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Report reveals 'a hidden key to combating racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

According to new Sentencing Project research, diverting youth from juvenile court involvement should be a central focus in reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

It also should improve outcomes in America's youth justice systems.

The report's author wrote that getting arrested in adolescence or having a delinquency case filed in juvenile court clearly damages young people's futures and increases their subsequent involvement in the justice system.

"Compared with youth who are diverted, youth who are arrested and formally petitioned in court have a far higher likelihood of subsequent arrests and school failure," wrote Richard A Mendel, Senior Research Fellow and Youth Justice at the Sentencing Project.

"Pre-arrest and pre-court diversion can avert these bad outcomes," Mendel concluded.

According to Mendel's research, Black youth are far more likely to be arrested than their white peers and far less likely to be diverted from court following arrest.

Other youth of color – including Latinx youth, Tribal youth, and



Black youth are far more likely to be arrested than their white peers and far less likely to be diverted from court following arrest. (Photo via NNPA)

Asian/Pacific Islander youth – are also less likely than their white peers to be diverted.

"The lack of diversion opportunities for youth of color is pivotal because the greater likelihood of formal processing in court means that youth of color accumulate longer court histories, leading to harsher consequences for any subsequent arrest," Mendel asserted.

"Expanding diversion opportunities for youth of color, therefore, represents a crucial, untapped opportunity to address continuing disproportionality in juvenile justice," he noted.

The in-depth analysis of the juvenile justice system's unequal and

limited use of diversion from court involvement, particularly for Black youth, found that in 2019, 52% of delinquency cases involving white youth were handled informally (diverted), far higher than the share of cases diverted involving Black youth (40%).

The report found the glaring disparity between Black and white youth in every major offense category.

"Overwhelming research finds that diverting youth from the court system yields better outcomes for young people's futures and public safety," Mendel insisted.

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People In The News ...



Brittney Griner



Adair Mosely

NDG Quote of the Week: "I need to see my own beauty and to continue to be reminded that I am enough, that I am worthy of love without effort, that I am beautiful, that the texture of my hair and that the shape of my curves, the size of my lips, the color of my skin, and the feelings that I have are all worthy and okay."
—Tracee Ellis Ross

Brittney Griner

(NNPA) While former NBA All-Star and Champion Dennis Rodman formally canceled plans to go to Russia to help gain the release of WNBA star Brittney Griner, members of the Washington Mystics said Griner's detainment has discouraged them from playing overseas.

"I don't know if being politically correct is right right now," Mystics Forward Myisha Hines-Allen, who played in Italy last season, said at her end-of-season press conference.



Lorie Shaul / Wikimedia

"So, I know I wouldn't want to play in Russia. I mean that's just that."

WNBA players usually earn more money playing overseas than in the United States.

Hines-Allen's teammate, Elizabeth Williams, said Griner's situation opens conversations for players wanted to stay home.

"I think it won't be surprising to see that a lot of players are gonna go over there and just take the bigger checks because it's kind of is what it is," Williams told NBC News Washington.

Rodman had previously declared he would travel to Russia to seek Griner's release.

However, Biden administration officials pushed

back against such a visit.

"We believe that anything other than negotiating further through the established channel is likely to complicate and hinder those release efforts," State Department Spokesman Ned Price told reporters.

Confirmed reports said the United States government had offered to swap the so-called "Merchant of Death" Viktor Bout for Griner and another imprisoned American, Paul Whelan.

Bout, who's serving a 25-year federal prison sen-

tence and notorious for his desire to kill Americans, reportedly has been at the top of Russian President Vladimir Putin's wish list.

"We communicated a substantial offer that we believe could be successful based on a history of conversations with the Russians," a senior administration official told CNN. "We communicated that a number of weeks ago, in June."

The unnamed sources told the network that the planned trade received the backing of President Joe Biden after being under

discussion since earlier this year.

CNN reported that Biden's support for the swap overrides opposition from the Department of Justice, which is generally against prisoner trades.

The families of Whelan, who Russia has held for alleged espionage since 2018, and WNBA star Griner, jailed in Moscow for drug possession since February, have urged the White House to secure their release, including via a prisoner exchange, if necessary, the report

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Adair Mosely

(Black PR Wire) Minneapolis, MN – African American Leadership Forum Twin Cities (AALF) announced today that its board of directors has unanimously selected Adair Mosley as the organization's next Chief Executive Officer. Mosley, who currently serves as Pillsbury United Communities President and CEO will succeed Marcus Owens, previous AALF CEO, on October 10.

Mosley has a track record of strong leadership, transformative innovation and fundraising. He has been with Pillsbury United Com-



munities for 11 years, the last five as CEO. Throughout his tenure, the agency's budget has grown from \$12 million to \$16 million.

"I am deeply honored to be chosen as the next CEO of the African American

Leadership Forum to continue my ambition of driving transformative impact across our state. I believe in the collective power of the Black community and all the potential we hold," said Mosley. "I look forward to leading fearlessly, unapologetically, and authentically to meet this moment."

Earlier this year, Mosley received national headlines for raising \$1 million to provide every student of North High School's graduating class of 2022 a post-secondary scholarship. He also served instrumental in opening North Market, a full-service grocery store in North Minneapolis. His

hiring culminates a five-month national search to find the successor to Owens. During that time, Vice President of Administration Shanaya Dungey, and Vice President of Amplification Marc Watts, have served as AALF's Co-Interim CEOs.

"The work we are doing is a critical component of moving the needle and making a broad impact for Black lives in our region. We are visioning and stewarding a new Black experience for our community. Adair's innovative leadership approach and trailblazing efforts will prove invaluable for AALF to take our current initiatives to the

next level," said Dungey.

"This moment in the Twin Cities provides us with a unique opportunity to create a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous future for the African American community," said Kevin Lindsey, Chair of AALF's Board of Directors. "In pairing the talented AALF staff with Adair's leadership to cultivate the best ideas within our community, AALF is poised to succeed and become a model for metropolitan areas in the United States to emulate."

Prior to being named Pillsbury United's CEO in 2017, Mosley led as the organization's Chief In-

novation Officer. He is a sought-after public speaker on topics ranging from health equity to disruptive system design and serves on the boards of MinnPost, the Center for Economic Inclusion, and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

In 2019, Mosley was selected to represent the Twin Cities region at Harvard Business School's Young American Leaders Program. He has been named by the Grist organization as one of its 50 Fixers—"individuals cooking up the boldest solutions to humanity's biggest

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SN Don Mark Romero

GREAT LAKES, Ill. - Sailors are some of the most highly-trained people on the planet, according to Navy officials, and this training requires highly-dedicated instructors.

At Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), instructors at advanced technical schools teach sailors to be highly skilled, operational, and combat ready warfighters, while providing the tools and opportunities for continuous learning and development.

Seaman Don Mark Romero, a native of Irving, Texas, with hometown ties to Santa Rosa, Philippines, is a student at



NETC, learning the necessary skills needed to be a gunner's mate.

As a gunner's mate, Romero is responsible for keeping and firing all major weapons systems on board all Navy vessels.

Romero, a 2021 Irving High School graduate, joined the Navy 11 months

ago.

"I joined the Navy to continue the vast family tradition of serving the country," said Romero. "I also wanted to travel and experience many different cultures."

According to Romero, the values required to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in both Irving and the Philippines.

"Growing up, I learned that you have to be the example," said Romero. "This means showing people how to lead, so that you may have a successful working environment that will benefit everyone."

Students attend advanced technical schools after "boot camp." They are taught the basic techni-

cal knowledge and skills required to be successful in their new careers.

NETC educates and trains those who serve, providing the tools and opportunities which enable life-long learning, professional and personal growth and development, ensuring fleet readiness and mission accomplishment.

Made up of six commands, NETC provides a continuum of professional education and training in support of Surface Navy requirements that prepare enlisted sailors and officers to serve at sea, providing apprentice and specialized skills training to 7,500 sailors a year.

With more than 90 per-

cent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

According to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, four priorities will focus efforts on sailors, readiness, capabilities, and capacity.

"For 245 years, in both calm and rough waters, our Navy has stood the watch to protect the homeland, preserve freedom of the seas, and defend our way of life," said Gilday. "The

decisions and investments we make this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of this century. We can accept nothing less than success."

Serving in the Navy means Romero is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The reason why the Navy is important to national defense is because we serve the rights given to us by our founding fathers," said Romero.

As Romero and other

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The U.S. needs more electric school buses

By Antoine M. Thompson

A child rides a bus to school every day—the traditionally big yellow one that runs on diesel gas. Day in and day out, children are exposed to the fumes emitted by the bus, breathing carbon dioxide like its fresh air on what should be an otherwise safe journey to school.

After several years of this toxic exposure, the child develops asthma; they can no longer play sports, face a heightened risk to infections like Covid-19, and lose three years to their average life expectancy. The worst part of this tragedy is that it all could've been avoided. Had the school bus been electric instead of diesel, its passengers would have faced no toxic emissions and been spared of irreparable lung damage.

Shared by countless others across the nation, especially those in underserved communities, this story highlights the urgent need for school districts to convert their fleets to electric school buses and protect the health of students and surrounding communities. Furthermore, thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which designates \$5 billion in federal funding for clean

school buses, it has never been easier for school districts to take a step towards the future and transition from diesel-powered school buses to fully electric ones.

By electrifying their bus fleets, school districts will be prioritizing the health of both their students and the community at large, contributing to environmental justice, and saving money down the road. According to the Healthy Schools Campaign, the exhaust from diesel buses contains "40+ toxic air contaminants, carcinogens, ozone smog-forming compounds, and fine particulate matter," all of which can have devastating impacts on the health of students as well as the surrounding environment.

Diesel buses not only pollute the lungs of their passengers, but they also affect air quality through their emissions, especially considering that large portions of the day are spent driving and waiting idly. Ross Cities estimates that full electrification of the national school bus fleet would lower greenhouse gas emissions by eight megatons per year, which is significant as transportation is the largest contributor to total U.S. emissions.

Additionally, the impacts

of electrification would be felt most in low-income and minority communities, who have been exposed to toxic contaminants disproportionately more than any other group. Aside from the humanitarian impact, electric school buses also offer direct benefits to school districts.

Based on data from the Modesto Unified School District, they can save \$10,000 a year on gas per bus. Electric school buses can even be plugged into as an excess power source in the event of a grid failure. Because of electric school buses' undeniable advantages, districts must utilize this immense opportunity to electrify their fleets created by the Infrastructure Bill.

At the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, we host a series of events and projects to showcase electric school buses, assist with project planning and grant writing, as well as education and training for school district staff, board members and other stakeholders. Our multilayered approach helps to achieve the goal to not only connect schools with dealers and manufacturers, electric vehicle supply equipment providers but also to increase familiarity between school districts and the electric

school bus industry.

The best example is our Mid-Atlantic Electric School Bus Experience Project (MEEP), which provides school fleets with free electric buses to test over a six-to-eight-week demo period. Through practical experience, technical training, and proper planning with electric buses, school districts can better acquaint themselves with the processes of electrification and upkeep of their fleets. MEEP bridges the gap of understanding between districts and electrification, often giving the necessary information on questions such as how to acquire charging stations and how to retrofit or repower existing diesel buses to make them electric. As the need for electric school buses becomes more and more pressing, the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition is dedicated to facilitating and advocating for the electrification of electric school buses locally, regionally, and nationally.

Antoine M. Thompson is the Executive Director of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) and a former NYS Senator and the former chair of the NYS Senate Committee of Environmental Conservation.

MLK was an American patriot

By Dr. Alveda King

BPA LIVEWIRE - Reverend Martin Luther King Junior was an American patriot. In the years since his death, my family has shared the memory of my martyred uncle with the world. More than any figure from modern American history, my uncle and his call to "let freedom ring" unites people from all walks of life and every corner of the political spectrum.

As we celebrate the 59th anniversary of the March on Washington and the I Have a Dream speech, social media will be flooded with excerpts from the address.

People will rightly highlight his ever-consistent call for America to honor its promise to all citizens.

His love for America manifests all these years later in the true example of patriotism. His expression of love was never ever giving up on this great experiment in Democracy. Yes, all these years later, his model of non-violent protest and servant leadership are examples of excellence that would benefit each of us to study and emulate.

My memory will always be of an uncle who loved America too much to not push her towards becoming her best self. He refused to

give up on America living out the true meaning of its creed. The self-evident truth that all men are created equal remains a courageous standard today.

In a speech about Vietnam, he dispelled any confusion about his motives and his love for America. He described his disappointment in America but asserted that "there can be no great disappointment where there is no great love."

Over these past months, I have felt disappointment in America. But like my uncle, my disappointment pales in comparison to my faith in Americans to do what is right. My hope for Amer-

ica's bright future is fortified because I join Dr. King as he believed America is a nation bent towards justice. For all the areas of sorrow that might bring us despair, there are far more reasons that bring hope.

I was 17 years old when my uncle died, and as a guardian of the King family legacy, I remember him well and still have faith in his American Dream. As one blood, one united race, with eyes wide open and not colorblind, we, the people of America, must press on to realize the "possible dream" together, from the womb to the tomb into eternity.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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As Black Americans struggle to get a good night sleep, international research details the benefits of proper rest

A staggering 90 percent of people fail to achieve a good night's sleep, according to new international research presented at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress 2022.

The study found that sub-optimal sleep was associated with a higher likelihood of heart disease and stroke.

The authors estimated that seven in ten of these cardiovascular conditions could be prevented if everyone was a good sleeper.

And while researchers homed in on the sleep behaviors of 7,200 people comprised mostly of Europeans, Americans also aren't sleeping.



Photo via NNPA

Black Americans suffer worse from short sleep or sleep apnea.

Earlier this year, the JAMA Open Network indicated that the problem continues to worsen for African Americans.

JAMA researchers discovered that Black Americans get less sleep than white people, a deficit of 15 minutes a day in childhood that grows into almost an hour in adulthood.

Additionally, an Oxford

study found that far more Black and Hispanic people than white people report routinely getting less than 6 hours of sleep, well short of the recommended 7 to 9 hours for adults.

"Sleep is a privilege," Dayna Johnson, a sleep epidemiologist at Emory University, told Science.org. "If we can target sleep, we might be able to reduce the burden of all types of diseases among racial minorities."

Science Direct found that more than a dozen studies have identified racial discrimination as a contributor to sleep disparities.

"Black people reported more discrimination and

more severe insomnia symptoms than white people, and a statistical analysis determined discrimination accounted for 60% of their insomnia severity," researchers wrote at Science Direct.

Researchers also discovered that environmental factors also cut into sleep. For example, multiple studies have found that Black, Hispanic, and other individuals of color tend to reside in areas where they are exposed to approximately twice as much ambient light at night as white people.

"Exposure to artificial light from the street and commercial buildings has been found to suppress

melatonin—a hormone that helps initiate sleep," Researchers wrote. "That causes people to fall asleep later at night, resulting in poorer sleep overall."

Science.org also found that Black, Hispanic, and Asian people in the United States are also exposed to disproportionately high levels of particulate air pollution.

The researchers reported that exposure to this type of pollution can cause inflammation of the nose and throat, and some evidence suggests chronic exposure can worsen sleep apnea and increase daytime sleepi-

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"Yet diversion remains sorely underutilized, especially for youth of color, and unequal treatment in diversion is a key driver for even larger disparities in confinement later in the process."

Released on Aug. 30, the report, "Diversion: A Hidden Key to Combating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice," examined decades of research showing how educational, career and public safety outcomes are better for youth diverted away from juvenile courts.

It provided a primer on diversion and its impact on racial equity – specifically, the report revealed that:

- Compared to youth formally involved in court, youth diverted from court

have a far lower likelihood of subsequent arrest.

- They also are far less likely to be incarcerated, commit less violence, have higher school completion rates and college enrollment, and earn higher incomes in adulthood.

Mendel found that disparities in diversion result both from subjective biases against youth and families of color and from seemingly neutral diversion rules and practices that cause disproportionate harm to youth of color either by unnecessarily limiting eligibility for diversion or by making it difficult for youth of color to complete diversion successfully.

Many states and localities have recently adopted new strategies to expand and improve diversion,

many of which show substantial promise, Mendel further discovered.

"However, efforts to expand diversion opportunities to date have most often lacked an explicit and determined focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities – an essential ingredient for success," he added.

In his conclusion, Mendel said the evidence leaves no doubt that the justice system "is toxic for youth and should be employed only in cases when young people pose a serious and imminent threat to the safety and well-being of others."

"For most young people, diversion yields better public safety and youth development outcomes than formal processing in juvenile court – and for much less money," he wrote.

However, youth of color

are not being offered diversion in the same numbers as white youth.

"Racial and ethnic disparities at diversion play a significant role in propelling system-wide disparities and represent a key reason why efforts to improve equity in juvenile justice have achieved so little progress to date," Mendel

added.

For all these reasons, the diversion stage of the juvenile court process should be a top priority for youth justice reform, he stated.

"Advocates should push for, and system leaders should take aggressive action to address the disparities highlighted in this report," Mendel wrote.

"Combined, the reforms recommended here to expand the use of diversion and to enhance supportive community-led programming for diverted youth offer perhaps the most important and promising avenue currently available to reduce disparities and to improve youth justice systems nationwide."

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sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy is totally rewarding," added Romero. "I do this mostly for my father who previously served in the Army

for five years. He earned a Purple Heart while deployed to Iraq. This inspired me to do something better for myself and to continue the family tradition serving our country."

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White House announces date for historic conference on hunger, nutrition, and health

The Biden-Harris Administration announced it would host the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health on Sept. 28 in Washington, DC.

As the President announced in May, this will be the first Conference of this kind in more than 50 years.

“Millions of Americans are afflicted with food insecurity and diet-related diseases—including heart disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes—which are some of the leading causes of death and disability in the U.S. Lack of access



Photo via NNPA

to healthy and affordable foods is one of many factors impacting hunger and diet-related diseases,” White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

wrote in a statement.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges further,” Jean-Pierre stated.

She said the conference

would bring government leaders, academics, activists, and Americans from all walks of life together to achieve the goal of ending hunger and reducing diet-related diseases in the U.S. by 2030 – all while reducing disparities among the communities who are impacted the most by these issues.

“We will announce a national strategy at the conference that identifies actions the government will take to catalyze the public and private sectors to drive transformative change and address the intersections between food, hunger, nu-

trition, and health,” Jean-Pierre said.

The first White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health occurred in 1969. Many considered it a pivotal event that influenced the nation’s food policy agenda for the next half-century.

The White House said President Biden’s goal is to do the same with this year’s conference.

“Hunger, diet-related disease, and the disparities surrounding them impact millions of Americans, and the COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on the urgency of addressing these

issues,” said Ambassador Susan Rice, the Biden Administration’s Domestic Policy Advisor.

“No one should have to wonder where their next meal will come from,” Rice continued.

“We must take bold steps now—with government, the private sector, nonprofits, and communities working together—to build a healthier future for every American.”

To learn more and join in taking bold action to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases and disparities, visit whitehouse.gov/hungerhealthconference.

OPINION: Back to school, back to fighting far-right attacks on education

By Ben Jealous

Just when you thought far-right attacks on public education couldn’t get any more absurd, we hear about something new.

For the first time in almost 15 years, Sarasota schools this fall are turning down hundreds of free dictionaries from the local Rotary Club. Why? Because the district is afraid of violating a radical new law that’s part of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’s crackdown on inclusive curricula. The district can’t buy or accept any new books until it hires someone to make sure they comply with the state’s draconian censorship regulations. So, the dictionaries sit on the shelf.

The idea that dictionaries might be hazardous to kids would be laughable if it weren’t so dangerous. This new school year is starting as more states are passing laws to make it easier to ban books. States are also passing laws to stop teachers from talking about topics like racism; according to Education Week, 42 states have now enacted limits on what teachers can say about racism or sexism in the classroom.

These same political forces want to make schools teach a whitewashed version of our history and our current reality in the name of “patriotic” education. They’re trying to take over school boards to impose their political ideology on teachers and students. That’s bad for our kids. And it’s bad for our country.

The freedom to learn is at risk.

This fall, it’s more important than ever to stand for the rights of teachers to teach, and students to learn, about the full spectrum of the American experience. That means lessons that include and celebrate diverse communities. It means history that doesn’t erase the experiences of Black people, brown people, LGBTQ people, women, immigrants, people with disabilities, and other communities that have been historically marginalized. The director of the nonprofit EveryLibrary warns that the current wave of book bans amounts to “the silencing of stories and the suppressing of information” that will make “the next generation less able to function in society.”

Children learn better

when they can see themselves in others and see their communities as part of the great American story. At the same time, science tells us that learning how to understand and empathize with people across differences is essential to children’s healthy development. Looking honestly at our past helps students develop critical thinking skills that are desperately needed when every smart phone is a gateway to disinformation.

Democracy, too, depends on informed citizens to function. It’s no coincidence that the crowd that stormed the Capitol in 2021, was acting on lies and misinformation.

Authoritarianism feasts on ignorance. Election deniers and censors of history are in the same camp, and should get nowhere near our schools.

We cannot begin to heal our divisions until we acknowledge and teach our whole history—good and bad. And we know that standing up for the freedom to learn will be a challenging task. This school year follows one in which reports of book bans and censorship reached record

levels according to the American Library Association. Far-right groups and politicians are offering rewards and setting up tip lines to “report” teachers who cover “divisive” topics. School board members are receiving death threats.

But we don’t shy away from these challenges when we act from a place of love. Loving our children means being advocates for them when political extremists want to limit what they can

learn. It means showing up to school board meetings and organizing to make ourselves heard. It means running for the school board.

It means rejecting one of the censors’ most harmful assumptions: that students are too fragile to hear the history our people have lived.

Millions of families are getting ready to send their kids back to school. Let’s also get ready to defend

the freedom to learn. Before the dictionary ends up on your district’s banned-books list.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book “Never Forget Our People Were Always Free” will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2310	\$30,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	10/19/22	4/17/23
2352	\$200,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 4.05	\$5	10/19/22	4/17/23
2382	Lucky Overall Odds are 1 in 4.07	\$5	10/19/22	4/17/23
2354	\$1,000,000 Jackpot Overall Odds are 1 in 3.44	\$20	10/19/22	4/17/23
2293	Cash Celebration! Overall Odds are 1 in 3.98	\$30	10/19/22	4/17/23

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2022 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Department of Education seeking loan forgiveness applications by Nov. 15

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Following President Joe Biden's announcement canceling student loan debt of up to \$20,000 for specific borrowers, the U.S. Department of Education said applications for relief under the plan should be submitted by Nov. 15.

Department officials said they've made the application process simple, and if borrowers fail to apply by Nov. 15, they'd still have until the end of 2023 to file for forgiveness.

However, by waiting until after Nov. 15, borrowers risk having to resume payments after the federal pause in repayment ends on Dec. 31.



Biden said it's vital for the more than 43 million eligible borrowers to take advantage of the loan forgiveness plan.

"All this means people can start to finally crawl out from under that mountain of debt to get on top of their rent and utilities, to finally think about buying a home or starting a family or starting a business," Biden

stated.

And while earlier reports revealed that about 13 states could still tax borrowers on the amount of debt forgiven, Mississippi and Virginia are the latest to come off that original list as officials said they would refrain from levying taxes on individuals who receive loan forgiveness.

How do you know if you're eligible for debt cancellation? Here are the criteria set forth by the Department of Education:

- Your annual income must have fallen below \$125,000 (for individuals) or \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households)

- If you received a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation.

- If you did not receive a Pell Grant in college and meet the income threshold, you would be eligible for up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation.

What does the "up to" in "up to \$20,000" or "up to

\$10,000" mean?

- Your relief is capped at the amount of your outstanding debt.

- For example: If you are eligible for \$20,000 in debt relief but have a balance of \$15,000 remaining, you will only receive \$15,000 in relief.

What do I need to do to receive loan forgiveness?

- Nearly 8 million borrowers may be eligible to receive relief automatically because relevant income data is already available to the U.S. Department of Education.

- If the U.S. Department of Education doesn't have your income data, the Administration will launch a simple application available by early October.

- Please sign up on the Department of Education subscription page if you want notification of when the application is open.

Once borrowers complete the application, they can expect relief within 4-6 weeks.

Everyone is encouraged to apply, but there are 8 million individuals for whom the Education Department has data and who will get the relief automatically.

Borrowers are advised to apply before Nov. 15 to receive relief before the payment pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022.

The Department of Education will continue to process applications as they are received, even after the pause expires on Dec. 31, 2022.

In epic Tweets, White House drags Republican opposition to student loan forgiveness

(NNPA) While in the White House, Former President Donald Trump enjoyed a well-earned reputation for using Twitter to attack and hit back at critics of his administration.

Since President Joe Biden took office, the use of the @WhiteHouse account on the social media platform was limited to touting specific policies and legislation for which the current administration sought to lift up.

Until now.

Whoever oversees the White House Twitter account has quickly learned the art of throwing shade and has done so by dragging certain Republicans who have bashed the administration's new student loan forgiveness plan.

In a series of tweets, the White House spotlighted lawmakers complaining about student loan forgiveness despite the government ultimately forgiving those members of Congress Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.

The White House account specifically homed in on GOP Reps. Marjorie



Taylor Greene off Georgia, Reps. Markwayne Mullin and Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania, and Vern Buchanan of Florida.

Each received large PPP loans during the pandemic.

Greene went on television to call Biden's student loan forgiveness unfair — to which the White House Twitter account sprang into action.

"Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene had \$183,504 in PPP loans forgiven," the White House tweeted along with a video of the congresswoman complaining about Biden's new student loan policy.

On Fox News, Buchanan insisted, "As a blue-collar

kid who worked his way through college, I know firsthand the sacrifices people make to receive an education. Biden's reckless, unilateral student loan giveaway is unfair to the 87 percent of Americans without student loan debt and those who played by the rules."

Tweeting the video, the White House rebuked Buchanan: "Congressman Vern Buchanan had over \$2.3 million in PPP loans forgiven."

Also, on Fox, Mullin claimed that "we do not need farmers and ranchers, small business owners, and teachers in Oklahoma paying the debts of Ivy League Lawyers and doctors across

the U.S."

To which the White House put him on blast:

"Congressman Markwayne Mullin had over \$1.4 million in PPP loans forgiven."

Responding to Hern's tweet that claimed the administration "forced [taxpayers] to pay for other people's college degrees," the White House replied: "Congressman Kevin Hern

had over \$1 million in PPP loans forgiven."

The White House also pointed out that Congressman Mike Kelly had \$987,237 in PPP loans forgiven, and Congressman Matt Gaetz had \$482,321 in PPP loans forgiven.

Social media erupted over the White House's diss of Republicans attacking

See TWEETS, Page 8

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The corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the employment of its personnel.

Carrollton lifts water restrictions after rainfall

Due to the recent rains and cooler temperatures, and with continued rain in the forecast, the City of Carrollton will move out of the Mandatory Stage 1 Drought Contingency Plan effective immediately. Residents should return to regular voluntary watering schedule. From April 1 - October 31 use of permanently installed automatic irrigation system is prohibited between the hours 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, visit cityofcarrollton.com/water.



Dan Carlson / Unsplash

The City of Carrollton had moved into Stage 1 of its Drought Contingency Plan effective Monday, August 8 due to high water consumption, minimal rainfall, and consistent

high temperatures over the past several weeks.

In Stage 1, property owners or their tenants are not to water their lawns during the peak water usage hours of 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. Watering during the heat of the day depletes the City's water supply and has a minimal effect on landscape because water is lost to evaporation from heat and wind. A mandatory landscape watering schedule will go into effect on Monday, August 8 including a two-days-per-week maximum for watering only from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m.

Carrollton Water Utilities offers free irrigation inspections for residential customers with in-ground irrigation systems. A prop-

erly maintained irrigation system can not only save water, but can also help prevent higher water bills when water is wasted from leaks or over watering.

Residential customers with in-ground irrigation systems can apply to receive an inspection through September 30 or until the funds are exhausted by visiting cityofcarrollton.com/irrigation. Residential customers who previously participated in 2020 or 2021 are ineligible for inspection in 2022.

MOSELY, from Page 2

challenges"—and received the Local Legend Award from the General Mills Foundation for the embodiment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision and legacy.

Currently, Mosley is a candidate for Executive MSc in Cities from the London School of Economics and previously attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Michigan's Executive Leadership Institute. He was an American Express Leadership Fellow in 2014 and earned a certificate in Human Centered Design at Stanford.

SLEEP, from Page 4

ness.

"And then there is nighttime noise, which a 2017 study at hundreds of sites across the United States found is higher in neighborhoods with a higher proportion of Black residents," they wrote.

The low prevalence of good sleepers "was expected given our busy, 24/7 lives," said study author Dr. Aboubakari Nambiema of INSERM (the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research), in Paris, France.

"The importance of sleep quality and quantity for heart health should be taught early in life when healthy behaviors become established. Minimizing night-time noise and stress at work can both help improve sleep."

According to a news release from the ESC, previous studies on sleep and heart disease have generally focused on one sleep habit, such as sleep duration or sleep apnea, where breathing stops and starts while sleeping.

Researchers in France used a healthy sleep score combining five sleep habits. They investigated the association between the baseline sleep score, changes over time in the sleep score, and incident cardiovascular disease.

Researchers recruited men and women aged 50

to 75 years and free of cardiovascular disease to a preventive medical center between 2008 and 2011.

The average age was 59.7 years, and 62% were men.

Participants underwent a physical examination and completed questionnaires on lifestyle, personal and family medical history, and medical conditions.

According to the news release, researchers used questionnaires to collect information on five sleep habits at baseline and two follow-up visits.

Each factor was given 1 point if optimal and 0 if not.

A healthy sleep score ranging from 0 to 5 was calculated, with 0 or 1 considered poor and 5 considered optimal.

Those with an optimal score reported sleeping 7 to 8 hours per night, never or rarely having insomnia, no frequent excessive daytime sleepiness, no sleep apnea, and an early chronotype (being a morning person).

The researchers checked for incident coronary heart disease and stroke every two years for a total of 10 years.

At baseline, 10% of participants had an optimal sleep score, and 8% had a poor score.

"During a median follow-up of eight years, 274 participants developed coronary heart disease or

stroke," according to the release.

The researchers analyzed the association between sleep scores and cardiovascular events after adjusting for age, sex, alcohol consumption, occupation, smoking, body mass index, physical activity, cholesterol level, diabetes, and family history of heart attack, stroke, or sudden cardiac death.

They found that the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke decreased by 22% for every 1-point rise in the sleep score at baseline.

More specifically, compared to those with a score of 0 or 1, participants with a score of 5 had a 75% lower risk of heart disease or stroke.

The researchers estimated the proportion of cardiovascular events that could be prevented with healthier sleep.

They found that if all participants had an optimal sleep score, 72% of new cases of coronary heart disease and stroke might be avoided each year.

Over two follow-ups, almost half of the participants (48%) changed their sleep score: in 25%, it decreased, whereas, in 23%, it improved.

When the researchers examined the association between the change in score and cardiovascular events, they found that a 1-point increment over time was

associated with a 7% reduction in coronary heart disease or stroke risk.

"Our study illustrates the potential for sleeping well to preserve heart health and suggests that improving

sleep is linked with lower risks of coronary heart disease and stroke," Dr. Nambiema stated in the release.

"We also found that the vast majority of people have sleep difficulties.

Given that cardiovascular disease is the top cause of death worldwide, greater awareness is needed on the importance of good sleep for maintaining a healthy heart."

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Celebrate Labor Day by remembering the reason for the holiday -- our great labor force

By Joseph P. Addabbo Jr
NY State Senator

As we celebrate this Labor Day with family and friends, we honor the extraordinary contributions of the labor movement and its dedicated women and men who ensure that the principles of fairness, justice and shared prosperity are paramount and achievable for all.

New York has always been a place powered by



John Salvino / Unsplash

its workers, and here in our borough we recognize that strong workers' rights are

good for families and therefore good for Queens.

This Labor Day I hope

you'll join me in remembering the hardworking men and women of American Labor for whom this day was founded.

The Central Labor Union of New York held the nation's first Labor Day Parade on September 5, 1882, when some 10,000 workers marched from City Hall to Union Square in NYC. They stood together in solidarity, taking time off from work to honor and celebrate the dignity of Labor. Now

140 years later, New York continues its solid history with the Labor Movement, building upon the Empire State's past for a brighter future.

As a member of the Senate Civil Service and Pensions Committee, protecting the rights and safety of workers is a top priority — and in the state we've taken big steps toward that end. We worked to raise the minimum wage. We enacted policies and signed leg-

islation to protect and improve working conditions, as well as implemented a successful paid family leave program.

We've done a lot, and there's a lot of work left to do. To New York's proud workers, thank you. Together we've built the greatest state in the nation, and together we will forge a future that provides fairness and opportunity for all.

PGA Tour Diversity Report reveals a \$40 million charitable impact in year 2 of 10-year \$100 million commitment

(NNPA) Earlier in 2022, representatives from Regions Bank, the PGA TOUR, historically Black Miles College, and others gathered at the Roebuck Hawkins Park and Recreation Center and municipal golf course in Birmingham, Alabama, for a panel discussion exploring diversity, representation, and access in golf.

The goal of that scantily publicized meeting was to get more Black youth onto the golf course.

Such efforts that receive little national attention might not necessarily be

unfavorable.

On the contrary, it might pose as routine, particularly for Tour officials who have long made diversity, equity, and inclusion a primary goal.

The Tour has partnered with organizations like the 100 Black Men of America in its ongoing efforts.

In 2020, the PGA TOUR established a five-year partnership to help 100 Black Men of America to enhance educational and economic opportunities for African American and minority residents and communities.

According to the Tour's latest diversity report, nearly 1,000 youth have benefited in two years from resources and programming that promote career and workforce readiness, financial literacy, community service, and golf.

Following Commissioner Jay Monahan's 2020 announcement committing a minimum of \$100 million over ten years to supporting nonprofits that advance equity in the communities in which the PGA Tour plays, the Tour joined the 3M Open as a presenting sponsor of the "Be The

Change" golf tournament in Minneapolis.

The 3M Open hosted a series of events during its 2022 tournament.

They welcomed 500

youth from the Minneapolis and St. Paul area to the tournament to enjoy golf, music, art, and discussions with local and national celebrities, sports figures,

golf enthusiasts, and corporate leaders.

Additionally, the tournament hosted a "Shark

See PGA, Page 13

TWEETS, from Page 6

ing loan forgiveness.

"Today is the day that Joe Biden officially became the second Black president of the United States," Twitter user @BlackKnight10K wrote. "Because only my people would do some [stuff] as gangster as this."

@BlackKnight10K wasn't done.

"Yo, the White House twitter account has temporarily reinstated slavery in the United States because they are owning every single Republican who had a PPP loan forgiven," the user wrote.

Added U.S. Military

Veteran Eric Garcia: "My house provides shelter. The White House provides shade."

The White House "Twitter account pulling a 'this you?'" Philip Lewis, a Huffington Post editor, tweeted.

Singer and actress Malinda Hale tweeted, "The @WhiteHouse putting Republicans on blast that had PPP loans forgiven is the kind of petty I want to see more of. Drag them. DRAG. THEM."

Rep. Eric Swalwell of California chimed in: "Dear GOP colleagues, before

you offer your hot takes on student debt relief, please make sure you or your colleagues didn't have one of your government loans forgiven. Otherwise, I will absolutely scorch you."

Biden also offered a hot take.

"To those Republicans in Congress who believe student debt shouldn't be forgiven: I will never apologize for helping America's middle class — especially not to the same folks who voted for a \$2 trillion tax cut for the wealthy and giant corporations that racked up the deficit," Biden wrote.



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'Ain't Too Proud' winning critical acclaim ahead of Fair Park run

Featuring the Grammy winning songs and Tony winning moves, AIN'T TOO PROUD is the electrifying new musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With their signature dance moves and unmistakable harmonies, they rose to the top of the

charts creating an amazing 42 Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one and being voted the greatest R&B group of all time by Billboard Magazine in 2017. The rest is history — how they met, the groundbreaking heights they hit, and how personal and political conflicts threatened to tear the group apart as the United States fell into civil unrest.

This thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal is set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including "My Girl,"



Courtesy photo

"Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," and so many more. After breaking house records at Berkeley Rep, The Kennedy Center, CTG's Ahmanson Theatre, and Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre, AIN'T TOO PROUD opened on Broadway in March 2019, where

it continued to play sold-out audiences and broke the Imperial Theatre's box office record.

Written by Kennedy Rep, The Kennedy Center, Prize-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau, directed by two-time Tony Award winner Des McAnuff, and featuring the Tony Award winning cho-

reography of Sergio Trujillo, this dazzling production now brings the untold story of the legendary quintet to audience sacross the country.

The creative team also includes Tony Award nominee Robert Brill (scenic design), Tony Award winner Paul Tazewell (costume design), Tony Award winner Howell Binkley (lighting design), Tony Award winner Steve Canyon Kennedy (sound design), Drama Desk Award winner Peter Nigrini (projection design), Drama Desk Award winner Charles G. LaPointe (hair and wig design),

Steve Rankin (fight direction), Brian Harlan Brooks (tour resident director), Edgar Godineaux (associate choreographer), John Miller (music coordinator), Molly Meg Legal (production supervisor), and Nicole Olson (production stage manager). Orchestrations are by Tony Award recipient Harold Wheeler, with music supervision and arrangements by Kenny Seymour. Casting is by Tara Rubin Casting, Merri Sugarman, C.S.A.

The national tour of AIN'T TOO PROUD is

See PROUD, Page 13

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Film Review: 'Beast' is a frightful screen experience

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) If the job of an act/thr/hor is to scare the day-lights out of you, *Beast* gets the job done.

The success of this film's eye-catching, ear-grabbing hocus pocus can be traced back to smart direction, near seamless visual/sound effects, tight editing and the supremely talented Idris Elba.

"Cujo as a lion" was the goal. Screenwriter Ryan Engle (*Rampage*) set the stage, created the characters, put the story in motion and pitted man against beast and beast against man in a fathomable setting. The movie's rogue lion may be bigger than life, but the set-up is so feasible, it hooks you.

Awe and bickering breakout on a plane hovering over South Africa's gorgeous terrain. Dr. Nate Samuels (Elba) and his teen daughters Meredith (Iyana Halley) and Norah (Leah Jeffries) are returning to the motherland where he met his now deceased ex-wife. The couple's breakup, her death from cancer and his time-consuming career are the bones of contention. Samuels: "I need you to forgive me." Upon arrival, the three are greeted by their old family friend Martin (Sharlto Copley, *Maleficent*), a wildlife biologist who manages an expansive game preserve.

The happy reunion and a tour of the environs are cut short when Martin discovers a village whose citizens have been savagely mauled to death by what appears to be a large lion. The formidable beast hunts humans not as prey, but for revenge. Poachers have killed off his pride of lions, and this ferocious cat wants payback. Danger looms when the four get stranded and radio communications fade. Are they doomed? Martin: "You don't understand, we're in his territory now."

Considering all the tourists who go to Yellowstone



Idris Elba in *Beast* (Courtesy photo)

and get mauled by bears or bison, the premise seems possible. However, a leap of faith is required to believe that this crazed lion is bigger and badder than normal. Its size and sheer brutality will require audiences to suspend disbelief for 93 very succinct minutes (editor Jay Rabinowitz, *8 Mile*). And this "Cujo" on steroids aspect takes the film from act/thr/dra to horror. Those who prefer realism, may be disenchanted. Genre fans who covet gore galore, may feel unfulfilled. But no one can deny the scariness on view.

The depth of emotions and relationship woes between Nate and his daughters feel viable enough to pull you firmly into their family strife. The way the film is written, Martin and Nate are not over-exaggerated superheroes, they're just courageous. As Mer and Norah squabble and make bonehead decisions, they exemplify teen angst and become endearing. These characters make you feel you're stranded with them, in the middle of nowhere and fearing for your life.

The deft visual effects team, led by Victor Almela, has created big cats that look the part. Production designer Jean-Vincent Puzos (*The Lost City of Z*) makes dwellings, truck interiors and abandoned buildings tangible sets. Costume designer Moira Anne Meyer gives the Samuel family

lived-in clothes. The savannahs, valleys and hills appear mesmerizing because veteran cinematographer Philippe Rousselot (*A River Runs Through It*) aptly captures the natural beauty of South Africa. And composer Stephen Price's score ramps up the drama and intensifies scary moments.

Icelandic director Baltasar Kormákur's (*Everest*) task is not easy. Help the actors project fear, coordinate vital visual, special and sound effects, balance sustained moments of dread with scary, credible bone-chilling bursts of violence. But, he gets the job done. You'll be so engrossed, jumpy and petrified you'll forget the fakery as tension builds and builds and builds...

The actors who play poachers court disdain. Copley as Martin seems earnest, while Halley and Jeffries display the right mix of naivete and courage as the attention-starved daughters. But honestly Elba is the kingpin. He helps create illusions of animal attacks that feel horrifying. As the beast bangs down the doors of his truck, eager to maim and kill, fear and emerging bravery is expressed on his face, in his emotions and actions. The guilt-ridden dad morphs from absentee father to protector, leader and braveheart and that transition is a marvel. The kind of magic only a skilled thespian can deliver.

Beast is a guilty pleasure rife with danger, terror and peaked emotions.

It will scare the hell out of you. But isn't that what you want?

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

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YVYLA expands programs, grants to the community

By Dianne Anderson
Precinct Reporter
Group News

If all goes as planned, millions of dollars in goods and services are coming down on the one hand of Terrance Stone, and efficiently out the other – out to the community, that is.

Recent grants are taking his outreach to new heights as he looks to hire more staff on the administrative side of programming to keep operations running smoothly.

“We’re sending e-blasts and social media posts to let people know we’re hiring and beefing up our administration. Given that amount of money, you have to have administrative staff to make sure all the paperwork and accounting systems are working properly,” said Stone, CEO and founder of Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy.

Among his grants, include \$135,000 from the IE Community Foundation, and \$100,000 from California Wellness Foundation. Other awards in the works for his programs are \$700,000 to provide mentoring throughout the San Bernardino area approved by Rep. Pete Aguilar, and \$1.2 million for the High Desert area approved for a Violence Intervention Plan grant from the state of California. A recent grant in collaboration with Loma Linda University is for \$400,000, along with another \$250,000 from the city of San Bernardino to tackle violence prevention.

Now the big task at hand is getting services out, and as importantly, meeting the community where they are.

“Young Visionaries has always had that standpoint of being in the community, working directly with the community and figuring out the needs of the com-

munity,” Stone said.

Since the pandemic, his nonprofit has hosted many pull-up and grab and go events, but now the goal is drawing more community engagement, which requires some ingenuity and flair. He envisions free movie nights with free resources, free food, and professionals to connect around mental health issues, along with COVID information and support.

For starters, he is focused on getting inside some of the highest needs communities where other nonprofits seem to avoid. He is connecting to partner up with management and owners in projects and low-income apartment complexes to offer an old school drive-in concept, except it’s free and bring a chair or blanket.

“We’re going to start doing movies in some of these hard-to-reach community high-risk areas,

and set up a giant 70-foot theater. We’ll have a free taco truck and give COVID information. Society has opened up a bit and we have to think outside the box,” he said.

Starting with Adelanto, Rialto and San Bernardino, events will include sponsors like IEHP and San Bernardino County Public Health. Two of his grants specifically address COVID relief and mental health.

Staff will also introduce themselves and answer community questions before the movie comes on. They will look to find out how adults and kids are coping with the COVID impact, and the deaths in its aftermath.

“All those stressors, we have to see the problems. What are some of the situations you’re going through? If we know the symptoms, we can figure out the antidote,” he said.

These days, they are constantly distributing resources, but he remembers when he first started out over 20 years ago.

“Back in the day, I was happy really just to do 50 backpacks,” he said. “Our

resources were short back down then. Now, we’re able to get more to the community.”

Workforce development is a high priority through

See YVYLA, Page 16

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Bank of America announces Small Business Down Payment Grant Program to drive women and minority business growth

(PRNewswire) -- Bank of America today announced the launch of a Small Business Down Payment Grant Program to drive business growth and help create generational wealth opportunities for minority and women business owners.

Launching in select markets with plans to expand in 2023, the program will extend credit to historically disadvantaged small business borrowers and provide support to make purchasing commercial real estate more affordable.

"Today, many business owners of diverse backgrounds lack the access to capital and technical assistance needed to qualify for commercial loans, which can help secure transferable assets that build equity across generations," said Jill Calabrese Bain, Small Business Integration and Transformation executive at Bank of America. "We're committed to addressing inequalities in business ownership by

providing entrepreneurs with the access to expertise, resources and capital necessary to achieve their financial goals."

The program will be available for eligible women and minority business owners applying for Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 and 7(a) commercial real estate loans. Commercial real estate properties must be based in Opportunity Zones in Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte, Dallas and Los Angeles, as defined by the U.S. Treasury. Eligible business owners can apply for down payment grants, covering up to 50% of required injection (capped at \$25,000).

Program eligibility requirements also necessitate 51% women or minority business ownership and owner occupancy, and a 5% minimum down payment from the applicant. Additionally, Bank of America small business specialists will team up with local small business-

centric non-profit partners to provide financial education services.

Bank of America is committed to helping small business owners in local communities across the country through numerous resources beyond the Small Business Down Payment Grant Program, including:

- **Secured Credit Offerings:** The previously announced Bank of America Secured Business Advantage Credit Line launched last week, offering a credit line from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to business owners. Earlier this year, Bank of America also debuted the Business Advantage Unlimited Cash Rewards Mastercard® Secured credit card as a new tool to help business owners establish, strengthen or rebuild their business credit – all while providing cardholders with the benefits that matter most to their business. The credit line ranges from \$1,000 to \$10,000, earning unlimited 1.5% cash back on all purchases.

- **Access to Capital Directory:** A comprehensive database designed in partnership with Seneca Women to help women and minority entrepreneurs learn more about navigating the capital landscape and identifying potential sources of funding, such as equity, debt and grant capital.

- **Start a Business Center:** A resource for consolidated content to help potential and new business owners learn how to start or grow their business. The digital experience offers resources such as business plan templates, partners for critical services and access to Bank of America Small Business specialists. Clients can utilize tips and considerations on topics such as writing a business plan, business legal structures, marketing strategy and business financing options.

- **Small Business Resources:** As part of Bank of America's ongoing commitment to support our small business clients and their financial priorities, we continue to broaden our digital educational content. The site features tools, insights, and expert advice to help entrepreneurs run and grow their businesses. The educational hub provides tips and solutions for all aspects of business ownership, covering topics including business strategy, customer relations, financing options, optimizing operations, managing cash flow and more.

To learn more about our small business resources, download the Bank of America app or visit bankofamerica.com/small-business.

In related news, Bank of America also announced

today it is offering a zero down payment, zero closing cost mortgage solution in select markets. The new Community Affordable Loan Solution™ aims to help eligible individuals and families obtain an affordable loan to purchase a home. It is now available to first-time homebuyers purchasing in select Black/African American and/or Hispanic-Latino neighborhoods in Charlotte, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Miami. This new program complements the existing \$15 billion Bank of America Community Homeownership Commitment™, which provides affordable mortgages, grants and educational opportunities with the goal of helping 60,000 low-to-moderate income individuals and families into affordable homes by 2025.

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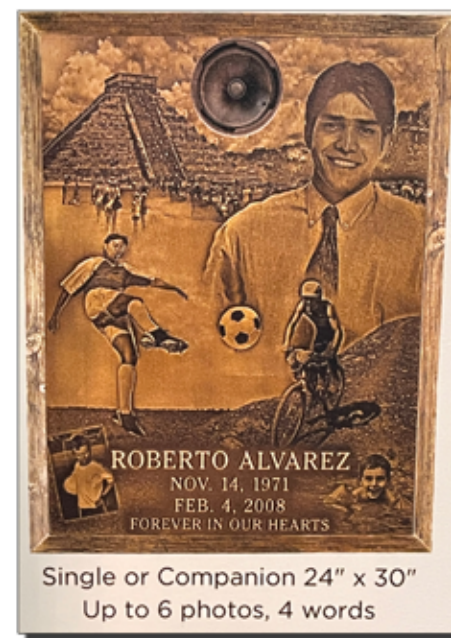
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PGA, from Page 8

Tank” style business competition presented by a local sponsor that featured three finalists selected from nearly 50 applicants that pitched their businesses to a panel of business leaders before a live audience.

Grants totaling \$100,000 were awarded to assist the finalists with mentoring, business development, and networking resources.

Golf also returned to Florida’s oldest HBCU, Edward Waters University.

THE PLAYERS Championship granted \$50,000 to Waters’ women’s golf program, which helped support the school’s launch of a Student-Athlete Golf Mentoring Program.

The program counts as a dual-purpose initiative that engages student-athletes to serve as mentors in unique professional development environments – including exposure to career opportunities within the Tour and THE PLAYERS network – and off-campus volunteer experiences with community-based programs.

Further, after being inspired by a global awakening toward race relations in the United States following the 2020 murder of George Floyd, the Tour announced a \$100 million commitment over ten years

to support racial equity and inclusion efforts.

In delivering the Tour’s diversity, equity, and inclusion report, Monahan proudly announced that they’d achieved more than \$40 million in charitable impact in just two years since the pledge.

“On the road toward that aggressive goal, we’ve spent the necessary time listening to understand,” Monahan stated.

“There isn’t a single solution or one-size-fits-all approach to addressing social inequities and injustices.

“Experiences differ. Issues are complex. And we must invest more than dollars in becoming a true and effective resource.”

Monahan noted that he’s grateful that the Tour is “uniquely structured in sports to bring our tournaments and corporate partners together to help organizations drive vital equity efforts.”

The diversity, equity, and inclusion report include a breakdown of the Tour’s priorities. The charitable impact for health and human services counted for \$12.7 million, while \$8.9 million have gone toward youth development.

Additionally, racial equity and social justice reform

reaped approximately \$7.5 million, and community economic growth and empowerment realized a \$5.5 million impact because of the effort of the Tour and its partners.

In January, the PGA TOUR received a score of 95/100 on the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index, becoming the first major sports organization ever included.

Since its inception, the PGA Tour reportedly has generated more than \$3

billion in charitable impact. Monahan said the investments directly result from the support of partners, players, sponsors, fans, volunteers, and communities.

In 2014, the PGA Tour adopted a strategic plan, “formalizing a long-held commitment to diversity efforts that strengthen its workforce, operators, and industry.”

Monahan then “convened a task force of leaders across the organization to assess its progress and

identify specific actions, initiatives, and opportunities that reflect its core values,” PGA Tour officials stated.

The PGA Tour and Advocates Pro Golf Association Tour (APGA) launched the APGA Collegiate Ranking in 2021, providing exemptions for five African American golfers to play on the APGA Tour and the pre-qualifying stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament.

The Tour has provided \$500,000 to HBCUs and

its affiliation with the APGA Collegiate Ranking.

“As former Commissioner Deane Beman once stated, the PGA TOUR is ‘more than just a sports league; we are a public trust,’” Monahan said.

“With that as our North Star, our success as an organization is through a long-held commitment to showcasing the world’s best players to fans around the world, always with an impact on local lives, communities, and economies.”



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NAN Chapter President

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

The President:

- a. Presides at meetings and acts as Chairman/Chairwoman of the Executive Committee.
- b. Appoints all committees not directly elected by the Chapter.
- c. Between meetings of the Executive Committee and subject to the approval thereof, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Chapter.
- d. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- e. Shall work with other members of the Executive Committee to develop a program agenda for a defined fiscal year.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.

PROUD, from Page 9

produced by Ira Pittelman and Tom Hulce, in association with Stephen Gabriel, executive producer. General management and production management by Work Light Productions.

For more information, visit www.AintTooProudMusical.com.

In 2022, Dallas Summer Musicals changed its name to Broadway Dallas. Since 1941, the non-profit Broadway Dallas has presented the Best of Broadway to North Texas audiences. Located in the historic Music Hall at Fair Park, Broadway Dallas promotes ex-

cellence in live musical theatre with year-round performances for diverse audiences of all ages, impacting the lives of children and families through education and community outreach programs, while enriching the cultural landscape of North Texas and the Southwest Region. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Broadway Dallas relies on a variety of funding sources to offer affordable ticket prices, preserve the beautiful historic theatre, educate young audiences and develop impactful community programs.

The harmonious melodies of hummingbirds

By James L. Snyder

A few months ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage bought a harp and began teaching herself how to play it. She can play the piano, organ, flute, and sometimes me. Now she has graduated to the harp. So I guess she's preparing for heaven, where she'll play a heavenly harp.

She was quite quick in learning how to play and I could hear her play hymns in the afternoon. I knew every hymn she played, or most of them, and quietly sang along with her. But not loud enough for her to hear.

I have no idea how to play a harp, and believe me, I will not try. Although I love music, music doesn't seem to love me.

I could sit on the porch, listen to her play and recognize the hymn she was playing. I must confess there have been a few times when I got the hymn wrong, but nobody else needs to know that.

I've always loved hymns

because they really encourage my soul to trust the Lord.

The other day something happened as I was sitting out on the porch. When I went out The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wasn't up yet, so I took a few moments to meditate and read my Bible.

Then I heard this strange humming sound. I couldn't quite identify which hymn she was playing. I assumed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was at her harp playing that morning hymn. I wanted to sing along quietly, but I did not recognize the hymn.

Listening very intently, I still could not make out the melody she was playing on her harp. I have heard her play dozens of hymns, but I couldn't recognize the one she was playing now.

Being such a hymn lover as myself, I was getting a little irritated. I have at least a dozen hymnals in my library, and have gone through them meticulously over the years. If there's anything I know, I know

my hymns.

Searching my mind, I could not come up with the name of any hymn I heard being played this morning. It could be that in my old age, I forget things. Am I beginning that slippery slope downward with my memory?

Concentrating as best I could, I was trying to understand the music. It seemed to be the same note over and over all the way through. Certainly, my wife is not starting to play contemporary music, is she?

I couldn't even understand the note that was being played, and I started feeling a little bit sorry for myself.

The thing that troubled me at the time was, how do I deal with this with my wife. How do I confess to her that I'm going wacky? Well, wackier than I have been.

I would go over in my mind all the hymns I could think of at the time. Not one of them came close to the music I was hearing.

Maybe my memory was getting a little creaky, or something else was happening.

A thought then danced in my mind at the time. Maybe The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is doing this to try to play me. Perhaps she knows I listen to her playing the harp and was seeing how she could mess with me. I wouldn't put anything past her along that line.

As I contemplated on this, I saw The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage at the glass door looking out with a cup of coffee.

I was still hearing the harp being played. What in the world is going on? Have I lost my mind? How can I hear the harp being played when she is standing right in front of me?

She opened the door and asked me how my morning was going. I looked at her and said, "How can you be standing here and playing your harp simultaneously?"

Looking at me quizzically, she said, "What are

you talking about?"

For a moment, I thought maybe she had recorded some harp music just to fool me.

"You know exactly what I mean," I said. "I hear you playing the harp, but you're standing right here in front of me. How do you explain that?"

Staring at me for a moment, she broke out in hysterical laughter. "You silly boy. I'm not playing the harp. What you are hearing are the hummingbirds behind you."

Then she laughed a lot more.

I cautiously looked behind me and there at the hummingbird feeder were three hummingbirds doing their humming thing. It sounded like music to me.

It finally came together for me. Being in such a complex situation is most embarrassing, and I didn't quite know how to escape it.

"Maybe," I said, looking at her, "you could teach these hummingbirds the words of the song so they

wouldn't have to hum all the time."

"Or, maybe," she countered, "you could learn the difference between a harp and a hummingbird."

I threw a sarcastic smile at her because I had nothing else to say, which was not the first time this happened.

Wallowing in my grief, I happen to think of what King Solomon wrote. Proverbs 20:12, "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them."

According to God's word, the ear and the eye work together. If I only rely upon my ear, I probably am not hearing the right thing.

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 jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

GRINER, from Page 2

stated.

During her testimony, Griner told the court that she's still unsure how cannabis oil ended up in her luggage.

She said a doctor recommended cannabis oil for her injuries on the basketball court.

"I still don't understand to this day how they ended up in my bags," Griner said, adding that she was aware of the Russian law outlawing cannabis oil and that she had not intended to break it.

"I didn't have any intent to use or keep in my possession any substance that is prohibited in Russia," Griner said.

Detained in February, Griner said she had already been in Russia for

several months before her arrest.

"My career is my whole life," she reflected as she faces up to 10 years in a Russian prison.

"I dedicated everything. Time, my body, time away from my family. I spent six months out of the year away from everybody, and with a huge time difference."

U.S. officials are awaiting word from the Russian government on whether they will accept the swap.

"It takes two to tango. So, we start all negotiations to bring home Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained with a bad actor on the other side," an unnamed official told CNN.

"We start all of these

with somebody who has taken a human being American and treated them as a bargaining chip. So, in some ways, it's not surprising, even if it's disheartening, when those same actors don't necessarily respond directly to our offers, don't engage constructively in negotiations."

The CNN report noted that Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Wednesday that the United States presented a "substantial proposal" to Moscow "weeks ago" for Whelan and Griner, who are classified as wrongfully detained.

The top U.S. diplomat said he intended to discuss the matter on an expected call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov this week.

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Spiritual Warfare



Sister Tarpley
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"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

- Ephesians 6:12

Have you ever heard someone say, "I will never do business with that man that professes to be a Christian" again?

I have heard this comment about Christian believers. This comment represents the battle that rages against us by the enemy of our soul to destroy the witness and effectiveness of Christian believers.

As believers, we must realize that we are in a war - a war for the souls of men, a war to discredit all that a believer stands for, a war that is designed to divide Christian against Christian.

Satan's ploy in the life of believers is to do several things to make them "Ineffective" as a skilled warrior of God.



First, he wants to discredit them by allowing them to fail other people in their community or business services. This often shows up in failing to perform what they committed to do or performing in an unsatisfactory way.

Sometimes, this is a result of a downright failure of the believer to perform with excellence. In other cases, it may be a misunderstanding in the midst of the service that causes strife and division instigated by the enemy.

The result in both cases is the same: a division among Christians and even non-Christians, further resulting in a "damaged witness" for Christ.

The apostle Peter admonishes us to, *"They may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. . ."*

- 1 Peter 2:12.

There are times when each of us is thrust into situations out of our control. Defeating Satan in these battles requires extra communication with those with whom we are dealing.

If the motive of your heart is to do right, then God will give you favor in order to work through these difficult spots. God will show you where the enemy is seeking to make you ineffective.

As stated, we are waging a spiritual war that is not

flesh and blood. We must fight this war with spiritual weapons applied to practical daily living.

Being the Real Thing. *"For the froward (disobedient) is abomination to the Lord: but His secret is with the righteous."*

- Proverbs 3:32.

Coca-Cola had an advertising slogan that said, "It's the real thing." People are desperately looking everywhere for the real thing.

As we live in a day when technology can make us believe something that isn't, actually is. Animation in movies today is so advanced they can make you believe actors are achieving the most extraordinary feats.

It is the ultimate deception. I believe that there is one thing that caused Jesus to get angry about more than anything else. It is when religious people do things inconsistent with what they are taught.

Hypocrisy is a form of deception designed to make you believe some-

thing isn't reality. Being devious is a form of deceit.

God said that you can't violate His ways through deceit and hypocrisy and expect to have an intimate relationship with Him.

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

- Matthew 15:7-9.

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of

greed and self-indulgence.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter that the outside of them may be clean also.

Ask God to make you a true follower of Jesus who is genuine, in all that you say and do. So that your intimacy with Him will grow and others will see that you are the real thing, with the real Word of God.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in September 2016.)

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NDG Book Review: 'The Mamas' is both humorous and thought provoking

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Sometimes, you just don't feel like you belong.

Everybody knows more than you do, and your inexperience shows. Or you're the wrong gender, the wrong age, the wrong political affiliation to fit in properly. And then there are the times when you wonder if the color of your skin keeps you from belonging. As in the new book "The Mamas" by Helena Andrews-Dyer, join the club.

Back a decade or so ago, Helena Andrews-Dyer and her husband, Rob, were content with the status quo. They lived in a cute Wash-



Penguin Random House

ington D.C. condo. They were able to travel, dine out, stay up late, and do pretty much whatever they wished – until the deluge began.

Within seven months,

seven of Andrews-Dyer's friends had announced pregnancies and the year 2013 was going to be nothing but baby bumps and baby showers. And no, no, no, she wasn't ready for that! Nope, she was "the loud and proud only child of a loud and proud lesbian single mother." She didn't need a baby.

And when a baby arrived anyhow, she didn't need a mother's group to get by.

At least that's what she told herself.

But she did need the community, advice, and the camaraderie they offered. At issue was that most of the women in her neighbor-

hood – and in the mother's group – were white. Would she – could she – fit in?

With her firstborn strapped to her chest, Andrews-Dyer went to her first meet-up and it was good. Eager to join everything, she immediately signed up for multiple mom-and-baby classes when she noticed that the group was a lot like high school, complete with an activist, a hippie-mom, and a mean girl. But the question remained: did Andrews-Dyer, a Black mother with a Black daughter really, truly fit in with a mostly-white moms group?

A badly-timed vacation and a whole-family diag-

nosis of Covid-19 told the truth...

If ever there was a time for a book like "The Mamas," now is it.

Issues of racism seem to be on everyone's mind today, and this whole book is one gigantic look at the subject on all its sides – but there's also an equally-gigantic twist here. Author Helena Andrews-Dyer is "Black with a capital B," she's gonna tell you about it, and she'll make you laugh. She's also going to tell you when she might have been just a little wrong.

And (at the risk of spoiling), she was wrong about her first impressions.

But mothers and mothering while Black aren't the only things "The Mamas" tackles. Andrews-Dyer writes about "the talk" Black boys get, and how heartbreaking it is to even think about having to have it. She writes about how friendship can bowl you over when you least expect it, and she muses about the difficulty of parenting one's parent.

There's a lot of funny inside "The Mamas," but a lot is left to think about here, too. If you're a mother (to be) or if you've been studying or living with racism, this book belongs on your shelf.

YVYLA, from Page 11

their violence prevention program, which is on track to get more people off the street and into skills and jobs. Through the years, that two-pronged approach addresses the potential

violence component by getting the community trained.

Stone said the supply chain aspect of starter jobs is the low-hanging fruit.

"They don't have to

stay there, but they can at least have a job," he said. "They'll have their certification or license in driving forklift. Also, we're looking for community intervention workers, community health workers, mentors, and mental health

specialists."

When Stone first started, he recalls only being able to give a little bit here or there to the community. The program has evolved and events are big. Through COVID, they hosted over 60 events,

reaching about 100,000 in the community in the past two years with information and free resources.

He expects that number to grow, but he feels that probably one of the best parts of the outreach to the community is that they are

not dreading the experience. They get what they need in a dignified way, and everyone is on equal ground.

For more information on jobs and programs, call (909) 723-1695 or email info@yvyla-ie.org.

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