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Study: Poor, low-income voters comprised over one-third of ballots cast in 2020 presidential election

Poor and low-income people accounted for more than a third of all voters overall in the 2020 presidential election, and their turnout was especially strong in tight battleground states, according to a study that the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival released Friday, Oct. 15.

The study, titled "Waking the Sleeping Giant: Low-Income Voters and the 2020 Elections" also shows that of the 168 million people who voted in 2020, 59 million — 35% — were poor or low-income, meaning they have an estimated annual income of less than \$50,000. The 2020 presidential elections saw the highest voter turnout in U.S. election history, including among low-income voters.

"This cuts against common misperceptions that poor and low-income people are apathetic about politics or inconsequential to electoral outcomes," the executive summary of the study reads.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC:NCMR) held a news conference at 11 a.m. ET Friday, Oct. 15.

Ahead of the 2020 vote, the PPC:NCMR launched a nonpartisan voter outreach drive across 16 states, targeting urban and rural areas. The action reached over 2.1



A closer look at the racial demographics of low-income voters in nine battleground states shows that white low-income voters accounted for a higher vote share than all other racial groupings of low-income voters combined. (Photo via NNPA)

million voters, the vast majority of whom were eligible low-income voters.

Low-income voters who were contacted by PPC:NCMR had a higher turnout rate than similarly positioned voters who were not contacted in those same states.

"The drive had a statistically significant impact in drawing eligible low-income voters into the active voting electorate, showing that intentional efforts to engage low-income voters — around an agenda that includes living wages, health care, strong anti-poverty programs, voting rights and policies that fully

address injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the war economy — can be effective across state borders and racial lines," the report says.

For example in Georgia, which Joe Biden carried, marking the first presidential victory for a Democrat in that state since 1992, PPC:NCMR's voter outreach helped bring over 39,000 non-voters from 2016 into the 2020 elections. Those voters accounted for more than three times the final margin of victory in Georgia's

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Gen. Colin Powell

People In The News ...



Cedric Richmond



Otis Williams

NDG Quote of the Week: "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."
— Langston Hughes

Gen. Colin Powell

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Colin Powell has died from complications from Covid-19, his family members have confirmed.

The first Black US secretary of state was 84.

“General Colin L. Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, passed away this morning due to complications from Covid 19,” the former General’s family wrote on Facebook.



“We have lost a remarkable and loving husband, father, grandfather and a great American,” the family wrote.

They reported that Powell had been fully vaccinated.

nated.

Powell became the first Black national security adviser during the end of Ronald Reagan’s presidency.

He also counted as the youngest and first African American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President George H.W. Bush.

Powell was thrust into the global spotlight after leading the United States to victory during the Gulf War, with many even considering him as a presidential candidate.

“Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Colin Powell. He was a

great public servant, starting with his time as a soldier during Vietnam. Many Presidents relied on General Powell’s counsel and experience,” former President George W. Bush stated.

“He was National Security Adviser under President Reagan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under my father and President Clinton, and Secretary of State during my Administration.”

Bush continued:

“He was such a favorite of Presidents that he earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom – twice. He was highly respected at home

and abroad.

“And most important, Colin was a family man and a friend. Laura and I send Alma and their children our sincere condolences as they remember the life of a great man.”

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., said the Black Press of America will fondly remember General Powell’s contributions.

“We pause to express our profound condolences to the family of The Honorable Colin Powell,” Dr. Chavis remarked. “Secretary Powell was America’s

military general and, at the same time, the nation’s conscience as U.S. Secretary of State.”

He continued:

“We in the African American community mourn his passing and rededicate ourselves to ensure that the legacy of Colin Powell will live on.”

General Powell had a reputation for generating bipartisan support, being a trusted military adviser, and putting country over party, added Spencer Overton, the president of the Joint Cen-

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Cedric Richmond

By Lisa Fitch
Our Weekly News

President Joe Biden’s Senior Advisor, Cedric Richmond, who serves as the director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, attended a live streamed briefing for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) on Wednesday to address a number of issues of concern in the Black community.

“It’s been a long fight,” Richmond said of the struggle for racial equality. “We’re not where we want to be, but we are making



progress.”

The director noted that he was in the capitol on January 6 and understands how close the country came to experiencing a coup in this country. He noted that the President is vocally advocat-

ing, and his administration is pushing the restoration of voting rights. An act to address the issue is now sitting in the Senate.

“We understand the importance of voting,” Richmond said, explaining that the first order of business is to craft an act which all 50 Democrats can agree on. With 50 votes the Vice President would be the tie breaker. “There are some challenges there.”

Richmond explained that

the administration is fighting on this issue using a three-pronged approach – in the justice department, filing suits in the courts; pushing the act in the halls of congress; and organizing and educating voters on the street corners.

The advisor said that voter suppression happens in several ways—creating barriers to voting like requiring identifications and also persuading people that voting doesn’t matter. Voters be-

come discouraged

“The best and most immediate thing we can do is restore the voting rights act,” he said.

Richmond also addressed the administration’s promise to increase education funding — from pre-kindergarten to HBCUs — noting that the country’s public schools have turned into a system of haves and have nots.

“This is something that flies under the radar far too often,” he said. “We want to

make sure three- and four-year olds go to school for free... It’s Time to invest in our children and put our money where our mouth is.”

Richmond also addressed the issues of home ownership, generational wealth and the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which, among other things, directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to create uniform accreditation standards for law

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Otis Williams

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The scintillating Broadway musical “Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations” have plenty of highlights – perhaps too many to recount for a review or feature news article.

The two-and-a-half-hour masterpiece provided a microscopic view of the group from the lens of Otis Williams, the founder and only living member of The Temptations.

And for those who may have seen the 1998 television miniseries “The Temptations” and believe you already know the story – you



may have to reconsider and take in the Broadway show that reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered production.

Perhaps the one line in the Broadway production that best sums up the global impact of the Temptations come near the end when

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NTTA talking points are just a mumbling mess

By Daryl Blair
Guest Columnist
Publisher, Elite News

I am not convinced.

In case you missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* is running a series of interviews regarding the Minority and Women in Business Enterprise (M/WBE) program at the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA). In the second video, Jackie Hardy interviews Moses Aito, who is the director of Business Diversity for NTTA.

Now if you've had your ear to the ground in the minority business community for a while, the subject of the NTTA is nothing new. There has been persistent grumbling, in particular from African American businesses, as to how the NTTA always manages to overlook them.

I give Aito credit, at least he showed up.

However, to say I found his answers to be disin-



genuous would be an understatement. A review concluded there were disparities in the firm's M/WBE performance, and the summation that "there are disparities everywhere" just doesn't cut it.

The NTTA is famously thorough when it comes to making sure drivers pay their toll fees. Let's not forget that drivers who fell short of expectations when it came to paying up, often

found themselves unable to register their vehicles. It's a hard line that is drawn when it comes to the public's obligation to the NTTA, so I don't think we should be so soft when it comes to the NTTA living up to its obligation to the minority community.

When pressed on these issues, Aito's bureaucratic tone was evasive, and in some cases he simply did not answer the question

directly. If the answer was uncomfortable, it was an awkward pivot to prepared "talking points" and slo-gans.

On the positive side, a minority business initiative does exist within the NTTA, but it is "fool's gold" for the minority community to look for real advocacy from a career bureaucrat; especially one who bounces from one minority program to another with no real measurement of his tenure to objectively assess the impact of his presence.

Aito seemed scripted and most likely directed by NT- TA's PR department during the interview. It makes you wonder what his real thoughts are, and not just what his employer would have him say.

(Editor's Note: Catch the interview Blair responds to on the North Dallas Gazette Youtube channel. "NDG Close Up (Ep. 02)" is available at <https://youtu.be/iqC7hTdPsnC>.)

Have you watched our videos?



Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Open enrollment for Medicare is up and running as of last week

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reminding people with Medicare that Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15, 2021, and now is the time to review their coverage options and make a choice that meets their health care needs. Medicare's Open Enrollment period gives those who rely on Medicare the opportunity to make changes to their health plans or prescription drug plans, pick a Medicare Advantage Plan, or return to Original Medicare.

The Medicare Open Enrollment period occurs every year from October 15 through December 7, with coverage changes taking effect January 1. During this time, people can find a plan that better meets their needs, saves money, or both.

"This is an important time of year for 63 million Medicare beneficiaries across the country to compare coverage options to ensure they are getting the best benefits available at low cost," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. "We will continue to strengthen



National Cancer Institute / Unsplash

and build upon this critical program that has vastly improved the lives of our seniors. I encourage everyone to take stock of their health and find the best plan for them in 2022."

Medicare plans can change year to year – even an enrollee's current calendar year 2021 plan may have changes for 2022. Medicare.gov makes it easier than ever to compare coverage options and shop for plans. People can do a side-by-side comparison of plan coverage, costs, and quality ratings to help them more easily see the differences between plans.

"Medicare Open Enrollment is an important time of year for people with

Medicare and their families to review their options and make choices about the health care coverage that best meets their needs," said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "It is also a time for people with Medicare to check their eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs, which can help with premiums and other costs. Enrollment assistance is available in your community and 24/7 at 1-800-MEDICARE to connect you to coverage that best fits your needs and budget."

Here are some things to consider when shopping for Medicare coverage:

- Check if doctors are still in-network and pre-

scriptions are on the plan's formulary.

- Realize that the plan with the lowest monthly premium may not always be the best fit for specific health needs.

- Look at the plan's deductible and other out-of-pocket costs that factor into total costs.

- Know that some plans offer extra benefits, like vision, hearing, or dental coverage, which could help meet individual health care needs.

- Consider whether Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan is the best choice.

Medicare is Here to Help
Here are four ways you can compare plans and look at savings options:

- Find plans at Medicare.gov and do side-by-side comparisons of costs and coverage.

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE. Help is available 24 hours a day, including weekends.

- Access personalized health insurance counseling at no cost, available from State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Visit shiptacenter.org or

call 1-800-MEDICARE for each SHIP's phone number. Many SHIPs also offer virtual counseling.

- Check eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs. People with Medicare facing challenges paying for health care may qualify for Medicare Savings Programs run by their state. These programs can help save money on premiums, prescription drugs, and other health care costs.

If your income for 2021 is below \$18,000, it may be worth contacting your state's Medicaid program about help that may be available to you. Contact 1-800-MEDICARE to find out where to apply.

For more information, visit Medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. Help is available 24 hours a day, including weekends.

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enforcement agencies and requires law enforcement officers to complete training on racial profiling, implicit bias, and the duty to intervene when another officer uses excessive force.

The House passed the measure in May, but it sits in the Senate now, where it still needs votes.

"That process went on and

on," Richmond said. "Senate Republicans wouldn't even go as far as President (Donald) Trump's executive order. They were backtracking."

"Where congress won't act, we will," he said, noting that the DOJ has banned choke holds. "We will do as much as we possibly can according to the constitution.

The one thing this president is not afraid of doing is action with executive orders"

Richmond said the administration is not letting congress off the hook and will continue to push for legislation equity.

"We are intentional about investing in the African-American community," he concluded. "Making sure African-Americans get to chart their own future."

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If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at: editor@northdallasgazette.com

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How an alleged racist email from authorities led to the criminal prosecution of an investigative journalist, and the arrest of a cop

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The emails were explosive and dangerous, and they threw gas on the long-lit fire of racism in the criminal justice system.

Nik Hatziefstathiou, known by his nickname "Nik the Hat," had seemingly revealed the racist and frightening thoughts of a high-ranking Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Adult Probation & Parole Supervisor.

"Good morning," the supervisor purportedly wrote in an email that found its way splashed across the top of Hatziefstathiou's Your Content News website.

"You do not have to worry about job security... ROFL... so long as there's



Nik Hatziefstathiou, who is more popularly known as, "Nik the Hat."
(Photo via NNPA)

a nigger in our county, you will have a full slate."

The email continues, "Make sure he registers as a [redacted] before applying. They're extremely strict about that. Can't have a bunch of [gang-bang] loving [redacted] in here ... ha."

Hatziefstathiou, Your Content News' editor-in-chief and CEO of Original

Media Group Corporation, cited more than two dozen county officials in a report that said all applicants in Delaware County must register as a Republican for hiring considerations.

Also, he reported that the Delaware County Department of Adult Probation & Parole employs no African Americans, and 1 percent of the Delaware County

District Attorney's Office are Black.

The 2019 story caused an uproar throughout Pennsylvania.

Because of the article, state legislators and Black activists led protests outside the Delaware County District Attorney's Office.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania requested Hatziefstathiou turn over the emails.

Believing there would be an investigation into systemic racism, Hatziefstathiou complied with the request.

During the investigation, authorities arrested Chester Police Officer Donald Jackson, who allegedly providing Hatziefstathiou with a

taser.

According to police statements, Hatziefstathiou sent a text to Jackson with the following request: "Know anyone I can borrow a taser from? I'm going to be in some bad areas while I'm down there this weekend."

Jackson's reply? "I have one. You can't tell anyone where you got it, though."

The pair allegedly met, and Jackson handed Hatziefstathiou the weapon officials said belonged to a police captain.

Authorities didn't identify Jackson as a source of the explosive email Hatziefstathiou obtained.

Instead, the Delaware County District Attorney's Office hit him with a whopping 20 counts of fraud,

including created a false government email.

Hatziefstathiou, 27, allegedly claimed that he worked for ABC News and the New York Times, according to the charging documents.

Authorities alleged that he opened the email account of ABC News reporter Stephanie Wash and New York Times reporter Liam Stack and sent emails through those accounts to obtain documents and recordings relating to the District Attorney's investigation into police misconduct.

"The crimes that the defendant is alleged to have committed in this context are identity theft, unsworn

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ter for Political and Economic Studies.

"General Powell was a true leader and a man of many firsts – the first Black U.S. Secretary of State and the youngest officer appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Overton reflected.

"We will remember General Powell's commitment to public service and Black communities. General Powell was a friend of the Joint Center and participated in various events.

"He always remembered where he came from and tried to ensure that opportunities would remain open to others – as evidenced by his support of affirmative action and other programs designed to facilitate economic mobility and the full participation of Americans from all backgrounds.

"His memory will live on as a testament to the importance of working across party lines for Black communities. Our thoughts and prayers go out to General Powell's entire family, including his wife Alma Powell and son Michael

K. Powell, a former FCC Chair, who served as the initial chair of the Joint Center's National Advisory Committee of its Media and Technology Institute."

President Joe Biden remembered Powell as the son of immigrants, born in New York City, raised in Harlem and the South Bronx, and as a graduate of the City College of New York.

Powell believed in the promise of America because he lived it, President Biden asserted, noting that the general devoted much of his life to making that promise a reality for so many others.

"As a Senator, I worked closely with him when he served as National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as Secretary of State. Over our many years working together – even in disagreement – Colin was always someone who gave you his best and treated you with respect," the President reflected.

"Colin embodied the highest ideals of both war-


rior and diplomat. He was committed to our nation's strength and security above all. Having fought in wars, he understood better than anyone that military might alone was not enough to maintain our peace and prosperity," President Biden declared.

"From his front-seat view of history, advising presidents and shaping our nation's policies, Colin led with his personal commitment to the democratic values that make our country strong. Time and again, he put country before self, before party, before all else – in uniform and out – and it earned him the universal respect of the American people."


Above all, President Biden said General Powell was a friend.

"I am forever grateful for his support of my candidacy for president and for our shared battle for the soul of the nation. I will miss being able to call on his wisdom in the future," the President continued.

"Colin Powell was a good man. He will be remembered as one of our great Americans."



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Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy is golden and shining brightly



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

The awards keep coming for Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy, one of 11 Dallas ISD schools that earned the College Success Award – Gold, for their track records of preparing students for college.

The College Success Award is given by GreatSchools.org to recognize public high schools that stand out in helping stu-

dents enroll and succeed in college. The Gold is an elevated level of distinction given to schools with a multi-year track record of postsecondary success.

This award comes on the heels of another outstanding achievement for Gilliam earlier last month, when it was named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2021. That recognition – one of the highest honors from the U.S. Department of Education – is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

The collegiate academy earned National Blue Ribbon status in 2014 as well. We're so proud of Kathlyn Joy Gilliam!

Did you get yours?

The district is hosting COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics for students and staff at various campuses throughout the district. Participants can receive their first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine—free for students or staff 12 years old or older. Find the dates and location for the clinics at dallasisd.org/domain/28869. And don't forget, you have until Nov.

15 to submit proof of being fully vaccinated to get the district's \$500 incentive for staff and \$50 for students.

Let's hear it for our school custodians!

This month we celebrated Custodian Day by paying respect to the men and women who have been the district's frontline workers during the pandemic, keeping our schools and buildings clean and disinfected, distributing personal protective equipment and performing maintenance and upkeep to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. You rock, and we appreciate you every day.

ate you every day.

Black Male Teachers Sign Up

I'd like to give a big shoutout to the Black male teachers assigned to District 6 schools as part of the new adjunct teacher recruitment program. They are Noah Lane and Jamal Smith who are joining Marsalis Elementary, James Lehman, Asa Randolph and Kenneth Shepherd at Adelle Turner Elementary, Jeremy Whitfield and Calvin Works at Birdie Alexander Elementary, and Andrew Merriwether at McNair Elementary. Welcome to you all!

Redistricting meetings

Our Dallas ISD families are an essential part of the redistricting process that the district uses every 10 years to ensure appropriate representation based on the shifts in population trends. My fellow trustees and I have been holding virtual community meetings to explain the redistricting process and timeline, as well as to gather community feedback on current maps and future plans. To learn about the process and provide recommendations, go to <https://www.dallasisd.org/redistricting>.

Enrollment in U.S. private schools dropped 5 percent from Fall 2017-19

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The number of students enrolled in private schools in the United States decreased by 5 percent from fall 2017 to fall 2019, according to a report released today by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

The report, Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2019-20 Private School Universe Survey, shows Catholic schools saw 218,706 fewer students in fall 2019 compared to fall 2017, a change of 11%.

"Private elementary and secondary schools were facing significant enroll-

ment challenges before the start of the coronavirus pandemic," said Peggy G. Carr, NCES Commissioner. "Along with our Common Core Data program, these enrollment numbers from 2019-20 will serve as an important baseline for understanding how private school and public school enrollments changed in response to the pandemic. Our next data releases will be able to show how enrollment changed once the pandemic was underway."

The data in the report are drawn from the biennial Private School Universe Survey (PSS) conducted by NCES to collect basic

information on American private elementary and secondary schools. PSS is designed to generate biennial data on the total number of private schools, students, and teachers, and to build a universe of private schools to serve as a sampling frame of private schools for NCES sample surveys and assessments. The 2019-20 private school data were collected between October 2019 and July 2020.

Other key findings from the report:

- There were 30,492 private schools in the United States in fall 2019, a 6% decline from 2017.
- Private schools enrolled

4,652,904 students, a 5% decline from 2017.

- There were 481,200 full-time-equivalent teachers within private schools. The number of full-time-equivalent teachers 2017 was not measurably different from the number in fall 2019.

- In 2019-20, there were 11,670 private schools in suburban locations followed by those in cities (10,445), rural areas (5,901), and towns (2,476).

- About 95 percent of all private schools in 2019-20 were coeducational, while 2 percent enrolled all girls and 3 percent enrolled all boys.

- Of the grade 12 students enrolled in private schools on October 1, 2018, about 96 percent graduated in 2018-19.

- Of the 340,609 private high school graduates in 2018-19, about 65 percent attended 4-year colleges by the fall of 2019.

- In addition to the 11% decline in enrollment, compared to 2017-18 Catholic schools also reported an 8% decline in the number of schools and an 8% decline in the number of full-time-equivalent teachers in 2019-20.

- In 2019-20, in total there were 350,000 or more students enrolled in private

schools in California, Florida, and New York.

- Sixty-six percent of private school students in 2019-20 were White non-Hispanic;

- 12 percent were Hispanic, regardless of race; 9 percent were Black non-Hispanic;

- 7 percent were Asian non-Hispanic; 5 percent were of Two or more races non-Hispanic,

- 0.6 percent were American Indian non-Hispanic, and 0.7 percent were Pacific Islander non-Hispanic.

The report can be downloaded at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2021061>.

Justice, Education Departments issue fact sheet on supporting students at risk of self harm during COVID-19 era

In recognition of World Mental Health Day, today the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) jointly issued a fact sheet to support students with mental health disabilities, their families, and their schools in the era of COVID-19. Along with the fact sheet, OCR released a letter to educators highlighting the civil rights obligations of schools and postsecondary institutions to students with

mental health disabilities.

"The Department of Justice is committed to safeguarding the rights of students with mental health disabilities through vigorous enforcement of the civil rights laws, particularly given the continuing effects of the pandemic," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. "Students should be supported and not excluded from educational opportunities on the basis of

disability."

"The COVID-19 pandemic's effects on student mental health are widespread and deeply concerning," said Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Suzanne B. Goldberg of the Department of Education. "OCR is committed to providing resources to support students with mental health disabilities, including those who may be at risk for self-harm."

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Together We Can Find A Solution

Plano Families First Fall Fair set to be held this Saturday

Our health is more important than ever, and the Plano Families First Fall Fair seeks to make this a top priority as it happens again on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Plano Event Center. The Fair is free and open to families who live in Plano or attend Plano schools.

Free flu shots (for adults and children), dental



screenings and fluoride varnishes (for children only), free school supplies (for

the first 200 children) and a variety of community and educational services will

be provided as part of the event.

Plano Public Library will give away free books, plus families can enjoy crafts, CPR demos from the Plano Fire Department, inflatables, entertainment and a musical "petting zoo" where kids learn and play with instruments provided by the Plano Symphony Orchestra.

Children are invited to be on the lookout for Spiderman and Wonder Woman who will give away superhero masks and hold "How to be a Super Hero" sessions.

For those who are looking for work, the Plano Event Chamber of Commerce will present a Job Fair with a variety of employers looking to fill part-

time and full-time positions, along with a Career Corner where fair goers can get resume tips and a free LinkedIn photo shot by a professional photographer.

While a few of the health services will be indoors (with social distancing encouraged), most of the fair will be held outdoors.

For details, go to PlanoFamiliesFirst.com.

HARM, from Page 6

OCR's June 2021 report, Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on America's Students, showed that COVID-19 has had disproportionately harsh effects on many students with disabilities. Today's action responds to pandemic's effects on students' mental health and provides information about the federal civil rights laws that protect

students with mental health disabilities.

The fact sheet entitled Supporting Students at Risk of Self-Harm in the Era of COVID-19, provides information about federal civil rights laws that protect students with mental health disabilities. The fact sheet includes scenarios that illustrate when the department might investigate a potential violation; gives schools and

postsecondary institutions a list of action steps to create an environment that is responsive to students with mental health disabilities; and provides educational and crisis resources for students, families, and educators.

World Mental Health Day is an international day to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. More than 18

months into the COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly important to acknowledge the pandemic's impact on mental health at home and around the world, to present an opportunity for meaningful conversations about mental health, and to celebrate schools and other institutions that have found new and promising ways to provide mental health services to their populations.

The Biden-Harris Administration has taken sig-

nificant action to address the mental health needs of Americans, and the President's Build Back Better agenda includes funding and support for a wide range of programs aimed at improving access to mental health services.

If you believe that you or another person has been discriminated against at school based on a mental health disability, you may file a complaint with the Justice Department's Civil

Rights Division at <https://civilrights.justice.gov/> or https://www.ada.gov/fact_on_complaint.htm, or with the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights at <https://www2.ed.gov/ocr/complaintintro.html> to file a complaint in English or www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/howto.html to file a complaint in other languages.

The guidance is on the Justice Department's website here and on OCR's website.

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Experts say lawmakers should abolish RICO law

By Stacy M. Brown

Just two percent of federal criminal cases ever make it to trial.

And, according to a Pew Research Center-funded study, at least 90 percent of federal defendants end up pleading guilty.

The primary reason? The RICO laws.

When used, the RICO statute can frighten the bravest of defendants into submitting to a federal plea deal.

RICO – Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Practicing Act – could result in at least 20 years added to a conviction – or life in prison. And because it's so broad, defense attorneys find themselves boxed in with little chance of success.

"In my career as a special agent, I handled a couple of RICO cases that were ultimately disposed of in other less draconian ways," said Texas-based Attorney Joseph Gutheinz.

The former federal agent noted that RICO laws are designed to scare the public from engaging in a wide variety of conduct, from protesting in front of abortion clinics to participating



Tingey Injury Law Firm / Unsplash

in organized crime.

While lawmakers introduced and passed the RICO statute in 1970 primarily as a tool to deter organized crime, African Americans have predominately suffered under that law.

Prosecutors have used the tool in alleged drug trafficking trials where the property and assets of defendants are automatically seized.

That seizure often makes it difficult for individuals to raise bail and pay for a defense.

U.S. Attorneys now use RICO to secure guilty pleas or verdicts in non-drug and non-mafia-related trials.

The government used RICO in successfully prosecuting singer R. Kelly, and now are using the tool to prosecute billionaire Pe-

ter Nygard for alleged sex crimes.

Prosecutors have not named co-conspirators in either case, making the use of RICO at least suspicious.

Because of that, legal experts have raised objections to what they see as government overreach.

"The federal government often picks and chooses which statutes it wants to enforce, and history has shown us that enforcement decisions are heavily influenced by the political agenda of the sitting President and the U.S. Attorney General," remarked Attorney Chris Parker of Hendry & Parker in Dunedin, Florida.

"Historically speaking, the Office of the U.S. Attorney General has not exactly been even-handed when it comes to its decision to

investigate and prosecute minority groups," Parker asserted.

"When there is public pressure to prosecute high profile individuals or groups; federal, state, and local politicians have traditionally used their law enforcement agencies to score political points."

He continued:

"It would be naïve to believe that RICO's significant breadth has not been utilized as an instrument to advance political agendas, and minority and other disfavored groups often bear the brunt of heavy-handed prosecutions."

In contrast, Wendy Patrick, a career trial attorney in California, suggested various reasons criminal investigations and prosecutions focus on specific individuals and not others.

While every case is different, even when investigators do not believe someone acted alone or is solely responsible, Patrick said there's often more evidence, and a more significant number of witnesses lined up to testify about individuals who played

a central role in criminal wrongdoing as opposed to those who enabled or facilitated criminal conduct behind the scenes.

"Sometimes, just like in some of the popular Hollywood crime dramas, bit players who are guilty by association are more useful as witnesses than defendants in the quest to catch the big fish. Once the ring-leader is toppled, so too is the criminal enterprise," Patrick insisted.

"In complex cases of drug or sex trafficking, even when a suspect is named and charged, the investigation usually continues behind the scenes," she continued.

"It is not unusual to see additional suspects charged down the line as new evidence is uncovered along the way, both in the courtroom and within the court of public opinion – as concerned citizens on 'public patrol' share information and tips. But remember that as much as we would love to know all the details, crime-fighting often continues under the radar to preserve the integrity of

ongoing investigations."

Many have insisted that RICO represents the worst the criminal justice system has to offer because of the arbitrary wielding of the government's power to impose criminal sanctions.

"This RICO Act was designed to remove a structure of people, who were terrorizing individuals, communities, and businesses that refused to adhere to their mandates of drugs and extortion," stated Andrew Wyatt, a crisis manager, and CEO of the Purpose P.R. Firm in Alabama.

"This [law] was given birth almost 51 years ago because crime families like the Italian-American Mafia, The Jewish-American Mafia and the Russian-American Mafia was wreaking terror on American soil," Wyatt noted.

"Today, those powerful 'gatekeepers' within the entertainment arena and political arena are using this RICO Act as a weapon of mass destruction to destroy those individuals who are trying to own the rights

See RICO, Page 13

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Cowboys dodge bullet with overtime win over New England, 35-29

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

Dak Prescott's dramatic walk-off touchdown pass to CeeDee Lamb that stunned the New England Patriots, 35-29 in overtime, this past Sunday was the stuff of which legends are made. But that celebration was totally bittersweet for the Cowboys when an MRI revealed Prescott suffered a mild strained right calf on the winning play.

The victory was the fifth in a row for the Cowboys, who now have as many wins as the other three NFC East teams combined. But the concern level quickly switched to the health of Prescott, whose injury came on the same leg that forced him to miss the final 10 games last season when he suffered a compound fracture of his right ankle.

However, the Cowboys have a bye next week, and team doctors are optimistic Prescott will be ready to play when Dallas squares off against the Vikings in Minnesota on Oct. 31 at 7:20 p.m.

Prescott said when he jumped on his 35-yard game-winning TD pass to Lamb with 3:52 remaining in overtime, he "came down funny." But he said he would have stayed in the game if the situation called



Keith Allison / Flickr

for that.

"I'll be fine, I can promise you that," Prescott said. "I've got a lot of confidence in myself and the medical team. It doesn't hurt as bad, obviously, when you score and you win the game."

"Great timing going into the bye week. I figured we weren't playing for (two weeks), so I'll give you guys something to talk about and speculate on this time. Have fun with that."

Prescott's injury notwithstanding, Cowboys Nation had a lot of fun after the Cowboys won a game in New England for the first time since 1987. And with Prescott completing 36 of 51 passes for 445 yards and three touchdowns, that's the most yards anyone has ever passed for against a team coached by Patriots coach Bill Belichick.

"It's not about me," Prescott said. "It's about the whole team and it's

about the practices that we put into it. It's about the way that we go about our practices, it's the way that we built our team."

"We know we're for real and we believe we're for real. I don't think we're necessarily out here trying to send a message to anybody more so than we're showing it to ourselves."

What the Cowboys showed against the Patriots is that even when they kept shooting themselves in the foot with one mistake after another -- or one penalty after another -- they still had enough juice to raise their record to 5-1. With Prescott at the helm, the Cowboys know they always have a chance.

Down by three points, Prescott completed a crucial fourth down play to Cedric Wilson to get the Cowboys in position for Greg Zuerlein to boot a 49-yard field goal to tie the

game with 20 seconds left and send it into overtime. Then came another critical reception to Lamb followed by the game-winner to the second-year wide receiver.

"To play against this defense your third, fourth, fifth options are going to have to come up big," McCarthy said. "And I thought Dak did a tremendous job distributing the ball."

Lamb had nine receptions for 149 yards and a pair of touchdowns. And he waved goodbye to the Patriots after they uncharacteristically suffered their fourth straight loss at home.

"It doesn't matter how many quarters it takes -- four, five, six maybe if needed," Lamb said. "But I'm happy to come out with this win with these guys."

The win came despite Prescott throwing an interception in the end zone, fumbling at the goal line and into the end zone on a fourth-down play, and

despite the Cowboys committing 12 penalties for 115 yards. The Cowboys managed to overcome all of those blunders and win while scoring the game's final nine points.

"I think it just speaks to the resiliency of this bunch and this team, and the bond that we've created and knowing that we're not going to give up, and all we need is a chance," Prescott said. "To be able to come (to New England), a place like this with so much success, great atmosphere, great coach over there on the other side, but for us to just stay resilient through it all, I think it speaks on what coach McCarthy talks about."

"It's just our culture, building the right culture, building a winning culture and knowing that it takes winning these games. When everything's against you we found a way to keep swinging and to come out

with a win."

The win featured yet another interception by cornerback Trevon Diggs. He now has an interception in all six games -- and seven on the season -- while joining Tom Landry (1951), Barry Wilburn (1987) and Brian Russell (2003) as the only players in NFL history to have at least one interception in each of the first six games of a season.

Diggs ran Sunday's interception back 42 yards for a touchdown to put the Cowboys ahead, 26-21, with 2:27 left.

"They like to run that double slant out to the front side," Diggs said. "And I just read it and made a play on the ball."

Defensive end Randy Gregory made several big plays, recorded two sacks, caused a fumble and expressed the confidence the Cowboys are playing with

See COWBOYS, Page 11

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Black actors making big noise at 2021 New York Film Festival

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

It's a new day. In 2021 the New York Film Festival was live and in-person and exhibited a wide array of international films. Documentaries and feature films that broke new ground, showcased Black actors at their best and premiered some blockbusters that will be in movie theaters and on streaming services later this year or early 2022. These are some of the most intriguing.

Dune (*/1/2)** In 1984, filmmaker David Lynch brought Frank Herbert's 1967 cult-classic science fiction novel *Dune* to the big screen. It was 90% pageantry, 10 % verve and a complete snore. The first 30



The Tragedy of Macbeth NYFF Press Conference with Frances MacDormand, Denzel Washington and cast. (Courtesy photo)

minutes of Canadian director Denis Villeneuve's 2021 adaptation feels similar; it's stunningly beautiful, but initially act/adv/dra fans will wonder: "Where's the beef?" Lots of setup, count-

less characters, deadly rivalries and no action. Keep the faith. Once the footage meticulously lays out the groundwork, momentum builds and what comes is eye-catching and kinetic.

Like a Star Wars movie, only set among high sand dunes and not outer space.

In the year 10191, the desert planet Arrakis has been fought and lusted over for years due to one of its

precious minerals. Different groups vie to run the planet, and all are led down the same path of destruction as they're deviously manipulated by Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgård). He pits the warring factions against each other—like pawns. The latest noble family to take the bait is the House of Atreides, run by the Duke (Oscar Isaac), his heir Paul (Timothée Chalamet) and his mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson). With their fierce militia, they take over the planet, are tasked with harvesting the natural resources and dealing with the locals. Good luck.

There are enough players and conflicts to stretch this storyline out and spawn spinoffs indefinitely. Sci-

fi screenwriter Jon Spaihts (*Doctor Strange*), drama writer Eric Roth (*Forrest Gump*) and writer/director Villeneuve (*Arrival*) are the right team at the right time. As their story pans out it is easy to track who's who and what's at stake. The deep beige sand dunes and valleys with gigantic sand worm monsters and fierce combatants sustain tension. Paul and Jessica's odd mental telepathy powers and slick warrior skills performed by characters like Duncan (Jason Momoa) are fascinating. The entire cast excels: Zendaya (*Spider-Man: Far from Home*), Sharon Duncan-Brew (*Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*), Josh Brolin, Chen Chang,

See FILM FEST, Page 11

NDG Book Review: 'The Redemption of Bobby Love' is a good read for anybody

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Not a whisper.

Don't breathe one word of what you're about to hear, not to anyone living or dead. This is Top Secret information, for your eyes only. Keep it quiet. And in the new book "The Redemption of Bobby Love" by Bobby and Cheryl Love with Lori L. Tharps, hope that everyone else does so, too.

At that time of day, a rap on the door was never good.

It was 6:30 a.m. and Cheryl Love was just finishing up her morning routine, preparing to wake her husband, Bobby, for work, and their son for school.

She looked through the door's peephole and saw several policemen...

Walter Curtis Miller was born in the fall of 1950 in North Carolina, his mother's "lucky number seven" of eight children. The family was poor but young "Buddy" had a good childhood until his father died in 1959 and that changed everything: his mother took any job she could to feed her brood and with little supervision, Buddy started acting out, fighting, steal-



ing.

By twelve, his light-fingered habit turned into major theft and taking cars.

At fifteen, he was sent to a "Training School" from which he walked away and headed to Washington DC, where he couldn't stop stealing; caught again, he was sent to a facility for juvenile offenders. Shortly after his release from there at age seventeen, he robbed a bank and that was it.

Miller went to prison with a twenty-five year sentence.

But Buddy Miller couldn't do that kind of time and he made plans to run when he could. He jumped off the prison bus, changed his name to Bobby Love because it was the first thing that came to

mind, and he sneaked off to New York. As Love, he kept mum about his past, settled down, got a job, fell in love and married, volunteered in his community, helped folks, and raised four good kids. His family never knew about Buddy Miller.

Until forty-some years after Miller's "one big heist," and there was a rap on the door...

Seems like a movie plot, right? Like you'd catch this on your big-screen with some popcorn, but no, "The Redemption of Bobby Love" is a true story and it's incredible.

Part of that is because half of this book belongs to author Cheryl Love, whose tale accompanies Bobby Love's in all its tumultuousness. Together, they make a breathless story, told with no apparent desire to keep it all under wraps anymore – and that'll knock the breath out of you, too. It has a Catch Me If You Can feel, as you race through this account with an empathetic feeling of doom, the urgency of being one step ahead, and the terror of waiting for that hand on your shoulder. Whew, the grace that even-

tually comes is sweet relief. Fans of *Humans of New York* will recognize this

tale, and be glad it's finally fully told. Anyone who wants a good book needs

to read "The Redemption of Bobby Love." Truly, it'll make you shout.

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Women entrepreneurs bring solutions to diverse communities

During National Women's Small Business Month, the American Heart Association will award \$65,000 in grants for innovative solutions at national business accelerator finale

(Black PR Wire) – DALLAS — The American Heart Association, a global force for healthier lives for all, will host the EmPOWERED to Serve Business Accelerator™ Finale on October 21, 2021, at 7 p.m. EST/6 p.m. CST/ 4 p.m. PST. This exclusive event starts at noon EST/11 a.m. CST/9 a.m. PST and registration is required.

During the finale, eight female entrepreneurs will present their innovative business models to a panel of judges for a chance to receive up to \$65,000 in grants. EmPOWERED to Serve™ is an initiative that accelerates change in education, business, and communities in order to help



Isha Gains / CreateHerStock

overcome structural racism and achieve health justice. The 2021 EmPOWERED to Serve Business Accelerator™ candidates are working to address food access,

physical activity, maternal health, access to medical care, economic development and job training:

- Shireen Abdullah, Yumlish, Dallas, TX

- Bahby Banks, Pillar Consulting, Durham, NC

- Victoria Beaty, Growing Places, Indianapolis, IN

- Kimberly Brown, Get Up and Get Moving, Minneapolis, MN

- Maya Page, Carry, Portland, OR

- Sharon Samjitsingh, Health Care Originals, Inc., Rochester, NY

- Cynthia Wallace, Bible Center Church, Pittsburgh, PA

- Cornelia Williams, EM-Tomorrow, Essex, MA

Daymond John, star of ABC's Shark Tank, will share his personal entrepreneurship journey and his top tips for social entrepreneurs in an exclusive one-hour interview with Sharon

Epperson, senior personal finance correspondent for CNBC.

The American Heart Association believes that every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life. The pursuit of health equity has become a top priority. By 2024 the organization has committed to advancing cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to health care access and quality. Already this year, the American Heart Association announced plans to invest more than \$230 million over the next four years to support a series of targeted initiatives and programs addressing health equity,

while leading additional efforts to drive systemic public health change focused on improving the social determinants of health and tackling issues of health justice and structural racism.

The EmPOWERED to Serve Business Accelerator™ is a critical component of these continuing efforts. Since 2017, 100 entrepreneurs have received business training through the EmPOWERED to Serve Business Accelerator™, and the Association has awarded more than \$570,000 in grants.

Visit empoweredtoserve.org/BA2021 for more information and to register for the finale events.

FILM FEST, from Page 10

Dave Bautista Babs Olu-sanmokun (Wrath of Man), Benjamin Clementine and Charlotte Rampling.

Production designer Patricia Vermette, cinematographer Greig Fraser, film editor Joe Walker, costume designers Bob Morgan and Jacqueline West and composer Hans Zimmer (The Lion King) should dust off their formal wear for Oscar night, they'll need it. What a spectacle. This is the event movie audiences have been waiting for and theaters have been coveting.

The French Dispatch (1/2)** In this quirky nod and a wink to journalism, writer/director Wes Anderson and co-writers Jason Schwartzman and Roman Coppola return to their more esoteric brand

of humor (The Royal Tenenbaums). It's almost like they've walked away from a more accessible formula (The Grand Budapest Hotel, \$170M at the box office). Intact, is Anderson's penchant for creating zany, odd cartoonish characters: It's the final days of an expatriate U.S. magazine whose staff works in a satellite office in the quaint French town of Ennui-sur-Blasé. They're all about to lose their jobs, which mimics real-life as journalists today are constantly on the precipice of unemployment. Scribes and art film fans may relate to this tedious parable. But Anderson, his crew and this inside-joke movie may have overplayed their hand with average viewers.

It's as if Anderson told

the entire cast (Jeffrey Wright, Bill Murray, Léa Seydoux, Timothée Chalamet, Benicio Del Toro and half of SAG) to act weird and maybe people won't notice that this film is one-note. The cinematography, costumes, production design, set decoration and art direction are gorgeous and ingenious. Would have been a wonderful short film. But as an 1hr 48min feature film, the footage continues long after the joke is over, and the punchline has been delivered.

The Tragedy of Macbeth (**)** There comes a point in every year when audiences see a film they believe is this year's masterpiece. This is that time, that film. Joel Coen (O, Brother Where Art Thou) has created a magnus opus that sets a high bar few other films vying for annual awards

will reach. He reinterprets one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, Macbeth, keeping the most pivotal parts. Some potential view-

ers may have forgotten the crux of the plotting, but not the most famous lines: "Double, double toil and trouble;" "What's done

cannot be undone."

Scottish general Macbeth (Denzel Washington) is warned by three witches (Kathryn Hunt) that some

COWBOYS, from Page 9

these days.

"I don't think there was ever a point that we felt like we weren't going to win the game," Gregory said. "At least not in my head."

"Having Dak back there, we have a lot of confidence

in him."

The only question now is: Will the Cowboys have Prescott back for the game against the Vikings? In the meantime, while reflecting on the victory over the Patriots, McCarthy said:

"We all practice it, but to go out and do it and to be clutch and the way our guys did it, these are experiences you can definitely grow from. I've always felt that overtime wins, close wins at the end of the game, these are games you can really build off of."



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American Campus Communities marks 25-year partnership with Prairie View A&M University through \$225,000 grant

(Black PR Wire) -- AUSTIN - Long-term partners Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and American Campus Communities (ACC: NYSE) celebrate their 25-year partnership with the establishment of two academic scholarship programs and a new endowment.

The investment will support and highlight the academic nature of ACC's mission. Over the next five years, ACC will support PVAMU students with a total contribution of \$225,000 to be distributed as follows:

- An annual \$15,000 American Campus Communities "Next Step"



Scholarship supporting students with great financial need

- Two annual \$5,000 "Success by Design" scholarships, awarded to two students majoring in mission-related fields, such as architecture and design; An added goal is to encourage equity and diversity in ca-

reer paths that can directly impact the student housing sector.

- An annual \$20,000 investment in the American Campus Communities Endowed Scholarship Fund to aid the general support needs of full-time undergraduate students
- "The endowment, as

well as awarding scholarships to students who will represent the next generation of diverse thinkers, is such a meaningful way to acknowledge and commemorate our longstanding partnership with ACC," said Prairie View A&M University president, Ruth J. Simmons. "We appreciate ACC's unwavering commitment to PVAMU."

All of the initial scholarships were recently awarded to PVAMU students for the 2021-22 school year. The "Next Step" scholarship was awarded to a total of fifteen students in \$1,000 increments. The inaugural "Success by Design" scholarships were granted

to PVAMU upperclassmen, Shantel Hood and William A. Spriggins, V (both pictured above). Both are juniors in the School of Architecture.

"I'm extremely humbled and honored to receive this scholarship; the timing of the blessing was perfect. I plan on using my funds towards my tuition balance and a self-built desktop to perform software AutoCAD, Revit and Photoshop to name a few. I would like to say thank you to ACC for the scholarship opportunity and PVAMU for making my transfer experience great," shared Spriggins.

In 1996, PVAMU and ACC began a shared mis-

sion to create an academically-focused living and learning environment. Since then, the partnership has delivered more than \$137 million in student communities and nine phases of modern academically-oriented housing, serving nearly 5,000 students with on-campus housing accommodations.

"We will forever be grateful to PVAMU as our first university client for believing in us since our founding days -- this is our way of saying thank you while helping to invest in future leaders," said Bill Bayless, chief executive officer at ACC.

EMAIL, from Page 5

falsification to authorities and attempted theft by deception," the District Attorney wrote in court filings.

Hatziefstathiou also is accused of tampering with public records, forgery, and unsworn false statements to authorities -- the charge is directly related to the racist email.

He also faces a charge of making false statements to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a press photographer's registration for his vehicle.

Finally, prosecutors slapped Hatziefstathiou

with a charge of tampering with identification -- alleging that he removed a watermark titled "Cameo" from videos and replaced it with "Your Content News."

Hatziefstathiou, an accomplished journalist whose sources made him the first to break the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision to clear and release Bill Cosby, shared his attorney's court filings with NNPA Newswire, suggesting that the email in question began as some responding to a request for

a favor and escalated to the racist email.

Notes shared with the NNPA also suggest Hatziefstathiou may have received emails over weeks or months from several sources within the County's Probation Office.

Officials expect the trial to begin on October 18.

It could include the first case where a sitting judge must testify about political figures and their special interests.

Hatziefstathiou and his staff at Your Content News said they're standing behind their reporting.

"Everybody has a story,"

Hatziefstathiou said in a statement.

"With the support of our readers and sources, we at Your Content introduced Delaware County to a new breed of journalism that explored the untold stories.

"At Your Content, the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of information to the public far outweigh the dangers which are cited to justify it. There is little value in ensuring the survival of the news industry--specifically our publication--if our traditions do not survive with it," he concluded.

Hong Xie, the interim

Editor-in-Chief at Your Content News, said the "political pundits have words and pieces of our confidential newsgathering material which they refer to as 'proof.' Our reporters involved in the May 25, 2019, publication have evidence -- and at trial, we will understand which of those are more powerful. Some people victimize a vulnerable child and don't get caught. Others lie, cheat, and get elected."

Anthony Loro, the chief communications officer for Original Media Group, said he's confident in Hatziefstathiou's innocence.

"We stand by our reporting. But say authorities charged the tireless journalists who uncovered the Watergate or Catholic Archdiocese of Boston sex abuse scandals -- who benefits? "Certainly not the public or victims," Loro wrote in a statement.

"It's far too late for the person who started this literal courthouse catch-and-kill campaign to reverse what they intentionally set-in motion. We know our team, especially Mr. Hatziefstathiou, will be on the right side of history in this dark Delaware County era."

VOTERS, from Page 1

presidential tally.

There's no proven link that that outreach decided the election, but it does show the potential impact of low-income voters, the study says.

"To turn the opportunity to vote into a reality for low-income voters will require expanded efforts to increase both their registration and turnout on election day, such as automatic voter registration, same day registration, no-excuse mail-in voting, early voting, more polling stations

and extended and longer voting hours," the study says.

Speakers for the news conference include the co-chairs of the PPC:NCMR, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis; Penda Hair, senior counsel for Forward Justice and impacted people.

The study also shows the importance of low-income white voters and of building a fusion coalition of voters of various races and ethnicities.

"While the narrative that

white low-income voters are voting not only against their own interests, but also the interests of other racial segments of low-income voters, persisted through the 2020 elections, our analysis suggests something significantly different," the report says.

"The findings suggest that, rather than writing white low-income voters off, it is possible to build coalitions of low-income voters across race around a political agenda that centers the issues they have in common."

Key findings of the re-

port on the 2020 elections:

In the 2020 elections, low-income voters exceeded 20% of the total voting population in 45 states and Washington D.C. In tight battleground states, low-income voters accounted for 34% to 45% of the voting population, including in states that flipped party outcomes from 2016 to 2020.

In battleground states where the margin of victory was near or less than 3%, low-income voters accounted for an even greater share of the total votes: Arizona (39.96%), Georgia (37.74%), Michi-

gan (37.81%), Nevada (35.78%), North Carolina (43.67%), Pennsylvania (34.12%), and Wisconsin (39.80%).

A closer look at the racial demographics of low-income voters in nine battleground states shows that white low-income voters accounted for a higher vote share than all other racial groupings of low-income voters combined.

Those states are the seven listed above along with Florida and Texas.

Shailey Gupta Barnes, policy director for the PPC:NCMR, is the author

of the study, which was written with analysis and data from TargetSmart.

The study is a follow-up to one that the Poor People's Campaign released in August 2020 titled "Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans."

That study showed that if these potential low-income voters voted at a similar voting rate as higher income voters in the 2016 election, then they would match or exceed the presidential election margin of victory in 15 states.

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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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

#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.

RICO, from Page 8

to their entertainment body of works and those billionaires, who are trying to develop stem cells to defeat the addiction that these trillion-dollar pharmaceutical companies are serving up."

Wyatt continued:

"This RICO Act should never be used has a punishment to destroy an individual, who deems, not to be a slave to a system."

Recalling his role as a Special Agent in the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, Gutheinz said his agency was primarily involved with the laws about contractors bribing or extorting officials involved in road construction contracts or colluding to offer targeted bids for contract work.

He said those cases have many requirements to prove and apply only to

certain crimes like bribery, mail and wire fraud, and money laundering.

"They also require two separate felonies be committed over ten years. The federal government has a select number of assistant United States Attorneys who focus on prosecuting these cases and trying to imprison citizens for 20 years or life, depending on the offense or imposing huge fines," Gutheinz said.

"I had serious concerns about this law as both a retired Special Agent and now as a criminal defense attorney. But, first, the laws are used as a sledgehammer rather than a scalpel," he declared.

"That is, the punishments are often disproportionately too severe for the crimes committed or that can be proved up. Second, proving

these cases is very labor-intensive and takes away from other cases that are just important or more so.

"Finally, RICO laws have been weaponized to go after groups and indi-

viduals who may be in disfavor by the party in power. Any law that can be used as a tool to further one side's agenda against another is too dangerous a law to keep on the books."



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NAN Chapter President

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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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NOTICE: *New You, Senior Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org*

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 for their details because of the Coronavirus.

October 24, 9:45 am
Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morn-

ing Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

October 27, 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
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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October

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

October 24

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 27, 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
2450 K Avenue #300
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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 22, 7 pm

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

October 24, 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 20, 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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until further notice because of the coronavirus.

October 24, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**October 25, 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 27, 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

WILLIAMS, from Page 2

Nik Walker, who portrays the legendary Williams, reflects that "The only thing that lives forever is the music."

Indeed, the music has lived on, even as Williams has gone through 24 members after the departures and deaths of the Classic Five original members, including Paul Williams, Melvin Franklin, Eddie Kendricks, and David Ruffin.

"I hope that the music is the same kind of soothing ointment for people today," Williams, 80, told the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in an exclusive interview on stage at the Imperial Theater.

"When they gave me the book on the musical, I said, 'Oh, this is getting ready to be real,'" Williams recounted.

"Then when the director said that they were only going to let Otis see the first part and not the second part, I said 'Oh, I'm getting ready to lose people.'"

Williams spent much of the week with the NNPA,

beginning with a star-studded Red-Carpet event on Saturday, October 16.

On Monday, October 18, Williams invited the NNPA for a chat on stage, and on Tuesday, he took in the show seated alongside NNPA staff, including NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

Williams and Temptations manager Shelly Berger, who has been with the group since its inception, shared insights.

The pair shed light on the group's formation and how they became the biggest R&B act in music history.

"I knew what was going to happen to the Temptations before anyone," stated Berger, who also managed The Supremes.

"I saw them, and I said they were beyond words. They've got to be the biggest stars in this business," Berger recalled.

The Brooklyn, New York-born Berger, and the Texarkana, Texas-native Williams, hit it off almost instantly.

Berger remembered that

he only received static from David Ruffin.

The musical reveals substance and other problems that sadly would lead to his demise.

Ultimately, the focus is Williams. And if honesty qualifies as a prerequisite for a Tony Award, then 'Ain't Too Proud' should score dozens of more nominations.

Williams opens up about his late son, Lamont, whom he spent little time with because of his dedication to the Temptations.

Constantly on the road and in the studio, Williams neglects to spend time with Lamont.

When Lamont grows up, the young man explains to his dad that the time lost cannot be returned. Tragically, Lamont died after an accident at the construction site he worked.

Still, it's the Temptations' story that packed the Imperial Theater on an idyllic fall Tuesday night in New York.

With a demanding but genius boss, Berry Gordy, an unassuming and dedicated manager, Berger, and what Williams called "the five most singing brothers

ever," the Temptations came of age during the volatile 1960s.

Staring down racism, Berger and Williams recalled how the Temptations had written in their contract that they wouldn't perform to any segregated crowds.

"Not only would the Temptations not go on stage, but the contract stipulated that you still had to pay them," Berger stated.

Williams recalled playing in the South circa 1965 or 1966 to a mixed audience. Half the crowd is African American, the other half white.

A rope separated the crowd, but the music united them.

"We came back later that year, and there was no more rope. Instead, the audience were high-fiving each other and having a great time together," Williams noted. "That's the power of music," he insisted.

On April 4, 1968, the Temptations prepared to take the stage for a concert in Baltimore, Maryland, when the public address announcer revealed startling news.

"Just before we were to go on, this announcement goes over the public address system that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed in Memphis," Williams recalled.

"We were like, how in the heck are we supposed to go on? People were crying, we had tears coming down our faces, but we went on. And you know what? It helped take their minds off it at that moment. Music," Williams said.

Adding to the sting of Dr. King's death was that an assassin murdered the civil rights icon at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis and in the same room Williams regularly stayed while touring.

"I saw on television that it was the Lorraine," Williams remarked.

"We stayed there all the time because it was the only hotel in Memphis where Black people could stay, and that room was where I would stay. We could no longer stay there; we'd only drive by and look."

Throughout their record-setting career, the Temptations released such transformative hits as "My Girl,"

"Get Ready," and "Just My Imagination."

The musical reveals that another global hit, "Papa Was A Rolling Stone," hit too close to home for some members.

The Norman Whitfield-Barrett Strong produced song struck a chord, particularly with Dennis Edwards. After a near four-minute instrumental introduction, Edwards sings, "It was September 3/ That day I'll always remember/cause that was the day/ that my daddy died."

Edwards objected because he said his father died on September 3.

Ain't Too Proud handles that scene in a humorous but sensitive manner.

The musical will tour the country, while The Temptations have again hit the road with the Four Tops and others to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

And at 80 years old, Otis Williams remains music's most dynamic force.

He isn't showing signs of slowing, either.

"Let's do it," Williams exclaimed.

Fruitful Suffering



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

- Genesis 41:52

Joseph named his second son Ephraim. Ephraim was given to him after he had been delivered from his suffering of 13 years.

Joseph said that he named him this because God had made him fruitful in the land of his suffering. Ephraim means "twice fruitful."

Joseph was fruitful in

two instances. He was fruitful during his time of adversity and in his prosperity. When God brings us into a time of suffering, it can be a fruitful time.

It's rare for us to see the fruit during the suffering period. But know that the roots are going deep into the spiritual soil of our soul because of our pressing in to God during our time of suffering.

This is producing a work in our character that cannot be seen until it finishes the process. Such was the case for Joseph.

The story is told. "It was not until several years after such a time of suffering that I began to see the fruit of the trials that the Lord allowed me to experience.



Sister Tarpley helping to give away food in Carrollton for people in need.

How grateful I am to understand some of the "why" that has led to a new

life in Him that I would never have had without this period."

Green Thumb Versus Black and Blue Thumb

By Dr. James L. Snyder

If you came to our parsonage, you would discover all over our property, plants and flowers. Just don't ask me to identify what they are. I can tell a plant from a flower, but that's as far as it goes with me.

That is not true with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She gets all the credit for all the plants and flowers on our property. She knows them all by name.

Walking up to our house, you will see right next to the door a pineapple plant. I never knew exactly what it was, but my wife kept telling me it was a pineapple. Then this year, the pineapple actually developed.

When she first planted it, she asked me, "Did you see my new plant out front?"

I did not, but I did not want to tell her that I did not.

"Yes, I saw it, and it looks wonderful." I smiled at her.

I thought I was off the hook with that, but guess what? I was not off the hook, because then she

said, "What kind of a plant is it?"

"For your information," she said somewhat sarcastically, "it is a pineapple plant. Why don't you go out front and look at it?"

I went out, and she followed me to the front to look at the pineapple plant. It was a very profitable session. First, she gave me a very detailed lecture on the pineapple plant, planting it and watering it through the year. Then she told me how long it takes a pineapple to grow to the point of harvesting.

I think she is the Martha Stewart of all things growing outside in our backyard.

The one secret to her plants and flowers is that she talks to them. I didn't know plants and flowers could hear, but obviously, they do.

Last week it hadn't rained for days, and I heard her out on the porch saying, "Don't worry, it will rain very soon. Be ready for it and be patient."

Evidently, talking to the plants and flowers is very much appreciated by those plants and flowers. I've been tempted to go out and

talk to them myself, but I was fearful that they would shrink in fear. Then guess who would be in trouble?

It's pretty evident that I could not take care of plants and flowers as she does. Probably none of them would survive. Those plants and flowers ought to be quite thankful that I am not the one taking care of them. They ought to be thankful for the expert with a wonderful green thumb and not the one with the black and blue thumb.

Even though I can't take care of them, I can appreciate them. Also, I can appreciate the one who does all the work to make them look as good as they do.

Sitting on the back porch drinking some coffee and looking at the flowers, I thought of the wonderful verse in the Bible. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Relationships are not built upon having the same qualities. Rather, it is appreciating our differences that pull us together and enable us to do what God wants us to do.

Samson had great anointing but lacked character. We see many today who have great anointing yet lack character.

But God is raising up Josephs who not only have great anointing for these days but also great character. Suffering produces character.

If you find yourself in a time of suffering, now is the time to press into God. Let your roots grow deeper. Whenever there is a famine, tree roots are forced to drive deeper into the soil to find water.

These times are designed to create such a deep-rooted faith that our natures will be changed forever.

Talk to God, it is said, "I can do ALL things through

CHRIST who strengthens me. Thank God s, for your strength and protection. Thank God for our Savior. Whenever that old devil comes at you with temptations, remind him that I can do all things who Christ who strengthens me and has saved me.

Because of that, I can rebuke Satan through standing upon Scripture and leaning on God for your help.

Jesus was the perfect example of this as he countered Satan's temptations with Scripture. May you open your eyes, ears, and heart to God's word and His prompting. With thanks in your soul pray, in the precious name of Jesus.

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