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Obama calls for criminal justice reform

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Whenever the president of the United States speaks to a national convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), millions of people pay attention. As a former Executive Director and CEO of the NAACP, I listened very carefully last week to President Barack Obama's historic keynote address to the organization's 106th annual convention in Philadelphia.

There was a noticeable deliberate "freedom of expression" style and substance in President Obama's speech to the NAACP. He was confident, candid and clear. Obama was unrestrained, passionate and focused. In other words, the president went straight to his main subject matter: The urgency and mandate today for criminal justice reform in the United States.

President Obama stated, "But today, I want to focus on one aspect of American life that remains particularly skewed by race and by wealth, a source of inequity that has ripple effects on families and on communities and ultimately on our nation – and that is our criminal justice system."

Obama's remarks were timely and welcomed by millions of fami-



President Obama, the keynote speaker at the NAACP 106th Annual National Convention in Philadelphia on July 14, discussed plans to reform the U.S. criminal justice system. (Shevry Lassiter/Washington Informer)

lies that have been devastated as a result of the injustice of the current court and prison system. It was full of analysis and statistics that went beyond typical political rhetoric. He cited the following facts to stress that now was the time for bipartisan corrective action by all levels of government:

The population of the U.S. has only 5 percent of the world's population, but holds 25 percent of the world's prisoners;

In 1980, there were 500,000 people in prison in the U.S., but today

there are 2.2 million, a disproportionate number of them African American and Latino;

The U.S. spends \$80 billion per year on keeping people in prison, about the same amount of money it would take to make tuition free at all public universities and colleges across the nation;

One third of the entire budget of the U.S. Justice Department is spent on incarceration;

While African Americans and

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Motown the Musical hits the Winspear

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Operation Kindness opens center

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Black female golfer makes history

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COMMENTARY

Past time to release low-level, non-violent drug offenders

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Jerry Alan Bailey was sentenced to more than 30 years in federal prison for conspiring to violate federal narcotics laws. Shauna Barry-Scott was sentenced to 20 years for having cocaine in her possession and intending to distribute it. Jerome Wayne Johnson grew marijuana plants and was charged with intending to distribute marijuana. He

was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison. Douglas Lindsay initially was sentenced to a life sentence for possessing cocaine with intent to distribute, but early on his sentence was reduced to 24 years.

Bailey, Barry-Scott, Wayne and Lindsay were among the 46 people whose sentences President Obama recently commuted. They are the lucky ones.

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Jakki Price



Jaylen D. Bledsoe



Robin Barclay

Join thousands of readers who visit NorthDallasGazette.com daily!

Jakki Price

The Jakki Price Show is about real talk!

Re-Introducing the online radio show entitled The Jakki Price Show: From the Streets to the Airwaves. The show promises to deal with topics mainstream media refuses to discuss.

Previously, Price has been on the airwaves with two different shows—which she used as training ground for this newest show. For years, Price felt compelled to be “safe” in her perspectives. Now, she realizes her voice reflects



those of people worldwide and she is ready to talk and use her show as a launching pad for a wide variety of topics.

So many of the concerns, worries and issues people

deal with are not discussed in mainstream media. Instead, they are discussed in beauty shops and barber-shops and over drinks or card games. Price’s goal is to change that! She believes that NOW is the time to take the worries out of the shadows and present them on a safe platform so America can finally talk about what is really on our minds.

Having traveled all around the world, as an African American flight attendant, Price’s unique perspective and observations regarding international issues and topics challenges the way her audience

thinks.

Topics for the show include:

- Black Militants Today: Do they make a difference 50 years later?
- Our Youth STILL being jailed for no reason!
- Loving the Black Child – Do we know HOW?
- Incest in the Black Community
- Sexually abused MEN

Not only does Price plan to speak about issues taboo to the mainstream, she will provide a forum for industry experts to provide insight on how to resolve these challenges. But it is not a one way street, on her

Blog Talk Radio program, the audience’s input is vital. Her goal is to raise the questions so the community can finally have discussions that can lead to meaningful answers and proactive actions.

Her Insight Spotlight segment features interviews with renowned industry and topic specific experts. These experts will provide perspective along with practical solutions on what our community can do to prevent unhealthy behaviors and attitudes from permeating our society.

Entertainment cannot be overlooked! The entertain-

ment section of the show, Jetting off with Jakki will provide her listeners with global lifestyle recommendations for the body, as well as, the spirit.

The Jakki Price Show promotes positive thinking among her listeners while offering knowledge and wisdom. Listeners will be encouraged to discover their God given talents and gifts and use them to take action within and throughout their communities. Get ready to change your thinking and elevate your life!

For more information visit <http://jakkiprice.com>.

Alycia Cooper

(BlackNews.com) -- Beginning Wednesday, famed African-American comedian, Alycia Cooper, will compete as a contestant on season 9 of NBC’s Last Comic Standing, Executive Produced by Wanda Sykes and Page Hurwitz.

Cooper, a Maryland native has been performing since the age of 5 at Howard University’s Children’s Theatre, and continued acting throughout college as she played the role of Eviline in The University of MD College



Park’s production of The Wiz, directed by Mike Malone, Debbie Allen’s mentor.

For the past 15 years, Alycia has also been performing stand up comedy,

and has appeared on such shows as “America’s Got Talent,” “Stand Up in Stiletos,” “Stand Up & Deliver,” “Gotham Live,” “The Gossip Queens,” “Comics Unleashed,” “Comicview,” “We Got Next,” and “Whose Got Jokes,” to name a few.

Alycia then returned to her acting roots and has appeared in such television shows as: “The Parker’s,” “Grounded for Life,” and was in the pilot episode of “Raising Hope.”

In 2015, Alycia co-starred in two feature films: “12 Angry Men and

Women,” and “As Evil Does.”

She has opened for and ghost written for some of the biggest names in the business. In 2004, Essence Magazine showcased her as “One to Watch,” which she certainly is. She’s now entering major contests and taking home the gold.

Alycia is the current reigning champion of the prestigious comedy contest, “The Ladies of Laughter” (aka “LOL”) which took place in the comedy capitol of the world, New York City, beating out hundreds of contestants. From there,

she booked more television shows, and was given regular spots at The World Famous Comedy Store because Pauly Shore, part owner of the club, was in the audience. She is now doing huge theater shows on the “LOL” comedy tour, which also includes colleges and universities.

Alycia has her own Pandora comedy station, YouTube channel, and has released three comedy albums: “Paper Chasin’,” “Stimulus Package,” and “I Wasn’t Always Saved.”

The biggest benefit to being an entertainer to Aly-

cia is being able to perform overseas for our men and women in uniform.

She has been to Japan, Korea, Guam, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Djibouti Africa. This gives her the opportunity to entertain and meet some of the most courageous Americans in the world.

Alycia Cooper is available immediately for radio and television interviews, to host your corporate event, headline a comedy show, be the guest entertainer at your private function, etc. Her website is AlyciaCooper.com.

Robin Barclay

(BlackNews.com) -- Trusted Health Plan, the only Black Owned Medicaid Managed Care Provider in the nation, has been invited to speak at the National Urban League conference. Robin Barclay, (MPH) Executive Director of Business Development and Outreach will join health care experts and policy makers and speak on July 30, 2015, in Fort Lauderdale at the Broward Convention Center.

Ms. Barclay has been a senior executive in Medicaid Managed Care for 30 years. She has led a community hospital, a health plan and served as a health care consultant. Ms. Bar-



clay will discuss challenges black women face in childbirth, heart disease, high blood pressure at the Soul Sister: African American Women’s Health & Wellness forum. She will also discuss Trusted’s goal of closing health care disparities among urban populations.

Today, according to

PricewaterhouseCoopers, the healthcare industry is a nearly \$3 trillion dollar market. The National Urban League is a strong voice for health care reform for minorities in urban cities across the country. In 2012, the National Urban League released a report entitled, “The State of Urban Health: Eliminating Health Disparities to Save Lives and Cut Costs.” The report examined the economic impact of health disparities in the United States. The National Urban League has been a supporter of the Affordable Care Act. They suggest provisions that promote community-based prevention and the expansion Medicaid are crucial in reducing disparities and promote healthy behaviors through-

out the country.

Trusted Health Plan, a managed care organization located in the District of Columbia, serves 30,000 Medicaid members. More than a year ago, Trusted Health Plan opened a Health and Wellness Outreach Center, the first of its kind in the United States targeting Medicaid beneficiaries. The mission of Trusted’s Health and Wellness Center is to try to enhance its members’ health status. Trusted Health Plan provides on-site health education, physical fitness activities, and nutritional health cooking demonstrations.

“In the first 12 months of operation, Trusted saw 20

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How can sheriffs answer Obama's call for criminal justice reform?

By Charles Rambo

ATLANTA (BlackNews.com) — In a passionate speech by President Barack Obama at the NAACP Convention, he stated that criminal justice is an issue America cannot afford to ignore. With the sovereign authority that County Sheriffs enjoy in the United States, every Sheriff and even those seeking offices in upcoming elections should also make the clarion call for criminal justice reform. Whether they share party affiliation with the president or not, constitutional law and justice is a non-partisan issue.

As a retired lieutenant commander from the Fulton

County Sheriff's Office, I know first-hand what can be done from 27 years of law enforcement, judicial process, corrections, academy instruction, and investigative experience. At the beginning of my career in 1989, I was highly considered for loan-out to the Drug Enforcement (DEA) Task Force. A crucial time when the war on drugs, particularly crack cocaine, was at its pinnacle in Atlanta and surrounding communities. Instead, I continued to work within the scope of the Sheriff's Office law enforcement, corrections, training academy, and judicial process functions. Observing and interacting with offenders as they navigated

through the complex Fulton County criminal justice system, I share a balanced view with President Obama on criminal justice reform to police in communities with respect to a person's civil liberties.

Last week when President Obama visited a federal correctional facility to talk with inmates, I reflected back on my own interactions with inmates during the crucial era of government being tough on crime. First hand, I observed the unanticipated consequences of drug sentencing laws on mass incarceration from working in one of the most notorious holding facilities in the southeast region of the

United States, the Fulton County Jail. Built in 1989 initially for 1,975 inmates, it reached a boiling point of overcrowding in a relative short time to over 3,900 inmates. I was one of the first Sheriff Deputies to open the facility supervising 300+ inmates in some of the most dangerous housing units consisting of hardcore murderers, drug lords, and notorious street gang leaders.

After their day in court, they had no qualms in being held accountable and responsible for their actions. But, the most resounding complaint I heard from inmates returning to their cells from court hearings,

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There are 95,165 people – 48.6 percent of all federal inmates – incarcerated for drug-related crimes, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. (That's triple the second-largest category that includes weapons, explosives and arson; 31,743 or 16.2 percent of federal inmates are confined on those charges). Another 210,200 – 16 percent – were imprisoned in state facilities on drug-related offenses as of 2012.

President Obama's commutations of non-violent drug sentences are a step in the right direction. By choosing non-violent drug offenders, he highlights the draconian sentences that those committing these crimes receive. The American Civil Liberties Union says that of the nearly 3,300 people getting life sentences for petty crimes, almost 2,600 will spend decades in jail for non-violent drug offenses.

According to AlterNet, thanks to the “three strikes” law, Tyrone Taylor got life for selling an undercover agent \$20 worth of crack. Taylor says he was a drug

user, not a dealer. Still he got more time than many killers would. Leland Dodd, 59, got a life sentence for conspiracy to traffic marijuana, and has already served 24 years in federal prison. Army veteran David Lincoln Hyatt had no prior record when he got a life sentence in 1993 for his role in a cocaine conspiracy. Now 65, he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, and hopes to receive a compassionate release. Even the judge who sentenced him under mandatory minimum sentencing laws has advocated for his release.

According to President Obama, we spend \$80 billion a year on incarceration. In contrast, according the White House Initiative on HBCUs, these colleges got between \$600 and \$700 million from the Department of Education on grants and contracts.

I applaud President Obama's step forward in pardoning 46 non-violent drug offenders. Many of whom would have been better off had they been sentenced under the less harsh Fair Sentencing Act of

2010. After passage of that act, inmates were invited to apply for lighter sentences and about 20,000 did. The Office of the Pardon Attorney reviews these requests, and forwards those they deem worthy of commutation to the president. The 20,000 applications are delayed because of a “backlog” in reviewing them.

It costs the federal government \$82 per day or approximately \$30,000 a year to support one inmate. If even only half of those who have applied for clemency deserve it, that's a savings of \$822,000 a day or \$300 million per year. This is money that could go for all kinds of initiatives around job training, drug treatment and education. Imagine that, instead of incarcerating addicted people, they were sentenced to residential drug rehabilitation programs.

President Obama has solid ideas for criminal justice reforms, but it is not likely that this Congress will pass any of them. So he is left working with presidential commutation, an inmate at a time. Is it possible to grant “mass” commuta-

tions for those convicted of relatively minor drug crimes, especially those who had clean records before arrest? In addition to saving lots of money, it would, in many cases reunite families. Strict conditions of probation would likely prevent recidivism. Nearly 150,000 children have mothers in prison, some for poverty-related, non-violent drug crimes. Some of these mothers desperately want contact with their children, and many of them deserve it. Most would gladly comply with restrictive probations conditions if they could just hug their child.

It's good that President Obama “gets it” when it comes to reforming the criminal justice system. Can he implement change more quickly than pardoning one non-violent offender at a time? There is no difference between Jerry Allan Bailey and Tyrone Taylor except that Bailey received the pardon. There are thousands waiting on a similar break. Let these people go!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C.

City of Garland and partners work to address child hunger

The City of Garland, in partnership with Kraft-Heinz and the Garland Kiwanis, is addressing child hunger.

Snack goods donated by Kraft-Heinz will help address hunger among kids by providing weekend snacks at two locations in Garland: Richland Apartments and Parkridge Community Apartments. City employ-

ees who were instrumental in working between City departments, Kraft-Heinz and Kiwanis to make this possible include Bonny Patrick and Michelle Taylor in Water Utilities, and Senior Managing Director Priscilla Wilson.

The snack program supplements the City's Summer Nutrition Program, which provides summer

meals to children at 33 locations throughout the community. The City also has partnered with the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and the North Texas Food Bank to "Silence the Growl" and provide bags of food for weekend consumption by kids at home.

"We're extremely pleased to partner with the Kiwanis and Kraft-Heinz, in addition

to United Way, to provide healthy snacks to children," said Priscilla.

The snack packs contain a variety of food for kids to enjoy such as corn nuts, meat and cheese lunchables, juice, cereal, fruit snacks, and other items, and will be provided through Aug. 7.

For information about Summer Nutrition or snack programs, call 972-205-3335.



Hunger is no longer just a big city problem.

HEALTH ALERT: DCHHS Reports First Human Case of West Nile Virus

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) has confirmed the first human case of West Nile infection in Dallas County for the 2015 season. The resident lives in the 75217 zip code in Dallas and was diagnosed with West Nile Fever. For medical confidentiality and personal privacy reasons, DCHHS does not provide additional identifying information.

"Our mosquito surveillance program and the county and municipal abatement teams are taking appropriate actions to ensure the safety of our residents. However, it is important for residents to take the necessary precautions," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director.

"Since there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatments for WNV infection, residents should adhere to preventive measures to protect themselves and their loved ones," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS medical director/health authority.

Brain changes differ by race with Alzheimer's Disease

Blacks more likely to have additional dementia-related changes in their brains, researchers say

(HealthDay News) -- Alzheimer's disease seems to develop differently in the brains of black patients than in whites. And, black people seem more likely to suffer different types of brain changes that also contribute to dementia, a new study reports.

Alzheimer's disease dementia is generally associated with a build-up of substances known as plaques and tangles inside the brain. But, there are other brain changes that can also contribute to dementia, the study authors noted.

For example, the brains of people with dementia sometimes contain infarcts -- tiny areas of dead tissue caused by micro-strokes,



the researchers explained. They also might contain Lewy bodies -- another form of abnormal protein

build-up in the brain that's usually associated with Parkinson's disease.

Autopsies of black and

white Alzheimer's patients revealed that blacks were more likely than whites to experience a mix of dementia-related changes, as opposed to the damage usually associated with "pure" Alzheimer's dementia, according to the study.

"We were surprised that the African Americans were much more likely to have a mixed picture," said lead author Lisa Barnes, a professor of neurology and behavioral science at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "The underlying brain changes were different, which indicates that they probably had different risk factors."

The study findings were published online July 15 in

advance of print publication in the journal *Neurology*.

Dementia isn't a specific disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. Instead, dementia refers to a wide range of symptoms, such as memory loss and communication problems, that are significant enough to interfere with daily life, the association explains.

The study found that among 81 white patients who died, 42 percent only displayed signs of typical Alzheimer's disease. About 51 percent of them had a mix of brain changes that included infarcts and Lewy bodies, the researchers said.

But among 41 black pa-

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Children's HealthSM signs binding term sheet to acquire Our Children's House at Baylor

Programs and staff will transition to Children's Health; care-giving will continue uninterrupted

Children's Health this week announced it has signed a binding term sheet to acquire Our Children's House (OCH) at Baylor, which provides highly specialized rehabilitative and transitional care for children with special needs. Earlier this month, Baylor Scott & White Health (Baylor) announced its intent to close the OCH inpatient facility and transition care to outpatient clinics. With the new agreement in place, Children's Health will assume operation of the OCH inpatient facility, which includes a day surgery program, outpatient therapy clinic and

physician clinic, and eight OCH outpatient clinics, and will retain its employees. The transaction is expected to close on or around Sept. 15, 2015.

"We are pleased and proud that we could step forward to ensure that Our Children's House continues to play a critical role in the pediatric health care community, serving patients and their families with the most challenging and complex needs," said Christopher J. Durovich, president and chief executive officer of Children's Health. "Our ability to assure continuity of care for this highly vul-

nerable population will benefit the children of North Texas now and over the long term."

Founded in 1993, the OCH program provides coordinated, comprehensive services to children with special health care needs. OCH includes a licensed pediatric hospital for children from infancy through age 18 with developmental or birth disorders, traumatic injury or severe illness. OCH also includes outpatient clinics that offer care coordination, developmental screenings and assessments, parent education and

support, and physical, occupational and speech/language therapy.

As part of the agreement, Children's Health will lease the main inpatient facility on the Baylor campus in downtown Dallas, and will assume leases for eight outpatient clinics located in Allen, Frisco, Grapevine, Irving, Las Colinas, Plano, Rockwall and Waxahachie. The entire highly skilled staff, with training special to the particular needs of these children, will join the Children's Health team when the transaction closes to ensure that the high-quality,

critical care can continue seamlessly.

"Our Children's House has provided unparalleled care for children with very special needs for more than 20 years, and we are pleased to be able to continue this mission, and to welcome these employees to the Children's Health team," added Durovich. "Just as the continuity of care is critical for the patients and their families, we firmly believe that continuity of service by these valued team members is imperative for this to be a successful transition."

AASAMH tournament to raise funds for mental health awareness

The African American Steeple Alliance for Mental Health is hosting its first benefit golf tournament on Sept. 12. The event is scheduled to commence at 8 a.m. at the Bridges Course (Firewheel Golf Park), 1535 E. Brand Road in Garland. Arrangements have been made with the host hotel Hyatt Place Dallas/Garland,

5101 N. George Bush Highway in Garland for event guests who need lodging accommodations for Sept. 11-12.

The African American Steeple Alliance for Mental Health is a non-profit organization. The Alliance's goal and mission objectives are focused on educating citizens about mental ill-

ness, treatment and research, and preventing economic burdens for individuals who are affected by mental illnesses.

Our organizational vision: All people deserve access to quality mental health services. Net proceeds will support our goal, objectives and vision for the African Americans in the Dallas

County.

The benefit tournament follows the observance of July 2015 as the National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. Citizens will be exposed to information that report on the disparities in mental health care for individuals affected by mental illness and their

families.

It has been reported that:

- Mental illness affects one in four American families
- Minorities are less likely to receive diagnosis and treatment
- Minorities have limited access to mental health services

• Minorities often receive poorer quality of mental health care

• Minorities are underrepresented in mental health research.

For more information about National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, please go to www.nami.org/nmmham.

Michael's to host national fine art contest

Michaels is teaming with two of the world's leading fine art materials brands, Winsor & Newton and Liquitex, to present Art Challenge: A Fine Art Competition for serious and aspirational artists.

Michaels will accept images of original artworks in oil or acrylic paint on canvas or watercolor on watercolor paper beginning July 26 and continuing through Aug. 15 at

Michaels.com/artchallenge or in Canada at Canada.Michaels.com/artchallenge.

All submitted images will be reviewed by a panel of four established leaders in the art world: Jimmy Leslie, resident artist for Liquitex and Winsor & Newton and director of their Fine Art Collective; Bruce McColl, director of art education, Currier Museum of Art; Mario Robinson, Winsor &

Newton brand ambassador; and John Viggiano, artist, Vigg Designs owner and co-director of The Collective Art Tank. The panel will select 10 semi-finalists the week of Aug. 16, and then one winner and three runners-up will be chosen by public vote Aug. 23-29.

"Partnering with Michaels for this competition allows Liquitex and Winsor & Newton to connect with artists throughout

America and Canada while also giving us the privilege of helping them progress in their careers," said Leslie.

"The Art Challenge also fulfills our deep desire, as a collective of art brands and artists, to help other artists explore and evolve their work."

The grand prize winner will receive \$1,000 in cash and a \$1,000 Michaels gift card, a seven-day trip for two to New Jersey to dis-

play their work at The Collective Art Tank in Asbury Park and an opportunity to visit some of the region's most popular art destinations. The winner's artwork will be replicated, framed and displayed in the custom framing area of each Michaels store.

"Serious artists have long looked to Michaels for affordable, high-quality canvases, paints, brushes and tools from top brands like Winsor & Newton and Liq-

uitex," said Michaels Vice President – Category Marketing Jennifer Rawls. "As North America's leading fine arts supply retailer, we want to recognize these customers and showcase their work through the Art Challenge."

Runners-up will receive a \$500 cash prize and a \$500 Michaels gift card, and the remaining six semi-finalists will be awarded \$100 in cash and a \$100 Michaels gift card.

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Latino Americans combined make up about 30 percent of the U.S. population, we make up 60 percent of the prison inmates in the U.S.;

One in every 35 African American men is imprisoned, compared to one in every 88 Latino men as compared and one in every 214 White men; and

Research studies have confirmed that African Americans are more likely to be stopped by the police, frisked, questioned, charged and arrested than any other racial group in the U.S.'s

We all should be willing to join and support the emerging criminal justice reform movement in America. Hopefully, President Obama's address to the NAACP will stimulate the passage of bipartisan legislation that will stop racial profiling and other legislative measures that will help to dramatically reduce the prison population in the United States. In the absence of real reform, the is-

ssues surrounding mass incarceration will not be adequately resolved

President Obama made reference to the fact that on reaching the ultimate goal of criminal justice reform, there are today converging interests between the NAACP and the politically conservative Koch brothers, as well as between the ACLU and Americans for Tax Reform and among other divergent groups who have not worked together on social justice issues in the past. That is a good sign of what might be possible going forward.

Frederick Douglass said it best, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." But the struggle to reform the criminal justice system must move beyond just a momentary national news cycle event response to whenever President Obama makes an outstanding speech. I wish social change was that easy to achieve. It is not. The work has begun, but we still have a lot of

hard work and coalition building to do to make real reform happen.

I believe we in the African American community has to take more responsibility to end mass incarceration and to challenge all the inequities of our society. Ending poverty and injustice, first and foremost, is our demand and it also has to be our responsible leadership to keep pushing forward. The government has its role, but we should not solely rely on the government. I believe in self-development and self-improvement. Our struggle for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment must continue with renewed energy and determination.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the 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/dr.bfc>.

No-cost dental club now available in Texas

No dental insurance? No problem! Texas residents now can get some of the perks of dental insurance without having to pay a penny toward monthly premiums.

Dentegra Smile Club, a new program launched statewide in Texas this week by Dentegra Insurance Company, is not insurance — instead, it connects members to discounts on dental services, pricing transparency and dentist reviews. Members have access to Dentegra's 2,200 dentists in Texas, who agree to charge Smile Club members their contracted fees.

Dentegra Smile Club membership is available to Texas residents free of charge; there are no membership dues or fees for club membership. The club was made available statewide following a successful three-month pilot program in the Austin



Photo: Army Medicine / Flickr

area.

"Dentegra Smile Club offers a great opportunity to those who don't have dental insurance to reap discounts on dental services," said Belinda Martinez, Dentegra's senior VP of sales and marketing. "All you need to do is sign up online and then visit a Dentegra network dentist for your dental care — since you pay the dentist directly, there are no claims forms to worry about, either."

The Dentegra dentist

network — 24,500 strong across the nation and growing — will help Smile Club members obtain cleanings and a significant number of the most common dental care services for fees averaging as much as 50 percent off the normal cost. Dentegra Smile Club is not insurance; club members simply visit a contracted Dentegra dentist and pay discounted fees for covered services. There are no claim forms, no annual deductibles and no annual maximums.

Headquartered in San Francisco, Dentegra Insurance Company is part of a holding company system with nearly 33 million dental plan subscribers. It offers individual dental benefits plans in Texas, California and Georgia and also on 38 state and federal health care exchanges. For more information, visit www.dentegrasmileclub.com.

Is your college freshman money-smart?

By Nathaniel Sillin

Does your college-bound freshman know how to handle money at school?

Campus life can test even the most disciplined young adults on money matters. In the final weeks before you help your student pack up for the dorm, it's a good time to pack in some money lessons as well.

Start with what college will cost. On average, the



Class of 2015 graduated with a little over \$35,000 in student loan debt, according to Edvisors. Depending on

your financial situation and how you've planned for your child's college education, start with an overview

of how your student's college costs will impact your finances now and after graduation.

If your child will be paying off personal or student loans once they graduate, discuss how that reality should define financial choices throughout college. That doesn't mean saving every penny and having no fun at all, but such a talk should reinforce how handling money intelligently,

setting priorities and getting a jump on savings can position your child for a much stronger financial start upon graduation.

Train them to budget. If your child hasn't learned budgeting skills, it's time for a crash course. Budgeting is the first essential skill in personal finance. Teaching children to budget now gives them a head start on dealing with post-graduation debt or long-term goals

like affording a home or car. Because teens often live their lives on smartphones, familiarize yourself with the growing range of budgeting apps to keep their money management on course.

Talk through on-campus banking and credit needs. Many parents start their kids with custodial savings and checking accounts at their local bank when they

See MONEY, Page 11

Lancaster ISD Announces Joint Back to School Fair

Lancaster ISD will host POWER-UP! - the annual Lancaster Mayor & Superintendent's Back-to-School Fair and Community Festival on August 15, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lancaster High School Coliseum located at 200 East Wintergreen Road, Lancaster, Texas 75134. This annual event is designed to help our families to jumpstart the 2015-2016 academic school year.

As in the past, The Honorable Mayor Marcus E. Knight of the City of Lancaster and Superintendent

Dr. Michael D. McFarland of the Lancaster Independent School District are partnering with the Lancaster Education Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce to host this a family-fun day of celebration, information, contests and games.

"This fair creates a single-stop opportunity to provide students and families with basic back to school needs in a festive atmosphere," said Jacquinette Murphy, event coordinator.

Attendees will have access to back to school resources such as uniforms,

dental and vision screenings and other health services along with haircuts. There are groups performing, food, music, games and giveaways. Parents can also meet the campus and district staff, sign up for various clubs and district programs offered next year. College recruiters and career readiness team members will be on site as well as library, fire and child safety education services provided by the City of Lancaster staff.

New this year, Lancaster ISD parents requesting

school supply assistance will need to show proof of residency and proof of income to complete the pre-event sign up in late July.

Parents who have not completed the online enrollment process for the 2015-16 should plan additional time to update their student's registration information.

Online vendor applications are available at www.lancasterisd.org.

Donations may be made by contacting the Lancaster Education Foundation at 972-227-7010.

BRAIN, continued from Page 4

tients who died, about 20 percent displayed only the usual Alzheimer's plaques and tangles. Almost all the rest -- more than 70 percent -- experienced infarcts and Lewy bodies on top of the usual Alzheimer's brain changes.

Blacks also had more frequent and severe blood vessel disease in their brains, such as hardening of the arteries, the investigators found.

These results could help begin to explain why blacks in the United States are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's than people of European descent, said Heather Snyder, director of medical and scientific operations for the Alzheimer's Association.

Black people are more likely than whites to suffer

from heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes, all of which increase a person's risk of infarct-causing strokes, Barnes said.

There also might be specific genetic differences that lead to increased risk of Lewy bodies and other dementia-related brain changes, Snyder suggested.

"This certainly warrants further investigation, to ask those types of questions," Snyder said.

Researchers were careful to match the patients, making sure that all suffered from similar levels of Alzheimer's disability prior to death, Barnes said. After death, autopsies revealed that nearly all of the participants had experienced some brain changes related to either Alzheimer's or de-

mentia.

Learning the differences between black and white Alzheimer's patients will be critically important to researchers who hope to find treatments and cures for dementia, said Dr. Ezriel Kornel, assistant clinical professor of neurosurgery at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

"It will help to more readily treat individuals who have dementia, by understanding what the cause is," Kornel said. "As we come closer to finding answers to what the causes and cures of Alzheimer's are, those answers might be effective for [whites] but not effective for the black population. You have to look at more than just Alzheimer's for a significant segment of the population."

The autopsies in this study focused on patients

with severe late-stage dementia, noted Dr. Reisa Sperling, professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and director of the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Follow-up research hopefully will determine how early in life these brain changes begin, and whether there are ways to reduce people's risk of Alzheimer's and dementia, Sperling said.

"We don't know during life, especially before people have dementia, what is increasing their risk," said Sperling, also a spokeswoman for the American Federation for Aging Research. "This suggests there may be mechanisms that increase risk in African Americans through multiple different pathways."

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Operation Kindness launches a new Dallas satellite adoption center

Operation Kindness is launching a new satellite adoption center, the Kindness Klubhouse. The adoption center features great viewing and play opportunities with healthy cats and dogs ready for adoption.

Located across the street from Valley View Mall near Half Price Bookstore at 13394 Preston Road in Dallas.

Perhaps cats and dogs people do not get along any better than the animals because they are only open on Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are looking for your own little adorable (or grumpy they don't judge)

Kittens or cats visit on Fridays. If you have always wanted to have your own Lassie or adorable bi-breed

(is that the term in the 21st century for mutts, which surely by now is considered an offensive term by true dog lovers) then you can search to your heart's content for puppies and dogs on Saturdays and Sundays.

Adoption fees are \$145 for cats/kittens and \$185 for dogs/puppies.

Potential adopters who select an animal online are encouraged to call the shelter at 972-418-7297, to en-

sure the animal is still available for adoption.

With the adoption of every animal, adopters receive:

- Adoption counseling to help the adopter select the cat or dog best suited to his/her needs, family and home environment
- Kindness Klubhouse starter kit with food samples and helpful information
- Pet care and educational materials

• Temporary carrier for cats

• Temporary leash for dogs

• Operation Kindness tag with animal ID

• Microchip ID and registration

• Rabies tag for animals over four months of age

• Spay or neuter surgery (if not previously done due to young age or medical reason)

• A coupon for 25 percent

off the entire purchase at Pets Supplies Plus

In order to adopt an animal from Operation Kindness, you must:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have a valid, government-issued photo ID showing your current address
- Be able to verify that you can have a pet where you live



Samson, an adorable ragdoll was recently adopted from Kindness Klubhouse.

MONEY, continued from Page 6

are younger. If your bank has branches in the teen's college town, that relationship can easily continue. Responsible credit card use is also wise to start in college. Keep in mind that The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (or Credit CARD) Act of 2009 requires that anyone under 21 without independent income have a co-signer to qualify for a card. As such, you'll be able to keep track of your child's credit use. However, if they default, you'll be on the hook – so monitor your child's bank and credit relationships closely until you agree they're ready to manage them on their own.

Cover credit monitoring and identity theft. With smarter online thieves emerging every day, your child is at risk of identity theft from the minute he or

she is assigned a Social Security number. While most teens generally don't have a credit report until they start earning a paycheck at age 16, be on the lookout for fraudulent activity earlier and make sure they get in the habit of ordering the three free credit reports they are entitled to each year. Throughout college, consider sitting down with children so you can review their annual credit reports together.

Bottom line: There's plenty to do in the final weeks before your kids leave for college. Don't forget to reinforce important money lessons before they go.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Practical-Money.

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PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

JULY 2015

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

PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Black female golfer makes history

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

Renée Powell, a pioneering African-American golfer who often fielded racism during her years on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour, recently made history by becoming one of the first female members of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, which is considered the birthplace of the sport.

Last September, the R&A, which is based in Scotland, broke with 260 years of male exclusivity and decided to invite women to join. Powell, 69, was among the first seven women to be named honorary members.

"This is an historic day for the Club and we could not be more proud also to welcome women who have distinguished themselves in golf over many years and have been great players and champions," said R&A Captain George Macgregor. "They are extremely worthy



additions to our roll of honorary members and will become ambassadors for the Club as they have been for the sport of golf throughout their careers."

Powell began her golfing career early, having been introduced to the sport by her father, William Powell, at the age of 3. Such was the elder Powell's dedication to the sport, that in 1948 he opened Clearview Golf Course, a 6,478-yard spread built from an old dairy farm in East Canton, Ohio. It was the first golf course to be designed, built, owned and operated by an African American, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

By 12 years old, Renée

Powell was playing competitively, and she also played college golf, first at Ohio University then at Ohio State, where she served as captain of the women's golf team, according to a PGA of America biography.

In 1976, Powell became the second African American to play on the LPGA Tour—after Althea Gibson who joined in 1964. She played in more than 250 professional events, winning once, in Brisbane, Australia, according to The New York Times. Her best finish on the Tour was a tie for fourth at the 1972 Lady Errol Classic.

Her accomplishments were made even more sig-

nificant given the daunting challenges she faced on the Tour—signed death threats, being denied boarding at tournament hotels, admitted to restaurants through the back door or excluded from pro-ams (professional-amateur games) because nobody would play with her, all due to the color of her skin.

"I think back to the times that as a young Black girl playing golf, there were many places I could not play or unpleasant situations when I was finally allowed to play, and now I belong to the most exclusive private golf club in the world," Powell told the Times.

Since Powell left the LPGA in 1980, she has made significant contributions to the sport. Right after leaving professional golfing, she reached out to African embassies in the United States to launch her mission of spreading the gospel of golf to Africa. Upon returning to the U.S. in 1988, she began working to build inner-city youth

programs, eventually establishing the Renee Powell Youth Golf Camp Cadre Program in 1995 to provide urban youth with an opportunity to learn and play the game of golf. Powell also strived to build a network of celebrity and pro-am charity events, and to tour HBCUs, where she worked to draw more people of color to the game.

At Clearview, which Powell now runs with her brother, she also holds classes for women who are beginners, adults with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, and female military veterans, according to the golf course's website.

Powell had received many accolades for her contributions to golf. In 1995 became the first African-American female Class A member of The PGA of America and the LPGA, and in 1999 was named an honorary member of the LPGA Teaching & Club Professional Division. She also has served as development and programming

consultant for The First Tee Program and in 2000, began the LPGA Girls Golf Club in East Canton. In 2003, Powell received the Professional Golfers' Association of America's First Lady of Golf award and four years later the inaugural Rolex For the Love of the Game Award. In 2008 she was made an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) by the University of St Andrews.

Tiger Woods, another Black trailblazer in the game of golf, congratulated Powell on her most recent honor and praised her for her tireless efforts to bring inclusivity to the sport.

"What Renee did in her pioneering efforts, people tend to forget it. But those of us who are minorities in the game of golf, who grew up not really being able to play in all the places, we understand their sacrifice," Woods told the Times.

"I think she truly does deserve it," Woods added of her R&A honorary membership, "and it's been a long time coming."

FB Police seek help in finding car thief

The Farmers Branch Police Department is seeking the public's help in identifying a subject that was photographed stealing a black 2008 Ford F-350 from a parking lot in the 2600 block of LBJ Freeway.

Surveillance video captured a clear image of the subject entering a business at around 5:20 a.m. on July 19. Shortly thereafter, the subject exited and climbed into the backseat of a white Cadillac Escalade, which was then seen pulling to the back of the parking lot.



There, the subject got out and broke into the Ford

truck. The subject was seen driving off with the truck at 5:42 a.m.

According to national FBI statistics, full size Ford trucks consistently rank in the top five stolen vehicles. The Texas Department of Public Safety ranks the Ford model truck as the most stolen vehicle in Texas.

Anyone with information regarding the identity of the subject or his vehicle is asked to call the Farmers Branch Police at 972-484-3620.

BARCLAY, continued from Page 3

percent of its members. We have significantly improved care delivery for our members, including reducing ER visits by 25 percent, contrary to Obamacare naysayers," says Barclay. The Affordable Health Care Act al-

lows companies like Trusted to create jobs and meet the growing demands of the healthcare industry.

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Motown the Musical themes reflect news headlines today

Special savings offered for NDG's 'Night at the Theater' to be held on July 30

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Jessie Nager enjoys the honor of bringing Smokey Robinson's Motown story to life in MOTOWN THE MUSICAL which is landing in Dallas July 28 - Aug. 16. Nager joined the Broadway company over two years ago as a member of the Temptations and other roles throughout the show such as a civil rights activist.

When asked about the experience on Broadway and as a member of the touring company, Nager shared, "I love New York audiences, they simply love the theater! But what I have loved about being on the road is discovering how much the



Jessie Nager performs a scene from Motown the Musical. (Photo: Joan Marcus)

country loved Motown as much as we do. Each city interacts with the show differently." So, as a result he

shared, "doing it on the road has been more of a visceral experience."

For example, last week

the production was hosted in Memphis merely a few blocks from where Dr. Martin Luther King was killed. As a result, that community had a totally different reaction to the scenes related to Dr. King. They were in St. Louis when the Ferguson verdict was announced.

Nager pointed out, "There is just a lot of talk in America right now that relates to the themes in MOTOWN."

Also, the Motown company is now in Los Angeles so interacting with that audience was unique and provided the cast with an opportunity to meet the different artists that are carrying the Motown brand to today's audiences.

Nager believes some-

times the younger audience is surprised at how much of the Motown music they already know.

"Young people don't know all of the early material, and you might not know the song titles or all the lyrics, but so much of it is familiar from movie soundtracks and commercials," according to Nager.

When asked what he learned about Motown in preparing as a cast member Nager shared, "I didn't realize how integral Mr. Berry Gordy was in integrating the music industry. He brought black music to white audiences. Spending time with him and you realize he IS history and one of the founders of pop music. We know the artists and the

songs but Mr. Gordy was the driving force behind it."

Join NDG's "Night at the Theatre" Thursday, July 30th. Tickets start at \$30 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.). Use NDG's promo code: "SOUND" for \$25 savings!

However, North Dallas Gazette fans can visit the North Dallas Gazette Facebook page and tell us why you deserve to win tickets for two to see the play and you might be one of our lucky winners.

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winner...**

Congrats to the NDG GIVEAWAY Ringling Brothers circus tickets winner MYRA HERNANDEZ!!! Stay tuned for NDG GIVEAWAY!!!



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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to NDG's Night at the Theater Presents....Motown Musical, Thursday, July 30th! LIKE! SHARE! WIN!

4th Annual Dallas Hip-Hop Dance Festival kicks off this weekend

In a couple weeks, over 400 dancers from California, Missouri, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Laredo, Mesquite, Fort Worth and Dallas, will take the stage at the prestigious Majestic Theater in Downtown Dallas to show you what they are made of; and to celebrate community, passion and diversity.

The Dallas Hip-Hop

Dance Festival, also known as DHDF, is a platform for hip hop dancers of all ages, representing all forms of Hip-Hop in its truest form. The vision of DHDF is to create an experience that each performer and spectator will remember forever: one weekend that will serve to educate, inspire, and showcase growing and established talent in the

Southwest. Being the first of its kind in the Dallas area, we hope that everyone walks away enriched and with a positive experience.

They will kick off this 2-day event on Friday, July 24 with an Industry Seminar and underground Battle. On Saturday morning, the dancers will spend several hours training with celebrity choreographers. Then wrap

up DHDF 2015 on National Dance day with our annual showcase and competition, which is open to the public. Four very unique events. All vital to the dance community.

Our Workshop faculty this year includes celebrity choreographers Lisette Bustamante, Chonique Sneed, Sean Bankhead, along with Dallas' very own Jenny

Durbin Smith and Slim Hernandez.

The workshop is open to dancer's ages 8 years old to adults, and is taught at an industry level.

It's going to be a busy weekend indeed.

Tickets to The Show (on Saturday night) are \$25, and are currently available for sale through website -

www.dallashiphopdance-fest.com.

Dancers can also register for The Workshop online or purchase passes at the door – first come first serve. For questions about tickets, workshop registration, vendors, and much more, please contact Geena at (972) 607-5195 or info@dallashiphopfest.com.

Denise Lee brings her iconic stage show to Fair Park

Award-winning actress and vocalist Denise Lee performs her one-woman show *Too Old! Too Fat! Too Black! Songs I'll Never Sing on Broadway* as part of Fair Park's monthly New York-style cabaret entertainment.

This iconic show is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28 at the Women's Museum at Fair Park, 3600 Parry Ave. in Dallas. Free admission and free parking at Fair Park Gate 3.

"Cabaret is an art form like no other. It allows you to interact with your audience like you would never be able to in traditional theater," says Lee. "Your audience, in a sense, becomes a



part of the show because I feed off their energy."

Lee's powerful voice, warm and friendly demeanor, and her sassy and sensual performance style have charmed theater, nightclub and television au-

diences for more than two decades.

This month's show closes out Fair Park's cabaret music series, which is presented by Denise Lee On-stage, Lee's creative company. New shows will begin

in the fall. Visit www.fairpark.org for information.

Denise Lee is an award-winning actress, singer and down-to-earth diva! Her powerful voice, warm and friendly demeanor, and her sassy and sensual performance style has charmed theater, nightclub and television audiences for more

than two decades.

Lee is based in Dallas but the world is her home. She has an impressively diverse local following at R&B and jazz venues like 2Kats Live and at area theaters, such as the Dallas Theater Center, AT&T Performing Arts Center, Bass Hall, Water-Tower Theatre, Casa Man-

ana and the Sammons Center for the Arts who recently named her 2013 Cabaret Artist of the Year. Her musical magic has delighted international crowds at clubs in Shanghai, Beijing, Switzerland and France.

For up to the minute information please visit: www.deniseleestage.com.

More happy winners...

Congrats to the NDG GIVE-AWAY Ringling Brothers circus tickets winner Chantrell Lacy! Stay tuned for NDG GIVE-AWAYS!!!



Congrats to the NDG Instagram winner Ganesha Sanders @ganeshaSanders who won tickets to the Ringling Brothers Circus! Stay tuned for more NDG GIVE-AWAYS!!!



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Minority banks shut out of new tax credit awards

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

Members of the National Bankers Association, including heads of several Black-owned banking institutions, recently alleged charges of racial discrimination against the Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). The banks were overlooked for up to \$3.5 billion in allocations in New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) provided by the fund.

The NMTC program, designed to spur economic de-



velopment in distressed communities across the U.S., recently awarded 76 community development institutions, but did not do the same for any of the nation's minority banks, despite their reputations of deploying capital in the most

underserved communities in the U.S.

"The absence of a single minority bank raises much concern," said Michael Grant, president of the National Bankers Association stated in a press release on July 10. "In 2009, the Gen-

eral Accounting Office issued a report detailing the disparity in NMTC awards to minority entities. The numbers have actually gotten worse, not better."

A 2009 study by the Government Accountability Office indicated that only about 9 percent of minority entities were successful when applying for NMTCs, while non-minority entities had three times the success rate, winning 27 percent of the time. According to the GAO, although the program is highly competitive, minority entities have less than a one in three chance of any other type of entity to receive an award.

"By our estimates, less

than two percent of the \$450 billion NMTCs issued over the past 12 years has gone to minority banks," Doyle Mitchell, CEO of Industrial Bank of Washington, D.C. said.

According to the CDFI Fund records, only six awards (less than 8 percent) have gone to minority controlled entities of any kind, and those groups received only \$165 million, under 5 percent of the total dollar amount of allocation."

Some of our banks have been deploying capital in the poorest neighborhoods in America for over 100 years, and we think the CDFI Fund should review the program to ensure that

applications by minority and other small CDFI banks are evaluated on criteria that reflects their position as regulated institutions operating in distressed areas," he said.

Minority banks have had even lower success rates than minority entities overall. Of particular concern, as the nation continues to grapple with the after effects of the 2008 economic downturn, is the ability of Black communities to recover without the critical support of Black banks. Black-owned financial institutions have historically undergirded those busi-

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ANSWER, continued from Page 3

"I don't mind doing the time for what I did, but most of what they (The State) are presenting against me in evidence, statements and witnesses have nothing to do with my case!" This statement has been etched in my mind as I continued my career working in patrol and academy instructor.

Certainly, I make no excuse for offenders who commit crimes. However, the burden of proof is upon the state to prove each element of the offense. In my professional observation, a great number of cases in state courts lack probable cause. The result of hasty efforts at the local level to control crime and influence public opinion. This is why I squarely agrees with President Obama's assessment that criminal justice is an issue America can't afford to ignore. After all, the majority of cases that flow through the criminal justice system originate from the State Courts placing a burden on the state's criminal justice system and taxpayers. And, it's not just for the federal level to resolve, but also actors of state government, particular at the

county level.

For that reason, the Constitutions of each state, namely the State of Georgia, have created the Sheriff's Office as an elected constitutional office in a state's governmental hierarchy. The State delegates the discrete functions to Sheriffs that are germane to criminal justice reform: law enforcement, state courts, and corrections.

While a Sheriff might share the responsibility of law enforcement with other local agencies, he exercises the most control over persons who are arrested, incarcerated, sentenced and delivered to the state penal system.

Sheriffs, like the United States President, represent the most independent authority as constitutional officers to facilitate real criminal justice reform at the county level. Illustrating the executive authority and power as a constitutional officer, the United States Supreme Court and Georgia Supreme Court rely upon the authority of a Sheriff in A Treatise on the Law of Sheriffs, Coroners and Constables: "... in vindicating the law, and preserving the

rights of government, he (the Sheriff) represents the sovereignty of the State, and he has no superior in his county."

The most compelling reason for Sheriffs as chief law enforcement officers, now more than ever, to exercise autonomy and influence for reform according to the rule of law. His sovereign authority to speak and act on criminal justice reform should be just as actionable as nationwide Sheriffs who wield their authority on illegal immigration enforcement and protecting the Second Amendment rights of their constituents to bear arms.

As a retired Sheriff's commander, I continue to educate the law enforcement profession and communities as a Senior Instructor certified by the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council. Thought provoking lectures on criminal justice issues at local law enforcement academies to include: constitutional law, racial profiling prevention, correctional and community oriented policing, media relations, advanced report writing, use of force, courtroom testimony, criminal investigations, etc.. All for

the purpose of developing the next generation of law enforcement leaders to enforce the rule of law with competent character in the 21st century.

While the demand for re-

form is justly placed upon the federal or state government, the real work begins with the quality of governance in homes giving the next generation a pathway to success, outside the crim-

inal justice system.

Charles Rambo is currently a registered candidate for Fulton County Sheriff with the Georgia Secretary State. To learn more, please visit www.mysheriffambo.com.

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The Dallas Opera is currently seeking new dancers

The Dallas Opera is in need of eight talented male and female dancers (or actors with dance experience) to appear onstage in the company's March 2016 production of Jules Massenet's *Manon*, starring Ailyn Pérez in the title role, Stephen Costello as Chevalier des Grieux and Edwin

Crossley-Mercer in his TDO debut as Lescaut.

Rehearsals begin on Monday, February 8, 2016 culminating in four performances on March 4, 6 (matinee), 9 & 12 in the Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Dancers will be compen-

sated for rehearsal time, as well as a per-performance fee.

The Dallas Opera is seeking candidates with stage experience, musicality, and the ability to produce a well-rounded, strong and defined stage character through their art. Characters range from noble to

downright naughty.

Talented dancers and actors with onstage dance experience are encouraged to apply. To schedule your audition, send your resume to Ahne Schield at ahne.schild@dallasopera.org.

Audition times will be determined on a first-come,

first-served basis.

This acclaimed production of *Manon* was created by Sir David McVicar and will be directed in Dallas by E. Loren Meeker. Choreography is by Colm Seery.

The Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House is conveniently located in the heart of the Arts District at

2403 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201.

The Dallas Opera Rehearsal Center, where the auditions will take place on Saturday, August 8 from 11:00 until 2:00 p.m., is just outside Fair Park (follow the signs to Gate 12) at 4301 S. Fitzhugh, Dallas, TX 75210.

Urban League breaks ground at burnt-out QuikTrip site

By Mariah Stewart
Special to the NNPA from the *St. Louis American*

The burnt-out QuikTrip convenience store that became a symbol of racial unrest after a police officer

killed an unarmed black teenager nearby almost a year ago will soon reopen as a community center focused on job-training for African Americans.

The store was looted, burned and spray-painted

"R.I.P. Mike Brown" before civilians pitched in and cleaned up the site. As rioting along West Florissant Road intensified, heavily armed police with armored vehicles pointed rifles at protesters and fired tear gas

and "less lethal" projectiles into crowds.

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site on Thursday, July

See BURNT, Page 13

BANKS, continued from Page 11

nesses denied funding through traditional sources because of the neighborhoods in which they provide services.

"The NMTC Program has great potential to be part

of a comprehensive economic solution in America's inner-cities, most of which still have not recovered from the Great Recession," said Preston Pinkett, CEO of City National Bank and

chairman of the NBA.

"But the groups best equipped to make those investments, minority banks, have largely been shut out of the NMTC program."

The National Bankers Association was founded in 1927 and is a trade associa-

tion for the nation's 177 minority and women-owned banks (MWOBs). Its members include banks owned by African-Americans, Native-Americans, American Indians, East-Indians, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans and women.

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Congress Urges Stronger Action Against Payday Loan Vendors

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) will provide \$32 million in relief to consumers who were caught in a maze of charges and fees designed to trap them in payday loans they never authorized. The enforcement action announced July 7, affects two lenders based in Kansas City, Mo. who operated as many as 16 different businesses involved in online lending. The FTC also imposed an additional \$22 million fine against the lenders and banned them from all consumer lending.

Members of Congress are urging the FTC to take similar action against similar violators.

Every day online and storefront payday lenders trap borrowers in long-term cycles of debt. Their triple-digit interest rates and access to borrowers' bank accounts or car-titles place these borrowers in financial jeopardy. FTC's actions and

others undertaken by federal and state regulators reveal rampant abuses in the short-term, small-dollar lending market.

More than 100 Members of Congress representing 35 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, recently urged the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to enact a strong rule to curb abusive practices by payday lenders and other high-cost predatory loans like car-title and certain installment loans.

In separate letters, 33 U.S. Senators and 68 House Members urged the same action: strong regulation and enforcement of abusive and predatory consumer lending.

Their calls for CFPB rulemaking comes as the Bureau finalizes its proposed rule, first announced in late March. At that time, a letter signed by 500 consumer advocates from all 50 states waged an unprecedented push for reining in

abusive small-dollar and high-cost loans engaged the White House and Capitol Hill.

Now, after listening to an onslaught of diverse and strong voices, federal lawmakers are adding their voices and influence to the continuing fight for fairness.

"Predatory lenders should not be able to continue unfair, deceptive, and abusive acts or practices that are designed to trap borrowers in a cycle of debt," wrote 33 Senators. "This is a business model rooted in preying on individuals and families that have no ability to repay, and the CFPB has a critical opportunity to protect consumers by issuing strong rules."

Members of Congress with constituencies as varied as their broad geographic expanses similarly called for CFPB to adopt strong regulation.

"While there is a need for affordable credit, unfair, deceptive and abusive payday

and car title lending practices often pull consumers into a cycle of debt," wrote the members. "We support the Bureau's efforts to close the door to unaffordable loans by addressing failure to underwrite for affordable payments, repeatedly rolling over or refinancing loans, accessing the consumer's account for repayment, and performing costly withdrawals."

As consumer advocates stress the importance of the ability to repay a loan as a cornerstone of both responsible lending and effective regulation, a new poll jointly commissioned by Americans for Financial Reform and the Center for Responsible Lending, asked 2016 likely voters their opinions on consumer lending and regulation, Wall Street influences and actions taken by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

Respondents showed

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BURNT, continued from Page 12

9. Under a white tent sheltering dignitaries, Michael McMillan, president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, said the organization aims to train and find employment for 500 young people in the region by the end of summer.

"After Michael Brown's death, many young people in the community said they were not being listened to and their voices were not heard," McMillan told the audience.

"We decided to go out and walk the streets of Ferguson and talk to people to find out what we could do as the Urban League to make a difference. Every single one of those young people said they needed jobs and economic opportunity in this area."

Data collected by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis show unemployment among African Americans

in the St. Louis region at 9.5 percent, compared with 4.8 percent for whites.

After talking with Ferguson youth, McMillan created the Urban League's Save Our Sons initiative. McMillan said the program has already helped 100 young men find jobs. The new center built on the site of the torched QuikTrip will house Save Our Sons, as well as three other social services organizations: Provident, Better Family Life and Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

McMillan also announced that the construction crew for the new center will be a 100 percent African-American. Kwame Building Group will manage the construction, which is expected to be completed in early 2016.

QuikTrip donated the land and paid to demolish the ruined building and re-mediate the site. Enterprise



Michael McMillan, president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, wielded a shovel alongside Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, at the groundbreaking for a new community center at the site of the burnt-out QuikTrip in Ferguson. (Wiley Price/St. Louis American)

Holdings and the Taylor Family gave a combined \$1.8 million, and Centene Corporation donated \$650,000. Another \$1.5 million came from several other St. Louis-based companies, including Ameren, Emerson, Edward Jones, Armstrong Teasdale, and several civic organizations.

Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National

Urban League, attended the groundbreaking and said it points toward hope for the future in Ferguson. Morial said, "Building the Community Empowerment Center represents movement in a positive direction."

This story is published as part of a partnership between The St. Louis American and The Huffington Post.



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July 26

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

July 29, 7 p.m.

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

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

July 19, 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.

July 22, 7 p.m.

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

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

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 19, 7:35 a.m.

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

July 22, 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

CEDAR CREST CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 18, 9 a.m.

Join us for a FREE workshop; "Ask the Attorney" with attorneys Angela Adkins-Downes, Khatonia McCarty and Darlene Clayton-Deckard. This event will provide education about laws to help people be proactive and guard against unfortunate consequences. For details call Henry O. Adkins, Community Outreach Minister at 972-841-7771.
Brother Jon W. Morrison, Minister
2134 Cedar Crest Blvd.
Dallas TX 75203-4316
214- 943-1340

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

July 19, 8:45 a.m.

and 11 a.m.
You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings.

July 22, 7 p.m.

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

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

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Ephesians 2:10. Call the church for details.

July 19

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

July 22

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

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

July 19, 10 a.m.

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

July 22, 7 p.m.

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

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

MT. PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 19, 9:45 a.m.

Men of all ages join our Men's Mentoring Class every 3rd Sunday in our Education Building to discuss issues about life lessons according to the Bible.

July 20 & 27 at 9 a.m.

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

July 22 and 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Wednesdays; for details on the two events above email rcharity@dallasmtpisgah.org

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

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

July 19

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.

July 22, 7 p.m.

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

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

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

July 19 at 8 a.m. And/or 11 a.m.

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

July 22, 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.

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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

July 17 and 24, 7 p.m.

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

July 19, 7:30

and/or 11:30 a.m.

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

July 20, 7 p.m.

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

Pastor Rickie Rush
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Train up a child...



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Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

It has been said that child-rearing can be frightening to the best-prepared and most eager parent, it doesn't matter how many children you have.

Parents will likely meet with success when they allow themselves to be guided by God and His Word.

"In times like these . . ." children must feel secure in their environment; they must feel being loved, being respected, and feel being proud of.

At the same time, they clearly must be taught about what is unacceptable behavior to God. Children must be disciplined with love instead of anger or abuse; they must be able to retain their dignity even when they see they have erred.

"In times like these . . ." all parents and family members can help to instill Godly pride and a can-do attitude in children so that they will be able to go through life's adversities.

We must recognize that life does have adversities, but it is our attitude about our adversities that determines our altitude in life, as the saying goes.

And remember, teach them that it doesn't matter how scary or explosive the adversities in life are, there was peace before and there will be peace after the adversities.

Parents who love God and are guided by Him

through Bible-based scriptures in their parenting skills; and with plenty of prayers; will go a long way in helping children shape their morals, their values,

and their views on having a successful life.

I challenge parents to be more accountable, as well as other family members to be more accountable about

all children in their life; and to that I will add, to be a positive example for children.

Teach them to fear (dread grieving) the Lord because, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . . Praise ye the Lord.

Parents and those that fail to allow God to guide them in their parenting skill with children could be in danger of over control. "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected

you as king." 1 Samuel 15:23

It has been said that whenever a car goes out of control and begins to spin, the only thing to do is to relax your grip on the controls and the car will right itself.

However, tis goes against our natural inclination to control and manipulate in order to bring things back under control. It is scary to be out of control.

In the Bible is the story of Saul. He was a man out of

See TARPLEY, Page 16



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



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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Allen, TX 75013
7:00 pm

Isiah Joshua, Jr.

NDG Book Review: *Balm* is a slow read with great characters

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

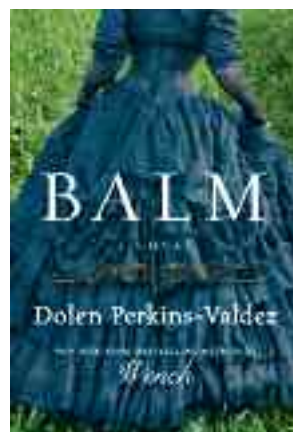
Music almost always does it for you.

After a long day, nothing makes you feel better – especially when you pair soft tunes with hot bath and solitude. You might even add a glass of something tasty and a novel you've been dying to read. But in the new book "Balm" by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, the only thing that soothes is forgiveness and restitution.

Moving to Chicago had never been part of Sadie's plan.

She'd supposed, instead, that she'd live in Pennsylvania after the War ended, and go on with her life as though there was never any war.

Her parents had seen things differently, however: she was hastily married to a wealthy man she barely knew because it was safer that way. Sam purchased a house in Chicago, furnished it, and hired staff in anticipation of having a wife to display; Sadie might have



even fallen in love with him, had he not been killed in a train accident.

She couldn't mourn; she barely knew Sam, which made the staff uncomfortable. As they deserted her, Sadie knew she needed a maid. The voice in her head – an insistent voice that said he was a soldier once – sent her to Madge.

Born to a woman who was more interested in being a root doctor than in being a mother, Madge left her Tennessee home as a teenager – unloved by her Mama but knowing how to use plants and seeds to heal. She couldn't say she liked

working for Sadie, but assisting with séances left Madge with plenty of time to build her apothecary and a little business. It also gave her guilty time to spend with Hemp Harrison, who said he was a married man.

Long before the day when raggedy Rebel soldiers came down the plantation road looking for trouble, Hemp had fallen for Annie, and they married. Though he'd done something unthinkable, he loved her so much; after she was sold away in chains, he vowed to find her and make things right. With the War over, it was said that "millions" of former slaves had somehow landed in Chicago but was Annie among them? Was it right to move on without her?

Set during America's spiritualist movement of the post-Civil War years, "Balm" is a bit of surprise: it's not exactly a love story, not exactly a ghost story, not exactly a novel of amends. It's closer to all three, and that only works

sometimes.

While it's true that author Dolen Perkins-Valdez writes with extraordinary beauty, those flowingly gorgeous words can slow the story down, which often mars the romantic aspect of

it. I enjoyed the ghostly storyline – I found it interesting and accurate, but the spirit's brother annoyed me beyond all reason and left me feeling restless.

This isn't a terrible book, no. It's slow, but it has three

great main characters going for it and the overall authenticity will make historical novel fans happy. But if you're looking for something snappier and with more finality, "Balm" just won't do it for you.

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strong and bipartisan support for regulation of financial services and products. By more than a 10-to-one margin, they favored a rule requiring small-dollar lenders to verify a customer's ability to repay before a loan can be issued.

Other poll results showed:

- Nearly three-quarters – 73 percent – said they favor the central provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act;

- Respondents continue to view the financial industry as under-regulated; and

- They also believed that regulations and enforcement will ensure financial institutions act fairly and responsibly.

"We are thankful for lawmakers and regulators standing up against these predatory loan practices which drain billions of dollars a year from low-income families," said Diane Standaert, director of state policy

with the Center for Responsible Lending. "As CFPB moves towards issuing its proposed rules, we urge it to use its full authority to stop the dangerous debt trap of these loans, and eliminating loopholes."

According to policy experts, CFPB could act on the pending regulation sometime this fall.

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control. He was losing control of his kingdom to David. Saul's fear and insecurity made him more afraid of the people and what they thought than of God.

At the core of Saul's disobedience was fear of losing control. That fear of losing control led to partial obedience and the loss of

his reign as king.

Many parents have such a need to control their children and circumstances because they fail to train their children to fully walk in obedience to God's voice in our lives. Saul provides a great lesson for us as parents.

The need to over control things around us can pre-

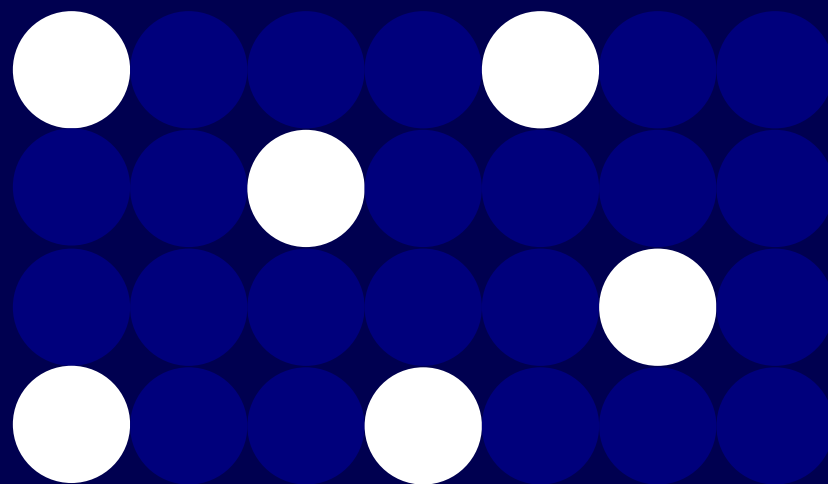
vent us from receiving all that God has for us.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Psalms 111:10 and 112:1. (KJV)

It doesn't matter if it is your child or your children; or someone else's child or children; 'Especially in times like these, it is wise and best to, "Train Up A Child..."

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