



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Frustration continues to rise in the case of Marvin Scott, III's death

On March 14, Marvin Scott, III died while in the custody of Collin County law enforcement officers. In the time since, family and friends have been trying to get answers and accountability for what happened.

They say they are hitting a brick wall when it comes to responses from the Collin County Sheriff's office. The family and their supporters have pledged to keep up pressure on Collin County officials until their issues are resolved.

This led to a May 2 protest where an altercation between the protesters and a motorist delayed by the blocking of a roadway heated up and seemed to almost come to blows.

A video of the exchange has garnered more than 100,000 views on Youtube and has drawn comments condemning both the motorist and the protesters.

Even Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has chimed in on the video, saying the protesters are the ones who should have been arrested, and implying that one motorist pulled out what appeared to be a gun.

Police later noted that the device was not a gun but a taser, and that the motorist had been charged with assault by contact, as he struck the hand of a protester while apparently trying to swipe a phone from her hand.

At Monday night's city council meeting in Plano, several people



A motorist faces off against protesters at an intersection in Plano during a demonstration related to the death of Marvin Scott, III while in custody in Collin County. The family is looking for accountability for what they believe was another example of a needless death at the hands of law enforcement. (Youtube screenshot)

addressed city leaders concerning the incident, with opinions ranging from those who feel the motorist should have been arrested, to others saying the police had not done enough to stop the "BLM agitators."

One speaker who addressed the council regarding why the protest was held in the first place was disrupted and heckled by audience members in attendance, causing the mayor to intervene.

"The cognitive dissonance in here blows my mind," the female speaker said.

Another speaker who appeared in public suggested Plano being spotlighted this way made it more likely that future protesters would want to come to Plano and try to disrupt the

peace.

Prior to the public comments, Plano City Manager Mark Israelson gave the council an update on the incident with more context than what was shared online in the past week.

He told the council the officer was originally dispatched to a traffic malfunction call. It was then the officer arrived that he discovered there was no malfunction, but that protesters were in the intersection following a planned event in Frisco. At that point, Israelson said the officer's first priority was to de-escalate until other officer could arrive.

Because of the crowd, Israelson said the lone officer did not origin-

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HA Amanda Davenport

### People In The News ...



Dr. Esther Obeng



Cathy Hughes

**NDG Quote of the Week:** "No one should negotiate their dreams. Dreams must be free to flee and fly high. No government, no legislature, has a right to limit your dreams. You should never agree to surrender your dreams." — Jesse Jackson



## HA Amanda Davenport

ST. LOUIS – Hospitalman Apprentice Amanda Davenport, a native of Euless, Texas, assists the vaccination support team at the Dome at America's Center, the current location of St. Louis' Community Vaccination Center, in St. Louis, Missouri, during the community COVID-19 vaccination effort.

Approximately 138 sailors and Marines from San Diego-based Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Commands (NMRTC) are



supporting the whole-of-government vaccination effort at the St. Louis Community Vaccination Center. A majority of the personnel are from EOD Mobile Unit 1 and NMRTC Camp Pend-

leton.

It was in February that the Department of Defense (DOD) received a request from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for support in administering the COVID-19 vaccine at various locations across the country. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin approved the request to augment and expedite vaccinations nation-wide, ordering the first contingent of more than 1,000 active duty military personnel to support state vaccination sites. Currently, approximately 6,000 NMRTC active and reserve component personnel are

deployed in support of the DOD Community Vaccination Center support effort.

"This is history in the making, and I am honored to serve the citizens of St. Louis," said Davenport who currently serves as a Navy hospital corpsman with Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Yuma.

NMRTC is a thriving, global health care system fully engaged and integrated in providing high quality health care to beneficiaries in wartime and in peacetime. NMRTC is a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world

who provide high quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. The highly trained personnel deploy with sailors and Marines worldwide – providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield. At the same time, Navy Medicine's military and civilian health care professionals are providing care for uniformed services' family members and retirees at military treatment facilities around the globe. Every day, no matter what the environment, Navy Medicine is ready to care for those in need, providing world class

care, anytime, anywhere.

The sailors and Marines are certainly providing world class care now, during the pandemic, and their collective efforts are adding up. According to compiled statistics from U.S. Northern Command, as of April 16, 2021, over three million vaccinations have been administered by active duty U.S. DOD service members in communities across the country.

The U.S. Navy continues to support Community Vaccination Centers in Queens, New York; Jacksonville, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts and Norfolk, Virginia.

## Dr. Esther Obeng

By Tom Charlier

Ask Esther Obeng, M.D., Ph.D., about her job title, and she's liable to offer up a variety of terms: physician-scientist, researcher, attending physician and assistant faculty member.

But there's another title, one that preceded her position at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, that's a particular point of pride for her.

"I'm a first-generation American," she said.

Obeng's father came to the U.S. from the West Af-



rican nation of Ghana. Her mother emigrated from the Caribbean. They brought to their new country a strong work ethic and a yearning for excellence.

"Both of them instilled in

myself and my brothers the importance of obtaining a good education in order to achieve goals and accomplish something positive."

Obeng, to be sure, got that good education, earning a Bachelor of Science, medical and doctorate degrees at the University of Miami. And she's put it to use not only to treat patients as a physician, but to conduct research aimed at finding new therapies and cures.

"And that's one of the reasons that I ended up at St. Jude," she said. "I was very interested and excited for the opportunity to take

part in such a novel mission, to try to cure the incurable."

Apart from the science and medicine, there's another reason Obeng has found a home at St. Jude. After arriving, she learned about the research hospital's history as the first fully integrated children's hospital in the South and about its continuing focus in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion.

"That's been a pleasant surprise and something that I'm very proud to be a part of."

Contributions from donors make it possible for

doctors and scientists like Obeng to conduct research and help find cures while ensuring no family treated at St. Jude ever receives a bill. Obeng is able to attend to bone-marrow-transplant patients and has her own research lab. That combination of functions, research along with treating patients, appeals to her.

One of Obeng's favorite experiences came when she emerged from her lab one day and saw a patient who previously had experienced complications waving to her as she left the hospital to go home.

"I think that connection

— being able to be in the lab five minutes ago and then five minutes later see your patient, see that they made it home, I think is one of the special St. Jude moments," Obeng said.

In her lab, Obeng delves into some of the most vexing mysteries of leukemia, such as why normal cells turn cancerous and how cancer cells can become resistant to drugs.

"What we've been focused on is trying to identify how different genetic changes or mutations cause normal cells to grow like

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## Cathy Hughes

By Keith L. Alexander  
for the NNPA

For media mogul and entrepreneur Cathy Hughes, this year's Mother's Day was going to be difficult.

Last July, Hughes's mother, Helen Jones Woods, 96, died from complications of Covid-19. For the 74-year-old Hughes, multi-millionaire and founder and chairperson of Urban One Inc., this year marks Hughes's



first Mother's Day without her mother present.

And while many might

consider those individuals able to spend more than seven decades with their mother as fortunate, Hughes said such longevity also created a startling realization. "The longer God blesses you with having your mother in your life, the more difficult it is to adjust to life without her," she said.

It was during Hughes's mourning, that she birthed an idea to not only celebrate her mother's life with a national TV program, but to also celebrate and honor the

lives of other African American women who -specifically during the pandemic – worked at protecting and spotlighting Black Americans.

On Sunday, May 16, 2012 at 9 p.m. (EST) Hughes's cable TV networks, TV One and its sister network CLEO-TV, will air the network's annual "Urban One Honors" celebration. The two-hour program this year will be a first; all honorees are African American women. The show is

themed "Women Leading the Change."

Hughes said the women honored left an indelible mark on the country last year, one of this nation's darkest and most challenging periods in American history due to the deadly pandemic.

The show is co-hosted by Grammy-award winning singer and syndicated gospel radio show host Erica Campbell and award-winning journalist and news commentator Roland Mar-

tin. The recorded, virtual awards show will feature live performances by R&B saangers, Avery Sunshine and Jazmine Sullivan, gospel powerhouse Le'Andria Johnson and legendary rapper, Da Brat.

The program will honor six Black female leaders in business, politics, journalism and humanitarian efforts including Atlanta's political powerhouse and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Stacey

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# A Transformational President

By Congressman  
James E. Clyburn (D-SC)

President Biden has completed the first 100-days milestone that has been used since Franklin Roosevelt to assess new presidents' progress towards keeping their campaign promises and their prospects for having a successful presidency. So far, in my estimation, Joe Biden is keeping his promises and succeeding in getting the country back on track in our "pursuit of a more perfect union."

It was much more than a political assessment when I declared 15 months ago that "we know Joe, and most importantly, Joe knows us." Joe Biden is succeeding because of he understands the needs and aspirations of the American people. His bold and inclusive initiatives are restoring the faith of those who have been hardest hit by the current health and economic crises and raising the hopes of those who had already been hard hit by injustices in our society long before these crises struck.

After a plethora of Executive Orders on his first day in office, President Biden's first legislative success was the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The ARP enjoys 77% support among all voters, including 59% of Republican voters. It has put America on a path of fully reopening safely. It has helped make hundreds of

millions of vaccines available, and it has stabilized millions of American families. It has kept many small businesses from closing, and, when fully implemented, will lift more than half of the nation's poverty-laden children out of poverty.

The Administration's top priority for the next 100 days is passing the comprehensive American Jobs Plan (AJP). The AJP will create good-paying jobs by investing in our long-neglected infrastructure. President Biden recognizes that infrastructure now includes the information highway, and his proposal will bring affordable, high-speed internet to every home. His plan also includes investments in green energy technology and other research innovations that will help America build a forward-looking economy that will provide sustainable economic growth.

President Biden is also proposing to invest in our country's human infrastructure through another transformative initiative supporting the bedrock of our nation's foundation—families. His American Families Plan (AFP) will stabilize and uplift families by extending the child tax credit enhancement, supporting childcare workers and families who pay for childcare, providing universal pre-K, making two years of community college free, and

expanding access to quality, affordable health care. These proposals will reduce systemic barriers that have prevented low-income and many communities of color from fully enjoying the greatness of our great nation.

The American people overwhelmingly support the President's agenda. One recent poll found 68% of Americans support the AJP, and 64% are in favor of the AFP. These numbers far exceed the margin of Biden's election victory. These numbers refute critics who claim President Biden's agenda is too progressive and has no support among Republicans.

It is wrongheaded to view bipartisanship through the lens of 212 Republican House Members and 50 Republican Senators. I hope Republican Members will listen more closely to the American people, Democrats and Republicans. But if they fail to do so, Democrats will unilaterally act to serve and protect Americans irrespective of political persuasions.

Following President Biden's first speech to a joint session of Congress, we all heard the partisan Republican opposition to his agenda led by Senator Tim Scott from my home state of South Carolina. Unable to debate the merits of President Biden's proposals, Senator Scott instead

focused on the price tag and racial issues. He and his partisans never questioned the cost of the \$1.9 trillion tax cut for the wealthiest Americans and corporations under the previous president. Their tax cut for the wealthy increased the national debt and exploded the deficit. It is becoming clear to the American people that their fiscal restraint is more about who is benefiting from government spending than the amount of money being spent.

President Biden fully pays for both the American Jobs and Families Plans. He is asking wealthy Americans and corporations to pay their fair share. President Biden, and all of us, applaud their successes made possible by America's greatness. But it is time for that greatness to be accessible and affordable for all.

Joe Biden has already demonstrated that he intends to keep the promises he made during the campaign. He is relating to people in a personal way and is proposing policies that will directly address the needs of individuals, their families, and their communities. He is not putting a price tag on the American dream. He is making investments to help all Americans realize their dreams. I believe this approach is truly transformational in its potential for dramatic progress toward liberty and justice for all.

## Facebook is close to getting it right

By the Center for  
American Progress

After the deadly attack on the Capitol, Facebook finally suspended the former president's account.

On Wednesday, the Facebook Oversight Board, made up of outside experts with its own staff established and funded by Facebook, announced that it would uphold Facebook's decision to restrict Trump from both Facebook and Instagram. However, the board punted the final decision back to Facebook, to "reexamine the arbitrary penalty it imposed on Janu-

ary 7 and decide the appropriate penalty."

While we are relieved to learn that Trump will, at least temporarily, no longer be allowed to spread lies about election fraud and incite violence, as he did on January 6 and the years that led up to it, the Oversight Board must continue to do everything in its power to stop hateful activities and disinformation targeting marginalized communities around the world.

In affirming this decision, the Oversight Board has tak-

en a first step in preventing future Facebook-fueled tragedies, but beyond individual cases, Facebook's systemic problems promoting hate speech, violent rhetoric, and misinformation persist. As the only legitimate form of democratic oversight, lawmakers should investigate and address these systemic problems to prevent future violence.

Facebook must now make the indefinite suspension a permanent disabling of the page and account, and it should do so immediately.

**"A Fitting Memorial"**  
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# Biden-Harris deliver funds to support older Americans' health

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living has released \$1.4 billion in funding from the American Rescue Plan for Older Americans Act programs, including initiatives to support vaccine outreach and coordination, address social isolation, provide family caregiver support, and offer nutrition support.

The department also plans to fund justice programs to ensure the safety and protection of older adults.

According to a White House fact sheet released on May 3, officials plan to distribute the funds as follows:

- \$750 million for meals for older adults. With this funding for Older Americans Act nutrition programs,



*In the first 100 days, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken significant steps to address the health and security of older adults, the White House stated. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

states will be able to continue home-delivered meals as well as "drive-through" or "grab-and-go" meals for older adults who typically would participate in meal programs at community centers that have been closed due to the pandemic. It will also allow states to re-open meal program locations safely that might have closed during the pandemic.

- \$460 million for Home and Community Based Ser-

vices (HCBS) through the Older Americans Act. This funding provides help to those who need it for help with household chores and grocery shopping; transportation to essential services (such as grocery stores, banks, or doctors); and case management. The funding can also be used to vaccinate older Americans and address the effects of extended social isolation.

- \$44 million for evi-

dence-based health promotion and disease prevention. This includes programs to address fall prevention, managing a chronic disease, and programs to detect and reduce depression among older Americans.

- \$145 million to help family caregivers support their loved ones.

This funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program will assist family and informal caregivers to provide in-home supports, including counseling, respite care, training and more.

- \$10 million to safeguard the health and welfare of residents in long-term care facilities. These funds will support State Long-term Care Ombudsman programs to advocate on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities across the country. This money will allow ombudsman programs that are advocating for residents to

safely go back into facilities after they had to discontinue that support during the pandemic, and continue to promote the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents.

The announcement coincided with a presidential proclamation honoring May 2021 as Older Americans Month.

"The proclamation recognizes that older Americans and families have faced substantial challenges during the last year, and their resilience and strength have made our country stronger," administration officials stated. "Older adults deserve to age with dignity and have equitable access to the long-term care system, regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, or socioeconomic status."

"The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to expanding access to health care, nutrition services, caregiving, and opportuni-

ties to age in place for all older Americans."

In the first 100 days, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken significant steps to address the health and security of older adults, the White House stated.

In addition to the funding announced today, the Administration has:

- Expanded Funding for Home and Community Based Services.

- Increased Access to Affordable Housing for Seniors.

- Provided COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing for Elderly Residents of HUD-Assisted Housing.

- Expanded Nutrition Assistance for Low-Income Seniors.

- Proposed Robust Investments in the Caregiving Economy.

"The American Jobs Plan

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## Hospital groups seek action on drug company violations of 340B law

WASHINGTON, DC — The leaders of six major organizations representing hospitals and pharmacists recently sent a letter to U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra urging him to halt the actions of six drug companies that are denying 340B discounts on prescription drugs sold to hospitals treating a large percentage of low-income urban and rural Americans.

The letter—signed by

340B Health, the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), America's Essential Hospitals (AEH), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the Children's Hospital Association (CHA)—asks the Secretary "to halt this detrimental and illegal conduct."

The 340B law requires drug companies to offer discounts on outpatient

drugs to hospitals and other providers that serve patient communities in need, including patients in rural areas. These savings enable hospitals to provide more comprehensive health care and support to patients—including free or no-cost care—at no cost to taxpayers.

Beginning in July 2020, six major drug companies—Eli Lilly, Sanofi, AstraZeneca, Novartis, United Therapeutics and Novo

Nordisk—began denying 340B discounts for drugs purchased by hospitals, community health centers and public health clinics that partner with community pharmacies to dispense certain outpatient drugs. Those denials have sapped resources from safety-net hospitals that are used to care for patients with low incomes and those in rural communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. 340B hospitals provide a

large proportion of hospital care for Americans in Medicaid and uncompensated and unreimbursed care.

In December, the HHS General Counsel issued an

Advisory Opinion stating that drug manufacturers must provide 340B discounts for drugs dispensed

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## Free Pfizer vaccinations offered in Lewisville

LEWISVILLE, — Westside Baptist Church is again helping the community by offering free Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 900 Bellaire Boulevard in Lewisville.

Participants will register on site for both first and second shots. Once an individual receives their first

Pfizer vaccine, they get the second one three weeks/21 days later.

Medical personnel will give the free Pfizer vaccinations on a first-come, first-serve basis under CDC guidelines.

Stated Senior Pastor Dr. Delvin Atchison, "Westside Baptist is proud and grateful to help protect the com-

munity, the homeless and disenfranchised included, from COVID-19."

For more information

about the vaccination, call 972-221-5668 or visit the church's website at [www.WBCCChurch.org](http://www.WBCCChurch.org).

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# Texas Attorney General unblocks Twitter critics in *Knight Institute v. Paxton*

*Move signals victory in securing Texans' First Amendment rights*

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has unblocked the nine plaintiffs whom the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University and the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas represent in an ongoing lawsuit challenging Paxton's practice of blocking critics from his Twitter account.

Paxton had blocked the plaintiffs from his @KenPaxtonTX account after they criticized him or his policies in their own tweets.

"We're pleased that attorney general Paxton has agreed to unblock our plaintiffs in this lawsuit and are hopeful that he will do the same for anyone else he has blocked from his Twitter account simply because he doesn't like what they have to say," said Katie Fallow, a senior staff attorney at the Knight First Amendment



Jennifer Moo / Flickr

Institute. "Multiple courts have recognized that government officials who use their social media accounts for official purposes violate the First Amendment if they block people from those accounts on the basis of viewpoint."

"This is a step in the right direction. Attorney General Paxton cannot prevent Texans from exercising their First Amendment rights, including their right to criti-

cize his policies and qualifications in their responses to his tweets," said Kate Huddleston, attorney for the ACLU of Texas. "It remains to be seen, however, whether the attorney general will unblock other Texans whose speech he's suppressed. It shouldn't take a lawsuit for Attorney General Paxton to comply with the Constitution."

As the complaint in the lawsuit explains, Paxton

uses the @KenPaxtonTX Twitter account to announce, describe, and defend his policies and legal challenges brought by his office; to comment on national and local issues; and to share news appearances and interviews related to his official duties. These tweets typically generate dozens, if not hundreds, of engagements on Twitter in the form of replies, likes, retweets, and quote tweets.

Some of the individual plaintiffs in the lawsuit found themselves blocked from Paxton's account after they tweeted their views about the top Texas law enforcement official's qualifications and policies, including tweeting about funding for lawsuits brought by his office; commenting on the fact that he was previously indicted; or tweeting "wear a mask nerd," after Paxton

retweeted a photo of himself and another person at the Conservative Political Action Conference, with neither of them wearing masks.

The U.S. Courts of Appeals for both the Second and Fourth Circuits have held that public officials who block people from their official social media accounts based on viewpoint are violating the First Amendment, while the Eighth Circuit has adopted the same general framework for evaluating social media blocking by government officials. In *Knight Institute v. Trump*, the Second Circuit held that President Trump could not block users from his @realDonaldTrump account because "he disagree[d] with their speech." Earlier this year, the Supreme Court found the case to be moot and vacated the Second Circuit

decision on that basis, without addressing the merits. Read more about this case here: <https://knightcolumbia.org/cases/knight-institute-v-trump>

Read more about *Knight Institute v. Paxton* here: <https://knightcolumbia.org/cases/knight-institute-v-paxton>

The individual plaintiffs include a U.S. Army veteran, a journalist, a director of a Texas nonprofit, an immigration advocate, two students, a sales representative, a communications project assistant, and an attorney.

Lawyers on the case include, in addition to Fallow and Huddleston, Lyndsey Wajert, Jameel Jaffer, and Alex Abdo of the Knight First Amendment Institute, and Andre Segura, legal director of the ACLU of Texas.

## Rep. Sherman calls on Texas to 'make Juneteenth a state holiday'

AUSTIN — Juneteenth was recognized in the State of Texas as an official holiday on January 1, 1980. Currently however, the holiday is considered only a partial staffing holiday and government offices do not officially close on June 19th allowing instead for employees to officially celebrate

only by choosing it as one of four optional holidays recognized by Texas.

State Representative Carl O. Sherman's (D-109) House Bill 736 encourages the passage of a paid Juneteenth holiday for public employees in the State of Texas.

"This Bill is important

in order to fully recognize Juneteenth as an important and recognizable holiday and not merely an added holiday that employees can choose to recognize as an option," Representative Sherman said.

House Bill 736 calls for the closing of state agencies and institutions of

higher education for the observance of the Juneteenth Holiday.

To that end, State Representative Sherman will be supporting an upcoming inaugural Juneteenth Celebration March and Festival made possible by both The Blair Foundation and The Elite News as a reminder

of the importance of this holiday.

"It is about being respectful of our heritage and our culture," said Elite News' Editor-in-Chief Darryl Blair. "Dallas will be the epicenter for this Juneteenth celebration from all over Texas. Juneteenth is an example that if you don't

celebrate your own heritage and you don't bring respect to your own why should anyone else," Blair said.

Juneteenth is the oldest celebrated national remembrance of the ending of slavery in the United States.

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2265	<b>Tic Tac Snow</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.54	\$1	5/19/21	11/15/21
2235	<b>Cowboys</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	5/19/21	11/15/21
2236	<b>Houston Texans</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	5/19/21	11/15/21
2263	<b>Money Multiplier</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.92	\$5	5/19/21	11/15/21
2253	<b>\$200,000 Extreme Cash</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.30	\$5	5/31/21	11/27/21

Tlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2021 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



## New Lexia white paper gives insight on blended and remote learning success

(American Consortium for Equity in Education) A common misconception is that simply integrating technology into the school day constitutes a blended learning approach. But just the presence of technology is not enough for blended learning. Liz Brooke, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, the chief learning officer of Lexia Learning, a Cambium Learning® company, has authored a white paper titled “4 Keys to Success Using Blended Learning Models in the Classroom and in a Remote Environment.” The white paper discusses the factors that district administrators should consider for successfully planning and implementing blended learning in the traditional classroom,



remotely or in a hybrid environment.

“When schools were thrown into remote learning last spring, some of the programs they selected may not have had all four components for success,” said Brooke. “As schools assess reopening plans for the spring and fall semesters,

they have an opportunity to re-examine the blended learning tools being used in terms of both efficacy research around the programs and the success factors mentioned in this white paper.”

The success factors are as follows:

- A technology tool that

adapts to each student’s abilities

- An instructional program that captures student data

- Resources for teacher-led instruction

- Next-step recommendations for the teacher

By bearing these factors in mind, schools can avoid common technology pitfalls such as programs that provide “adaptive assessment” but not “adaptive instruction.” While such programs can place students at the proper instructional level, they will only provide one-size-fits-all instruction rather than targeted scaffolding and instruction.

“Without the capture of student data, an educational tool cannot differentiate

students’ learning paths from session to session,” explained Brooke. “It also limits how well educators and administrators can monitor student progress, which can exacerbate the problems they have experienced with at-home online instruction.” A lack of targeted resources for teacher-led instruction results in teachers having to add to their heavy workloads further as they hunt down appropriate materials for struggling students.

Even when technology-based tools provide real-time data on student progress, teachers are still faced with the challenge of analyzing and connecting that data to appropriate instruction or interven-

tion strategies. “Schools can dramatically improve teacher effectiveness by implementing technology that takes the guesswork out by automatically providing personalized recommendations for teacher intervention,” said Brooke.

“This white paper shares guidelines on how to effectively personalize instruction whether it’s face-to-face, hybrid or remote,” Brooke continued. “The focus is on these key factors for successful blended learning programs, but we should always remember that the teacher plays a central role in all blended learning models. These other four factors simply empower educators and maximize their effectiveness.”

## National search underway for missing Arizona teens

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) urgently needs the public’s help finding Senna Saucier, 17, and Kameron Lensing, 17, who may be traveling together in the Fort Smith, Arizona area. They may be in the company of an adult male

and female.

Senna, who is white with blonde hair and grey eyes, has been missing from Morilton, Arizona since April 17, 2021. She is 5-foot-4 and weighs 155 pounds. Kameron has been missing from Fort Smith, Arizona since April 15, 2021. He is white

with hazel eyes and blond hair. Kameron is 5-foot-7 and weighs 188 pounds.

If you have any information, please contact NCMEC at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or the Fort Smith Police Department in Arizona at 1-479-709-5100.



*Senna Saucier (at left) and Kameron Lensing (right) are both 17 years old and have been missing from their homes in Arizona since mid-April. They may be traveling in the company of an adult male and female.*

## Edthena names winners of the 2021 Teacher Leader Impact Awards

Coinciding with Teacher Appreciation Week, Edthena is announcing this year’s honorees for the Teacher Leader Impact Awards which recognizes the outstanding achievements of teacher leaders nationwide. All nine of the honored educators were nominated by an administrator in their district for making a measurable impact on others and creating positive lasting change.

“We were blown away by the truly remarkable ac-

complishments and contributions of teacher leaders from across the country,” said Adam Geller, founder and CEO of Edthena. “From supporting students and fellow teachers to spearheading school-wide initiatives, all of the honored educators exemplify true leadership and are so deserving of this recognition.”

This year’s Teacher Leader Impact Award recipients are:

- Tasha Jones of Putnam County Charter School

System in Eatonton, GA

- Daniel Miller of Fairfax County Public School System in Falls Church, VA

- Stacy Musick of Chambersburg Area School District in Chambersburg, PA

- Meagan Pryor of Keller Independent School District in Keller, TX

- Desire Roberts of Nampa School District in Nampa, ID

- Jill Taylor & Holden Rowe of Broken Arrow Public Schools in Broken Arrow, OK

- Marisa Specht of Griffith Public Schools in Griffith, IN

- Alicia Stevens of Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township in Indianapolis, IN

“This year teachers have worked so hard to ensure students feel safe, respected, and have their social and emotional needs met, all while working to meet rigorous academic expectations,” said Alicia Stevens, honored teacher leader from Indiana. “ALL

teachers have done a phenomenal job to make this year happen. It is truly an honor to be chosen for this award!”

During the nomination process, district-level administrators provided a summary of the nominee’s achievements and a description of why the nominee is deserving of this recognition.

“Daniel is a lead teacher by nature and creates a learning ecosystem that is second to none. I have

never seen anybody who creates community while at the same time topping the charts on test scores,” noted a Fairfax County Public School System administrator in the nomination of Daniel Miller. “There is no doubt he leads with inclusion, equity, and opportunity at the core and that is transformational.”

To learn more about the Teacher Leader Impact Award and this year’s winners, visit <https://teacher-leaderimpact.org/>.

## 340B, from Page 4

through hospitals’ eligible contract pharmacies. However, HHS indicated it plans to use a new administrative dispute resolution (ADR) process to adjudicate the

claims, but this is not a reasonable solution. The process has yet to be implemented and it currently is undergoing legal challenges while the harm to hospitals

and the patients they serve continues.

The letter to Becerra stresses the urgent need for action, including imposition of financial penalties on the drug companies. “The General Counsel’s advi-

sory opinion agreed with us that the 340B law requires drug companies to offer 340B discounts to participating hospitals for drugs dispensed through community pharmacies,” the letter notes. “Moreover, HHS has

the tools to address this illegal behavior. To that end, we are respectfully requesting that the Department immediately and definitively state that these refusals to provide discounts are illegal and take the action

Congress specifically prescribed to address this type of situation – civil money penalties.” A 2010 law provides for penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation for any instance of a drug company denying a required discount.



## Carrollton swears in two city councilmembers for consecutive terms

CARROLLTON — Two of the four Carrollton City Council seats from the May 2021 General Election ballot were sworn in during the Tuesday, May 11 meeting at City Hall.

Current Mayor Pro Tem Steve Babick was sworn in for a second term to Place 1 with more than 67 percent of the vote, and current Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pat Cochran, running unopposed, was sworn in for

a second term to Place 3. The two remaining Council seats will be decided in a runoff election held on Saturday, June 5.

Candidates Nancy Cline and Annette W. Reese are running for Place 5, currently occupied by Councilmember Glen Blanscet, who has served since May 2015.

Place 7 candidates H.A. "Rusty" Pendleton and D. Michelle Ocker are running

for the seat held by Councilmember John Sutter, who has also served since May 2015.

Both Blanscet and Sutter have reached the end of their terms in office, each having served two consecutive three-year terms. Both will continue to serve until the results of the June runoff election have been canvassed.

For more information, visit [cityofcarrollton.com](http://cityofcarrollton.com).



## SHERMAN, from Page 5

"Until African Americans were free America was not free. We are not free until the whole family is free. We are all made of one blood," said Represen-

tative Sherman. "It is of interest to every man and woman in the state that we make sure we recognize such a substantial day in the history of the State of

Texas."

House Bill 736 and the upcoming inaugural event is just one more way to shed light on the importance of naming the Juneteenth Holiday a celebration that all Texans can enjoy.

## New Toastmasters group seeks to help timid public speakers

FLOWER MOUND. LEWISVILLE — The number one fear of Americans is not death, financial ruin or divorce — it is public speaking.

But now, a new group named Fearless Toastmasters will help Flower Mound and Lewisville residents and those who want to join virtually overcome that fear. According to Prakash Murthy, "Fear is a motivator to learn and grow."

Said Murthy, "Fearless Toastmasters will help you think quickly and clearly, speak and present in a compelling manner, become a strong leader who mentors and listen to others effectively."

Guests who want to attend a meeting may do for free and will not be subjected to pressure to participate until they are

comfortable doing so. Residents of Lewisville and Flower Mound and those who attend virtually are all welcome.

The Fearless Toastmas-

ters, Club 7594460, meet every second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9:30-10:45 a.m. For more information, call 214-707-2037



Members of the newly formed Fearless Toastmasters celebrate the chapter's inception. Holding the banner (left to right): Jorge Best, Joyce Trimble, Elly Malaxos and Prakash Murthy. Front (left to right): Tim Fields, Jaya Murthy, Sarah Sandle, Sowmya Krishnaswamy, and Nora Colorado. Back (left to right): Elicia Cook, Rachel Minch, Holly Sample, Marco Villanueva, Stella Timmons, Sri Krishnaprasad, Rick Pena, Robert Colorado, Vish Madhugiri, Chris Xu and Shilpa Haricharan. (Courtesy photo)

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# Century mark of 1921 Black Wall Street Massacre highlighted by National Black Power Convention

WASHINGTON -- Memorial Day weekend 2021 (May 28-31) will mark the 100-year anniversary of one America's worst and horrific racial tragedies: The 1921 massacre of Blacks in Tulsa, OK and the destruction of the remarkable Black economy of Black Wall Street by Whites.

Amidst the backdrop of national outrage over police brutality, police killing of unarmed Blacks, and on the heels of the conviction of Derek Chauvin for the brutal murder of George Floyd, the 100-year anniversary of the Black Wall Street Massacre has taken on new significance for the nation.

Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre | HISTORY Channel 100 years following the massacre in Tulsa, Blacks in America are still trying to gain Reparations for a litany of such atrocities,



ties, and they are still wrestling with the question of how to stop the bloody brutality that our people are

still receiving at the hands of the police departments of America.

On May 28-30, 2021,

the National Black Power Convention will take place in Tulsa, OK to commemorate the Black Wall Street Massacre. National Black leaders and organizations from all over America will be speaking and attending over the three days.

A highlight of the convention will be a huge Second Amendment, armed demonstration to take place on Saturday, May 29th in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, OK; the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre. Black self-defense groups, and African-American gun clubs from all over America will be gathering by the hundreds (maybe thousands) to demonstrate to the nation the important message of: "Never again will we allow a Black Holocaust to take place!" A national defense program for Blacks is coming into existence.

The National Black

Power Convention is being co-sponsored by the Elmer Geronimo Pratt Gun Club (egpgunclubcentral-texas.com); the Huey P. Newton Gun Club (Huey P Newton Gun Club); and the New Black Panther Party (BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT). The convention is supported by 60 Black organizations throughout the country.

According to convention co-host and Second Amendment March co-leader Nick Bezzel (EGPGC): "We have to let the entire world know that the Second Amendment applies to Black Americans; the same as to every other citizen of this country."

Babu Omowale, leader of the Huey P. Newton Gun Club says "We must honor our ancestors. The best way to honor the ancestors is being well-trained better prepared than ever to defend ourselves against

racist attacks. We must achieve this for the future of our women and babies."

The Convention's keynote speaker is Attorney Malik Z. Shabazz, national president of Black Lawyers for Justice (blackrightsmatter.org) and NBPP Chairman Emeritus. Shabazz is known nationwide as a key figure in litigating police brutality cases as well as a prime figure in the Black movement for over three decades.

Shabazz says: "The 100-year anniversary of the Holocaust of Black Wall Street is a rallying cry to all Blacks that we must fight on every front to protect the legal and human rights of our people and we must unite and organize with a zealous fierceness never witnessed before."

For all information contact: (512) 364-0050 or 1 (844) 41BLACK (844-412-5225).

## OBENG, from Page 2

cancer cells, with the goal of trying to find specific agents or therapies that will wipe out those cancer cells without causing much more toxicity," she said.

Obeng's lab is working with a number of differ-

ent patient groups — those with leukemia and sickle cell disease, as well as children who have undergone bone marrow transplants — to design studies to identify cancer-causing mutations and then develop clinical

trials with therapies that target them.

"One of the reasons that I study the research that I do is I had a patient who had a type of bone marrow failure syndrome. And her parents said, when she ultimately passed away, that they knew that they

received the best care possible, and they just wished we knew something more,"

Obeng said.

"That inspires me, in my research, to look for some-

thing more. It's a privilege every day to take care of patients just like that one."

## SCOTT, from Page 1

ally see the contact between the motorist and protesters. It was after conferring with both parties, as well as reviewing video of the incident, that the assault charge was filed.

He also said the blocking of the intersection only lasted approximately seven minutes.

The fallout from this event continues to draw attention to the Scott case, and a family's efforts to find answers.

Scott had been arrested on marijuana charges following his interaction with officers from the Allen Police Department outside an

outlet mall. While in jail, officers said Scott began behaving strangely and was combative when they tried to restrain him.

Collin County's chief medical examiner, Dr. William Rohr, listed the cause of death as "fatal acute stress response in an individual with previously diagnosed schizophrenia during restraint struggle with law enforcement."

There were seven officers placed on leave and then fired after the death of Scott. However, one of the officers has since been brought back to the facility.

Elizabeth Michel, a fam-

ily friend, has been looking for answers from the Sheriff as to why.

"Well, now you have an employee that you terminated for violating 'well-established policies and procedures' back working in that facility," Michel wrote in an email. "So again, I ask you, what have you done to retrain, re-educate, and ensure that your officers know the training and follow the training? You are responsible for their behavior. What is your plan to fix this internally???"

As of press time, it was Michel's sixth attempt to get answers to these questions from the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

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# PGA Tour announces partnership with NNPA on National Golf Day

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was a prime focus during the 2021 National Golf Day event held virtually on Monday, May 10.

We Are Golf, a coalition of the game's leading associations and industry partners, usually hosts the event in Washington, D.C., with industry leaders, members of Congress, the Executive branch, and federal agencies.

Because of the pandemic, this year's event occurred virtually.

The biggest announcement came during the first hour when Neera Shetty, the Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at the PGA Tour, announced that the organization is entering a relationship with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association that represents the Black Press of America.



The PGA Tour currently has a 10-year and \$100 million commitment to support racial equity and inclusion. (Photo via NNPA)

"The Tour has entered into a relationship with the NNPA, which has an outreach to over 230 publications that reach Black and African American audiences, and we are planning to leverage that," Shetty proclaimed.

"I think that what we're seeing now, which is different, is just that everybody is coming together and really putting some passion and thought into how we can work collaboratively to try to overcome some of the past issues and really move forward in this area."

While National Golf Day celebrates the sport's more

than \$84.1 billion annual charitable impact and its environmental and fitness benefits, the event kicked off with a panel discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

"We are not that far removed from when there was a Caucasian-only clause in the PGA bylaws," Shetty stated, who participated on a panel that included Sandy Cross, the Chief People Officer at the PGA of America, and Laura Diaz, the Director of Foundation Operations with the LPGA.

Shetty noted the Caucasian-only clause existed be-

tween 1939 and 1961, and it affected generations of businesses.

"Trying to overcome some of that historical exclusion is what we have to be very intentional about," Shetty continued.

"We need to make sure that we are not only letting people know from all different backgrounds that they are not only invited, but they are welcome and that we are going to provide that equitable means so that they can participate in golf."

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mean race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, socio-economic status, and religion, Diaz interjected.

"Equity is fair treatment, access, and opportunity for advancement and recognizing there are barriers but working to overcome them," she explained.

"Inclusion is about creating that environment because you want to make sure that individuals and

groups not only feel welcome and supported, but that they belong."

Cross offered that it is critical golf embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"We have to understand that what and the why before we collectively, as an industry, can move to the how," Cross said.

"How do we operationalize diversity and inclusion?"

The PGA Tour has worked diligently over the years to diversify the sport on all levels.

The PGA Tour currently has a 10-year and \$100 million commitment to support racial equity and inclusion.

It has highlighted through video and social media individuals like Cameron Champ, one of just a handful of Black pro golfers.

In December, the PGA Tour made a \$500,000 donation to five Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including \$100,000 to Prairie View A&M's

men's and women's golf teams.

The PGA Tour made the Prairie View A&M donation in the name of Champ's grandfather, Mack, who wanted to attend Prairie View A&M but went into the military instead.

The PGA Tour also made \$100,000 donations to Delaware State's women's golf team, Tennessee State's men's and women's teams, Wilberforce University's men's and women's teams, and the Bowie State Golf Classic, an annual fundraiser for the school's athletic department.

Augusta National also announced two Lee Elder scholarships for the men's and women's teams at Paine College, an HBCU in Augusta, Georgia.

"We know we have a lot of work that we are planning to do and will do to make sure that we address [diversity, equity, and inclusion] as an industry," Shetty remarked.

## Four-part series, 'Muhammad Ali' to premiere Sept. 19 on PBS

ARLINGTON, VA—May 12, 2021 – Muhammad Ali, a new four-part documentary directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns, will air on PBS September 19-22, 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET (check local listings). The

new series, which was in development for six years, was also written and co-directed by Sarah Burns and David McMahon, whose previous collaborations with Burns include The Central Park Five (2012),

Jackie Robinson (2016) And East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story (2020).

The film follows the life of one of the most consequential men of the 20th century, a three-time heavy-

weight boxing champion who captivated billions of fans with his combination of speed, agility and power in the ring, and his charm, wit and outspokenness outside of it. At the height of his fame, Ali challenged

Americans' racial prejudices, religious biases, and notions about what roles celebrities and athletes play in our society, and inspired people all over the world with his message of pride and self-affirmation.

Leading up to the September broadcast, Burns will join PBS and The Undeclared, ESPN's multimedia platform exploring the intersection of sports,

See Ali, Page 13

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# The Big Lie as Journalism: Murdock paper publishes 'Book' lie on Vice President Harris

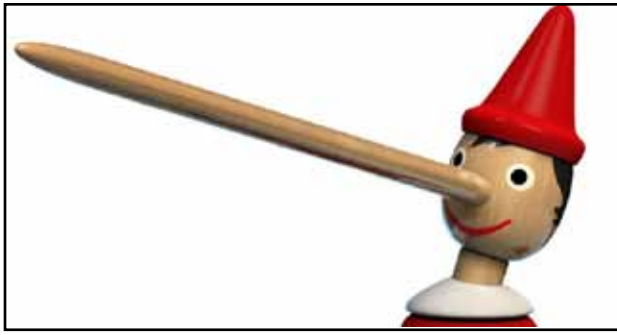
By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

On April 23, The New York Post published and then edited a story that claimed that a children's book by Vice President Kamala Harris was given out to migrant children at the Mexican border as part of a "welcome kit" upon entering the U.S.

Former New York Post writer Laura Italiano claims she was forced to write the story.

"The Kamala Harris story — an incorrect story I was ordered to write and which I failed to push back hard enough against — was my breaking point," wrote Italiano on social on April 27.

Increasingly, Murdock media properties, such as Fox News, have relied more on contributors and fictional information rather than straight reporting fo-



Increasingly, Murdock media properties, such as Fox News, have relied more on contributors and fictional information rather than straight reporting focused on accurate knowable truth as demography in the U.S. changes. (Photo via NNPA)

cused on accurate knowable truth as demography in the U.S. changes.

The non-factual information after the election of President Joe Biden has resulted in lawsuits for defamation — such as two lawsuits by Smartmatic and Dominion Voting Systems. The companies are suing Murdoch's Fox Corporation for billions in defamation and named Fox anchors Lou Dobbs, Maria Bartiromo and Jeanine Pir-

ro as defendants.

Dominion Voting Systems sued Rudy Giuliani for \$1.3 billion based on over 50 statements by Giuliani made at hearings, on social media, his podcast and on Fox News — where Giuliani claimed Dominion Voting Systems "flipped" votes to facilitate President Biden's win. President Biden won by over 7 million votes with several Republican controlled states certifying his election as

legitimate.

The headline in the article was headlined by the words "Kam on in." The "news" story claimed that migrant children were being given "welcome" packets with a copy of the Vice President's 2019 children's book, "Superheroes Are Everywhere."

Daniel Dale, a fact checker at CNN, pointed out that The New York Post "temporarily deleted, and then edited and republished,"

the debunked piece.

An editor's note at the bottom of the current version of the story now reads: "Editor's note: The original version of this article said migrant kids were getting Harris' book in a welcome kit, but has been updated to note that only one known copy of the book was given to a child."

A CNN poll released on April 30 indicates that the "big lie" strategy is working on some Americans.

The question "Did Biden Legitimately Win Enough Votes for The Presidency," resulted in Republicans answering "no" 70 to 23 percent.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke)

## FUNDS, from Page 4

proposes to invest an additional \$400 billion to expand access to these long-term services and supports for older Americans," administration officials stated.

"This investment will also support well-paying caregiving jobs that include benefits and the ability to collectively bargain, building state infrastructure to

improve the quality of services and to support workers.

"The funding will take significant steps to help older adults get high-quality care in their homes and communities."

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# Consumer groundswell calls for end to bank-supported predatory loans

## OCC calls it 'True Lender,' but coalition says it's really 'Fake Lender'

By Charlene Crowell

Last October during the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic and its rippling economic downturns, a key federal financial regulator adopted a rule that blesses the “rent-a-bank” scheme where predatory lenders partner with banks to evade state interest rate limits.

Known as the “True Lender” rule, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) gave a green light to predatory lenders. It effectively overrides a string of state laws in almost every state enacted to end abusive payday, car-title, and installment loans with explosive interest rates of more than 100%.

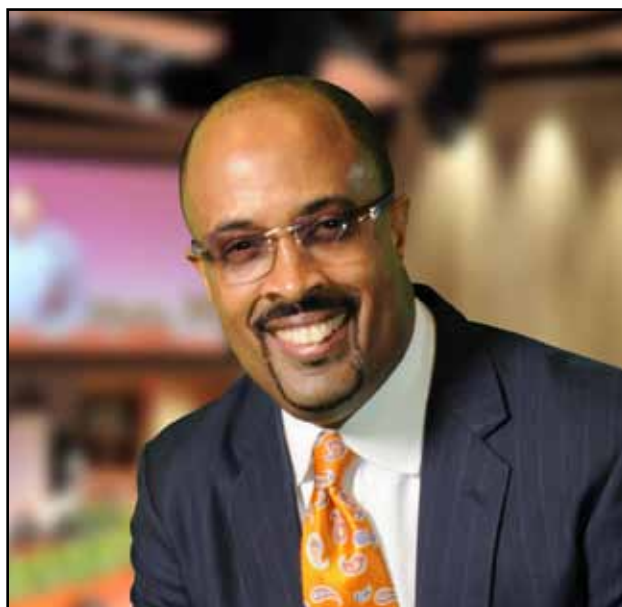
Taking effect in late December 2020, the rule facilitates a scheme whereby payday and high-cost installment lenders pay fees to banks for use of their name and charter to dodge state interest rate laws by claiming the bank’s exemption from those laws for itself.

Ironically, the mission of the OCC is to ensure that national banks and federal savings associations provide fair access to financial services, treat customers fairly, and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Yet this OCC regulation helps predatory lenders evade state laws and harms consumers in direct violation of the agency’s stated mission.

To more accurately describe how bank charters were used to sell predatory loans, consumer advocates refer to the rule change as a ‘Fake Lender’ as the real lender is the predatory non-bank lender – not a bank.

The OCC’s ill-advised regulation has also unleashed a swarm of consumer advocacy from diverse spheres of influence but united in opposition.

For example, 138 academicians across 44 states and the District of Columbia registered their opposition to Rent-A-Bank and



Rev. Dr. Frederick C. Haynes III, Senior Pastor of Dallas' Friendship West Baptist Church (Courtesy photo)

include law professors from prestigious institutions such as Cornell, Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, Howard, Notre Dame, and Northwestern. In an April 20th letter, the professors wrote in part, “If this Rule is not undone, it will spell disaster for untold numbers

of Americans who are trying to recover from this time of unprecedented health and economic disaster.”

A day later on April 21st, a bipartisan group of 25 state attorneys general also urged corrective actions.

“During an unprecedented economic down-

turn, brought on and exacerbated by Covid-19, the OCC seeks to expand the availability of exploitative loans that trap borrowers in a never-ending cycle of debt,” wrote the attorneys general. “We urge Congress to use its powers under the Congressional Review Act to invalidate the OCC’s True Lender Rule and safeguard the right of sovereign states, and the ability of an independent judiciary, to safeguard our citizens from rent-a-bank schemes designed to work end runs around essential consumer protections.”

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) enables rules to be rescinded with simple majority votes in both the House and Senate before advancing to the President for his signature. In late March, Representative Jesus “Chuy” García of Illinois and Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen

introduced joint resolutions providing for congressional disapproval under the CRA. Each awaits floor votes expected to occur in mid-to-late May to comply with the law’s deadline for action within its allotted 60 legislative days.

Other organizations active in the regulatory reversal effort include: Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Credit Union National Association, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., National Association of Federal Credit Unions, and Veterans Education Success.

Consumer advocacy to reverse the “Fake Lender” rule reached a zenith on April 28 when a hearing was convened by the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Its Chair, Sen. Sherrod Brown’s opening

statement set the tone and purpose for the forum.

“Like so much we do, this comes back to one question: whose side are you on?”, queried Sen. Brown. “You can stand on the side of online payday lenders that brag about their creativity in avoiding the law and finding new ways to prey on workers and their families. Or we can stand up for families and small businesses, and the state attorneys general and state legislatures who have said ‘enough’ and are trying to protect themselves and their states from predatory lending schemes.”

Witness testimonies at the hearing made clear the concerns as well as the choices before Congress.

Rev. Dr. Frederick C. Haynes III, Senior Pastor of Dallas’ Friendship West Baptist Church, represented not only his 12,000

See LENDING, Page 12

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# Valence Launches BONDS to establish a new ecosystem for Black professional development

LOS ANGELES – Valence – the leading platform connecting and empowering Black professionals – today launched BONDS, an innovative membership-based community focused on accelerating the success of emerging Black executives.

Corporate leaders, venture capital firms and private equity organizations are supporting Valence's approach by sponsoring their rising Black employees to participate in the community. BONDS is continuing to accept applications for its initial cohort through May 31, 2021 at [www.valence.community/bonds](http://www.valence.community/bonds).

To commemorate the launch, BONDS is hosting an inaugural virtual gathering, "Black Success Built Together," today, May 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. PT. Register for free at [www.valence.events](http://www.valence.events).



*The BONDS community is inclusive of the world's leading and emerging executives, rising managers, directors and innovators. BONDS Beacons serve as inspiration to members. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

## Addressing an Urgent Need to Foster Black Leadership in Corporate America

The lack of Black leadership in corporate America is an issue that requires attention and progress. While Black professionals account for 12% of entry-level corporate jobs, just shy of their 13.4% representation in the U.S. population,

their numbers fall to 7% of management roles, according to McKinsey & Co. The drop off is a result of Black professionals who leave early-career jobs after they encounter a lack of professional and cultural support, and believe that there is little opportunity for them to advance.

"It's no secret that Black professionals face unique

challenges," said Guy Primus, CEO of Valence. "Companies are slowly understanding that merely hiring Black talent is not enough; they must help cultivate their success. The professional development, mentorship, and community provided by BONDS creates an enduring ecosystem, with professional and organizational success as the output."

"BONDS is an important step to how corporations can empower and retain great Black talent – helping them grow from emerging executives to senior leadership," said James Lowry, the first Black consultant hired by McKinsey in 1968, and now a senior advisor at The Boston Consulting Group and advisor at Valence. "Companies today recognize that diverse leadership is critical to their success. BONDS provides a comprehensive roadmap

and qualified mentorship network to support Black leaders in preparing for and taking the C-suite head-on."

## A Curated Learning Experience To Support the Emerging Black Executive's Career

The annual BONDS membership is open to rising senior managers, directors and other leaders with 8+ years of experience at large/enterprise companies; CxO and senior executives at startups and small and mid-size companies; and founders, investors, technical and creative individuals pursuing executive or directional positions within their field.

Members will have opportunities to hone and develop their talents through executive coaching and a series of programs including live masterclasses with renowned content partners. The membership also in-

cludes a six-month on-demand curriculum, talent assessments, BONDS event series, and roundtable workshops to address current workplace challenges.

"We believe it is vital to provide career-driven professionals with the opportunity to join BONDS and advance their careers through our innovative community, programming and curriculum," said Tracy Renée Williams, Vice President of Learning and Development and Head of BONDS. "BONDS creates a pathway for Black professionals to obtain quality mentorship, development, access and training that has been historically elusive at the executive level."

## Corporate Partners Sponsor Top Black Talent To Create Pathways to the C-Suite

BONDS has received **See BONDS, Page 14**

## LENDING, from Page 11

- member congregation but also Faith for Just Lending, a coalition of Christian denominations who believe that fair and just financial practices respect human dignity.

"For decades banks used maps to deny loans to communities of color and now they are using maps to serve as loan sharks of those same communities," testified Rev. Dr. Haynes. "That the OCC would make a rule giving predatory lenders a way to charge 200-400% interest and more, even in states that have fought hard to stop this predation with a 36% interest rate cap -- that is indeed obscene, and as we would put it in my faith community, sinful and demonic."

"We ask, finally, for your strong and proactive support of the Congressional Review Act that will overturn the OCC's true lender rule," he continued, "and remember the wisdom of Thomas Piketty who warns, 'When private inter-

ests exceed the interest of the public, we cease to be a republic or a democracy'."

Lisa Stifler, State Policy Director with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) reviewed her decade-long consumer advocacy, addressed which lenders benefit from the rule and their actions.

"How the OCC's rule will work is already clear, because OCC-regulated banks are enabling some of the most predatory loans on the market," noted Stifler. "For over a year, Stride Bank has been helping the payday lender CURO pilot installment loans of up to \$5,000 with rates as high as 179% annual percentage rate (APR). This outrageously priced loan is illegal in almost every state. Yet, the OCC rule invites predatory lenders to evade state laws by paying a bank to put its name on the paperwork."

"Another OCC-regulated bank, Axos Bank, rents its name and charter to the

predatory small business lender World Business Lenders (WBL)," continued Stifler. "WBL loans range in the tens – even hundreds of thousands of dollars – and carry rates as high as 268%. Often secured by the borrower's personal residence, these loans are causing small business owners to lose their homes."

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein shared his state's experience with Rent-A-Bank before warning Senators of looming doom that would befall the nation if timely action was not taken.

"The OCC, through the Acting Comptroller, not only rammed through the Fake Lender Rule one week before the 2020 election, but it did so unlawfully," testified AG Stein. "The OCC radically exceeded its statutory authority in issuing the rule. Although the OCC purports to be interpreting portions of three federal banking laws, none of them authorize rent-a-bank schemes or give the

OCC authority to preempt the state law true lender doctrine."

"This rule, if not reversed, provides a get-out-of-jail-free card to predatory lenders who violate state laws limiting interest rates and fees on consumer loans," Stein concluded.

Perhaps the most succinct summary of the day came from Chairman Brown.

"Some issues that come before this committee are complicated, they divide people, there are thorny nuances to consider" noted the Ohio Senator. "This isn't one of them. It's simple: Let's stop predatory lenders instead of encouraging them."

Here's hoping that it is just that simple when Senators on both sides of the aisle face a vote and opportunity to stand up for 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).

**Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot 6 inch Monopole Small Cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 1046 Hidden Ridge Drive, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75038, Lat: 32° 52' 37.0488" N, Longitude: 96° 57' 45.4032" W. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: [Trileaf Corp, Andrea, a.dominguez@trileaf.com](mailto:Trileaf Corp, Andrea, a.dominguez@trileaf.com), 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78704, 512-519-9388.**



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Visit census.gov to apply.

### Ongoing City of Dallas

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.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCfVP>.

### Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas 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 focussed career fair is delivered right at your desk-top. 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.

### ALI, from Page 9

race and culture, to hold a series of insightful conversations about sports and race in America. The virtual events will feature sports and entertainment figures, scholars and writers, preview clips from the film, and examine Ali's life and career in the context of America—and the world—today. PBS LearningMedia will also build out full educational materials focusing on the intersection of race and sports in 20th century America to support the film.

As with all Florentine Films productions, an accomplished group of historians, writers and other topic experts provided input on the script and film, including USC professor of media studies Todd Boyd, author Howard Bryant, Washington University history professor Gerald Early, long-time Burns collaborator and author Geoffrey C. Ward, Rutgers journalism professor Khadijah White,

MIT history professor Craig Wilder, and writer David Zirin. Jonathan Eig, a biographer of Ali, was a consulting producer to the film.

Drawing from an extraordinary trove of archival footage and photographs, contemporary music, and the insights and memories of eyewitnesses—including family and friends, journalists, boxers and historians, among others—Burns, Burns and McMahon have created a sweeping portrait of an American icon. The series details the story of the athlete who called himself—and was considered by many to be—"the great-

est of all time" and competed in some of the most dramatic and widely viewed sporting events ever, including "The Fight of the Century" and "The Thrilla in Manila," both against his great rival Joe Frazier, and "The Rumble in the Jungle," in which he defeated George Foreman to regain the heavyweight title that was stripped from him seven years earlier. Muhammad Ali also captures Ali's principled resistance to the Vietnam War, his steadfast commitment to his Muslim faith, and his complex relationships with Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X, who profoundly shaped his life and worldview.

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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.*

**May 16, 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.

**May 19, 7 pm**

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster, Chapter 10. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
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for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

**May 16,**

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.

**May 19, 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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"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.

**May 14, 7 pm**

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

**May 16, 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.

**May 17, 7 pm**

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

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Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because

of the coronavirus.

**May 16, 8 and 11 am**

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

**May 17, 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).

**May 19, 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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## Who Doesn't Like A Girl Scout Cookie?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

This week the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage made a little slip. To her, it was a little slip, but to me, it was a big mistake.

It is not always that she makes mistakes that I can profit on. I don't make this public, especially within her earshot, but there are

times that she makes a mistake, and I'm always on the lookout for those times.

When it comes to me, I'm always making mistakes. I'm not sure that I can make a little slip because mine are much bigger. And the problem with this is, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always catches them, and sometimes, I

don't know how she does it, she catches them before I actually do them.

She calls it "woman's intuition," but I call it "man's trouble."

This past week, for instance, I had an appointment with my eye doctor. I was to pick up my new glasses, and I was anxious about that. I told my wife

that the doctor's appointment was on Wednesday. She countered that and said, "No, I believe it's on Thursday."

"It's my appointment," I said, "both hands on my hips, 'and I'll go when I want to.'"

She looked at me, snickered, and then went back to what she was doing. I

think I heard her mumbling something like, "He's 13 again."

I got to the eye doctor's office, walked in as I was putting on my mask (I'm not too fond of these masks), walked up to the counter, and signed in. Then I went to sit and wait to be called.

In a few minutes, a nurse

came up to me and said, "Mr. Snyder, what are you doing here today?"

"I'm here to pick up my glasses."

"I'm sorry, your appointment isn't until tomorrow."

I looked at her with one of my stunned looks and then said, "Could I camp

**See COOKIE, Page 15**

## BONDS, from Page 12

broad cross-sector support from across the corporate and financial community. Inaugural corporate partners include Accel, Electrolux, GGV Capital, Norwest Venture Partners, Providence Strategic Growth, Roblox, Silicon Valley Bank and Upfront Ventures. These companies recognize BONDS as a unique opportunity to provide emerging Black talent with accelerated professional development and training, which can increase retention, optimize recruitment and increase workplace satisfaction.

"Partnering with a plat-

form like BONDS allows us to bring a world class executive development program, mentorship infrastructure and peer network to many of the highly talented Black Professionals across the entire Accel portfolio," said Richard Wong, Managing Partner at Accel Partners, which has backed industry-leading companies such as CrowdStrike, Facebook, Slack and UIPath. "We are excited to be one of their first VC sponsors and hope many others in our industry follow as we look to drive sustainable change."

"Companies in all indus-

tries, including those in the innovation economy, are actively working to address the underrepresentation of Black executives in their boardroom and in the C-suite," said Greg Becker, CEO of Silicon Valley Bank and a Valence investor. "We're excited to partner with Valence to launch BONDS and provide the program's executive coaching and contribute to the development and progress of our employees and clients. BONDS aims to dispel the narrative that it's too difficult to find Black talent at the executive level by providing companies an opportunity to invest in Black professionals' suc-

cess, enhance their executive skill sets, and ultimately promote from within."

"We're so proud and honored to be part of the Valence movement and the BONDS community," said Stephen Svajian, CEO of Anova, an Electrolux Company. "BONDS gives us the ability to say to our Black talent, 'We're going to invest in you.' To me, that's the ultimate form of inclusivity - we want you and will invest in you and your career. Valence BONDS gives us this opportunity."

**BONDS Beacons Serve as Guiding Light to Members' Journeys to Success**

The BONDS community is inclusive of the world's

leading and emerging executives, rising managers, directors and innovators. BONDS Beacons serve as inspiration to members.

Inaugural BONDS Beacons include Michael Siebel (CEO of Y Combinator), Beverly Bond (Founder of Black Girls Rock), Brad Gerstner (Founder and CEO of Altimeter Capital), David Krane (CEO and Managing Partner of GV), Bonita Stewart (VP Global Partnerships of Google), Charles King (CEO and Founder of MACRO), Mark Suster (Managing Partner of Upfront Ventures), Hans Tung (Managing Partner of GGV Capital), Robin Li (Principal

of GGV Capital), among others.

"What it takes to achieve a level of high performance in the corporate setting is very similar to what it takes on the athletic field," said Michael Johnson, the 13-time Olympic and World Championship gold medalist and a BONDS Beacon. "I am excited to share the mindset techniques that allowed me to be the fastest in the world with the entire BONDS community."

To sign up or for more information about BONDS and the larger Valence Community platform, visit [www.valence.community/bonds](http://www.valence.community/bonds).



## Faith proved genuine



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor

*"Even one of their own prophets has said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.' This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the command those who reject the truth"*

**-Titus 1:12-15**

In December 1983, The Princeton Religion Research Center published a landmark survey conducted for The Wall Street Journal by the Gallup Organization. The researchers measured a wide range of moral and ethical behaviors, such as calling in sick when not sick, cheating on income

tax, and pilfering company supplies for personal use. The results were disappointing, to say the least.

But what the researchers found most startling was that there was no significant difference between the church and the unchurched in their ethics and values on the job. In other words, despite the fact that more and more people were attending churches, churches seemed to be having less and less of an impact on the moral fiber of their people, at least in the workplace and community.

To quote the researchers: "These findings will come as a shock to the religious leaders and underscore the need for religious leaders to channel the new religious interest in America not simply into religious involvement but in deep spiritual commitment."

"Either these are not the gospels, or we're not Chris-



Mr. Haston II & Mrs. Denise Lewis with first grandbaby, Haston IV

tians," said Thomas Linacre, Henry VIII's doctor and Renaissance thinker, after given the four gospels in Greek. Linacre recognized a great disparity between those who proclaimed Christ and how they lived their lives. If our faith life is not validated through our behavior then one must question if we even have a

genuine relationship with Christ.

The Apostle Paul didn't like what he saw in the believers on the island of Crete. They proclaimed Christ with their mouth, he said, but their behavior looked no different than those who did not claim Christ.

Pray that your faith is

"proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." **1 Peter 1:7-8.**

Time and grace heals our wounds, but time is not always a friend. What about your friends who have not heard God's words of life? What if they were to die today? You should know how short life can be. Surly you have lost loved ones and friends who were young. Accidents and sudden illness can take away a life quickly. Cancer, diabetes, aneurysms, catastrophic events can change a person's health and life

in a moment. Ask God why you fear opening your mouth?

Ask God to help you to be bold, to speak His words of truth and life to those you love, your family and friends, before time runs out. Ask God for help to be a living testimony for Him. Ask for help to stir up the Holy Spirit within you and the gifts God has given you to minister to others, to reach a dying world, to share God's love and His hope for the future. Thank God in the name of Jesus, our Lord, our Savior and our Redeemer. Let your faith be proven genuine.

## COOKIE, from Page 14

here until tomorrow?"

I had to go home and tell my wife that I was wrong, and she was right. If I had a nickel for every time I admitted that I was wrong, I would be a very wealthy person.

But this week, my wife made her mistake, and I was able to cash in on it.

She returned home from shopping at Publix, and I think without even thinking, she said as she was coming into the kitchen, "The Girl Scouts are selling cookies at Publix today."

There are many things she says that I cannot hear. I'm not sure if it's my ears or what. For some reason, I picked up on this phrase about the Girl Scout cookies.

I tried to remain quiet and calm. I knew if I stirred up any excitement, she would catch on to what she said to me. According to her, I am very limited as to the cookies I'm allowed to eat. Her preference would be that I eat no cookies while I've got breath in my nostrils.

I remember when she told me, "You cannot eat no

cookies!"

I smiled because she did not know what she said. A double negative equals a positive. Most people don't get that.

The next step was to figure out how to leave the house and go to Publix without somebody in the house finding out.

I did not know how I would do this. I thought about it and tried to come up with the perfect plan.

Then, an opportunity opened up that I could never have anticipated.

"I forgot something at Publix," my wife said, "would you have time to run over to Publix and pick this up for me?"

I find it very hard to subdue hilarious laughter under circumstances like this. I worked hard and solemnly said, "Oh, my dear. I can go right now, and there's no problem at all."

Like magic, I disappeared from the house and started the car before I even got in it and headed for Publix. All I could think about was those wonderfully delicious Girl Scout

cookies. After all, when I buy Girl Scout cookies, I'm helping to support some young ladies who need it. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Walking up to the girls at Publix, I almost forgot what I had come to pick up.

I looked at them and said, "I'll be back after I go do some shopping."

I'm always as good as my word, and I came back, and since I could not make up my mind as to what cookies I wanted to purchase, I did the gentlemanly thing and bought one of each cookie they had for sale. How much it cost has no relativity to my desire for these cookies.

As I put the bag on the kitchen table, my wife happened to look at it and said to me, "Those are not Girl Scout cookies, are they?"

"Isn't that what you wanted me to buy?"

She just stared at me, but all I could think about was eating that first cookie.

As I delighted in eating that first cookie, I was reminded of what David said in one of his Psalms, "Delight thyself also in the

LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalms 37:4).

As much as I delight in these cookies, my greater delight is in the Lord. As I delight in the Lord, I enjoy all the delicacies of that relationship.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship.

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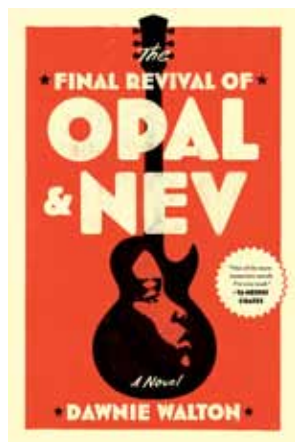
# NDG Book Review: 'The Final Revival of Opal & Nev'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It's got a good beat.

The melody is fun, too; it makes your body move, and you've already caught yourself singing along when you hear it again. That song's a hit, but in the new novel, "The Final Revival of Opal & Nev" by Dawnie Walton, there's still something off-key about it.

For most of her life, Sunny Curtis had "taken great pains to conceal" what had happened in 1970. It's not that she was embarrassed that her father and Opal Jewel had an affair – he was beaten to death at the Rivington Showcase, she



never even knew him – she just preferred to make her own mark. But after she became the first Black editor-in-chief at Aural magazine, Curtis realized that there was her chance to do something she couldn't do

before.

She reached out to Opal and Nev.

Nev Charles had grown up in Birmingham, England, and was a tall, geeky, red-headed fourteen-year-old the year he started writing songs for the Boys from Birmingham, a small-time, local band. It didn't take long for his talents to eclipse theirs and soon enough, Nev moved to New York to find fame. Rivington Records signed him but owner Howie Kelly wanted Nev to have a female singing partner.

Together, they found Opal in Detroit.

She was "ugly," skinny

and bald, and the truth was that her sister, Peggy, was supposed to have the singing career, but Peggy went and married a Pastor in Birmingham, Alabama. It was just before that when Nev and Howie saw Opal behind Peggy at an open mic event. She was wearing a gold dress and moving, and Nev knew Opal was it.

Everybody always thought he was in love with her, but he seemed a little scared of her, too. Opal didn't suffer fools. She stood up for herself, with words or all-out war, and she was almost fearless but she could be impulsive. That impulsivity was

part of why Sunny Curtis's father died, and it almost killed Opal's career...

Reading "The Final Revival of Opal & Nev" is like driving down the road with the radio on: most of the time, everything's fine but sometimes, you have bad reception and you can't quite understand the content. Two miles (or two pages) later, everything's good again.

You might blame that on this novel's "interview" style. Author Dawnie Walton lets Sunny do the bridge narration – be sure to start reading with the "editor's note" – and other characters weigh in as the

tale progresses. That's an interesting method of storytelling, but it can skip like a broken record or a corrupted file, and can be just as annoying.

And yet--

Readers who deep-dive into the music scene, who love immersing themselves in an album, or who relish a complicated novel with a decades-long arc will love this one. It's quite slow, but the culmination is heart-pounding and the ending will rip your heart out. If a novel like that sounds like a song to you, then "The Final Revival of Opal & Nev" can't be beat.

## HUGHES, from Page 2

Abrams and Rosaline "Roz" Brewer, chief executive officer of Walgreens Boots Alliance and the nation's third Fortune 500 company ever led by a Black female executive. The program will also honor the four African American, Greek sororities; Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.

The show will also pay tribute to Hughes's mother, who before becoming a wife and mother, was a famed trombone player who played with an all-girl, integrated swing music band called the International Sweethearts of Rhythm in the 1930s and 1940's. Hughes called her mother's group, "the original Freedom Fighters" who traveled by bus through the South playing for audiences and even played clubs overseas. At one point, white and Hispanic band members had to wear dark makeup to look like their Black bandmates to avoid being stopped by police for promoting integration, Hughes recalled. The segment will be introduced by a longtime fan of the group, political activist, author and college professor Angela Davis.

Hughes's excitement about the upcoming evening is electric. An hour before

"Urban One Honors" airs, TV One will broadcast an exclusive, hour-long interview with legendary rapper DMX. The interview was recorded for the network's weekly show "Uncensored" about three weeks before DMX's sudden death April 9 at age 50. The show's producers said DMX spoke, at times through tears, about his life, his music and his legacy. The producers said hearing DMX's commentary just weeks before his death, is more sobering and haunting today.

After the celebration of one of the kings of rap music with "Uncensored," the TV network will then celebrate its queens with the "Urban One Honors."

"I think it's going to be the biggest night in TV One's history," Hughes exclaimed.

Hughes, along with a group of Urban One executives chose the honorees because they wanted viewers, especially young girls, to see Black women who were not celebrated singers, dancers or actresses, but instead who were ideological firebrands, making differences in their communities and around the nation.

"These women aren't the Real Housewives of you name the city. These women

are working on improving the lives of Black folk," Hughes said in a recent interview. Please encourage your young women to watch this show. We don't know who the next Kamala Harris will be, a Black woman who became the nation's first woman vice president or someone who changes the voting structure like Stacey Abrams."

Hughes described Abrams as "voting rights champion" who not only changed the political landscape of Atlanta, but also helped ensure all voters were recognized on behalf of two U.S. Senate Democratic candidates and helped flip Georgia from majority Republican to majority Democrat.

When Walgreen's selected Spelman College graduate Roz Brewer as its newest CEO in January, Brewer became the nation's second Black female executive to ever lead a Fortune 500 company. Before being tapped by Walgreen's, Brewer served as chief operating officer for Starbucks. Prior to that, she served as CEO of Sam's Club which is owned by Walmart. In 2009, Ursula Burns, became the nation's first Black female CEO of a Fortune 500 company when Xerox Holdings selected her as its CEO. Burns retired in 2017. The third

Black woman CEO to lead a Fortune 500 company, Thasunda Brown Duckett, was named president and CEO of the retirement and investment managing company TIAA in February, a month after Brewer.

The TV One program is also honoring Ala Stanford, a Philadelphia-based physician and surgeon who last year founded the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium and used her own funds to ensure Black residents of the city – a group that was quickly becoming Philadelphia's hardest hit by the pandemic – were able to be tested for the coronavirus.

Urban One, is based in Silver Spring, Md. about 30 minutes from downtown Washington, D.C. Last year, Hughes and other Urban One executives watched as Kim Ford, president and chief executive of Martha's Table, provided healthy meals and fresh produce to needy residents in the nation's capital during the pandemic.

For more than 40 years, Martha's Table has ensured the neediest of Washington residents had healthy meals and clothing. Martha's Table was named after the Biblical figure Martha who offered food to Jesus when he visited the home she shared with her sister Mary.

As a youth growing up in Washington, Ford volunteered serving and handing out meals with the non-profit organization. Then in 2019, she was chosen as the company's president and chief executive. Prior to being named Martha's Table chief executive, Ford served as deputy assistant secretary and acting assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education where she oversaw management of more than \$2 billion in career and technical education, adult education, correctional and re-entry education and community college initiatives for more than 25 million students a year. Ford previously served as a member of President Obama's Recovery Implementation Office, which was responsible for implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Last year, Martha's Table reported a 400 percent increase in need from users, as thousands of residents sought assistance for themselves and their families enabling the program to feed as many as 2,200 residents a day, Martha's Table reported recently.

Another honoree, Robin Rue Simmons, is an alderman in Evanston's fifth ward in Louisiana. A cham-

pion of Black residents in the city, Simmons was elected alderman in 2017. Simmons then led Evanston to becoming the first U.S. city to approve a reparations program. Since taking office, Simmons led the passing of the nation's first reparations program, which will be funded by the first \$10 million of Adult Use Cannabis sales tax revenue. Simmons is also the director of the city's innovation and outreach at Sunshine Enterprises, which has supported more than 1000 neighborhood entrepreneurs – 98 percent of whom are African American and 74 percent of whom are women – in starting or growing their own business ventures.

Also being honored is New York Times journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones. Hannah-Jones covered racial injustice for the Times's magazine before convincing the paper's top editors to create an entire investigative series tied to the U.S. slave trade. The enterprise was called the 1619 Project which was published by the magazine in 2019. Last year the project won Jones the coveted Pulitzer Prize. The series is now the subject of a documentary produced by Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Films and Lionsgate and is scheduled to air on Hulu.