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Report finds Black motorists often target of police-related death and aggression

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Minor offenses like a seatbelt violation, a broken headlight, or a crack taillight have resulted in the deaths of more than 400 people over five years, according to a startling new report.

Many of those unarmed motorists are Black, the *New York Times* reported.

The newspaper conducted an extensive investigation of traffic stops in which police officers justified the shootings by arguing that the vehicle was a weapon.

The Times found that in about 250 cases, police officers had fired into vehicles that they claimed posed a threat. "Relative to the population, Black motorists were over-represented among those killed," the researchers reported.

For perspective, the researchers discovered that nine officers had been fatally run over, pinned, or dragged by drivers in vehicles over the past five years.

However, law enforcement officers were found to have put themselves at risk.

The researchers concluded that some officers who fatally shot motorists "didn't appear to be in any



A new report finds that Black motorists were overrepresented among those killed by police in routine traffic stops, relative to the general population. (Photo via NNPA)

jeopardy at all."

Earlier this year, Katie Wright, the mother of the 20-year-old African American man shot and killed by police a short distance from a Minneapolis courtroom where former cop Derek Chauvin stood trial for the murder of George Floyd, said she was searching for answers.

Wright, and a frustrated community that still has not wrapped its head around Floyd's avoidable murder, said there was no reason for officers to shoot Daunte Wright, Sr.

"My son was 20-years-old," Katie Wright reminded journalists and

community members on Sunday, just hours after her son's fatal police encounter.

"He got pulled over for having air fresheners in the car that I just gave him," she forcefully explained. "All he did was have air fresheners in the car, and they told him to get out of the car."

Brooklyn Center police officials claimed officers pulled Wright over for a traffic violation.

The incident occurred at about 2 p.m. in the 6300 block of Orchard Avenue in Brooklyn Center.

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Deirdre Gilbert

People In The News ...



La Sonja Jordan Henderson



AO Destiny Villalpando

NDG Quote of the Week: "Freedom is never given; it is won."

—A. Philip Randolph, civil rights activist

Deirdre Gilbert

When Deirdre Gilbert added her name to the ballot for Texas Governor, she didn't realize she was part of a history-making movement. For the first time in history, five (5) Black Women are running for Governor in five (5) different states. 2022 could be the year America elects its first African-American woman governor and it's shaking out to appear that Gilbert could be in the leading position to run against Governor Greg Abbott.

A new poll conducted by the Texas Hispanic Policy



Foundation and Rice University's Baker Institute shows the former U.S. Congressman Beto O'Rourke in a statistical dead heat against Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in the 2022 election.

The poll was conducted at the end of October and surveyed 1,402 voters online. The poll results have a margin of error of 2.6%, meaning Abbott and O'Rourke were in a statistical dead heat. It seems that the Texas Hispanic Foundation was voluntarily dissolved in 2018 and is currently operating out of a house in Dallas, Texas. If this scenario is correct, Deirdre Gilbert is in the leading position to run against Governor Greg Abbott.

Gilbert is an African American woman who has worked tirelessly in her community and is simply

fed up with the shenanigans of the political atmosphere. She's worked on issues such as the denial of voting rights in local elections within Missouri City and MUD District issues. She has spoken before the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress in Washington D.C on civil rights. Gilbert has helped to shape legislation regarding whistleblowers, medical malpractice, and education. Deirdre Gilbert is not afraid of a battle and is willing to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

"I am not running a political race as much as I'm

running a race for humanity," says Gilbert. "I think the people are beyond ready to be listened to, and I am bringing their voices to a place where they can finally be heard, and real change can be made. Other candidates can talk about not being supported, but they haven't lived it. I am the ideal choice for the Texas people."

Since 2011, Deirdre Gilbert has not backed down from her challenges, founding non-profits such as the National Medical Malpractice Advocacy Association (NMAAA), serving as its National Director and Ex-

ecutive Director of the Jocelyn Y. Dickson Foundation. Gilbert advocates high standards of ethics and morality to ensure non-abuse of the powers entrusted to the profession by the American people.

Although women comprise half of the United States' population, women hold just 19 percent of seats (84 out of 435 seats) in the United States House of Representatives and 21 of 100 seats in the Senate. For black women, the numbers are even smaller; just 20 currently have seats in the

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La Sonja Jordan Henderson

(EINPresswire.com) A recent McKinsey & Co. report shows black and brown students are falling behind in mathematics due in part to the nationwide lockdowns, but one seasoned educator is breaking the public school to prison pipeline with a revolutionary approach. Meet La Sonja Jordan Henderson, or "LJ" as she is affectionately known. Henderson is an industry maverick with 25 years of experience in education, ESL, and Speech Therapy. The sought-after speaker and academic consultant is upending the educational



system with early intervention through the advent of a rigorous STEM program, little Stem Academy. Henderson adds, "early exposure builds critical thinking and makes kids more innovative."

As the founder of Little Stem Academy, Henderson believes the best way to begin is at the beginning with PreK appropriate programs to make STEM a part of everyday life. Researchers agree the brain is 90% developed by age 5 and the gap in learning appears as early as kindergarten and first grade, implicating that the study of concepts in math and science should be a strong component of the preschool curriculum.

With this in mind, Henderson insists it is important to institute a regular regimen of science and technology in every preschooler's educational diet. During

the pandemic, when schools temporarily closed down and remote learning was the only option for school age children, Henderson stepped up being a former educator to assist with virtual learning.

She immediately realized that 1st-3rd grade students had severe deficits in mathematics. After evaluating a few preschool programs in her area she noticed that math readiness components were lacking. She decided to put together a new program that challenged a children's critical thinking and problem solving skills at the preschool level.

According to the Com-

mittee on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education of the National Science and Technology Council, "it is critical to our national security that our students spark interest in critical and fast-growing careers in STEM." Henderson and her team are building an engaging, technology-rich program to draw young minds into these fields.

The Communicative Disorder expert with two master's degrees knows the time to act is now. Her state-of-the-art programs are making STEM a way of life for students of color particular. Through her multi-ethnic

team, Henderson is bridging the conversation of race and education by bringing people with brown hues in front of the classroom to model STEM awareness.

"Seeing Black people in STEM fields helps to set up the next generation for success and show up in career fields," says Henderson.

This Fall, Henderson is reaching out beyond the Little Stem Academy walls to connect parents through a one-of-a-kind STEM kit. This revolutionary, family-centered resource is a curated box of experiments and math lessons to guide

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AO Destiny Villalpando



Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Destiny Villalpando, from Lewisville, Texas, wipes an ammo locker aboard amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7), Oct. 26. Tripoli is an America-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Maci Sternod)

*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.



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Why won't Democrats fight?

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Contributor

Politics is the art of compromise. Someone needs to send Mitch McConnell the memo. He does not want to raise the debt ceiling, putting a vote on that off until December. He does not want Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure repair plan. He does not want to guarantee voting rights. And few Republicans are willing to stand up to him, instead of hiding behind party unity, even when they know better.

Not a day goes by that I don't get a text or three from the Democratic National Committee asking for contributions. Sometimes they come from Vice President Harris. Sometimes, from President Biden himself. Occasionally, from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or DNC Chair Jaime Harrison. Not to mention the texts that come from Congressional candidates all over the country, looking for \$10, \$17, or \$27. I don't know where they get these odd numbers from, nor do I know where they got mine. I suppose someone I donated to, sold their list, and I am likely to be cyber-panhandled indefinitely.

I sometimes contribute to Democratic political candidates, as well as to the Democratic party. I'm not so in the mood to contribute these days because Democrats are so busy fighting each other that they won't put up an

aggressive fight for people's economic rights. They seem willing to streamline the Biden Build Back Better plan instead of insisting that our human infrastructure – childcare and elder care, school improvement – is as critical as our physical one.

To be sure, politics is the art of compromise. Someone needs to send Mitch McConnell the memo. He does not want to raise the debt ceiling, putting a vote on that off until December. He does not want Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure repair plan. He does not want to guarantee voting rights. And few Republicans are willing to stand up to him, instead of hiding behind party unity, even when they know better.

But I'm not worried about Republicans. I'm angry about the dithering Democrats who can't seem to get off their rusty duffs and do what they were elected to do. I'm mad at the amount of power that has been ceded to West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Arizona's Krysten Sinema, who would cut the Biden proposal by more than half. If Manchin had his way, the Biden plan would be whittled to \$1.5 trillion from the initially proposed \$3.5 trillion. Manchin's colleagues need to invite him to a small room to have an impactful conversation about his role. He also needs to be reminded that many of his constituents in one of our nation's most impoverished states would

benefit mightily from the Biden plan.

While Republicans don't seem to roll their sleeves up and get into the trenches, some Democrats behave as if they are sipping tea and munching on scones at an afternoon garden party, a portrait in civility. Dems seem reluctant to call some Republicans the liars, hypocrites, and scalawags that they are. While name-calling can be perceived as uncivil, so can lying, cheating, and stealing. Civility plus the filibuster will get the American people nothing. It is time for Democrats to play hardball.

Younger Democratic members of Congress get hardball. They've been playing hardball with the older Democratic establishment, vowing not to vote for beneficial legislation if it does not honor their demands, especially for human infrastructure needs.

I like their fighting spirit, but not the likely results. Are they prepared to walk away with nothing? A pared-down infrastructure bill? No legislation at all?

President Biden and Vice President Harris, along with other members of the Biden-Harris team, need to take this to the people and the streets. Most people support most provisions of the Build Back Better legislation. West Virginians and Arizonans need to get in Manchin and Sinema's faces and demand flexibility from them. And Republican

senators also need to face a deluge of telephone calls, emails and more, demanding that they budge and put some infrastructure money in the economy.

Democrats are imperiling their chances to keep Congress and the Senate in 2022. Their inaction lets indifferent voters know what going out on a limb for Democrats may not have the desired results when we live with politics as usual. The filibuster elevates the minority over the majority and favors predatory capitalism over fairness.

To be sure, the Biden-Harris Administration has been productive in their short nine months in office, with appointments, regulatory corrections, and more. They've also committed too many unforced errors and exposed themselves to public ridicule because of the mistakes (Afghanistan, Haiti, and more). And Dems have allowed themselves to be portrayed as weak quibblers who won't fight for people's rights.

In some ways, Dems are great at fighting, especially when we are fighting each other. Memo to Dems: Fight enemies of progress, not each other. And don't expect either votes or contributions if you are unwilling to fight for the people who voted for you.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA.

Bipartisan infrastructure bill will provide a needed boost to the construction industry

By Stephen E. Sandherr
CEO, Associated General Contractors of America

The reason the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill passed in the House today is because a majority of Representatives understand that this measure will provide significant, tangible improvements to their lives of the constituents and the success of their local employers. That is because the bill provides the kind of

funding needed to modernize the country's aging and overburdened infrastructure. The legislation also maintains the policy of One Federal Decision, cutting the amount of time needed for federal reviews of infrastructure projects.

Because of today's vote, state and local officials will be able to invest in a more efficient supply chain network. They will also be able to improve roads and

bridges to make them safer and more reliable. Metro areas will be able to better maintain and expand transit systems. And water authorities will be able to further safeguard the quality of local drinking water, among other improvements funded by this bill. The measure also provides needed investments to make infrastructure more resilient to extreme weather events.

Once the President signs

this bill into law, our members are ready to begin the hard, but necessary, work of rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. They will also begin the work of building rewarding careers for a generation of new construction professionals because of this measure. Ultimately, these new infrastructure investments will provide a needed boost for the construction industry while making our economy more efficient.

Keep up with the news

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AHA Research Study: Reduced air pollution in U.S. during pandemic shutdown linked to fewer heart attacks

DALLAS — (American Heart Association) Reduced air pollution in the U.S. during the COVID-19 shutdown initiated in March 2020 was linked to fewer severe heart attacks, according to preliminary research to be presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2021. The meeting will be fully virtual, Saturday, November 13 through Monday, November 15, 2021, and is a premier global exchange of the latest scientific advancements, research and evidence-based clinical practice updates in cardiovascular science for health care professionals worldwide.

"Reducing pollution is not only helpful for the environment it may also have significant health benefits at the population level such as preventing heart attacks," said lead study author Sidney Aung, B.A., a fourth-year medical student at the University of California, San Francisco.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Untreated, yet modifiable heart disease risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and diabetes, as well as physical inactivity and excess weight, can contribute to and cause a heart attack. Previous research has confirmed that environmental conditions such as air pollution can increase the risk for heart attack.

According to a 2020 American Heart Association policy statement citing a global study, ambient air pollution is widely recognized as a significant contributor to cardiovascular disease and death. In 2017, exposure to particulate air pollution was estimated to be associated with more



Deserted highways mean less pollution. (Photo: Shots by JFL / Unsplash)

than 7 million premature deaths and the loss of 147 million healthy life-years globally.

Shelter-in-place orders to slow the spread of COVID-19 began to be issued in various U.S. cities and states after the World Health Organization characterized the outbreak as a pandemic in mid-March 2020. By April 2020, some states began to partially reopen. Across the time period analyzed in this study, Jan 2019-April 2020, the number of severe heart attacks dropped substantially in association with declining ambient pollution levels.

According to an international analysis, IQ Air's 2020 World Air Quality Report, global lockdown measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 resulted in healthier air around the world in 2020. The report is based on the world's largest database of ground-based air pollution measurements, aggregating particulate matter 2.5 data published in real time from ground-based sensors throughout

2020. Less air pollution was noted, particularly during the initial period of the lockdown when people were ordered to shelter in place, closing schools and businesses and reducing vehicle and airplane traffic.

This study reviewed daily pollution measurements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website between January 1, 2019, to April 30, 2020 focusing on a common type of air pollution called particulate matter 2.5, which contains microscopic pieces of solid substances. Using records from the National Emergency Medical Services Information System and the U.S. Census, researchers analyzed the frequency of heart attacks in various regions of the U.S. for the same period.

Overall, 60,722 heart attacks occurred during the study. With each 10 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter) drop in particulate matter 2.5 the number of heart attacks decreased by 6%, which translates to 374 fewer heart attacks per 10,000 person-years.

"This study highlights the importance of reducing air pollution, which could, in turn, prevent heart attacks," Aung said. "We also hope our study may influence other investigators to pursue similar research to corroborate these results or to investigate other forms of air pollutants outside of particulate matter 2.5 that may have also declined during the pandemic lockdowns."

The study has several limitations: it is an observational analysis and, therefore, could not definitively prove cause and effect; it did not evaluate individual-level information regarding age, sex and race; and heart attacks in the study were identified by paramedics and other emergency medical services professionals rather than being diagnosed by physicians.

"There is extensive research suggesting that exposure to air pollutants, ozone and traffic-related pollutants is associated with increased extent of atherosclerosis and increased underlying risk of heart at-

tack and stroke," said Joel D. Kaufman, M.D., M.P.H., chair of the American Heart Association's 2020 policy statement on air pollution.

He noted that other studies have made similar links – such as a rapid drop in acute heart attacks occurred after public smoking bans reduced secondhand smoke exposure. However, it is unclear what connections

exist between the pandemic lockdown and fewer heart attacks.

"It is also possible that other things were going on last year to reduce heart attack triggers – fewer exertional activities or other stressors, for example, that were also a result of the COVID lockdowns," said

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Allred votes for historic investments in infrastructure to create jobs and reduce congestion in North Texas

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32), a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, released the following statement after voting for the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which received the support of Democrats and Republicans. Allred hosted Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg earlier this year in Dallas to showcase how important infrastructure investment will be to economic growth in North Texas.

“Because of our rapid growth in North Texas, investment in infrastructure isn’t just optional -- it is a necessity,” Allred said.



“This bill does just that and I am proud that we worked to get this bipartisan bill passed and send it to the President’s desk.

“Whether it is repairing our roads and bridges, building out a historic network to charge electric vehicles, or investing in

public transit like DART -- everything in this package will work to create jobs, reduce congestion and grow our economy.

“Teamed with the Build Back Better plan, Congress has an obligation to deliver real results for the American people -- and this bill

does just that. I look forward to working closely with local leaders to ensure that North Texas is able to put these funds to work quickly.”

A Moody’s Analytics report stated that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will create

650,000 new jobs by the middle of the decade.

What the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act mean for Texas:

- \$26.9 billion to build and repair Texas highways and \$537 million for bridges. Texas can also compete for the \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program for economically significant bridges and nearly \$16 billion of national funding in the bill dedicated for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits.

- \$3.3 billion, over the next 5 years, to improve public transportation.

- \$1.2 billion for infrastructure development for Texas airports over five

years.

- \$408 million, over 5 years, to expand the state’s electric vehicle charging network, also gives Texas the opportunity to apply for \$2.5 billion in grant funding.

- \$100 million to expand broadband access to more than 1 million Texans. The plan will provide more than 8 million Texans with access to help to afford high-speed internet.

- \$42 million to protect against cyberattacks. Texans will also benefit from the bill’s historic \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization which will reduce energy costs for families.

Federation files motion on behalf of Black Farmers, to intervene in Texas lawsuit, which blocks \$4 billion debt relief in Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan

EAST POINT, GA — After decades of longstanding racism in the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) loan programs, Black farmers stand to lose their farms, land and livelihoods after a temporary injunction halted an estimated \$4 billion in debt relief passed by Congress as part of the American Rescue Act. The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Public Counsel, and pro bono counsel Winston & Strawn LLP, filed an intervention motion on behalf of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (the Federation). The motion was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas in *Miller v. Vilsack*.

Section 1005 of the



Encountering years of unfair loan terms, mistreatment by the USDA, and discrimination at every turn, Black farmers are now currently less than 1% of all farmers in the country. (Photo via NNPA)

American Rescue Plan, signed into law on March 11, 2021, was designed to provide debt relief to Black farmers, and other farmers of color, who have long suffered at the hands of the USDA’s harmful discrimination. The USDA’s long

documented and acknowledged racist policies of denying and delaying loans prevented Black farmers from operating successful farm businesses, forcing foreclosures and continuing the shameful legacy of Black land loss in the United

States.

In *Miller v. Vilsack*, five White Texas farmers filed a lawsuit against the USDA alleging that loan forgiveness payments violate the U.S. Constitution. This case is one of many ongoing lawsuits involving Section 1005 in other jurisdictions, including Florida, where a federal court issued a preliminary injunction against the program. Plaintiffs specifically argued that Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (“ARPA”) violates the equal protection rights promised under the Constitution for farmers and ranchers who stand eligible for USDA loans but do not qualify for debt relief under the program.

“The USDA has a documented history of discrimi-

nating against Black people and communities of color. The federal government’s attempt to rectify this injustice should be applauded, not stopped,” said Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. “If this critical assistance is not provided soon, Black farmers and other farmers of color who have struggled to overcome decades of discrimination and the economic impacts of the global pandemic will face the threat of losing their land and their livelihoods.”

Farmer declarations included in the intervention cite multiple instances of discrimination, including:

- Misplaced loan paperwork and approval delays of more than two years

- Inability to sell equipment to repay loans due to vandalism at the auction house in the form of racist graffiti on the tractors up for bid

- Loan paperwork being filed on time but funds chronically arriving too late for planting season

- Inaccurate advice about whether FSA loans could be restructured, and

- Receiving loan funds weeks later in the season than White farmers in the same area, providing them with an unfair advantage in planting and harvesting a profitable crop.

Encountering years of unfair loan terms, mistreatment by the USDA, and discrimination at every turn, Black farmers are now

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Kaufman, professor in the department of environmental and occupational health sciences, medicine and epidemiology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

“If it turns out that we

can meaningfully link a reduction in traffic-related air pollution during COVID lockdowns to a reduction in heart attacks, it points the way toward a major change that could help to reduce

the burden of heart disease. We know how to reduce air pollution concentrations and have seen that it is possible.

“This could reinforce the benefits of air pollution reduction as a cost-effective way to improve health,” he

said. “It also means that reducing fossil fuel combustion, which we need to do anyway to combat climate change, may yield tremendous health benefits now, even if the climate benefits take years to accrue.”

The American Heart

Association recommends further development of evidence-based policy approaches, continued investment in research and greater innovation and transformational partnerships to reduce the cardiovascular burden of ambient

air pollutants in the United States.

Co-authors are Eric Vittinghoff, Ph.D., and Gregory M. Marcus, M.D., M.A.S. Authors’ disclosures are in the abstract. No funding sources were reported for the study.

Record \$1.7 trillion student debt drowns HBCU borrowers, calls for loan forgiveness gain support

By Charlene Crowell

As the cost of a college education continues to rise, an estimated 45 million consumers collectively owe a record \$1.7 trillion dollars in student debt, according to the Federal Reserve, -- a \$905 billion increase in just the past decade.

For Black America, the struggle to gain a college education is an even more daunting challenge. While historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) continue to provide value-priced higher education compared to non-HBCU institutions, financing college often means students and families alike taking on loans that can take decades to retire.

An October 28 virtual panel of student debt experts and cancellation advocates discussed how the ongoing student debt crisis has generally impacted Black borrowers nationwide, and particularly Black borrowers at HBCUs. Co-con-



After struggling through four years of university education, many HBCU students find themselves in overwhelming debt. (Photo: Christina@wocintechchat.com / Unsplash)

vened by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), and funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation, the forum emphasized the need for across-the-board student loan cancellation, as well as increased HBCU funding.

"We were taught early on if you go to college, you do well, you can have a great life, only to find ourselves in a debt cycle that many will not be able to get out

of," said Derrick Johnson, a panel participant and President of the NAACP. "Almost half of Black graduates owe more on their undergraduate student loans four years after graduation than they did when they received their diplomas."

"Not only do they have less wealth to borrow on to pay back loans because of the racial wealth gap, but the underfunding of HBCUs compound the financial challenges which result

in higher debt for students who attend these schools," said Rep. AdamsRep. Alma Adams.

The North Carolina Congresswoman speaks from experience. An HBCU graduate and professor for 40 years before joining Congress, Adams is also the founder and chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus. Since its inception in 2015, this bipartisan and bicameral caucus has procured \$1.3 billion for HBCUs to rebuild campus infrastructure, and \$40 million in HBCU scholarships for land grant colleges through the Farm Bill.

For the estimated 300,000 HBCU students attending one of the 101 accredited campuses spread across 19 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, these funds help but do not fulfill the escalating costs of securing a college degree. Among these students, 80% are Black, 70% are from low-income families and 41% are the first

generation of their family to attend college, according to UNCF.

As a result, many HBCU students and their parents often need a combination of student loans, Pell Grants, and jobs to offset limited family contributions to college educations.

As students increase job hours as part of financial aid packages, the amount of time required to complete a traditional four-year degree is also increasing. Today, most students -- 60% -- earn their baccalaureate degrees in six years. Only 39% graduate in the traditional four years. And the longer it takes to graduate, the number of loans and their indebtedness increase as well.

Pell Grants, a needs-based federal program designed to serve low-income students and their families, has also failed to keep pace with rising college costs. The maximum annual Pell Grant award for the 2020-2021 school year is \$6,345; due to the program's slid-

ing scale that takes family income, size, and contributions into account, this aid can be as low as \$639. In the 2019-2020 academic year, approximately 6.9 million students received a Pell Grant that averaged \$4,117.

While this amount of financial assistance is helpful, the actual annual cost of college surpasses the financial capabilities of most Black Americans. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the annual average cost of attending a moderately-priced, in-state public four-year institution is \$26,820. For out-of-state students attending the same college, the annual cost jumps to \$43,280, and the average cost of attending a private, four-year college is even higher at \$54,880.

By comparison, the annual average cost of attending an HBCU is 28% less than that of a non-HBCU institution, according to UNCF.

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House of Representatives.

Under her direction, these nonprofits have gained support from members of

Congress, garnered attention and recognition among state lawmakers, and sparked open dialogue and

inquiry into medical negligence. The core of her message is consistent, Justice for All. To learn more, visit Gilbert online at <https://gilbert4gov.com>.

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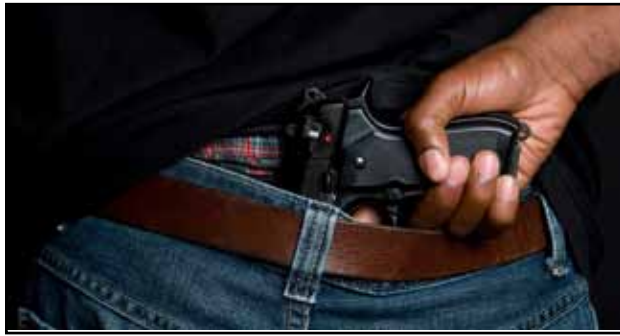
Fighting the cycle of violence with stipends and mentorships

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

More than 117,000 people are shot in America annually, and gun homicides disproportionately are concentrated in urban areas, particularly in impoverished and underserved communities of color.

According to officials at Advance Peace, a program that provides mentoring, job training, and a \$1,000 per month stipend to participants, such neighborhoods often are plagued by homicide rates on par with warzones.

"Frequently, both public and community-based systems of care fall short in their efforts to provide responsive opportunities and resources to those most



Advance Peace is breaking the cycle of a response to trauma that says, "I don't give a [damn]" to a healing approach that treats our most vulnerable to get to a place where they say, "Maybe I do." (Photo: iStockphoto/NNPA)

involved with and affected by urban gun violence," officials at the program wrote.

"Because those who are suspected of gun crimes in urban communities have often already been failed by the available systems of care, those who need the services most are least likely to trust the systems that provide them."

A recent example of how

the program works centered on 17-year-old Devrick Hill, arrested for allegedly firing multiple weapons out of a car in a fight with gang members.

Advance Peace change agents recruited Hill for the program to help to turn his life around.

The program seeks to steer vulnerable individuals like Hill away from vio-

lence.

It provides participants as much as \$1,000 each month to meet anti-violence goals like completing classes or acquiring a job.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Advance Peace's fellowship program is now running or set to launch soon in nine cities, including Rochester, N.Y.; Fort Worth, Texas; and Fresno and Sacramento, Calif. Another 18 cities are using elements of the program, according to Advance Peace and law-enforcement officials.

"I know a lot of people who got allowances growing up. I know a lot of people who got a little extra dough when they did well in school," DeVone Boggan, chief executive of Advance Peace, told the newspaper.

"These guys haven't had a childhood."

The publication reported that Boggan founded the program more than a decade ago in the Bay Area city of Richmond, Calif., to address a growing murder rate.

"He hired former gang members and ex-cons to identify and mentor young men who had spent time behind bars for shootings, had been shot themselves, or suspected in recent shootings," the report's author wrote.

In the first five years of the program, 94 percent of the 68 fellows were alive, 79 percent hadn't been arrested or on gun-related charges, and 60 percent had received monetary incentives, according to an evaluation by the National

Council on Crime and Delinquency, a nonprofit research group.

Jason Corburn, a University of California, Berkeley professor who has evaluated the group's work in Sacramento and Stockton, Calif., noted in the article that throughout an 18-month Advance Peace fellowship, less than \$20,000 is typically spent on a cohort of 30 to 50 individuals and an average of 20 to 50 shootings are prevented.

"If you were an economist, you'd say that's a great return on investment," he said.

Advance Peace officials noted that its program interrupts gun violence in "American urban neighborhoods by providing trans-

See CYCLE, Page 12

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Cowboys drop winning streak with loss to Broncos

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

ARLINGTON -- Those haters who were patiently waiting for the Dallas Cowboys to lay an egg this season finally got their wish this past Sunday.

In an odd game that saw the Cowboys scrambling just to avoid being shutout for the first time ever in the 100 games they've played at their swanky AT&T Stadium, the Denver Broncos laid an unexpected 30-16 whipping on Jerry Jones' team. And it wasn't even that close.

The loss snapped the Cowboys' six-game winning streak and drooped them to 6-2 on the season. It also left them trying to look at the sunny side of a game where they got slapped around in every phase.



All-Pro Reels / Flickr

In essence, the Cowboys looked shell-shocked in a game that was one of the worst ever played by quarterback Dak Prescott.

"We got thumped in every aspect of the game," said Prescott, who only completed 19 passes in 39 attempts for 232 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. "We scored a couple of touchdowns there in late time, but never got going.

"I missed some throws. We didn't throw and catch the ball as we normally do. It wasn't our best performance by any means -- obviously our worst of the year."

The Cowboys entered the game ranked number one in the NFL in yards per game and number three in scoring. They also had averaged 40 points in games played on their home turf.

But the Broncos blew out

to a 30-0 lead with 6:32 remaining in the game, and the Cowboys scored a pair of face-saving touchdowns in the game's final 4:08 on passes from Prescott to Malik Turner. A Cowboys' offense that was averaging 455 yards a game finished with just 290 yards and never got any serious traction under their feet.

It was as if the Cowboys were reading all their glorious press clippings about how great they are and about how they're possibly Super Bowl-bound after they went to Minnesota the previous week and defeated the Vikings, 20-16, with backup quarterback Cooper Rush while Prescott was sidelined with a calf injury.

"Frankly, we were out-coached, we were out-played all the way through," coach Mike McCarthy said. "This is the

first time I've felt clearly our energy didn't exceed our opponent, and that's disappointing.

"If you look at the way their defense played us from the start, they challenged our receivers, they challenged the box, they clearly were going to take away the run and put it on the passing game, and we didn't respond to that."

Things were so bad for the Cowboys that they kept Prescott in the game in garbage time. That's because they wanted to see him establish some type of rhythm heading into Sunday's 12 p.m. home game against the Atlanta Falcons.

"Frankly, the fourth quarter was a conscious effort to keep him in there for the two-minute work," McCarthy said. "It's something that if I was looking at all the situation work

that we've done and the commitment that you put to each situation, we needed that work.

"So, I was happy to see us have some two-minute production, just because I think that's something we can definitely carry forward out of this game."

Dropped passes were plentiful for the Cowboy receivers, and the Broncos gouged Dallas' defense for 407 yards, including 190 yards rushing.

"I mean, as a team we were off, not just me and (Prescott)," said wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, who caught two passes for 23 yards. "Honestly, I felt like we couldn't get a completion -- all the receivers.

"It was a weird day. Yeah, it was just weird."

So weird that the Cow-

See COWBOYS, Page 11



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NDG Book Review: 'Carefree Black Girls' is not always a celebration

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You used to like to skip. Filled with delight, you danced down the sidewalk, not minding at all who was watching. Back then, your body moved with exuberance, your legs took you everywhere fast, you jumped and rolled and reached and it was joyful. So what happened between then and now that keeps you from that happiness? As in the new book "Carefree Black Girls" by Zeba Blay, you became a Black woman.

Over the course of the last few years, Zeba Blay says she's felt as though she was "spiraling," emotionally. Outside forces, politics, ra-



cial issues, violence, misogyny affected her so strongly that she became reclusive and, she says, "attempted to take my own life, twice."

As a writer, she "constantly, maybe even obsessively" thinks "about what it means to be a Black woman" to-

day. What she came to realize about the subject is something that many people don't understand: "Black women are everything." They are celebrated, emulated in fashion and song, they are teachers, influencers, designers, trend-setters, activists, and sometimes, their stories aren't told or are told in ways that are wrong.

Despite, for instance, that Lizzo is obviously comfortable in her own body, too many people still openly fat-shame her and other Black women for their size. The old trope about Black women being "freaks" goes back to slavery and today, it's harming relationships. Black girls' experience

is stereotyped, and Black women have such a reputation of being "strong" that some are afraid of showing vulnerability. Black women aren't just judged on the color of their skin, they're judged by the darkness and lightness of it, and if this sounds angry, well, that's another subject: why are "angry Black women" so stereotyped?

Either way, for many Black women, it's like walking on eggshells, always "acutely aware of the confinements of [an] existence... that others do not have..."

Take a good look at the subtitle of "Carefree Black

Girls."

See the indication of a "celebration"?

If that's what you're looking for – a confetti-and-cake gala about the achievements of Black women – you're going to be disappointed. Nope, there's some fêting of African American women in this book but mostly, author Zeba Blay (who is credited for first using the hashtag #carefreeblackgirls) writes about the many ways that a Black woman can be perceived negatively or even in ways that are harmful.

There's no celebration in that, as Blay shows. Using her own experiences as guiderails, she points out

many of the ways society fails to give Black women the respect they deserve, instead heaping criticism or worse, often when they're just living their lives. Alas, Blay doesn't offer much that can be done to counter this, although her list of "moments when I felt truly free" may give some hints.

But will readers just be frustrated by then? It's possible; although achievements are mentioned and portraits of influential Black women are included, the "celebration" is smaller than you might expect. You may love "Carefree Black Girls" or it may be something you'll decide to skip.

HENDERSON, from Page 2

parents and educators in STEM-building activities.

"Parents around the country, regardless of their educational background, feel they can't teach their own children. These STEM lab

kits will show them how and give parents the confidence they need to work with their child in a fun and engaging way for both parent and child. This supplemental resource is the perfect ad-

dition to any curriculum or after school program," concludes Henderson.

These easy-to-follow experiments teach math lessons at home while opening the discussion of emerging career fields right at the dinner table.

One Texas woman's seasonings are taking on Goliath brands

A Dallas woman who launched her small business pre-covid 19 with her retirement from local city government is fighting to keep her company thriving!

Compared to Goliath brand giants, Big Toe Seasonings may be considered as little David, however, Big Toe Seasonings has won over many customers, a few celebrities and social media influencer who love the seasonings!

After an Instagram post by Talk show Host Sherri Shepherd, Big Toe Seasonings went viral. Big Toe Seasonings could easily become for those who love hearing a good underdog story a big favorite this holiday!

Meet former court administrator and radio executive Sakina Jackson of Dallas, Texas! Mother of five, grandmother to eleven who launched her controversial brand coined Big Toe Seasonings!

The name derives from a southern saying meaning the dish is delicious so don't get choked up as there are no literal toes in the in-



gredients lol, "Just a lot of flava!" states Jackson.

Jackson has been instrumental in getting her brand into the hands and mouths of actress, comedian, and Emmy award winner Sherri Shepherd former talk show host of the View and last weeks guest host of the Wendy Williams Show in her absence, Grammy-

nominated country band Chapel Hart, and soon project with one of the iconic Clark Sisters is on the rise! What a dream come true for Jackson!

During these turbulent times for individuals, families and small businesses Jackson states "Getting back to old fashion family meals at the table brings

for what just happened," Prescott said. "You win as a team and you lose as a team. I think it starts with the leaders. We're not looking and asking the coaches to do something different. We've got to be more physical, we've got to take accountability in this loss."

"When you do lose and have the negatives, you've got to take positives from it. We'll make sure that we take a lot from this. And as I said, for one, the feeling in the locker room; a lot of guys were hurt, a lot of guys were upset. We got beat and that's not something we've become used to at this point. We're a focused team, we're a brotherhood, nobody liked it and we'll learn from it in every aspect to make sure that we grow, that we become better, we're accountable for it and we move forward."



Sakina Jackson (left) of Dallas has gone full steam into the culinary industry with her signature line of seasonings (above). Jackson has the confidence that her product can stand up to the standard blends produced by corporate giants. (Courtesy photos)

comfort and hope."

Jackson understands that it is everyday people who are keeping us afloat. While a few celebrities can help reach the masses, Jackson is appreciative and

humbled by the many ordinary consumers who support her growing company.

Being a woman of God, Sakina's first and foremost ingredient in her business is continual faith!

While David had five smooth stones prepared for battle with Goliath, Jackson too launched her battle with five popular blends being Lemon Pepper, Creole her signature blend called Bless Yo Heart all purpose, along with two salt free blends Garlic Pepper Herb and Supreme.

Jackson is currently hoping herself that grocery giants in Texas will welcome her e-commerce brand to their shelves soon! In the meantime, Big Toe Seasonings is offering free shipping on all bundles! Log on to support her this holiday season and beyond!

One such store she's eyeing is HEB, in Texas! As the saying goes, everything in Texas is big and so goes Big Toe Seasonings & Rubs! Check out Jackson's Webstore and shop with Big Toe Seasonings at www.BigToeSeasonings.com.

COWBOYS, from Page 9

boys only had the ball for 18:48 to 41:12 for the Broncos. And it was a Broncos' team that was expected to be reeling after they surprisingly traded DeSoto linebacker Von Miller to the Los Angeles Rams earlier last week.

But the Broncos didn't miss a beat without Miller, who was the Most Valuable Player in Super Bowl 50, is an eight-time Pro Bowl player and has more quarterback sacks (110.5) than any NFL player since 2011.

As to whether or not the Broncos have discovered the blueprint to beat the Cowboys, cornerback Trevon Diggs said: "There is no blueprint."

The Cowboys sure hope not.

Denver held the Cowboys to just 109 yards in the first half and only 13 yards

in the third quarter.

"It's the NFL," Prescott said. "Those guys get paid to do this and play at a high level, and they came in here and were more prepared for this game."

"They did a great job -- did better than we did. I wasn't as clean as I normally am, or as I have been. I'm not going to sit here and blame two weeks (off) when I had a great week of practice under my belt coming into this one."

The Cowboys missed on three crucial fourth down plays and just seemed to be sleep-walking through the entire game. But they know they must wake up in time to play an Atlanta team that's coming off a huge 27-25 upset victory over the New Orleans Saints.

"I think everybody just has to be accountable



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Hyundai and Culture Brands launch first African American campaign

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. — Hyundai Motor America and its African American marketing agency of record, Culture Brands, have launched their inaugural marketing campaign. The campaign, entitled OKAY Hyundai, is scheduled to launch this week and includes television and radio spots; digital, social media and influencer programming; and branded content with media partners.

“We set out to make our marketing more inclusive and representative, and the result is working with Culture Brands to launch the OKAY Hyundai campaign to promote the 2022 Hyundai Tucson Plug-in Hybrid and the 2022 Hyundai Santa Fe Plug-in Hybrid in a culturally relevant way,” said Angela Zepeda, CMO, Hyundai Motor America. “What makes this campaign unique is its relatability which we feel broadens Hyundai’s voice in the marketplace.”

Insights into the vehicle target were honed through research and real time polls leveraged through Because of Them We Can®. OKAY Hyundai contains cultural references and nuances embedded into the creative messaging which is part of the Culture Brands recipe. OKAY Hyundai came from the art form of how the

African American community acknowledges someone. This form focuses on an approach of less is more, and efficiency is supreme. Oftentimes with just one word, those on the receiving end are seen, praised, and validated. See someone with a nice outfit on? OKAY outfit! See someone driving a vehicle that elevates the entire market? OKAY Hyundai!

“OKAY is defined as a word that is used to express assent, agreement, or acceptance,” said Eunike Jones Gibson, CEO & Chief Creative Officer of Culture Brands. “In the African American community, placing OKAY before something is the quintessential way things worth noticing are acknowledged. Together, it’s the perfect nod to Hyundai and to our prospective buyers.”

“As important as the cultural insights were to the creative, they were also used as a tool for the media placement,” added Erik Thomas, senior group manager, experiential & multicultural marketing, Hyundai Motor America. “We are reintroducing Hyundai to the community as a viable option for new vehicle prospects, while showcasing the PHEV quality, benefits and capabilities of these vehicles.”

CYCLE, from Page 8

formational opportunities to young men involved in lethal firearm offenses and placing them in a high-touch, personalized fellowship — the Peacemaker Fellowship.”

Officials wrote that Advance Peace bridges the gap between anti-violence programming by working with and supporting a targeted group of individuals at the core of gun hostilities.

They also work with a hard-to-reach population

at the center of violence in urban areas, thus breaking the cycle of gun hostilities and altering the trajectory of these men’s lives.

Advance Peace works with public and community-based stakeholders to establish responsive community-driven strategies that achieve high-impact outcomes for those caught in the cycle of urban gun violence.

Julius Thibodeaux, program manager of Advance

Peace Sacramento, and his team of neighborhood change agents co-authored a blog detailing the importance of Advance Peace.

“What we used to hear, and our young boys today hear too often, is: ‘Be a man, you little punk. Quit crying and be a man. Wipe those tears and shut up before I give you something to cry for,’” Thibodeaux asserted.

“Yet he’s only four years old. Even if he can afford to go to the doctor when he gets older, he probably

won’t. We’ve been conditioned to be tough. To suppress our pain and hide our emotions. All this combines to damage our immune system and our brain’s ability to make healthy choices. It’s no wonder we are suffering from dual epidemics: gun violence and coronavirus,” he explained.

The group of change agents led by Thibodeaux insisted that the goal remains to offer “real nutrition” to the community, which they define as daily doses of love, caring, and

support.

“We work to boost the immune systems of those traumatized and at the center of gun violence through healthy food and housing, but also through stable mentorship,” the agents declared.

“We are breaking the cycle of a response to trauma that says, ‘I don’t give a [damn]’ to a healing approach that treats our most vulnerable to get to a place where they say, ‘Maybe I do.’”

No juvenile has lost life

because of gun violence in Sacramento over the past two years that the program has operated there.

“We have a long way to go to stop our young people from continuing to solve their problems by pointing a gun at someone who looks just like them and squeezing the trigger,” Thibodeaux wrote.

“This pandemic hasn’t changed much since it’s still just another day in the hood, and interrupting death is needed more than ever.”

DEBT, from Page 6

Average public HBCU tuition and fees for the same academic year are \$7,195 for state residents and \$14,966 for out-of-state students. At private HBCUs, like Howard University, Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, annual costs run higher, but are still less than \$30,000.

When median family incomes are compared by race, the ability to finance college education shows stark differences. In 2020, Black median family income was \$57,480, while that of white families was \$96,170, according to the College Board, a nonprofit institution that since 1900

has been dedicated to promoting excellence and equity through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

In response to these and other educational concerns, a growing chorus of stakeholders are calling for federal student loan forgiveness to alleviate decades-long debt and give all college

graduates the opportunity to build wealth.

Graduates from many HBCUs earn starting salaries in excess of \$50,000. Further, for STEM graduates, starting salaries can bring more than \$60,000. At face value, these salaries seem sufficient to begin a career — until the cost of student loan repayment takes several hundred dol-

lars each month away from net earnings.

“HBCUs are known for their culture, homecomings, but more importantly, they produce the world’s greatest and top black doctors, lawyers, engineers, and STEM graduates,” said Jaylon Herbin, panel moderator and a CRL Outreach Associate. “Without our HBCUs, Black America

would not be what it is today. We must continue to leverage the support and funding for HBCUs, so that the graduates that they produce are not burdened by student debt.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

MOTORISTS, from Page 1

Police officials said Wright, the father of a one-year-old son, had an outstanding warrant.

When they attempted to arrest him, Wright retreated inside his vehicle.

“One officer discharged their firearm, striking the driver, and the vehicle traveled several blocks before striking into another vehicle,” authorities wrote in a statement, which failed to address why police shot the unarmed Wright.

A female passenger in Wright’s vehicle reportedly

suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Wright’s encountered mirrored hundreds of others.

The Times investigation found that in case after case, officers claimed to have feared for their lives. “And in case after case, prosecutors declared the killings of unarmed motorists legally justifiable,” the newspaper’s researchers wrote.

However, the researchers reviewed video and audio recordings, prosecutor statements, and court docu-

ments.

They found “patterns of questionable police conduct that went beyond recent high-profile deaths of unarmed drivers.”

Evidence, researchers asserted, often contradicted the accounts of law enforcement officers.

“Dozens of encounters appeared to turn on what criminologists describe as officer-created jeopardy: Officers regularly — and unnecessarily — placed themselves in danger by standing in front of fleeing vehicles or reaching inside car windows, then fired

their weapons in what they later said was self-defense,” the researchers concluded.

They said officers frequently exaggerated the threat and, in many cases, law enforcement responded with outsize aggression to disrespect or disobedience — a driving talking back, revving an engine, or refusing to get out of a car, what officers call “contempt of cop.”

Earlier this year, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) reintroduced the “Ending Qualified Immunity Act” to eliminate the

legal loophole that prevents victims of police violence and civil rights violations from obtaining relief through civil lawsuits.

“Police violence against Black families continues to plague our communities. Federal, state, and local officials time and again fail to protect our civil rights and our very lives,” remarked In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda President and CEO Marcela Howell.

“When victims of police violence seek justice through civil litigation, they

are thwarted by the ‘qualified immunity’ doctrine, a legal loophole invented by the courts to shield police from accountability,” Howell stated.

She continued: “Black women are leading the movement to dismantle systemic racism and to stop police violence. Congress must heed our call for justice and the right to live our lives in peace. The same elected officials who courted our votes must now vote to protect our rights and lives by passing the ‘Ending Qualified Immunity Act.’”

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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.

FARMERS, from Page 5

currently less than 1% of all farmers in the country. This has not always been the case. In 1920, one out of every seven farms were owned by a Black farmer, but the number of Black farmers in America has dropped significantly — plummeting by 98% over the past century.

"The Federation was encouraged by USDA's and Congress's attempt to address the disproportionate impact of the debt burden that farmers of color face because of historic and on-going race-based discrimination in agricultural credit," said Cornelius Blanding, Executive Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. "Black farmers have always honored their com-

mitments to their communities and our nation; our hope is that the Department will be allowed to honor its commitment to our farmers and other farmers of color."

A temporary injunction against the program stands in the way of critical debt relief for those who need it the most.

Without debt relief, these farmers face losing their land, livelihoods and equipment, while also bearing the additional financial burden of the farming costs they've taken on in anticipation of debt forgiveness. Today's intervention positions

The Federation to vigorously defend Section 1005 and ensure that the narratives of Black farmers are heard as this debt relief is critical to their survival.

For more information on this lawsuit intervention, or to discuss other issues with discrimination and land loss, contact Attorney Dania Davy at the Federa-

tion office at: daniadavy@federation.coop or call 404-765-0991.

This article originally appeared in The Greene County Democrat.



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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.

**BETHEL BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP,
CARROLLTON
(A NEW PLACE
TO BELONG)**

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.

November 7, 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.

November 10, 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 Philipians 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

**FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTIAN CENTER
CHURCH IN ALLEN
“THE SHIP”
We are Saving
You a Seat!**

Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can get ticked off very quickly, particularly with bugs, lizards, and stuff like that, not to mention snakes.

For some reason, she doesn’t like snakes, and when she sees one, even if it’s on TV, she responds in a very negative fashion.

Once when we were on vacation and stayed in a motel, a frog was under her pillow. I have lived that nightmare quite a few times. I didn’t know my wife could dance and sing at the same time. I didn’t recognize the song, but I enjoyed her rendition of it.

Not being easily ticked off, I enjoy when other people are ticked off, particularly by little things they have no control over.

Then the story backfired on me!

It was the season of the “Love Bugs” that happens every year. I always forget that it’s coming, but it comes every year. This past

November
Check “The Ship’s” website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

November 7
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.

November 10, 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

Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org
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**INSPIRING BODY OF
CHRIST CHURCH,
Let’s Go Fishing!
MATTHEW 4:19**

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

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check “IBOC’s” website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

November 5, 7 pm
All men are invited to Men’s Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

November 7, 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.

November 8, 7 pm
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.lbocchurch.org

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Check “SMBC’s” website

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

November 7, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**November 8, 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).

November 10, 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

My body, My SWAT

Dr. James L. Snyder

Usually, I am not easily offended, nor do I easily lose my temper. I did lose my temper when I was six years old but have not been able to find it since. Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is trying to find it but so far, she has not found it.

Many people are ticked off by some minor little thing it really does not amount to much.

For example, driving through a fast-food drive-in, you will realize what getting ticked off is all about. The customer in front of me is so impatient, and the customer behind me is just as impatient. They want everything on their schedule.

Setting in the middle, I just relax because there is no way I can speed up the line so why try.

Very few things offend me, and I have found it to be a very good practice.

Don’t let this out, but the

year seems to have been my worst experience.

It was love bugs, mosquitoes, and flies. I suppose they have a purpose in this world, but I have yet to discover what that purpose is. Their purpose is not well suited to me personally.

When morning came, I went outside to get into my vehicle to go to the church office; as soon as I stepped outside, a bunch of love bugs hit me. I don’t know what they see in me that they love so much, I wish they would drop it. I’m thinking of seeking a divorce.

Walking towards my vehicle, I was swatting left and right, up and down and every swat hit some kind of bug. I must confess that they were starting to bug me.

No matter where I went that day, there was some kind of bug following me and trying to snuggle up with me. Why do they have to be so loving?

All day long, I was swatting these bugs. The more I swatted, the more they seemed to come in my direction.

I was in Publix, and as I was walking down an aisle, a mosquito landed on my nose, and without thinking, I swatted it as hard as I could. Yeah, the mosquito was dead. Yeah, my nose was bleeding.

I heard several snickers behind me, and I was afraid to turn around. I got my hanky out and wiped my nose as good as I could. When I got to the counter to pay for my product, the cashier looked at me and smiled very heartily. I just stared back at him with a grimace that I hadn’t used for a long time.

I said to him very snarly, “It’s my body, my SWAT.”

I suppose I never learned a lesson, but I swatted my nose and my cheek and my chin several times that week. I guess it’s just a habit.

Once a fly flew into my mouth, and believe me, it was no Apple Fritter. I still have that nasty taste in my mouth.

Several days later, I was in Publix again, and the bugs were still in operational mode. Everywhere I went, there was some bug.

I swatted myself several times, and fortunately, there was no blood. But I did get a few bugs that will not be bugging me ever again.

Walking around the store, I tried avoiding the bugs as much as possible. When finished, I went to the cashier to pay for my products.

As I was standing there, all of a sudden, somebody slapped me on the back.

I turned around, looked, and a guy said, “I did you a favor. There was a bug crawling up your back, and I killed it for you.”

Looking at him, I said, “My body, my SWAT.”

Very soberly, I apologized, and I just laughed

and said, “That’s okay. That’s one down and a zillion more to go.”

We both laughed a little, and I checked out and went to my car.

As I was driving home I happen to think of a verse in the Old Testament. “Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes” (Song of Solomon 2:15).

That got me thinking of those little bugs that were creating such havoc in my life. It’s the little things that you don’t think of at the time that do all the damage. My focus usually is on the “big” things in my life, which allows those “little” things to do most of the damage.

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 james-snyder51@gmail.com. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

The Last Battle



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

(Revelation 19:11-12).

I used to love old western movies growing up with my three brothers. So often the main characters would get into trouble and just in the nick of time the cavalry would show up blowing their trumpet and riding their horses to announce their arrival to save those in trouble.

Throughout our lives a battle is waged between Satan and God's Kingdom. There is a last battle coming that will see Jesus and His Army invade the en-

emies of His kingdom. It is the great climax to thousands of years of warfare.

"He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

"Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter."

(Hebrew 19:12-16).

We are all moving treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation toward a day in which we will be judged:

"The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books."

(Revelation 20:12-13).

Ultimately, we will all reign with Christ in a new



Cedric and Cardaeja Roberson are designers of t-shirts for the family of Lloyd David and Cedella Baker Demus for their Inaugural Family Reunion, October 23, 2021

heaven and earth (Revelation 21). How you live your life now will determine your role in the new heaven and earth.

Your life on earth is a mere blink on the scale of time. Whatever hardships you've faced on earth will pale in comparison to the glory that is to be revealed

when the marriage of the Bride of Christ takes place on that final day.

Be faithful. Stand firm. And see the glory of the Lord. Talk to God; Father in

Heaven, please hear me this morning. I am sorry for my failures as a family member.

I pray that You will forgive me where I have messed up, and will give me wisdom and knowledge and grace to do better.

I pray for every family, that you will bind them together in love that every member will uplift and support one another daily-in all circumstances and challenges that come.

Help us to be forgiving and understanding. I pray for Your blessing upon those who seek Your will and Your continued anointing upon the family unit.

May we all look to You

with our whole hearts and turn to You for help in times of trouble as well as look to You with praise and celebration in times of joy.

You tell us in your Word that we are to be thankful in all things. So I am thankful for even the trials that bring us closer together.

Thank You, Father, for loving me and surrounding my family with your protection. Please continue to have mercy upon us and bless us according to Your will. In the precious Name of Jesus.

Inspiring Body of Christ IBOC
Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.679.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCHURCH.org

Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

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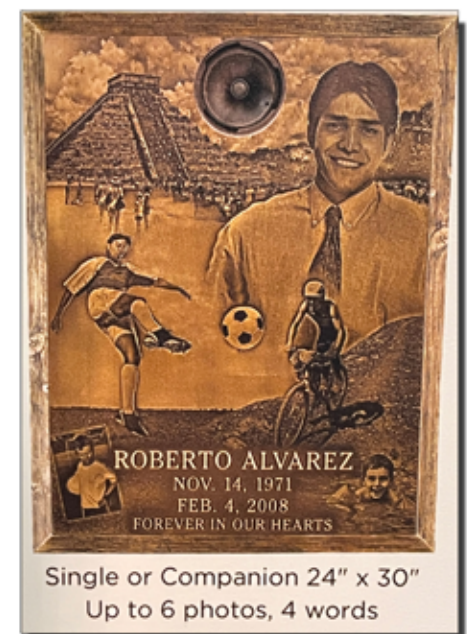
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