

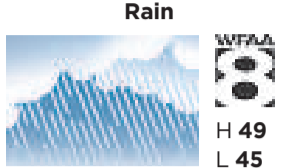
The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

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Rain

 H 49
 L 45
 Metro, back page

Spring forward

 Daylight saving time begins Sunday. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed tonight.

TEXAS

'Doonesbury' takes on sonogram law
 The satirical comic strip *Doonesbury* is skewering Rick Perry and Republican lawmakers next week over the Texas sonogram law. **3A**

METRO

Flight delayed by attendant's rant
 An American Airlines flight was delayed at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport after a flight attendant got on the public-address system and ranted about 9/11, the plane crashing and her bipolar disorder. **1B**

WORLD

Local blues legend Henderson dies
 Local blues guitar legend Bugs Henderson died from complications of liver cancer. He was 68. **1B**

Strike kills leader of soldier's captors
 An Israeli airstrike killed the commander of the militant group behind the abduction of Gilad Schalit, an Israeli soldier who was held captive for more than five years. **10A**

Afghans to gain control of detainees
 The U.S. agreed to accelerate its transfer of imprisoned insurgents to Afghan government control but will retain a veto over which ones can be released. **13A**

BUSINESS

Pension's stake raises risk questions
 The Teacher Retirement System of Texas' stake in a hedge fund raises questions about how much risk a large public pension fund should take on. **1D**

Fannie, Freddie pay will be capped
 The government says it will cap pay for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac chief executives at \$500,000 per year and eliminate annual bonuses for all employees. **3D**

INSIDE

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TEXAS ENTERPRISE FUND

Apple to add jobs, build new Austin campus

\$21 million state incentive yields vow to hire 3,600 more in a decade

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN — Apple Inc. is investing \$304 million in a new campus and more than doubling its workforce in the Texas capital, boosted by a \$21 million incentive from a state fund designed to attract high-tech companies, Gov. Rick Perry said Friday. The investment from the Texas Enterprise Fund comes in exchange for a promise that Apple will add more than 3,600 employees at its new facility in Austin over the next decade, including customer support, sales and accounting staff, Perry said.

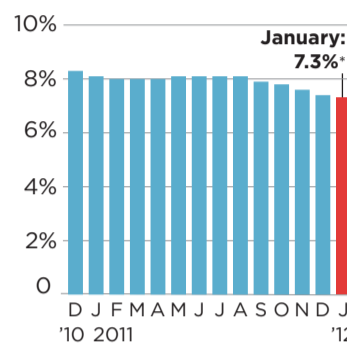
See **APPLE** Page 5A

BUSINESS: National job gains part of the three best months since before the recession. **1D**

INSIDE: How different job sectors performed in the state. **5A**

Unemployment trend

The state unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in January, down from 8.1 percent last summer.



* Preliminary
 SOURCE: Texas Workforce Commission
 Staff graphic

STATE ECONOMY

Jobless rate hits 3-year low

Workers hired at double the recent pace

By **BILL BOWEN**
 Staff Writer
 bbowen@dallasnews.com

Texas businesses kicked up hiring in January, adding workers at double their recent pace and knocking the state's unemployment rate to its lowest since April 2009.

The job gains lowered unemployment to 7.3 percent, down from a revised 7.4 percent in December. The rate, adjusted to account for seasonal variances, is down from 8.1 percent in

January 2011.

Employers in most major industries were hiring, even as more people were coming into the labor force, a sign that some discouraged workers are returning to the market.

Led by business and professional services, Texas nonfarm employers added 67,200 workers in January, more than doubling the 31,548 jobs created in December and the 33,302

See **TEXAS** Page 5A

SOUTH DALLAS

Neighbors unite to build better lives



Photos by Steve Pfost/Staff Photographer

Turner Courts Recreation Center manager Velma Mitchell serves children on Bonton community day. Mitchell, whose only son was slain in 1992, moved to South Dallas from the suburbs in 2006 to better serve Bonton.

Taking back Bonton means making it home

By **DIANE JENNINGS**
 Staff Writer
 djennings@dallasnews.com

In the South Dallas neighborhood of Bonton, trash piles up along fences, stray dogs roam the streets and clumps of men loiter outside the liquor store. Then there are the bright spots: the pristine Turner Courts Recreation Center, dozens of nicely kept Habitat for Humanity homes — and the determination of residents like Clifton

Reese and Velma Mitchell. Reese and Mitchell are founding members of the fledgling Bonton Neighborhood Association and unlikely allies in the battle against the neglect and indifference that pervade the community. He's a reformed drug dealer, and she's the mother of a son killed in a drive-by shooting. But both share a passion for Bonton. They could have moved up and out, but they chose to stay and fight, to take

back their neighborhood, just south of "Dead Man's Curve" on U.S. Highway 175. "We're getting there," said Mitchell, president of the association. The effort to reclaim Bonton began decades ago, which shows just how hard it is to do. "It's a work in progress," Mitchell said.

See **BONTON** Page 2A

Clifton Reese, a former drug dealer who moved back to Bonton, prays with the Turner Court Falcons basketball team, including Larry Jenkins Jr. (left) and Reagan Pop-off.



"It's a work in progress."

Velma Mitchell, Bonton Neighborhood Association president

ELECTIONS '12

Primary lineups all set

New minority congressional district draws 14 hopefuls from Dallas and Tarrant

By **GROMER JEFFERS JR.**
 Staff Writer
 gjeffers@dallasnews.com

The fight for the newly created congressional seat in North Texas headlines a political season that finally began in earnest Friday when the fields were set for the May 29 Republican and Democratic primaries.

The Democratic primary for the 33rd Congressional District attracted 11 candidates from Dallas and Tarrant counties. Three Republicans also filed to run.

The district was drawn to create an opportunity for a Hispanic or black candidate to serve in Congress and is heavily Democratic.

"This is literally the opportunity of a lifetime for a lot of folks," Dallas-based consultant Vinny Minchillo said. "These seats don't open very often."

See **PRIMARY** Page 17A

BIG changes coming to Collin delegation. **16A**
LIST of candidates, **17A**

FEDERAL COURTS | NORTH TEXAS

Wide gaps in drug sentences

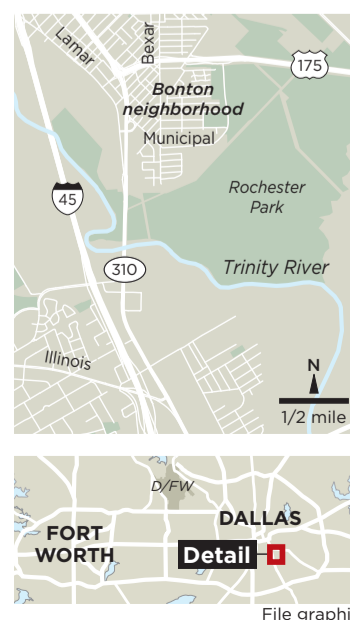
Disparity between 2 judges is biggest in country, study finds

By **JASON TRAHAN**
 Staff Writer
 jtrahan@dallasnews.com

U.S. District Judge John McBryde in Fort Worth and U.S. District Judge David Godbey in Dallas don't work that far apart, but the distance between the two in sentencing drug convicts is the widest in the nation, a new study says.

The gap — a difference of 100 months, or over eight years — was calculated in a first-of-its-kind comparison of sentences by individual judges across the country. But experts disagree on whether it

See **STUDY** Page 12A



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MOST POPULAR

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MOST COMMENTED ON

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

The Dallas Morning News welcomes your comments about published information that may require correction or clarification. You can submit your comments by visiting dallasnews.com/corrections or calling 214-977-8352.

■ A story in Thursday's Elections '12 section incorrectly said that former Texas Republican Party chairwoman Cathie Adams is supporting Newt Gingrich for president. Adams is backing Rick Santorum.

■ In Thursday's Metro section, the time given for the Hanami event at the Dallas Arboretum was incorrect in the Asian Culture and Community column. It will be from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, weather permitting.

■ In a list of candidate filings in Tuesday's Metro section, Heather Money was incorrectly listed as a candidate in Place 1 in Frisco ISD. She filed in Place 7, but she withdrew from that race on Thursday.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Lotto Texas
Wednesday's numbers
1 19 24 29 33 36
Jackpot: \$9 million
Number of winners: 0
Winning ticket: N/A
Next drawing: Saturday
Est. jackpot: \$10 million

Mega Millions
Friday's numbers*
N/A
Jackpot: \$148 million
Number of winners: N/A
Winning ticket: N/A
Megaplier: N/A
Next drawing: Tuesday
Est. jackpot: N/A

Powerball
Wednesday's numbers
12 35 45 46 47 Powerball: 12
Jackpot: \$60 million
Number of winners: 1
Winning ticket: Rhode

Island
Next drawing: Saturday
Est. jackpot: \$40 million

Texas Two-Step
Thursday: 5 8 10 15
Bonus ball: 32

Pick 3
Friday afternoon 2 7 6
Friday night 8 8 8

Cash 5
Friday 7 8 10 11 12

Daily 4
Friday afternoon 0 6 6 4
Friday night 0 6 3 3

*Friday's Mega Millions drawing was delayed because of a malfunction. For complete results, visit dallasnews.com/lottery

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Photos by Steve Pfost/Staff Photographer

BridgeBuilders graduates and their mentors celebrated at a ceremony on community day at Turner Courts Recreation Center in Bonton this month. Christina Novak (right) was mentor to Brittney Franklin.

Bonton is changing as pride spreads from street to street

Continued from Page 1A

She and Reese are joined by a handful of residents, including Regina Suttle, secretary of the neighborhood association. Suttle is a college graduate from Richardson and one of the few white residents living in Bonton.

"I want to live here," said Mitchell, who manages the recreation center and ministers to residents through H.I.S. BridgeBuilders, a Christian nonprofit she co-founded with a member of Prestonwood Baptist Church.

Living in Bonton gives her "a great voice," she said. "I can say ... this is my 'hood."

Leaving suburbia

Mitchell, 64, used to live in Lancaster, where she could listen to crickets and gaze at the stars from her backyard.

She spent her days in Bonton working with local residents. But at night, she left for suburban peace and quiet.

Mitchell often got late-night calls from those who lost had loved ones to violence. They knew her only child was the victim of a freeway shooting in 1992 at age 17.

She always answered because she knew what they felt: "I know what you're going through. I know the questions you want to ask. I don't have answers — but I'm here."

Losing a child is "like a thief coming in the middle of the night and taking part of your heart away," she said.

Finally, after a string of such calls, "The Lord let me know, 'You need to be there. You need to be where your heart is,'" she said.

In 2006, Mitchell did what she once vowed never to do: She moved to Bonton. The first night there, she recalled saying to herself, "I'm home."

Fighting crime

Bonton was home to Clifton Reese off and on when he was growing up. Now 29, he remembers "a lot of drugs and a lot of criminal acts," he said. Dallas police Sgt. Shelia Zimmerman, who oversees the neighborhood policing unit in the southeast patrol division, remembers, too.

Many South Dallas neighborhoods "have really gone through a war," she said. "A war on drugs, a war on alcohol, a war on burglaries."

Bonton "used to be the Wild West," with drug dealers and police battling for control, she said. But "there's been great progress," she said. In 1991, 184 major violent crimes and 204 major nonvio-



A new Habitat for Humanity house, one of many in Bonton, is under way. Habitat also helps residents repair existing homes through a program called Brush with Kindness.

"There are amazing people who care about these neighborhoods," he said. "They just don't have the resources. ... All we do is empower people."

Bill Hall, Habitat for Humanity chief executive

lent offenses occurred in the reporting area south of Highway 175. Last year, only 12 major violent crimes and 22 major non-violent offenses were reported. Drug dealing and minor crimes are down, too, but remain a problem, police say.

Two changes helped: Police adjusted their approach, Zimmerman said, and two massive housing developments, Turner Courts and Rhoads Terrace, closed.

Police began working with the community to fight crime, Zimmerman said, and some residents formed a crime-watch group. When people called with tips, police protected their identity to avoid retaliation.

In 1996, Habitat for Humanity began building homes in Bonton. Since then, the Dallas-area chapter has built about 80 homes there. After an absence of several years, the group is now building 25 more.

"The job wasn't done," said Habitat chief executive Bill Hall.

In recent years, the group has shifted its focus. In addition to building houses, Habitat now helps residents repair existing homes through a program called Brush with Kindness.

Rehabbing an entire block creates good will, Hall said, and "pride starts leaking into other streets."

"There are amazing people who care about these neigh-

borhoods," he said. "They just don't have the resources. ... All we do is empower people."

Neighborhood associations are key, Hall said, because they enable residents to create the community they want.

So far, only about a dozen residents have joined the neighborhood association, Mitchell said. Most are employed by BridgeBuilders, but the group is actively recruiting others.

"Some of them don't know what a neighborhood association is," Reese said. When told, "they want to be part of it, because they want a better community, not just for themselves but for the sake of their children."

Children — his four in particular — are the reason Reese decided to buy a house in Bonton after turning away from drugs and, with the help of BridgeBuilders, getting his high school-equivalency degree and job training.

His wife was not thrilled about buying a house in Bonton, Reese said. But the opportunity "to get a house in the same community where I sold drugs and ran the streets was an opportunity for me to give back to my community," he said.

"I'm glad I'm there."

Regina Suttle is also glad to be in Bonton — though she'd

never been to South Dallas before volunteering with Habitat seven years ago. She grew up in the suburbs and graduated from Texas Tech. "I wasn't naive to the fact that these places existed," she said, but it bothered her that Bonton seemed "so forgotten."

Though the community is predominantly black and Hispanic, Suttle said she never feels out of place. She volunteered in the area for several years before being hired to run the children's ministry for BridgeBuilders.

When the group offered her housing in Bonton, she jumped at it, though residency was not required. "I'm here by choice," said Suttle, 33. Instead of being overwhelmed by the challenges, she is encouraged by the progress. For instance, the house next door is boarded up, but "there's nobody running drugs out of it," she said. "That is true transformation."

Suttle, like others in the neighborhood, knows big change is coming as the city builds Buckeye Trail Commons, a low-income housing development. The development promises to be less institutional than previous housing, and Reese and Mitchell are excited by the prospect of more neighborhood recruits. When they drive through Bonton, they don't see debris and despair. They see an empty lot being cleared for a community garden, a rundown building making way for a training kitchen and restaurant. "It won't be Lancaster," Mitchell said with a chuckle. "It's going to be better."

No longer forgotten

Regina Suttle is also glad to be in Bonton — though she'd