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Touched by the system

The perils job seekers with backgrounds confront

By Nicole James Scott
NDG Contributing Writer

According to a review in March 2013 by the University of Texas School of Law on current practices and recommendations for reform in the state of Texas close to 4.7 million men and women have a criminal background. The review goes on to write Texas law enforcement makes more than 1 million arrests annually. What are the long-term implications of being touched by the criminal justice system? How does it change the trajectory of one's life? How should we as a society respond to those who have been arrested, convicted or incarcerated?

On Jan. 22, 2010 at a town hall meeting in Elyria, Ohio, responding to a question posed by a young man in the audience about his criminal background President Barack Obama said the following:

"Now, I don't blame employers obviously for being nervous about hiring somebody who has a record. It's natural if they've got a lot of applicants for every single job that that's a question that they'd have in their minds. On the other hand, I think one of the great things about America is we give people second chances."



Organizational staff welcomes job seekers who are looking for a second chance in the employment market with criminal backgrounds in tow.

The idea of redemption or forgiveness is definitely a belief that American society enjoys touting, however the numbers as well as those who have been touched by the criminal justice system speak a different tune. S.H., who didn't want to publish her full name out of fear of backlash, says since 2008 as a result of two felony charges that were dismissed, it has been nearly impossi-

ble for her to secure gainful employment. Although she leaves an indelible impression in her interviews employers are less than willing to overlook her criminal record.

Speaking on one of her job seeking experiences S.H. said, "They loved me. I did very well. I passed all of my interviews. The paperwork

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Mayor's race to provide student shoes

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Church celebrates 25 years

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Charlie Wilson to play Winstar

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COMMENTARY

The NFL throws Rice under the bus

By Raynard Jackson
NNPA Columnist

By now most people have heard how Ray Rice has been thrown under the bus by the National Football League (NFL) and his former team, the Baltimore Ravens.

First, some background for the non-football fans. Rice was drafted by the Ravens in the second round (55th overall) of the 2008 NFL draft. He signed a 4-year contract for \$ 2.805 million plus a

\$1.1 million signing bonus. Last year, he signed a 5-year, \$ 35 million contract, paying him a \$15 million signing bonus.

Second, here are some cold facts:

On February 15, both Rice and his then-fiancée, Janay Palmer, were arrested and charged with assault after a fight at an Atlantic City, N.J. casino.

On March 27, a grand jury indicted Rice on third-degree aggravated

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Win tickets to the Texas State Fair and win tickets to see the Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic: Grambling v. Prairie View A&M

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People In The News...

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Jamail Larkin



Dyke Robinson



Natalie Cole

In August 49,000 visited NorthDallasGazette.com - news added daily!

Jamail Larkin

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) will host a free Education Day for students across North Texas on Thursday, Oct. 2 at Dallas Executive Airport as part of the CAF WWII Air Expo. The CAF WWII Air Expo's Education Day will offer a full day of interactive programs and activities, including the CAF Rise Above exhibit. Special guests including World War II veterans and Jamail Larkins, president and CEO of Ascension Aviation and a 2014 Forbes 30 Under 30, will meet with



the students.

"CAF's Education Day is a wonderful opportunity for local students to learn more about aviation and American history," said Stephan Brown, president and CEO

of the Commemorative Air Force. "We will have 20 of the most historic planes from World War II on site to make this a truly interactive, hands-on experience. Just as importantly, the students will meet with World War II veterans and CAF members to hear their firsthand accounts of the war and that era."

The CAF WWII Air Expo's Education Day will give students the opportunity to tour bomber cockpits and watch the warplanes take to the skies. Education Day will also include the CAF Red Tail Squadron's Rise Above Traveling Ex-

hibit, a 160-degree panoramic screen movie theater that highlights the courage and determination of the Tuskegee Airmen, who overcame obstacles to train and fight as U.S. Army Air Corps pilots.

"The 332nd fighter group was the first unit of all African American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces," said Brown. "As bomber escorts during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen, as they were called, fought valiantly for the freedom of their country. Their amazing legacy is told in a truly compelling way through the Rise

Above Traveling Exhibit. Unlike any other exhibit, Rise Above will give local students a front row seat to an important part of our country's history."

Students will also have the opportunity to meet with Jamail Larkins during Education Day. Larkins was called an "Aerospace Mogul in the Making," by Inc. Magazine and is the first ambassador for Aviation & Space Education for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration. As a young aviator and successful businessman, Larkins will be a true inspi-

ration to students who might feel success is out of their reach.

The CAF WWII Air Expo will be held Oct. 3-5 at Dallas Executive Airport, located at 5303 Challenger Drive in Dallas. Admission to the Expo is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 through 17. Children age 5 and under can attend for free. Admission tickets can be purchased at the gate. Parking is free. Airplane ride reservations may be made in advance online at www.AirPowerExpo.org or at the event. Discounts apply for online reservations.

Dyke Robinson

Digibots is a unique concept created by African American Dyke Robinson, who developed his innovative toy and publishing company to address inappropriate behaviors in the classroom for school-age children.

Inappropriate classroom behaviors are the leading cause why classroom instruction does not occur. He goal is make his product accessible to every child on the planet; He wants all of them to have a copy of the Digibots Classroom Adventure series.



Included in the series is a Digibot Teacher and all of the students: Kelsey, Shelby, Lisa, Lee, Hong, and Jason. This powerful and compelling concept addresses issues in the classroom like:

name-calling, cheating, disturbing other's property, speaking without raising your hand, wandering around the classroom, tardiness, turning attention away from the teacher, fighting, uncontrollable laughter, sharing, and inappropriate tasks.

"These issues became paramount to me, when based upon my research; it showed that inappropriate behaviors in the classroom were the major reason why learning did not occur in the classroom environment," Robinson said during a recent interview. "Digibots are a proactive approach to

raise the child's awareness about inappropriate behaviors, before he or she gets into trouble in the classroom. It's a prevention program. Thus, the classroom will function with fewer distractions and learning will occur for all of the children in the classroom environment."

Digibots was designed to be used by schools, churches, daycares, home school facilities, and/or parents, grandparents, or any and every entity that has a child in a learning environment. Children in the 4-8 year old age range and of diverse backgrounds really

enjoy the stories because they involve creative thinking, discussion and participation.

Furthermore, the book is colorful and the seven characters are placed throughout the stories to keep the child's attention. The series also includes a behavioral curriculum that can be used in grades K-3, which gives children additional insight that is needed throughout the learning process.

Robinson, the founder and creator of the product, has a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling and is very committed to

helping children function properly in the classroom environment. Robinson says he believes that Digibots will one day change the classroom environment for all children, on the world stage. "Kids just love the Digibots!," he says.

These resources are just one tool to help teachers regain control in the classroom. Experienced teachers also recommend encouraging students to get to know one another, which can foster an environment of respect.

For more details, visit www.Digibots.com.

Natalie Cole

Natalie Cole rocketed to stardom in 1975 with her debut album, Inseparable, earning her a #1 single, "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)" and her first two Grammy Awards® for Best New Artist and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance. In 1977, Cole scored a No. 1 R&B hit with "I've Got Love on My Mind" from her third release, Unpredictable, which became her first platinum album. The singer expanded her success with her own TV special in 1977, which was the first of more than 300 major television appearances in her career, including dramatic



roles on "Law and Order" and "Touched by an Angel" as well as guest spots on talk shows with Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and Larry King.

Cole marked a career milestone in 1991 with the release of Unforgettable ...With Love, featuring the

celebrated duet with her late father, Nat King Cole. The album spent five weeks at No. 1 on the pop charts, earned six Grammy Awards and sold more than 14 million copies worldwide. Cole's first Spanish-language album, Natalie Cole en Español was released in 2013 on Verve/Universal.

The album finds Natalie personally inspired by both the bilingual recording legacy of her father Nat King Cole and a growing passion for the timeless romanticism of the great Latin music composers.

The AT&T Performing Arts Center and AEG Live announced multiple Grammy-winning recording artist

Natalie Cole will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2014 at the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in the Dallas Arts District.

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NFL domestic abusers get tap on the wrist

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

The NFL – which has been referred to as everything from the National Felons League to, in the cases of players, Not For Long – has imposed a lifetime ban on Ray Rice yet rarely disciplines other brazen offenders. And when a team takes the rare action of disciplining a player for striking a woman, it usually results in a tap on the wrist.

The National Football League initially imposed a two-game suspension of Rice after it was disclosed that he had abused his then-fiancée, Janay Palmer, in an Atlantic City, N.J. casino hotel elevator. But after the celebrity website TMZ aired the full video showing Rice knocking out his future wife with a strong blow to the face, rendering her unconscious, the Baltimore Ravens voided Rice's contract and the NFL banned him from pro

football for life.

Commissioner Roger Goodell, who is in charge of protecting the nation's most popular sport's \$10 billion in annual revenue, acknowledged that the NFL “got it wrong” when it imposed only a two-game suspension on Rice.

But what Goodell, who earns \$44 million a year, didn't admit was the NFL continues to get it wrong while serving as a high-profile enabler for other domestic abusers in the league. For example:

Rice's teammate, All-Pro Linebacker Terrell Suggs, continued playing after Candace Williams, the mother of his three children and his future wife, filed for two protective orders against him in the last five years. The first was in December 2009. The Baltimore Sun reported, “According to the complaint ... Williams said Suggs threw a soap dispenser at her head, hit her in the chest with his hand, and held a bottle of bleach over her

and their 1-year-old son, which spilled on them and caused a rash. Baltimore City District Court Judge Ronald Alan Karasic wrote that a laceration was visible on Williams' chest.” Though the protective order was granted, Suggs was never charged with a crime. Three years later, Williams filed for another protective order, alleging that Suggs “punched her in the neck and drove a car containing their two children at a ‘high rate of speed’ while she was being dragged alongside.” The couple later married. In neither case did the Ravens or the NFL take any action against Suggs.

Carolina Panthers All-Pro Defensive End Greg Hardy was convicted last summer of assaulting and threatening to kill his former girlfriend, Nicole Holder, but no action was taken against him until the Ray Rice story exploded on the national scene. In her

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assault (charges against Palmer were dropped).

On March 28, Rice married Palmer (the date had been planned and announced before the assault charge).

On May 20, Rice was allowed to enter into a pretrial diversion program. Upon successful completion of the program, which will be a minimum of one year, the third-degree charge of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury would be dismissed. The arrest would remain on his record, but with no conviction.

On July 24, the NFL suspends Rice for 2 games.

On July 25, the Raven's organization rallies around Rice.

On August 28, the NFL established domestic violence policy for the league.

On September 8, the celebrity Website TMZ releases video of Rice knocking out his wife in an elevator and dragging her out of the elevator when it stopped.

On September 8, the Raven's terminates Rice from the team.

On September 8, 2014, the NFL suspends Rice from the league indefinitely.

The Associated Press reports Sept. 10 that an law enforcement officials said he sent damaging video of Rice knocking out his then-fiancee to the NFL, despite League denials.

The above narrative is the only thing we know to be indisputable.

Prior to the video's release, Rice had been caught on a security camera

dragging his fiancée out of the elevator. That got him suspended for two games without pay. The penalty, which some criticized as too lenient, cost him about \$530,000 in salary.

Now that everyone has seen the graphic video of the actual event, people have all of a sudden become filled with phony righteous indignation. Rice should have been punished not because of the video, but because of the act itself. But doing a bait-and-switch on his punishment amount to pilling on.

Now many professional athletes, entertainers, politicians, and the public want to make public statements about how terrible a person Ray Rice is. Where was this outrage before the release of the video? Where is the outrage from these athletes and entertainers about the precious Black children being killed in Chicago? Where is their outrage about anything other than collecting a bigger paycheck?

To ultra-feminist groups, especially the National Organization of Women (NOW), why are you so selective in your outrage about how women are treated? To this day, you have never criticized Beyoncé for objectifying herself and women in her music. Yet your criticize Hip Hop for the same thing. Where is their outrage about a woman who raped a child in Arizona when he was 14 and now, at 20, is being forced to pay child support for a 6-year-old child he never knew existed?

It sickens me that people want to

take, by all accounts, a good person and kick dirt in his face because he made a terribly horrible mistake; a mistake because there was nothing in his past that indicated this type of behavior. Even more troubling is the contention that Ray does not deserve a second chance. That's a mighty high standard, considering human frailty.

There was absolutely nothing in the video that Rice hadn't already admitted to police and the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens have admitted as much. The difference is that the NFL faced a growing backlash, based on the release of the video

Rice is not guilty of breaking any laws. The criminal justice system – with everyone having access to the controversial video – treated Rice as the first-time offender that he was. He was dismissed by the NFL for violating a league's “conduct” policy. In other words, for “conduct detrimental to the league.” Once that is invoked by the league or a team, based on their collective bargaining agreement, punishment can be anything from a fine to being banned from the sport.

The NFL, after meting out a 2-game suspension, changed the rules in the middle of the ride. After serving half of his 2-game suspension, Rice was retroactively given a death sentence.

Raynard Jackson is president & CEO of Raynard Jackson & Associates, LLC., a Washington, D.C.-based public relations/government affairs firm. He can be reached through his Web site, www.raynardjackson.com. You can also follow him on Twitter at [raynard1223](https://twitter.com/raynard1223).

Local seniors create cards for kids battling cancer

Local seniors are joining a national movement to stand up to cancer because of their own battles with the disease or because it's taken the lives of so many of their family and friends, with no cure in sight. More than half of all cancer victims are seniors (65 years and older). A recent study reveals by the year 2030, 70% of the elderly population will have cancer.

In honor of Stand Up to Cancer Day and September's National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Visiting Angels, one of the largest in-home senior care

companies in the nation, with offices in our area, helps seniors take a stand against cancer by giving back to the most heartbreaking of cancer victims – children.

How Visiting Angels Seniors Stand Up to Cancer:

- Visiting Angels caregivers will help seniors create cards to lift the spirits of local children battling cancer. More than a classroom of kids a day are diagnosed with cancer each year in the U.S.

- Visiting Angels caregivers are creating videos of

seniors literally standing up to cancer.

"At Visiting Angels we're not the expert in cancer treatment, but we are experts at caring for seniors in the comfort of their own homes," says Larry Meigs, CEO of Visiting Angels. "So many have lost loved ones to cancer or are battling the disease themselves. It will brighten their week to join a movement to fight cancer and to make a card that lifts the spirits of children battling this hor-

rific disease. Seniors aren't focusing on their own aches and pains. But instead, they're caring for others, lifting children's' spirits, and that gives seniors a sense of worth, a purpose, at an age they need it the most."

"In today's world, seniors, whether they're perfectly healthy or battling a disease, need to feel productive, loved and surrounded by people who care," says Meigs. "Our caregivers are an extra ad-

vocate at the doctor, helper at home and friendly companion.

"With this small initiative to stand up to cancer, caregivers help seniors join a larger cause that helps them contribute to the world around them so they feel

like they're making a difference.

"We may not have a cure for cancer yet, but now our seniors join the millions helping to raise awareness for a disease that affects so many of us."

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American Red Cross supporters tee off for disaster relief

On Monday, Sept. 22, the American Red Cross Dallas Area Chapter will host the 17th Annual Swing for Relief, a fundraising golf tournament at Prestonwood Country Club, The Creek Course in Dallas, Texas from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Swing for Relief is open to individuals and businesses who can

confirm their participation by registering at the event's webpage. Individual player spots start at \$500 each while corporate sponsorship levels are still available from \$1,000 to \$50,000.

For the 17th year Preferred Care, Inc. supports the American Red Cross by joining Swing for

Relief as their Title Sponsor. All proceeds from the event support Red Cross disaster relief and the mission of helping families prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Last year, Swing for Relief raised more than \$350,000 to support disaster relief in the North

Texas Region. The Red Cross has set the goal of \$400,000 for this year's upcoming event.

More than 130 players will join long-standing co-chairs Dr. Erwin Thal and Mel John. The timeline for the day includes

- Check in (putting green & driving range open): 10 a.m.

- Putting contest: 11:15 a.m.
- Celebrity live auction & shotgun start: 11:30 a.m.

- Dinner and awards ceremony: 4:30 p.m.

Special guests will be in attendance including Chuck Cooperstein, the voice of the Dallas Mavericks on ESPN 103.3 FM.

Bring the money back to our community

Terrance Amen, founder of 3ufirst.com and author of *Black Unity: The Total Solution to Financial Independence and Happiness*, says we can bring billions of dollars back to our community by using the money we're already spending. Amen based 3ufirst, the company, on his book. He created the company in order to solve the major problems within the community, which include unemployment, lack of wealth

creation, and lack of funding for the best programs across the country that are presently under-funded.

Solving these problems, Amen says, will solve the other problems in our community. 3ufirst will accomplish its goals by giving back fifty percent of the net profits from African Americans shopping online for their favorite name brand products and services.

There's no extra cost to the consumer; they simply

go through 3ufirst.com to find a product or service. Mr. Amen believes that if the community supports the company, African Americans can put an end to their struggling and create a secure future for themselves and generations to come.

He comments, "Relying on the government and mainstream companies has cost us many jobs and the little wealth we had. There's absolutely nothing to lose shopping on 3ufirst.com; but

the gain is bringing billions of dollars back to the community." He continues, "Creating new jobs, investment opportunities, and funding the best programs to solve the other problems,

is recycling 'black dollars' at its best. Our community has suffered way too long, considering the fact that we're spending a trillion dollars a year outside our community. But now, it doesn't

matter where you spend your money."

The company, 3UFirst FPC, was created to end the major problems in the African American community.

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request for a protective order, Holder said Hardy threw her into a tile tub, pulled her from the tub by her hair, choked her with both hands and picked her up over his head and threw her onto a couch filled with assault rifles and shotguns. At the trial, Holder testified, "He looked me in my eyes and told me he was going to kill me. I was so scared I wanted to die. When he loosened his grip slightly, I said, 'Just do it. Kill me.'" Hardy was found guilty of misdemeanor charges and sentenced to a 60-day suspended sentence and 18 months of probation. He is appealing the verdict. Hardy was deactivated for last Sunday's game against the Detroit Lions.

San Francisco 49ers defensive end Ray McDonald was allowed to play in last Sunday's game, despite being arrested and charged with felony domestic violence connected with allegedly striking his pregnant fiancée. A hearing scheduled for Monday was postponed, pending further investigation.

These are not isolated cases. A database maintained by USA Today shows that there have been 713 arrests of NFL players since 2000 – 85 for domestic violence. The database covers only incidents reported by the media.

Of the 56 known domestic violence cases that occurred on Goodell's watch, players were suspended only a combined total 13 games, excluding Ray Rice. Typically, players involved in domestic disputes had charges dismissed after they were placed in a diversion program for first-time offend-

ers, completed anger management counseling or performed community service. In many cases, the abused woman refused to file charges. Only 10 players were released by their team and three of those landed on other squads.

Overall, arrest rates among NFL players are lower than the national average for men in their age range. Among NFL teams, according to the New York Times, the Minnesota Vikings had the most players arrested since 2000, with 44, followed closely by the Cincinnati Bengals and the Denver Broncos. The Arizona Cardinals and the St. Louis Rams, with 11 each, tied for the lowest mark. Baltimore had 22 players arrested over that period, mirroring the league average.

Though the most common offense was driving while drunk, domestic violence has taken center stage.

The domestic cases are chronicled by Sidepin. The website stated, "Goodell is perceived as being tough on players. He's an authoritarian, the likes of which the league has never seen!! But there's one thing Goodell will tolerate, and that's NFL players abusing women."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA.) He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached at www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook.

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Mayor's 5K to outfit 50 DISD students with free running shoes

Dallas city council representatives, Dallas Mavericks mascot Champ, Dallas police, firemen and SWAT officers, and DISD executives along with leaders of the Cigna Mayor's Race 5K presented by Oncor – part

of MetroPCS Dallas Marathon weekend in December – today visited Louise Wolff Kahn Elementary School to kick off registration season for the event and discuss the importance of health and fit-

ness with Dallas ISD students.

"We launched the Cigna Mayor's Race Presented by Oncor in 2003 as a fun way to encourage students to take an interest in health and fitness," said Patrick

Byerly, president of the Dallas Marathon. "Over the past eleven years, we've loved seeing such excitement and joy from these budding runners through our relationship with DISD. We look forward to a truly

memorable event on Saturday, December 13."

MetroPCS Dallas Marathon officials introduced the Louise Wolff Kahn Elementary students to the 3 Months to 3 Miles training program, a kid-friendly pro-

gram that promotes family exercise activities like bike-riding and running. The program helps prepare schoolchildren and other participants for the 3.1-mile run at the 2014 Cigna

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got to the lawyer and I was shut down." They don't ask her to explain the charges neither do they consider the fact she was never convicted.

As a result of her inability to secure employment S.H. turned to her experience as a nail technician. She began hosting local spa parties at doctors' offices and wherever she could as a means of generating income. This was her sole source of revenue for almost ten years until she was fortunate to find employment through the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) due to her financial hardship.

Through AARP S.H. was able to work at a number of companies on a temporary basis, however when she sought to become a permanent employee she ran into the same barriers, her background. As a result AARP referred her to Victor Pratt and his company Pratt and Associates Consulting, a job resource firm that aids, teaches and guides individuals with criminal backgrounds on finding receptive employers and reentering the workforce.

It is an invaluable service that Pratt has been providing for almost six years to not only those residing in the Dallas-Forth Worth area but Austin and Houston as well since he resigned from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). It was his experience at TWC, witnessing the consistent futility of its one size fits all system and seeing so many young African-American women and men "fall through the cracks" that gave birth to Pratt's vision.

"I took a leap of faith," referring to his resigning to

start his firm Pratt and Associates, "and I've been blessed it paid off."

One of the things that make Pratt and Associates so effective, unlike its non-profit counterparts, is its source of funding comes directly from the state comptroller. Pratt is a contractor for the state of Texas, a sole proprietor which means he is not subject to many of the restrictions and confines to whom he provides help. According to Pratt most, if not all, of the organizations, including the Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (TORI) founded by Bishop T.D. Jakes do very little at assisting those who need it most, i.e. violent offenders or sex related offenders.

Returning to society after being incarcerated can be an intimidating feat if one does not have the necessary support base, resources and/or skills, which is often the case. According to a research study conducted by the Urban Institute 40 percent of state and federal inmates do not have a high school diploma or GED, almost a third have a physical or mental impediment and more than half are former drug users. Add to that many are legally barred from certain occupations.

This doesn't exactly make for an ideal job candidate and can often lead to recidivism. The Urban Institute study concluded: Former prisoners who are able to secure a job, ideally at higher than minimum wage, by two months out are more likely to successfully avoid recidivism the first 8 to 12 months after release.

Once in the community, 48 percent of respondents wanted but were commonly

because they were unaware of program availability. Respondents who held a job while in prison and those who participated in job-training programs while incarcerated had better employment outcomes after release. Most respondents relied on family and friends for income after release, more so than legal employment.

Although the study showed a high percentage of ex prisoners, 65 percent, finding employment upon release, many of these jobs were low wage and/or menial positions. For a person trying to support not only themselves but also a family this can be extremely trying. Such was the case with Ed K. who was sentenced to two months in the state of Illinois for unlawful possession of a firearm. The permit for the gun, something he kept on him for safety, had expired which is why he volunteered the firearm to police when he was approached.

"You can get shot in Chicago for almost nothing", he said. Ed didn't want to provide the police with any reason to use deadly force.

Prior to his conviction Ed worked for the Department of Veteran Affairs. He was an active member of his community, however after his month long incarceration in 2009 he was hard pressed to find employment. Subsequently, he relocated to Dallas hoping to make a clean start, however he has continued to face his share of obstacles. Like many ex offenders Ed secured employment through a personnel agency.

Unfortunately he found himself being over worked and under paid. "I was making \$9 an hour and performing managerial tasks."

This can also be a challenge those with criminal backgrounds find themselves encountering. Their vulnerability makes them easy targets of exploitation by employers who know they don't have many options in an already over saturated job market and rocky economy to begin with. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has unsuccessfully challenged the blanket use of criminal background checks by employers claiming it is a violation of Title VII. Title VII prohibits both intentional discrimination and disparate-impact discrimination.

According to the EEOC the use of criminal background checks in the hiring process can have a disparate impact on African-Americans. The court however, did not feel the EEOC provided sufficient evidence to make its case.

The State Attorneys General responded to the EEOC's lawsuits claiming they were "gross federal

overreaching". They went on to state that adding discretionary factors to criminal background screening creates more opportunity for race discrimination in the process than a no discretionary bright-line rule. Finally, they accused the EEOC of attempting to create a new protected category, convicted criminals.

As of September 2013 Texas legislature went into effect protecting employers against legal recourse for hiring individuals with criminal backgrounds. According to the law a "cause of action may not be brought against an employer, general contractor, premises owner, or other third party solely for negligently hiring or failing to adequately supervise an employee, based on evidence that the employee has been convicted of an offense."

So the predominant question remains what kind of society do we wish to move forward as? One that genuinely allows those who

have been charged or convicted with a crime the opportunity to reintegrate into society and better themselves or not? It is a very relevant question considering most if not all families have some member who has been touched by the criminal justice system.

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Racism is not a card game

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Whenever someone accuses an African American of playing the “race card,” I cringe. Racism in America is not a card game. There is no such thing as “playing the race card” when it comes to making an accurate or rational evaluation of the socioeconomic and political plight of 45 million Black Americans. A routine disingenuous tactic of those who want to justify the systemic racial oppression of Black Americans and others is to accuse the articulate victims of racism of “playing the race card.”

If it were a card game, it still would be strange to get that kind of criticism from people who, as the late Johnnie Cochran would say, deal from the bottom of the deck.

Depicting racism as a card game is an attempt to keep us silent and not to disturb a false peace. During the horrible days of

lynching, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) launched its national public anti-lynching campaign. In fact, the NAACP was formed in 1910 in large part to resist the wholesale lynching of Blacks.

At first, the White-owned media was very negative toward the NAACP’s public “agitation” that exposed the horrors of lynching. In a sense, the NAACP was accused of being counterproductive by “playing the race card.” To its credit, the NAACP persisted and was ultimately successful in combatting such gross and inhumane behavior.

Even though for some of the crowds of White Americans who would attend a Black lynching as a form of entertainment and pleasure – often immediately after attending church – it was no game or entertainment for Black America. Racism was then and continues today as a deadly re-

See **GAME**, Page 13

MAYOR, continued from Page 6

Mayor’s Race Presented by Oncor.

Louise Wolff Kahn Elementary fourth- and fifth-graders enjoyed a special treat before hearing about the importance of health and fitness – they toured Dallas Police and Fire Department vehicles, including police cars and a fire truck. Students also had the opportunity to sample Three Happy Cows products. After the presentation, MetroPCS Dallas Marathon representatives fit fifty students from Louise Wolff Kahn Elementary for a pair of free running shoes. These students will receive their donated running shoes in the coming weeks to help jump-start training runs.

The Cigna Mayor’s Race 5K Presented by Oncor is Saturday, December 13 in downtown Dallas, and is ideal for children and families looking to get involved in MetroPCS Dallas Marathon’s weekend festivities or for serious runners looking for an end-of-year race or final tune-up prior to the MetroPCS Dallas Marathon. Entrance is free for all Dallas ISD students. All paying registrants will be chip timed.

For more information or to register for the Cigna Mayor’s Race 5K Presented by Oncor, visit dallasmarathon.com/mayors-race-5k.

The Dallas Marathon is a nonprofit organization with a focus on promoting health and physical fitness through running events and related activities. Dating back to 1971, the organization hosts year-round events culminating with Dallas’ largest and Texas’ oldest running marathon: the MetroPCS Dallas Marathon. Now in its 44th running, the marquee property attracts runners from across the globe and hundreds of thousands of spectators to Dallas’ largest single-day sporting event.

The MetroPCS Dallas Marathon race-course highlights iconic Dallas landmarks and is recognized as the official marathon of the city of Dallas. Since naming a primary beneficiary in 1997, the Dallas Marathon has donated more than \$3.5 million to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. For more information, visit dallasmarathon.com.



First Christian Methodist Evangelistic Church celebrating 25 years of service

The public is invited to join the congregation of First Christian Methodist Evangelistic Church in celebrating 25 years of serving God and the Dallas community. The 25th Anniversary celebration is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. The theme this year is “Reflecting on 25 years of Our Spiritual Legacy and Embracing Our Glorious Future.” The guest preacher for this special occasion is Pastor Richie Butler of Dallas’ St. Paul United Methodist Church.

The mission of First Christian Methodist is “to be equipped by Jesus Christ to proclaim God’s Word through studies and in celebrations, to encounter Christ in prayer and witness by minister-



ing to others in service; all to the glory of God.”

Rev. Dr. John W. Wilson, III, Senior Pastor, and the leaders and members of First Christian look forward to welcoming guests to celebrate on Sunday at 7575 S. Hampton Rd., in Dallas at 3 p.m. For more info call 972-283-1000 or visit www.1stcmec.org.



Fact:

1.2 million registered dogs in DFW produce an estimated 900,000 pounds of waste daily. Pet waste can pollute the storm drainage system, including area creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River, potentially harming plants and aquatic wildlife.

Tips:

- +Pick up after your pet during walks.
- +Choose at least one day a week to collect pet waste in your yard.
- +Dispose the waste by flushing it down a toilet or double bagging it as trash.

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Violence against women law needs strengthening

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – In July, bystander footage of an unidentified California highway patrol officer pummeling a Black woman on the side of the road hit the media. Last week, federal judge Mark Fuller was arrested for beating his wife, and subsequently accepted a plea deal for professional leave, six months of counseling, no charges, and an expunged record. And controversy continues after video surfaced of NFL Baltimore Ravens running back, Ray Rice, knocking his wife unconscious in an elevator last Valentine's Day. The 2014 Miss America pageant stirred that pot over the weekend, when a judge asked a contestant about Janay Rice's decision to remain in her marriage.

On the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), it seems there is still work to be done.

For this reason, Vice President Joe Biden, who co-sponsored the



law in 1990 as a senator from Delaware, will convene legal scholars and professionals, and Department of Justice officials for a Summit on Civil Rights and Equal Protections for Women. No date has been set.

President Bill Clinton signed the bill into law on September 13, 1994.

Summit participants will brainstorm solutions to end the gender

bias in the justice system that affects the way cases are handled. They will also examine ways to allow survivors to sue their assailants in federal court – a VAWA provision the Supreme Court struck down in 2000.

In addition to the summit, the Vice President's Office released a state-of-affairs report on the issue of violence against women.

"When VAWA was first passed,

almost every state crime involving interstate elements (from gun crimes to cattle rustling) was covered by the federal criminal code – but not sexual assault and domestic violence," the report reads. "Although there is still much to do, this anniversary gives us a moment to reflect on the vital, often life-saving work the Violence Against Women Act has inspired and supports. Since its passage 20 years ago, help has come on all fronts."

According to the report there has been significant traction, both culturally and legally, on the issue.

The national rate of intimate partner violence against women has fallen 64 percent between 1993 and 2012, or 61 percent for Black Americans alone, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. VAWA-funded organizations have made gains in prosecution, and more services have become available for more survivors.

Today, VAWA has been expanded to serve LGBT survivors, those living in Indian country, undocumented immigrants, and col-

lege students. In 2000, the definition of dating violence was added to the law. In 2005, healthcare organizations received VAWA funding to offer long-term mental and physical care for survivors.

But there are still lingering issues.

As Biden highlighted at a commemoration ceremony last week: "We have so much more to do, because there's still sex bias that remains in the American criminal justice system in dealing with rape – stereotypes like she deserved it, she wore a short skirt still taint prosecutions for rape and domestic violence."

Additionally, against women and dating violence are problems among youth; researchers have found that 1 in 10 teens will be harmed by someone they are dating, and 1 in 5 young women will be sexually assaulted during college. Until 2009, women age 18 to 24 have had the highest rates of being victimized by intimate partners—currently, women age 25 to 34 have the highest rates.

See LAW, Page 12



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Rate: Negotiable

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Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must Pass a Background Check

Must be at least 21 years old

Must be able to lift at least 80 pounds

Job Description:

Operates rollers, dozers, backhoes, brooms, etc. Check grades, will train for checking grades if needed.

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.**



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Date: September 16, 2014-Until Filled

Taking applications for: CDL Truck Drivers (tandems)

Positions Available: Multiple Openings

Pay Rate: Negotiable

Class "A or B" CDL License Required With Clean Driving Record Fuel Truck Driver must have tanker endorsement

3 Years Experience Required

Must pass a Criminal Background check

DOT Physical and NIDA Drug Screen Required

Must Be 21 Years of Age to Apply

Job Description:

Drives truck equipped with auxiliary mixer to deliver concrete mix to job sites. Drives truck under loading hopper to receive sand, gravel, cement, and water and starts mixer. Checks loads for proper slump. Drives truck to location for unloading. Moves levers on truck to release concrete down chute into wheelbarrow or other conveying container or directly into the area to be poured with concrete. Cleans truck after delivery to prevent concrete from hardening in mixer and on truck using water hose and hammer. May spray surfaces of truck with protective compound to prevent adhering of concrete. If assigned truck is being repaired and there is no other truck available, may be asked to work as a traffic flagger.

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.**

DBS sets sights on a 'Grand Baroque Tour'

The Dallas Bach Society's (DBS) 2014-15 season opens with the concert *La Danse : Hommage à Jean-Philippe Rameau*. Locations for DBS concerts this season include Church of the Incarnation (3966 McKinney Avenue) and Meyerson Symphony Center (2301 Flora Street) in addition to Caruth at SMU.

Oct. 12, 3 p.m. – *La Danse: hommage à Jean-Philippe Rameau*. Caruth Auditorium, SMU. Bach Society celebrates its 250th anniversary of the greatest French composer with a wide-ranging selection of his work, featuring the New York Baroque Dance Company and renowned soprano Ann Monoyios.

Nov. 7-8 at 8 p.m. nightly – *Historical Cello in Germany*. Private Residences in



Flower Mound and Dallas. Eric Smith plays a Bach suite for solo cello, Beethoven's Sonata in G minor and a splendid Adagio from Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach.

Tickets are available online DallasBach.org, 682-325-2224 or at the door on the day of the concert, one hour prior to concert time. Single ticket price ranges from \$25 to \$100.



Charlie 'Last Name' Wilson will be performing at the WinStar Casino in October

The legendary Charlie Wilson is going to be just across the state line at the WinStar World Casino and Resort on Friday night Oct. 3 with the doors opening at 7:30 p.m., show starting at 9 p.m.

Charlie Wilson was the lead singer for the very popular Gap Band for many years, but has gone on to enjoy a tremendous solo career with hits like *Charle*, *Last Name*, *Wilson* and *There Goes My Baby*.

The tickets cost \$45 for general admission, \$65 for premium seating and \$85 for

VIP seating. They are available on Ticketmaster's website or by calling 800-745-3000.



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City of Irving to Host Minority/Women Business Enterprise Workshop

The City of Irving will host a Minority/Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) workshop to help qualifying businesses learn how to do business with the City of Irving. The workshop called, "Submitting Qualifications for Architectural and Engineering Projects" will take place at 6 p.m. Sept. 23 at Irving City Hall, City Council Chambers, 825 W. Irving Blvd. in Irving. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

Presenters include City of Irving staff representing purchasing, engineering and architecture. The city will also relate two success stories from architectural firm, RPGA, and engineering firm Pacheco Koch.

Those interested are asked to RSVP to Deborah McVean, MWBE Program Administrator, at (972) 721-3753 or dmvean@cityofirving.org.

Place the black dollar under arrest

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

Here's an intriguing concept: Arrest the Black dollar. Say what, Jim? You read it correctly. We should arrest our dollars and charge them with neglect. Put them on trial, call the witnesses to testify against them, and convict them of crimes against Black people.

Sentence them to a minimum of five years hard labor with no possibility of parole. That's right, lock them up and make them work for their keep by producing distribution companies, supermarkets, financial institutions, and entrepreneurs.

Since our dollars are not making sense, we should discipline and punish them by keeping them locked up and making them work until they do start making more sense.

Right now our dollars are "wilding out" in the marketplace, making everyone happy and secure except us. They are "raining down" at strip clubs; they are beating a path to jewelry stores and exchanging themselves for gaudy trinkets and ornaments; they are hangin' out at "da club" to pay for expensive vodka, champagne, and other top-shelf liquors. They definitely need to be disciplined.

Our dollars are filling the coffers of profiteers who know that all they have to do is make the most ridiculous item in return for them. Black dollars are strewn at the feet of shyler preachers who "anoint" them by running back and forth on top of them, as they shout, "Money cometh to me!" At

least they are telling the truth about that part.

Black dollars are running wild, out of control, in our neighborhoods. They run as fast as they can to the businesses of everyone other than Black people.

They are jealous as well and are always trying to outspend one another by purchasing a bigger car, a bigger house, the latest gym shoes, clothing, and all the accoutrements of what they believe to be the "good life."

More than 1 trillion Black dollars are acting inappropriately, committing economic crimes against Black people. They really need to be controlled and contained before they destroy us.

Our dollars are weak, and are vulnerable to the constant lure of trivial things and dishonest people who are waiting to trap them with their platitudes and false doctrines. If we put our dollars in labor camps where they could work for us all day long, imagine how quickly we could revive our economic power.

Keep in mind though, when we charge our dollars and put them on trial for neglect, we will be charged as willing accomplices and co-conspirators in their criminal acts. Yes, we are guilty, too; even more guilty than they are.

Slothfulness is a crime; poor stewardship is a crime; waste is a crime; and failure on our part to multiply the dollars we have is indeed a crime that carries the penalty of being "cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" because, "To whom much (\$1 trillion) is

given, much is required."

The rich man in Luke 12 who had so much "stuff" that, when he asked himself what to do about it, said, "I will build bigger barns" in which to store my stuff, well, he was called a fool and his life was "required" of him because his dollars made no sense.

This graphic illustration of the crimes we commit with and through our undisciplined dollars is played out every day in our homes and neighborhoods, and we deserve the punishment we

See **ARREST**, Page 12



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Date: September 16, 2014 – until filled

Position: LABORERS

Num. of openings: multiple

1 year Experience

Must be able to lift at least 80 pounds

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background Check

Must be at least 21 years of age

Job Description:

Performs any combination of following duties on construction projects, usually working in utility capacity, by transferring from one task to another where demands require worker with varied experience and ability to work without close supervision: drive stakes, and stretch tight line. Signals operators of construction equipment to facilitate alignment, movement, and adjustment of machinery to conform to grade specifications. Levels earth to fine grade specifications, using pick and shovel. Sprays materials such as water, sand, paint, concrete curing compound, or oil through hose to clean, coat, or seal surfaces. Operate small machinery such as water pumps, portable electric generators, or portable sprayers. Mixes, pours, and spreads concrete using hand tools. May be designated common laborer, utility laborer, fine grader, concrete-vibrator operator, form setter helper or concrete finisher helper.

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.**

Hey Irving, Pick Us Up!

You can find a copy of the North Dallas Gazette at any one of these fine businesses and organizations. Be sure to pick up a copy every week to stay on top of the issues important to the Irving area in particular and the DFW African American community as a whole.

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Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church "The Green"
3329 Country Club West

Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid
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Antioch Christian Church
2043 W. Walnut Hill Ln

Lee Park Recreation Center
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909 N. O'Connor Rd

Mustang Park Recreation Center
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2117 Story Rd.

African Village Restaurant
3000 N. Beltline Rd

New Look Barbershop
3317 Finley Rd.

Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur #200

ARREST, continued from Page 11

have received for decades now.

We must now punish our dollars by first arresting them and then making them work for us.

Why don't you start an "Arrest the Black Dollar" campaign? Look around; they are everywhere.

Arrest your own first, and get others to arrest and charge theirs. Let's give our dollars the charge to be responsible for taking better care of our children.

Give them the charge to be more ac-

countable to us and our families. Give them the charge to work harder for us. Give them the charge to act appropriately. Give them the charge to make some sense for a change.

Instead of allowing our dollars to run wild, let's circulate and recycle them among ourselves as much as possible before they leave us. Instead of handing them over willy-nilly to others for their fried chicken and fish, let's just grow and cook our own, and sell it to one another and to everyone

else.

Instead of whining every time a supermarket closes, let's buy our own, bring in the best managers and support it with our consumer dollars. Rather than decrying what others are doing to us, let's start doing more for ourselves. As we charge our dollars with being more responsible, let's make sure we are taking responsibility in this matter as well.

Arrest the Black dollar; it's wreaking havoc among Black folks.

Jim Clingman is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati.

LAW, continued from Page 9

The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault was launched in response at the beginning of this year. Its mission is to increase research and prevention, improve schools' response to sexual assault, and to increase transparency on government enforcement.

There's also the contention that VAWA itself doesn't have much power; it is largely a federal grant program to help public entities do a better job of serving survivors, and support private entities that are already working around this issue. (The law also directs federal agencies to carry out already-existing laws and regulations).

Biden and proponents believe that in light of uneven law enforcement and judicial response at the state and local level, VAWA should be allowed

to grant the federal government jurisdiction to enforce the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Additionally, other crimes involving interstate elements can be tried in federal court—this is not true for sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

In other words, survivors whose attackers have stalked them across state lines, or abused wives whose husbands have forced them to move away from support systems, or people who have been victimized via the Internet, must rely on state courts for justice. If they do not have a paper trail on their abuse along the way, it may be difficult to get a conviction for ongoing victimization, instead of a conviction for one incident in that state.

Since the 1970s, other legal figures and elected officials have argued that

granting such jurisdictional powers would be to drag the federal government into "family disputes," or overstep state rights.

In the meantime, the Obama Administration continues to produce campaigns, initiatives, federal guidance, and public resources to help eradicate violence against women.

"On the anniversary of this landmark legislation, we rededicate ourselves to strengthening the protections it first codified, and we reaffirm the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse," President Obama wrote in a commemorative proclamation. "Too many women continue to live in fear in their own homes, too many victims still know the pain of abuse, and too many families have had to mourn the loss of their loved ones. It has to end—because even one is too many."

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GAME, continued from Page 8

minder of the violent and ruthless consequences of centuries and decades of racial oppression.

Yes, these are hard facts and a reality today for too many people who rather see less and hear less about racially motivated police brutality or other forms of racial hatred and violence.

The slogan "No Justice, No Peace" is more than a chant for Black Americans and others who yearn for freedom, justice and empowerment. Just as we did during the days of widespread lynchings, we will not be silent. We will not kowtow to those who would oppress us because of our race. We will not be idle spectators to the recent resurgence of racial hatred and vile violence toward our men, women and children. We have come too far against horrific odds to even consider going backwards.

We will not be distracted by false accusations of "playing the race card."

There was even a book published in 2005 titled, *Playing the Race Card*. It was written by George J. Sefa Dei, Nisha Karumanchery-Link and Leeno Luke Karumanchery. They said, They said, "Playing the Race Card reflects and engages the dynamic nature of racialized experience in Western contexts. So that the privileged and the oppressed alike may reflexively examine their own subject positions, this book identifies and addresses the need to develop a working model for anti-racism strategies."

While I appreciated what some academic types are proposing concerning this issue, I know better from more than a half-century on the front line of the Black American struggle for freedom and justice. It is ahistorical to posit that people who are oppressed have to somehow wait for the so-called "privileged" people

who economically and politically benefit from racial oppression to change their hearts and minds.

Racism is not a mind game or card game. It is real and it can be fatal. Racism is the real time power to systematically deny justice, fairness and opportunity to people based on their race or ethnicity. Racism is beyond racial prejudice and hatred. It is the power to forcefully enslave, negatively define and physically subjugate a person's or a people's life based on race.

We should never permit the trivialization or denial of our long struggle for freedom. Let's stay focus on what we all need to do to advance the quality of life in our communities. The fact is change has happened and social change will continue to unfold, in particular, if we stay vigilant, ac-

tive, aware and committed to end all forms of racism and racial injustice.

Those looking for a card game are at the wrong table.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the Interim President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbbfc.

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September 21, 7:35 a.m.
Join us Sunday for our praise and worship services; and receive a blessing from God.

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

September 21, 10 a.m.
You're welcome this Sunday for Open House praise and worship services, featuring Children's Theatre and Praise Team.

September 24, 7 p.m.
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching this week on the subject of Abuse.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

September 21

Join us in our Morning Service as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings to us.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at
Jupiter Road on the
Garland/Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

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TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

September 21
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

September 24
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 Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall at our 200 W. Belmont Drive location.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 21, 7:35 a.m.
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services; and receive a blessing from God.

September 24, 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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

September 21, 7:35 a.m.
Join us in Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.; stay for our Sunday prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10 a.m.

October 23-24, 7 p.m.
You're invited to worship with us as we welcome Dr.

Darrell L. Foster,
Founder/President of the
Overcomers Network in Atlanta, Georgia. Theme, "Let God be True: Shining Love and Light on LGBT Matters," John 8:32 and Romans 12:2.

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

RHEMA LIFE CHURCH IN PLANO

September 21, 10 a.m.
You're invited to our praise and worship services; and receive a blessing from God.

Rev. James W. Thomas,
Pastor/Founder
3801 K Avenue
Plano, TX 75074
469-467-7575

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

September 21, 10 a.m.
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services as we glorify God; He will bless you.

September 24, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word.

September 26
You are welcome and encouraged to attend our 2nd Annual at His Feet Women's

Revival. We are "Desperately Seeking Jesus: Sold Out Women of God (Matt. 13:45-46) on Friday at 7 p.m. and September 27th from 9 a.m.

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

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH, CARROLLTON

September 20, 11 a.m.
John us for Carrollton's Annual Jubilee of Cultures at Historic Downtown Carrollton as we celebrate diversity and multiculturalism in our city; many cultures will once again come together to celebrate our diverse heritage through history, arts, music and cuisine. One highlight of the day will be to honor the Korean War Veterans of 1950-53.

Rev. R. Michael Stromile,
Senior Pastor
1508 Broadway Street
Carrollton, TX 75006
972-242-9194

www.stjohnbaptistcarrollton.org

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

September 21, 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday to our praise and worship services as we honor and magnify God's Holy name; and receive a blessing from God.

September 22, 7 p.m.
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

September 27, 9 a.m.
IBOC is hosting a "Job Challenge" to all Employers and Job Seekers to come together for the benefit of community and each other. Each Employer and Job Seeker can register on line at www.Ibocchurch.org by clicking on "Employers" or "Job Seekers".

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

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Allen, TX 75013
8:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Live
200 W. Belmont Drive
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7:00 p.m.

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Learning to stand with God



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

When the story of Joseph's life is read in the Bible, you will read how God can turn what man means for evil (doubt, confusion, oppression, unfair treatment, any trial or tribulation) into something good for those that love the Lord and have faith in Him.

Just, “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord ...” **Exodus 14:13.**

The Israelites had just left 400 years of slavery in Egypt. They had fled to the desert, but they had come to a dead end at the Red Sea.

Word reached them that Pharaoh had changed his mind. He was sending his troops to recapture the Israelites. They cried out to their leader Moses, complaining that he had brought them that far only to die in the desert.

Learning when to move and when to stand is the greatest challenge for a believer. Christians are trained

for action. They are not trained to sit idly and wait. They are trained to solve problems, not wait for them to resolve themselves.

However, God says there are times to patiently wait. Believers are to wait until He says go. If they go before He says go, they probably will make the situation worse. If the Israelites had attempted to cross the Red Sea before it parted, they would have drowned.

If they had fled north to try to avoid the Egyptians, God would not have moved in a miraculous way. God cannot work on our behalf if we continually try to solve our problem (this is called being horizontal) when He has instructed us to stand still (this is looking to God for answers, it is being vertical.)

Standing still is sometimes the greatest action we can do, although it is the most difficult thing to do in the Christian walk. Learn to stand when He says stand and see God deliver you.

When you stand still and wait on God, you will remain vertical with Him. "When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered,

He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly." **1 Peter 2:23.**

When you are wrongfully
accused, the need to defend

and justify becomes so great. Some Christians will think, "What will people think if they believe these things are true?"

Imagine what Jesus

thought as they hurled insults and threats upon Him. The God of the universe had visited planet earth only to be slandered and accused of blasphemy. He could have done two things in response.

He could have used His power to put the people in their place. He could have responded "horizontally (acting in the flesh)." He could have fixed the problem right then. However, He chose to respond in a different way (look to God.)

He chose to "entrust Himself to Him who judges justly." He chose to trust God the Father in the midst of His assaults. If believers can stand still they will discover a level of grace and wisdom that will be birthed from the experience that they never thought possible.

Believers will discover a freedom in God that they

never knew before. Whenever believers suffer for righteousness without seeking to protect their reputation and rights, they are placing their total faith in the one who can redeem them.

God sees the big picture. He loves you and knows what He has in mind for you. When you stand still you remain vertical with God, you are looking to God instead of horizontal (with your flesh.)

“And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.” **Exodus 2:12.**

Moses saw the pain of his people. He saw the bondage and the injustice. His heart was enraged, and he decided he would do some-

See TARPLEY, Page 16



Mrs. Rowena Watters, CEO of Samantha Rose Designs Jewelry Boutique at Historic Downtown Carrollton on Broadway Street is working hard to make Carrollton's Jubilee of Cultures a success, being held September 20, 2014 starting at 11 a.m.

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NDG Book Review: Ripley's Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

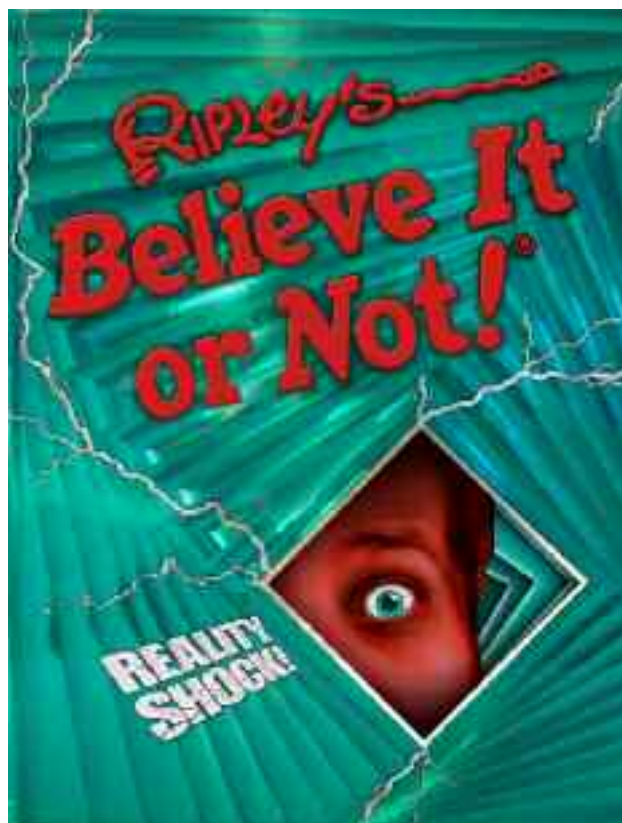
Raise your fingers high. That's what you'll be doing this school year, because you've been practicing. You'll be the fastest hand-raiser in the entire school, fingers pointed at the ceiling, ready to answer any question the teacher throws your way. You know things, and you're going to prove it with a sky-high hand, fingers pointing up.

So how do you get to be so smart? You've got *Ripley's Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!* and that helps a bunch.

Robert Ripley was one of those people with "true star quality." Everybody, it seemed, knew who he was, and they all loved him – maybe because he had a "multitude of dazzling achievements" that he enjoyed sharing with the world.

Ripley, you see, liked to travel and he liked weird, unusual things. Nowhere was too remote for him to go, and nothing was too dangerous. The novelties he collected simply astounded people almost a hundred years ago; today, you can see some of the items he might have gathered in this book.

Things, for instance, that are creepy, like spiders and alligators that lurk beneath beds, squirrels that make knots with their tails (accidentally, for sure!), and snakes that curl up in piles with other snakes. Ripley



would have liked jeweled skulls, color-changing frogs, monster fish, and a bug that looks like he's wearing fiber optics.

Ripley liked oddities, too: names that are super-long or made up of silly words; "death zones" on mountains; rickety wooden sidewalks on the face of a sheer cliff; pictures of sneezes; chewing gum portraits; or South African games that involve spitting antelope poop.

He might have personally seen rainbow trees in Hawaii, rainbow waterfalls in British Columbia, or rainbow mountains in China years ago.

You can see them in this book now.

Ripley also liked things that were outside of normal, like the world's shortest lady, the tallest man (who also has the biggest hands), the largest waist and hips, the biggest foot, the longest tongue, tattooed people, and the longest fingernails.

And, by the way, how does someone live with long fingernails?

The answer to that is in this book, believe it or not...

In the first few pages of "Ripley's Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!" the authors promise readers that "everything in this book is definitely true..." For parents and grandparents, that's really good news: ever since we were kids,

Ripley's stories have been based on authenticity and that hasn't changed - it just gets weirder for the next generation of readers to enjoy.

And enjoy it they will, because this book is filled with everything a kid could

want: disgustingly fascinating full-color pictures, quick anecdotes to share with friends, entries to astound, and superlatives that could spark creativity.

Packed as it is with that kind of greatness, I can't imagine any kid age 12-

and-up who wouldn't like to page through this book.

Leave *Ripley's Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!* lying around the house, and I think even reluctant readers will want to get their fingers on it.

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TARPLEY, continued from Page 15

thing. He would take matters into his own hands, horizontal. The result was murder.

The motive was right, but the action was wrong. Moses went horizontal (self) instead of vertical (standing with God.) Moses fled to the desert, where God prepared the man who would ultimately be the deliverer of a nation.

But it took 40 years of preparation before God determined Moses was ready. He was a professional businessman - a shepherd. It was during the mundane activity of work that God called on him to be a deliverer.

Moses was like a lot of enthusiastic Christians who seek to solve a spiritual problem with a fleshly answer. The greatest danger to the Christian believer is his greatest strength - his desire and expertise to get things done quickly.

This self-reliance can become their greatest weakness when it comes to moving in the spiritual realm. But, like Moses, if their enthusiasm and passion are not harnessed by the power of the Holy Spirit, they will fail miserably.