



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Karine Jean-Pierre selected as first Black woman White House Press Secretary

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Karine Jean-Pierre, whose long career in Democratic communications led her to the podium last year as the second Black woman to hold a White House daily briefing, will regularly host those news conferences.

On Thursday, May 5, President Joe Biden announced that he has selected the Martinique native as his next White House press secretary.

"Karine not only brings the experience, talent, and integrity needed for this difficult job, but she will continue to lead the way in communicating about the work of the Biden-Harris Administration on behalf of the American people," Biden said in a statement.

He added that outgoing press secretary Jen Psaki set the standard for returning decency, respect, and decorum to the White House Briefing Room.

Meanwhile, the historic nature of the appointment wasn't lost on the President and others.

"Karine is a lifelong public servant and fierce LGBTQ advocate,"



*Karine Jean-Pierre will become the first Black White House Press Secretary in United States history. Congratulations to her on this monumental and historic accomplishment. (Photo via NNPA)*

said Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Institute.

When Jean-Pierre steps to the podium on May 13, she'll become the first Black woman and first openly gay person to hold that job.

"We are proud to have advocated for her historic nomination. As White House press secretary, she will not only be able to use her podium to represent the Biden administration but also the LGBTQ community during a time of un-

precedented anti-LGBTQ hate and attacks," Parker stated.

"As the first out LGBTQ person and the first Black person to hold this office, her appointment will inspire countless young people looking for hope and motivation during a dark chapter in our nation's history," Parker continued.

"Shattering this lavender ceiling is a testament to Karine's grit, power, and commitment to our

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### People In The News ...



April Ryan



Dr. Lisa Cook

*NDG Quote of the Week: "The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward."*  
— Jjoema Oluo

## April Ryan

After 25 years working as a White House correspondent, April Ryan has seen it all.

Before he became president, Barack Obama invited Ryan as a guest of his for a Congressional Black Caucus dinner.

She covered Obama's two terms as president and wrote about more history when Kamala Harris became the first Black vice president and Ketanji Brown Jackson earned confirmation as the first African American female on the U.S. Supreme Court.



Ryan also joined a host of other journalists and minority women to draw the ire of former President Donald Trump, who infamously railed at the decorated journalist in 2018, calling her a loser.

"After what I've seen, no," Ryan remarked when asked whether anything surprises her anymore.

"I hope I don't have to be surprised anymore. I've seen 25 years of ebb and flow, and, at the end of the day, it's about people and reporting for people."

Ryan noted that she once worked for a "boutique" news organization, and now she's achieved near unparalleled success at theGrio, where she opened up the news department and the White House Bureau.

On Saturday, April 30, Byron Allen's Allen Media Group and theGrio honored Ryan for 25 years of dis-

tinguished and passionate service as a White House correspondent during a star-studded bash, "A Seat at the Table: A Celebration of Black Media."

The bash took place at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture and immediately follows the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) Dinner at the Washington Hilton.

Ryan, a Baltimore native, and Morgan State University graduate, serves on the board of the WHCA, only the third African American in the organization's more than 100-year history to

hold such a position.

"It's been 25 years, so what an honor," Ryan said.

She added that the secret to her longevity is simply keeping her head down and doing the work.

"It's not about me. It's about the story," Ryan insisted.

"Along the way, people found out about me, but if you're true to the story and telling all sides, that's where my longevity has been."

With fake news, misinformation, and social media wreaking havoc on traditional journalism, Ryan maintains that she's praying for a middle ground.

"There's always been opinion, but now the line is obscured more than ever, and there's misinformation," she asserted.

"People are in need of facts. They don't need lies and entertainment. They need facts. We're in perilous times where the gas prices are higher than they've ever been. We're looking at stores, and they can't keep stuff on the shelves.

"We're dealing with a pandemic, and we're watching one conflict on television when there are several around the world.

See RYAN, Page 2

## Dr. Lisa Cook

Michigan State University Economics Professor Lisa Cook is the latest Biden-Harris administration nominee to break the glass ceiling, this time on the U.S. Federal Reserve Board.

Cook, well-known for her work on racial and gender equality, won Senate confirmation as the first Black woman to serve on the Fed Board in the agency's 109-year history.

The history-making moment required a tie-breaking vote in the Senate from Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman to hold her position.



Each of the Senate's 50 GOP members voted against Cook, while all 50 Democrats and Harris cast ballots in favor of the nomination.

"The Fed Board needs governors who understand

how the economy works for Americans across race, gender, and class. Dr. Cook's deep expertise makes her exceptionally qualified to serve," Michele Holder, president of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, wrote in a statement.

An adviser on the Biden-Harris and Obama-Biden transition teams, Cook will help set fiscal policy on the Fed Board.

"I was proud to cast my vote for Dr. Cook," Georgia Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock stated.

"Her decades of experience as an economist and her Georgian sense of fair-

ness will help promote balance and innovation to strengthen our economy," Warnock concluded.

The Fed also announced a new appointment on the local level with the appointment of Lorie K. Logan as president and chief executive officer.

In this role, Logan will represent the Eleventh Fed-

eral Reserve District on the Federal Open Market Committee in the formulation of U.S. monetary policy and will lead the 1,200 employees of the Dallas Fed.

She will begin her role as president on August 22, 2022.

Logan, 49, currently serves as manager of the System Open Market Ac-

count for the FOMC, where she oversees the System's \$9 trillion securities portfolio and leads the implementation of monetary policy as directed by the FOMC.

Logan also serves as executive vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where she

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## CS1 Jabrain Johnson



PACIFIC OCEAN – Culinary Specialist 1st Class Jabrain Johnson, from Dallas, sings during karaoke night on the mess decks aboard amphibious assault carrier USS Tripoli (LHA 7), May 7, 2022. Tripoli is underway conducting routine operations in U.S. 3rd Fleet.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peter Burghart)



## 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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**Publisher’s Office:**

[publisher@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:publisher@northdallasgazette.com)

**Sales Department:**

[marketing@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:marketing@northdallasgazette.com)

972-509-9049

**Editorial Department:**

[editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)

**Online:**

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1965-2020

**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

**Published by**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Contributing Writers**

Jackie Hardy  
Lori Lee  
Jacqueline Murphy  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
David Wilfong

**Special Projects to the Publisher**

Euladia Gilbert

**Production**

David Wilfong

**NDG Obituary Dept.**

Vicky Richardson-Stewart  
VP of Operations



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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Roe v Wade, voter suppression, and ‘we’ the voters**



**Dr. John E. Warren**  
Publisher,  
San Diego  
Voice &  
Viewpoint

The current uproar over the leaked draft of the U.S. Supreme Court’s anticipated Decision on Abortion Rights is another example of the Republican Right Wing effort to eliminate democracy under the cover of the very Constitution which provides all our democratically protected rights. We have seen the attack on Voting Rights by the actions of the Republicans in the U.S. Senate who refused to support not only the Voting Rights Act but also the John Lewis Act and the legislation coming out of the George Floyd murder.

These are the same Republicans who we now know plotted to overthrow the U.S. Government on January 6, 2021, with their efforts to stop the certifi-

cation of President Joseph Biden as President of the United States. These are the same Senators who prevented former President Obama from making a United States Supreme Court nomination while these same Republican Senators rushed through two conservative nominations who are now a part of the long-awaited overthrow of Roe v. Wade.

What we do know is that Primary Season is upon us and that we all have a chance to make some choices and changes if we look closely at who is running for what offices around this country and in our own backyard. “We” the people, must not lose control of the U.S. House of Representatives, nor the U.S. Senate. The Senate hangs on “one” vote tied at 50/50 because of the two Independents that vote with the Democrats.

We now know that what we saw with Voter Suppres-

sion laws in over 22 States was just the beginning. Roe v. Wade is the second step in the attack on Civil Rights following Voter Suppression. Next, we are seeing references to changing such Constitutional rights as the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection and Due Process guarantees, as well as provisions of the Civil rights Act.

We should not get overwhelmed with the magnitude of the attacks but rather understand and remember that our votes represent the solutions to preserving our rights. Congress, using the legislative process, has the ability to reverse and codify, if necessary, any Decisions that the United States Supreme Court makes. This is the strength of our separation of powers under the Constitution. But that can only happen if we have the votes in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

If we return to the idea

of killing the “Filibuster Rule” in the Senate, making it no longer necessary to have 60 votes instead of 50 plus one, with the Vice President as the tiebreaker, then we could get about the business of governance. President Biden did not fight hard enough to break the Filibuster and he knows better than most having spent 38 years in the U.S. Senate. The Democrats in the Senate cannot be so afraid of losing control of the Senate in the next election, that they allow McConnell, the Senate Minority Leader, to continue to control the Senate because he controls the Filibuster.

“We” the people, must follow the example of the people of the State of Georgia and realize that “All Black Votes Matter” and must be voted and counted if we are to survive the lynching and extermination that a few have planned for so many of us. Where do you stand?

**South Korea’s alternative civilian service violates international standards**

NPA Newswire

As the world prepares for International Conscientious Objector Day on May 15, over 800 Jehovah’s Witnesses in South Korea have chosen to perform alternative civilian service (ACS) instead of compulsory military duties.

Under the current ACS format, these young men are prisoners by definition, because they are forced to live and work in prison facilities.

The republic’s 36-month ACS is the longest in the world, twice the length of active military service, and thus considered punitive.

Experts inside and outside of South Korea recognize the program violates

an international covenant the republic is party to and have been calling on the government for reform.

For example, the commissioner of South Korea’s National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Doo-hwan Song, has stated publicly: “I deeply agree on the need to improve the [ACS] system to meet international human rights standards.”

South Korea’s ACS first made international headlines when it was introduced in 2019.

Prior to that, for some 65 years, South Korean courts criminally convicted and imprisoned more than 19,000 conscientious objectors, mostly Jehovah’s Witnesses. As a result, for decades, South Korea was

often internationally censured.

However, the criticism has since shifted to the punitive nature of the ACS program, which is twice the length of prison time imposed by the republic prior to the 2019 provision.

According to Amnesty International:

“South Korean conscientious objectors were promised a genuine alternative service. Instead, they are confronted with little more than an alternative punishment.”

The program is not congruent with the republic’s constitution, encroaching on a citizen’s freedom of thought, conscience, and religion as guaranteed in Article 19.

Experts eagerly anticipate how the newly elected president, and his administration will address the issue.

For more information about Jehovah’s Witnesses or conscientious objection in general, as well as the punitive nature of ACS in South Korea, email the Asia-Pacific Association of Jehovah’s Witnesses (APA-JW): [apajw.jp@jw.org](mailto:apajw.jp@jw.org).

The APAJW is a General Incorporated Association representing over 770,000 members of the Jehovah’s Witnesses faith community in the Asia and Oceania region. Its main purpose is to support the activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses and protect their fundamental rights.

Keep up with the news

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# Women find a winning solution in dealing with hair loss

By Sylvia Dunnavant Hines

After Actor Will Smith slapped comedian Chris Rock during the Oscars for making a joke about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head, one word was echoed around the world – alopecia.

From break rooms to the morning talk shows, people were asking, “what is alopecia?”

Even though many people in the nation had no idea what this word meant, according to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation this condition affects both sexes and all ethnic groups can develop alopecia areata.

“The definition of alopecia is hair loss from any cause. There are 100 different categories of alopecia,” said Dr. Linda Amerson, PhD, IIT, Tect, CCHHP/Scalp Doctor and Holistic Health Practitioner, who also is the owner of LA's Hair and Scalp in Arlington, Texas.

Although people of all ages can develop alopecia, studies have shown that many people start to experience symptoms of this disease by the age of 30.



Photo via NNPA

“Some of my younger clients are more concerned with their physical image,” said Dr. Amerson. “They may not be as conscious about trying to take care of their scalp. They tend to wear wigs or other things to cover up their hair loss.

“However, for those that are 40 or over, they are more concerned with the regrowth of their hair based on the damage that has been done. Their main concern tends to be if their hair loss is reversible or irreversible.”

According to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), “Telogen effluvium is a type of alopecia where hair sheds in excess. It can happen suddenly,

or hair can thin over time. Causes of telogen effluvium include medications, stress, childbirth, physical trauma, restrictive dieting, and life changes.

According to Dr. Amerson there are over 300 medications that have a side effect that causes alopecia.

“My alopecia started after my father died. I was washing my hair when I was getting ready for his funeral, then I noticed a hand full of hair in the sink,” said Sebran Ferrell.

Ferrell admits that she was dealing with a perfect storm in her life before she was diagnosed with Alopecia Areata. Prior to her diagnosis her mother was sick, her father died, and

she was experiencing some personal health issues.

“After seeking help from several professionals, I finally chose to go to a holistic function management doctor. I knew that I needed help getting my insides under control as well. I was dealing with pre-diabetes, and a lot of other things that were going on with my body other than alopecia.”

Alopecia Areata is a common autoimmune skin disease, causing hair loss on the scalp, face and sometimes on other areas of the body, according to AAD.

Carmen Anderson realized that she was dealing with hair loss after her beautician noticed some balding areas when she was washing her hair. This led Anderson to visit her doctor, who revealed that she had skin lupus.

After being diagnosed with lupus, Anderson experienced small bumps that began to itch. These bumps would show up anywhere on her body.

“When I first started dealing with my hair loss, I wore wigs. However, it took me a lot to get com-

fortable with wearing wigs, because they could come off. In the beginning, I did experience a few embarrassing moments when my wig came off unexpectedly,” she said.

After dealing with alopecia for three years, Anderson is currently having injections that are causing her to see some hair regrowth.

Ferrell who tends to experience hair loss during the Spring of year has

learned some work around to cover her baldness.

“Fortunately my hair is long enough that when I am in an outbreak, I can pull my hair back in a ponytail. However, I recently took a leap of faith and cut my hair into a shoulder length bob cut. This allows me to style it in a way that the hair loss isn't obvious,” said Ferrell.

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## ← PRESS, from Page 1

country's potential. We are confident she will continue to be a strong ally and partner as she works in the highest office of the land.”

Psaki described Jean-Pierre as passionate.

“She is smart, and she has a moral core that makes her not just a great colleague but an amazing mom and human. Plus, she has a great sense of humor,” Psaki tweeted.

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. said Jean-Pierre's selection demonstrates that

the Biden-Harris administration has held up its promise of a diverse staff.

“The NNPA, representing the Black Press of America, resolutely congratulates Karine Jean-Pierre, elevated as senior assistant to the President and White House press secretary,” Chavis stated.

“This is another historic step forward by the Biden-Harris administration in fulfilling their promise of equity and equality in the White House.”

In a 2021 appearance on The Chavis Chronicles, the Dr. Chavis-hosted PBS-TV

show, Jean-Pierre said representation matters.

“We've seen that from the first day of this administration, the President signed an executive order to deal with racial inequity and making sure that we saw diversity and inclusion across the board in the federal government,” Jean-Pierre said during her appearance on the show with Dr. Chavis.

“We're living in a polarized country right now, and the one thing that President talked about when he was running, he wanted to make sure that he was the President for all,” Jean-Pierre remarked.

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# Biden announces clemency and pardons for 78 people, details new steps for criminal justice reform

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

President Joe Biden announced he's using his clemency powers for the first time, issuing commutations for 75 drug offenders.

Biden also issued three pardons, including to the first Black Secret Service agent to work on a presidential detail, who had long professed his innocence.

"Helping those who served their time return to their families and become contributing members of their communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and decrease crime," Biden stated.

The president added that those receiving clemency had "demonstrated their commitment to rehabilitation and are striving every day to give back and contribute to their communi-



President Joe Biden announced a \$145 million plan to provide job skills training to federal inmates to help them gain work when they are released. (Photo via NNPA)

ties."

The clemency recipients include Abraham Bolden, an 86-year-old former U.S. Secret Service agent and the first African American to serve on a presidential detail.

In 1964, authorities charged Bolden with offenses related to attempting to sell a copy of a Secret Service file.

His first trial resulted in a hung jury.

Following his conviction at a second trial, even though crucial witnesses against him admitted to lying at the prosecutor's request, the court denied Bolden a new trial.

He has maintained his innocence, arguing that he was targeted for prosecution in retaliation for exposing unprofessional and racist behavior within the U.S. Secret Service.

Bolden has received nu-

merous honors and awards for his ongoing work to speak out against the racism he faced in the Secret Service in the 1960s and his courage in challenging injustice.

Betty Jo Bogans also counted among those cleared by Biden.

A jury convicted the 51-year-old in 1998 for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine in the Southern District of Texas.

Authorities said she attempted to transport drugs for her boyfriend and his accomplice, neither of whom were detained or arrested.

At the time of her conviction, the White House said Bogans was a single mother with no prior record who accepted responsibility for her limited role in the offense.

"Because of the harsh penalties in place at the time she was convicted, Ms. Bo-

gan received a seven-year sentence," the White House said in a statement.

In the nearly two decades since her release from custody, Bogans has held consistent employment, even while undergoing treatment for cancer, and has focused on raising her son.

Administration officials signaled that the president would no longer wait on Congress for needed criminal justice reform.

Biden announced a \$145 million plan to provide job skills training to federal inmates to help them gain work when they are released.

He added the implementation of new steps to support those re-entering society after incarceration.

Those steps include a new collaboration between the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job training; new grants for workforce development

programs; greater opportunities to serve in the federal government; expanded access to capital for people with convictions trying to start a small business; improved reentry services for veterans; and more support for health care, housing, and educational opportunities.

"As I laid out in my comprehensive strategy to reduce gun crime, helping those who served their time return to their families and become contributing members of their communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and decrease crime," Biden remarked.

"While (this) announcement marks important progress, my Administration will continue to review clemency petitions and deliver reforms that advance equity and justice, provide second chances, and enhance the wellbeing and safety of all Americans."

## Citi Trends announces 2nd annual Black History Makers winners

(Black PR Wire) SAVANNAH, Ga.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Citi Trends, Inc. (NASDAQ: CTRN), a growing specialty value retailer of apparel, accessories and home trends for way less spend, primarily for African American and Latinx families in the United States, has announced the grant winners of its second Annual Black History

Makers program.

Managed by the Citi Trends CITIcares Council, which oversees change initiatives for the company's customers and employees, the Black History Makers program increases awareness of Black-owned businesses and community organizations, recognizing entrepreneurs who are positively impacting their

communities. After considering more than 9,000 inspiring applicants, the program awards ten \$5,000 grants to Black business owners doing exceptional work. For 2022, the grant winners are:

- Lena Vann – The Black Period(t) Project
- Chandra Smith – Prommi-Mommi Foundation
- Rekia Beverly – Mrs.

Ashbury's World

- Terrance Cecil – Ryans Place Trucking School
- Alyson Calloway – The Mamas Movement LLC
- Brittney Box – Boxx The Artist
- Ahriana Edwards – Vaila
- Shayna Sangster – Rise House Fitness Studio
- Charita Snow – BLNK SPCE Designs

• Ken Walker – K. Walker Collective

David Makuen, Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We are so inspired by the countless talented Black entrepreneurs in our community and admire their passion for making a difference. Our CITIcares Council deserves a special shout out for increasing the reach of the Black History

Makers program and making it easy to apply. Offering these grants has been a truly humbling experience and we look forward to seeing how the program grows in the coming years. Congratulations to all of our winners!"

To learn more about the grant winners, visit: [www.cititrends.com/bhm-winners-2022](http://www.cititrends.com/bhm-winners-2022)

## U.S. administration leads 55 nations in setting new global internet rules

The Biden administration and 55 countries have partnered to call for a new Declaration for the Future of the Internet.

Administration officials said the declaration is part of a "response to a rising trend of digital authoritarianism, including Russia's actions to block credible news sites and promote disinformation during and leading up to the invasion of Ukraine.

The document spells out

ways to promote a shared vision among the countries while acting within their jurisdictions and under their respective laws.

It focuses on internet safety, including promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms online and ensuring people globally can access safe and reliable Internet.

According to the document, partners "actively support a future for the Internet that is an open, free,

global, interoperable, reliable, and secure. "We further affirm our commitment to protecting and respecting human rights online and across the digital ecosystem."

"Partners in this Declaration intend to work toward an environment that reinforces our democratic systems and promotes active participation of every citizen in democratic processes, secures and protects individuals' privacy,

maintains secure and reliable connectivity, resists efforts to splinter the global Internet, and promotes a free and competitive global economy," administration officials said.

Further, the declaration's principles include commitments to:

- Protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people;
- Promote a global Internet that advances the free flow of information;

• Advance inclusive and affordable connectivity so that all people can benefit from the digital economy;

• Promote trust in the global digital ecosystem, including through protection of privacy; and

• Protect and strengthen the multistakeholder approach to governance that keeps the Internet running for the benefit of all.

"In signing this Declaration, the United States and partners will work together

to promote this vision and its principles globally," the White House said in a fact sheet.

"Over the last year, the United States has worked with partners from all over the world – including civil society, industry, academia, and other stakeholders to reaffirm the vision of an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet and reverse negative trends in this regard."

# HBCU students 2022 Summer Chevy DTU Scholarships now available

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Aspiring content creators, journalists, and communications experts can find themselves at the forefront of change by covering the exciting and continued transformation from gas to electric vehicles during the Chevrolet – National Newspaper Publishers Association’s (NNPA) expanded Discover The Unexpected (DTU) Fellowship 2022 Summer Scholarships.

The program offers more students from historically Black colleges and universities internships to explore various roles and develop skills as change agents in their communities.

In its sixth year, the program will provide ten students from HBCUs with a



Mars Sector-6 / Unsplash

10-week summer internship from June 7 to August 14, 2022.

The NNPA, the trade association of the more than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies in the United States, will place six of the students with prestigious news organizations across broadcast, film, and journalism disciplines.

Chosen students will fo-

cus on digital and social content creation.

At the same time, Chevrolet will offer five additional students the opportunity to work within the brand’s business.

Officials said the fellows would fully immerse themselves in the Chevrolet organization and contribute to brand building and go-to-market planning.

Each fellow will receive

a \$10,000 scholarship, a \$5,000 stipend, and a 2022 Bolt EV access.

They’ll also enjoy “a journalism fellowship of a lifetime.”

“We are very excited about the launch of DTU,” said NNPA Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards.

“Chevrolet and the NNPA’s Discover the Unexpected program provide the opportunity for HBCU students to strengthen their journalistic skills while working with the Black Press. This opportunity also allows the Black Press to learn from these bright minds in this ever-changing digital world. We are grateful for Chevrolet’s continued investment in our community,” Richards stated.

Chevy officials called

DTU a “cornerstone of Chevrolet’s ongoing commitment to promote diverse voices and perspectives.”

The auto dealer said it’s happy to continue its partnership with the NNPA.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA President and CEO, concluded, “We salute General Motors, and in particular Chevrolet, for continuing to offer these transformative scholarships. Discover the Unexpected (DTU) Fellowships are the most rewarding and academically enriching experiences for Generation Z journalists and the Black Press of America.”

Fellows must be between 18 and 22 to enter – except in Alabama, where the minimum age is 19.

To enter, applicants must complete the application

process by 11:59 PM PST on Monday, May 16, 2022, by uploading the specific information to the fellowship website at <https://www.nnpa.org/chevydtu/> via hotlinks or in PDF format.

All documents submitted must indicate the applicant’s name in the following naming convention: Last Name, First Name, Middle Name/Initial.

Officials will contact the selected 2022 Discover the Unexpected Fellows via email on or about May 21, 2022. They must respond that they accept the Fellowship within seven days, or an alternate Fellow will be selected.

Learn more about the Discover the Unexpected NNPA Fellowship: <https://www.nnpa.org/chevydtu/>.

## Commentary: Is Religious Freedom Free?

By Rev. Dr. Martha C. Taylor  
The Oakland Post

The late Fannie Lou Hamer said, “If I am truly free, who can tell me how much of my freedom I can have today?” That is the question that The United States Supreme Court wrestled with last week in the case of Joe Kennedy, who was fired by the school board in Washington State for praying at the 50-yard line after the high school football game ended.

Kennedy defended his position saying the school board violated his rights to free speech and the free-

dom to exercise his religion. Kennedy, a Christian, said he felt compelled to give thanks through a silent prayer at the conclusion of each game.

In 2019, a federal appeals court ruled that the school board in Washington State was correct when it fired Coach Joe Kennedy for praying publicly. A judge of the Ninth Circuit said, “A coach’s duty to serve as a good role model requires the coach to refrain from any manifestation of religious faith — even when the coach is plainly not on duty.”

Where does freedom

start and stop? Kennedy’s case has sparked controversy, landing in the Supreme Court this past week debating just how far can a person express religious freedom in public spaces.

On June 25, 1962, the Supreme Court decided that praying in schools violated the First Amendment by constituting an establishment of religion. The following year, the Court disallowed Bible readings in public schools for similar reasons.

Long before the Supreme Court’s ruling in 1962 and the current Kennedy case, we are reminded of a very

dark period in U.S. history; it was legal that enslaved Africans were forbidden to express religious freedom in any form including reading, writing and praying.

The late Dr. Albert J. Raboteau, an African American scholar, gave meaning to what Africans had to endure to worship. The hush harbors, known as the invisible church, was a secret worship place built with tree branches in the deep woods out of ear shot and eyesight of slave masters. The secret call to worship used codes. One such code was the spiritual, “Steal Away to Jesus.”

If enslaved Africans were caught worshipping, they were subjected to vicious beatings or could be murdered for exercising religious freedom.

During the secret worship, the African preacher sermonized how God delivered the Hebrews from slavery to freedom. The ancestors believed and trusted that the same God who told Moses to go down in Egypt land and let my people go was the same God that was going to set them free. The enslaved Africans practiced their African rituals knowing the spirit of the ancestors was with them, encour-

aging them, that slavery was not their destiny. C. Eric Lincoln reminded us in the epic book “The Black Church in the African American Experience,” that “The term ‘freedom’ has found a deep religious resonance in the lives and hopes of African Americans.”

Colin Kaepernick refused to stand for the Star-Spangled Banner, National Anthem. He said he did so to protest police shootings of African American men and other social injustices faced by Black people in

**See FREE, Page 13**

## COOK, from Page 2

has led Market Operations, Monitoring and Analysis since 2012. In that role, she oversees policy implementation, provision of fiscal agent services to the U.S. Treasury Department in support of debt issuance and foreign exchange operations, analysis of global financial market developments and production of the New York Fed’s reference

rates, including the new Secured Overnight Financing Rate.

She represents the Federal Reserve on the Markets Committee at the Bank for International Settlements and oversees several public-private sector committees that are sponsored by the New York Fed to engage with market participants on key issues and advance

financial industry best practices.

“Throughout my career, I have been driven by a commitment to public service. I believe strongly in the Federal Reserve’s mission and in the critical role it plays in promoting a healthy economy that truly works for everyone.

“I look forward to engaging with business and community leaders across the Eleventh District and repre-

senting all of the hard-working people of the district at the FOMC. I am excited about moving to Texas and becoming involved in the community.”

Logan played a prominent role in the development and implementation of the Federal Reserve’s actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included being responsible for managing several facilities to support market

functioning and the flow of credit to households and businesses. She drew on her experience during the Great Financial Crisis, during which she was a crucial leader in efforts regarding the expansion of the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet and the creation of liquidity facilities to mitigate systemic risks to the financial system.

She is a native of Versailles, Kentucky, and holds a bachelor’s degree in po-

litical science from Davidson College and a master’s degree in public administration from Columbia University.

Logan will replace Robert S. Kaplan, who retired from the Bank on October 8, 2021. Former First Vice President Meredith Black has been serving as interim president and will retire from the Dallas Fed on September 1, 2022, following 39 years of service.

# Unofficial results of 2022 Carrollton election are in

The unofficial results for the City of Carrollton 2022 Special Election, held Saturday, May 7, have been posted.

On January 11, 2022 the Carrollton City Council ordered a Special Election to fill a vacancy for the unexpired terms for the following seats: Mayor and City Council Places 1 and 3.

In the City's Special

Election, current Councilmember Steve Babick won the Mayor's seat with 66% of the votes. City Council Place 1 seat with 62% percent of the votes was won by Christopher Axberg. Babick and Axberg will be sworn in at the Tuesday, May 17 City Council meeting.

City Council Place 3 seat will be decided in a runoff election between Richard

Fleming and Daisy Palomo. Early Voting for runoffs will be Monday, June 6 through Tuesday, June 14, and runoff Election Day will be Saturday, June 18 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Special Election results remain unofficial until they are canvassed at the May 17 City Council meeting.

All registered voters eligible to participate in City of Carrollton elections may

vote in the runoff election; voters may participate in the runoff even if they did not vote in the May 7 Special Election. Votes cast in the May 7 election do not carry over to the runoff election.

For more information on the 2022 election results or for details regarding the upcoming runoff election, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/elections](http://cityofcarrollton.com/elections).



Steve Babick has unofficially succeeded in his bid for the Mayor's position in Carrollton. (Photo: City of Carrollton)

## RYAN, from Page 2

"The World Food Organization says it can't meet the demand for food. We are in a crisis. It's a pandemic, and people are wearing masks, and then they're not wearing masks. We need facts, and I don't have the stomach for entertainment when the stakes are so high."

An honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta, Ryan has earned numerous journalism awards, including the 2019 Freedom of the Press Award from the

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Last year, Ryan earned an NAACP Image Award nomination for Social Justice Impact.

Backing up her often-professed love of her hometown, Ryan has served as a mentor to aspiring journalists, and she's assisted the development of up-and-coming broadcasters.

She's authored "The Presidency in Black and White," "At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black

and White," and "Under Fire: Reporting from the Front Lines of the Trump White House."

"I watched history, and now I'm scribing the first woman of color who identifies as Black as vice president," Ryan stated.

"Now, I see someone who identifies closely to Thurgood Marshall, this amazing Black woman who is authentic in herself with her braids, beautiful brown hue, and voice that comes out of the wisdom of our ancestors and our culture and history."

Ryan said she's also honored that the WHCA will honor Ethel Payne and Alice Dunagan, two Black Press alumni who blazed trails as White House reporters.

"I stand on their shoulders. So many of us stand on their shoulders," Ryan said.

"They are brave women, and I thank them because if it weren't for them, I wouldn't be in the room."

Ryan counts daughters Ryan and Grace as her

life's "greatest work."

"I'm a Baltimorean. I grew up, and I'm still here," Ryan declared.

"I can't leave, my family is here, and I know that there's this vibe here."

She said Baltimore is primed for a comeback, much like the recent rise of Detroit, which had for decades been mired in problems that stemmed from local government mismanagement and other woes.

"Baltimore is a real community, and I'm an HBCU

baby who grew up on the campus of Morgan State, where my mother worked until she died," Ryan related.

"My heart is here, and I want to see Baltimore come back like Detroit. I see Morgan State's renaissance, and it's like a Phoenix – one of the most beautiful schools in the country, and it's in the heart of Baltimore City. Like Maya Angelou said and Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson repeated, 'and still I rise.'"

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# Candace Owens makes 'unacceptable and dangerous' visit to BLM founder Patrisse Cullors home

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In a tearful Instagram Live post, Black Lives Matter Founder Patrisse Cullors described feeling threatened after Candace Owens arrived with a news crew outside the leader's home in Los Angeles on May 7.

"She was demanding that I come outside," said Cullors as she addressed many of her 367,000 Instagram followers who joined her.

"It's really unacceptable, dangerous," Cullors stated.

"When Candace Owens, another Black woman, who is actually working as a part of the right-wing agenda, comes outside my house with cameras."

Owens, a conservative



known for her fangirl obsession with former President Donald Trump and other white conservatives and the rhetoric she often spews online and on television, has led the charge against the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Owens has seized on unsubstantiated reports by right-wing media that Cullors used foundation money to purchase a \$6 million home in California and purchased other property.

However, foundation officials and Cullors have pointed out that the California home represents a space for Black creators.

As for the other properties, Cullors has publicly stated that she purchased those from the proceeds of book sales and other personal earnings.

Owens claimed she watched Cullors live.

While claiming Cullors lied, Owens admitted to going to the home and ringing

the doorbell.

"The truth shall set you free, or Candace Owens shall set you free, girl. Because I'm about to tell the truth," Owens remarked in her own video.

Supporters of Cullors have stated that she indeed purchased a Los Angeles home for the foundation. However, the home Owens visited was not the property owned by the foundation. It was Cullors' private residence.

Supporters have argued that the purported \$6 million foundation home stands as an office and community workshop, like the one in Toronto that acts as a cultural center with offices for activists and no bedrooms.

Officials have stated that

the primary purpose of purchasing the properties remains to build equity for the movement to continue.

"It's been a hard few weeks," Cullors remarked. "I really need to be safe. I need my family to be safe. I need my child to be safe."

Cullors further described the threat to her security following Owens' unannounced visit.

"It's not safety. It's not what I deserve, or any of us deserve," she insisted.

She urged her friends and followers to remain diligent and reserve judgment.

"When you see [stuff] in the media being talked about, be diligent because they are purposely building a wedge between Black people," Cullors asserted.

"They know that when

we are together, we are stronger. They've seen what we've done over the last decade, and they are literally trying to destroy us; destroy me; destroy the movement."

She continued:

"I just us to be stronger, more diligent, and more present. I want us to be more clear and accountable. I love ya'll so much. Pray for my family, check on Black organizers. This backlash is real and is impacting our personal and everyday life.

"I'm going to keep doing my work to be accountable and be in a right relationship with the people I love and those who love and trust me. I'll continue to show up. Please take care of each other."

## Cisco, APGA Tour partner to promote greater inclusivity, diversity in golf

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Cisco and the APGA Tour — a non-profit organization committed to bringing greater diversity to the game of golf — have today announced an official partnership centered on powering greater inclusivity in the sport by providing enhanced pathways for players of diverse backgrounds to succeed both on and off the golf course.

As part of the partnership, four APGA players at various stages of their playing careers — Kevin Hall, Aaron Beverly, Troy Taylor II and Olajuwon Ajanaku — will join the brand's team of sponsored professional golfers. Team Cisco, which also includes LPGA Tour standouts Nelly Korda, Jessica Korda and Danielle Kang; PGA TOUR pros Viktor Hovland, Brendon Todd, Keith Mitchell, Chez Reavie and Maverick McNealy; and fellow APGA player Kamaiu Johnson, is one of the largest and most diverse rosters of brand ambassadors in the sport.

"We are proud to expand our commitment to

the sport of golf and work together with the APGA towards a shared vision of fostering greater inclusivity in the game we all love," said Mark Patterson, SVP and Chief of Staff to the Chair and CEO at Cisco.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kevin, Aaron, Troy and Olajuwon to Team Cisco and to support them as they work to achieve their goals both on and off the course. Today's announcement marks another important step forward toward achieving our purpose to power a more inclusive future for all."

Through the partnership, Cisco will continue to serve as the presenting sponsor of the Billy Horschel APGA Invitational, which begins tomorrow at TPC Sawgrass and features the largest purse in APGA Tour history.

In addition, the APGA Tour event held at Baltusrol Golf Club on August 11-13 will now be known as the Cisco Invitational at Baltusrol.

Held at two of the most prestigious golf courses in

the country, both events will feature not only significant prize money, but also offer participants enrichment and development opportunities off the course, with professional and personal development sessions, mentoring opportunities and networking events with business and golf industry leaders.

"Cisco has shown a true passion for helping create opportunities for players from diverse backgrounds and making an impact on the game as a whole," said APGA Tour CEO Ken Bentley.

"We are grateful for their support of the APGA with two headline events that will benefit our players from a competitive standpoint and will help them develop as people as well.

"With their additional support of youth in the game as well as recognizing the work our players are doing from a community impact perspective, Cisco is creating programs that showcase how the APGA Tour is creating change in the sport."

Cisco will also support the launch of a new APGA Junior Series, a four-event initiative designed to promote the growth of the game in young people of

diverse backgrounds.

The series will create new opportunities for male and female junior golfers to gain valuable playing experience and exposure to the

game from a young age.

Additionally, Cisco and the APGA will create the Adrian Stills Award in honor of the Tour's co-founder and current Board Member.

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# B. Moore Dance returns to the stage and rising

B. MOORE DANCE returns to the stage, May 27-29, 2022 for exhilarating performances of a World Premiere, *i am magic*, at Addison Theatre Centre, Friday/Saturday, 8:00 PM and Sunday, 3:00 PM.

*i am magic*, is an evening-length work, Directed and Choreographed by Artistic Director, Bridget L. Moore, exploring the narratives of Black Women artists of our time. The work is inspired by women who used their art and experiences as a catalyst for social change. Artists such as Cicely Tyson, Angela Davis, Nina Simone, Eartha Kitt, Mahalia Jackson, Audre Lorde, Katherine Dunham, Billie Holiday, Dr. Pearl Primus, Nikki Giovanni, Lorraine Hansberry, Ella Fitzgerald, and Sarah Vaughn, among others, were instrumental in promulgating social justice and imbedding the Civil Rights philosophy into the minds and hearts of Americans.

Bridget L. Moore (Artistic Director) said, "These women rose above systems of oppression and through their talent and genius, advocated for the change they wanted to see in the world. They are representative of our mothers, aunts, sisters, friends, constituents, and



Courtesy photo

artists who live amongst us today, creating magic in every sense of the word. It gives me great pleasure to share *i am magic*, with the world and to honor these women with a joyous celebration of dance, live music and poetry for everyone."

*i am magic*, also features and lifts up Dallas local artists, dancers, musicians and vocalists. Dana Harper, notable for gracing the stages at The Apollo Theater, and Madison Square Garden, was a Top 20 contestant on Season 11 of NBC's, *The Voice*. In addition, the evening presents sultry, soul songstress, Aden Ambivert Sista, Dr. Erica Vernice

Simmons (Lyric Soprano) who was a First Place Winner of the Memphis Beethoven Club, as well as a former soloist with the Memphis Symphony Chorus, and an All-Star Band, under the Music Direction of Bass player, K. J. Gray.

Be captivated by the poetic brilliance of Brooklyn, New York, author, film director and activist, Kevin Powell, who wrote the iconic poem, *i am magic*, for Artistic Director, Bridget L. Moore. The poem has been published by ARTS TODAY, [https://issuu.com/artstodayezine/docs/arts\\_today\\_6\\_5/157](https://issuu.com/artstodayezine/docs/arts_today_6_5/157) and Moore creates a riveting solo set

to the poem for Cultural ambassador, educator, choreographer and performing artist, Michelle Gibson.

B. MOORE DANCE will also present *i am magic*: the film on its digital platform, *Dances on the Reel*, made possible through the support of Moody Fund for the Arts. Visit [bmooredance.org](http://bmooredance.org) for more information.

B. MOORE DANCE founded in 2018, is a Dallas-based Contemporary Modern Dance Company and led by Founder/Artistic Director, Bridget L. Moore. The company has received the Texas Rising Star Award

from TAHPRD, for excellence within the Arts community. The mission of B. MOORE DANCE is to empower and transcend generations through the art of dance by cultivating the arts through leadership, education and performances. The organization aims to cultivate creative spaces through innovative works, collaboration, and community engagement projects. B. MOORE DANCE creates a nurturing environment for future artists and leaders through the collective sharing of ideas and perspectives.

## Film Review: The Takedown

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2) Biracial buddy cop movies (e.g., *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Lethal Weapon*) aren't a new phenomenon and could use a refresh. The genre gets a needed update with this French ebony/ivory crime story that's novel due its unusual antagonists. Right-wing, antiimmigrant zealots.



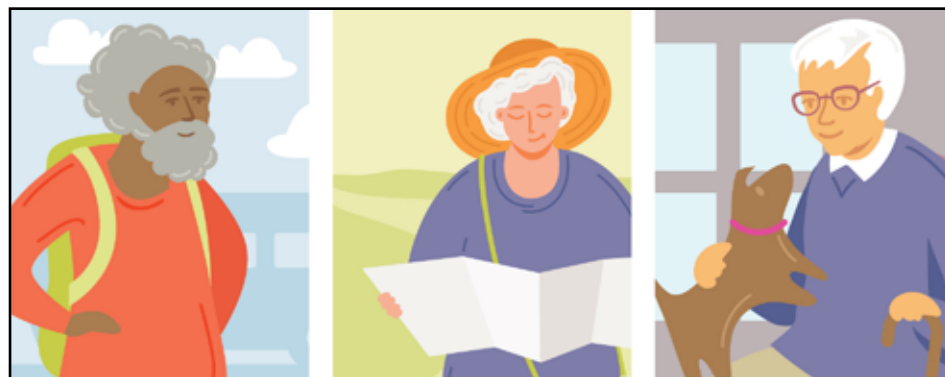
Laurent Lafitte and Omar Sy in *The Takedown*. (Courtesy image)

In this year's French presidential election, the incumbent leader, Emmanuel Macron, a moderate, beat his far-right and very xenophobic challenger Marine Le Pen. Clearly racism and the fear of foreigners weren't winning divisive issues for

her. Those social ills are also used as political tools in the U.S. But here, even the most daring filmmakers haven't produced a crime/action/comedy that tackled the subject of ultranationalism. Not sure what's in the Perrier they're drinking over there

but, screenwriter Stephane Kazandjian and director Louis Leterrier (Netflix's *Lupin* series and the film *Transporter*) have either lost their minds or are extremely perceptive and progressive.

See **TAKEDOWN**, Page 12



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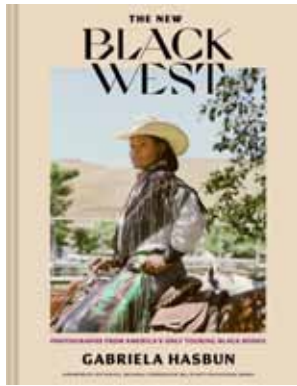
# NDG Book Review: 'The New Black West' is an inspirational read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Things sure look different from five feet up.

The first time, you might feel nervous to be there; the animal you're astride doesn't know you and you don't know what it'll do. But before long, you feel like you're in a rocking chair. You can almost see for miles and you begin to understand power. And in the new book "The New Black West" by Gabriela Hasbun, you see peek history between the ears of a horse.

A hundred sixty years ago, "more than eight thousand Black cowboys rode in



the western cattle drives." They did everything that every other ranch hand and cowboy did back then but "their stories have largely been untold..."

In 1984, a promoter named Lu Vason realized one day that the "grand-

daddy of them all," the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo, was lacking Black cowpokes. Upon returning to his home in Denver, Vason began researching and raising funds to start the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, named after the "legendary" Bill Pickett, who cowboied at the turn of the last century and was the first Black cowboy inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame. To this day, the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, now held on the second weekend in July in Oakland, California, is the only touring Black rodeo in America.

But it's not all ropin' and

ridin'.

Says Hasbun, the deep tradition of riding horses and roping calves is also passed on to youth in trouble, through participating stables and organizations. The rodeo is a chance to show off horse, saddle, boots, and bling, since you want to be "dressed to impress" if you're in the parade. It's a great excuse to spend a day with horses, and to share that love with rodeo watchers who want to learn, too. The rodeo is a challenge and a way to honor those who've accepted that challenge in the past. It's a way to "change the headlines."

And the rodeo is family.

For many readers, "The New Black West" may be like no other book you've had.

There is not, first of all, much to actually read here. Author and photographer Gabriela Hasbun instead offers a nice "Artist's Statement" in which she explains African American cowboys in history and the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo's beginnings, and she writes short captions for the photos in this book, but that's about all there is to read.

In that sense, Hasbun lets the illustrations speak for themselves.

Browse through this

book and meet men and women who are grateful for the horse that turned their lives around. Look at the gorgeous parade-worthy clothing, the custom-made (designer!) saddles, and the (literal) snake-skin boots. Then don't be at all surprised if you find yourself looking for tickets, so you can see those things up-front and in person this summer.

This is a book you'll page through again and again, and never get tired of doing so. It's one you can share with the kids and maybe inspire them. "The New Black West" is something that's delightfully different.

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Fabio Luisi announce performances of Wagner's Complete Ring Cycle in 2024

On Wednesday, from the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center's Eugene McDermott Concert Hall, Music Director Fabio Luisi (Louise W. & Edmund J. Kahn Music Directorship) and Ross Perot President & CEO Kim Noltemy announced plans for a complete Ring cycle presented by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Beginning in May 2024, the DSO, under the direction of Luisi, will present an opera-in-concert version of Richard Wagner's complete Der Ring des Nibelungen with internationally renowned singers. The Dallas Symphony is the first US orchestra to perform a full Ring cycle in concert in recent history. This project is generously supported by Mercedes T. Bass, Joanne Bober, Diane and Hal Brierley, Joe Hubach and Colleen O'Connor, Holly and Tom Mayer, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, The Morton H. Meyerson Family Foundation, Sarah Titus and Jean Ann Titus, and Kern and Marnie Wildenthal.

Luisi and Noltemy were joined by Mark Delavan and Lise Lindstrom via



Larisa Burta / Unsplash

Zoom. American bass-baritone Delavan will portray Wotan and American soprano Lindstrom will sing Brünnhilde. Delavan portrayed Wotan in the 2012/13 Metropolitan Opera production of Der Ring des Nibelungen with Luisi. Dallas audiences last saw him in the 2020 performances of Strauss's Salome as Jochanaan when he made his DSO debut. Lindstrom made her DSO debut in 2020 in Samuel Barber's Andromache's Farewell under the direction of Luisi. She recently sang the role of Brünnhilde at Staatsoper Hamburg with Kent Nagano conducting.

"Performing opera-in-concert is part of my artis-

tic plans at the DSO. Opera is an important part of the repertoire, and in addition, by presenting opera, we learn to listen closer and develop even further as an ensemble," said Luisi. "We have performed both Salome and Eugene Onegin here in Dallas. Wagner's Ring is a leap forward from those works in scale and complexity, but it is a project that will be beautiful and important for the orchestra and for the audiences."

The project will debut on May 1, 2024, with Das Rheingold and Die Walküre premiering on consecutive nights. Soprano Sara Jakubiak and tenor Christopher Ventris will portray

Sieglinde and Siegmund respectively. Both will be making their DSO debuts. The cycle will continue in Fall 2024. Luisi and the

DSO will perform Siegfried on October 5, 2024, and Götterdämmerung on October 8, 2024, followed by a week-long presenta-

tion of the full Ring cycle beginning on Sunday, October 13, 2024.

See DSO, Page 12



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# CFPB sues TransUnion on credit reporting violations

By Charlene Crowell

Although debt collection has been a long-time leading issue reported to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), during the COVID-19 pandemic, another issue emerged as the nation's number one consumer concern: credit reporting.

Of the more than 800,000 credit or consumer reporting complaints that CFPB received in its most recent reporting period, more than 700,000 were submitted about one of the nation's three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion. Further, consumers in majority Black and Latino neighborhoods, as well as younger consumers and those with low credit scores, are far more likely than other consumers to have disputes appear on their credit reports.

Testifying before the House Financial Services Committee on April 27, Rohit Chopra, CFPB Director, summarized the agency's findings, recent actions, and its new direction.

"In my first six months as Director, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has refocused its efforts to align with the objectives that Congress set out for the agency," said Chopra. "The CFPB is shifting enforcement resources away from investigating small firms and instead focusing on repeat offenders and large players engaged in large-scale harm...I expect that this may lead to more litigation, but also lend greater legitimacy to agency actions."

In complaints to the CFPB, consumers described difficulties trying to correct incomplete or inaccurate information appearing on their credit reports. Many consumers were particularly frus-



Tierra Mallorca / Unsplash

trated with automated systems that left them unable to have their problem addressed or resolved. As a result, many consumers felt their time, energy and money were wasted in trying to correct their reports.

In a related action on April 12, CFPB sued TransUnion and its CEO with charges of multiple violations, including:

- Ignoring the agency's 2017 enforcement order, and instead continuing to engage in deceptive conduct in both its marketing and sales;
- Cheating consumers in the sale of its products, services, and subscriptions; and
- Deceiving consumers through its digital dark patterns.

The lawsuit seeks monetary relief for consumers, such as restitution or return of funds, disgorgement or compensation for unjust gains, injunctive relief, and civil money penalties.

The new charges stem from a January 2017 settlement that CFPB reached with TransUnion that included its subsidiaries, board of directors, and executive officers. Part of that settlement required TransUnion to pay \$13.9 million in restitution to

victims and \$3 million in civil penalties for deceptively marketing credit scores and credit-related products, including credit monitoring services.

TransUnion and its subsidiaries also agreed to a formal enforcement order that, among other things, required the credit bureau to warn consumers that lenders are not likely to use the scores they are supplying, to obtain the express informed consent of customers for recurring payments for subscription products or services, and to provide an easy way for people to cancel subscriptions.

Despite this settlement, by May 2019, CFPB examiners informed TransUnion that it was still violating multiple requirements of the order. In these instances, companies typically work constructively with the CFPB to make quick fixes and come into compliance. But TransUnion's failure to honor the order resulted in a follow-up notice to the credit agency in June 2020.

"TransUnion is an out-of-control repeat offender that believes it is above the law," Chopra said on April 12, the day of the legal action. "I am concerned that

TransUnion's leadership is either unwilling or incapable of operating its businesses lawfully."

For 2021, TransUnion reported revenues of \$3 billion from the information it gathers on 200 million consumers. That same year, CFPB received 150,000 complaints about the firm.

In November 2021, CFPB issued an advisory opinion affirming that all consumer reporting agencies, including tenant and employment screening companies, had an obligation to use reasonable procedures and practices to be accurate in their findings.

Since its 2011 creation, CFPB has utilized its investigative efforts to uncover illegal conduct in the financial marketplace, such as discriminatory and predatory products and services. It also has brought over \$13.6 billion

in monetary compensation, principal reductions, cancelled debts and other consumer relief through its enforcement and supervisory work, earning the moniker as the consumers' 'financial cop on the beat.'

The Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) said CFPB's return to its original mission is a welcome development.

"Director Chopra's actions to protect consumers from predatory financial practices deserve praise, not criticism, from Congress," said Mike Calhoun, president of CRL. "American families need protections from abusive financial practices, and Director Chopra's commonsense requests for information on bank mergers and on junk fees, such as overdraft fees, are appropriate steps to gather the data so that these protections can be carefully crafted."

Chopra's efforts also drew praise from Rep. Maxine Waters, Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee.

"Under your leadership, I'm pleased that the CFPB is finally back on track," said Chairwoman Waters. "I commend your recent efforts to crack down on large financial firms that repeatedly break the law and harm individual consumers and working families. The practice of slapping a fine on a recidivist corporation while they rake in large profits should not be tolerated anymore; there must be serious consequences and structural reforms to prevent these kinds of repeat offenses."

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



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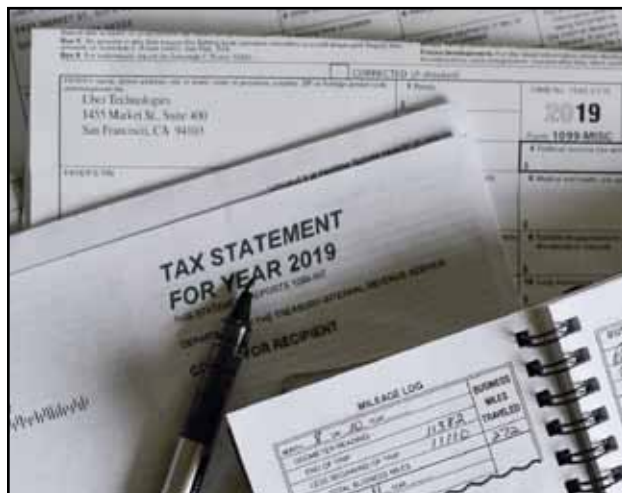
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# State corporate income tax revenues have eroded sharply in recent decades

## More than 60% of corporations pay no state corporate income tax in seven states

A new EPI report finds that the effective state and local tax rate on corporate profits shrunk by between a third and a half between 1989 and 2017, resulting in a revenue shortfall between \$43 billion and \$57 billion.

Further, more than 60% of corporations pay no state corporate income tax in seven states—Connecticut, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. And depending on the state, between 11% and 27% of corporations with over \$1 billion in federal taxable income pay



Olga DeLawrence / Unsplash

nothing or next to nothing in state corporate income taxes, according to the report.

This revenue shortfall has had real consequences for governments' ability to provide basic services to

their residents because state and local governments typically must match spending with revenue each year. To give a sense of the significance of revenue losses, state and local governments could essentially fully fund universal high-quality pre-kindergarten for all 3- and 4-year-olds with \$57 billion.

The decline in tax revenue can be traced to a combination of state corporate income tax cuts, a rise in the share of corporate profits earned by S-corporations—which are exempt from

most state corporate income taxes—and the ability of large, profitable corporations to exploit loopholes that allow them to minimize their tax bills.

Notably, the erosion of state corporate income tax revenue has nothing to do with corporations' ability to pay. Corporate profits have risen even as corporate tax revenues have declined.

"Tax revenues are critical to the ability of state and local governments to provide basic services to their residents, including K-12 education, child care

and elder care, maintenance of roads and bridges, and public health and safety, among others," said Josh Bivens, director of research at EPI and author of the report. "However, in recent decades state and local policymakers have consistently allowed corporations to reduce their share of taxes. These policy decisions should be reversed to ensure profitable businesses pay their fair share in taxes."

The report floats a number of reforms state legis-

See TAX, Page 13

## TAKEDOWN, from Page 9

Talk among yourselves.

Chief Ousmane Diakité (Omar Sy, *Lupin* and *Intouchables*) and Captain François Monge (Laurent Lafitte, *Elle*) have worked together on other police investigations. Their relationship is strained at best. Ousmane, an African immigrant and single dad, worked himself up the ranks, succeeded in the French Gendarmerie and now heads the Criminal Division. He's so well respected and such a trophy that his commanders coral him into a publicity campaign to attract other people of color. François, conversely, failed a police exam three times, is the son of rich parents and he still mooches off mom and dad. His sexcapades have included his own therapist

and he's so metrosexual his socks, handkerchiefs and underwear probably match. Additionally, Ousmane and François once dated the same woman, which makes them even more estranged.

A murder investigation leads the two out of the city into the French Alps where white racist bigots want to take their country back from the people who don't look like them. Sound familiar? The detectives are assisted by a younger officer named Alice (Izia Higelin, *Samba*). The three follow a trail of clues, including a severed torso, and ultimately try to thwart other crimes against nonnationals.

The screenplay couldn't be more topical. In fact, if Netflix streamed this French film before the

country's recent elections, it didn't do Le Pen any favors. Especially since one of the film's most eccentric antagonists resembles her elder self—aged but with the same snarl.

Clearly audiences will root for the good guys because solid scripts make that happen. But their enthusiasm will be boosted by Sy's friendly and disarming demeanor. When he smiles audiences smile with him. He's as charming as Lafitte is suitably off-putting, self-absorbed, urbane and prissy. They're an entertaining odd couple with a comic bromance that grows on you increasingly as they encounter danger. Their race-based conversations are often witty, funny and relevant. Personal digs can be very pointed. The clever language, jovial banter and

sensitive talk are a credit to Kazandjian's edgy script or to the writer who translated the French dialogue into American slang.

For a movie that runs a hair under two hours, the pacing (editor Vincent Taillon, *Taken 2* and *Clash of the Titans*) only lags in a few parts. The beauty of the region is well documented and action scenes are nicely captured (cinematographer Thomas Hardmeier, Yves Saint Laurent). Precincts, warehouses and strip joints look fine (production design Françoise Dupertuis, *Molière*). Sy's blue collar clothes and Lafitte's natty attire make sense (costume designer Camille Janbon, *Lupin*). Add in an appropriately dramatic musical score (Guillaume Roussel, *Black Beauty*) and you're pulled into the investigation

for the duration.

Credit Leterrier for making what could have been a decent but memorable action film (e.g., *355* or *Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard*) noteworthy. Sometimes when Ousmane and Alice mull over crime details, instead of a generic flashback, the footage depicts reenacted scenes on screen in front of the two leads. These visions could have been distractions, instead they're fascinating. His direction also enhances Sy and Lafitte's chemistry, making them even more appealing, annoying, combative and amicable.

Sight gags (cops squeezing through a tight doorway), physical humor (the morgue scene is hysterical) and adrenalin-pumping foot and car chases are all lively. Scenes with Lafitte bedding

whoever he can, are amusing in a knockoff James Bond way. Sequences with all the colorful faces that have changed old France into multicultural France capture a burgeoning reality. There's just enough here to hold viewers' attention whether they're in it for the excitement, laughs or social-consciousness raising.

The *Takedown* is a follow-up to another Sy/Lafitte cop film, *On the Other Side of the Tracks*.

So, don't be surprised if this sequel spawns another chapter with the same team of Kazandjian, Leterrier, Sy and Lafitte. "Ebony and ivory live together in (im) perfect harmony..."

On Netflix May 6th.

Visit *NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown* at *DwightBrownInk.com* and *BlackPressUSA.com*.

## DSO, from Page 10

Luisi received his first GRAMMY® Award for his leadership of the last two operas of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* with The Metropolitan Opera. The Deutsche Grammophon DVD release of the full cycle recorded live, was named Best Opera Recording of 2012. Luisi's work in opera is extensive, with nine years at the helm of the Zurich Opera and six

years as Principal Guest Conductor of The Metropolitan Opera. Luisi also led three complete Ring cycles in Dresden (Semperoper) 2006-2008.

"We are thrilled to be able to present a project of this scale under the direction of Fabio Luisi," said Noltemy. "Since the launch of his tenure, we have all witnessed a transformation

of the sound of the orchestra. We are looking forward to welcoming opera-lovers from North Texas and from around the world to experience what we are building here at the DSO."

The Dallas Symphony's Ring cycle will be complemented with private dinners with cast members, lectures with cultural experts on Wagner and opera and invitations to rehearsals and views behind the scenes. These private events will

be available only to supporters of the project. To learn more about becoming a supporter of the DSO's Ring cycle, contact James Leffler, Vice President of Development at [j.leffler@dalsym.com](mailto:j.leffler@dalsym.com).

The DSO's performances of Wagner's complete *Der Ring des Nibelungen* will be recorded as part of the DSO's Next Stage Digital Concert Series, Presented by PNC Bank. Video performances will be made

available in January 2025 at [watch.dallassymphony.org](http://watch.dallassymphony.org).

In addition to the announcement of the opera cycle, Luisi and Noltemy announced the release of the concert video of the DSO's latest opera-in-concert. Luisi led the DSO and internationally renowned singers in a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* on April 1, 3 and 5, 2022. The concert video, stage direction by Alberto

Triola and video direction by Andrew Alden, stars Nicole Car as Tatyana, Etienne Dupuis as Eugene Onegin, Melody Wilson as Olga and Pavol Breslik as Lensky is available for free as part of the DSO's Next Stage Digital Concert Series, Presented by PNC Bank. Viewers may access the video at [watch.dallassymphony.org](http://watch.dallassymphony.org) or on the DSO's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/dallassymphony>

# Report shows America's major cities are pricing out Black residents

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

At the onset of the pandemic, there wasn't a single state, region, or county in America where a full-time worker earning the minimum wage could afford a two-bedroom rental home, and nearly half of Black and Latinx renters (and more than a third of all renters) were paying unaffordable rent, a new report has revealed.

The National Equity Alliance released "The Shrinking Geography of Opportunity in Metro America," this week, and found that the coronavirus pandemic continues to both illuminate and deepen the challenges of structural racism and housing inequity in the United States.

"While rent relief programs are sunsetting and rents are skyrocketing, millions of renters negatively impacted by the pandem-

ic's economic fallout face crushing rent debt, eviction, and homelessness," the report's authors wrote.

"And the renters who have been hit the hardest are disproportionately people of color and people living on low incomes. This extreme precarity stems from a housing crisis that has plagued communities for decades."

Thai Le, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Southern California's Equity Research Institute; Edward Muña, project manager at the institute; Sarah Treuhaft, vice president of Research at PolicyLink, and Rasheedah Phillips, director of housing at PolicyLink; joined to author the study.

They revealed that working-class households face a shrinking geography of opportunity in metro America.

Across the 100 most populous metropolitan areas, the number of zip codes where the median

market rents are affordable to low-income households declined 50 percent between 2013 and 2019 (from 17 percent of zip codes to 8 percent), according to the report.

The authors noted that the trend of declining affordability was widespread.

The number of neighborhoods with affordable median market rents shrunk in 81 metropolitan regions, remained approximately the same in 16 of them, and increased in only three re-

gions.

Further, Black and Latinx households have the fewest choices when it comes to affordable neighborhoods.

In 2019, only 7 percent of zip codes in the top 100 metros had median market rents affordable to Black households at the median income for all Black households in the metro.

For Latinx households at the median income, just 16 percent of zip codes had affordable median market rents.

Black households experienced the steepest declines in affordable neighborhoods in the years preceding the pandemic.

Between 2013 and 2019 — even as the economy was recovering and median incomes increased for households of all races and ethnicities — the number of zip codes with median market rents affordable to median-income Black households decreased by 14 percent.

The majority of neigh-

borhoods affordable for Black, Latinx, and low-income households are lower opportunity neighborhoods.

Among the zip codes with affordable rental housing for the median-income Black household, 82 percent were either "low" or "very low" — the bottom two quintiles on the Child Opportunity Index — while only 38 percent of zip codes affordable for the median-

See RENT, Page 15

## FREE, from Page 6

the United States. The Star-Spangled Banner is a lyrical prayer — "and this be our motto, "In God we trust."

Kaepernick was punished for expressing his freedom by refusing to engage in what he sees as hypocrisy. Is it time for a new national anthem? Near the Rotunda of the Capitol, a room is set apart for prayer. In light of the controversy, should the prayer room be removed? In 2009, I gave the opening prayer as a Guest Chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives that was aired on CNN and

other networks.

Is the opening prayer possibly up for elimination? On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. Will it be reversed? Tim Tebow often knelt and prayed at football games. Steph Curry has a line of tennis shoes with a biblical scripture, "I can do all things..."

Ms. Hamer raised a critical inquiry, how much of my freedom can I have today? Are you willing to contend for your faith?

## TAX, from Page 12

lators could implement to help stem these losses, including:

- Raising statutory corporate income tax rates.
- Passing legislation that forces corporations to provide a state-by-state accounting of their profits and taxes.

- Taking steps to ensure corporations can't simply evade taxes by setting themselves up as S-corporations or other new forms of businesses. Legislators can either tax these new business forms or raise personal income taxes progressively.



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- 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.

# And Then ... There It Was

By Dr. James L. Snyder

In getting older, I have discovered, I pay a little more attention to my dietary habits. Or, maybe I should say, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage pays more attention to my dietary habits.

As we get older, she is more obsessed with vegetables than anything else. But, for the life of me, I cannot figure out exactly why.

With a close handle on my diet, she leads the way in what she refers to as "A healthy diet."

Being married as long as I have, I have learned to go along with the program from the kitchen. I like what someone once said, "Do you want to be right or happy?" Obviously, you can't be both; you have to choose one or the other.

As obsessed as The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is with vegetables, particularly green vegetables, she has the opposite view when it comes to cookies. Cookies are not necessarily a "no-no," but they are under her strict supervision.

Several times a week, she will give me a cookie. As she gives it to me, she will say, "One is enough."

I usually respond by saying, "One more is never enough."

I laugh while she just stares at me. I must say I have never eaten a cookie I did not like. I am especially partial to Girl Scout cookies. I usually tell my wife that buying a Girl Scout cookie goes for a very good cause. I don't tell her, but I'm not thinking about the Girl Scouts.

If the Girl Scouts are sell-

ing cookies, those cookies must be good for you. After all, they wouldn't sell anything bad for you, would they? My wife never has an answer to that question.

Things turned around just last week.

I was taking some things to the trashcan, and as I put in something, I noticed a receipt from the grocery store. I'm always interested to see how much she's spending and how much she's saving. So I pulled out the receipt and found that she had spent \$45, but she saved \$48. I'm not quite sure how she does that or how that works, but I leave that responsibility to her.

I was about to throw it back into the trashcan when I noticed something on the receipt. There were boxes of cookies on her receipt that she had purchased that day. I think it was some-

thing like six boxes.

So, as I was thinking, those cookies must be somewhere in the house. That receipt was dated several days ago, and so was a recent purchase. Where are those cookies?

The kitchen area is my wife's responsibility, and she has it very well organized. I can't find anything, but she can always. I was beginning to think that there were boxes of cookies somewhere in this kitchen area. If I could find just one box of cookies, I could eat one or two or three behind her back and her not knowing it.

She was away for the afternoon, and so I spent the time looking all through the kitchen for where she might hide those cookies. If I did not know there were cookies there, I would not even begin to look. But my cu-

riosity, not to mention my appetite, got the best of me, and I wanted to find them.

For the first hour and 1/2, I searched everywhere and could not come up with one box of cookies. I knew they had to be somewhere right in front of me, but I couldn't find them for the life of me.

Then it occurred to me. I'm a little over 1 foot taller than my wife. That got me thinking that perhaps those cookies are closer to the floor than I was looking. So I got on my hands and knees and opened up one of the doors at the bottom of the cabinet. I searched through that and then went to the next and then to the next.

Then, much to my dietary delight, I found a stack of cookie boxes way in the back of that lower door. There they were, in all of

their beauty.

I carefully pulled one out, opened it, extracted three, and then decided to make it four cookies. They look so delicious, especially in my hand. So I carefully closed up the box and put it way in the back so she wouldn't see it right away.

I enjoyed eating those cookies that afternoon, the next afternoon, and the next afternoon. Before I knew it, I had eaten two boxes of Girl Scout cookies. And I got away with it. What a dietary victory.

When I came back from a project I was working on, standing in the kitchen and looking at me with both hands on her hips, she said, "Do you know anything about the missing cookies in the cabinet?"

"No," I said, "but I'll

See THEN, Page 15

## HAIR, from Page 4

Tiyiesha Morgan, a hair loss practitioner, services clients in California and Texas. With over 6.8 million Americans dealing with hair loss, Morgan believes that hair loss is a silent epidemic.

"The main difference is that hair loss is unlike some other conditions, it affects your outer appear-

ance. Women can go into depression and experience anxiety after dealing with the effects of hair loss," said Morgan.

Morgan also believes that there should be more research done on the impact of hair loss in African American Women. She supports recent efforts like those of Congresswoman

Ayanna Pressley, who has alopecia, advocating for Medicare to cover the cost of wigs for those who have lost their hair from disease and treatment.

After dealing with alopecia, Ferrell admits that she has had her own personal awakening, "I used to think that my hair was my best quality. I now realize that you are not defined by your hair."

Although there is no cure for alopecia, some forms of the condition can be reversible. Dr. Amerson recommends that women seek help as soon as they notice hair loss so that they can have the best possible out-

come from the condition.

"Don't call your girlfriends or don't go to YouTube University. You need to go to someone with board certified credentials," stresses Dr. Amerson, adding that some of the warn-

ing signs that something is going on with your hair are: strains of hair on your vanity, substantial amounts of hair in your brush or strains of hair in the shower.

For so many, hair loss is no laughing matter.

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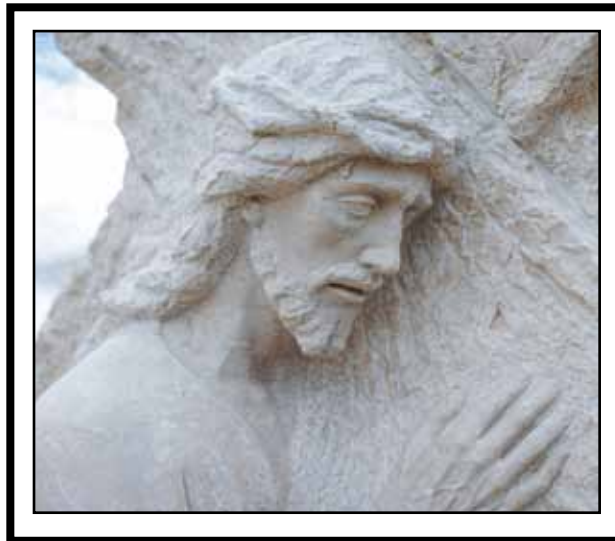
# Discerning the Work of God



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

“Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who have been trying to intimidate me.”

- Nehemiah 6:14



Nehemiah set out to rebuild the wall at Jerusalem that had been destroyed. Nehemiah held a position in the Persian Empire that would be comparable to Chief of Staff in our government. Nehemiah wept over the destruction of the city wall and repented for the sins of his generation and the generations before him that had led to the fall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah responded to the news by seeking approval from his

superior to take time off to rebuild the wall.

Tobiah and Sanballat met Nehemiah's action with resistance, as did Noadiah the prophetess and other prophets. These were the religious and political leaders of his day. They became distractions to his work and opposed him.

Whenever God does a new work, it is often met with resistance by those in the established religious community, and sometimes

among those from whom we would expect support. Jesus met the same resistance when He began His public ministry. This same phenomenon happens today. When God begins a new work that cannot be easily explained based upon prior experiences, many make the mistake of assuming it not to be of God. The very people who should embrace and encourage the work become the source of skepticism

and opposition. God tells us that His ways are not our ways.

He does things in ways beyond our limited understanding.

Before you are tempted to criticize or oppose something that looks different from your past experience, ask God for wisdom and discernment. Examine why you might be tempted to oppose

it. The Lord cannot be put in a box. He delights in doing things in ways that may not fit our former paradigms.

Thank God for being with you through another day and night. Thank Him for answered prayer. And, thank Him for continu-

ing to love you in spite of yourself. Ask Him to help you become keenly aware of people who need people. We all need each other. No man is an island and can stand alone. God knows, because He created us with a need for fellowship and companionship. Pray that everyone who is in desper-

ate need of this provision today, will be blessed with at least one very special person and with a network of good, Christian brothers and sisters to meet that need of fellowship and companionship.

*(Editor's note: This column originally ran in May 2018)*

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## THEN, from Page 14

help you look for them.”  
“No, you will not, but you will stay clear of all of those cookies.”

Then I shared one of my favorite verses of Scripture with her. “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,

and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

Having a giving attitude is one of the most important

aspects of the Christian life.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.*

## RENT, from Page 13

income white household were “low” or “very low” opportunity.

“Although this analysis is based on pre-pandemic data, all signs indicate that the trend of shrinking housing opportunity continues, and, if anything, conditions have worsened,” the authors determined.

They noted that in 2021, rents increased by at least 10 percent in 149 metropolitan regions, whereas only three metros experienced that level of rent growth in 2019.

Lower income renters, low-wage workers, and

small businesses serving communities of color were hardest hit by the pandemic's economic fallout.

The report highlighted that nearly six million renter households are currently behind on rent — about double the pre-pandemic baseline.

“Achieving racial equity and a just economy requires changing this paradigm and ensuring that households living on low incomes can live in affordable homes in neighborhoods that support their health and economic success,” the authors determined.

They concluded:

“The crisis of housing affordability remains an urgent challenge for communities across the country, and it is being driven by both national and local forces.

“As our analysis shows, there is a growing gap in access to affordable housing and high-quality neighborhoods for working-class renters and renters of color.

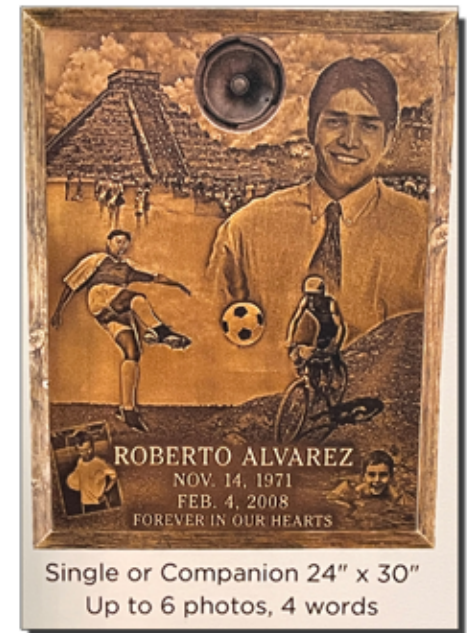
“Protecting renters at risk of eviction and ensuring all households have access to safe and affordable housing is key to an equitable recovery and a strong economy built on shared prosperity.”

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 The Dallas Morning News

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is conducting a feasibility study for improvements to I-345 from I-30 to Woodall Rodgers Freeway (Spur 366) in Dallas County, a distance of 1.4 miles. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public meeting on the proposed study with two in-person options.

**The same information will be presented at the in-person and virtual meetings.**

**In-Person Meeting 1**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Open House)

St. Philip's School and Community Center  
 Gymnasium

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
 Dallas, Texas 75215

Served by DART bus route 13 or the  
 South Dallas GoLink

**In-Person Meeting 2**

Thursday, May 26, 2022

3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Open House)

Sheraton Dallas Hotel

Dallas Ballroom

400 Olive Street

Dallas, Texas 75201

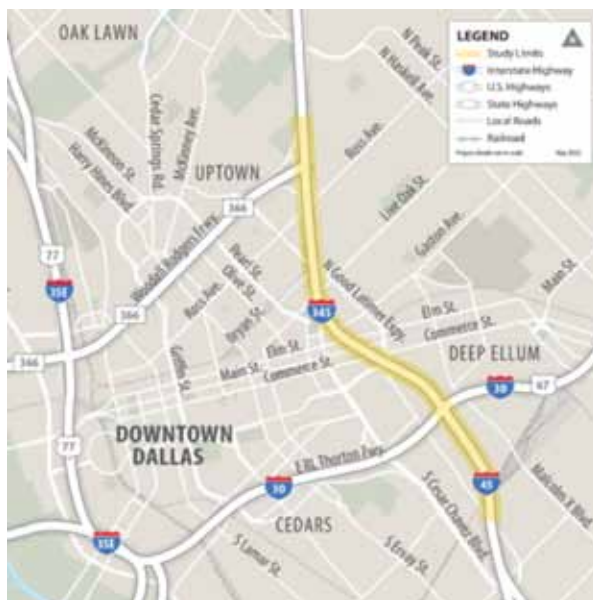
Served by DART bus routes 1, 3, 45,  
 47, 102, 105, 109, 230, or 237

**Virtual Meeting**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. through  
 Monday, June 27, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.

[www.keepitmovingdallas.com/I345](http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/I345)

\*This is not a live event



Please note, complimentary parking in the Sheraton Hotel parking garage will be provided for meeting attendees. Attendees should bring their parking ticket into the meeting for validation. Validation will be provided for self-parking only. In recognition of COVID-19, enhanced safety measures will be applied at the in-person option at St. Philip's School and Community Center, including a requirement to wear a face mask and a temperature check.

The virtual meeting will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. **The virtual meeting materials will be posted on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. and remain online through Monday, June 27, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Please note, this is not a live event. The materials can be viewed at your convenience.** To log onto the virtual public meeting, go to the study website listed

above any time during the dates and times indicated above. If you do not have internet access, you may call (214) 320-6200 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access study materials.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing in-person options for individuals who would like to participate in person. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the online public meeting on a screen, review study materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments.

Both virtual and in-person attendees will be able to learn about the study process and provide input on the recommended alternative for the future of I-345. As Dallas County population continues to grow and I-345 reaches its estimated remaining useful service life, it is necessary to plan for the future of the roadway. This study will help to determine the future of I-345.

Maps showing the study location as well as study approach information will be available for viewing at the virtual and in-person public meetings and available for public inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150.

The virtual public meeting and in-person options will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need

assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting or in-person options, please contact TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480 no later than 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Comments from the public regarding the proposed study are requested and may be submitted by email to [345study@txdot.gov](mailto:345study@txdot.gov), by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Attention: Grace Lo, P.E., 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643 or by calling (833) 933-0439 to record a verbal comment. **All comments must be received on or before Monday, June 27, 2022, to be included in the official public meeting record.**

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed study, please contact the TxDOT Project Manager, Ms. Grace Lo, P.E., at (214) 320-6200 or by email at [345study@txdot.gov](mailto:345study@txdot.gov).

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.*