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COMMENTARY

Seeing and not seeing our racial reality

By Lee A. Daniels
NNPA Columnist

"Americans don't want to imagine that our racist history is actually an ongoing racist reality. We like to look at racism as a thing that has gotten better (if not gone away completely) and that the way black Americans are treated in society is actually colorblind."

Those words, written by Washington Post reporter

Philip Bump a year ago, provide context for the polls of last week showing that Americans as a whole believe "race relations" have grown sharply worse in the aftermath of the death of Baltimorean Freddie Gray in police custody and the protests it provoked, and why we once again see a widening of the "racial divide" on issues involving police and Black Americans.

See REALITY, Page 3

Where have the Black baseball players in today's NCAA?

PART I in a series

By Lamar Brooks
NDG Special Contributor



"Roe, you gotta see this kid! He's been selected to play on the Miami Marlins 17-year-old scout team this summer."

When I put the phone back in its cradle after the call from my boy (my friend) in Alabama, I thought, well I guess I better see what all the hurrah is about.

The late spring 2014 hurrah was about Chad Hardy, a 6-foot, wiry, 17-year-old junior (at the time) baseball prospect at Prosper High School. Indeed, if Hardy's prowess extended beyond the Texas borders into Alabama, with guys gushing about his abilities, sure, I would have definitely wanted to see him. And I could have slap myself and my network of boys who keep me posted here in Texas for not informing me sooner.

You see, young black men playing baseball at the highest level youth baseball is a thing of beauty. If for no other reason, then because compared to their black counterparts in football and basketball, it is somewhat of a rarity. If you had a dollar for every time I have heard a black parent of a gifted youth baseball player say "he's the only one,"

(a.k.a. the only black player on his predominantly white team) well that dollar would stretch across Texas. But, still, that would not give hopeful acknowledgement to the rise of the dwindling black baseball player.

Let's fast forward a few months later to October 2014 at the annual Chick-fil-a Texas vs. The World International Baseball Championships. Prior to the championships, Hardy, Prosper's starting right-fielder and lead-off hitter, had helped lead the Prosper team four- rounds deep into the Texas High

School 4A playoffs; finish as one of the area's top hitters (according to published reports); win All- District honors in one of the top districts in Dallas/Fort Worth; guided the Miami Marlins Travel Team to the Gold Medal Championship of the widely held USA Baseball 17U National Championship; run a 6.5 in the 60-yard dash at the Complete Showcase; and earn a score of 9 (of 10) at the Perfect Game South Top Showcase (currently listed on the

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Mariln Mosby



Neil DeGrasse Tyson



Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing

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Marilyn Mosby

By Stacy M. Brown
The Washington Informer

(New American Media) With a single press conference and a stunning indictment of six local police officers, Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby may have stopped a city from burning.

Amid the cries of "No Justice, No Peace," Mosby announced that all six of the Baltimore police officers involved have been charged with murder in the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man who died after being taken into custody



on April 12.

"I will seek justice on your behalf," Mosby said in announcing that she had brought charges against Officer Caesar Goodson, Officer William Porter, Officer Edward Nero, Officer Gar-

rett Miller, Sgt. Alicia White and Lt. Brian Rice for their roles in the incident that led to the death of Gray, whom Mosby said should not have been arrested in the first place.

"The findings of our comprehensive, thorough and independent investigation, coupled with the medical examiner's determination that Gray's death was a homicide that we received [Friday], has led us to believe that we have probable cause to file criminal charges," said Mosby, whose unexpected and swift action against the officers surprised many.

"I'm surprised. Pleasantly surprised," said the

Rev. Al Sharpton.

With the announcement, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said she ordered the immediate suspension of the officers involved.

"I will continue to be relentless in changing the culture of the police department," Rawlings-Blake said. "No one is above the law in our city. Justice must apply to all of us equally. There will be justice for Mr. Gray."

Rawlings-Blake also delivered a terse warning to other officers.

"To those of you who wish to engage in brutality, misconduct, racism and corruption, let me be clear: there is no place in the Bal-

timore police force for you," she said.

In her announcement, Mosby gave incredible, play-by-play details of the findings that led to her decision to levy murder and manslaughter charges against the six officers.

She said on April 12 between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m., near the corner of North Avenue and Mount Street, Lt. Rice, while on bike patrol with Miller and Nero, made eye contact with Gray.

Having made eye contact, Gray subsequently ran from Rice, who then dispatched over departmental radio that he was involved in a foot pursuit.

Then, bike patrol officers

and Nero began to pursue Gray, who surrendered to Miller and Nero near the 1700 block of Presbury Street.

"Officer Miller and Nero then handcuffed Gray and moved him to a location a few feet away from his surrendering location and Gray was then placed in a prone position with his arms handcuffed behind his back," Mosby said.

"Officer Miller and Nero then placed Gray in a seated position and found a knife clipped to the inside of his pants pocket. The blade of the knife was folded into the handle. The knife was not a switchblade and is lawful under Maryland law."

Neil DeGrasse Tyson

The nonprofit AT&T Performing Arts Center, in association with KERA, announced recently that single tickets for Neil deGrasse Tyson - "An Astrophysicist Goes To the Movies" will go on sale Friday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Voted "sexiest astrophysicist" by People Magazine in 2000, Neil deGrasse Tyson will enlighten and amaze the audience at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 15 at the Winspear Opera House in the Dallas Arts District, and is part of the 2015 inaugural #thinkspeak season.



From "Star Wars to Gravity", an entertaining and enlightening review of all the science that our favorite movies got wrong, combined with some of the stuff they got right.

Center Members get access to the best available tickets. Call Membership Services at 214-978-2888 or go to www.attpac.org/support to join. Center Membership presale began on February 6 at 10 a.m.

Ticket prices for Neil deGrasse Tyson range from \$100 to \$20 and can be purchased online at www.attpac.org, by phone at 214-880-0202 or in person at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Information Center at 2353 Flora Street (Monday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.).

For five seasons, beginning in the fall of 2006, Tyson appeared as the on-camera host of PBS-NOVA's spinoff program NOVA Science NOW, which is an accessible look at the frontier of all the science that shapes the understanding of our place in the universe.

Neil deGrasse Tyson was born and raised in New York City where he was educated in the public schools clear through his graduation from the Bronx High School of Science. Tyson went on to earn his BA in Physics from Harvard and his PhD in Astrophysics

from Columbia.

Tyson's professional research interests are broad, but include star formation, exploding stars, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of our Milky Way.

In 2001, Tyson was appointed by President Bush to serve on a 12-member commission that studied the future of the US aerospace industry. The final report was published in 2002 and contained recommendations (for Congress and for the major agencies of the government) that would promote a thriving future of transportation, space exploration, and national security.

In 2004, Tyson was once again appointed by President Bush to serve on a nine-member commission on the implementation of the United States Space Exploration Policy, dubbed the "Moon, Mars, and Beyond" commission. This group navigated a path by which the new space vision can become a successful part of the American agenda. And in 2006, the head of NASA appointed Tyson to serve on its prestigious Advisory Council, which will help guide NASA through its perennial need to fit its am-

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Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing

Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing spent a lifetime serving others throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth community where she served as a minister for over 40 years. Her daughter, Cheryl Jackson is perhaps more well-known to celebrities such as Rhianna who visited in April, but it is largely through the work she has done with the organization Minnie's Pantry named in honor of her mother.

Hawthorne-Ewing passed away on May 7 at the age of 69, but on a rainy Wednesday morning buses filled arrived at the homegoing service for "Ms. Minnie" at



the Potter's House located in Frisco. Many have reached out to share with her family how much she helped them over the years.

A native of Amarillo, rich and famous Hawthorne-Ewing was not. Rather than have a bitterness over a childhood steeped in poverty, it spurred her to

help others. She co-founded DayStar Deliverance Ministries in Richardson with her husband Robert Hawthorne and served as a pastor for 42 years. Together the couple raised seven children.

Jackson, a former *North Dallas Gazette* columnist, opened Minnie's Pantry in Plano in 2008 and over the years has received national acclaim sharing the stage with such celebrities as Oprah and recently Rihanna when she was named a *Good Morning America* Hometown Hero. Upon hearing about Ms. Minnie's passing, Rihanna's Clara Lionel Foundation sent orchids, a favorite flower of Ms. Minnie.

Jackson has announced plans to kickoff the Million Meals for Minnie campaign. The goal is to raise \$300,000 by Dec. 30, in honor of mother's 70th birthday. They estimate \$1 will provide three meals. She is also hoping to open a second location in Dallas this year.

Helen's House was established by Hawthorne-Ewing and over the years they have helped thousands of families make ends with donated clothing and food.

Anyone interested in donating to the Million Meals for Minnie campaign, please visit www.minnies-foodpantry.org/ for more details and volunteer opportunities.

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Financial predators still target active duty military

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

The men and women who wear our nation's uniform are expected to defend our nation at home and abroad. Yet, when it comes to financial services, service members are not always been protected in return.

The 2006 Military Lending Act (MLA) was enacted with broad and bipartisan support as a remedy to predatory lending that diminished military readiness. The first major step to provide financial protection to our armed forces was to limit interest rates and fees to no more than 36 percent rate cap for consumer credit. This rate cap initially applied to just three types of

products: tax refund loans, and both payday and auto title loans. The law also prescribed limits of indebtedness for payday loans less than 90 days and auto title loans with terms less than 180 days.

MLA's specific lending prescriptions had the unexpected result of lenders changing loan terms beyond the MLA's provisions, sometimes by as little as an extra day. While technically observing the letter of the law, these profiteers exploited a lending loophole to continue entrapping active duty service members in predatory lending products.

Last fall, the Department of Defense (DOD) proposed MLA broaden pro-

posed amendments to existing regulations that would better ensure against evasive practices of predatory lending. These proposals are supported by the military community, Congressional leaders, state attorneys general as well as consumer and civil rights groups across the country.

Even so, this year some members of Congress inserted into the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act a short clause that would have given predatory lenders the opportunity to prolong their exploitative practices and also delay in implementing new regulations by the Secretary of Defense. The surprise move also undermined DOD's previous findings that

predatory lending is a threat to our national security.

Fortunately, and largely through the leadership of a veteran, Illinois' Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, offered an amendment to the proposed authorization to preserve DOD's regulatory plans. After 18 hours of debate, enough support was gathered to remove the harmful language.

A 32-30 vote by the House Armed Services Committee removed the harmful language as the measure proceeds to the House floor for a final vote. The Duckworth amendment will enable stronger regulation to move forward. The goal of ensuring effective

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REALITY, continued from Page 1

For example, the *New York Times*/CBS News poll found that 61 percent of Americans believe race relations now are generally bad, up from the 44 percent who said so after the police killing of Michael Brown last summer. The *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News survey found that 96 percent of those polled expect more racial disturbances this summer.

The Pew Research Center on the People and the Press poll sought answers to five different major questions in the aftermath of the Baltimore protests. It found that, on the one hand, overall 61 percent of Americans believed the violent protests were largely the result of some people “taking advantage” of the situation to engage in criminal behavior (54 percent of Blacks said so compared to 66 percent of Whites). On the other hand, overall 56 percent of those surveyed also said that tensions between the police and the Black community played a significant role in the protests as well.

Not surprisingly, these and other surveys found that Blacks and Whites had significantly different responses to many of the questions. For example, the *Wall Street Journal*/NBC

News survey found that 60 percent of Blacks said the Baltimore protests reflected “longstanding frustrations about police mistreatment of African Americans.” Just 32 percent of Whites agreed. In the *New York Times*/CBS News poll, 79 percent of Blacks said police are “more likely to use deadly force against a black person” than a White individual; but only 37 percent of Whites said so.

None of these surveys' individual or overall findings are surprising, of course. In fact, Americans' new worry about worsening race relations is just the latest turn of the wheel of the continuing dynamic of “racial déjà vu” I wrote about in a recent column: a racial crisis loop rooted in the age-old issue of Black Americans' status in American society.

Incidents of sharp racial controversy that push that issue to the top of the American agenda always lead Americans – largely, White Americans – to believe race relations are getting worse. One reason is that White Americans have always been significantly shielded, by government and private-sector actions, from the reality most Black Americans of high and low status face

every day. Another is that the White majority has historically always taken refuge in the belief that the lack of a racial explosion means, as Bump wrote, the promised land of racial equality of opportunity and treatment has arrived. They're repeatedly shocked to discover that's not so.

One fresh proof that's still not so today can be found in the April employment data released last week by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The good news was that the overall unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.4 percent. The “shocking” news was that, while the White unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, the Black unemployment rate in April was 9.6 percent—and that this actually represented a decline from its being above 10 percent in February and March. (The unemployment rate for Asian Americans was 4.4 percent; that of Hispanic Americans was 6.9 percent.)

Think of that: While the White unemployment rate is officially near the generally accepted level for “full employment,” the Black unemployment rate is now just a few points below the 10.0 percent unemployment high-water mark reached during the Great Recession.

And that's not merely the result of poorly educated Blacks lacking labor-market skills. A 2014 study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a progressive Washington-based think tank, found that in 2013, 12.4 percent of Black college graduates between 22 and 27 were unemployed, compared with the national rate of 5.6 percent, and that even those Black graduates with degrees in the sciences, engineering, technology and mathematics were enduring high unemployment and underemployment rates.

Study after study over the past two decades has shown why that particular gap persists: continued racial discrimination in the job market.

That's another “racial reality” America's White majority likes to pretend it can't see.

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.

Cocaine and amphetamine use harm brain more than we knew

In a major advance in the field of neuropsychiatry, researchers in the Vollum Institute at Oregon Health & Science University have illuminated how cocaine and amphetamines disrupt the normal functioning of the dopamine transporter in the brain. This discovery paves the way for developing treatments that could blunt the effects of cocaine and amphetamines in patients who are addicted.



Currently, there are no approved drug therapies for amphetamine abuse, and the rate of relapse for people addicted to cocaine and amphetamines is high. The researchers' work was published online today in the journal Nature.

The dopamine transporter serves as a 'pump' that removes the neurotransmitter from the synapse, or the regions of nerve cell to nerve cell communication. Amphetamines and cocaine block dopamine signaling by interfering with the dopamine transporter.

"Addiction to ampheta-

mines and cocaine devastates lives, families and communities in Oregon and across the U.S. Our research pinpoints how these addictive drugs interfere with the dopamine transporter and normal signaling in the brain, bringing us closer to developing effective treatments for people who are addicted to cocaine and amphetamines," said Eric Gouaux, Ph.D., senior scientist in the Vollum Institute at OHSU, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

In showing how cocaine and amphetamine block

normal dopamine signaling, the research provides insights, which may, in turn, lead to an understanding of why some drugs are addictive and others are not. It also opens the door to the development of drugs that could block the interference of cocaine and amphetamine with dopamine signaling.

"This research paper fills in a major gap in our knowledge that's persisted for decades: how exactly these highly addictive drugs impact normal brain functioning.

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Food Allergy Awareness Week 2015

This week, May 10-16, marks Food Allergy Awareness Week, a time to focus public awareness on food allergy, a condition that affects an estimated 5 percent of children and 4 percent of adults in the United States. Allergic reactions to food can range from a few itchy hives to anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Currently, the only way to prevent food-induced allergic reactions is by avoiding triggering foods.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the lead institute at the National Institutes of Health for food allergy research, is committed to supporting efforts to help better understand, prevent, and manage food allergies.

NIAID efforts span the spectrum from basic research in allergy and immunology to clinical trials testing new strategies to prevent and treat food allergy. Earlier this year, NIAID-supported researchers from the Immune Tolerance Network reported results from a landmark clinical trial showing that peanut consumption in infancy can prevent the development of peanut allergy.

This week, as NIAID reaffirms its commitment to help reduce the burden of food allergy, President Barack Obama shares a Presidential Message (PDF) with everyone affected by this condition—those living with food allergy and their families, friends, and communities.

In observance of Food

Allergy Awareness Week, NIAID encourages the public to learn more about this disorder:

Watch an NIAID video External Web Site Policy that explains food allergy and offers tips on how to manage the condition (runtime 2.5 minutes)

Browse information about food allergy on the NIAID website, and learn about guidelines for the diagnosis and management of food allergy developed by an NIAID-sponsored expert panel

Read about food labeling regulations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Learn about guidelines to manage food allergies in schools from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Procedure offers hope to Dallas-area women suffering with fibroid symptoms, including heavy bleeding

Recently featured on
THE DOCTORS

By age 50, 70% of women develop benign tumors of the uterus called fibroids. These growths can cause significant symptoms such as heavy bleeding, bloating, pelvic pressure, and frequent urination. Despite the negative impact fibroids can have, many women choose not to seek treatment because they see the options as ineffective or too invasive. Hysterectomy is a common treatment but it involves the full or partial removal of the uterus. It is considered major, life-altering surgery—something many women would rather avoid.

A revolution in fibroid treatment — right here in the Dallas area

After years of frustration with available fibroid treatments, Dr. Alan Greenberg of Health Central Women's Care in Frisco became the first doctor in Texas to use the Acessa™ Procedure. This procedure is notable for being a minimally invasive outpatient treatment that requires no overnight hospital stay and a rapid recovery time of 3-5 days. It does not damage or require the removal of the uterus and can treat all of a patient's fibroids in one visit, which minimizes the chances that symptoms will return.



Dr. Alan Greenberg of Health Central Women's Care, Acessa Trained Physician

An Acessa success story

Gabrielle lived with the symptoms of fibroids for years, to the point where they became unbearable. She says, "I couldn't continue to live like this. I was doing things to try to relieve the pressure from fibroids but it was only a temporary fix." Fortunately, she found Dr. Greenberg and underwent the Acessa Procedure. Since then, Gabrielle says things have greatly improved.

"Prior to the surgery I was weak, I was tired.

But since then I feel like I have more energy, I feel more confident—it really changed my life."

Dr. Greenberg is so impressed with the Acessa Procedure that he's confident it will become the standard of care in the near future, replacing hysterectomies for the treatment of uterine fibroids.

If you'd like to learn more about a minimally-invasive procedure for fibroids that saves the uterus, call 972-765-7744 or visit www.acessatexas.com.

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Treating women. Not just fibroids.

Acessa is cleared by the FDA for the treatment of symptomatic uterine fibroids. There are risks associated with all minimally invasive surgical procedures, including serious complications such as infection, bowel injury, and postoperative bleeding. Please consult with an Acessa-trained gynecologist to understand the risks of surgery and find out if Acessa may be right for you.

Carrollton gets second chance at \$100k for dog park

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Today, more than 54 million households in the United States have dogs — a total of 77.8 million dogs. While dog parks provide a wealth of benefits to both dogs and the area they live in, many communities simply don't have the budget to build their own dog park. This year, one corporation will help more of our nation's dogs have a space they can call their own.

PetSafe brand, an industry leader in the development of innovative pet behavioral, containment and lifestyle product solutions, is giving five U.S. communities the opportunity to win funds to help build a dog



Janice Watson / Flickr

park in its fifth annual Bark for Your Park Contest. The contest, which launches on May 13, 2015, will award one \$100,000 grand prize and four finalists with \$25,000 each to build an

off-leash dog park in their community.

Last year, Waverly, Iowa took home the grand prize of \$100,000 after beating out the more than 1,400 communities that were

nominated in the contest. The town, which has a population of approximately 9,874, garnered a total of 133,545 votes. Tab Ray, Director of Waverly Leisure Services, was overwhelmed by the support of the community and excitement of their dog park dreams now becoming a reality.

"We have already seen the positive effects of the PetSafe Dog Park in our community by the interest and the attendance in the planning and development committee meetings," Ray said.

From May 13 through June 10, anyone within the U.S. can vote for his or her community every day on

www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark and Facebook. Based on the information provided by each community, PetSafe will confirm the availability of land, civic leader support, population size and total number of votes to select 15 finalist communities, which will be announced on June 17.

To help communities in their efforts to gain support, the brand provides downloadable tools and weekly tips online at www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark. The site also has a forum where past Bark for Your Park winners provide advice for this year's voting communities.

"We've seen how a dog

park can enhance a community, bring responsible pet owners together and create a wonderful place to visit and exercise," said Willie Wallace, CEO of Radio Systems Corporation, makers of the PetSafe brand.

"After working with our hometown of Knoxville, Tenn. to build six dog parks and helping four years' worth of Bark for Your Park winners plan, build and open their parks, PetSafe is proud to support communities in their efforts to provide a place for their dogs to socialize and play."

For more information, please visit www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark.

Over \$110,000 raised through North Texas Walk to Cure Arthritis

DFW area residents raised more than \$110,000 to fight and cure arthritis by participating in the North Texas Walk to Cure Arthritis on May 9, 2015. Participants and teams rallied together at Arlington's Globe Life Park, braving wet weather, to show their support and be the voice of people living with the nation's leading cause of disability.

Funds raised through Walk to Cure Arthritis events across the nation will support Arthritis Foundation programs, research and advocacy initiatives to help



Alex / Flickr

prevent, control and find a cure for this crippling disease.

"This is the second year that the Arthritis Foundation has held the Walk to Cure Arthritis North Texas at

Globe Life Park," says Arthritis Foundation South Central Region CEO Susan Carter. "This is such a great venue to raise awareness while raising critically needed dollars to fund local

programs and research to find a cure and end the pain of arthritis for those who suffer from this debilitating disease in North Texas."

The event featured local honorees who shared their inspirational stories about their personal battles with arthritis. By sharing these experiences, Military Honoree, Master Sergeant Bridget Sonsel, and Youth Honoree, Emma Calhoun, were able to put a face on arthritis and remind participants arthritis doesn't discriminate by age, gender, race, or social economic status — it

affects all populations, particularly our nation's veterans. To learn more about their stories or to make a donation in their honor, visit www.walktocurearthritis-northtx.org. Fundraising will remain open through August 2015.

Arthritis is a crippling disease that costs the U.S. economy \$156 billion dollars a year, and it is a more frequent cause of activity limitation than heart disease, cancer or diabetes. The disease impacts more than 50 million adults and 300,000 children — or ap-

proximately 22 percent of the United States population. In Texas alone, there are 3.6 million adults and 25,000 children suffering from arthritis.

Walk to Cure Arthritis, the Arthritis Foundation's national signature event, is nationally presented by Amgen, Massage Envy Spa and Aleve. Local corporate supporters of the North Texas Walk include: Local Presenting Sponsor, Pollock, as well as local sponsors Parker University, Bristol-Myers Squibb and others.

Three hidden Hispanic heritage gems near Dallas

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) new travel guide, *Hispanic Texans: Journey from Empire to Democracy*, showcases a range of heritage tourism sites with cultural and historical attractions significant to the Hispanic experience in Texas. Whether an afternoon adventure or weeklong road trip, visits to these sites are a meaningful way to learn about and connect with Texas history and culture.

The 100-page guide is organized by locations in the THC's 10 Texas Heritage Trail Regions, allowing



Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe is the oldest Catholic Church in Dallas. (Photo John McStavick / Flickr)

users to plan trips according to destinations within specific areas. With hundreds

of entries, the publication guides travelers to sites everyone has heard of—like

the missions of San Antonio—but also highlights intriguing lesser-known destinations. Here are three locations in or near the Dallas area to start the fun and educational journeys awaiting you across Texas.

Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe is the city's oldest Catholic Church and supports one of the largest Latino congregations in the U.S. Designed by noted architect Nicholas J. Clayton, the Gothic Revival cathedral was dedicated in 1902 and features 100 stained

glass windows filling its massive nave, a 224-foot spire, and an impressive 49-bell carillon.

Temple's Little Joe y La Family Museum is an ideal day trip destination for fans of Tejano music and Texas music history.

The museum documents the life, family, and decades-long career of the Grammy Award-winning artist who transformed traditional conjunto music and was an integral part of the Chicano movement.

The Mission Tejas State Park in Grapeland contains a replica of Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, the

first Spanish mission in East Texas. Located in the Texas Forest Trail Region, the 660-acre park is about a two-hour drive from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Hispanic Texans: Journey from Empire to Democracy is free and can be ordered online, or downloaded at www.TexasTimeTravel.com. The new guide joins the suite of THC travel guides that includes *African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy*, helping readers plan heritage travel journeys and find specific attractions as they travel across the state.

Garland ISD MS teacher wins Badough-Metts Scholarship

Garland ISD's Schrade Middle School teacher Lauren Craft received a pleasant surprise during a staff meeting in April. The sixth-grade social studies teacher was awarded the Michelle Badough-Metts Memorial Scholarship, a gift that will help her pursue a master's degree in library science.

"I was so thankful and honored when I learned that I was this year's recipient," Craft said. "I felt energized by the award, as well. I am inspired to make sure I rep-



Pam Drummond, Lauren Craft and Principal Rachael Brown. (Photo courtesy GISD)

resent the purpose of the scholarship well in my future role as a school librar-

ian."

Sponsored by the Garland ISD Education Foun-

ation, the Badough-Metts Scholarship awards \$500 to one district teacher or librarian who is working on a library certification or degree. Inspired by her mentor and mother—both GISD librarians—Craft was one of six hopeful applicants this year.

"I applied for the scholarship because my mentor, Schrade Middle School librarian Pam Drummond, and my mother, Williams Elementary School librarian Jan Craft, suggested I do

so," she explained. "I was excited to learn that there was a scholarship specifically geared toward teachers pursuing their master's in library science."

After reviewing all six applications, a committee of three district librarians determined Craft best exemplified excellence in librarianship or library training. Named the 2014-15 honoree, Craft believes this distinction motivates betterment in her field.

"I feel like these scholar-

ships are a way for GISD to show support for teachers who are actively pursuing their career goals," she commented. "I think it is important for the GISD Education Foundation to continue to sponsor this type of scholarship, which promotes the continued professional growth of teachers."

To learn more about the Badough-Metts Scholarship, or other professional scholarships, visit the Education Foundation's website.

SMU Dedman Law receives \$2 million gift for Women & The Law Faculty Chair

Ellen K. Solender, SMU law alumna and emeritus faculty member, is giving \$2 million to the Dedman School of Law to fund the Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law.

The Solender Chair will support a Dedman Law faculty member, to encourage research, teaching and advocacy in legal education and the legal profession, aimed at advancing equality for all women. The gift provides \$1.5 million for endowment and \$500,000 for operational support until the endowment matures.

"Professor Solender's decision to endow a chair in women and the law could not come at a better time," said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "This faculty position underscores Dedman Law's commitment to empowering women to assume positions of influence in their professions. Hers is a gift that will have continuing impact."

"As only the second woman to receive tenure at the law school, Professor Solender has been a trail-

blazer in legal education, said Jennifer Collins, Dedman Law's Judge James Noel Dean and professor of law. "She has dedicated her career to promoting equity and mentored countless women along the way. This gift will allow the law school to continue Professor Solender's important work on issues that will advance the rights of women, ensure gender equality, and train lawyers to pursue these goals."

Solender points to a number of significant events over the last 100 years that raised hopes for gender equality, citing the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote in 1920, the right of women to serve on Texas juries in 1954, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.

"My mother worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment and thought she would see equality in her lifetime. I thought I would see it in mine," Solender said. "Now I worry whether my granddaughter and my great-great nieces will see equality in

their lifetimes. I now realize these were only milestones on a longer journey to equality. These issues are so important to me, it is my hope that this endowed chair could be a catalyst and hopefully speed up the journey to equality for women."

"Professor Solender's generous gift to her University home is meaningful on many levels," said Brad Cheves, SMU vice president for Development and External Affairs. "Because she has had the foresight to provide \$500,000 in operating funds as part of her gift, the University will seek to fill the chair immediately rather than wait for the endowment to mature. We are grateful for both the good this gift will do for the community, as well as its thoughtful financial structure."

Ellen Karelsen Solender Solender entered what was then known as SMU School of Law in 1968 at the age of 44. She had earned a bachelor's degree at Oberlin College and worked for AT&T's Bell Labs before working for the Wall Street Journal after she

and her husband, the late Robert L. Solender, moved to Dallas. Active with the League of Women Voters, Solender believed government officials were not taking her questions seriously, and she entered law school to improve her credentials.

Solender earned her J.D. in 1971 and joined the law school's staff shortly after graduation. She joined the faculty in 1973 and in 1977 became the second woman in the history of the law school to receive tenure. Solender co-authored the Research Methods/Legal Writing Manual with now-deceased SMU Dedman Law Professor Alan R. Bromberg. She retired in 1994 as Professor Emeritus of Law.

Solender has previously made gift designations to the Ellen K. Solender Institute in Free Speech and Mass Media Law Fund, and the law library book fund. She has been active on boards and commissions throughout the University and served as vice president and acting president of the Faculty Senate.

In 2011 Solender received the League of Women Voters' Susan B. Anthony Award. The emeritus professor also has been a supporter of the Dallas Museum of Art, Educational First Steps Legal Aid

of Northwest Texas, the North Texas Food Bank, Oberlin College and Parkland Foundation and has been an adviser to the city of Dallas' Domestic Violence Task Force since its inception in 1987.

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BRAIN, continued from Page 4

This groundbreaking research arms the pharmaceutical industry with specific information about targets for treatment, opening the door for new therapeutic approaches for blocking the effects of cocaine and am-

phetamine." said Richard Goodman, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Vollum Institute at OHSU. "In light of the profound economic and social costs of drug addiction in the U.S., this research could have a trans-

formative effect."

This paper is the culmination of more than 20 years of work at the Vollum Institute investigating regulation of the critically important dopamine transporter, a protein that has key contributions to such neuropsychiatric diseases as

schizophrenia, depression, drug abuse behavior, and attention deficit disorder.

The economic cost of mental illness in the U.S. is now estimated to be more than \$300 billion annually, with 20 percent of adults reporting a diagnosable mental illness each year.

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Red Cross Opening Multi-Agency Resource Center in Van

VAN – The American Red Cross and partner agencies have coordinated efforts to open a Multi-Agency Resource Center to help residents of Van, Texas following a devastating tornado that claimed lives and destroyed or substantially damaged more than 120 homes. The Center will be located at the Van Community Center, 310 Chestnut in Van. Hours for Thursday will be 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday hours will be from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Families can meet with agencies such as the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Texas Baptist



Men, Victim Relief Ministries, Christian Aid Ministries-Disaster Response, Lions Club, Health & Home Services and others.

The Multi-Agency Resource Center is designed to be a one-stop-shop for affected residents as they begin the initial stages of recovery.

For more information, please visit redcross.org or follow us on Twitter @redcross.

Eastfield student cartoonists earn national recognition in SPJ competition

MESQUITE — Eastfield College students Jonathan Wences and Alex Hernandez were named national finalists in editorial cartooning Monday, when the Society of Professional Journalists released its 2014 Mark of Excellence Awards.

Judges selected a national winner and two finalists from a group of winners from the SPJ's 12 regions.

Previously, the Eastfield duo had earned first place in Region 8, which includes four-year and two-year colleges and universities from Texas and Oklahoma. Eastfield entered a

series of three cartoons that ran in The Et Cetera student newspaper during 2014 into the competition. The cartoons addressed the issues of race, immigration and education.

“Jonathan and Alex took timely and sensitive topics and conveyed messages about them through art,” Eastfield College Student Publications Manager Beth Langton said.

“This isn't an easy task, and they performed flawlessly. I'm so proud to see their work receive national recognition.”

The award caps another strong year for Eastfield College's Student Publica-

tions team, which also won the 2014 Pacemaker award given by the Associated Collegiate Press to the top college newspapers in the country. Only four two-year schools in the country received the prestigious award.

Staff members from The Et Cetera traveled to Philadelphia in October to accept the award, as well as two individual national awards: fifth place for Best Newspaper Spread/Page by Yolanda Ramirez and honorable mention for Story of the Year by Justin David Tate. The newspaper also won second place in Best of

Show at the convention.

In April, Eastfield College also took home 35 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention in San Antonio.

“I tell my students all the time that they are creating good journalism, but I suspect they think I'm required to praise them,” Langton said.

“Winning awards like these shows them that experts in the field respect their work.”

A complete list of the SPJ Mark of Excellence award winners can be found at www.spj.org/moe14.asp.

HARDY, continued from Page 1

PG Top Uncommitted List).

This tournament features up to 120 players all vying for the attention of Major League Baseball scouts, who put on the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau Pro Workout during the Texas vs. The World event.

Each of those charged with evaluating talent including former major leaguers. The scouts who run the event, in the end, settle on two players including Hardy.

Hardy and another black player who attended the tournament are considered “tools,” a term indicative of MLB's vaunted 5-tool rating system, of which only the rarest of players possess all five tools (think Barry Bonds, Ken Griffey Jr., Mike Trout, Josh Hamilton, etc.): 1) hit for power, 2) hit for average, 3) field, 4) speed, and 5) arm strength.

One thing about the MLB Scouting Bureau ratings is that it's not necessarily designed to carve up players in nice little compartments. The ratings are the same whether you are a 15 year old or a 25 year old. The ratings are based on a major

league level player.

So, in essence, both players, by virtue of their showing, graded out to Major League level talent and in the process, may have earned a tryout to the prestigious Area Code Games which feature some of the nation's top high school players.

Hardy, by now a senior at Prosper, has been identified as draft eligible. He possesses speed to burn along with a strong arm that was recently clocked at 94 miles an hour.

Well let's review. So far so good; Hardy has acclaim beyond the borders of Texas, has received recognition from even Major League Baseball for his athletic prowess, is a team player who has proved a pivotal cog on his teams and could perhaps become a draft pick for some lucky MLB team.

What about college though? What if he has a parent who has raised him to not get lost in the glitz and glamour of pro sports (not shunning it altogether but always weighing options properly)? What if Hardy grew up in a culture that stressed education

above all else?

It would appear that Hardy – who possesses a 3.4 grade-point average, an SAT score of 1520, and an ACT score of 22 – would fit the bill of most any NCAA college or university in the nation, whether he plays sports or not.

As you may know, the NCAA penalizes programs whose Academic Progress Rate (APR), a measure of eligibility and retention and indicator of eventual graduation rates, consistently fails to achieve a score of 925 (equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate; 1,000 score is perfect). Possible sanctions await those programs and include possible loss of scholarships. For this reason and others, it is imperative that NCAA sports programs ensure that their incoming players “make the grade” on the front end, so as not to allow the school to fall into the grasp of NCAA violation investigators.

We're glad that Hardy will be attending Paris Junior College. Texas JUCO's (junior colleges) rank with the tops in the nation and kids routinely move on from these two-year schools

to four-year schools or the pros.

But the question begs: why Paris Junior College? Where are all the choices that are enjoyed in other

sports that black players play? Why not University of Arizona? Why not Notre Dame? Why not University of Texas or TCU or Texas A&M? Why is it that in

Hardy's case, the MLB has identified Hardy as a prospect, but there are no serious takers within the NCAA hierarchy of Division I schools?

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Dallas city races going into runoffs

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings not only won, he trounced his opponent Marcos Ronquillo by capturing 73 percent of the votes cast. What few votes were cast. Rawlings victory appeared to be city-wide with the strongest support from the

southern region.

Mayor Pro Tem Atkins' District 8 seat in southern Dallas was pursued by six candidates but the two runoff opponents are Erik Wilson and Dianne Gibson. Atkins this week announced his support for Wilson.

Other races include

- Council District 3 Casey Thomas versus Joe Tave.
- Council District 7 voters will choose from Tiffinni Young or Kevin Felder.
- Council District 10 featuring Paul Reyes in a race against Adam McGough

Parkland hosting a Women's Health Fair this week

Everyone who flies has heard the refrain over the airplane intercom: "In the unlikely event of emergency, put your own oxygen mask on first before assisting others." It's a message more women should take to heart in their personal lives, healthcare experts say.

To improve health awareness, a Women's Health Fair providing information and healthcare assistance to women is being presented by Parkland through Friday at the E. Carlyle Smith Jr. Health Center in Grand Prairie from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., focusing on different topics daily. On May 14 the topics will include breastfeeding; and on May 15 health screenings for blood glucose, cholesterol and rapid HIV testing will be provided. Speaker presentations are in English and Spanish, and admission is free.

"Too often, women put their own needs last," said Sentayehu Kassa, MD, Lead Staff Physician, Parkland's Vickery Health Center. "Women make healthy lunches for our husband and children but are too busy to take a lunch break ourselves," said Dr. Kassa. "We run our kids from school to soccer or dance practice, but can't find time to get ourselves to the gym. And many times, women make sure everyone else in the family gets regular check-ups but fail to schedule their own doctor visits."

Making your own health a priority is the best thing you can do for your loved ones, physicians say, be-

cause if you aren't getting oxygen, how can you help others breathe and thrive? And the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agrees.

The agency's Office on Women's Health (OWH) leads the annual observance of National Women's Health Week, this year observed May 10-16, to encourage women to improve their health.

According to OWH, one of the most important steps to protect your health is to visit a doctor for regular checkups and preventive screenings

Here's a list of some of the most essential health screenings recommended for women by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and other healthcare organizations:

- Blood pressure screening, starting at age 18, at

least every two years.

- Cholesterol: the USPSTF recommends screening women aged 20-45 for lipid disorders if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease and strongly recommends screening women 45 and older for lipid disorders if they are at increased risk for coronary heart disease.

- Cervical cancer screening in women aged 21-65 years with Pap smear every three years.

- Mammograms and breast exams: The USPSTF recommends screening mammography for women 50-74 years of age every two years. However, the American Cancer Society recommends that women age 40 and older should have a mammogram

For more information about Parkland's women's health services, visit www.parklandhospital.com.

Jorge Acosta Named Principal of Gilbert Elementary School

Jorge Acosta, a 17-year employee of Irving ISD, has been named principal of Gilbert Elementary School. He is currently an assistant principal at Davis Elementary School, where he has served since 2014.

Prior to his position at Davis Elementary, Acosta was assistant principal at Keyes Elementary School from 2007 to 2014 and an instructional technology specialist at Lamar Middle School from 2004 to 2007. He started his work in Irving ISD as a third and fourth grade bilingual educator at Good Elementary School from 1998 to 2004.

"I am grateful and honored to be able to serve the F.M. Gilbert Elementary School community," says Acosta. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff, students and parents of F.M. Gilbert in order to continue making



an impact on individual student success."

With 17 years as an educator and school administrator, Acosta is experienced at collaborating with all levels of campus and district staff and establishing successful relationships with parents, students and the community.

"Mr. Acosta has served students as a campus administrator at both Keyes and Davis elementary schools exceptionally well," says Associate Su-

perintendent of Academic Services Adam Grinage, Ed.D. "Mr. Acosta is focused on the success of each student and works hard to maximize every student's potential."

Acosta holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a master's degree in educational administration and policy study from the University of Texas at Arlington.

He will begin transitioning to the principal position in June.

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NDG Book Review: Listen to Your Mother!

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Safe.

That's what you would've been, if you'd just paid attention to your mother. You wouldn't have caught your death of cold or poked someone's eye out. You'd never even bother looking for money trees. Accidents would be free of dirty undies, and you'd have nice things.

But nooooo, you didn't heed Mom's advice until you had children of your own. And in "Listen to Your Mother," a collection of essays edited by Ann Imig, you'll see what else you missed.



For much of your life, your mother's told you what to do. As it turns out, she IS the boss of you and sometimes her advice is right. Other times, says Mary Jo Pehl, her words scare you enough that "she should have a flashlight under her face."

And yet – you've probably noticed that Mom is strong as steel. Maybe she "leads you to water and stays till you drink," as does Tasneem Grace Tewogbola's mother. And even if, like Lea Grover, you've forgotten things, you still know Mom's "a supernatural entity made of love... and constant presence."

If you're the moming one, then you understand how Jenny Fiore needs outings "in order to keep my child happy enough, occupied enough not to break me." You can "finally let go of all your crazy hopes and dreams and just live vicariously through your chil-

dren," says Wendi Aarons. Like Jennifer Ball, you know that traditions mean everything. Like Stacey Connor, you can do what's right for your child and hope the condemnation isn't too harsh. And you can remember, as does Natalie Cheung Hall, "I am a good mom because I have a good mom."

Mothers, as anyone who's had one knows, come in all shapes and sizes. Some of them are single, while some families have two moms. In many cases – like that of Alexandra Rosas – Grandma takes the role and "all the ugliness of my world disappears," or an

Auntie does the mothering. Some moms eagerly anticipate their babies' birth, others fear for their child's future before it's even born, and all mothers find it hard to let go.

And sometimes, Mom is actually a Dad...

So, all things considered, you were a pretty good kid – although there were times when, well, let's just say that "Listen to Your Mother" could help make amends.

Because of long Wisconsin winters spent with two small children, blogger-editor Ann Imig created a stage show "to make room for the voices of other

mothers and men and women..." and from which her book is titled.

Some of these fifty-some essays will make you laugh, of course. Others will resonate in your own life. A few will make you wonder if the author somehow knew your mother. Many stories will touch your heart – and at least one will break it in pieces.

If you're a mother or a mom-to-be, you'll find comfort and kindred spirits inside this addictive, easy-to-read book. If you're looking for something to give your own Mom, I'd say wrapping up "Listen to Your Mother" is safe.

Blues Legend B.B. King in hospice care at Las Vegas home

By Chelsea Lenora White
Special to the NNPA from the *Houston Forward Times*

Blues legend B.B. King was in hospice care Friday at his home in Las Vegas, according to a longtime business associate with legal control over his affairs.

The 89-year-old musician posted thanks on his official website for fans' well-wishes and prayers after he returned home from a brief hospitalization, said Laverne Toney, King's longtime business manager and current power-of-attorney.

"Mr. King is where he

wishes to be," Toney said. "He's always told me he doesn't want to be in a hospital. He wants to be at home."

An ambulance was summoned Thursday after what Las Vegas police Officer Jesse Roybal characterized as a domestic dispute over medical care. No arrests were made, and Roybal said no criminal complaint was filed.

Toney disputed reports by celebrity website TMZ citing one of King's daughters as saying she called police because she was upset about her father's condition and that he had suffered a

minor heart attack. Efforts by the Associated Press to reach the daughter, Patty King, were not immediately successful.

Paramedics checked King's heart rhythm, and he was treated at the hospital for complications of high blood pressure and diabetes, Toney said. King was diag-

nosed with diabetes decades ago.

Roybal confirmed that police received a report on Nov. 16 claiming abuse at the house. No charges have been filed, and the police spokesman said details of the investigation were not immediately available.

King's hospitalization

was the second in a month. He posted a similar message to fans when he returned home April 7.

He canceled the final shows of his 2014 tour last October after falling ill in Chicago.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer is considered one of the greatest guitarists of

all time. He has released more than 50 albums and sold millions of records worldwide.

His guitar, famously named Lucille, has soared and wailed in songs ranging from "Every Day I Have the Blues" to "When Love Comes to Town" to "The Thrill is Gone."



B.B. King has thrilled millions throughout his enduring career.

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Con Funk Shun
Con Funk Shun is a star-quality attraction delivering a hip-hop, high-energy show with electrifying chemistry, glistering six-part vocal harmonies, and a dash of humor. They are, unquestionably, among the best of funk with romantic ballads and dance party hits galore.



Ivory Jean Band
Ivory Jean spins soulful grooves of music and an impressive selection of musical styles that offers something for everyone. Offering tunes from the musical genres of soul, jazz, funk, pop, and R&B, Ivory Jean can rock any crowd.

This traditional patriotic salute is free and open to the entire community. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of live entertainment and a fireworks show.



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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to win tickets to Just Like Yo' Daddy @ Friendship West Baptist Church, June 20, 2015.

Grab a drink at 31st Annual Main Street Fest in Grapevine

The 31st Annual Main Street Fest - A Craft Brew Experience, presented by Bank of the West, opens Friday, May 15 at 10 a.m. and admission is free until 5 p.m. Festival hours are Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. After 5 p.m. on Friday, adults are \$7 and children 6 - 12 and seniors are \$5. Weekend passes are \$15. Souvenir weekend passes are \$20. Complimentary shuttles run continuously from designated parking lots. Guests will enjoy three full days of family-friendly festival fun.



Kick off American Craft Beer week by attending pre-festival Craft Brew Dinners at local Grapevine restaurants that will feature different types of craft beers

paired with a variety of foods chosen by the brewmaster and chefs. At Main Street Fest, there will be a separate ticketed Craft Brew Experience on the

festival grounds that will offer more than fifty craft beers to taste.

There are many activities for the family such as watching your kids explore the KidCave, enjoying a variety of different stages featuring kids stage shows, museum exhibits and live entertainment throughout the festival. Make sure to visit the Carnival & Midway and enjoy all of the Historic Downtown Grapevine shopping along Main Street.

Wine aficionados, enjoy a glass of wine at one of the premium wine areas including the Texas Wine Pavilion.

Attention shoppers! Main Street Fest features a unique lineup of marketplace and artisan vendors at this year's event. With new and returning vendors, Main Street Fest is the perfect spot to find a fabulous gift for yourself or that someone special. And don't forget, the more than 80 locally-owned shops, galleries, restaurants, jewelry stores, boutiques and more lining Grapevine's Historic Main Street will be open during the festival.

Are you looking for Black Love? There's an app for that

Winston-Salem, NC (BlackNews.com) -- Thanks to the launch of a new dating app called Real Black Love, African American singles across the nation are now able to download and use a dating app created specifically for them. There are over 15,000 singles already using Real Black Love and the anticipation is that the app will alleviate the anxiety of relationship-focused black singles nationwide.

"With so many hook-up apps to download, African-Americans seeking relationships finally have a better option at their fingertips," said Joseph Dixon, founder/CEO at RealBlackLove.com.

The launch of Real Black Love's dating app could prove to have perfect timing due to the statistics of the Pew study, which says attitudes toward online dating, especially in the African American community, "have progressed in a clearly positive direction." In fact, 59 percent of Internet users agree that online dating is a good way to meet people. That's up from 44% in 2005.

In one of the most amazing adventures of his life, Dixon will be searching for love as he attempts Forty-eight Dates in Forty-eight States. The team at Real Black Love hopes to accomplish for the founder

what he has not had the opportunity to do in years; find a life partner. Dixon's team will search for potential matches for the founder by using the Real Black Love app. The company has shared that the series of dates will be documented and adapted for television.

Real Black Love is available on both iTunes and Google Play.

The launch of the app is being celebrated by extending free communication for all members through May 31, 2015.

To learn more about Real Black Love, please visit RealBlackLove.com.

TYSON, continued from Page 2

bitious vision into its restricted budget.

In 2014, he hosted the television series *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, a reboot of Carl Sagan's 1980 series *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage*. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences awarded Tyson the Public Welfare Medal in 2015 for

his "extraordinary role in exciting the public about the wonders of science."

Tyson is the recipient of 18 honorary doctorates and the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest award given by NASA to a non-government citizen.

His contributions to the public appreciation of the cosmos have been recognized by the International Astronomical Union in their official naming of asteroid "13123 Tyson."

For more information on the AT&T Performing Arts Center, to become a member, or to make a donation, visit www.attpac.org.



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New MGM resort lauded for minority business participation

By Stacy M. Brown
Special to the NNPA from
the *Washington Informer*

MGM National Harbor is meeting — and in some cases exceeding — its local and minority participation

goals that Prince George's County officials set in a Community Benefits Agreement.

The \$1.2 billion hotel and casino project that's being constructed along the Potomac River has a 31 per-

cent Minority Business Enterprise participation rate, according to the first quarterly report issued by an oversight committee formed to evaluate the company's hiring efforts.

The rate exceeds the goal

of 30 percent established in the agreement.

Further, there's a 16 percent participation of county-based Minority Business Enterprises, exceeding the 12 percent goal noted in the Community Benefits

Agreement (CBA).

However, achieving those goals isn't without its challenges, said Phyllis James, MGM Resorts International's executive vice president and chief diversity officer.

"As far as challenges ... one of the things I think people should understand is that working with us is not the same as working with a hotel down the street," James said.

MILITARY, continued from Page 3

regulation of predatory lending aimed at active duty military families and will include new safeguards affecting credit cards, high-cost installment loans and payday loans offered by banks that are termed 'deposit advances.'

Observed Congresswoman Duckworth, "As the Department of Defense and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's own reports show, service members have not been fully protected since the MLA was passed, and further delay will put more service members and their families in harm's way."

Working with the Office of Service Member Affairs,

CFPB published a December report that found:

* Some depository institutions extended millions of dollars in deposit advances to service members with APRs that typically exceeded 300 percent. As open-ended lines of credit, the loans were not bound by the MLA;

* In Illinois, a 12-month auto title loan of \$2,575 carried a finance charge of \$5,720 plus a \$95 lien fee. The loan was technically legal because its duration was beyond 181 days;

* In Texas, a lender sold a \$485 installment loan to a service member with a 584.72 APR for a period of less than six months. In ad-

dition to the borrower's \$1,428 repayment, the borrower was charged a separate credit access business fee and 9.75 percent interest on the loan.

"The products that have been marketed and extended to service members while the current Military Lending Act regulations have been in place underscore the limitations of those regulations in protecting service members and their families across the credit marketplace," states CFPB's report. "This issue is of substantial concern to the Bureau and we will continue to use the tools available to us to address the consumer financial challenges affecting the military community."

Added Congresswoman Duckworth. "Service Members continue to be vulnerable to abusive lending that causes incredible financial difficulty for them and directly impacts military readiness. Those who work every day to defend our nation deserve the strongest protections our government can provide."

Rep. Duckworth and other members of the House Armed Services Committee who worked to stop the ploy to delay financial protections for our troops did the right thing at the right time.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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Black unemployment dips below 10 percent

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The Black unemployment rate fell to single digits (9.6 percent) in April, for the first time since President Barack Obama was elected in 2008.

Despite the improvement, the Black jobless rate is still double the unemployment

rate of White workers, which has remained flat since February at 4.7 percent.

Valerie Wilson, the director of the Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy at the Economic Policy Institute, a progressive think tank focused on low- and middle-income families, said that said that the gradual decline in the Black un-

See JOBS, Page 13

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JOBS, continued from Page 12

employment rate is the result of strong job growth over the past year.

As the economic recovery in the United States continued its slow, uneven climb in April there were still clear disparities, even among adult Black workers.

Wilson said that, since December, Black men have enjoyed most of the larger employment gains compared to Black women.

The unemployment rate for Black men over 20 years old was 11 percent in December 2014 and 9.2 percent in April 2015, while the unemployment rate for Black women increased 0.6 percent over the same period.

Since last April, the labor force participation rate, which is the share of the population that is either employed or looking for work, increased from 66.5 percent to 68.7 percent in April 2015 among Black men. The labor force rate for Black women only increased 0.7 percent since April 2014.

Wilson said that a renewed focus on targeted jobs programs and infrastructure investments would enable the economy to get closer to full employment, but cuts to public sector employment, especially at the state and local levels, may prolong the sluggish recovery.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research and policy group that designs policies aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, the economy has shed nearly 570,000 government jobs, more than 360,000 jobs in local government alone, since February 2010.

"The other part of that is that wage growth isn't anything to cheer about," said Wilson, adding that wage growth is still below any indication that the economy has really heated up.

According to the Labor Department, average hourly earnings have only in-

creased 2.2 percent since April 2014.

During recoveries in the past, falling unemployment rates meant that companies were forced to raise wages to compete for available workers

This recovery is different, Wilson said, in part because there's still a decent amount of slack in the labor market.

In a state-by-state analysis of the unemployment rates, Wilson found that the African American unemployment rate was "lowest in Virginia (7.4 percent) and highest in the District of Columbia (15.8 percent) in the first quarter of 2015, surpassing Michigan, which had the highest black unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2014."

Wilson also noted that, "although 7.4 percent is the lowest Black unemployment rate in the country, it is still over 1 percentage point above the highest

White unemployment rate (Tennessee). Virginia was one of only eight states where the African American unemployment rate was below 10 percent in the first quarter of 2015."

Wilson's research also revealed that the Black unemployment rate, "is at or below its pre-recession level in six states: Connecticut, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee. But this numerical recovery must be put in proper context because each of these states also had Black unemployment rates that were among the highest in the nation before the recession."

The national unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in April down from 5.5 percent in March and the economy added 223,000 jobs in April for a three-month average of 191,000 jobs per month.

In a recent blog post for EPI, Josh Bivens, the research and policy director at EPI, wrote that returning

the labor market to pre-Great Recession levels is too unambitious a goal.

"After all, 2007 could hardly be described as a year with the kind of high-pressure labor market that would boost wages across the board," said Bivens.

Bivens continued: "Instead, we need to target the kind of high-pressure labor market that we haven't seen since the late 1990s. Anything less than this will leave the majority of American workers frozen out of sharing in economic growth through wage gains."

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May 17

Join us this Sunday at 8 a.m. for our praise and worship services, God will bless you. And don't forget to come back at 5 p.m. for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

May 20, 7 p.m.

You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings. Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

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BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

May 17, 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.

May 20, 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 Spring months. Learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

May 17, 10 a.m. only for this day

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings. Our May Series, "Caring for Your Temple, Mind, Body and Spirit."

May 20

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. and Tutoring/Homework Assistance at 8 p.m.

May 31, 10 a.m.

Join us for Sunday Service in the park at Central Park (Granger) 1310 W. Avenue F, Garland, TX 75040. We will have games, a health Fair and a picnic.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
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May 17

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May 20

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.

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BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

May 15, 7 p.m.

Join our Women's Ministry group for fellowship and fun. Call the church for details.

May 16, 9 a.m.

Join our Men's Ministry group for fellowship and fun. Call the church for details.

May 17, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

May 20, 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.

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May 20, 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.

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May 17

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.

May 20

Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study and learn what God has to say to us.

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May 17

8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Come and worship with us this Sunday, it's the conclu-

sion of our Women's Day program. The theme is, "Basking in the Presence of the Lord", Psalm 91:1-2. God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and guide us in all truth and righteousness.

May 13, 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.

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

May 20, 7 p.m.

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

May 22, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. What is God saying to us?

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Fight the right foe



Sister Tarpley

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

In times like these, (just read the newspaper or listening to the news on the radio and/or television) there are many Christians, believers or just plain people, which are losing the battles in their lives. They are losing because they are fighting the wrong enemy!

People for years have been deceived into believing that just because a person said or did something to hurt them, that person is the one they need to fight or to be angry with.

But they are wrong. The Bible says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

And since people are definitely flesh and blood, they're never the source of our problem.

Some will say, "But Brother/Sister, you just don't know what So-and-So did to me!" Believe me, it

doesn't matter.

If you waste your time fighting "So-and So", your real enemy (Satan and his demons) will get away scot-free. They are your life long enemies. They are behind every personal affront you encounter.

People who hurt and persecute you are only Satan's tools. When he wants to discourage you, to strike out at you, mentally and physically attack you, he uses people to get the job done.

Please keep in mind that persecution is not the manifestation of another person's hate for you. It's a manifestation of Satan's fear of you, because as a Christian, he knows that you have the Word of God in you.

When you take God's Word and start swinging it around—using it as the Sword of the Spirit, because that's what the Word of God is, the Sword of the Spirit, Satan gets scared.

Remember that Jesus always used the Word to send Satan packing, and when he returned (you can be sure that Satan and/or his demons will come back,) Jesus used the Word every time he returned.

Satan will look for some person that he can send in there to dishearten you and to stop you from using

God's Word. The Word of God is the only thing that can stop Satan and his demons.

The next time that someone hurts you, don't let yourself get sidetracked into fighting them. Pray, and then bind the spirit behind them. Put flesh and blood battles behind you and war

with the weapons of the Spirit.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds:)"

-II Corinthians 10:3-4 (KJV)
Zero in on Satan with au-

thority and the Word of God and bring your real enemy down! "Fight the Right Foe"

Prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed: Life without purpose is barren indeed – There can't be a harvest unless you plant a seed. There can't be attainment unless there's a goal, and man is but a robot unless there's a soul.

If we don't send ships out, no ships will come in, and unless there's a contest, nobody can win. For games can't be won unless they are

played; and prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed.

So whatever is wrong with your life today, you'll find a solution if you kneel down and pray. Not just for pleasure, enjoyment and health; not just for honors and prestige and wealth.

But pray for a purpose to make life worth living, and pray for the joy of unselfish giving. For great is your gladness and rich your reward, when you make your life's purpose the choice of the Lord. –Helen Steiner Rice



Sister Tarpley's only Uncle, Charlie Baker from Mexia, Texas, in Coppell, Texas recently celebrating a friend's, Billie Ruth's 80 plus birthday

COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
1301 E. Princeton Street, Suite 200, Coppell, TX 75019

Dr. Louis W. Jones
Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:15am
Wednesday Prayer 4:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm
cbbf.org 972-437-3495

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Avenue F Church of Christ
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class.....9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 am
Evening Worship.....3:00 pm
Iglesia de Cristo Services5:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 pm

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

Second Keyboardist Needed: Please Call For Info

www.thempire.org Fellowship Christian Center Church 972.398.9956

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

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

Early Morning Service
200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
8:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
New Ministry
1555 E. Harbison Drive
Allen, TX 75012
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Live
200 W. Harbison Drive
Allen, TX 75013
5:00 p.m.

Lady Beth Stanford

Inspiring Body of Christ **Pastor Rickie G. Rush**

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75227
972-774-1888 (1800)
www.ibochurch.org

Monday-Sunday 9am-11am
Monday-Sunday 7pm-9pm & All Day Fellowship & Prayer 8pm

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Serving the Plano Community for 128 Years
Founded 1884
920 E 14th Street, Plano, TX

Joshua, Jr., Pastor

SHILOH
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Where Community Begins Family

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

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

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