next level – a more intensive, hands-on medical internship. So she did what any resourceful, technology-savvy young person might do to find that opportunity: she did an Internet search and found a medical internship program halfway around the world in India.

After convincing her mom, Skyline High School

Assistant Principal Cynthia Thomas, that she was totally serious, Geason and her family got busy raising the funds to cover her trip to Ahmedabad Gujarat, India. Offered by the nonprofit, Youth Futures International, the internship provided Geason hands-on experiences such as dissecting a human cadaver, witnessing a live birth and observing surgeries in the operating room.

For 17 days, Geason and 55 other mostly American students worked side-by-side with physicians as they treated patients and performed procedures in the emergency room, outpatient clinics, and operating rooms. Geason loved the experience, describing it as everything she had dreamed about.

"It was great and so much fun," she said. "It confirmed for me that medicine is definitely the career I want to pursue. It made me appreciate so much my opportunities here in the U.S."

Dr. Bobbie Lowe, a Health Magnet teacher who helps students like Geason find internships, said she was only mildly surprised that Geason elected to go to India.

"I wasn't really all that surprised," Lowe said. "She's a go-getter. She's kind of shy, but when she gets started, she really goes to work."

As an example, Lowe said last spring Geason completed an eight-week internship with a local physician at Methodist Hospital as part of the school's Administrative Medical As-

sistant Certification program. The program prepares students to pass a national exam to become certified medical assistants who can perform blood pressure, EKGs and blood tests, and create patient

See INDIA, Page 7

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## Irving Police teach self-defense course for girls, women

This October, females age 10 and older can learn — at no cost — life-saving self-defense techniques during a Girls' Safety Conference hosted by the Irving Police Athletic League. The class is open to all females residing in the DFW area.

Statistics show that one in every four girls will be sexually abused by the time she is an adult. The Irving Police wants girls to learn how to defend themselves, so it's hosting a four-day rape aggression defense (RAD) class from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m., Oct. 5 through 8 at the Irving Police Training Academy, 2603 Esters Road.

Open only to females age 10 and older living in the DFW area, the focus of the RAD class is realistic self-



defense techniques. The course begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, and then progresses to the basics of hands-on self-defense training. RAD is designed to engage participants in a series of hands-on, realistic, self-defense tactics and reinforce the power of the voice.

The course is taught by

Irving police officers who are nationally certified RAD instructors. RAD Instructor Krista Meyer explains one main goal for the girls is learning to be vigilant.

"Eventually when they're on their own, the techniques ingrained in them will be a natural reaction," said Meyer. Girls will learn good communication skills,

healthy self-esteem, dating safety, boundaries and more.

The class is open to girls of all fitness levels and skill sets. Participants will work at their own pace. Girls who complete the program can return at any time to practice skills.

A parent/legal guardian must be present the first day of class to sign waivers, unless prior arrangements are made.

Participants should bring their own snacks and drinks during the class. Space is limited, and preregistration is required. To reserve a seat, email Officer Jill Smith or call (972) 721-2746. For more information visit the Irving Police Athletic League (PAL) website.

## Date Night in the Park brings back food trucks, live music, movie

By popular demand, Date Night in the Park is expanding to two dates annually with the fall edition coming up on Sept. 26 at the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is free. A variety of food trucks will be on hand with their culinary offerings.

Live music from Prophets

& Outlaws will lead into the outdoor movie, "Aloha" which gets underway after dark. The Farmers Branch Historical Park is located at 2540 Farmers Branch Lane.

Free parking is available at the MetroSquare Business Park, two blocks south of the Historical Park on Ford Road with a free shuttle to the gate.



Alison Geason, a senior at the School of Health Professions at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, traveled to India as part of a medical internship. Photo courtesy of Dallas ISD.

## INDIA, continued from Page 6

medical records, verify insurance and perform other front office tasks.

Lowe said many of her Health Magnet students not only complete the certification, but continue their studies and become physical therapists, physician assistants, registered nurses and physicians.

Given Geason's track record, there's little doubt the senior has what it takes to become another of the school's success stories.

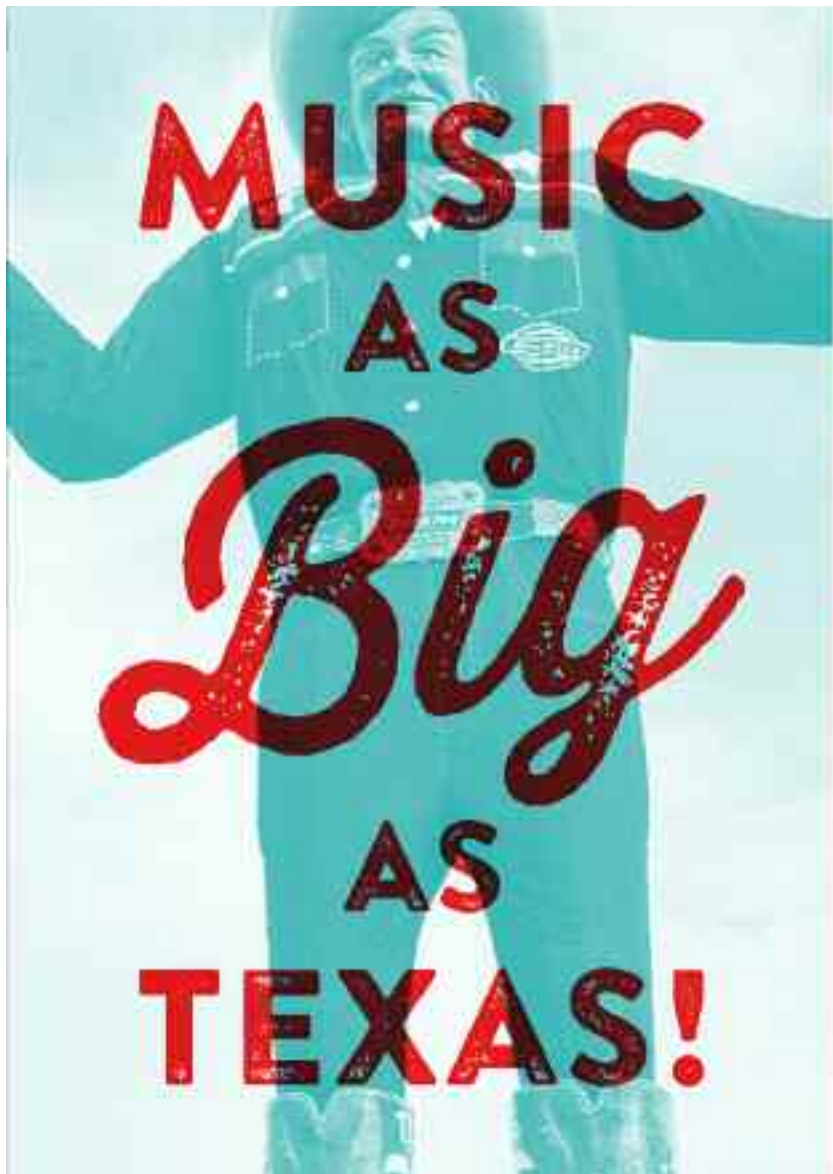
Geason offers this advice to other students who

want to strike out in search of their dreams:

"Find out what you want to do in life and go after it. Volunteer. Network. Talk to people. Pursue your dreams. You're only young once."

"A career shouldn't be something you should dread. You should go to work happy. You will if you find out what you want to do and pursue it."

"Surround yourself with people who encourage you to go for your dreams. All of my friends are interested in the same goals and aspirations as me."



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# Essence Poll: In 2016 Black female voters are focused on livable wage jobs and college affordability

WASHINGTON, DC — As the 2016 Presidential campaign season heats up, an exclusive Black Women's Roundtable and ESSENCE poll shows that affordable healthcare, livable wage jobs and college affordability rank as the most important issues among African-American women.

"The top issues for Black women revolve around money and basic needs," said Melanie Campbell, Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable and president/CEO, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP). "The indication that affordable healthcare is a major concern aligns with our 2015 State of Black Women Report findings that among states with African-American populations exceeding 20 percent, few offer adequate health insurance coverage for Black women. We

suspect this is due to the fact that some governors, especially in the South where 55 percent of the Black population lives, have fought against Medicaid expansion and other quality health care opportunities provided by the Affordable Care Act for partisan reasons."

The Power of the Sister Vote Poll was launched by ESSENCE and the Black Women's Roundtable in August 2015 to assess Black women's priority issues for the 2016 election and understand their motivation for voting. The results were revealed at a news conference during the 45th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference.

"Black women are taking an active interest in the upcoming 2016 election and they plan to vote for a candidate who will address issues that can improve their

quality of life," said Vanessa De Luca, Editor-in-Chief of ESSENCE. "We anticipate the Black women will continue to have strong voter turnout numbers and perhaps lead the nation as they have done in the last two Presidential elections."

The Power of the Sister Vote Poll surveyed 1,862 women nationally who identified themselves as registered to vote and see voting as a responsibility. 88 percent of respondents would vote for President Obama in 2016 if they could. Most respondents identified the Democrats (78 percent) as representing their interests, 18 percent identified no party; 1 percent feel Republicans and 1 percent feel Libertarians represent their interests. African-American Millennials appear to be trending away from identifying with political parties—over a

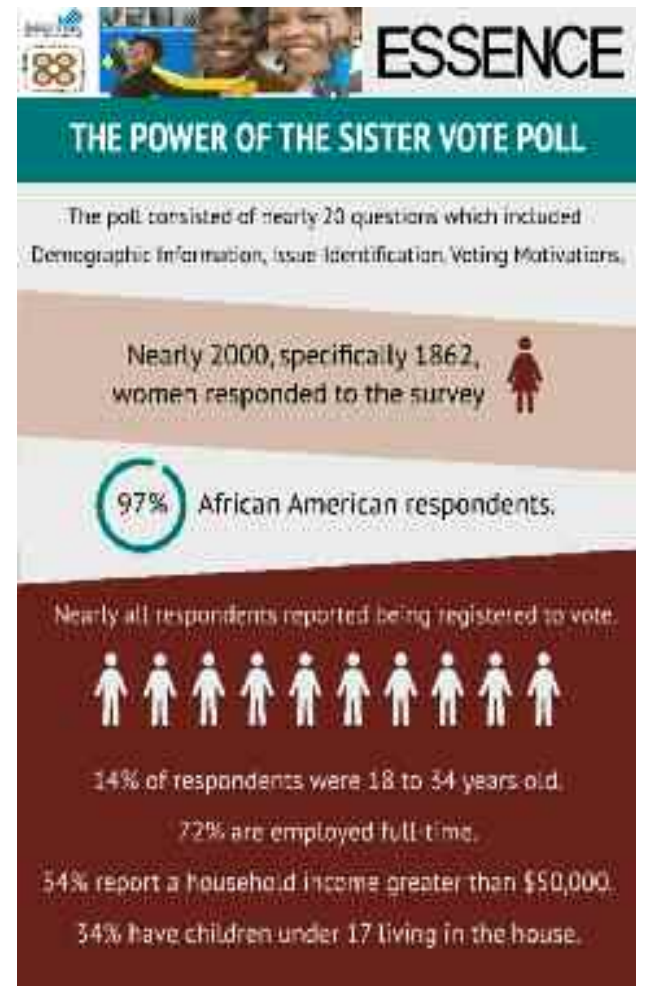
quarter (26 percent) responded they do not identify with any political party.

Black women are interested in Presidential candidates who commit to: 1) improving law enforcement/community relations, 2) reducing taxes for low and middle income people, 3) increasing the minimum wage to at least \$15/hour.

Additional POSV Poll Findings include:

- Millennials who comprised 14 percent of the respondents, cited college affordability, quality public education and criminal justice reform as highly important.
- Other key issues identified included right to reproductive choices, expanding voting rights, earned paid time/family leave, entrepreneurship opportunity and immigration reform.

Survey available at [www.ncbcp.org](http://www.ncbcp.org).



## Girls serve significantly longer sentences than boys in the juvenile justice system, study shows

AUSTIN — Females in the Texas juvenile justice system are often at greater risk of serving longer sentences and having a mental health need than their male counterparts, according to new research from The University of Texas at Austin.

In a cross-system study, Erin Espinosa, a research associate at the School of Social Work's Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, looked at 5,019 juveniles across three large urban counties in Texas during a two-year



Photo Stuart McAlpine / Flickr

period. Results, published in the latest issue of Criminal Justice and Behavior, show that female juveniles serve significantly longer periods of confinement in local facilities than their male counterparts. Find-

ings also show that females with histories of traumatic experiences such as sexual abuse are kept in out-of-home care for longer periods than males. These findings complement prior research by Es-

pinosa, published in 2013, which showed that female juveniles are approximately at seven times greater risk of out-of-home placement.

"Oftentimes aspects of juvenile incarceration like the sound of footsteps down a hallway or being physically restrained can trigger memories of past sexual trauma especially for girls," Espinosa said. "As a result, they may bite, kick or slap, resulting in new charges that lead to extended stay or commitment to state care. We now know that not only are girls more likely

to be removed from their home and placed in institutional care for violations of court orders than boys, but once there they are also likely to serve longer sentences."

Study findings include:

- Females were held, on average, five days longer in pretrial detention facilities than their male counterparts despite their offenses being less serious;
- Female scores on the mental health need measure were 25 percent higher than those of males;
- Females experienced nearly twice as many past

traumatic experiences as males;

- Being female increased a juvenile detainee's likelihood of remaining in confinement by 12.5 percent over being male; and

- Females were released at a much slower pace than males when adjudicated for status offenses, but males were released from confinement at a slower pace than females as the severity of their offenses increased.

The study was published online first at: <http://cjb.sagepub.com/content/early/recent>.

## TRUMP, continued from Page 3

even stand up to a two-bit bigot in New Hampshire who demeaned the Office of the Presidency and called for the ethnic cleansing of all Muslim Americans.

What made Trump's cowardice stand out even more was its coming just days after the shameful ordeal endured by 14-year-old Texas high schooler and

technology whiz Ahmed Mohamed served to underscore the vast potential for "making American great again" that undoubtedly lies within America's newest immigrant groups — and a vast number of native-born children who now stand

outside the gates of opportunity.

So, while we all calculate which of the Republican candidates won or lost from last week's debate, the broader question we should also be considering is how long will American society

be living with the virus of right-wing extremism let loose by the moral collapse of the Republican Party.

Lee A. Daniels is a long-time journalist based in New York City. His essay, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Great Provocateur,"

appears in *Africa's Peacemakers: Nobel Peace Laureates of African Descent (2014)*, published by Zed Books. His new collection of columns, *Race Forward: Facing America's Racial Divide in 2014*, is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



## The Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic is more than just a football game

The Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic is not just the big game, it is not just the Battle of the Bands. It is a big part of Black History in not just Dallas, but it is a big part of Texas history. That is why it calls for a Texas size weekend celebration with several events planned.

Friday Sept. 25 the weekend kicks off with the Radio One CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT at the Cedar Crest Country Club teeing off at 8 a.m. hosted by the Prairie View A&M University Alumni - Dallas Chapter. The celebration continues at the 20th Annual ATHLETICS

SCHOLARSHIP & STADIUM GALA at the Marriott City Center Hotel at 6:30 p.m.

Perhaps you prefer to get our laugh on then get ready to enjoy Cedric 'The Entertainer', Eddie Griffin, D. L. Hughley, George Lopez and Charlie Murphy at the THE COMEDY GET DOWN, 8 p.m. at the American Airlines Center.

Then Saturday is the big day! Grambling State University Alumni - Dallas Chapter HIGH SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BANDS at Lancaster High School starts things off early at 8 a.m. Then the PRE GAME CONCERT -

State Fair of Texas at the Chevy Main Stage featuring LYFE JENNINGS at 2 p.m. at Southwest Airlines

Finally it is game time at the STATE FAIR CLASSIC Football Game at the Dallas Cotton Bowl. The game everyone is looking forward to: Prairie View A&M vs Grambling State University at 4 p.m. Then it is time to get your groove over at the LA-TEX 2K15 - SOUTHSIDE BALLROOM at Gilley's at the AFTER PARTY at 9 p.m.

Still need a ticket? Then plenty are available at Ticketmaster.com & all TM locations, or you can order by phone at 800-745-3000.

## Another Happy Winner...



Dr. Safisha Hill won tickets to the State Fair Classic. "Thank you so very much...my daughter will be so excited," Hill wrote on our Facebook page. "This will be her late bday gift from me ... she walks around the house saying ... PV ... YOU KNOW ... lol ... she attended PV this past summer for a two week pre collegiate engineering program... and she is excited about going there in a couple of years...she has been saying she wants to go to the game since the signs began to appear around town...so thank you again...I am so excited as well. I have not been to the game in about 20 years myself."

## Dallas Parks hosting public meetings to discuss Aquatic Master Plan

Dallas Park and Recreation Department is hosting public meetings to share more info on their Aquatic Master Plan. Citizens, community leaders and organizations are invited to hear more details about the fu-

ture of the program. Anyone unable to attend the meetings are invited to visit their YouTube channel to learn more details.

Originally presented and adopted in 2012, the plan has been recently updated

to determine facility types and locations and to reflect new aquatic trends, Dallas' evolving demographics and refined site selection criteria.

"This updated plan re-  
See AQUATICS, Page 13

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## DanceAfrica to feature national and local African dance and drum troupes

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) opens its 2015-2016 season with DanceAfrica, a cultural celebration of the African diaspora through dance and drumming in the Dallas Arts District on October 2-3, 2015. The only event of its kind in downtown Dallas, the weeklong festival features free classes, evening ticketed performances, and a free, all-day festival and marketplace. Performances this year will feature headliner, Giwayen Mata, from Atlanta and professional companies DBDT, DBDT II, Bandan Koro Drum and Dance Ensemble, and the community ensembles from DBDT's Academy and Booker T. Washington HSPVA.

"With the theme Nalinga Ko Bina, which means I like to dance, this year's DanceAfrica celebrates the joy of African dancing and drumming," said DBDT Founder Ann M. Williams. "All of our performers will transport our audience to Africa and leave them invigorated, transfixed, and utterly jubilant."

The festival is led by the national founder of DanceAfrica, Dr. Baba Chuck Davis. First held at



Photo: TruPhotography / Jaime Truman

the Brooklyn Academy of Music over 30 years ago, DanceAfrica occurs in multiple cities across the U.S. throughout the year, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver, and Washington, D.C. Dallas Black Dance Theatre began hosting the Dallas DanceAfrica in 2007.

Each year, DBDT brings in several guests artists in addition to Dr. Davis. The headlining guest artist this year is the all-female powerhouse Giwayen Mata, who hails from Atlanta via Senegal, Ghana, and Haiti. The ensemble's name translates

to "Elephant Women" and pays tribute to the Nigerian term for female leaders, which comes from the matriarchal social structure of elephants. When troupe members first began performing in the 90s, few other females professionally performed on African instruments like the djembe drum. They have continued to be trailblazers in the traditionally male-dominated art form of drumming. Giwayen Mata will conclude its five-day residency in Dallas with a free community performance at NorthPark Center on Sunday, October 4, 2015, at

12:30 p.m.

Giwayen Mata's appearance is made possible by NorthPark Center through their NorthPark50: Fifty Years of Giving campaign, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the shopping destination and their history of philanthropy in Dallas. "As we embark on North-

Park Center's 50th anniversary year, we thought of no better way to celebrate than by giving back to the organizations that we treasure," said Nancy A. Nasher, co-owner of NorthPark Center with her husband, David J. Haemisegger. "DBDT is one of our beloved local cultural groups, known for their impressive dance performances, as well as their astute business acumen."

"We are grateful for NorthPark Center's support in bringing Giwayen Mata to Dallas," said Executive Director, Zenetta S. Drew. "NorthPark Center has been a community partner for a number of years, and it seems fitting to close our festival with a performance at this historic Dallas icon."

Held at the City Performance Hall in the downtown Arts District, the ticketed evening performances of DanceAfrica feature all five performing ensembles of

DBDT, Dr. Baba Chuck Davis, Giwayen Mata, Bandan Koro Drum and Dance Ensemble, and Booker T. Washington's HSVPA's World Ensemble. Saturday also features a free, outdoor festival at Annette Strauss Square with community and professional dance and drum ensembles and a marketplace of local and African-themed vendors.

Throughout the week leading up to the Festival, Dr. Davis teaches free West African dance and drumming masterclasses to children and adults at schools and community centers throughout Dallas. Dr. Davis also convenes a local Council of Elders, who perform at the ticketed performances.

Tickets to the evening performances can be purchased by calling the AT&T Performing Arts Center box office at (214) 880-0202 or [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org). For group sales, call (214) 871-2390.

## Richardson's Cottonwood Art Festival features museum-quality art

The fall edition of the City of Richardson's Cottonwood Art Festival will be held Oct. 3-4. This juried show will bring some of the country's top artists to a festival that includes energizing live music, craft beer, and a variety of enticing food options. Now in its 46th year, the festival attracts guests with museum-quality art, and keeps them coming back year after year, as the event becomes a family tradition.

The free event held in Richardson's scenic Cottonwood Park will exhibit work from 240 artists.

These top artists are chosen from more than 800 applicants. Categories include mixed media, ceramics, drawings/pastel, jewelry, metalwork, painting, photography, and much more.

"This is the perfect place to shop for exclusive art that will make an impact in your home or office," said Serri Ayers, director of the Cottonwood Art Festival. "While you are here, you may enjoy live music from some of the top local bands, while sipping a cocktail and enjoying a meal in our relaxing courtyard."

For the children and

families, an interactive children's area, ArtStop, offers mini-Monet's a chance to experience the wonderful world of art first-hand. Complete with life-size paintbrushes and staffed by more than 100 volunteers,

ArtStop offers dozens of activities for children and their families to encourage imaginations to run wild. At ArtStop, it's OK for the kids to work on a giant ball of yarn, throw mud on an electric potter's wheel, paint a masterpiece and chisel away on a large block of plaster.

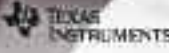
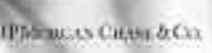





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## Collecting \$200 million from the debt collectors

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Columnist

At one time or another, many consumers have fallen behind on paying their bills. For the working poor, unemployed and underemployed, the struggle to get out of debt can be a daily challenge. At the same time, there are businesses that exploit others' financial woes, reaping high profits on debt purchased for just a few cents on the dollar. In some scenarios, debt buyers become nagging collectors who hound consumers at all hours of the day and night.

The irony is that the harassment is not always warranted or even accurate. Debt buyers have a documented history of suing the wrong person for the wrong amount. In the worst scenarios, some consumers first learn of alleged debts after a court judgment has been entered against them.

These are only a few of the concerns that recently led the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to take enforcement actions against the nation's two top debt collectors. CFPB's actions also suggest that financial abuses may be inherent in debt buyers' business models. Together, the San Diego-based Encore Capital Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries comprise the nation's largest debt buyer and collector. The Norfolk-based Portfolio Recovery Associates, the second largest debt operation, will halt collections totaling \$128 million. The firms will also pay another \$61 million in consumer refunds and an additional \$18 million in penalties.

“Encore and Portfolio Recovery Associates threatened and deceived consumers to collect on debts they should have known were inaccurate or had

other problems,” said CFPB Director Richard Cordray. “Now, the two biggest debt buyers in the market must refund millions and overhaul their practices. We will continue to take action to protect consumers from illegal and obnoxious debt collection practices.”

The litany of CFPB's charged offenses read like a primer of what not to do in consumer lending. Here are just a few of the illegal and deceptive actions the firms were charged with:

Illegally attempting to collect debt they knew, or should have known, may have been inaccurate or unenforceable;

Collecting debts through lawsuits and threats of legal action in unlawful ways;

Falsely telling consumers the burden of proof was on them to disprove the debt;

Suing or threatening to sue consumers past the statute of limitations; and

Disregarding or failing to adequately investigate consumers' disputes.

“The Portfolio Recovery Associates and Encore Capital Group consent orders underscore the questionable tactics used by even the largest debt buyers attempting to collect old debts – deception, intimidation, and the mass-production of lawsuits against the wrong people for the wrong amount of money,” said Lisa Stifler, a policy counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). “Consumers deserve to be protected from wrongful collection and legal action.”

Further, abusive debt collection is annually among the top complaints to the Federal Trade Commission and the CFPB. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, CRL is working with lawmakers and regulators at both the state and federal levels to ensure that con-

sumers are effectively protected from unscrupulous and predatory businesses.

Beyond CFPB's enforcement actions, state attorneys general in Arkansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York, Texas and West Virginia have all taken state actions against debt buyers and their collection practices. In New York alone, more than 7,500 court judgments valued at more than \$34 million have been vacated between 2014 and 2015.

## Commenting on the New

York actions, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said, “My office will continue to hold debt collectors and lenders accountable so that New Yorkers can keep more of their hard-earned money where it belongs – in their pockets. It is absolutely urgent that the CFPB propose new rules that will stop all debt collectors from engaging in abusive behavior, prevent them from collecting debts based on inaccurate infor-

**See DEBT, Page 13**

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## Obama's plan will train thousands of apprentices in STEM-related fields

By Zenitha Prince  
Special to the NNPA from  
the Afro-American Newspaper

President Obama earlier this month announced new opportunities for Americans to broaden their horizons and forge successful career pathways.

Speaking at Macomb Community College in Warren, Mich., on Sept. 9, the president announced \$175 million worth of apprenticeship grants that will train 34,000 new apprentices in advanced manufacturing and STEM-related fields. He also announced the creation of the College Promise Advisory Board to help ensure that qualified students receive two free years of free education at participating community colleges.

"Education has always been the secret sauce, the secret to America's success," Mr. Obama said, later adding, "Whether it is a



*President Barack Obama seeks to fill out STEM positions with American workers.*

bachelor's degree, an associate's degree, a journeyman's card from an apprenticeship program, having a credential above and beyond your high school diploma, that's the surest ticket to the middle class. And in global competition for jobs and industries, having the best-educated workforce in the world is the surest way for America to stay on top."

The Department of Labor is overseeing the apprenticeship grants, and has distributed the \$175 million to 46 public-private partnerships which include the concerted efforts of employers, organized labor, non-profits, local governments, and educational institutions.

The College Promise Advisory Board, headed by Jill Biden, a community college professor and wife of Vice President Joe Biden, is an independent body meant to further the free community college initiative launched by President Obama in 2009. It will feature initiatives such as the Heads Up America campaign, which will utilize community college stakeholders to advance the cause and increase participation in the free education program.

Learn more at CollegePromise.org and HeadsUpAmerica.us.

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## Dallas Opera hosting auditions to find six dancers for holiday performances

The Dallas Opera has announced an opportunity for talented dancers with acrobatic skills, to take part in the world premiere of *Becoming Santa Claus*. The holiday program kicks off on Friday, Dec. 4.

The Dallas Opera is seeking a wide range of candidates with a good level of training in dance and theater. Performers with experience in ballet, jazz, other

dance categories or acrobatics, will be considered. The audition will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Karayanis Rehearsal Production Center, 4301 S. Fitzhugh in Dallas.

*Becoming Santa Claus* will be directed and choreographed by Paul Curran. Rehearsals begin on November 2, 2015 culminating in four performances on Dec. 6, 9 and 12 in the Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

The performers will be compensated for rehearsal time, as well as a per-performance fee.

To schedule an audition, send your headshot and resume to Ahne Schield at [ahne.schild@dallasopera.org](mailto:ahne.schild@dallasopera.org). Audition times will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Dallas Opera Rehearsal Center, where the auditions will take place, is just outside Fair Park (follow the signs to Gate 12) at 4301 S. Fitzhugh, Dallas, TX 75210.

## AQUATICS, continued from Page 9

flects our evolving demographic patterns as well as a more refined site selection criteria, and will provide a higher level of coverage across the City; all, while existing facilities remain open" said Willis C. Winters, director of the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. "Understanding the needs of our community is crucial and we hope interested citizens will join us at these meetings so they can learn about the proposed plan and offer feedback. All are welcome."

The plan recommends building regional, community, and neighborhood family aquatics centers to be located in three regions of the city. This plan can be implemented with funds

collected from the sale of Elgin B. Robertson park land to the City of Rowlett. These funds were earmarked for the sole purpose of improving the Aquatics system in Dallas. The recommended construction of three (3) regional facilities (one in the north, central and south areas), will provide the greatest coverage to the most citizens. In addition, two of the highest attended pools, Tietze and Kidd Springs will receive newer and more updated pools, all while maintaining the existing 17 community pools.

Winters said, "We want citizens and visitors to enjoy a unique water experience at exciting new facilities that meet their recreational and leisure expectations."

The Department will conduct 10 public meetings (see schedule below) for citizens to provide input and feedback. And, we are planning to offer an alternative online presentation to reach as many citizens as possible.

The scheduled meetings are:

- Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. Samuell-Grand Recreation Center at 6200 E. Grand,

(214) 670-1383

- Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. Kleberg Rylie Recreation Center at 1515 Edd Road, Dallas, TX 75253., (214) 670-7550
- Sept. 28, 6 p.m. Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center at 5150 Mark Trail Way, (214) 670-1928
- Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m. Nash-Davis Recreation Center at 3710 N. Hampton, (214) 670-6194

For more information please visit [www.dallas-parks.org](http://www.dallas-parks.org).

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

McCarthy Black & Veatch a Joint Venture (MBV) is requesting proposals for the construction of TRA CRWS Phase III Solids Management Improvements Project – Package #1. The TRA CRWS Phase III Solids Management Improvements Project is being designed and constructed to include a biosolids treatment process that utilizes thermal hydrolysis followed by anaerobic digestion for the rated plant flows, which will allow for the replacement of the lime stabilization process and reduce the volume of solids produced at the CRWS WWTP.

Proposals for work categories will be received by MBV via sealed envelope at the McCarthy office located at 120001 N. Central Expressway, #400, Dallas, Texas 75243, until 2:00 P.M., September 29, 2015. Online at <https://mbc.box.com/s/mzjoh8ah3fv06x032cwyk8dgeblqd0a1>.

Proposals will be opened privately. Please contact MBV at 480-449-4720 with any questions. MBV reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

## DEBT, continued from Page 11

mation and punish them when they do lie to courts and consumers."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager

with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

## ICDC, continued from Page 5

While the city has reaped greatly from the growth of Uptown, it came at the cost of the State Thomas neighborhood which historically included low income minority families.

Therefore, to bring a halt to the potential displacement of South Dallas families, community leaders are call on Dallas citizens to support organiza-

tions like ICDC, South Fair, Echo and other community development corporations to ensure housing justice for all.

Those who are interested in supporting the event, but are unable to attend on Saturday, are invited to send a financial donation to ICDC, at 4907 Spring Avenue Dallas, Texas 75210



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### Office Administrative Support

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- 3) Prepare weekly Subscriptions for mailing print whole page label for subcription mailing (when needed)
- 4) Mail weekly invoices and tearsheets
- 5) Print invoices from Quickbooks
- 6) Pull tear sheets for weekly billing
- 7) Enter payments in Quick books develop summary/notes on customers preferences in receiving their bills/invoices
- 8) Print Affidavits (when required by customer)
- 9) Balance bank statement (P & L & Balance sheet)
- 10) Must have accounting degree or extensive knowledge of accounting/
- 11) Prepare year-end docs for CPA

### Collections:

- 1) Develop collection summary spreadsheet (google document)
- 2) Update collection summary spreadsheet weekly (google document)
- 3) Make 30-day collection call
- 4) Mail out past due bills/invoices
- 5) Occasional meetings on status of accounts in collections

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## Church Happenings

www.NorthDallasGazette.com

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#### September 27

You are invited to join us for Bible Classes at 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.; and don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

#### September 29, p.m.

You invited to join us for Tuesday's Talk at the church. Call the church for details.

#### September 30, 7 p.m.

Don't miss Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings. Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,  
Minister of Education  
1026 Avenue F  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-8833  
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

### BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

**September 27, 9:45 a.m.**  
You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed. Don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for the Word of God in Spanish at our Iglesia de Cristo Services.

**September 27, 12 – 1 p.m.**  
How do you study the Bible? Join us for a new Bible Study, Senior Pastor Woodson will teach a one hour series on "How to Study the Bible God's way." You don't want to miss this Bible Study Group.

**September 30, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These are cool Topics in Summer months. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,

Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

### BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

#### September 27, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our Praise and Worship Services and receive a blessing from God.

#### September 30, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday Bible Study to learn more about God's word and how it can lead and guide you.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor  
4215 North Greenview Drive  
Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
www.biblewayirving.org

### CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

#### September 27, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

#### September 30, 7 p.m.

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry,  
Senior Pastor  
701 Centennial  
972-991-0200  
Richardson, TX 75081  
www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

### FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

#### September 27

Join us as we praise and worship God at 8 a.m. in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen; followed by our Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

**September 27, 7 p.m.**  
Calling all youth! Every 4th Sunday we host Hype Sunday Worship at our Administration Building, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen, TX 75013. Don't be guilty of missing out on the wonderful and exciting way we worship God and thank Him for His blessings.

#### September 30

You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor  
5705 Cheyenne Drive  
at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956  
www.theship3c.org

### MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

#### September 27, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory.

#### September 30, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy  
Senior Pastor and  
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy  
300 Chisholm Place  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-633-5511  
www.mocop.org

### MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

#### September 27, 9:45 a.m.

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday morning worship service as we praise and worship God.

#### September 28

Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

#### September 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for Wednesday's Prayer and Worship come and hear what God has to say to us.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor  
11611 Webb Chapel Road  
Dallas, TX 75229  
972-241-6151  
www.dallasmtpisgah.org

### NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

#### September 27

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

#### September 30, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us for our growth.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown  
Senior Pastor  
9550 Shepherd Road  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
214-341-6459  
www.nmzb.org

### SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

#### September 27, at 8 a.m. And/or 11 a.m.

Come and worship with us this Sunday, God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and guide us in all truth and righteousness.

#### September 30, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; and, it's all for His glory and His honor.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
www.smbcplano.org

### THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

#### September 27, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

#### September 28, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

#### October 2, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. Come and grow with us.

Pastor Rickie Rush  
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# The Value of Words



**Sister Tarpley**

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

*"And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."*

**- Matthew 5:36-37**

Imagine for a moment that you are living in Jesus' time. It is before Jesus has begun His public ministry. He is a carpenter in your local town of Nazareth. You have asked Jesus to make a table for you.

You're on a deadline and you must have it in a week. You agree on the price of \$100 for the table and the date of one week for completion.

A week later you arrive to

pick up the table. You lay your money down on the table and Jesus says, "Mr. Johnson, I am sorry but the table is not ready. I ran into complications.

Also, I can no longer honor the price I gave you. It is now \$150 instead of \$100."

Two years later you hear about this same Jesus who is preaching to the local townspeople.

How are you going to view this Jesus? You probably won't give much credence to His message because of your personal experience.

Our lives have an ability to reinforce the message we stand for, or they can violate it and make it totally ineffective.

This literally happens all over the world in different settings with Christian believers. Our message becomes ineffective because we have not done what we said.

I know people who, when they tell me they plan to do something, I can expect them to follow through about 50 percent of the time.

I am sure you have had the same experience. Words and commitments are made with little meaning behind those words.

However, I know others

who will follow through almost every time. The only time they don't is when something falls outside their control. I quickly learn whose words have substance behind them.

There are times when we are unable to perform or deliver what we promised due to outside influences. The key to turning these poten-

tially negative circumstances into a witness for Christ is communication.

If we are unable to pay a bill on time, we must communicate with those we owe and make a good faith effort to resolve it within our means.

In these cases, God's purposes are being performed as well if we seek to do the right thing. My former Pastor, in his lifetime, said your word is important, if you say you will do something, do it, if it is possible.

He also said that the Bible says that a good name is greater to be chosen than

great riches.

Do your words mean anything to those who hear them? Do you make commitments and fail to follow through on them? What would others say about how you follow through? If you need help in this area ask God today to show you how you are doing in this area. You might even want to ask three people who are the closest to you how you fare in this area.

Remember Jesus said that we are the vine and He is the branch. Strive to abide in Him and He will abide in you, that's His promise to you.



*This young lady is holding her Proclamation, the second year in a row, from Mayor Todd Meier, Town of Addison as he proclaims, on behalf of the City Council, September 11, 2015, Lady Jaecelyn Merseberg Day.*

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Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on  
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# NDG Book Review: *Black Man in a White Coat*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

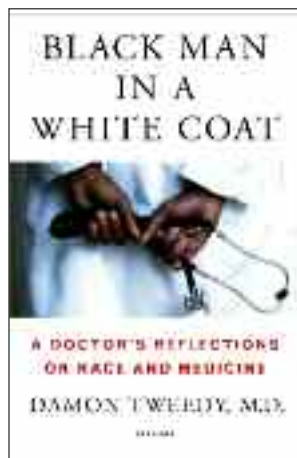
Lately, you haven't been feeling like yourself.

You've always been a bounce-out-of-bed kind of person, but not anymore: you're achy now, tired, and you can't think straight. Did you pick up a bug of some kind or – as you'll learn in the new book "Black Man in a White Coat" by Damon Tweedy, M.D. – does the color of your skin have something to do with it?

Damon Tweedy knew he was a rarity.

In 1996, the year he entered medical school at Duke University, just seven percent of all medical students in the U.S. were black. That minority-within-a-minority, he says, led to unintended racism in the classroom.

Working at the hospital, he also saw racism's effects:



many of Tweedy's patients were black, and the state of their health opened his eyes. He'd grown up in a solidly middle-class neighborhood with two parents who demanded education. Those were things that most of Tweedy's black patients never had, and that mattered.

As he worked his way from student to intern to resident, Tweedy gained ex-

perience and tried several branches of medicine before deciding on psychiatry as a specialty. But long before that, he worked in Labor & Delivery and learned that "more than 70 percent of black children are born to unmarried women," a rate that's more than twice that of white babies. He saw the affects of poverty while volunteering at a "safety-net clinic" in rural North Carolina. There, he found that "poor blacks were four times as likely as the general population to receive care" at such facilities.

Hypertension is "50 percent more common in black people than in whites..." Homicide is the leading cause of death for black male teens, which can lead to survivor guilt. AIDS, once a death sentence, is treatable today – although

"black people... are more than eight times as likely as whites to be diagnosed with HIV." Overall, "Being black can be bad for your health" but there are windows of good news...

When you first glimpse "Black Man in a White Coat," you may wonder if it's about health or if it's a memoir. It's both, actually, but that scarcely matters when a book is this good.

With a calm voice that belies the urgency he so apparently feels about the subject, author Damon Tweedy, M.D. explains why African Americans need to pay better attention to their health and the care they get. How the system fails black patients is of particular interest to him (he, in fact, relates an anecdote of his own as illustration), and he offers opinions on the Affordable Care Act. In between

this obviously useful info, Tweedy also shares with readers his long and personal path to becoming a doctor and how he grew with each step.

This is one of those books you wish wouldn't have to

end. It's interesting, gently humorous, and – more importantly – it may save lives. And if those aren't good enough reasons to want "Black Man in a White Coat," then read it just for the health of it.

## GALA, continued from Page 4

modular replacement for the shoulder, Buz Burkhead, MD has been a board certified orthopaedic surgeon practicing at The Carrell Clinic since 1983. As the author of scientific articles, book chapters and textbooks on the subject of rotator cuff and dislocating shoulder, Dr. Burkhead has lectured at both national and international conferences and holds numerous awards including the National Arthritis Foundation Medical Honoree.

Rob Langdon, MD is an emergency physician, entrepreneur and investor who

co-founded T-System, Inc., a company providing charting solutions and information systems to emergency departments across the U.S. and around the world. Dr. Langdon is board certified with over 20 years of clinical practice.

Drs. Burkhead and Langdon are also singers and musicians in the all-doctor classic rock band "Doctor Doctor," a band that performs annually at the Dallas Bone Bash and at other charitable benefits. The group is fondly known as "the only band that takes insurance." As the original

founders of the Bone Bash, Drs. Burkhead and Langdon continue to be advocates for those with a variety of orthopaedic needs by supporting the Foundation's fight against arthritis.

This year's Dallas Bone Bash is expected to draw more than 400 guests adorned in costumes and masks, who will mingle with zombies, ghouls, witches and ghosts as they roam – or float – through the Omni Hotel during an "otherworldly" Hallows' Eve experience.

According to organizers there will be an array of ghoulish games and devil-

ish delights as guests rattle their bones to the jive and rhythms of "Doctor Doctor," and enjoy an evening of fabulous food, fortune tellers and spooky costume contests. Highlights also include the "Bling & Bubbly Game" sponsored by Eise-man Jewels NorthPark Dallas, and Live & Silent Auction. The event will be capped off with our Key to a Cure mission moment.

## FRANCIS, continued from Page 2

intensified, posing risks to millions of migrants. The tsunami of human suffering hitting the shores of Europe is challenging the institutions of transit and receiving nations alike. Europe – the continent that sent some 60 million souls to the New World in the last great migration – has become immobilized, its response anemic, its rules poorly matched

to the pharaonic scale of human suffering. Over 430,000 migrants and refugees have reached Europe by sea this year. The majority arrived in Greece (309,356). The undignified bickering in the European Union in responding to desperate migrants is Exhibit A for the limits of a sterile Ethic of Rules when facing the greatest human crisis

since War World II.

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco is the Wasserman Dean and Distinguished Professor of Education at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. The cofounder and codirector of the Harvard Immigration Projects, Suárez-Orozco has authored multiple essays on mass migration for Pope Francis' Pontifical Academies.

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