



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Former college star wide receiver seeks NFL tryout after false sexual allegations

DALLAS — The subject of sexual assault has become a major issue on college campuses in the past few years. For far too long, victims had felt they were silenced, and their cases were not handled in their best interest, rather in a manner to protect the reputation of the school. This was especially true if the perpetrator was a star athlete.

Thankfully this has changed recently. School officials and law enforcement agencies have been put on notice that the public at large demands accountability. Top-tier universities across the country have had to grapple with the problem on their campuses, and the over-representation in these cases of student athletes.

But there is another side of the issue: when false allegations are made.

While statistically paling in comparison to the problem of actual assaults, there have been several accused who ended up being exonerated. All too often, this has only occurred after their lives and reputations have been thrown into disarray.

Tristen Wallace is an African American athlete who had a very



Tristen Wallace was a standout football player from DeSoto High School with a promising career. He was forced to switch schools after two female students accused him of sexual assault at the University of Oregon. Wallace has maintained his innocence and the charges were subsequently dropped.

promising career as a football wide receiver. After being recruited to the University of Oregon, Wallace soon found himself off the team and out of the school after two females filed accusations of sexual assault.

The school moved quickly to move Wallace off campus, and both the university police department and the Lane County District Attorney's Office opened investigations. Then came the media coverage. The story of a double accu-

sation against a star football player made for captivating headlines.

However, Wallace maintains these stories are simply untrue, and the available evidence gives his version of events some credence.

"I have moved forward day-to-day knowing the truth that I am innocent," Wallace said in a written statement. "Yet judged unjustly and quite harshly because of the malicious, defamatory untruths

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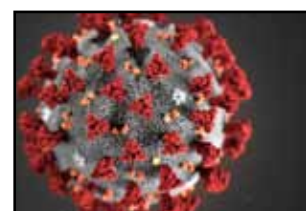
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### People In The News ...



Melina Abdullah



Melvin Van Peebles



Clara McLaughlin

NDG Quote of the Week: "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

—Bishop Desmond Tutu

## Melina Abdullah

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) has announced that scholar and co-founder of the Los Angeles Chapter of Black Lives Matter, Melina Abdullah, will be the university's inaugural Activist-In-Residence for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Activist-in-Residence will be charged with teaching students more about their power as change agents in society.

The news comes almost a year and a half after PVAMU President Ruth J. Simmons wrote a letter to



the university community following George Floyd's unlawful murder at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. Among Simmons' four suggestions to "advance understanding of

the impact of discrimination on the health of the country" included the establishment of a Center for Race and Justice. This came to fruition as the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice. Another suggestion was creating an Activist-in-Residence position, which would bring individuals to campus who have made a difference in casting light on or solving systemic social problems.

Melanye Price, the Simmons Center's first director, had the distinct pleasure of choosing who would fill the position. She was already sold on Abdullah, but

when she learned in conversation that Abdullah's grandmother was a Prairie View A&M graduate, "it seemed like fate," she said.

"For me, Prairie View connects me with her legacy," said Abdullah, who currently serves as a professor of Pan-African Studies and immediate past Department Chair at California State University, Los Angeles. "My heart soars at the thought of walking the campus that nurtured and affirmed the Black-woman-brilliance of my family's matriarch, who, even in 1932, was empowered to step fully into her intellect,

her wit, her humor and her love for our people."

Abdullah added, "My grandmother passed in 2003. She spoke of Prairie View often as shaping her. She stepped into who she was as an educator, pledged our beloved sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, developed lifelong friendships, and received an education that would benefit not only herself and her family, but an entire community."

Originally from Oakland, California, Abdullah's college career began with a bachelor's from Howard University in African American Studies. Later,

she earned her master's and doctorate from the University of Southern California in Political Science.

A leading expert on race, gender, class, and social movements, Abdullah is among the original group of organizers who convened to form Black Lives Matter. She has contributed to numerous popular media outlets, The Root and the Los Angeles Times to MSNBC, Al-Jazeera, CNN and Revolt. She is the creator, host, and producer of Move the Crowd and co-host and co-producer of Beautiful

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## Melvin Van Peebles

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.,  
NNPA Culture and  
Entertainment Editor

The film world is reeling over the loss of influential filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles who passed away yesterday in Manhattan. Van Peebles is best known for his classic independent films Watermelon Man (1970) and Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song (1971), which offered a bold critique of racism, power and Black liberation in the United States. Van Peebles, the father of actor/



director Mario Van Peebles, created the blueprint for what would become the Blaxploitation genre of filmmaking with his Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song.

Born in Chicago in 1932,

Van Peebles was the son of a tailor and homemaker. After graduating high school, he enrolled in West Virginia State University before transferring to Ohio Wesleyan University. Following graduation, the future filmmaker joined the Air Force and began writing. In 1956, he married German actress and photographer Maria Marx, who appeared with him in this iconic film Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song. They lived in Europe and Mexico before he returned to the states and worked as a cable car operator in San Francisco.

In the early 1960s Van

Peebles published four novels and one-story collection in French and made a short film, Cinq cent balles (1965), about a child trying to retrieve a bank note in a tenuous world. In 1968, Van Peebles made his first feature-length film, The Story of a Three-Day Pass (La Permission). The renaissance man starred with actress Nicole Berger in the film which explored themes around interracial romance, nation and identity. Three-Day Pass was well-received by audiences and critics and put him on the map in Hollywood, many of whom thought they had discovered a French auteur

instead of a talented Black man from Chicago.

In 1970, Van Peebles made his first Hollywood film entitled Watermelon Man starring Godfrey Cambridge. Released by Columbia Pictures, the film told the story of a racist White man who one day wakes up Black and the fallout from his family, friends and place of employment because of it. In interviews, Melvin Van Peebles said it was the experience of making Watermelon Man within the Hollywood film system that convinced him to work as an independent filmmaker so he could have complete

control over his films.

The independent artist struck out on his own with the goal of making Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song, a film that explored themes of Black power and liberation. The auteur raised \$500,000 from investments by supporters including Bill Cosby and earnings from his previous work. The film featured a soundtrack by Earth, Wind and Fire, a then up and coming jazz and R&B band and offered a gritty, unapologetic look into Black America's underground economy. The film highlighted the story

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## Clara McLaughlin

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Clara McLaughlin, the famous author, and publisher of The Florida Star and The Georgia Star in Jacksonville, Florida, has died.

McLaughlin had battled cancer and other illnesses for some time, but family and friends said she fiercely fought to the end.

"She was a total icon," Arthia Nixon, a publicist, author, and writer for McLaughlin's two publications told the Black Press.

"She gave me my first job, and when my daughter was six, she gave her space to write a column."



McLaughlin's interest in publishing began in high school, creating the first student newsletter in Gainesville, Florida. Later, she attended the Hampton Institute in Virginia and displayed an interest in music.

She then joined the U.S. Navy and worked as an organizer for the Navy Chapel.

Following her military service, McLaughlin attended Howard University, where she served as editor-in-chief of the school's Bison yearbook.

She earned a journalism degree from the historically Black university and later helped found the National Black Communications Society.

After expressing her disdain for how television depicted females of color, McLaughlin purchased KLMG-TV, becoming the first Black woman to own and be the largest shareholder of a network-affiliated station.

McLaughlin purchased The Florida Star and Georgia Star in 2002 and catapulted those foundational

Black newspapers into national must-reads.

Both newspapers are members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the trade association representing the Black Press of America.

A Female Entrepreneur of the Year Award recipient, McLaughlin dined with several U.S. Presidents, including George Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama.

She also authored the book "Black Parents' Handbook: A Guide to Healthy Pregnancy, Birth and Child Care."

"She was a trailblazer," Nixon stated. "She also was like a mom to me in so many ways, and this hits hard. She put up a really good fight."

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## Police accountability efforts sabotaged in collapse of George Floyd Justice in Policing Act negotiations

By Damon Hewitt  
The Lawyers Committee  
for Civil Rights Under  
the Law

(Washington, D.C.) — Bipartisan negotiations for a compromise on police reform broke down Wednesday, officially ending talks on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The bill emphasized de-escalation tactics, banned police techniques like chokeholds and some no-knock warrants, ended qualified immunity and enhanced the ability of the Justice Department to

prosecute officers for civil rights violations.

Black people and other communities of color live in constant fear that discriminatory policing will end their lives.

Every person of conscience in our nation knows that we desperately need police accountability measures. Police shootings in this country continue at a rate of over a thousand a year, or almost three people each day.

Yet, after the immeasurable pain of loss and the largest protests for racial

justice in our nation's history, today's defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory by forces who are not accountable to communities of color and who clearly had no intent to support meaningful accountability.

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, their families, and other victims and survivors of police violence deserved better from our lawmakers.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Karen Bass for their tireless efforts to reach an agreement, despite the

lack of willing partners on the other side. We will hold accountable those who undermined the process by yielding to fringe elements when a workable deal was on the table and likely to be embraced by many racial justice advocates and mainstream law enforcement organizations alike.

Our fight for systemic change cannot end here. We will continue to fight to make sure we end police brutality and hold those who hurt our communities accountable. Democracy demands no less.

## Don't raise taxes on the investments Black-owned businesses depend on

By Larry D. Ivory  
President of the National  
Black Chamber of  
Commerce

very Black-owned businesses they propt to help.

Despite the many hardships already faced by Black business owners during the pandemic, private investments have been a promising new source of growth for the African American community. In fact, in the first half of 2021 alone, Black business owners secured nearly \$1.8 billion in investment funding, an increase of 450% from the same period last year and nearly double the total investments made in Black entrepreneurs in all of 2020.

The numbers don't lie, and the evidence is clear — now is not the time to impose restrictive tax hikes on one of the most promising avenues of growth for Black entrepreneurs.

With all this being said, the economic devastation that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on businesses across America, is far from over. The pandemic has wreaked havoc on businesses of all sizes in all 50 states, yet African American-owned businesses have been disproportionately hurt more than any other racial group.

In fact, 58% of Black-owned businesses reported being financially distressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From February to

April 2020, Black business ownership dropped by a crushing 41%. And although the total U.S. unemployment rate fell to 5.4 in July of this year, it remained a staggering 8.2 percent for Black workers. Which begs the question of why then politicians are even considering instituting economic policies that would harm Black-owned businesses, as opposed to helping them?

African American entrepreneurs and business owners have always faced immense structural and financial obstacles to grow their businesses and achieve the American dream, ranging from higher interest rates to lack of access to traditional banks. This ill-advised tax hike would only make it even harder for many of these businesses to receive the financial backing necessary to grow and promote innovation and economic opportunity.

All of this is also not to suggest that African American businesses would be the only ones hurt by this proposal. More than 14,000 businesses across America that employ nearly 12 million workers depend on similar investments to hire workers, grow, or simply keep the doors open.

At the National Black Chamber of Commerce

(NBCC), we are dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining African American communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity within the United States and via interaction with the Black community. The success and well-being of our nation's Black-owned small businesses is vital to the overall health of our domestic economy, in communities nationwide. This is why it is as important as ever that leaders in Washington are supporting policies that promote investments in Black-owned businesses and job creation across the country.

America's Black small business community is robust and strong, but now more than ever, it needs our leaders' unwavering support. For this reason, on behalf of the NBCC, I am firmly urging members of Congress to oppose any and all efforts to include this misguided business investment tax in the upcoming \$3.5 trillion budget proposal.

Larry D. Ivory is the Chairman of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization dedicated to the economic empowerment of African American communities.

Keep up with the news

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# Medicare restrictions on obesity care perpetuate harmful stigmas

By Tammy Boyd and  
Dr. Michael Knight

Congress may soon enact a historic expansion of Medicare benefits to include services like dental, vision, and hearing. For millions of seniors, access to these services will be life changing.

But a critical issue is missing from the conversation around Medicare expansion, with serious consequences for millions of Americans nation's health. Congress must also prioritize care for obesity, a national epidemic, dire health equity issue, and leading comorbidity for serious cases of COVID-19.

Not only does obesity impact 1-in-3 Americans, it also takes a disproportionate toll on communities of color since almost half of Black Americans are living with obesity. Obesity is also a leading risk factor for COVID-19; 78% of people who were hospitalized, placed on a ventilator,



*As part of a new nationwide Obesity Care Now campaign, an effort by 25+ obesity care advocacy groups, including the Black Women's Health Imperative, the YMCA, and others, we are leading the fight to modernize policies and actively working with Congress to provide obesity care, save lives, and pass TROA now. (Photo via NNPA)*

or died from the pandemic were overweight or living with obesity. And we know that COVID-19 disproportionately impacts Black and Latino communities, who are nearly three times as likely to be hospitalized for severe cases of COVID-19 than whites.

In short, obesity is a life-or-death issue, but Medicare restrictions on obesity care perpetuate outdated, dangerous, and, frankly, discriminatory laws that disenfranchise millions of

Americans and block access to safe and effective treatment options.

Many people don't know that when Medicare Part D was first passed in 2003, the nation wrongly viewed obesity as a chosen lifestyle. In the intervening years, the medical community caught up with the science and in 2013, the American Medical Association took the historic step of designating obesity as a disease requiring treatment and medical attention.

Despite this decision, Medicare rules remain dangerously out of step. Today, obesity care is on a short list of excluded drug categories, including hair loss drugs, erectile dysfunction medication, and cold and flu treatments. These categories were meant to exclude cosmetic or traditionally over-the-counter treatments when Part D was passed, yet instead they deny people life-saving obesity care, with far-reaching health implications on Black and Latinx communities.

Along with intensive behavioral therapy, studies show that anti-obesity medications lead to clinically meaningful weight loss of up to 15%. Without action from policymakers, patients will not have access to these new therapies, since weight loss medications are rarely prescribed to eligible patients. As COVID-19 worsens, this lack of access to the full continuum of care for obesity

puts our entire community at increased risk from the pandemic, especially communities of color.

Congress must, and can, take action to right this injustice. Obesity care must be part of the conversation around Medicare expansion, including in the ongoing negotiations around budget reconciliation.

The solution is simple, since legislation already exists to fix this problem: The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, bipartisan legislation that would provide the full continuum of care and relief for the many seniors living with obesity, making their lives safer and healthier. As part of a new nationwide Obesity Care Now campaign, an effort by 25+ obesity care advocacy groups, including the Black Women's Health Imperative, the YMCA, and others, we are leading the fight to modernize policies and actively working with Congress to provide obesity care, save lives, and pass

TROA now.

As lifelong advocates for healthy Black communities, this issue is personal. Over the past 18 months, we have seen friends, family, and community members impacted by obesity and the pandemic. Now, with the rising Delta variant, the threat is only getting worse. We cannot address all of the pandemic related issues affecting the Black community, but we can take action to provide obesity care now to those in need.

*Tammy Boyd is the Chief Policy Officer & Senior Counsel for Black Women's Health Imperative. She leads the strategic policy and government affairs direction for the organization.*

*Dr. Michael Knight is board certified in internal medicine and obesity medicine, and practices clinically at the GW Medical Faculty Associates in Washington, D.C.*

## UT Austin and MD Anderson form partnership to end cancer

AUSTIN — Researchers from The University of Texas at Austin and MD Anderson Cancer Center are working together to better detect, diagnose and cure some of the most common and fatal types of cancers.

Five teams so far — each co-led by a UT researcher and an MD Anderson oncologist — are part of a new partnership, formalized this summer, between the two UT System institutions. The goal: combine the best expertise that each has to offer to improve patient outcomes.

Mechanical engineering and Texas Robotics Assistant Professor Farshid Alambeigi and MD Anderson Assistant Professor and surgical oncologist Naruhiko Ikoma form one

team that is designing robotic endoscopes for colonoscopy and gastroscopy procedures that will enable doctors to "feel" tumors and polyps through very sensitive haptic feedback sensors.

"Imagine being in a dark room. If you want to know what's around you, you have to put your hands out and feel the space around you," Ikoma said. "Your colon is the same way. It's very dark, and it twists and turns many times. Our current scope has only one camera and light at the tip, and it can become cloudy or occluded during a procedure or miss things as the colon folds and bends."

That's potentially dangerous because colorectal and gastric cancers, the researchers write, are the

leading types of cancer and causes of cancer-related death worldwide.

Ikoma realized during surgical procedures that he and other doctors relied on their sense of touch — slowly palpating a colon or section of intestine — to find hidden small tumors, determine their extent, and feel how deeply they were growing into the lining. This information offers important guidance during gastrointestinal operations. During routine endoscopic procedures or laparoscopic/robotic operations, however, doctors have only the camera's visual information, and their ability to find and examine tumors is severely limited.

Enter UT engineer Alambeigi, who has been studying haptic feedback

systems in flexible instrumentation for more than a decade.

"Developing a sense of touch in robotics is challenging," he said. "So is developing the system for sending that information back to the doctor and then miniaturizing the technology so it can be built into a surgical scope, but it will give doctors much better information."

This improved information will help determine what should be biopsied, and it may also reduce the number of CT scans, which deliver ionizing radiation, that a patient requires.

Alambeigi estimates it will take a few years to design the scope to scale so that it's ready for testing, but an important short-term goal could be realized

much sooner: using the technology to help develop an international classifica-

tion system for tumor mor-

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# DHS schedules reopening to coincide with State Fair

The Dallas Historical Society (DHS) proudly announces its scheduled reopening Friday, September 24, 2021.

After closing to the public due to damages sustained during February's Winter Storm Uri, the newly renovated museum will reopen on the same day the Texas State Fair. The DHS public exhibits at the Hall of State will include:

- Texas State Fair Anniversary – An elaborate exhibit celebrating the fair's 135th-year history.
- The Tom & Alicia Landry Family Collection



Charl Folscher / Unsplash

- this collection tells the story of the man behind the legend, featuring more than 60 mementos from Landry's life, some of which have never been seen by the public. The collection will have

a permanent home with the Dallas Historical Society at the Hall of State in Fair Park.

- Junior League of Dallas - commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the

Junior League of Dallas. The show includes historical documents, memorabilia, and vintage photographs celebrating a century of women who were never afraid to roll up their sleeves in service to their community.

"Our renovations are now complete after having to close the museum for several months due to the storm damages. We look forward to reopening to the public and what better way to showcase the additional renovations to our prior \$14.4 million bond updates than the 135th anniversary of the Texas State Fair?" says

Veletta Forsythe Lill, Board Chair of the Dallas Historical Society. Museum hours DURING THE FAIR are 10:00AM to 7:00PM daily. Additionally, the Hall of State is encouraging masks to be worn while inside the building.

Established in 1922, the Dallas Historical Society is the preeminent organization of its kind in Dallas, collecting, preserving, and exhibiting the heritage of Dallas and Texas to educate and inspire future generations. The stories of Dallas are shared each day through the three million items that

comprise its archives and artifact collections. Housed at the Hall of State in Fair Park since 1938, the Society presents these collections through education programs, exhibitions, tours, access to research materials and workshops. Each year, the Dallas Historical Society is visited by more than 160,000 people and serves more than 15,000 students through guided tours and educational programming at the Hall of State, as well as outreach programs at school locations. For more information go to <http://www.dallashistory.org>.

## Record-breaking Texas drought more severe than previously thought

AUSTIN — In 2011, Texas experienced one of its worst droughts ever. The dry, parched conditions caused over \$7 billion in crop and livestock losses, sparked wildfires, pushed power grids to the limit, and reduced reservoirs to dangerously low levels.

And according to a recent study led by geoscientists at The University of Texas at Austin, the drought was worse than previously thought.

The study, published in the *Journal of Hydrology*, incorporated additional soil moisture-related data from gravity and microwave sensors on satellites into a land surface model used by scientists to determine the severity of droughts. According to the updated model simulation, severe drought



was more widespread and longer lasting than judged by the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM), which is the current standard for designating drought across the United States.

"The development of technology has allowed us to gain more real-time observation, and this observation can more accurately reflect the ground conditions," said Weijing Chen,

the study's lead author and a postdoctoral researcher at the UT Jackson School of Geosciences.

Even though the 2011 drought is now a decade gone, the study results are important because they show that incorporating new sources of data related to soil moisture into an existing land surface model can more accurately predict the severity and impact of droughts.

Soil moisture is a key indicator of drought and one of the most important factors when it comes to a drought's impact on agricultural production.

The USDM incorporates

a number of indexes, expertise and data sources to make its findings, including a hydrological model that gives an estimate of an area's soil moisture. The UT researchers took their model a step further by using data assimilation technology to incorporate a combination of real-time satellite measurements related to soil moisture into their model. The microwave satellite data gave measurements of the top 2 inches of soil moisture. Adding in the gravity satellite data gave them soil moisture measurements in the rest of the root zone – down to about 40 inches.

"Soil moisture in the root zone is very important because it determines the water supply for vegetation," Chen said.

The USDM releases a map every week that shows what parts of the U.S. are in drought. It is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its results are used to trigger disaster declarations and other federal, state and local responses.

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phology, so that all doctors can use the same objective scale for evaluating and rating cancerous growths. And it's the institutional partnership that's making this possible through funding and support for bold, new ideas.

"UT Austin and MD Anderson have exceptional and complementary specializations," said Jennifer Lyon Gardner, deputy vice president for research at UT Austin, whose team helped

blueprint the research collaboration. "MD Anderson has some of the best oncologists in the world, and they see firsthand, every day, where innovation could help them more easily diagnose or treat their patients. That's where the idea to pair them with UT's outstanding roboticists, fundamental scientists, and translational and clinical researchers in our own Dell Medical School emerged."

More research teams

covering even broader oncology topics will be funded this year, with the next application submission window opening this week. This latest collaboration builds on a partnership launched last year among MD Anderson, UT's Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, and Texas Advanced Computing Center, where researchers are using computational modeling to integrate huge amounts of cancer care data to better understand and end cancer.

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## Major changes announced to U.S. Dept. of Education's loan forgiveness plan

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Education on Wednesday, October 6, announced an overhaul of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program.

Education Department officials said they would implement the overhaul over the next year and make the program live up to its promise.

According to a news re-



*The U.S. Department of Education has announced an overhaul of its Student Loan Forgiveness Plan. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

lease, the policy will result in 22,000 borrowers who have consolidated loans

— including previously ineligible loans — being immediately eligible for \$1.74

billion in forgiveness without the need for further action on their part.

Another 27,000 borrowers could potentially qualify for an additional \$2.82 billion in forgiveness if they certify additional periods of employment.

In total, the Department estimates that over 550,000 borrowers who have previously consolidated will see an increase in qualifying payments with the average borrower receiving another two years of progress to-

ward forgiveness.

Many more will also see progress as borrowers consolidate into the Direct Loan program and apply for PSLF, and as the Department rolls out other changes in the weeks and months ahead, officials stated.

"Borrowers who devote a decade of their lives to public service should be able to rely on the promise of Public Service Loan Forgiveness," U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona stated in the news release.

"The system has not delivered on that promise to date, but that is about to change for many borrowers who have served their communities and their country," Cardona continued.

"Teachers, nurses, first responders, servicemembers, and so many public service workers have had our back especially amid the challenges of the pandemic. Today, the Biden Administration is showing that we have their backs, too."

## Justice Department addresses violent threats against school officials and teachers

Citing an increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members, teachers and workers in our nation's public schools, today Attorney General Merrick B. Garland directed the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet in the next 30 days with federal, state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement leaders to discuss strategies for addressing this disturbing trend. These sessions will open dedicated

lines of communication for threat reporting, assessment and response by law enforcement.

"Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our nation's core values," wrote Attorney General Garland. "Those who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that our children receive a proper education in a safe environment deserve to be able to do their work without fear for their safety."

According to the Attorney General's memorandum, the Justice Department will launch a series of additional efforts in the coming days designed to address the rise in criminal conduct directed toward school personnel. Those efforts are expected to include the creation of a task force, consisting of representatives from the department's Criminal Division, National Security Division, Civil Rights Division, the Executive Office for U.S.

Attorneys, the FBI, the Community Relations Service and the Office of Justice Programs, to determine how federal enforcement tools can be used to prosecute these crimes, and ways to assist state, Tribal, territorial and local law enforcement where threats of violence may not constitute federal crimes.

The Justice Department will also create specialized training and guidance for local school boards and school

administrators. This training will help school board members and other potential victims understand the type of behavior that constitutes threats, how to report threatening conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and how to capture and preserve evidence of threatening conduct to aid in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

Threats of violence against school board members, officials, and workers in our

nation's public schools can be reported by the public to the FBI's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) via its national tip line (1-800-CALL-FBI) and online through the FBI website (<http://fbi.gov/tips>). To ensure that threats are communicated to the appropriate authorities, NTOC will direct credible threats to FBI field offices, for coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners as appropriate.

## Dallas College Board of Trustees selects newest member

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Gretchen Minyard Williams was named to fill the vacant seat on the Dallas College Board of Trustees during a swearing-in ceremony at the board's regular meeting today.

Gretchen Williams replaces her husband, Dallas businessman JL Sonny Williams, who passed away in July from a lengthy illness. Williams will represent District 1 which covers most of the northern part of Dallas County and must run for election in May if she wishes to retain the seat.

State law authorizes the board to fill such vacancies by appointment. Board members reviewed submissions and interviewed applicants before selecting Williams. "Gretchen's commitment to the community is clear and she understands the mission of Dallas College," Board of



Trustees Chair Monica Lira Bravo said. "We respect her knowledge and the community leadership she brings. We look forward to working closely with her."

Williams is a graduate of Texas Christian University and serves on the board of directors for Baylor University Medical Center. She serves on the board of directors for High Ground Advisors, an investment management and trust services company, Leuke-

mia Texas and the Dallas Mavericks Foundation. Williams is a licensed real estate agent for Ebby Haliday Realtors. She and her family helped build Texas-based Minyard Food Stores Inc. into one of the nation's largest supermarket chains.

"Anyone who wants the opportunity to achieve their education goals should have the chance to do so, and as a trustee I understand and fully support these goals," Williams said. "COVID has continued to challenge our students who might not have the necessary resources to successfully complete their education virtually."

"Many of those students are making the difficult decision to pay for their education or their everyday expenses. Through the pandemic, they have felt that education must take a back seat. I applaud the work of

Dallas College to provide viable, affordable educational options to help bring these students back so they can accomplish their goals," Williams said.

JL Sonny Williams joined the board in 2006 and rose to chair the board's audit committee. A part owner of the Dallas Mavericks, Williams was a strong sup-

porter of higher education.

The Dallas College Board of Trustees has seven members who govern the college and serve six-year terms.

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Together We Can Find A Solution

# UD, Irving develop new training agreement to benefit police

By Megan Wagner, MH '16  
University of Dallas

Irving Police officers are building practical leadership and management skills through a new training course offered by the Satish and Yasmin Gupta College of Business. The training began Sept. 23 and is open to police supervisors from the first-line supervisors to command staff.

The idea for the Practical Leadership training was sparked by the Emotional Intelligence course offered in 2019 by Associate Professor Emerita Rosemary Maellaro, Ph.D. Nearly 100 Irving police officers



took that course, and UD received great feedback from the participants. Additionally, Maellaro shared that the students were "very receptive and participative, which made the quality of the sessions better." Both UD and the Irving PD are excited about the new agreement and training

partnership.

According to the training agreement between UD and the City of Irving on behalf of the Irving Police Department, the cohort size in Practical Leadership is set as 5-25 individuals; the first cohort includes 25 Irving police officers. UD will award an Executive Education Certificate to each participant who completes the Practical Leadership training. The training agreement goes on to outline additional details of the course: The program cycle is four months in length and includes eight modules. The modules are experiential in nature, including one

in-person day per month, which is supplemented by an online component.

Maellaro explained, "These assignments increase the transfer of learning and help the lessons stick so that the practical skills are incorporated into their job." Maellaro and Dilla will each lead four of the eight modules. Their styles, backgrounds and experience make them an excellent pairing of instructors for Practical Leadership.

Some areas of focus in the curriculum include: transitioning from individual contributor to manager to leader; discovering

your strengths; leading successful teams; maximizing relationships; and coaching. The participants will be assigned one book to read about leadership or teams for each of the four in-person class days. They will also complete one or two self-assessments such as CliftonStrengths and the Team Player Attitudes Assessment before each in-person class. In the final session, they will develop their own "Next Steps" leadership plan.

Dilla and Maellaro hope that this Practical Leadership training will give officers insight into their own strengths and leader-

ship styles and will provide practical ways to apply their leadership skills in their current and future roles.

UD's partnership with the City of Irving extends to other facets of the campus community, including a student-led initiative called The Big Event on Saturday, Nov. 6. This community service event, organized by Aubrey Weiburg in coordination with Keep Irving Beautiful, gives students, faculty, staff and alumni an opportunity to serve Irving residents in need of outdoor work — from painting to gardening and general clean-up work.

## DROUGHT, from Page 5

Chen and her team incorporated the satellite data into an existing land surface model used by researchers around the world. They then zeroed in on what that meant for Texas drought from 2010 to 2013.

The updated model simulation and the USDM were in agreement when it came to the geographical

extent of the drought. But the updated model simulation showed that more areas were experiencing more severe drought than determined by the USDM, particularly in the western half of the state. The new model also found that widespread drought started in 2010, much earlier than the USDM.

The results also differ in what was the worst week of the historic drought. For the USDM it was the week of Oct. 4, 2011, with the most severe category of drought gripping 87.99% of the state. For the new model, it was the week of April 5, 2011, with 95.1% of the state experiencing the most severe category of drought.

The researchers said

that developing methods for better understanding droughts is important to Texas as policymakers try to determine how the state's water resources will be affected by climate change and population growth.

"Using measurement from space is a clever way to be able to more realistically detect and monitor droughts," said co-author Zong-Liang Yang, a professor at the Jackson School.

The study was also

co-authored by Chunlin Huang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The research was funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the UT Austin-Portugal MAGAL Constellation Project.

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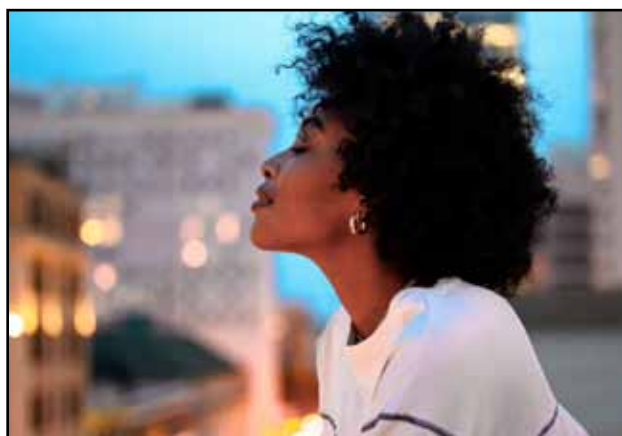
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# WiNGS walks alongside women as they build resiliency and imagine possibilities

WiNGS – a 113-year-old organization that empowers women, fights poverty and impacts generations – has released its 2020-2021 Impact Report. Even amid the disproportionate and unprecedented challenges that women faced over the past year, the report highlights the resilience and fortitude demonstrated by WiNGS clients to not only weather the storm but achieve and create new goals. Other key details include a breakdown of clients served, the accomplishments of the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and Economic Advancement programs, and spotlights on the donors, partners and staff who made it possible.

WiNGS supported and empowered 1,840 clients over the past year, 92% of



Jeffery Erhurse / Unsplash

which were people of color and 79% with an annual income of less than \$38,000. Shifting to a fully virtual program delivery at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, WiNGS staff, nurses, coaches and volunteers worked to offer uninterrupted services tailored to each client's needs and goals.

"The Women of WiNGS are tough and focused on

a better future for themselves and their families," said Kate Rose Marquez, CEO of WiNGS. "It is inspiring to walk alongside these women who embrace change – whether becoming a mother, embarking on a new career, or taking control of their financial future. I am grateful to be a part of the journey and proud of the WiNGS team for con-

tinuing to provide critical services in difficult circumstances."

Through its NFP program WiNGS served 402 moms and 312 babies in the past year. Each mom and baby benefitted from an average of 60 appointments over two and a half years with registered NFP nurses who provide health, nutrition, social and emotional wellness support, resources and opportunities.

- Of the newly enrolled moms, 77% received prenatal care, and 91% of babies were born at a healthy birth weight.

- Among mothers who gave birth last year, 94.4% initiated breastfeeding and 51.6% continued to breastfeed at six months.

WiNGS hosted 605 clients in finance, career and

business classes throughout the past year. More than half of those clients also received one-on-one financial coaching to tailor actionable plans to their individual goals. As a result of the Economic Advancement program, 36 women launched or grew their business, and 70 jobs were created. In the past fiscal year, WiNGS clients with goals in savings, credit or debt showed the following outcomes:

- 55% with a savings goal increased their savings by an average of \$1,404

- 64% with a credit goal increased their score by an average of 46 points

- 46% with a debt goal increased their debt by an average of \$10,079

In addition, WiNGS was recognized as a finalist by

D CEO's 2021 Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards in the Capital One Impact Initiative category for their efforts addressing the community's pressing needs to increase financial well-being. WiNGS could not have received this honor without the support of the board and generous donors and partners.

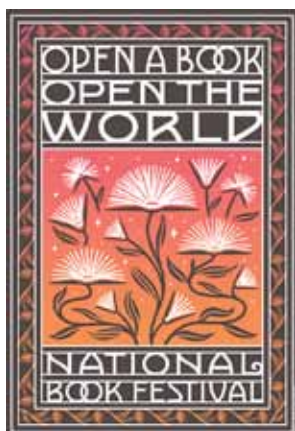
No matter the challenges ahead, WiNGS is well equipped to provide relevant support and chart actionable paths for women in Dallas to reach their goals. Regardless of the circumstances that bring a woman to WiNGS, she leaves with confidence in a brighter future for herself and her family. For more information and to find ways to help, please visit [wingsdallas.org](http://wingsdallas.org).

## Library of Congress National Book Festival draws more than 317,000 views

Book lovers joined the Library of Congress National Book Festival from across the country over 10 days this year, totaling more than 317,000 views to date across a variety of platforms, including virtual events with authors and videos on demand. The festival reached even more people through a national television special, new podcast interviews and events hosted by partners across the country.

The festival, held Sept. 17-26, invited audiences to create their own National Book Festival experience and featured a diverse lineup of more than 100 authors, poets and writers discussing their new books spanning eight fiction and nonfiction genres. The full slate of festival programs remains available on demand at [loc.gov/bookfest](http://loc.gov/bookfest).

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced planning is underway to host the 2022 festival in person over Labor Day weekend at the Washing-



*The 2021 Library of Congress National Book Festival featured more than 100 authors, poets and writers in a range of formats — all celebrating the festival theme, "Open a Book, Open the World." The poster art for this year's festival was designed by Dana Tanamachi.*

ton Convention Center, while maintaining a robust virtual presentation for audiences nationwide.

The 2022 National Book Festival also will be curated by a new literary director. Clay Smith will join the national library this month as chief of Literary Initiatives to lead year-round literary programs, including the festival. He most recently served as literary director and one

of the founders of the San Antonio Book Festival. Smith, who is also a journalist, was previously editor-in-chief of Kirkus Reviews and literary director of the Texas Book Festival where he worked with former first lady Laura Bush who also co-founded the National Book Festival in 2001. Smith was elected to the board of the National Book Critics Circle in 2015 and has written for the New York Times Book Review, among other outlets.

"The Library of Congress National Book Festival has extended its reach to become a truly national celebration of reading, and we are thrilled to welcome Clay Smith to help lead the festival to the next level," said Shari Werb, director of the Library's Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement. "We can't wait to gather again with readers of all ages in 2022 for one of our nation's premiere literary festivals."

This was the second year

the National Book Festival has shifted to an extensive virtual lineup of events and extended its reach online and through strategic collaborations with public libraries, organizations

and media outlets, during a time when a large in-person event was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This year's National Book Festival audience

represented all 50 states and participants from 188 countries," said Jarrod MacNeil, director of the National Book Festival.

See LIBRARY, Page 15

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# Cowboys continue roll with win over Panthers, 36-28

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

ARLINGTON -- After the way they meticulously dismantled the Carolina Panthers this past Sunday at AT&T Stadium, this has all the makings of being a very special season for the Dallas Cowboys.

The then-undefeated Panthers came to Arlington ranked first in the National Football League in total defense in six categories, including allowing just 45 yards rushing per game and giving up just 30 TOTAL points on the season. But the Cowboys rushed for 46 yards less than five minutes into the game, and rushed for 245 yards for the day and went on to throttle Carolina, 36-28, in a contest that wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

It was the third straight win for the Cowboys, who ran their NFC-East leading record to 3-1 and will now host the New York Giants (1-3) on Sunday at 3:25 p.m.

Quarterback Dak Prescott tossed a career-high tying four touchdown passes – the fifth time he's done that in his career – and passed for 188 yards. Meanwhile, Ezekiel Elliott rushed 20 times for 143 yards and a touchdown, and the Dallas defense picked up five sacks – two by Randy Gregory -- and a pair of interceptions.

In all, this was a dominant



All Pro Reels / Flickr

performance on both sides of the ball by the Cowboys.

"Yeah, it's special," said Prescott, who completed 14 of his 22 pass attempts. "That's what you're looking for when you want to be the best offense. You want to be balanced.

"You're going to do whatever it takes to win and ideally as I told you all before, you're going to go into the game planning to do both, planning to have a game like this where you don't have to do one more than the other. If you're required to do that, you're going to do that. And whether it's me throwing a lot or Zeke running a lot, we're going to take advantage and do whatever it takes to win and help this team out."

Entering Sunday's game, Carolina had given up a total of 135 yards rushing in its three games. Elliott averaged 7.2 yards per rush against the Panthers and also ripped off a 47-yard

run, which was his longest since 2016.

"The O-line, they dominated the line of scrimmage (Sunday)," Elliott said. "They're a good defense, they bring a lot of different fronts to the table, they're going to run a lot of different things, they are going to change it up on you.

"They hadn't seen an offense like us this year, so we came out and played good ball."

Trailing 14-13 at the half, the Cowboys rattled off 23 consecutive points – including 20 in the third quarter – to bolt ahead 36-14 early in the fourth period. In the third quarter alone, Prescott hurled a picture-perfect 35-yard scoring strike to Amari Cooper, a 6-yarder to Dalton Schultz and a 23-yarder to Cedric Wilson.

"It was just like a few adjustments from the coaches coming out," Prescott said, referring to the third-quarter explosion. "More im-

portantly, it was us talking about how much we've put into this -- going back to the spring -- how much commitment we have for one another."

Part of that commitment can also be showed in the stellar improvement in the Cowboys' defense. Fresh off being named the NFC Defensive Player of the Month for the month of September, cornerback Trevon Diggs collected a pair of interceptions against the Panthers to run his total for the season to five.

The last Cowboys player to have five interceptions through the first four games

was linebacker Chuck Howley – 53 years ago.

"I feel like I'm reading my keys, just being me, playing how I'm playing just trying to play at a high level and just trying to win," Diggs said. "Just reading my keys again, seeing the receiver, seeing the quarterback throw the ball and just broke on the ball.

"I love that challenge. It's mono a mono – who's better at the end of the day. I like to compete every play, so I want to see who's better."

Diggs left the game early in the fourth quarter and didn't return, but is expected to pay against the Giants.

"I was just having back tightness," he said. "They wanted to hold me, didn't want to risk it."

Diggs is as aggressive as they come, and has already proven – in just his second season – to be a lockdown cornerback.

"I mean, player of the month, working on second month of the season," coach Mike McCarthy said. "He's playing with phenomenal confidence, and took a big responsibility (Sunday) working on their top receiver (in DJ Moore).

"He delivered with two

**See COWBOYS, Page 10**

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# 'The Many Saints of Newark' has moments, but not that many

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

This prequel film to the storied HBO cable series *The Sopranos* generated a lot of publicity with the novelty casting of the late lead actor James Gandolfini's son Michael as the teen Tony Soprano. Now, fans are primed to watch the young impressionable Tony come of age. Is it worth it?

Eschewing normal screenplay structure, where a compelling protagonist fights against an antagonist and incredible odds, the injudicious script by series creator/writer David Chase and co-writer Lawrence Konner chooses to follow a host of criminal characters instead. Few of these people have any great appeal. Few, as written, are devilishly evil enough to shock an audience into submission.

Tony's surrogate uncle and mentor Dickie Moltisanti (Alessandro Nivola, *American Hustle*) lords over an Italian gang in Newark, N.J.—in 1967. His crew runs a numbers racket all over town, including the black section where his ex-high-school buddy Harold McBrayer (Leslie Odom, *Hamilton*) gathers the dough and menaces

anyone who doesn't pay up. Dickie's life changes the day his dad "Hollywood Dick" Moltisanti (Ray Liotta, *Goodfellas*) returns from Italy with his new way-too-young and pretty wife Giuseppina (Michela De Rossi). Her looks tempt men.

Visually the footage is unappealing. Dark murky lighting (cinematographer Kramer Morgenthau), artificial looking sets (production designer Bob Shaw), boring clothes (Amy Westcott) and imprecise editing aren't attractive and give the footage a dirge-like pace. Fortunately, Susan Jacobs' musical score and a playlist with Dionne Warwick and Van Morrison add some verve.

Dickie Moltisanti is a prick, but not an extraordinary one. Certainly not the kind of bully who deserves his own movie. He is not an iconic character like Don Vito Corleone (*The Godfather*) and Nivola is not Marlon Brando. It would take a character and an actor of that magnitude to make watching this 120-minute film as engaging as it should be.

The good news for *The Sopranos*' fans is that 22-year-old Michael Gandolfini has that same in-

triguing glint in his eyes as his dad and is more interesting to watch than most of the other actors. Judging by his performance, he's ready to play Tony Soprano as a

young adult—in a series, which as is, looks like the only proper arena for a continuation of *The Sopranos* franchise.

Making bigger than life

gangster feature films is an art that should be left to the pros (Scorsese, Coppola). Stepping out of its cable TV lane hasn't helped *The Many Saints of Newark*.

In theaters starting October 1st, 2021

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).



Leslie Odom, Jr. and Germar Terrell Gardner mob drama "The Many Saints Of Newark."

## Bishop Arts Theatre Center opens its 28th anniversary season with Franky Gonzalez' new play

The Bishop Arts Theatre Center will open its 28th anniversary season with a world premiere production of Franky Gonzalez's new play, *Before You Get Married*, running October 14 - 30, 2021. Gonzalez was recently named BATC's Playwright-in-Residence and will be primarily re-

sponsible for curating the season and developing workshops for local writers. The theatre produced an audio version of the play in February 2021, but this iteration will be held in person and staged in the arts business incubator center

See BISHOP, Page 14

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STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

# WALLACE, from Page 1

told in an ongoing four-and-a-half-year smear campaign to negatively impact my life, while simultaneously attempting to thwart any tremendously great academic and athletic opportunities I have in college at Prairie A&M and the NFL.”

In the case of the first accuser, Wallace produced texts from the young woman after the encounter stating she was “glad she spent the night.” The woman asked Wallace if he was seeing anyone else, and she wanted to see him again after he returned from an out-of-town road trip with the football team. When Wallace promised to see her upon his return, she replied, “Yaaaay, you better not break it.”

Wallace did not choose to pursue a further relationship with the woman, and in an interview during the investigation into the incident, a friend of the young woman admitted to investigators her friend became angry when Wallace stopped responding to her texts.

In the case of the second accuser, Wallace contends the two never actually had full intercourse, though they did engage in sexual activity. This detail is cor-

roborated by a friend of the accuser who told authorities that the woman in question told her “We just made out and did other stuff.” However, in the police report, the accuser claimed that Wallace engaged in unwanted intercourse with her three times over a period of several hours, and at two locations.

Wallace points out that the accuser drove him home the next morning. Once again there were after-the-fact text messages from the woman, and Wallace says she also represented a desire to see him again. Once again, he declined.

Then there is the issue of the timing of the complaints. The first alleged incident occurred on Sept. 12, 2016. The second alleged incident took place on Sept. 22, 2016. Despite the time between the two incidents, and a period of weeks afterwards, the two women filed their reports on consecutive days: with the first approaching authorities on Oct. 4, and the second on Oct. 5. This raises the obvious question as to whether the two women in the close-knit college community became aware of each other, and if that had a bearing on their decision to make these al-

legations. Following the investigation, by two separate departments, Wallace was not charged with any crime. The charges were officially dropped due to “insufficiency of evidence,” and investigators further noted the issue of “consent” was the primary hurdle against prosecution.

Wallace subsequently transferred schools and intended to move on with his life and seek opportunity elsewhere, but then discovered his transcript from the University of Oregon would have “sexual misconduct” as the reason for leaving. Wallace then took legal action to have this removed from his transcript, and the university complied in short order.

This sparked a second round of media attention, with the USA Today Network portraying it as a “secret deal” to hide his actions. The allegations were rolled out yet again, with none of the extensive exculpatory evidence presented to the readers.

Wallace’s position is simple. He never “hid” from the investigation. That investigation supported his version of events. Not only were there no criminal charges, but there was also no civil action taken by the accusers either. So, if he

was not guilty of “sexual misconduct,” it should not remain on his transcript. While he does not intend to discuss the allegations further, he has released a detailed written statement recounting his side of the story. From his perspective, it is a closed case.

He then played his college football at Prairie View A&M, an HBCU in Texas, and was a standout player. He went on to participate in professional tryouts for the NFL which were held at Texas A&M. Wallace had also hoped to represent athletes from HBCUs in the draft, of which none were taken. His raw numbers from that tryout were impressive by comparison.

“Tristen measured at 6’2.5” and 235 lbs., ran a 4.49 in the 40-yard dash with a vertical jump of 37 inches which is very rare at that size and weight for an NFL receiver,” said Wallace’s agent, John Biggins. “It shows superb speed,

power and explosiveness for a big guy and would compare with any top-drafted receivers with similar size in previous drafts.”

Beyond the raw numbers, Biggins added that there was no shortage of interest from scouts when it came to his client’s performance on the field. He says he was also told that the lingering allegations were indeed the pitfall, which denied Wallace an opportunity to play at the next level.

“I spoke to six NFL college scouts including one College Scouting Director following Tristen’s outstanding performance at Texas A&M Pro Day and all told me he was the second-best player at the pro day behind Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond (subsequently drafted in the 3rd Round by the Minnesota Vikings,” Biggins said. “They further told me that absent the false sex assault allegations, he would be no worse than a 4th or

5th round pick because of his unique combination of size, 4.4 speed, hands, and big play ability. In addition, either me or Tristen were contacted by another 10-15 scouts leading up to the NFL Draft wherein the scouts applauded his talent, Pro Day Performance, and expressed their interest.”

The justice system in the U.S. serves two purposes. The first is to hold wrongdoers accountable for their actions. The second is to protect the innocent from false allegations. Despite the history of that justice system weighing heavily against African American defendants, Wallace withstood its scrutiny and was ultimately vindicated in the eyes of the law. He also persevered through the adversity of changing programs to continue the pursuit of his childhood dreams.

Now, he is only looking for the chance to put his abilities to the test just like any other athlete coming out of college.

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# COVID's effects worsen America's racial wealth gap: Blacks own 22 cents for every dollar held by whites

By Charlene Crowell

As the global pandemic continues to take lives and infect multiple generations, virtually every dimension of life is challenged. And people with the fewest financial resources before COVID-19 are being challenged more than ever before.

It is both a challenge and an opportunity for leadership in the Biden Administration, Congress, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, along with the private sector address to effect policies and practices that reverse the nation's still-growing racial wealth gap. Tried and true wealth-building tools like targeted homeownership and expanded small business investments together would bring sustainable and meaningful changes to those who historically have been financially marginalized.

In an effort to better understand and solve the dual sagas wrought from centuries of racial discrimination and COVID, major universities, government agencies, public policy institutes and corporations are releasing new research that analyzes the pandemic's added challenges that exacerbate historical racial inequities.

For example, from January through March of this year, Blacks on average had 22 cents for every dollar of white family wealth, according to the St. Louis Federal Reserve's Institute for Economic Equity. These substantial gaps have remained largely unchanged since 1989 to the present, according to the Institute.

The gap's disparities are also reflected in findings from research conducted by Harvard University. This esteemed Ivy League institution drew a key distinction between America's income and wealth inequalities. "Income is unequal, but wealth is even more unequal," said Alexandra Killewald, professor of sociology at Harvard, who studies inequality in the contemporary U.S.

"You can think of income as water flowing into your bathtub, whereas wealth is like the water that's sitting in the bathtub," she said. "If you have wealth, it can protect you if you lose your job or your house. Wealth is distinctive because it can be used as a cushion, and it can be directly passed down across generations," providing families more

choices and greater opportunity in the present and the future... white Americans are benefiting from legacies of advantage... The typical white American family has roughly 10 times as much wealth as the typical African American family and the typical Latino family."

While the issues raised by the Federal Reserve and Harvard may sound like variations on an old theme, a 150-year-old global financial firm, Goldman Sachs, urges targeted and sustained investment by both the public and private sectors to erase America's racial wealth gap. While the report focuses on Black women, its projected outcomes would benefit Black men as well.

"If the improvements benefit Black women and men alike, we estimate larger increases in U.S. employment of 1.7 million jobs and in U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.1%, which corresponds to \$450 billion per year."

Titled, *Black Womenomics: Investing in the Underinvested*, the March 2021 report calls for access to capital, education, equitable earnings, health care, and housing to lay the groundwork to reverse historical disadvantages, while creating financial in-

dependence and personal wealth.

Most importantly, the report calls for the participation of Blacks – and especially Black women -- to shape their own futures.

"[A]ny efforts to effectively address the issues can only be successful if Black women are actively engaged in formulating the strategies and framing the outcomes. Moreover, addressing discrimination and bias will be fundamental to real and sustainable progress... The large wealth gap faced by single Black women is particularly important because Black women are more and increasingly likely to be single and breadwinner mothers... Among Black mothers, more than 80% are breadwinners compared to 50% of white mothers," states the report.

How existing financial disparities leave Black women more financially vulnerable is found in the report's data points:

Black women face a 90% wealth gap;

The wage gap of Black women widens through their whole work-life, and especially rapidly between ages 20 and 35;

Black women are five times more likely than white men to rely on expensive payday loans;

Black women are nearly three times more likely to forego prescription medicine, and also much more likely than white men not to see a doctor because they cannot afford it; and

The median single Black woman does not own a home, and single Black women are 24 times less likely than single white men to own a business.

Additionally, the nation's shortage of affordable housing translates into 85% of Black women with families facing housing costs ranging from more than 30% to 50% of their incomes. Once the monthly rent is paid, these housing-burdened households have little left to cover utilities, food, childcare or other household needs.

Even Black families earning a median income will need 14 years just to save a 5% home down payment, according to a recent analysis by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL).

A legacy of historically modest incomes and little inter-generational wealth available to be passed down by families leaves most Black Americans without the comparable financial advantages enjoyed by other races and ethnicities.

These and other circum-

stances lead many women – especially women of color -- to turn to high-cost loans of only a few hundred dollars. Although the typical payday loan of \$350 is marketed as a short-term fix to an unexpected expense, the reality for many with modest incomes is that the high-cost loan – which can come with interest as high as 400% -- becomes yet another long-term financial burden that worsens financial strains with every renewal.

"Predatory, high-interest lenders pull people down into financial quicksand, making them more likely to experience a range of harms, such as losing their bank account, defaulting on their bills, losing their car, and declaring bankruptcy. It is low-income consumers, and disproportionately communities of color – whom the lenders target – that are being harmed," said Ashley Harrington, of CRL in testimony this summer before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee.

The harms of wealth inequality also extend to the broader U.S. economy, according to the Goldman Sachs report. In its view, expanding opportunities for Black women who are

See GAP, Page 16

## PEEBLES, from Page 2

of a wrongfully accused Black man's journey from sideshow to revolutionary. Sweetback put forth a bold Black aesthetic embracing Black fashion of the time, elements of the Black Power movement and articulating the idea of American freedom through a distinctly Black revolutionary socio-political lens.

Much like Black film pioneer Oscar Micheaux, Van Peebles' films were celebrated and condemned for exploring controversial topics and for what some critics called technical is-

sues. Using a distribution technique like Micheaux, Van Peebles rented out theaters in Black cities and showed his films to sold out audiences keeping all of the profits. This distribution technique practiced by Micheaux and Van Peebles is now referred to as four walling, a term coined in 1965. Through this distribution model, Van Peebles earned \$10 million at the box office and Hollywood noticed. Film companies like United Artists which was on the brink of economic collapse at the time,

appropriated the narrative and stylistic elements of his films, giving birth to what would become the Blaxploitation era of filmmaking. Blaxploitation films were cheaply made, featured Black casts, R&B/Soul soundtracks, highlighted Black fashion and culture of the time and explored themes of resistance. The genre turned fashion models Richard Roundtree and Tamara Dobson and aspiring actress Pam Grier into bonafide movie stars.

Known as the Godfather of Black Cinema, Van Peebles was a man of many talents, all of which were on

display with the film *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*, which he produced, directed, starred in and distributed the film. While Van Peebles continued writing and directing film, he appeared as an actor in 44 films and television shows including *Boomerang*, *Living Single*, *Panther*, *Girlfriends* and *Peeples*. He also continued writing and performing songs, releasing six solo albums over the years.

In 2014, Van Peebles released *The Last Transmission*, a spoken word and jazz collaboration with the Heliocentrics. He collabo-

rated with other music artists, appearing in the visual album for Standing on the Corner's single, "Angel" in 2020.

The Criterion Collection, which will release a retrospective box set of Van Peebles' work next week, announced his death in a statement. They wrote on Twitter:

"We are saddened to announce the passing of a giant of American cinema, Melvin Van Peebles, who died last night, at home with family, at the age of 89. In an unparalleled career, Van Peebles made an indelible mark on the inter-

national cultural landscape. He will be deeply missed."

Mario Van Peebles released a statement about his father's passing through Criterion:

"Dad knew that Black images matter," Mario Van Peebles offered. "If a picture is worth a thousand words, what was a movie worth? We want to be the success we see, thus we need to see ourselves being free."

Melvin Van Peebles is survived by three children Mario Van Peebles, Megan Van Peebles and Max Van Peebles and a host of grandchildren. He was 89.

### On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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### Ongoing Census Bureau

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### 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>.

### Ongoing 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 desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

## DART named a Best-in-State Employer by Forbes

For the second year in a row, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has been recognized as a Best-in-State Employer by Forbes.

The Best-in-State Employer award winners, given out by Forbes and Statista Inc., were chosen from a sample of 80,000 Americans working for businesses with at least 500 employees across the U.S. Surveys were conducted on a rolling basis from Octo-

ber 2020 to June 2021 and were anonymous, allowing participants to freely share their opinions. The final list ranks the 1,328 employers that received the most recommendations.

"We are honored to once again be named as a Best-in-State Employer by Forbes," said Nadine Lee, President & Chief Executive Officer. "DART is an incredible place to work and develop your career

because of the fantastic people who have chosen to be part of the DART family. Our employees' dedication to DART's mission and values and determination

to put our customers at the heart of everything we do, is the key to our success."

DART is ranked #23 out of the 101 businesses to make the Texas state list.

## COWBOYS, from Page 9

huge plays there in the second half. He's playing at a very high level right now. It's awesome."

It's also awesome what the Cowboys are doing overall on defense as they've forced at least two turnovers in eight straight contests. They also went into the game against the Panthers with four sacks on the season, and now have more than doubled that total.

"You could say that, but we aren't really too worried about that," Elliott said when asked if the win over the Panthers was a statement game. "We're worried about competing week-in and week-out, getting better week-in and week-out and trying to stack these wins."

And in stacking wins, the Cowboys hope to keep the rest of the NFC East at

a safe distance. But they know that will include tying up some loose ends and stop making games like the one against the Panthers closer than it needed to be.

"We have a lot of repairs we can improve on, that's the beauty of what's going on," McCarthy said. "I mean, our team knows how to win, we've established that here the last three weeks, and that's the most important thing. But right now we're not really into the style points."

"We do have a game plan and the adjustments that we're making, it's keeping our guys in clean looks. Just the way they're playing together – the energy and the way they're flying around is a big part of our success right now. But there's definitely room for improvement and we realize that."



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### NAN Chapter President

The National Action Network is looking for a President for its upcoming Dallas chapter. This is a volunteer position that requires an activist heart and an interest in civil rights.

The President:

- Presides at meetings and acts as Chairman/Chairwoman of the Executive Committee.
- Appoints all committees not directly elected by the Chapter.
- Between meetings of the Executive Committee and subject to the approval thereof, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Chapter.
- The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Shall work with other members of the Executive Committee to develop a program agenda for a defined fiscal year.
- Acknowledges he/she is the primary force within the Chapter in establishing a working relationship and communication with the National and Regional Office(s); ensures that these offices receive all reports, including quarterly reports, and reports of elections.
- Is familiar with pertinent governing documents including: The NAN by-laws and Chapter rules.

Interested parties should contact Robert D. Bush, president of the Las Vegas Chapter, at (702) 626-0158.

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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.*

**October 10, 9:45 am**  
Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Medita-

tion" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

**October 13, 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 Philippians Chapter 3. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
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Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
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**October**  
Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

**October 10**  
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.

**October 13, 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.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor

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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.

**October 08, 7 pm**  
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

**October 10, 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.

**October 11, 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.

**October 10, 8 and 11 am**  
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**October 11, 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).

**October 13, 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.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

# Hallelujah... She's Baaaaack

Dr. James L. Snyder

I have learned that you don't miss something until it is gone. Unfortunately, sometimes, it's too late.

Over six weeks ago, or was it nine months, I took my truck in for a regular checkup. I was going away for the week, so I thought I would drop the truck off and let them work on it when they had time, and then when I come back, it would be ready.

I took it in on Monday, then we left for our family reunion, and on Tuesday, the machine shop called me with some rather sad news. The engine in my truck was just about finished. So I had a choice of getting a new engine or buying another truck.

The last idea wasn't a good one for me.

During those six weeks, my wife and I shared her little van for our travels.

We had to coordinate our schedule so we could be united.

She would drive her van, and I would go along when we would go to church or some other function that we had to be together. So that wasn't too bad.

Then, when she had to go somewhere, she would use her van. Sometimes she would drop me off at the church office and then go on her schedule and then come back and pick me up. That wasn't too bad.

When she had nowhere to go, and I had somewhere to go, I would then be driving her little van. I did not know how little this van was until I started driving it.

I could barely get in on the driver's side, get all buckled up and ready to go. Everything had to be changed, like the mirrors, the seat and the steering wheel.

If I thought getting into that little van was difficult, all I had to do was wait until I had to get out, and that was a completely different story. Several times I actually fell out because there is no real structure for a man my size.

I didn't know how much I really liked that truck until I was driving this little sis-sy van. In the truck, I could be myself, but in that little van, I could not be myself, that's for sure.

Then this past Tuesday, I got that telephone call I was impatiently waiting for. The truck was ready, and all I needed to do was come by and pick it up. But, of course, that meant I needed to pay the bill for the repairs.

When I hung up the phone, I was really excited.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Why are you so excited?"

I just looked at her and smiled.

"Oh," she said with a grin, "your truck is ready."

She drove me to get my truck, and as we were traveling, she looked at me and said, "You really missed your truck, didn't you?"

I thought of a verse of Scripture along this line. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (2 John 1:8).

I really don't appreciate what I have until I lose it. This is also true of people. We don't realize how much a person means to us until they are gone.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472, where he lives with his wife. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*

## BISHOP, from Page 10

of the theatre that will be transformed into a hotel setting. The reconfiguration is designed to manage crowd control due to the global pandemic.

Before You Get Married is an immersive theatre experience that explores the relationship between two siblings on the night before the sister's wedding. With the passing night and flowing wine, both siblings struggle to understand what they mean to each other as secrets are revealed. The play features veteran actors Matthieu Myrick and Sasha Maya Ada Davis as main characters Jason and Alicia. Matthieu earned a BA in Theatre from UNT and frequently works in film, and Sasha earned a BFA in Acting and Directing at the Meadows School of the Arts. Davis also shows off her directing skills for the production.

Both Gonzalez and Executive Artistic Director, Teresa Coleman Wash,

agree this is an exciting moment to experiment and reimagine what theatre looks like. Gonzalez comments, "People have said that the Theatre has been dying for centuries, if not millennia, yet she not only endures, but triumphs despite so many obstacles in front of her. Bishop Arts Theatre Center is demonstrating just how Theatre succeeds even in the most trying of circumstances. I am excited to bring audiences together, and pull them in just a little closer together through the story of Alicia and Jason and the shifting dynamics that overtake their world."

Executive Artistic Director, Teresa Coleman Wash comments, "One of the reasons why we have so much good TV now is because there are so many playwrights in writers' room. Franky Gonzalez is one such writer, and we're fortunate to have his work on our stage."

# How God Makes Fishermen



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*"'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'"*

**- Matthew 4:19.**

Our calling has three distinct stages, which we can see in the lives of many called before us, to become mature fishers of men who greatly impact God's Kingdom.

First, there is the gestation period. This is the development stage of our lives. It may involve years of normal work experiences.

You may be a Christian during this time, or you may be following after worldly success as a non-Christian.

Paul spent years in religious and political training, persecuting believers most of his early life. Moses spent years in the court of Pharaoh and 40 years tending flocks in the desert.

Jesus spent 30 years living at home and working in His father's carpentry business. However, all these years were part of their preparation.

Next is the crisis stage. Sooner or later, God calls you into relationship with Him. For many, like Paul, it comes through dramatic encounters like being knocked off a horse, blinded and spoken to personally by God.

Some people are more difficult than others to reach and so require this level of crisis. This is a time when God requires major changes so that you follow Him fully.

It can be a time in which God harnesses years of ex-



*First Lady of Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Carrollton, TX and Retired Teacher, Mrs. Ve Woodson*

perience for a new life purpose.

Paul's earthly experiences would be used in his calling to the religious and political leaders of his day.

For Moses, the burning bush experience would begin his journey in which he would discover his ultimate calling after years of preparation.

For Peter, it was his denial of Jesus three times that allowed him to face his shallow commitment to Christ.

For Jesus, it was the garden of Gethsemane. These were the benchmark turning points for men who made an impact on their world.

Last is the fruit-bearing

stage. In it, God's power is manifested in your life like never before.

God takes all your experiences and uses them to build His Kingdom in and through your life.

Your obedience to this final call results in fruitfulness you could never imagine without the long preparation process.

For Abraham, it resulted in becoming the father of many nations. For Paul, it resulted in bringing the gospel to the Gentiles.

And for Peter, it meant becoming the leader of the Church. For Jesus, it was salvation for the entire world.

What does God want to achieve through your life? God has a plan that is so

incredible you cannot comprehend it.

It requires only that you love Him and follow Him. Then you will become fishers of men like the world has never known.

Ask God if there are any areas of your life that has not come under the lordship of Jesus Christ or there is any lack of obedience that will prevent you from being used fully by Him?

Ask God to search you, and show you your heart; to try you, and know your anxieties; and see if there are any wicked way in you.

Ask Him to lead you in the way everlasting (based on Psalm 139:23-34). And, don't forget to praise Him and lift Him up, Because He is God Almighty.

## LIBRARY, from Page 8

"We are proud to bring together such a widespread community of readers with our national library."

Several of this year's programs will be featured in coverage Oct. 10 on Book TV on C-SPAN2, a longtime media partner of the festival. Book TV's coverage will feature programs with authors Catherine Belton and Joshua Yaffa, Rep. Sharice Davids of Kansas, authors Olivia Campbell and Janice P. Nimura, historian Joseph Ellis, and authors Patrick Radden Keefe and Eric Eyre. Find the most up-to-date schedule, search the Book TV archives or watch previously aired programs anytime at book-tv.org.

For the first time this year, the festival also included interviews presented with Washington Post Live and through podcasts produced and distributed by NPR. The collaborations with media partners

extended the festival's reach to new audiences nationally, along with events hosted by partner libraries and organizations through the Festival Near You series of events scheduled through November.

This year's festival also included a national television special on PBS. "Open a Book, Open the World: The Library of Congress National Book Festival" hosted by LeVar Burton premiered on Sept. 12 and has aired on hundreds of public television stations in recent weeks. The show, produced with Detroit Public Television, is also available for streaming on the Library's website, on PBS.org and on the PBS Video app.

The National Book Festival is made possible by the generous support of private- and public-sector sponsors who share the Library's commitment to reading and literacy, led by National Book Festi-

val Co-Chair David M. Rubenstein. Sponsors include: Festival Vice Chair the James Madison Council; Charter sponsors The Washington Post, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities; Additional generous support from the Library of Congress Federal Credit Union, Marshall B. Coyne Foundation Inc., Tim and Diane Naughton and Capital Group; Presenting Partner NPR; and Media Partners Book TV on C-SPAN 2 and The New Republic.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit

at loc.gov; access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

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# NDG Book Review: 'Believing' is an important book in trying times

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The grab was savage.

You yelped because you weren't expecting it. Because it shouldn't have happened. It was rough enough to leave marks on your skin, little round marks like fingertips; for sure, it left marks on your self-confidence but complain, and it'll all be denied. You know the truth, though, and when you read "Believing" by Anita Hill, you'll know someone else does, too.

Twenty-five percent of American women today "experience intimate partner violence..." Thirty-three percent say they've endured harassment at work. The rate's higher for



women of color, highest in the LGBTQ community. Similar statistics were available in 1991 when Anita Hill testified before Congress about the harassment she'd said she'd experienced from then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, testimony that

later contributed to Hill's becoming one of the country's leaders in the fight against sexual harassment and gender violence.

Before the Thomas hearing, Hill says, courts routinely dismissed most complaints about lewd comments, unwelcome advances, and unwanted touch from harassers. Some judges couldn't "understand" why a woman might be frightened by intimidation from a man; others believed the complaints to be overwrought. Such things were said to be "not that bad," says Hill, words she likens to a knife.

Millennial and GenZers are believed to be intolerant of harassment and in-

equality, but Hill says they may still be affected by entrenched attitudes that haven't been completely erased. She had hoped that #MeToo might've changed things, but while the movement helped to open a major conversation about the issues, the frequency of sexual harassment and gender violence has not lessened. She points to misogyny from the last administration and the Kavanaugh confirmation hearing as proof, as well as gun violence (often caused by bullying) and ongoing problems with harassment, homophobia, and gender inequality in many schools, from elementary school all the way through college.

We can do better but, as Hill indicates, America has a long way to go.

It's hard to nail down one single fix for issues of gender violence from the pages of "Believing." Dive in, dig around, surface for air, and dive in again – truth is, the whole entire book is one long roadmap, with dozens of possible patches.

And yet, you may ask yourself if what author Anita Hill quietly suggests is enough. Takeaways from the stories she shares are that gender violence and sexual harassment can be like a long game of Whack-a-Mole: once an incident is dealt with, another will pop up somewhere else, relentlessly, endlessly. Using the Thomas hearings as scaffolding here, she seems to show that while politics absolutely plays a part in the presence of harassment and gender violence in America, the prevalence can be found everywhere and costs us more than just psychologically.

Discouraging? Yes, and even Hill admits that such information can be triggering if you've been a victim, so read "Believing" with caution and deep-breathing room. It's powerful, deep, and raw but it's also highly informative. If you want to know where we're heading on this subject, it's the book to grab.

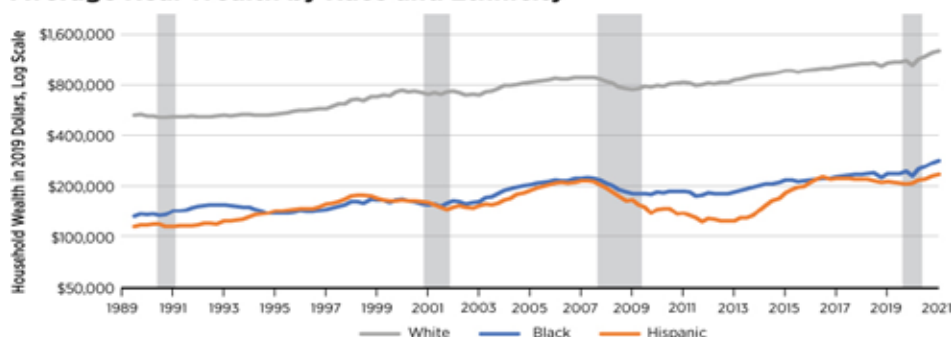
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often on the bottom rung of the economic ladder can create a pathway to individual and national prosperity. "Overcoming these adverse economic trends would make for not only a fairer, but also a richer society. We estimate that confronting the earnings gap for Black women could create 1.2-1.7 million U.S. jobs and raise the level of annual U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by 1.4-2.1% each year, or \$300-450 bil-

lion in current dollars."

The sum of these findings underscores the frustration felt by much of Black America. The Civil War ended slavery and promised the emancipated 40 acres and a mule. The civil rights laws of the 1960s promised to eliminate discrimination in voting, housing, and public accommodations. Next, the affirmative action programs of the 1970s promised equal opportunity employment in fields that

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had been previously barred to Blacks and other people of color.

It is time for this nation to make good on its age-old promises. Creating

neighborhoods of opportunity from poverty pockets would strengthen cities and suburbs alike. If corporate leadership would join with the Administration and

Congress to ensure that Black America and other people of color share in the nation's prosperity, everyone would be better off.

No person and certainly

no community will ever beg its way out of poverty. But down payment assistance for first generation, mortgage-ready homebuyers would build family wealth. Similarly, creating an equity investment fund targeted to struggling small Black businesses would preserve neighborhood opportunities, including more permanent jobs.

In the timeless words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "All we say to America is, 'Be true to what you said on paper.'"

## ABDULLAH, from Page 2

Struggle, both of which air on 90.7FM KPFK radio.

Recognized by LA Weekly as one of the ten most influential Los Angeles leaders, Abdullah has garnered many accolades and awards during her career: 2016 Racial Justice Award presented by the YWCA; the 2016 Fannie Lou Hamer Award for outstanding community service presented by the Coalition of Mental Health Professionals; 2016 Fannie Lou Hamer Award presented by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists; 2016 Sacred Sistahs Award; 2016 California Teachers Association Human Rights Award;

2016 BCCLA Ella Baker Award; 2015 Freedom Now Award; and the 2015 Communitas Award.

Abdullah has also had a robust career in film that includes dramatic roles and appearances on tv shows and in documentaries, including Good Trouble, Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Making of a Political Revolution, When Justice Isn't Just, 13th, and (In) Visible Portraits.

Abdullah is a leader in the fight for ethnic studies in the K-12 and university systems and was a part of the historic victories that made ethnic studies a requirement in the Los Angeles Unified School District

(2014) and California State University System (2020).

She continues to serve as a Los Angeles chapter lead for Black Lives Matter, a policy team lead for the California chapters, and co-director of Black Lives Matter-Grassroots, the global formation for on-the-ground organizing.

And this is the part of her impressive list of credentials that matters most as she prepares herself to help "build on PVAMU students' long history of political engagement," as the position is charged to do.

Price said that in her conception of an activist-in-residence, "The person who would take on this role would help our students better understand

what it means to have a life of service and commitment to the community. I have watched Dr. Abdullah work as an activist in Black Lives Matter LA, but she has a long tradition of activism, including work as a labor organizer on her campus."

Since PVAMU's founding as the Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth, many students have continuously chosen to join in the battle against voter suppression in Waller County, where the university sits.

"The county's predominantly white power structure has thrown up hurdles to keep students from voting, or to limit their ability

to wield meaningful political influence at the ballot box," an article written earlier this year by the Texas Tribune said.

Abdullah's family legacy, Price added, mirrors PVAMU's. "I have immense pride in our legacy as an institution whose students are always actively asserting their rights and resisting efforts to silence them through voter suppression," Price said.

"As my grandmother's spirit dances, so, too, does Sandra Bland's spirit whisper to me," Abdullah said in response. "As a Black Lives Matter organizer who will become the first activist-in-residence at Sandra Bland's alma mater, I hope to inspire

a generation of students to continue to struggle for justice in her name, to allow Sandy to 'speak' through their justice work. I look forward to grounding students in a tradition that ties intellectual work to justice struggle. I hope to tie them to the long history of the Black freedom struggle, to expose them to justice warriors who walked before them, to deepen their sense of 'linked fate,' to give them tools that enable them to do meaningful work in the world, to inspire them to bring their gifts and talents to the charge of Black liberation, and to deepen their understanding of and commitment to this movement moment."