



North Dallas

Gazette

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Officers in Breonna Taylor case escape indictment

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

After 194 days, months of protests, and a \$12 million civil settlement, the family of Breonna Taylor did not receive the justice they have desperately sought.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, a Grand Jury failed to indict the officers for killing Taylor, while one officer was charged with shooting into an apartment – not Taylor’s.

“They didn’t want to charge anyone with the murder of Breonna Taylor,” said Steve Romines, the attorney for Taylor’s boyfriend, Kenneth Walker.

Officer Brett Hankinson was indicted on three counts of wanton endangerment for his actions on the night of Taylor’s death.

Hankinson was charged with shooting blindly inside an apartment and a warrant was immediately placed for his arrest. Judge Annie O’Connell set bail for Hankinson at just \$15,000.

None of the six officers involved were charged with a crime.

On March 13, Taylor, 26, was fatally shot by Louisville Metro Police officers after a late-night no-knock warrant led to gunfire inside of her



On Wednesday, Sept. 23, a Grand Jury failed to indict the officers for killing Breonna Taylor, while one officer was charged with shooting into an apartment – not Taylor’s.

apartment.

Taylor and Walker had watched a movie in bed and, not long after she drifted off to sleep, cops pounded on her door. Walker, according to police reports, yelled, “who is it?”

Licensed to carry a firearm and armed with Kentucky legislation that allowed him to stand his ground and fire his weapon in self-defense, Walker responded to the late-night break-in by shooting at the officers. He called 9-11 because he didn’t know that the men were law enforcement officers, only that they appeared as intruders who knocked the door off of its hinges.

Officers unleashed a flurry of bullets from several angles – one officer fired blindly from a window outside of the house – ultimately, striking Taylor five times and killing her.

Walker’s shot struck Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly in the thigh. Initially, Walker was charged with attempted murder, but those allegations were later dropped in part because he didn’t know the invaders were police officers and Kentucky’s statute essentially allows for a shoot-first-ask-questions-later when there’s an imminent threat.

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg

People In The News...



David Ybarra



Kalia Love Jones

NDG Quote of the Week: "I think if we are actually going to accept our generation's responsibility, that's going to mean that we give our children no less retirement security than we inherited from our parents." - Carol Moseley Braun



## Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior  
National Correspondent

Ruth Bader Ginsburg – affectionately known as The Notorious R.B.G. (after the famous moniker of the late hip-hop star, The Notorious B.I.G.) – held on as long as she could while fiercely battling metastatic pancreatic cancer.

At 87, the popular Supreme Court Justice had battled cancer and several other maladies, for some time. Just days before her death, as her strength waned, Ginsburg dictated



this statement to her granddaughter Clara Spera: “My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

Echoing the sentiments of many, both inside and outside of the political

spectrum acclaimed novelist Terry McMillan stated, “I was praying she could hold on.”

The author and many others realized that, in sphere of today’s of American politics, where one of the two dominant parties is essentially wholly controlled by President Donald Trump and the hard-hearted Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, if they choose to ignore the Justice’s dying wishes, the Republicans, who control the Senate, have the votes to quickly confirm Ginsburg’s replacement.

This is the case even as the president – and possibly

McConnell – head toward lame-duck status.

In spite of the result from the impending confirmation process and it’s connectivity to an election that will occur in less than 45 days, the life and achievements of Ruth Bader Ginsburg are to be celebrated. America’s loss of one of its notable and most courageous jurists is palpable.

“We have lost a champion of justice, an icon, and patriot, a woman who lived the concept of building a more perfect union,” D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser affirmed.

“Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fought for us un-

til the very end, and it is that fighting spirit – that we were fortunate as a nation to benefit from time and time again – that made us love, respect, and admire her. We are heartbroken.”

Hillary Shelton, the Chief Lobbyist of the NAACP, called Ginsburg’s death a sad day for America. “We are losing a real champion for Civil Rights, Voting Rights, Women’s Rights and Human Rights on our Supreme Court,” Shelton posited.

Shelton honored Ginsburg for breaking through many barriers to the full participation of all Americans and demanded that

Republicans wait until after the election to confirm a successor.

“It is our hope that whoever fills her position would have her same values. We also urge that the president withhold the nomination to fill that position until after the election,” Shelton exclaimed.

“It was Mitch McConnell who insisted not to allow President Obama to fill a position in his last year in office. We urge that there not be a nomination or consideration by the U.S. Senate until after the November election.”

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## David Ybarra

(Dallas ISD) David Ybarra is a supervisor in Dallas ISD’s Operation Services Division, leading a crew of 21 ground employees. His team is one of the many teams the District relies on to provide welcoming and safe learning environments at schools and other facilities.

Ybarra often encourages his team to feel pride in the work they are doing and their contribution to the district’s mission.

“We are responsible for creating neat, nicely kept landscaping areas that will



create the first impression for schools,” Ybarra said. “I want the student, staff and parents to feel proud of the way their school looks, and I like to help make the campuses inviting and ap-

pealing.”

Ybarra also likes to help his work peers grow; he enjoys being the right leader for his team, like the leaders he found when he joined Dallas ISD.

“It took the right leaders in the Operations Division to help me grow,” Ybarra said. “They shared their knowledge and experiences with me so I could find the solutions to challenges.”

Fast forward 10 years, and Ybarra, who has two children enrolled in Dallas ISD, is now supervisor at the Northwest Grounds Division.

“It’s a great journey be-

ing a part of the district,” he said. “Now as a supervisor, I get to help and advise new incoming leaders who will one day grow into a bigger role like I did.”

He often tells his children and other students to “échale ganas (work hard), continue learning every day, and always value who you are and where you came from.”

Ybarra is a second generation Mexican-American. His father was born in the U.S. and his mother is from México City. He embraces his roots and heritage and wants to teach his children to grow, embracing their culture and unity with peo-

ple from other cultures.

“We are one ... one community, and we need to help each other, especially our ‘raza’ (our people) who are new in this country and community.”

Ybarra was highlighted by Dallas ISD as one of the many Hispanic professionals who contribute to the district’s educational process on a daily basis.

Dallas ISD celebrates the rich culture and important contributions of Hispanic Americans during National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is Sept. 15-Oct. 15 each year. Special events and educational lessons help

bring the history to life for students.

The time period is an important one for several Hispanic countries. On Sept. 15, the countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate becoming independent nations. The next day, Sept. 16, is celebrated as Independence Day in Mexico. Chile celebrates its independence on Sept. 18. Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, is celebrated on Oct. 12. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week, and was expanded in 1988 to cover the current 30-day period.

## Kalia Love Jones

Kalia Love Jones is an ambitious 13-year old animated filmmaker who wants to empower others. Her first animated short film, The Power of Hope, inspired by a Michelle Obama speech, tells the inspirational story of a young woman with big dreams. An aspiring architect feels helpless when her mother falls ill, but moved by the words of Michelle Obama, she finds the will to perse-



vere and bring her dreams to life.

The film will premiere

at the Urbanworld Film Festival and LA Shorts International Film Festival in October and has received exceptional reviews. Additionally, Kalia is a shortlist candidate for Time magazine’s Kid of the Year.

No stranger to hard work and commitment, Kalia divides her time between school, filmmaking, piano lessons, gymnastics, and district honor’s band first chair flute. Kalia is an 8-year gymnast who trained with former U.S. Olympian

Chris Whaler at his gym in Los Angeles County. Devoted to her passion as a filmmaker, she is making a positive difference in the world by inspiring young women to pursue their filmmaking dreams.

Kalia lives in Los Angeles and has always loved the film industry. She looks up to influential female figures like Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Ava DuVernay, and Rebecca Sugar and spends hours every day drawing, crafting, and

studying films to create unique animations. With her motivation and strong support from her family, Kalia launched her first captivating production, The Power of Hope. She even co-wrote the film’s song and funded most of the project on her own by recycling and working odd jobs for her family and friends.

Kalia is not afraid to take risks with her films to deliver powerful messages that prove anyone can push through obstacles in life

and reach their goals, as eloquently stated by Former First Lady Michelle Obama in her speech. This may be the beginning of Kalia’s career, but she is undoubtedly already showing young women that they can achieve greatness through hope and believing in themselves. #BlackGirlMagic

For more details about The Power of Hope film, visit ThePowerofHope-Film.com or follow the film on Instagram @thepowerofohopefilm



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# Trump: A man with no political platform

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Special Contributor

In the cult classic Napoleon Dynamite, Napoleon's only friend ran for class president on a simple and undiluted political platform: Vote for Pedro. On the strength of that unpretentious and tenuous slogan—and a song and a dance from his devoted support base, that was Napoleon alone—Pedro won the election. In 2016, there too, was an unassuming and unadulterated slogan: Vote for Trump. That unpretentious and tenuous slogan was the entire legitimacy of his political platform then—and with the launching of the 2020 Republican National Convention—we discovered that Trump is sticking with that same conceited political platform for this upcoming election.

The president has continuously been chided for his constant spewing of hateful and racist rhetoric that has an appalling effect on those who would dare sip of its poison. Although, one man's poison is another man's platform.

The lack of a legitimate platform has ardent Trump supporters circling the wagons like it's Custer's last stand, with whites being outnumbered by people of color and immigrants one-hundred to one. The pervasive phobia of the Trumpeters is evident in their words and their actions.

Scores of Trump followers are voicing their fears that immigrants and people

of color have allied against true Americans. The most ardent of Trump supporters are no longer closet racist but have become brazen enough to brandish swastikas and confederate flags while pumping their fists in the air to shouts of "white power!" Even the president was bold enough to publicly suggest that four Democratic Representatives with ethnic names should "go back" to "the places from which they came." This brand of racist banter has gotten to be so blatant that even Republican stalwarts are becoming unnerved at the division it promotes.

Racist words and sentiments are harmful and hurtful, but words fall short of physically harming and hurting. That has become the patriotic duty of self-proclaimed militias—who surprisingly are not comprised of 50-year-old bigots with pot bellies—but by young white men who are armed and on a military mission. Here is a small sample of the "missions" on which these dutiful "patriots" have been deployed.

May 29, 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Four young "patriots" covertly infiltrate enemy lines pretending to be peaceful protestors and burned down an enemy command post (a.k.a. a police station), while relieving the outpost of its supplies.

September 4, 2020, Manhattan, New York: A young "patriot" drives a military vehicle (a.k.a. a Ford Taurus) into a crowd mowing down a gathering of "hos-

tile insurgents" who were pretending to be peaceful protesters exercising their constitutional right.

August 25, 2020, Kenosha, Wisconsin: While on sentry duty guarding a patriot stronghold (a.k.a. gas station) a 17-year-old "patriot" exacted his shoot-on-sight orders, killing two supposed insurgents and wounding several others. For this last act of valor, the "patriot's" name was listed in a Dallas classroom among a list of heroes such as Mohandas Gandhi and Malcolm X. Even the Kenosha PD honored this young "patriot" by co-signing on his actions with, "We appreciate you guys. We really do."

If there is one platform that can be attributed to Trump it would be that of self-preservation, and that of the savior of the white race. A recent study by University of Kansas professors David N. Smith and Eric Hanley stated, "The decisive reason that white, male, older and less educated voters were disproportionately pro-Trump is that they shared his prejudices and wanted domineering, aggressive leaders..." One Trump supporter went as far as to say that after eight years of the "terrible job" done by the "Muslim" "Marxist" President Obama, Trump was needed to "get things back in order."

The Trump platform—or lack thereof—was emphatically challenged in a recent town hall meeting, where he

was engaged by undecided and informed Philadelphia voters, who were willing to stand their ground when offered the usual Trump propaganda. So, when Trump made asinine statements like "a lot of people think masks are not good," he was asked who said masks were no good. Trump replied, "Waiters." When asked about the most difficult part of his presidency during the pandemic and what he had learned, Trump self-centeredly replied by recounting the people he knew personally who had succumbed to COVID-19. "Six people. It was five until about two weeks ago. Now, it's six." When asked about the recordings of him admitting downplaying the effects of the coronavirus, Trump replied, "Yeah, well, I didn't downplay it. I, actually, in many ways, I up-played it, in terms of action." Fox News concluded that Trump had been ambushed at his own town hall meeting.

Progress and the legitimacy of platforms, though, are always subjected to the eye of the beholder, and who one chooses to support. And what one considers to be a legitimate platform is also based on one's desired end goal.

So, with this upcoming presidential election, you can vote for the platform that will strengthen our nation and uplift the least of its people, which means voting with your intellect...

Or you can Vote for Pedro.

## Adding fuel to the fire of our pandemics

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Contributor

Nero, the Roman Emperor who legendarily fiddled while Rome burned is a symbol for an irresponsible, ineffective, and callous leader who shows indifference to people in crisis.

Our 45th President puts Nero to shame. Our country is burning, with COVID cas-

es rising, racial tensions rising. The President is pouring fuel on an already-flaming fire with his callous indifference, ineffective leadership, and irresponsible proclamations.

Forty-five fanned the flames of fear and uncertainty about COVID-19 with false comments about the virus. First, he said it was going to go away, and that

it was no more severe than the flu. Then he suggested a drug, hydroxychloroquine, that has proven to be ineffective. Then he "jokingly" suggested Lysol or bleach to cure the virus. He has prioritized the economy over human lives, urging governors to open their states up for commerce, even as the number of COVID cases has risen.

Since the President refuses to develop a national plan to address the corona pandemic, even as the death toll increases, deaths increase, let him hawk beans. He is far more adept at that task than he is at running the country.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is a DC-based economist and author. She can be reached through dr.j@julianne-malveaux.com.

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# Pandemic heightens depression, suicide risk, Parkland experts say

COVID-19 hasn't just attacked our physical well-being. It has also eroded our sense of safety, security and social connectedness. At best, we're anxious about when life may get back to normal or afraid of catching the virus. At worst, we're seriously depressed because we've lost our job, savings, health or — worst of all — a loved one. Now in month seven of the pandemic, which is also National Suicide Prevention Month, millions are facing illness, grief, financial and family stress, child care and education challenges, even struggles to put food on the table and a roof overhead.

Behavioral health experts at Parkland Health & Hospital System say the virus has increased stress levels of people of all ages, ethnicities and socio-economic status.

"The length of this crisis has depleted many of our emotional resources and the need for physical distancing has changed our ability to use social connections to cope adaptively," said Kim Roaten, PhD, Director of Quality for Safety, Education and Implementation, Department of Psychiatry at Parkland and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medi-



Anh Nguyen / Unsplash

cal Center. "Additionally, many of us are struggling with changes to our jobs, under-employment or unemployment and a transition to virtual schooling."

According to a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prevalence of symptoms of anxiety and depression increased three-fold in the United States during April-June of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. By late June 2020, researchers found that 40% of U.S. adults reported struggling with mental health or substance use, 31% had symptoms of anxiety or depression and 11% had seriously considered suicide. For those ages 18 to 24, the number considering suicide was 1 in 4

— more than twice as high.

Adverse mental health symptoms are more widespread among Hispanic and African American communities, among essential workers and unpaid caregivers, the CDC report said.

"COVID-19 has impacted the emotional well-being of on many of our patients," said Rebecca Corona, PhD, Lead Psychologist at Parkland who manages a team of behavioral health counselors providing services at Parkland's community-based health centers.

Through telehealth expansion, Parkland has increased access to outpatient mental health services during the pandemic, ensuring that patients receive necessary care.

"In some cases, COVID has unmasked underlying problems or exacerbated existing situations such as domestic conflict and abuse. Grief, depression and anxiety brought on by COVID-19 have affected patients of all ages, from children to seniors," Dr. Corona said.

"Many elderly patients are feeling like prisoners in their own homes," Dr. Corona said. "It's not safe for them to go out, and their kids and grandkids can't visit safely, making them feel even more isolated. We talk about finding new ways to connect and cope. One of my patients is making masks for her grandchildren. Helping them stay safe is therapeutic for her."

Dr. Corona said some patients have become so depressed that they are not taking care of themselves, aren't sleeping well and have withdrawn from others, all concerning signs of potential suicide risk.

In 2015, Parkland became the first health system in the nation to administer a universal suicide screening program to identify persons at risk and help save lives through early intervention. The program screens not only adults but also youth,

ages 10 to 17, regardless of their reason for seeking care. Since initiating the program, more than 3 million suicide risk screenings have been completed with patients in Parkland's Emergency Department, Urgent Care Emergent Department, inpatient units and Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) health centers.

Dr. Roaten said everyone should be aware of potential suicide warning signs:

- Feeling like a burden
- Being isolated
- Increased anxiety
- Feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Increased substance or alcohol use
- Looking for a way to access lethal means such as a firearm
- Increased anger or rage
- Extreme mood swings
- Expressing hopelessness
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Talking or posting about wanting to die
- Making plans for suicide

"If you are worried about someone, speak up," Dr. Roaten advised. "Let them know you're concerned. Reassure them that seeking help is a sign of strength. Let them know they're not

alone, that you're there for them. Evidence shows that asking someone if they are thinking of harming themselves does not lead to increased risk of suicide. In fact, most people feel grateful that someone has expressed concern. There are many resources, from suicide crisis hotlines to mental health providers at Parkland and throughout the community who stand ready to help."

Suicide crisis lines include:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Suicide prevention telephone hotline funded by the US government. Provides free, 24-hour assistance. 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line – Free 24/7 support – Text "HOME" to 741741
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline – Free, confidential 24/7 helpline information service for substance abuse and mental health treatment referral. 1-800-662-HELP (4357).
- Suicide & Crisis Center of North Texas 24/7 crisis line. 214-828-1000

For more information about Parkland services, visit [www.parklandhospital.com](http://www.parklandhospital.com).

## ICYMI: COVID-19's impact on the Latino community is worse than originally expected

A recent story by NBC highlights the devastating economic impact of COVID-19 on Latinos in the United States.

Latinos are disproportionately affected by this largely preventable health and economic crisis. Seventy-two percent of Latino households report facing serious financial problems due to the pandemic, the most out of any ethnic group in the United States.

A majority of Latino adults have reported serious financial problems due to job losses, furloughs, pay cuts, or reductions in work hours due to Trump's

downplaying of this deadly virus.

One of the reasons Latinos are fairing far worse with COVID-19 has to do with the fact that many are essential workers who are unable to work from home. Meanwhile, the Republican-lead U.S. Senate refuses to extend COVID-19 relief payments to these workers and Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott announced his plan to reopen most of the state to 75 percent capacity as early as Monday.

Trump, McConnell, and Abbott feel like it's not in the best interest to protect

our essential workers and their families. Republicans continue to follow Trump's lead of lying to the public and putting our most vulnerable communities at further risk because they would rather get back to business as usual than protect workers and families.

Republicans have shown time and time again that they don't care that Latinos are dying, out of work, and running out of hope.

In contrast, Joe Biden and the Democrats have a detailed plan to get our country and our people back on their feet without sacrificing the lives of our

essential workers.

Texas Democratic Party Executive Director Manny Garcia issued a statement:

"Trump and his ally Greg Abbott have let our communities down as they ignored the science, failed to act quickly, and intentionally downplayed the severity of this deadly and contagious virus. Our lives are at stake in this election. We must return to responsible, science-based leadership to help our communities get out of this mess. Texas Latinos will do just that by electing Democrats up and down the ballot."

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# Dallas Blues legend Gregg A. Smith receives 'Grassroots' award from Lions Club at annual District Convention

For the local music community, Gregg A. Smith is known for his long career in the Blues genre. But at the annual convention of the Lions Club District 2-X1, Smith was lauded for his support of the philanthropic organization as the "Grassroots Member of the Year" from the Dallas South Club.

The Grassroots award is given to a member of the club who is considered an "up-and-coming" contributor to the organization. It is specifically for someone who has been a member of the club for less than five years, and has not been so honored previously. Selection is based on a member's having "been exemplary to

the spirit of lionism through deeds and service to others

The recognition ceremony was held on Sept. 19 at the Indo-Pak Banquet Hall in Arlington. The keynote speaker was Past International President Jimmy

Ross. Smith was among 21 recipients from various Lions Club chapters throughout the northeast Texas area.

The Dallas South Club is always looking for new members. The Lions Club

is an international philanthropic organization which began in 1917. Its mission is "to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international un-

derstanding through Lions clubs."

Anyone interested in joining the Dallas South chapter should call Dallas South Lion President Gregg A. Smith at 469-471-4180.



Gregg A. Smith (left) joins Mary White, Hospitality Coordinator and Henry White, Past District Governor, in celebrating his Grassroots Award from the Lions Club District Convention. (Courtesy photo)

## DNC launches ad campaign in Black newspapers across battleground states

(NNPA) On the first National Black Voter Day, the Democratic National Committee is launching a print ad campaign calling out Donald Trump's failed pandemic response and directing readers to IWillVote.com — the DNC's newly updated voter participation website. The ads will run in five African American-owned community newspapers:

- *The Westside Gazette* (in Fort Lauderdale, Florida)
- *The Michigan Chronicle* (in Detroit, Michigan)
- *The Philadelphia Tribune* (in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- *The Charlotte Post* (in Charlotte, North Carolina)
- *The Milwaukee Community Journal* (in Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

"Donald Trump didn't

tell Americans the truth about the coronavirus, he's been totally incompetent and ineffective in responding to this crisis, and now working families — especially Black Americans — are paying the price," said Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez. "Over the last four years, communities of color have borne the brunt of Trump's broken promises, and now because of his failures the coronavirus is costing too many Black families their lives and livelihoods. Voters will hold him accountable, and through resources like the IWillVote.com website, Democrats are making sure they have the information they'll need to make a plan to vote Trump out of office."

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COUNT ALL  
kids  
CENSUS 2020

United States  
Census  
2020



**Big or small, the  
Census is for us all.**

**Count all kids and babies!**

Children should be included on your 2020 Census form—and not just children related to you, but any kids living at your address most of the time. When babies and children are included, the programs that support them get the funding they need.

Count your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, foster kids, and the children of any friends or relatives staying with you, even if it's only temporary. Babies count, too! Even if they're still in the hospital, as long as they were born by April 1, 2020, make sure the person completing the Census for your address includes them on the form.

For more information about the 2020 Census, visit [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov) or call 844-330-2020.

#2020Census #CountAllKids



# It has been an unusual start to a successful new school year



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

These are challenging times, but I know if we continue to work together, we can ensure that we educate all our children for success.

We began the school year for the first time ever with online instruction only, due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, and if things go as planned, in-person learning will begin Oct. 5 for those students whose families opt in for face-to-face instruction.

I urge parents to go online and participate in the parent survey to state their preference for online or in-person instruction. To take the survey, visit [www.dallasisd.org/parentsurvey2020](http://www.dallasisd.org/parentsurvey2020).

Because there has been a leveling off of COVID cases in the county, Dallas ISD is inviting some students to come back earlier, on Sept. 28. These include pre-K and kindergarten students and any students who will be moving to a new campus this school year, such as new middle schoolers and new high schoolers. Parents of special education students who are in self-contained classrooms will also have the option

to come back early for on-campus learning or continue distance learning.

## African American Leadership Summit

As the school year began, I was honored to be a panelist at the African American Leadership Institute's recent summit, to discuss at-home learning and how the transition to distance learning impacts children and parents in our community as it relates to access, mental health, resources and other challenges.

As I said to attendees at the summit, our communities, especially our neighborhoods of color, have been hard hit during this pandemic by health and

economic challenges. As the school district moved to at-home learning, these communities were often lacking the internet access that made learning possible. To alleviate the problem, Dallas ISD is trying to ensure that learning continues with connectivity, digital devices and hotspots for all students. This has not been without challenges, but there have been bright spots as well:

- In the first week of online learning, 90% of students had digital devices, and staff scrambled to get laptops, Chromebooks and iPads into the hands of the remaining students. If your child needs internet access,

fill out a mobile hotspot request at [www.dallasisd.org/hotspotrequest](http://www.dallasisd.org/hotspotrequest). For help with devices and passwords, students and parents should first contact their campuses directly. If you're unable to reach your campus, email [disd@service-now.com](mailto:disd@service-now.com).

- The district's Food and Child Nutrition Services team continues to provide curbside meal pickup service, where families can collect a week's worth of meals every Thursday through Oct. 1, and all that is required for pickup is a Dallas ISD student ID. When in-person learning resumes, breakfast and lunch will be available for

students on campus. The team has served well over 10 million grab-and-go meals to families in our school communities during this pandemic.

- The district has started a phased-in schedule of athletic conditioning and other designated UIL activities. Current plans call for the athletic activities to occur outdoors; they will be subject to all approved district safety protocols. To learn more, visit [www.dallasisd.org/athletics](http://www.dallasisd.org/athletics).

Full details about what to expect when schools reopen for in-person instruction are available on the district website, at [www.dallasisd.org/reentry](http://www.dallasisd.org/reentry).

## Student assessment during COVID-19

By Laura Jimenez  
Center for American Progress

Schools face enormous challenges regarding how to operate efficiently and safely for the 2020-21 school year. As part of that response, the U.S. Department of Education issued waivers of the federal annual standardized test requirements in the spring of 2020, when schools physically closed, and tests could not be administered. Some states want this waiver again.

The spring cancellations were a reasonable response to the burgeoning coronavirus pandemic and the unprecedented circumstances requiring the immediate closure of schools without notice or planning. However, the nation is now in a different moment. States have sufficient time to plan how to administer not just the state academic assessment next year, but also to establish protocols through which schools can gather additionally critical information about students. A wider spectrum of data can better guide principals, teachers, and families in

fulfilling students' needs this school year, which continued disruptions will almost certainly exacerbate until students can return to the classroom.

Parents, educators, administrators, and policymakers need more information about how students are doing and being served, not less. These data need to capture multiple aspects of student well-being, including social-emotional needs, engagement, and conditions for learning so that families, educators, and local and state leaders can be responsive to the needs of all students. Just as importantly, there is a need for comparable data to look across schools and student groups to better understand the overall academic performance of children. Therefore, the annual assessment requirement should not be waived; instead, states must adapt and be responsive to the nation's new reality and create a plan to scale back the assessments—not eliminate them. They must also provide options for how schools can administer tests in a way that provides actionable information for

administrators and policymakers who need these data to allocate resources that will support educational recovery.

### Testing in schools

Tests used in schools provide data to meet two distinct purposes: support effective teaching and learning and inform decisions on where states, districts, and schools should focus resources. The data needed to meet these goals come from three types of assessments, which yield different types and levels of information.

Diagnostic tests are given at the beginning of the year to gauge students' starting points and provide guideposts for teachers, schools, and parents to help students access grade-level content.

Formative and interim tests provide touchpoints throughout the year to give guidance on how teachers should customize their practice to improve learning.

Year-end summative tests provide high-level data that show how well all students achieved the state's academic standards and can be compared across a variety of subsets. These

data provide administrators and policymakers insight into how effective schools were overall in the previous year, which is critical information in light of how differently education will be delivered in the 2020-21 school year.

Thus, a state's system of academic assessments should include a well-organized combination of formative, interim, and year-end summative tests that serve to provide a clear purpose for educators, families, administrators, and policymakers.

States can take these four steps to support districts in collecting and using good information about how students are doing.

1. Collect and report data on school models in which students are enrolled

Schools will be completely virtual, have limited in-person instruction, or provide a combination of the two. Furthermore, schools will provide instruction using a variety of duration options—all day, part of the day, all week, or a few days per week. States should collect data on instructional mode and hours to provide useful context

for student achievement data on the state assessment in order to analyze which models were the most successful.

2. Provide guidance on streamlining academic assessment systems

States can develop their own or modify and adopt existing questionnaires and assessment audits for districts to use. For example, the Achievement Network developed a pandemic-specific assessment planning checklist.

Additional resources from the Achievement Network also emphasize the primary goal of assessments: to support grade-level instruction.

3. Collect data across four dimensions related to learning

States should develop protocols for districts to follow in collecting data that address four dimensions critical to student success: conditions for learning, social-emotional needs, student engagement and attendance, and family engagement. The primary question these protocols should answer is, "What do students need to have in place in order to be ready to

learn?"

Phoenix Unified School District in Arizona, for example, is helping to identify and meet a broader range of student needs through its Every Student, Every Day initiative.

4. Modify policy and guidance to administer the annual state assessment in 2020-21

Starting now, states must work with their test vendors and technical advisory committees to identify what is feasible regarding the statewide annual assessment.

### Conclusion

Supporting districts in creating streamlined protocols that look at a wide range of student factors, as well as identifying how the annual state assessments and their administration can be adjusted to collect needed information about student performance, is among the most important work states can undertake if schools are ever to close historic learning gaps.

This will not be an easy feat, but it is necessary to address the longstanding inequities borne by vulnerable students.



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## Plano Animal Services urges caution in wake of second rabies case

Animal Service Director Jamey Cantrell reports Plano Animal Services had a second bat in the last week test positive for rabies. This bat was tested after it came into contact with a resident in the area of W. Parker Road and Independence Parkway. Rabies is a viral disease that occurs in warm-blooded animals and can be contracted by humans through bites from infected animals. "This positive test highlights the importance of being cautious around

wildlife and always reporting any contact with them. It also shows why keeping all pets' vaccinations current — especially rabies — is important since there is no way to predict when a pet may come into contact with a wild animal," says Cantrell. Both State of Texas and Plano city ordinances require that animals receive the rabies inoculation along with subsequent booster shots for the duration of the animal's life.

The Plano Animal Shel-

ter does not routinely test wild animals for rabies unless they have had contact with a person or pet and are one of five high risk non-domestic animals: bats, foxes, skunks, coyotes and raccoons. This particular incident involved a resident who had contact with a bat that was ill and died before Animal Services could pick it up. Due to the nature of the situation, the animal was tested and subsequently found to be rabid.

Rabies is preventable.

The Shelter hosts low-cost rabies vaccination clinic on the third Friday of every month and a special vaccination clinic will be held on Saturday, September 26th. All pet-owners are urged to make sure their pets are vaccinated for their pets' health and the health of their human family. If an owner cannot make this clinic, a list of other available reduced cost vaccination clinics are posted on the city's Animal Services webpage.



Jagam Ogum / Unsplash

## Carrollton Public Library offers Wi-Fi hotspots thanks to state grant

The Carrollton Public Library (CPL) recently received funding from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to further support CPL's efforts in responding to COVID-19 closures and limitations by increasing

digital inclusion throughout the community via mobile hotspots.

The grant, awarded in July, is provided by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. CPL used the funding to purchase 40

mobile Wi-Fi hotspot devices for circulation. The hotspots provide portable internet access for school-work, job hunting, and technical skill-building resources to patrons and can be linked to smartphones, laptops, tablets, and other

mobile devices.

Residents 18 years old and older, in good standing with CPL, can check out a mobile hotspot device for one week from either Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Road) or Hebron & Josey Library

(4220 N. Josey Lane). Each Library currently has 20 hotspots available to check out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scheu said even though the school districts have issued almost all students laptops or tablets, many fami-

lies do not have internet access at home. Students are left to depend on local businesses, the schools, or the Library for Wi-Fi connectivity. Now residents can check out a hotspot device and have that much needed connection.

## DNC, from Page 5

"We cannot afford another four years of Donald Trump's chaotic presidency and the DNC is not taking nothing for granted this November," said DNC Black Caucus Chair Virgie M. Rollins. "We are making the much-needed investments in Black communities across the country to ensure every voter is able to make themselves heard at

the ballot box."

This week, the Biden campaign and Democratic National Committee announced new features on IWillVote.com that help voters easily request and return their ballot by mail, as well as learn important information about the voting process in their state as they make their plan to vote.

The ads highlight

Trump's infamous comments during the 2016 campaign to African American voters — "What do you have to lose?" — and will run for one week.

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) notes with respect and salutes the fact that the DNC has chosen five of our NNPA African American owned newspapers to promote the much needed First National Black Voter Day

across five 'Battleground States.' The Black Press of America encourages a

massive Get-Out-The-Vote starting today across the United States. Black Lives

Matter, Black Votes Matter and the Black Press Matters."



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# AARP polls reveal top concerns for voters 50 and older

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

More than half of voters 50-years and older in crucial battleground states are worried about contracting the novel coronavirus.

At the same time, African Americans are particularly opposed to how President Donald Trump has handled the pandemic, according to extensive polling commissioned by AARP.

In Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, Benenson Strategy Group and GS Strategy Group surveyed 1,200 to 1,600 likely voters from Aug. 30 to Sept. 8 by landline and cellphone.

The margin of error for each was between plus or minus 2.5 percent and 2.8 percent.

In Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, and Montana, the bipartisan polling firms



iStockphoto / NNPA

of Fabrizio Ward and Hart Research did telephone interviews by landline and cellphone of likely voters from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5.

The firms surveyed 800 likely voters, oversampling voters 50-plus in each state. The error margin varied among the states, but each was less than plus or minus 4 percent.

AARP launched the poll on Tuesday, Sept. 15, one week before National Voter Education Day which falls on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Officials said AARP's robust Protect Voters 50+ campaign is designed to reach these voters in each state to make sure they

know how to cast a safe and secure ballot.

Even though 90 percent of older Americans believe that the country has become too divided, AARP's battleground state polls show that the support of voters age 65-plus is very much up for grabs.

For the polling, voters were asked where they stand on a range of concerns — from the coronavirus to the U.S. Postal Service and cuts to Social Security, to the debate over racial justice and law-and-order priorities.

The most significant concern expressed by voters about the virus was

from Florida and Michigan, where 58 percent of respondents said they were worried about contracting the coronavirus.

Fifty-five percent of voters in Pennsylvania and North Carolina noted that they were concerned about catching the illness, and 54 percent of those in Arizona and 53 percent of individuals in Wisconsin voiced the same worry.

More than 80 percent of voters in all six states declared that they would more likely vote for a candidate who increased protections for nursing home residents during the pandemic.

The poll also revealed that African Americans are standing firmly behind Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden over President Donald Trump, whom many Black voters said they oppose how the Republican president has managed the coronavirus pandemic.

Many African Americans expressed that they were more likely to have known someone who died from the virus.

Black respondents relayed concerns that they would catch the virus and related severe reservations about a potential vaccine.

A majority said they'd still refuse to accept a vaccine shot even if offered free of charge.

With the continued debate over voter protections, those in Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, and Montana are divided between those who believe votes that are cast in person at a polling place and those that are mailed will all be counted accurately, according to the poll.

For example, while 51 percent of voters in Georgia believe the count of votes cast in person will be more accurate, 48 percent of voters in Colorado and Montana say mail and in-person

ballots will be counted accurately.

Voters also have varying views on whether the expansion of mail voting will lead to voter fraud.

For example, in Georgia, 61 percent of voters 50-plus believe more mail voting will mean more fraud, while voters in Maine are evenly split — 50 percent to 50 percent — on that question.

Black Americans expressed concern about the U.S. Postal Service and that the reduction of funding would prevent election ballots from being counted.

While African Americans were also troubled by the prospects of in-person voting and wary of early voting, they were less bothered by potential voter fraud, according to the poll.

By overwhelming margins, older voters in 11 states (Arizona, Colorado,

See AARP, Page 15

## ← GINSBURG, from Page 2

Through her cancer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg fought to the end with unwavering faith in our democracy and its ideals, and that's how she'll be remembered, Obama expressed in a written statement. "But she also left instructions for how she wanted her legacy to be honored," the popular former president observed.

Obama recalled when Republicans refused to hold a hearing or an up-or-down vote on his Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, and they invented the principle that the Senate shouldn't fill an open seat on the Supreme Court before a new president was sworn in.

"A basic principle of the law — and of everyday fairness — is that we apply rules with consistency, and not based on what's convenient or advantageous in the moment," Obama demanded.

"The rule of law, the legitimacy of our courts, the fundamental workings of our democracy all depend

on that basic principle. As votes are already being cast in this election, Republican Senators are now called to apply that standard.

"The questions before the Court now and in the coming years — with decisions that will determine whether or not our economy is fair, our society is just, women are treated equally, our planet survives, and our democracy endures — are too consequential to future generations for courts to be filled through anything less than an unimpeachable process."

Sixty years ago, the Brooklyn born Ginsburg applied to be a Supreme Court clerk. She'd studied at two of the country's finest law schools and had ringing recommendations. But because she was a woman, she was rejected, Obama recalled.

Ten years later, she sent her first brief to the Supreme Court — which led it to strike down a state law based on gender discrimination for the first time.

And then, for nearly three decades, as the second woman ever to sit on the highest court in the land, she proved a warrior for gender equality — someone who believed that equal justice under the law only had meaning if it applied to every single American.

"Over a long career on both sides of the bench — as a relentless litigator and an incisive jurist — Justice Ginsburg helped us see that discrimination on the basis of sex isn't about an abstract ideal of equality; that it doesn't only harm women; that it has real consequences for all of us. It's about who we are — and who we can be," Obama remarked, noting that Ginsburg inspired the generations who followed her.

Justice Ginsburg always voiced strong and principled demands for justice and equality for all, and she was a lifelong champion of women's and civil rights, declared Marcela Howell, the founder, and president of "In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agen-

da."

"We are putting the U.S. Senate on notice; we demand that no nominee be voted on until a new president is elected. We will take to the streets in protest

if McConnell and his cohorts do not abide by their own precedent," Howell avowed.

"We promise to continue Ruth Bader Ginsburg's fight for freedom. As we

mourn, we will honor her life and legacy by fighting hard to demand a worthy successor. And we will fight even harder to ensure that all votes are counted on Election Day."





# Cowboys comeback was a pivotal point early in the season

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

If the Dallas Cowboys qualify for the playoffs by a single game this season, they'll probably look back to the dramatic events of Sunday as to the reason why.

Down 20 points after the first quarter and 15 points with under five minutes remaining in the game, the Cowboys rallied and somehow pulled victory from the jaws of defeat en route to executing a stunning 40-39 triumph over the Atlanta Falcons before 21,708 socially distanced fans at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

The Cowboys recovered an improbable onside kick with 1:48 left, and Greg Zuerlein booted a game-winning 46-yard field goal as time expired, leaving Dallas with a 1-1 record and tied with Washington for first place in the NFC East.

"We showed our resiliency today," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "I just want to thank those 21,000-plus fans that showed up today. They were a huge difference. I know the team fed off of that, and I know late in that two-minute drive after the onside kick, it was simply just incredible."

"It was an incredible game to be a part of, but I think the team just showed their faith and resilience in each other."

None of this exuberance appeared probable for the Cowboys after they fumbled four times – they lost three of them – and botched a fake punt, all directly leading to a short field Atlanta had to work with and a 20-0 lead by the Falcons before the first quarter was over. But despite their own failures, the Cowboys hung around long enough to get the biggest break of the game when, trailing, 39-38, C. J. Goodwin recovered an onside kick by Zuerlein.

Instead of going the cus-



All Pro Reels / Flickr

tomary route of placing the ball on a tee and kicking it, Zuerlein laid the ball flat on the artificial turf and kicked it. The ball swirled around several times and there were four Atlanta players near it and could have recovered it before it traveled 10 yards, but they instead chose to let the ball keep swirling around.

By the time the ball traveled 10 yards – when a member of the Cowboys could be the first to legally touch it without being penalized – Goodwin pounced on it at the Atlanta 46-yard line.

"Yeah, with the new rules you have to have something slow where your guys can get to the ball," Zuerlein said. "In years past you could run, so you do different things. But now, you've got to have something slow. It gives our guys a chance to block and hop on it."

"I have never used it before in a game. But we practiced it early in the year just in case because you have to have something."

After Prescott completed a 24-yard pass to rookie CeeDee Lamb to get the Cowboys in field goal range, Dallas ran down the clock and sent Zuerlein out for the game-winning kick.

"It was an excellent big-time home win for us – exciting football game," coach Mike McCarthy said. "We tried everything and we needed everything to get it done. Obviously, the start of the game was not what we were looking for. We had the ball on the ground on six of the first 15

offensive plays.

"Their field position in the first half was definitely overwhelming and it obviously resulted in the point differential. I'll just say this, at halftime we talked about having this opportunity as a new team and we needed this opportunity. I just can't say enough about the fight of the football team."

The Cowboys trailed 29-10 at the half and appeared to lack any type of energy or emotions. So what was it about McCarthy's halftime speech that was so inspiring?

"Coach McCarthy said

it at halftime, 'We need to be here. We need to be right here where we are,' " Prescott said. "The final score didn't matter as much as finding out the type of men that we have within this team. But to show the resiliency to go out there and continue to fight and come out with the win, it does so much."

"That (win) was huge in so many ways."

It was huge, because as running back Ezekiel Elliott said, "No, we weren't supposed to win it. We weren't supposed to win that game. But it is a testament to the type of guys we have in this locker room, and we went out there and got it done."

The Cowboys "got it done" because Prescott became the first quarterback in NFL history to pass for at least 400 yards and rush for three touchdowns in the same game. Overall, Prescott completed 34 passes in 47 attempts for 450 yards and a 10-yard touchdown pass to backup

tight end Dalton Schultz, who caught nine passes for 88 yards.

"He's just so steady," McCarthy said of Prescott. "It's tough on a quarterback, particularly when you get in a hole like that. But I thought we was strong in the pocket."

"I thought he was smart with the football. He's just so composed. I thought he had a very strong performance."

Lamb also had a strong performance as he had six receptions for 106 yards, and Amari Cooper added six catches for 100 yards. Meanwhile, Elliott rushed 22 times for 89 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 33 yards as the Cowboys are now 2-7 in their last nine games that were decided by a touchdown or less.

"Definitely, I'm proud of the team," Prescott said. "Like I said last week, it was just about getting one win underneath our belt. We needed a win in a close game, and it will all start

rolling from here.

"It just gives everybody confidence and juice through the team, coaches and fans as well. It was a one-score game, but we were down a few scores. For us to show the resiliency and stay at it was huge. I'm proud of everybody."

The Cowboys played without nine injured players, including five starters. But they soldiered on and prevailed despite three turnovers, two botched fake field goals and a missed two-point conversion.

"I thought the whole football team, with Dak in the lead there, showed great resiliency," McCarthy said. "The ability to overcome all the adverse situations and take it all the way down to the wire. . ."

"It was great clock management by Dak at the end and Greg nailed it for the victory. We spent a lot of time on the final segments of game and our guys did a great job of executing it here in the clutch. We found out a lot about ourselves."

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# Black Films & Artists Matter at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

TIFF has always been a haven for black films and artists. And now, in this year of BLM, it has stepped up its game showing a particular reverence for African diaspora films. In 2020, film festivals are finding creative ways to present movies to a vast audience as safely as possible. TIFF took a holistic approach. It featured digital screenings, live virtual events, limited capacity theater screenings and drive-in showings.

Check out these noteworthy films that will premiere in your local theaters, on VOD or streaming services in the coming months leading up to the awards season.

**40 Years A Prisoner (\*\*1/2)** In 1978, MOVE, a group of black revolutionary activists, braced for a confrontation with the police in their commune in a Philadelphia rowhouse. Law enforcement was on their doorstep, breaking in. A baby was killed and an officer died. Nine members of the commune, who embraced black power, veganism and an anarcho-primitivism philosophy, were sentenced to 30-40 years in prison. Debbie and



Mike Africa were among the convicted, and she gave birth to a child while incarcerated. Forty years later, their son Mike's fight to get his family paroled is the subject of filmmaker Tommy Oliver's documentary.

Days leading up to the violent incident, the event and its aftermath are recollected by journalists, neighbors, cult members, ex-policemen and politicians who recall the explosive rhetoric and formidable hostilities on both sides. Also, on view is the notoriously aggressive Philly police force and a fiery Mayor Frank Rizzo. But somehow, finding out what really made MOVE members tick is never really clear. Mike wants his parents freed: "I'm committed to them the way

they were committed to me." Audiences might feel that way too if the doc had dug deeper into MOVE's origins. Viewers never find out what the group ever accomplished. To many they were an enigma before screening the film and will remain one after.

**Akilla's Escape (\*\*)** A drug deal goes awry. A seasoned 40-year-old dealer, Akilla Brown (Saul Williams), captures one of the interloping thieves, a teenage Jamaican boy named Sheppard (Thamela Mpumlwana). The teen reminds him of his younger self, when he was a wannabe gangsta in a group called the Garrison Army. With a script by Charles Officer and Wendy Motion Brathwaite and under the direction of Officer,

the overly rich plotline becomes a bit fuzzy as it drifts between Toronto and Brooklyn and the '90s and 2020 with little dexterity. A very loud soundtrack (Robert Del Naja and Saul Williams) pumps up the emotions but can't make up for a story that's way too jumbled, even with its cautionary crime doesn't pay theme. Having Mpumlwana play both Sheppard and the younger Akilla adds to the confusion. Clichéd dialogue often runs in platitudes. The action scenes are never up to the standards of a good crime/action/thriller. Tighter editing and a more fine-tuned script would have helped. Listening to the Jamaican patois is a pleasure.

**Concrete Cowboy (\*\*1/2)** This very endearing father/son drama is as emotionally powerful as The Great Santini and as respectful to Black cowboy culture as Miss Juneteenth. A worried mother (Elizabeth Priestley) forces her troubled teen son (Caleb McLaughlin) to live with his estranged dad

(Idris Elba) for a summer in Philly. Their bonding is rocky. Domineering dad. Son who hangs with a juvenile delinquent (Jharrel Jerome, Moonlight). Tough love? Son: "I ain't staying here." Dad: "Once you step out, that door stays locked until morning!" Evocative images? A horse lives in the dining room of their rowhouse.

The script (Dan Walser and Ricky Staub) examines the inequity of gentrification, the failures of local politicians and need for home ownership in the black community. The story is based on the novel Ghetto Cowboy by Greg Neri and takes its cues from the true-life Fletcher Street Stables. It's a 100-year-old

horsemanship community in North Philadelphia that has been a refuge to troubled youth. First-time feature film director Ricky Staub sets a wondrous and dramatic tone that never wanes. The entire ensemble cast (including Byron Bowers, Lorraine Toussaint and Cliff "Method Man" Smith) shines. British actor Idris Elba morphs into another iconic American characters with an ease and urban drawl that makes the dad figure prominent, in an Oscar-worthy way. Visions of black cowboys galloping on horseback in The City of Brotherly Love are indelible.

**Good Joe Bell (\*\*1/2)**

See FILM, Page 12



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# Supreme Court decision jeopardizes CFPB's future and its independence

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Contributor

A June 29 U.S. Supreme Court split decision represents a major setback to both the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the consumers who have come to rely upon the agency. Since 2010, more than 25 million consumers were helped by the agency's efforts that returned over \$11 billion.

Although the case known as *Seila Law v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, was argued on March 3 of this year, its origins date back to 2017 when *Seila Law*, a California-based debt relief firm,

asked the CFPB to set aside a civil investigative demand (CID) that sought information to determine whether it was engaged in illegal debt relief practices.

CFPB declined to set aside the CID and turned to a California federal court to pursue its interests. In response, *Seila Law* restated its challenge of the independence of the agency's Director who could only be removed by a President for cause, seeking to have the entire agency abolished as unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision refuted CFPB's hallmark: its independent Director. By allowing for an agency Director to be

removed for any reason, it now becomes possible for partisan interests to influence whether or not a full, 5-year term of office enshrined in the law will occur, or that powerful corporations will be held accountable.

The Court majority argued that CFPB is "unique." "The CFPB Director has no boss, peers, or voters to report to," wrote Justice Roberts in the majority opinion and was joined by Associate Justices Sam Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas.

"Yet the Director wields vast rulemaking, enforcement, and adjudicatory authority over a significant

portion of the U. S. economy. The question before us is whether this arrangement violates the Constitution's separation of powers..." "We therefore hold that the structure of the CFPB violates the separation of powers," continued the Chief Justice... The agency may therefore continue to operate, but its Director, in light of our decision, must be removable by the President at will."

The creation of an independent consumer agency was the legislative intent defined in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act. Enacted in the aftermath of the worst financial crisis since that of the 1930s

Great Depression, CFPB assumed direct responsibility for financial oversight and enforcement on a range of consumer issues that included mortgages, small dollar loans, student debt, credit cards and more.

This agency authority included the rights to conduct investigations, issue subpoenas and civil investigative demands, initiate administrative adjudications, prosecute civil actions in federal court, and issue binding decisions in administrative proceedings.

The dissenting opinion written by Justice Elena Kagan was joined by Associate Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer,

and Sonya Sotomayor.

"Throughout the Nation's history, this Court has left most decisions about how to structure the Executive Branch to Congress and the President, acting through legislation they both agree to. In particular, the Court has commonly allowed those two branches to create zones of administrative independence by limiting the President's power to remove agency heads... If precedent were any guide, that provision would have survived its encounter with this Court—and so would the intended independence of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau."

See CFPB, Page 12

## Blake Mycoskie and Kendra Scott join returning guest Sharks Alex Rodriguez and Daniel Lubetzky in new season

"Shark Tank," the critically acclaimed and multi-Emmy® Award-winning business-themed unscripted series that celebrates entrepreneurship in America, adds two brand-new guest Sharks for its 12th season, premiering Friday, Oct. 16 (8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT), on ABC. Blake Mycoskie, founder of TOMS and co-founder of Madefor, and Kendra Scott, founder and CEO, Kendra Scott, LLC, and one of only 16 women to found a \$1 billion company, will appear individually alongside Sharks Mark Cuban, Barbara Corcoran, Lori Greiner, Robert Herjavec, Daymond John and Kevin O'Leary in various episodes during the 2020-2021 season. Alex Rodriguez, legendary baseball player and founder and CEO of A-Rod Corp, and Daniel Lubetzky, founder and executive chairman of KIND, also return for the show's 12th season. Episodes can be viewed the day after their premiere on demand and on Hulu.

Produced by MGM Television and Sony Pictures Television, the unrivaled and beloved show, which has become a culturally defining series, filmed for the

first time ever in Las Vegas, hosted by The Venetian® and Sands Expo & Convention Center.

The new guest Sharks are (alphabetically) as follows:

Blake Mycoskie and Kendra Scott – Designer, founder and CEO Kendra Scott started her company in 2002 with only \$500 and just three months after her first son was born. As a creative mind with a love of natural gemstones, Scott began going door-to-door to Austin boutiques armed only with a tea box full of her jewelry, captivating businesses and customers with her vibrant personality and unique eye for design. Determined to maintain growth and preserve the vision of her business, Scott waited over 10 years to accept outside investments. She has since grown the company to a billion-dollar valuation with over 100 stores nationwide and a thriving e-commerce and wholesale business. According to a 2018 PitchBook study, Scott is among only 16 women in the United States to carry the title of founder of a company valued at \$1 billion. Today, Scott's company continues to operate out of Austin,

Texas, with their state-of-the-art corporate office complete with a design lab and an industry-leading distribution center, both catering to her employees' career goals and family-life balance. With family and fashion as two core pillars of her business, Scott maintains a focus on her third core pillar of philanthropy in all she does. Since 2010, the company has given back over \$30 million to local, national and international causes. On a national level, Scott supports organizations that actively help women and children live their brightest, healthiest and most empowered lives. This comes to life through initiatives like the Kendra Cares program, where the brand brings its customizable Color Bar™ to pediatric hospitals across the country as a creative arts program. Scott has been awarded with the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 National Award, the Breakthrough Award from the Accessories Council Excellence Awards, named Outstanding Mother of the Year by the Mother's Day Council, awarded Texas Businesswoman of the Year by the Women's Chamber of Commerce, listed by

Forbes as one of America's Richest Self-Made Women, listed among the Top 100 Entrepreneurs of the Year by Upstart Business Jour-

nal, and named Best CEO by Austin Business Journal. In 2019, Scott was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. She is a member

of the board of directors for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Follow Kendra Scott on Twitter and Instagram.

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## CFPB, from Page 11

"The Court today fails to respect its proper role," continued the dissenting opinion. "It recognizes that this Court has approved limits on the President's removal power over heads of agencies much like the CFPB. Agencies possessing similar powers, agencies charged with similar missions, agencies created for similar reasons... Congress and the President established the CFPB to address financial practices that had brought on a devastating recession and could do so again. Today's

decision wipes out a feature of that agency its creators thought fundamental to its mission—a measure of independence from political pressure."

It is noteworthy that while the case was under Supreme Court review, the current CFPB Director, made no effort to explain or defend the agency.

In the remaining few months in the current Congress, consumer advocates must now heighten their watchful role to ensure that as many other agency responsibilities can be pre-

served and pursued as legislatively intended.

Many reacted swiftly and directly.

"Though the consumer bureau remains intact, it is worrisome that the Court weakened its political independence from the preferences of any one administration or the political pressure of large financial institutions," said Diane Standaert, Director of the Hope Policy Institute, a nonprofit focused on under-served communities of color and other low-income households. "As laid bare by COVID, the underlying disparities in access to safe financial services creates

the foundation for disparities in economic opportunity, particularly for communities of color."

"The CFPB was created after the Great Recession to protect Americans from unscrupulous businesses that have too much power to wreak havoc on the public," said Ed Mierzwiniski, U.S. PIRG Education Fund's Senior Director of Federal Consumer Programs "Now, the Supreme Court has agreed with the CFPB's director, who actively worked with the Trump administration and a debt collection law firm, of all things, to undermine the Bureau's independence

from politically-connected special interests."

"The Seila decision therefore leaves the CFPB intact but weakens the Director's independence, making it more likely that the Director will hesitate to cross the financial industry players that have the ear of the President — as has happened repeatedly under the current leadership of the CFPB," noted Lauren Saunders, the Associate Director of the National Consumer Law Center.

"We have seen in this Administration how agency heads who dare to express independent views have been short-lived, and it is

unfortunate that the consumer watchdog has lost the critical independence that Congress gave it when addressing the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis," added Saunders. "Nonetheless, the CFPB survives as an agency with the rest of its critical consumer protection tools intact, and it will be up to the current and future CFPB directors to resist political pressure to favor corporations over consumers."

*Charlene Crowell is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

## FILM, from Page 10

Most of Mark Wahlberg's performances are tied to ultra-masculine roles (pugilist in *The Fighter*; bounty hunter in *Transformers: Age of Extinction*). In this touching and sobering family drama, his interpretation of an Oregon father in search of redemption lets him give his most layered, nuanced and sensitive performance yet. In an effort to alert the world to the perils of bullying, Joe Bell (Wahlberg) sets out on a cross-country trek to bring his consciousness-raising speeches to schools, community centers—anyone who will listen. He is supported on his journey by his wife (Connie Britton, *TV's Nashville*) and his vulnerable teenage son (Reid Miller, *TV's Play by Play*).

Screenwriters Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (*Brokeback Mountain*) based their poignant script on real characters. With director Reynaldo Marcus Green (*Monsters and Men*) guiding the production and cinematographer Jacques Jouffret behind the camera, the footage, from highway stretches to football games and local diners looks well composed and staged. Green gets superb performances from the entire cast—especially Wahlberg who should win an Oscar nom. The film has an emotional core that hooks you from the first frame until the final epilogue describing the burdens of the real Joe Bell. Excellent and

heartfelt.

**Memory House (\*\*1/2)** Colonialism is over in Brazil, but its remnants are not. An Indigenous-Afro Brazilian man from the rural north, Cristovam (Antônio Pitanga), has spent decades employed at a milk factory in the south. As the owners try to save money, he's victimized by his job and is the subject of ridicule and physical abuse in the vastly white Austrian heritage community where he lives.

First-time writer/director João Paulo Miranda Maria examines ingrained racism in this modern allegory. As played by 81-year-old actor Antônio Pitanga, the lead character exhibits a natural vulnerability initially that inspires empathy for him and hate for his tormentors. However, the film's mixture of mystical elements (visions, chants and animals) and harsh reality, though ambitious, don't gel well. Also, watching the elderly man be tormented for 93 minutes, without a real payoff, will test the audience's patience. Cinematographer Benjamín Echazarreta (*A Fantastic Woman*) shoots footage that's mesmerizing, especially in an opening sequence with Cristovam in a silver hazmat suit looking like an astronaut. In addition, there is something so spiritual and profound about Pitanga's performance.

**Night of the Kings (\*\*1/2)** La Maca is a notorious, large-scale Côte

d'Ivoire prison that is ruled by its inmates. Prisoners are led by Barbe Noire aka Blackbeard (Steve Tientcheu, *Les Misérables*), a king who is under siege by factions readying a coup. When a young man (Koné Bakary) is imprisoned, he's scared to death. Slyly Barbe Noire deflects attention to a mystical red moon in the night sky and anoints the new inmate as a griot who sees the future and past. To survive the kid must convincingly weave personal anecdotes and historic events into a story that will charm the mob.

With this venture, Ivory Coast writer/director Philippe Lacôte firmly establishes his place among the greatest African filmmakers: Souleymane Cissé (*Yeelen*), Ousmane Sembene (*Guelwaar*) and Abderrahmane Sissako (*Timbuktu*). He creates a unique story, assembles a brilliant cast, sets them in an ominous penitentiary and lets them fend for themselves. Barbe Noire: "If I lose my protection I go from a hyena to a lamb." The red moon aspects add a supernatural effect. Elements of dance, acrobatics, art and theater interact perfectly with a plot that's as rich as any Shakespeare has conjured. Perfectly shot, edited and scored. You've never seen a prison movie like this.

**One Night in Miami (\*\*1/2)** Kemp Powers' provocative play *One Night in Miami* fictionalized a real night on February 25th

in 1964 when boxer Cassius Clay, football legend Jim Brown, activist Malcolm X and soul singer Sam Cooke met at the Hampton House Motel in Liberty City. Actress Regina King, in her feature film directing debut with Powers as her screenwriter, makes the play cinematic.

Clay (Eli Goree, *Race*) has just whooped Heavyweight Champion Sonny Liston in Miami Beach. But due to segregation laws, he can't stay on the beach and gravitates to the black side of Miami Dade County. As he, Brown, Malcolm and Cooke talk, their discussions turn to social, political, racial, sports and artistic issues. Says Malcolm (Kingsley Ben-Adir, *Trespass Against Us*) about the empowerment of black people: "What's good news for the sheep might be bad news for the wolf." When Clay, who will change his name to Muhammad Ali, announces he's going to be a Muslim, Cooke (Leslie Odom Jr., *Hamilton*) asks Brown (Aldis Hodge, *Clemency*) if he will convert too. Brown: "S—t! Have you tasted my grandma's pork chops?!"

The words and performances are so enlightening your eyes will stay glued to the screen. As a director, King makes a lot of right choices. The ensemble acting is commendable—with a special nod to Odom Jr. for using his silky voice to sing Sam Cooke songs. The Clay/Liston boxing match is neatly shot (cin-

ematographer Tami Reiker, *Carnival*) and the time period, locations and places are perfectly rendered all under the warm blanket of a hypnotic score (Terence Blanchard, *Harriet*). There are a few times when scenes stagnate in a motel room so what should remain movielike feels too much like a play. Otherwise, King has been handed a gift by playwright Kemp Powers and she has turned it into a treasure.

**The Water Man (\*\*)** Actor David Oyelowo (*Selma*) makes an odd choice for his directing debut. It's a script (Emily A. Needell) that centers around a family in which the mom (Rosario Dawson) is terminally ill and the father (Oyelowo) and son (Lonni Chavis, *TV's This Is Us*) don't get along. And so the boy sets out on a journey to find the Water Man, a forest creature with magical powers, in hopes that the monster can heal his mom. It's a far-fetched fantasy kids' drama, told from a young boy's point of view. Though Oyelowo's direction is decent, the story never takes you to that special place and the son's venture into the forest rarely feels adventurous. Sightings of Bigfoot are too brief. Special effects are limp at best. The cast is earnest and the tech elements (musical score, cinematography editing) are solid enough to make the movie coherent, but not much more. The only line of dialogue that stands out is dad's admission: "I

would take a short life with your mother rather than a long one without her."

**The Way I See It (\*\*1/2)** Chief Official White House Photographer Pete Souza's photos show that there are clear differences between the Obama administration and the Trump government. His evocative photos tell the story in this illuminating documentary by Dawn Porter (*John Lewis: Good Trouble*). From his close proximity to President Obama, he witnessed a lot: "I know what happened in the room. (that's why) I'm so afraid of what's going on in the Oval Office (now)." Souza, a historian with a camera captures fleeting moments both big and small. Intimate family time, historic achievements (reactions to Bin Laden's killing) and even Obama blocking a shot from a pro basketball player. Prepared to be moved and awed in ways you wouldn't expect. It's a trip down memory lane that should excite citizens about the possibilities for tomorrow. Aloe Blacc sings the soundtrack song *The Future*: "...won't let my passion die...the future belongs to me." A surprisingly galvanizing documentary.

*For more information about the Toronto International Film Festival go to <https://tiff.net/>. Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).*



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The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position. Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

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### Ongoing House of Blues

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las is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

### On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on [https://tao.ai/p/fff/\\_dfw](https://tao.ai/p/fff/_dfw)

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focused career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Representative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between \$12 - \$13.50 per hour plus up to \$1.50 an hour in performance pay. The workdays will vary, must be available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with overtime as needed. Must have at least one year of customer service experience.

**NOTE:** As the recent pandemic has caused many changes to the normal operations of businesses and organizations, double-check any events before attending.

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*Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website [www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org) for their details because of the coronavirus.*

#### September 27, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

September 30, 7 pm

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer from 7 to 8 pm as we pray for the world's coronavirus.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
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### FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat!

Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

#### September 27

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

#### September 30, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer

and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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See CHURCH, Page 14



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# A musical concert or aggravating noise?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

To say the least, and I usually do, this summer has been quite a journey for the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself. I can't remember a summer equal to the one we just went through. The fact that we got through it is amazing.

One night this past week, I turned off the TV; we were getting ready to go to bed when my wife said, "What is that aggravating noise?"

"Listen," she whispered, "don't you hear that noise?"

As I tried to listen, I couldn't hear what she was

hearing. And then I heard it. Somewhere in our living room, a tree frog invited himself to provide us with one of his concerts. There's nothing I like better at night than listening to a tree frog singing its latest song.

"That's not aggravating noise," I replied, "that's a tree frog singing a musical concert for us."

"It is not music," my wife uttered, "it is aggravating noise, and we need to get rid of it right now."

Now, if anybody knows anything about music, it is my wife. She plays the piano, the organ, the guitar, the flute, and many times she plays me. But that's a

different story.

"Where is that aggravating noise coming from?"

At one point, she looked at me and said, "Why are you smiling?"

Not realizing I was smiling, I just looked at her and said, "I'm enjoying that wonderful music."

"Well, stop it and help me find where that tree frog is."

We never did find that tree frog that night. It sang all night long, and when I got up in the morning, it was just finishing its concert.

For the next several nights, that tree frog entertained us with its musical

concert. I enjoyed it while my wife despised it.

A few days later, my wife got up, came into the living room, and asked, "Where is that noise?"

"Oh," I said rather cheerfully, "you mean the musical concert we enjoyed for the last several nights."

She looked at me with one of her looks.

"I think the tree frog has finished its concert and has moved on to its next engagement."

For a moment, I was a little sorry because I enjoyed all the music from that tree frog. If up to me, and it isn't, I would engage that tree frog for a concert

every night.

Last night as we were sitting in the living room, my wife said, "Isn't that wonderful?"

Not knowing what she meant, I asked her, and she said, "that aggravating noise from the tree frog is gone. I really enjoy the quiet."

For a moment, I wanted to reply, "I really enjoyed the tree frog concert." I knew that would not be the proper thing to say at a time like this. There is a time when you can agree on something. We don't have to agree on everything, but we need to agree on that which is important.

Amos, the Old Testament prophet, said it this way, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Throughout my life, I have discovered that the important thing is not what you disagree about but rather what you agree on, and that brings you together.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.*

## CHURCH, from Page 13

### INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website

for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

### September 25, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

### September 27, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate

our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### September 28, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush  
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Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

September 27,

### 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

### September 28, 7 to 8 pm Every Monday Night

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

### September 30, 7 pm

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

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# Receiving bad news



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
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"Also our enemies said, 'Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work'"

(Nehemiah 4:11).

The story is told of a man that opened the letter from an attorney and began to read the contents. The more he read, the sicker his stomach felt. He could not believe the words he was reading.

He said that he literally felt sick with fear. Perhaps you've had a similar experience. Maybe you got news that you've got cancer. Or someone has had an accident. Or you are being sued.

Nehemiah was rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem. The going was tough. As if things were not tough enough, he got a letter from another corrupt government official threatening to kill anyone involved in rebuilding the wall.

"But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat (Nehemiah 4:7-9, the emphases is mine).

There is but one response we should have to bad news. Pray to God and take the necessary steps to defend ourselves against the threat.



*Be The Change members (left to right) Tre Williams Jr., Tavionn Williams, Christopher Samuels, Sabrina Samuels, Tameka Williams, Tre Williams Sr., Chevelle Shufford and Phyllis Stromile gave away \$10,000 in gas recently to help out the community.*

This was Nehemiah's response.

Once you begin to take these actions avoid projecting what might happen to you in the future. This is a sure-fire first step toward depression. Ask God's grace for one day at a time only.

"Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap,

they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" (Luke 12:24-26). Turn your bad news over to the

armed African Americans.

In four of the five states, more than 50 percent were more concerned with maintaining law in order.

In Maine, 46 percent would support a candidate focused on law and order, while 44 percent prefer a candidate focused on racial justice.

In the six battleground states of Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin,

the presidential race is tight among voters 50 and older.

In all those states, the presidential race is within the surveys' margins of error.

Lord. He specializes in turning crises into opportunities.

Talk to God; tell Him that His word tells you that you will be known by your fruits. Pray that the fruit of the Holy Spirit will grow and be evident in your life, that you will be a loving and Christ-like example to others, that you will have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Thank God for His Holy

Spirit that makes this possible, for you know when these fruits are nurtured and grown that you will be happy and content and able to reach the potential that God will have for you.

And, that you will be able to minister to others through the power of the Holy Spirit; that you will be pleasing to God. Ask God to help you to live in the Spirit, not in the flesh.

Always pray and thank God in the name of Jesus.

## AARP, from Page 8

Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin) with competitive races for president and the U.S. Senate declared that they are more likely to vote for candidates who promise to protect Social Security benefits and strengthen Medicare.

With President Trump declaring a platform of law

and order, voters in five key states — Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Maine and Montana — were asked whether they were more likely to vote for a candidate focused on maintaining law and order and preventing looting and rioting in America's cities, or a nominee who is focused on increasing racial justice and reducing police violence against un-

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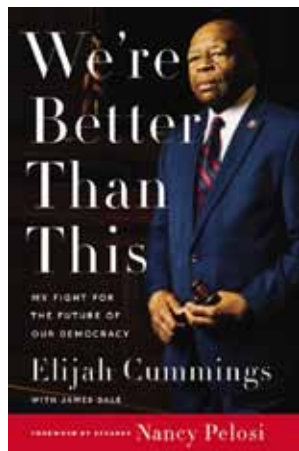
# NDG Bookshelf: 'We're Better Than This' is a great read for this time

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Things could always be worse.

You didn't sleep well last night, your day started earlier than usual, and traffic, ugh; then you forgot your lunch and lost a bag of chips in a vending machine, and you never did catch up. You had a rotten day but look on the bright side: you're above ground and breathing and, as in "We're Better Than This" by Elijah Cummings with James Dale, someone had your back.

Throughout most of his life, Elijah Cummings' parents were his guidelines. "Neither had much education," he wrote; they were



sharecroppers who moved north so that their children could have better opportunities and they motivated Cummings to become a lawyer, Civil Rights worker, and a Congressman. They inspired him to serve, he said, and "I believe that

is why I was put on this earth."

His service began early but his biggest "fight... for our democracy" began in 2017, following his first meeting with the newly-inaugurated president. Cummings believed that despite their fundamental differences, Trump had listened then, and understood the needs of Cummings' constituents, especially in reference to the cost of prescription drugs. Instead, Cummings' words were dismissed and nothing happened.

Though not the type to carry a grudge, Cummings never forgot. When he was asked to serve on the House Committee on Oversight

and Reform two years later, his first thought was for the American people, and the responsibility that his position as chair of the Committee demanded. The Trump Administration, he said, had had no real oversight until then, and he hoped to rectify that. He still had a passion for lowering prescription drugs, but his new position demanded a broader scope of attention.

In months to come, that would include a fight to keep important words off the 2020 Census. It included mentoring and guiding freshman Representatives. And it included the groundwork for impeachment proceedings that Cummings

did not live long enough to see.

Not just for its political implications, but for the everyday lessons inside it, "We're Better Than This" is a book to have now.

Writing literally as he was dying, author Elijah Cummings began his book with two people who appear frequently in it: his parents. From there, he sparkles as a storyteller, sharing vivid memories that are both personal and professional, and that give readers a sharp sense of what drove him. This part speaks volumes about Cummings himself.

It's hard not to be thrilled as he proceeds to his recollections of what happened

while he was chair of the Oversight Committee: riveted as we were by it, Cummings' account of the drama offers further behind-the-scenes peeks at, and his thoughts on, those proceedings. Wisdom, a charming ownership of his constituents, some well-deserved back-patting, and an awareness of his impending death add further luster.

In his introduction, co-author James Dale writes about his friendship with Cummings, and about finishing this inspiring read without him. That alone is poignant; the rest is insightful; and reading "We're Better Than This" is really the best idea.

## TAYLOR, from Page 1

Judge Mary Shaw had signed off on five warrants based on flimsy statements provided by cops who claimed Taylor's ex-boy-

friend was a drug dealer and that they somehow suspected she was involved.

The Grand Jury decision came as little surprise giving

the response this week by Louisville officials, who declared a state of emergency ahead of the reading of the decision.

Also, all off-duty police personnel was called to

work while workers boarded up stores and buildings in downtown Louisville in preparation for the reading of the Grand Jury decision.

"We live in a racist society, to the extent that we

don't even acknowledge that we fail in our ability to correct that," said Sadiqa Reynolds, the president of the Louisville Urban League.

"To believe that there would be charges against

white police officers against this Black woman in this city, this country, is wrong.

"We don't have justice in America. We don't have justice in Louisville," a tearful Reynolds stated.

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