



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Let your 2022 vote be a vote for humanity

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Contributing Writer

What is that fuel that feeds American politicians' benevolence—that emotional thrust that causes politicians to be so caring to some yet so cruel to others?

That is the question voters should weigh as political candidates are kissing babies and making campaign promises. Voters must judge whether their candidate pursues the greater good for humanity or if their candidate is merely a charlatan seeking to be reelected.

The cause of humanity should transcend which side of the political aisle one finds him/herself when it comes to human issues that stare America squarely in the face. After all, the value of human life is why the issues centered around a woman's right to an abortion shall never die.

We have witnessed our humanitarian virtue in action in the past, so America's far-reaching goodness is not an anomaly. One needs to only look at what American politicians working in concert have done for the besieged nation of Ukraine.

Only six months ago, with the hint of Russian/Ukrainian war looming, Republicans and Democrats—standing together—did not



The upcoming elections carry with them ramifications for a wide range of issues within the U.S., as well as the nation's posture toward some very significant international issues (Photo: Colin Lloyd / Unsplash)

hesitate to comment on \$13 billion in assistance. American politicians not only provided monetary support but also more tangible resources in the form of weapons and military training.

To aid the Ukrainian fight against "Russian aggression," America supplied that nation with major weapons such as:

- High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and ammunition. ...
- 1,500 Tube-Launched, Optically-Tracked, Wire-Guided (TOW) missiles. ...
- 155mm Howitzers. ...
- 105mm Howitzers. ...

- 120mm mortar systems. ...
- National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS); ...
- Phoenix Ghost Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems
- And, some other modernized weaponry it would take a general to explain.

Just in case those big guns were not enough, in late August the U.S. announced that it would supply an additional nearly \$3 billion in assistance to Ukraine—and politicians proudly did so because we "value all human life."

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### People In The News ...



Mary Ann Crandell



Lori Williams

NDG Quote of the Week: "Racism is man's gravest threat to man – the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason."  
—Abraham Joshua Heschel



## Mary Ann Crandell

(BUSINESS WIRE) Crandells Enterprises Inc. today announced that their CEO, Mary Ann Crandell will receive the title of the 2022 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, selected by the Office of the President of the United States at the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) 2022 African and Caribbean International Leadership Conference and Presidential Awards Gala.

The event is held in collaboration with the United States 51st Annual Legisla-



tive Conferences (ALC) of the CBC, on September 29, 2022 at the National Press Club and Walter E. Convention Center in Washington D.C. Honorees like Mary Ann Crandell are

awarded under the theme "United in Faith for Social Change," as the vision of the National Press Club is to honor community and faith-based leaders.

These renowned leaders are ultimately awarded for their contributions in religious liberty, civil rights, humanitarian concerns, social justice, economic development or mission-based partnerships.

"As a businesswoman, entrepreneur, spiritual leader, and mother, I've committed a majority of my life to serving my friends and community,"

Mary Ann Crandell shared. "To be recognized for embracing my passion is truly an honor and tremendous blessing that I will cherish and share with those who have helped me along the way."

CEO of Crandells Enterprises, Mary Ann ensures her healthcare-based company provides adult patients who suffer from mental illness, developmental disabilities and chemical dependence, the resources, medical treatment and housing they need. The services offered range from adult family

care to home psychiatric assistance and mental health services.

"Through our professional and highly trained staff, we seek to enhance and support the quality of life of individuals who require guidance and assistance in completing activities of daily living," she writes of the company online.

Beyond her professional career, Mary Ann has spent the last twenty years as the Director of the Total Living Christian Counseling Center. Providing counseling on dynamic and

complex topics like family violence, fear, drug and alcohol addictions as well as stress management, marriage counseling more, she has made a big impact for many in their personal and professional growth.

Mary Ann is chosen by the Caribbean African Faith-Based Leadership Conference (CAFBLC) as an honoree this year because of the empathy and empowerment she provides her community with, serving as a model for advocacy, humanity and selflessness for a greater cause.

## Lori Williams

(Black PR Wire) EAST GREENSBORO, N.C. – Acclaimed international musician Lori Williams will bring her soulful jazz sounds to the campus of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University as its 2022-2023 Jazz Artist-in-Residence.

Williams, a performing artist, music educator, songwriter, producer and musical theater actress, will work with N.C. A&T's music and performing arts students on song writing and vocal techniques. Her residency will begin in October and will feature a series of clinics, master classes and



workshops at different times throughout the academic year, engaging with students in the University Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and music and theater programs. The residency will also include jazz concerts with students and faculty jazz artists.

"We are excited to have Ms. Williams as our Jazz Artist-in-Residence for this academic year," said Frances Ward Johnson, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. "This program gives our students an opportunity to interact with a highly talented international artist who embodies the desire to educate and train students who are passionate about performing arts and want to pursue careers in that arena."

Williams comes to A&T as part of the university's inaugural Artist-in-Residence program, which is designed to provide opportunities for an artist to further explore

his or her practice, mentor students and continue developing his or her artistic talents. The artist is selected based upon outstanding professional credentials, creative accomplishments and national recognition in one of the fields of theater, visual arts, music or arts in general.

Williams will enlighten A&T students with knowl-

edge from her international, professional and collaborative experiences. As a veteran educator in the Washington, D.C., Public Schools System and private vocal coach, Williams has received many honors including Outstanding Music Teacher, the 2007 Superintendent's Arts Teacher of the Year, and the 2010 Vincent E. Reed Teacher of the

Year. She was nominated for a 2014 Helen Hayes Award as an Outstanding Lead Actress in a Resident Musical for her role as Ella Fitzgerald. Williams has received letters of recognition for her vocal performances from President Biden, former Speaker of the House John Boehner, and Maryland State Sen. C. Anthony Muse.

## MCSC Victor Chiquito



Master Chief Culinary Specialist Victor Chiquito, left, a native of Dallas, and Electronics Technician 3rd Class Javier Varela, a native of Long Beach, California, both assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), cut bread bowls in the bake shop in preparation for lunch. Boxer is a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Bradley Kaminski)



## 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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# A new kind of hope lives here

By Amanda Mahan  
Operation New Hope  
Chief Communications Officer

Research has found that 70 million people in the United States have criminal records. Of that number, 63 percent are no longer in jail, on probation, or on parole, yet roughly 27 percent of these ex-offenders remain unemployed due to their criminal records. This disproportionate statistic to the overall unemployment rate confirms the realization that the challenge of finding work for the formally incarcerated can be a daunting task.

Evidence indicates that ex-offenders have substantially lower probabilities of being hired than members of other disadvantaged groups – such as welfare recipients, high school dropouts, unemployed people, and those with “spotty” work histories – who do not have a criminal record. Dionne Barnes-Proby, a researcher at the non-profit, non-partisan think tank the RAND Corporation, has studied how to improve employment outcomes for ex-offenders.

“People transitioning from incarceration to employment face many challenges,” says Barnes-Proby, “from limited education, skills, and work history to stigma and employers’ fears about criminal behavior and reincarceration.”

Barnes-Proby led a study of the Sacramento Probation Department employment program Career Training Partnership (CTP), which offers career and life skills training and a comprehensive support team, to analyze how these combined elements can positively affect program

participants and identify remaining challenges.

RAND’s research of the CTP program suggests that combining education, vocational training, and job placement with staffing agencies or reentry programs, local employers, and union relationship

communities that experience higher rates of crime, unemployment, and recidivism.

ONH supports life and job skills training for people with a history of involvement with the criminal justice system and places them in em-

we offer family reunification services, a galaxy of job training and employer partnerships, mental and emotional therapy, and other wraparound services. As it turned out, working with his probation officer was a tremendous benefit.

For McCoy, it was important that ONH’s program qualified him to make a sustainable living wage while paying restitution and court costs, making the decision not to consider illegal sources of income that much easier. RAND’s study revealed that securing employment at a livable wage is one of the most significant challenges facing ex-offenders. Career training can be a way to obtain a hand-up, not a handout.

Josh Martino, a partner and board member at ONH, says he’s hired several ex-offenders in his businesses. He realized that hiring employees through ONH’s “Ready4Work” program cut down on time, hiring costs, and his concerns as an employer. He appreciated that employment candidates had been thoroughly vetted and came with a qualified endorsement.

To make training programs more successful, RAND suggests removing obstacles to participation, for example, by providing transportation or helping ex-offenders address driver’s license issues. Providing a subsidy or stipend may also help participants offset costs and increase their chances of completing the program.

ONH understands the importance of providing support to the ex-offenders and continues to work every day to build a stronger community by creating opportunities to realize second chances and reduce recidivism.



***Evidence indicates that ex-offenders have substantially lower probabilities of being hired than members of other disadvantaged groups – such as welfare recipients, high school dropouts, unemployed people, and those with “spotty” work histories – who do not have a criminal record.***

(Photo via NNPA)

building can yield positive results.

At Operation New Hope (ONH), we understand that people returning from incarceration face a multitude of barriers, with employment, transportation, and housing being three of the most reported obstacles. Without these necessities, people often feel less connected to their environments, creating

employment that offers a sustainable quality of life. People like Kendall McCoy, a convicted felon, can attest to the effectiveness of the nonprofit’s mission. For months, McCoy had tried unsuccessfully to navigate a wary job market with limited skills. At the not-so-subtle urging of his probation officer, he reluctantly showed up at the facilities of ONH. He found

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# Hear Her Campaign addresses health inequities among pregnant and postpartum people

By Wanda Barfield, MD, MPH  
Director of the Division of  
Reproductive Health, CDC

Valencia, one of the women featured in the campaign, talked about her experience with a pregnancy-related complication. During her first pregnancy, Valencia struggled with headaches and dizziness. When she reported worsening symptoms, she felt like no one took her seriously. I didn't know who to talk to and wasn't sure how to speak up for myself," she recalled. It was her primary care provider who finally helped her get the care she needed.

Valencia is among the many people who face serious health complications during and after pregnancy. CDC launched Hear Her to raise awareness of the



Wanda Barfield, MD, MPH, Director of the Division of Reproductive Health, CDC (Photo via NNPA)

potentially life-threatening warning signs during and in the year after pregnancy.

Too many people die from pregnancy-related complications each year. Tragically, four in five of these deaths could be pre-

vented. There are considerable racial disparities when it comes to pregnancy-related deaths. Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women are two to three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related

causes than white women.

A number of factors contribute to the maternal mortality rate among Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women. Structural racism and implicit bias can play a role in the disparity. For example, delayed prenatal care initiation is associated with personal experiences of bias and racism. Protective factors also do not seem to convey the same risk reduction for some minority populations. For example, we see persistent disparities in maternal mortality, regardless of educational attainment. In addition, access to quality care can be an issue. For example, it has been found that hospitals that disproportionately cared for Black women at delivery had increased poor outcomes for both Black

and white women in those hospitals.

To address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality, CDC supports the work of Maternal Mortality Review Committees around the country to get quality data about the circumstances surrounding a pregnancy-related death, including the documentation of bias, discrimination, and racism. These data are used by committees to make recommendations to prevent future pregnancy-related deaths and are also used by CDC to better understand maternal mortality across the nation.

A better understanding of pregnancy-related deaths can lead to identifying the initiatives that will have the most impact. Standardized quality care can ensure the right care in the right places

at the right time for women. And high-quality care doesn't end at delivery. It should extend into the postpartum period up to a year after delivery, when about a third of pregnancy-related deaths occur.

Many pregnant and postpartum people may feel ignored or dismissed when sharing their concerns, which may make them hesitant to ask questions or speak up. Not fully listening may cause healthcare providers to miss warning signs that require urgent care. Hear Her encourages partners, friends, family, and healthcare professionals to really listen when a person says something doesn't feel right. Acting quickly could save their life.

For more information, visit [cdc.gov/HearHer](https://cdc.gov/HearHer).

## Federal Emergency Management Agency Kicks Off Preparedness Month with campaign targeting African American communities

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has again teamed with the Ad Council for a public service announcement to kick off National Preparedness Month.

With its new "Ready Campaign," FEMA specifically targets African American communities with messages that encourages advanced preparedness for storms and all-natural disasters.

"Preparing for disaster is not just about protecting people and property, it's about safeguarding the lives we've built and the legacy we will leave to our children and the generations to come," FEMA Deputy Administrator Erik Hooks told the NNPA's Let It Be Known live morning news show.

"With this campaign, FEMA reaffirms our commitment to equity and says loud and clear that every community deserves to be protected from hazards."

Hooks and others kicked off the campaign at Howard University, speaking with students in an ongoing series highlighting the urgency of preparedness.

"Black communities are on the frontlines of climate change and related extreme weather events," Hooks stated.

He referenced a report from the Environmental Protection Agency which revealed that socially vulnerable populations, including Black and African American communities, may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change.

Specifically, with global warming, Black and African American individuals have a 10% higher risk of living in areas with the highest projected inland flooding damages compared to reference populations, the report concluded.

"Black and African American communities often suffer disproportionate impacts from disasters. This is something that we must work to change and that starts with how we prepare," said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell.

"Our 2022 Ready campaign speaks directly to the communities who need our help the most and who deserve equitable access to preparedness resources that protect people and property," Criswell remarked.

"By continuing to ad-

vance accessibility and cultural competency in our preparedness messaging,

we can make sure that everyone is ready when disaster strikes."

According to a news re-

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# Loved ones hope public can help locate Black and missing individuals

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Daniel Robinson drove his 2017 Jeep Renegade west into the desert terrain on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, and no one has seen the Buckeye, Arizona, man since.

Investigators discovered the car, described as blue-grey, about four miles from a worksite in a remote part of the desert where Robinson, 25, worked as a field geologist overseeing sites in the area.

At 5'8 inches tall, Robinson is African American, weighs 150 pounds, and has short black hair. He has brown eyes.



Photo via NNPA

Police ask anyone with information to contact (623) 349-6400 or the Black and Missing Foun-

dation at (877) 97-BAMFI. On September 21, 2022, Cayla Combs went missing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

She was last seen that morning near her residence

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## Reporting Conspiracy Threats: A step toward preventing future attacks

By Lisa Fitch  
Editor-in-Chief  
Our Weekly News  
Los Angeles

During May's commencement address at Tennessee State University, Vice President Kamala Harris told the HBCU graduates that in many ways, they were entering an increasingly unsettled world, but they could do something positive about that.

"I look at this unsettled world, and yes I see the challenges, but I am here to tell you, I also see the opportunities," Harris said. "The opportunities for your leadership. The future of our country and our world will be shaped by you."

The Vice President again expressed her concern during a recent webinar with members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

"I believe we are experiencing an epidemic of hate. I do believe that when we look at the boldness, the unapologetic boldness of people to speak with such hate... we have to take no-



*It's important that we shine a light on to these frightening ideologies that fuel domestic terrorism, so we can stop the spread of violent hate. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

tice of it." Harris told the dozens of Black press reporters and publishers.

"Let's call it what it is. Let's speak about it," she said, noting that a number of elected officials across the country have tried to deny the existence of racist hate groups. "Leaders have to speak truth and speak in a spirit to unify communities, knowing we have much more in common."

While Harris spoke, the U.S. House of Representatives' Select Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6 Attack on the United States Capitol continued to present findings stemming from

its 11-month probe.

The violent insurrection, involving a significant number of far-right extremist groups, left five people dead and opened the nation's eyes to the magnitude of White nationalist threats.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has charged Oath Keeper founder Stewart Rhodes and 10 other Oath Keepers with seditious conspiracy. The DOJ also charged Proud Boys leader Henry "Enrique" Tarrio and four of his lieutenants with sedition.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center

(SPLC), the Trump administration ignored warnings by the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security about the escalating threat of violent White supremacist groups such as the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys.

The SPLC believes that Trump's lack of action has increased the danger and threat of violence from far-right extremist groups and individuals.

This year, the center's March report, "The Year in Hate & Extremism 2021," revealed that hate and anti-government extremism have gone mainstream, infecting the national and political dialogue. The report identified 733 hate and 488 anti-government groups actively operating across the nation.

"Hate and extremism in America has not diminished," the report states. "Instead, it has coalesced into a broader movement that is both threatening our democracy at the community level and embracing violence as a means to achieve White supremacist goals."

Faith groups across the country marked the seventh anniversary of the racially-motivated massacre at Charleston, S.C.'s Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The commemorative Bible study event began June 17, the day nine parishioners lost their lives in an act of hate and violence. It's theme, "What Kind of Soil Are We?" was taken from the Bible passage studied on that tragic night.

Mark 4:1-20 is commonly known as the Parable of the Sower, and alternatively as the Parable of the Soils. Christians across the nation used the commemorative event to analyze the parable and discuss, "What kind of soil are we? What kind of soil is God calling us to become?"

"Seven years after the domestic terrorist attack at Mother Emanuel AME Church and as the nation mourns the innocent lives lost in recent attacks in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, we find ourselves in the same quagmire," said House Majority Whip

James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.).

"This national Bible study is much needed and allows the nation to turn the mirror on itself," he added. "What kind of soil are we if we cannot or will not protect the lives of students in school and parishioners in their places of worship? We must not allow the threads that hold the fabric of this great country together to become unraveled by appalling silence."

### Racist conspiracy theories often hide in plain sight

Derrick Johnson, NAACP president & CEO, had some words after the May mass shooting in Buffalo:

"As we join the millions across America mourning the lives and unnecessary deaths of the 10 people murdered at Tops Market on Saturday, we stand before you with a clear message: White supremacy and democracy cannot coexist. The domestic terrorism and violence perpetuated by those espousing White supremacist ideologies at-

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# CBO's 'highly uncertain' estimates fail to damper Biden, Democrats enthusiasm over student debt cancelation

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the cost of outstanding student loans will increase by \$20 billion because an action suspended payments, interest accrual, and involuntary collections from September 2022 to December 2022.

The nonpartisan agency



Image via NNPA

said after accounting for those suspensions, it estimates that the cost of student loans would increase

by about an additional \$400 billion in present value because of President Joe Biden's action to cancel up

to \$20,000 in debt.

The CBO noted that the estimates were "highly uncertain" and relied on certain assumptions.

The White House said it would release its own estimates in the coming weeks.

The Biden-Harris Administration expects over 40 million borrowers to be eligible for its student debt relief plan, and nearly 20 million borrowers could

see their remaining balance discharged.

In a Fact Sheet, the White House said nearly 90% of relief dollars would go to those earning less than \$75,000 per year – and no relief will go to any individual or household in the top 5% of incomes in the United States.

An estimated 165,900 borrowers from Washington D.C. are eligible for

student debt relief under Biden's loan forgiveness plan, including 60,300 Pell Grant recipients.

Those figures swell in comparison in Virginia and Maryland.

In Virginia, 965,100 borrowers are eligible for relief, including 566,500 Pell Grant recipients. In Maryland, 747,100 enjoy eligi-

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## Biden student debt forgiveness plan begins, not ends

By Charlene Crowell

President Joe Biden's recent student debt cancellation announcement elicited a diverse range of reactions— some congratulatory, others critical, and still others that seem unsure what to make of the unprecedented multi-billion-dollar effort.

Predictably, long-time education and civil rights advocates spoke to the need for additional reforms, while others wondered about cancellation's impact on an already troubled economy. Families struggling with the rising cost of living and deepening student debt—have only a few months to make household budget adjustments before loan payments resume in January.

The good news is that of

the 43 million people affected by the executive action, 20 million borrowers will have all of their debt cancelled. Many of these borrowers incurred student loans but dropped out of school, left with thousands in debt and lower earnings due to the lack of a degree.

Another 27 million people from working class backgrounds who received Pell grants are assured of up to \$20,000 in debt relief.

But these actions do not resolve the structural mismatch between the still-rising costs of college, limited family financial means to contribute to that cost, and the availability of financial aid other than interest-bearing loans.

"We've all heard of those schools luring students with a promise of big paychecks when they graduate only

to watch these students be ripped off and left with mountains of debt," stated President Biden on August 24. "Well, last week, the Department of Education fired a college accreditor that allowed colleges like ITT and Corinthian to defraud borrowers...Our goal is to shine a light on the worst actors so students can avoid these debt traps."

It seems like a perfect time for the Department of Education to clean house of all the bad higher education actors — especially costly for-profit institutions that promise a lot but deliver little, and accreditors that fail to do their jobs.

On August 30, following President Biden's announcement, the Department of Education took action against another defunct for-profit: Westwood

College. This trade school lured unsuspecting students into costly debt from January 1, 2002 through November 17, 2015 when it stopped enrolling new borrowers in advance of its 2016 closure. The Department found widespread misrepresentations about the value of its credentials for attendees' and graduates' employment prospects.

"Westwood College's exploitation of students and abuse of federal financial aid place it in the same circle of infamy occupied by Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute," said Under Secretary James Kvaal. "Westwood operated on a culture of false promises, lies, and manipulation in order to profit off student debt that burdened borrowers long after West-

wood closed."

Now, 79,000 Westwood borrowers will benefit from \$1.5 billion in debt cancellation, thanks to the Department.

Changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program rules will allow borrowers that would not otherwise qualify, to receive credit for past periods of repayment. Interested borrowers and their families can get more information on the program's information page, but they must act by October 31. Details on the time-limited offer are available at: <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/pslf-limited-waiver>.

But individual states must do their part as well. Across the nation, state revenues are flush with surpluses.

"I don't think there's

been a time in history where states are better equipped to ride out a potential recession," said Timothy Vermeer, senior state tax policy analyst at the Tax Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. "A majority, if not all, of the rainy-day funds are in a really healthy position."

Additionally, and according to the 2021 edition of the annual State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) report, short-changing higher education funding at the state level will likely lead to worse, not better results. The report tracks enrollment trends, funding levels and distributions of state institutions.

"Generous federal stimulus funding protected state revenues and directly

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## Morgan State University students win Zillow's HBCU Hackathon with app that measures financial credibility outside of credit scoring

SEATTLE — Zillow's second HBCU Housing Hackathon, which drew more than 200 students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), awarded top prizes to teams that developed innovations to help renters and first-time buyers find their dream homes.

The top three finishers in the hackathon, in collaboration with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and Amplify 4 Good, won

over the judges with projects that offer impactful tech solutions that align with Zillow's mission to help consumers overcome obstacles in their journey to find a home.

ZillowBears, a team of four Morgan State University students, won first place and \$20,000 for its "Z-Save" application, which estimates monthly mortgage costs and lets users deposit that amount into a virtual wallet that tracks

their payment trends. The app also shows lenders data points to help determine whether potential homeowners qualify for a mortgage and offer them a way to prove creditworthiness outside the traditional credit scoring system. Zillow® also will donate \$25,000 to Morgan State's computer science program as part of the first-place prize.

"I wanted to participate in the hackathon to learn more about the real estate

industry and explore on a deeper level how technology can help solve the most prominent issues people face every day when trying to secure a home," said Nanfwang Dawurang, a member of ZillowBears and a senior computer science student at Morgan State University. "Seeing how different people look at the same issue in completely different ways and

**See ZILLOW Page 7**





# City of Carrollton wins national awards in communications

The City of Carrollton Marketing Services team won three awards at the City-County Communications & Marketing Association's (3CMA) national Savvy Awards Competition presented during a ceremony on Thursday, September 8.

The Savvy Awards are held in conjunction with 3CMA's Annual Conference and recognize outstanding local government achievement in communi-

cations, public-sector marketing, and resident-government relationships.

Marketing for TEXFest, Carrollton's annual celebration of all things Lone Star State, brought home a first place Savvy Award in the Marketing Tools – Marketing Event category. TEXFest is a unique opportunity to celebrate Texas' Independence Day with a brewfest-themed event held in Carrollton's authentic Historic Downtown ev-

ery March.

"Not many events in the region take advantage of this significant date in Texas history," Carrollton Marketing Manager Susan Prosoco said. "Leveraging Texas independence allows creative marketing opportunities to attract our community and visitors to attend this fun, free event in Carrollton's Historic Downtown."

3CMA judges gave TEXFest congratulations

on what looks like a really fun event with wide-ranging marketing support. They said implementing a broad-reaching marketing plan and communications strategy with many deliverables appeared to be very successful. According to one judge, finding ways to cut costs and still have great marketing materials and media coverage is a lot of work. A second said this

**See AWARDS, Page 11**



## ZILLOW, from Page 6

the various innovative and exciting ideas presented in tackling housing issues showed me that progress can always be made when people come together and are intentional about solving a problem."

The HBCU Hackathon brought together 65 teams. Six teams advanced to the final round and had five minutes to present their ideas virtually, using live demonstrations and presentation decks, to a panel of

judges made up of Zillow and tech industry leaders.

"We are very impressed with the caliber of the work, the quality of the presentations, and the outstanding, innovative ideas the students displayed at Zillow's second HBCU Housing Hackathon," said Aldona Clotey, Zillow vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility and one of the judges. "With 20 schools represented, this hackathon not only

helps Zillow continue to foster engagement among HBCUs, but it allows us to tap our next generation of technology leaders to help ensure we are continuously evolving as a company and positively impacting the technology industry as a whole."

Joining Dawurang on the first-place team were Oluwadara Dina, Saad Nadeem and Godsheritage Adeoye. Their winning "Z-Save" application was designed to address disproportionate mortgage denial rates for

Black and Latinx borrowers due to low credit scores by providing an alternative way for lenders to assess financial credibility. Users can build a positive payment history and receive a "Z-score," which can be used as an indicator of creditworthiness.

### Zillow HBCU Hackathon Runners-Up

The other hackathon prize winners were teams Straw Hat Crew of Fisk University and First Move of Howard University.

Team Straw Hat Crew

won second place and \$12,000 for its "Hey Roomie" concept, a Zillow rental hub integration that uses machine learning to pair renters with potential compatible roommates or cosigners based on housing and lifestyle preferences.

Straw Hat Crew included Collins Ikpeyi, Sopuruchi Ndubuisi and Elijah Okoroh.

Team First Move won third place and a \$6,000 prize for "Vi-beZ", an application

geared toward millennial and Gen Z home shoppers that lets users search for homes based on community preferences, such as access to nightlife, greenspaces, the presence of an art scene and more.

First Move team members included Bryce Gordon-Pinkston, Ife Martin, Ayotunde Ogunroku and Joshua Veasy.

## DEBT, from Page 4

supported higher education, reducing states' need to cut funding during the pandemic and short economic recession," states the report's news release. "However, sharp declines in student enrollment and net tuition and fee revenue signal continued upheaval for public higher education revenues."

Federal stimulus funding during the pandemic boosted state education appropriations, but only 8.9 percent of state aid to public institutions in 2021 went toward providing student financial aid, according to SHEF. And without federal stimulus funds, state education appropriations would have declined by one percent in 2021 if full-time enrollment had held constant, according to the report.

"States vary in their relative allocations to higher

education," states the report. "Public institutions in some states remain primarily publicly funded, but a growing proportion have become primarily reliant on student tuition and fee revenue over the last two decades."

The report notes that while federal stimulus and relief funds are helpful, they cannot be a replacement for long-term state investments, because stimulus funds are time-limited and often restricted in their use.

If we want to end the student debt trap, now is the time for citizens to challenge states to use their tax revenue to do more for their own constituents.

*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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# 'Coming Out of the Storm...' Garland NAACP hosts 31st Freedom Fund

By Gwendolyn H. Daniels

Due to COVID-19, it was September of 2019 since the national award-winning Garland unit of the NAACP held its last in-person Freedom Fund event. But all that changed when they gathered with over 260 guests on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Garland, Texas.

A dynamic duo of keynote speakers in Drs. Latoya and Latonya Harris, twins who are homegrown products of the Garland Independent School District and the grandchildren of the late Mr. Gale Fields who was a pillar in the Garland community. They electrified those in attendance with their words of wisdom.

The 2010 valedictorian and salutatorian graduates of South Garland High School served up a double punch of inspiring words all centered around the NAACP's Freedom Fund theme: "Coming Out of the Storm, Still Work to Do!" After carefully explaining the characteristics of storms, how often storms occur in a period of time, and the varied severity of storms, they ended on a positive note by saying "storms are only temporary."

Graduating top of their 2010 high school class was just the beginning. After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, obtaining both their bachelors and master's degrees summa cum laude in sports management, they went on to Parker University where they made history again graduating as valedictorian and salutatorian of their class! Currently they own a private practice (The Blueprint) in chiropractic medicine. It services DFW families and local athletes.

Mrs. LaKisha Culpepper, Garland ISD's Community Liaison to the African American community served as Mistress of Ceremony and members of the Austin Academy A Cappella Choir led by Choir Director Jonathan Coffield presented "Lift Every Voice and Sing" to a standing audience. The



Garland NAACP'S 2022 ACT-SO winner, Miss Christina Reid, presented two classical piano selections.

Dr. Adrian Leday, Garland ISD principal at Watson Technology Center for Math and Science received the Education Award, Con-



stable Bill Gipson received the Community Service Award, Ms. Linda Johnson received the Entrepreneur Award, former Policeman David Swavey received the Bridge Builder Award; and Mr. Harry Hoskins received the 2022 President's Award all presented by Garland's NAACP unit president, Mr. Ricky C. McNeal.

The premier presentations of the morning came when the Garland NAACP announced winners of nine

scholarships to deserving seniors in the Garland ISD. They included Mya Dean, member of the Garland NAACP Youth Council, recipient of the Elaine Bradley Scholarship, the highest awarded for \$1,250; Derek Onyia, recipient of the Goldie Locke Scholarship for \$1,000 (African American senior with a 5.13 GPA, the highest in the Garland ISD); and Camray'on Sanders winner of the John Washington Legacy Schol-

arship awarded for \$500.

Six students received \$800 scholarships for being the African American senior with the highest GPA on their high school campus: A'Leena Bradley, 4.32 (South Garland High); Prescilla Aniede, 4.47 (Lakeview Centennial High); Yovia Mehretab, 4.70 (Sachse High); Soliyana Alemu, 4.31 (Naaman Forest High); Gloria Ukattah, 4.32 (Rowlett High); and Tiget Demelash, 4.58 (North Garland High).

Mrs. Ruby Adams served as Freedom Fund chair; Mrs. Carol Blakes, co-chair; Mr. Robert Ben, served as silent auction chair; Honorable Annie Dickson, co-chair; and Mr. Ricky C. McNeal serves as president of the national award-winning NAACP Garland unit.

For more information on the NAACP Garland unit, visit their website at: [www.garlandtxnaacp.org](http://www.garlandtxnaacp.org).

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Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022 @ 11:00a - 12:30pm

### SpringCreek BBQ

2027 W Wheatland Road  
Dallas, Tx 75237

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022 @ 3:00 - 4:00pm  
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm

### Luby's Cafeteria

5600 S. Hampton Rd  
Dallas, Tx. 75232

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:30pm  
Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:30pm



# Tyler Perry's 'A Jazzman's Blues' premieres at Toronto Film Festival 2022



Solea Pfeiffer and Joshua Boone in *A Jazzman's Blues*.  
(Photo via NNPA)

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2) Writer/director Tyler Perry had never had a movie programed at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival. He said as much on the night of his latest film's premiere. On stage he revealed that the script was written 27-years ago, and he was proud to have *A Jazzman's Blues* open at TIFF. The audience seemed attentive but reserved. Post screening, the audience gave the film, cast and him a standing ovation. He made them see horrors and feel love. Then Ruth B., the Canadian woman who composed and sings the film's title song, appeared on stage. Violinists played behind her as she sang the melancholic "Paper Airplanes." Everyone was moved.

"I need you to be happy cause we can't be sad together," says the femme fatale in this lovelorn melodrama. Yet sadness overwhelms any glee and romance in this southern ode to the ills of racism and the grief it causes. To understand the magnitude of the story, audiences must pay attention to the script's bookend plot devices.

In 1987, Hattie Mae, an older Black woman views Georgia's white, racist state attorney general as he spews hate on TV. She walks to his office, barges in and hands the AG a stack of letters. He wants to know why she's leaving him the missives. But as he reads them, he is engrossed in the story they tell about a ill-fated romance and grue-

some murder dating back to the '40s. When he's done, he's shocked personally beyond words. Why? That's the crux of the film.

With echoes of authors Alice Walker, Tony Morrison and Bernice McFadden, Perry's very engaging script meticulously sets the characters, location, racial tensions and star-crossed love that so reflects the 1940s. The atmosphere is so southern and country you can almost feel the warm breeze, smell the oak trees and feel the sun on your skin.

Bayou (Joshua Boone), a young innocent sepia-skinned 17-year-old, falls in love with a very light skinned teen named Leanne (Solea Pfeiffer), who lives with her abusive grandfather. The old man won't let the lover boy near his granddaughter. But the two find a unique way to meet. A relationship grows. It brings them together and splits them apart.

Bayou's nurturing mother (Amirah Vann), a jealous older brother (Austin Scott), Leanne's scoundrel of a mom (Lana Young) and white racists shape his life and their love. A budding career as a jazz singer gives him stardom. Leanne becomes a calculating gold-digger, which brings her angst and heartache. The mix of light musical moments and dark drama would challenge many directors. But Perry thoughtfully pulls those contrasting elements together as if he was blending the essences of Cotton Club and Mud-bound.

The very talented and

extremely photogenic primary cast are augmented by skilled actors: Austin Scott, Milauna Jemai Jackson, Brent Antonello, Brad Benedict, Kario Marcel, Lana Young and Ryan Eggold. Their characters weave

in and out of evocative sets, locations and situations (Sharon Busse, production designer). Kisses, fights, singing, dancing and family life are artfully captured

See **BLUES**, Page 11

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# Rihanna to headline Super Bowl halftime show

Rihanna, who refused to perform during the 2019 Super Bowl halftime show because of her stand with Colin Kaepernick, has decided to headline the big event in February.

Jay-Z's Roc Nation and Apple Music made the announcement on September 25, and Rihanna took to Instagram displaying an NFL football, signaling her appearance.

The highly anticipated performance takes place at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on Feb. 12.

Rihanna also is expected to soon drop new music.

"Rihanna is a generational talent, a woman of humble beginnings who has surpassed expectations at every turn," Jay-Z said in a statement.

"A person born on the small island of Barbados who became one of the most prominent artists



Photo via NNPA

ever. Self-made in business and entertainment."

For the Barbadian beauty and multi-talented songstress, music is far from all in her phenomenal portfolio.

In 2021, Rihanna achieved billionaire status.

In 2022, Forbes acknowledged that she's the youngest self-made billionaire in America.

The 34-year-old, who recently gave birth to her

first child, ranked 21st overall in the latest Forbes list of billionaires.

Rihanna's Fenty Beauty line counts among the most popular in the world, is the only billionaire under 40 on Forbes' list.

Earlier this year, reports noted that Rihanna's Savage X Fenty lingerie planned an initial public offering valued at about \$3 billion.

The megastar owns 30

percent of Savage X Fenty and 50 percent of Fenty Beauty, reportedly generating \$550 million in revenue in 2020.

The nine-time Grammy Award winner has stated that she intends to increase her philanthropic efforts around the globe.

"My money is not for me; it's always the thought that I can help someone else," she told the New York Times in 2021. "The world can really make you believe that the wrong things are priority, and it makes you really miss the core of life, what it means to be alive."

In 2021, Forbes estimated Rihanna's net worth at \$1.7 billion, trailing only Oprah Winfrey as the world's richest entertainer.

"A lot of women felt there were no lines out there that catered to their skin tone. It was light, medium, medium-dark,

dark," Shannon Coyne, co-founder of consumer products consultancy Bluestock Advisors, told Forbes about Rihanna's successful beauty products.

"We all know that's not reality. She was one of the first brands that came out and said, 'I want to speak to all of those different people.'"

Born Robyn Rihanna Fenty on February 20, 1988, in Saint Michael, Barbados, the tantalizing starlet delivered hit after hit with songs like "Umbrella," "Rude Boy," and "Diamonds."

With over 100 million social media followers, Rihanna's fans have pleaded with their idol to deliver new music.

But with her Fenty and Savage X Fenty business white-hot, Rihanna appears to have settled in as an entrepreneur and business magnate.

Cutting deals with Puma in 2014, Dior in 2016, Fenty Beauty in 2017, Savage X Fenty in 2018, and Fenty Skin in 2020, Rihanna kept her business focused.

Forbes writer Madeline Berg described Rihanna's rise this way:

"When Robyn Fenty, known to the world as Rihanna, launched Fenty Beauty in 2017, she sought to create a cosmetics company that made 'women everywhere (feel) included.' A perhaps unintended consequence: The beauty line has helped her enter one of the world's most exclusive ranks: Billionaire."

Berge concluded by providing commentary from Coyne, the consultant.

"She is creating a brand outside of herself. It's not just about Rihanna. Even if you don't like her music, she's created a real style in the fashion and beauty space."

## CBO, from Page 6

bility, including 419,400 Pell Grant recipients.

In California, over 3.5 million borrowers are expected to receive up to \$10,000 in student debt cancellation.

About 1.5 million Georgians are eligible for student loan forgiveness, most of them low-income borrowers, and nearly 70% of those in Georgia eligible

for forgiveness are also Pell Grant recipients.

Approximately 813,000 — or one in nine — Massachusetts residents stand to benefit, while the White House estimated that 1.3 million student borrowers in Michigan would see relief.

New York State has an estimated 2,258,800 student loan borrowers that

are eligible for student debt relief — coming in at the fourth highest in the country after California, Texas, and Florida.

The number of New York Pell Grant recipients eligible for the student loan relief comes in at 1,320,100 — also fourth in the nation.

"President Biden believes that a post-high school education should be a ticket to a middle-class life, but for too many, the cost of borrowing for col-

lege is a lifelong burden that deprives them of that opportunity," White House officials noted.

"During the campaign, he promised to provide student debt relief. The Biden Administration is following through on that promise and providing families breathing room as they prepare to start re-paying loans after the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic."

Republicans, of course,

pushed back.

"CBO's \$400 billion cost estimate shows this administration has lost all sense of fiscal responsibility," said North Carolina Rep. Virginia Foxx, the Republican leader on the House Education and Labor Committee, in a statement.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and other party leaders have

applauded the administration's debt forgiveness plan.

"This is transformative for middle-class Americans," Schumer and Warren wrote in a statement.

"[The] CBO estimate makes clear that millions of middle-class Americans have more breathing room thanks to President Biden's historic decision to cancel student debt," the duo wrote.

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra receives gift of collection of cellos and bows from former associate principal cellist Yuri Anshelevich

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra today announced the generous gift of a collection of cellos and bows from retired DSO Associate Principal Cello Yuri Anshelevich. Anshelevich joined the DSO in 1977 and performed for 38 years.

"We are so grateful to Yuri for his incredible gift to the organization," said Kim Noltemy, Ross Perot President & CEO of the

Dallas Symphony. "Yuri has attended concerts since he retired, and it has been a pleasure getting to know him through the years. It is an honor that he is entrusting us with the future of his collection of instruments."

"The addition of this collection to the ensemble will enrich the sound of the cello section," said Music Director Fabio Luisi (Louise W. & Edmund J. Kahn

Music Directorship). "We are thankful for his generosity and for his many years of performance and friendship."

Anshelevich will perform on one of his instruments in a special performance on Saturday, November 5, 2022. Fabio Luisi and the DSO will join him in a performance of Kol Nidrei by Max Bruch.

"I treasure the time I performed with the DSO," said Anshelevich. "I look forward to soloing on the stage at the Meyerson again. I am happy that my collection will have a permanent home and a beautiful future here at the DSO."

As recognition for his generous gift, the DSO will name the Manager of Orchestra Personnel in his

and his wife Olga's honor. Nishi Badhwar currently holds the Olga and Yuri Anshelevich Manager of Orchestra Personnel position.

Russian-born cellist Yuri Anshelevich made his recital debut at the age of nine, and five years later earned acceptance at the famed Moscow State Conservatory. The same year he won First Prize

in the Cello Division of the All-Russian Competition, which led to studies with world-famous cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. He has served on the faculty of Southern Methodist University and as artist-in-residence at the University of Dallas. Still active as a soloist and chamber musician, his repertoire includes every major work written for cello.



## Real Times Media relaunches its cultural marketing division as Pitch Black

DETROIT – Real Times Media, relaunched its cultural marketing division as Pitch Black today. Formerly known as RTM360°, the newly minted Pitch Black will continue to help clients connect with Black audiences through a mix of culturally relevant brand communication & outreach initiatives.

“As RTM360 we have been able to do some great work on behalf of amazing

clients. But it felt like with the watershed times of the past few years, that branding no longer accurately reflected the heart of who we are as an organization,” says Tanisha Leonard, president of Pitch Black. “Not that we’ve ever been anything but unapologetically Black, I feel the time is now for us to double down on that.”

Leonard, a 20-year marketing and communica-

tions professional will continue to lead the company, supported by cultural marketing veteran Eric Roberts who serves as Executive Vice President. Roberts brings to the company his experience of leading multicultural communications efforts for notable brands such as McDonalds, Amtrak and Hartford Financial Services Group.

“Black people are not dark-skinned white peo-

ple” is a constant refrain that Roberts has borrowed from Tom Burrell, acknowledged as the father of Black advertising. Roberts explains, “The point is that it isn’t language that distinguishes connectivity with Blacks, but the ability to understand and acknowledge the Black experience and cultural nuances that authentically resonate. At Pitch Black, we are protective of cultur-

al heritage and recognize the importance of sustaining traditions and symbols that strengthen the community.”

Echoing Leonard’s sentiment on why the name change, Real Times Media CEO Hiram E. Jack-

son said, “The heightened sensitivity for social justice and equity resulting from the 2020 tragedies of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor renewed focus for companies around effective communications for Black communities.

## AWARDS, from Page 7

event is a fabulous way to bring customers to a location that they may not have spent time in before. Another judge said TEXFest is a great event for the community to enjoy and look forward to year after year.

In the Special Events – Recurring Event Category, Carrollton also brought home a first place Savvy Award for the City’s signature Festival at the Switchyard. The 11th Annual Carrollton Festival at the Switchyard impressed the judges with its comprehensive marketing efforts that took full advantage of the event’s past track record while celebrating the return to live events after 2020 with attendance of more than 32,000.

With well-documented results, the judges said it was easy to see how the marketing methods, designs, and creative ele-

ments all came together to support this community gathering. The marketing packages and graphics were clean, yet exciting, and had great brand consistency. Judges said the event stood out from the rest of the entries for the many marketing activities for residents and the team’s attention to detail and staying on theme.

In addition, the poster design for the Festival earned an Award of Excellence in the Graphic Design – Other Marketing Tools category for its unique composition and style elements that set the tone for the Festival’s graphics, T-shirts, and promotional items. The design’s dark and weathered background reflects the alternative rock style of the 2021 event headliner Blue October, emphasizes the event’s 11th year in production, and pays homage

to the historic train-based Festival location on the Downtown Square.

Judges remarked at the nice, consistent branding, and gave it points for a good use of in-house resources, being budget conscious, and creating a good consistency across platforms. Another judge said the poster looks so good they gave a shout out to the in-house designers.

“The City of Carrollton’s Marketing team prioritizes engaging our citizens to increase awareness, excitement, and investment in our city, and works to further Council’s goal of being the community that families and businesses want to call home,” Marketing Director Kelli Lewis said. “We are proud to be recognized for those efforts by our peers at a prestigious national organization such as 3CMA.”

The Festival at the Switchyard’s size and various offerings such as

free rides and games, free concerts, free children’s entertainment, and numerous food and craft vendors, according to Lewis, continue its legacy serving as Carrollton’s signature event that residents, business, and visitors from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and beyond look forward to all year long, and TEXFest’s unique theme and brewmeister appeal are sure to be a crowd pleaser for years to come.

## BLUES, from Page 9

by cinematographer Brett Pawlak. Happy and sad moments are blanketed by Terence Blanchard’s songs and Aaron Zigman’s music. All of it is edited together like scenes from an old ‘40s movie by Maysie Hoy.

Perry has accomplished tonally, artistically and dramatically all he needed to do with this rich melodrama. No wrinkles. No mistakes. It’s as if he wanted to tuck his Madea madness away and become an auteur. Is this a fleeting moment or a new direction?

If viewers pay attention to the plot pieces and verbal and visual clues, by the time the AG figures out what happened, their mouths will drop. The tragedy on view, which Perry concocted, will leave them with mixed, melancholic emotions and an anger for the Confederate flag that waves towards the end of the film as a sign of times gone by that should never come again.

As the final credits roll and viewers gather their thoughts, the heartbreak-

ing, Oscar®-caliber song “Paper Airplanes” is sung. “You are the song that I long to hear once more...”

It’s a beautiful sadness. Something like what a jazzman’s blues might be. A feeling that expresses the deepest most somber emotions.

On Netflix September 23rd, 2022.

For more information about the Toronto International Film Festival go to <https://tiff.net/>.

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

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# Bank of America offers zero down-payment mortgages to Black, Latino borrowers

Bank of America announced a new zero down payment, zero closing cost mortgage solution for first-time homebuyers, which will be available in designated markets, including certain African American and Hispanic neighborhoods in Charlotte, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Miami.

According to a news release, the Community Affordable Loan Solution aims to help eligible individuals and families obtain an affordable loan to purchase a home.

"The Community Affordable Loan Solution is a Special Purpose Credit Program which uses credit guidelines based on factors such as timely rent, utility bill, phone and auto insurance payments," officials stated in the release.

"It requires no mortgage insurance or minimum credit score. Individual eligibility is based on income and home location."

Prospective buyers must complete a homebuyer certification course provided by select Bank of America and HUD-approved housing counseling partners



prior to application.

Officials said the new program is in addition to and complements Bank of America's existing \$15 billion Community Homeownership Commitment to offer affordable mortgages, industry leading grants and educational opportunities to help 60,000 individuals and families purchase affordable homes by 2025.

Through this commitment, Bank of America has already helped more than 36,000 people and families become homeowners, having provided more than \$9.5 billion in low down payment loans and over \$350 million in non-repayable down payment and/or closing cost grants.

To date, two-thirds of the loans and grants made through the Community Homeownership Commitment has helped multicultural clients to achieve homeownership.

Bank of America also has a 26-year relationship with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA), through which the Bank has committed to providing an additional \$15 billion in mortgages to low-to-moderate income homebuyers through May 2027.

According to the National Association of Realtors, today there is a nearly 30-percentage-point gap in homeownership between White and Black Americans; for Hispanic buyers,

the gap is nearly 20 percent.

And the competitive housing market has made it even more difficult for potential homebuyers, especially people of color, to buy homes.

"Homeownership strengthens our communities and can help individuals and families to build wealth over time," said AJ

Barkley, head of neighborhood and community lending for Bank of America.

"Our Community Affordable Loan Solution will help make the dream of sustained homeownership attainable for more Black and Hispanic families, and it is part of our broader commitment to the communities that we serve."

In addition to expanding access to credit and down payment assistance, Bank of America said it provides educational resources to help homebuyers navigate the homebuying process, including:

- First-Time Homebuyer Online Edu-Series, a five-part, easy-to-understand video roadmap for buying and financing a home, available in English and Spanish.

- comfree financial education content, including videos about managing finances and how to prepare for buying a new home.

- Bank of America Down Payment Center— site to help homebuyers find state and local down payment and closing cost assistance programs in their area. Bank of America participates in more than 1,300 state and local down payment and closing cost assistance programs.

- Bank of America Real Estate Center— site to help homebuyers find properties with flags to identify properties that may qualify for Bank of America grant programs and Community Affordable Loan Solution™.

For more information, contact Bank of America at 1-800-641-8362.

## FEMA, from Page 4

lease, the Ready Campaign PSAs, titled "A Lasting Legacy," will run nationwide in both Spanish and English, and are meant to help mitigate these discrepancies by encouraging Black communities to protect the lives they have built and the legacies they will leave behind through

preparation and disaster readiness.

"We all want to protect our families, whether that's our grandparents or our grandchildren," said Ad Council Chief Campaign Development Officer Michelle Hillman.

"This latest creative

work is grounded in the importance of family and reminds us that preparation can make sure that our loved ones endure whatever disasters life sends our way."

For more information and tips on preparing an emergency plan, visit [ready.gov/plan](http://ready.gov/plan) or [listo.gov/plan](http://listo.gov/plan).

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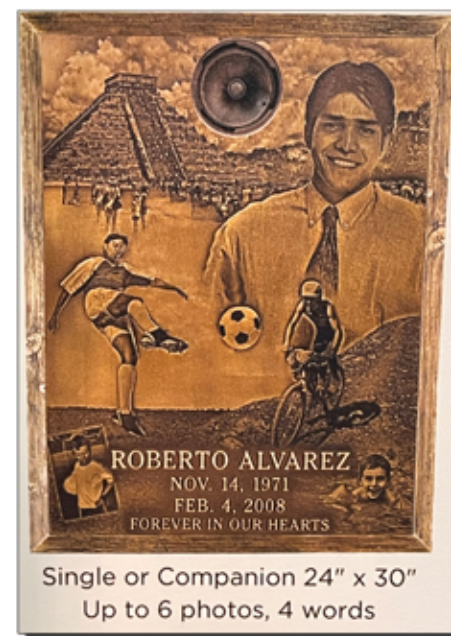


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## THREATS, from Page 5

tacks the very foundations of our nation,” Johnson wrote.

“Battling the terrifying rise in racist hate crimes, bigoted rhetoric from politicians and pundits, and on-line radicalization MUST be made a priority by our nation’s leaders,” he added.

Recently, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, questioned witnesses at a hearing titled “Examining the ‘Metastasizing’ Domestic Terrorism Threat After the Buffalo Attack.” During the hearing, Padilla spoke about the alarming rise in domestic terrorism.

“America is a nation of immigrants,” Padilla said. “In America, we believe that we’re all created equal and should enjoy equal rights. So it’s deeply disturbing to me to see right-wing media figures... as well as politicians, including the former president, prompting racism, hatred, and division in the United States of America — sometimes subtly, sometimes not subtle at all.”

Padilla noted that racist conspiracy theories are often hiding in plain sight, and that reporting the spread of these theories and relevant threats of violence to law enforcement could

help prevent future attacks.

“So, it’s important that we shine a light on to these frightening ideologies that fuel domestic terrorism, so we can stop the spread of violent hate,” he said.

### Reporting hate crimes

Hate crimes are notoriously under-reported. A national survey by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that less than half of all hate crimes were reported to the police. Other factors that may inhibit victims from reporting hate crimes include fear of retaliation, cultural and linguistic isolation, unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system, and previous negative experiences with law enforcement.

Locally, the LAPD defines hate crimes as “any criminal act or attempted criminal act directed against a person or persons based on the victim’s actual or perceived race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender.”

More than 42 percent of racial hate crimes targeted African-Americans. Black persons constitute 9 percent of the total population of Los Angeles County, but each year are grossly over-represented as victims of racial hate crime. The most common criminal offense was vandalism (27 per-

cent), followed by aggravated assault (25 percent), simple assault (20 percent), intimidation (17 percent), and disorderly conduct (7 percent).

African-Americans were again also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation (19 percent) and anti-transgender crimes (28 percent).

Crimes targeting African-Americans occurred most often in public places, followed by businesses, residences, schools, electronic communication, and government/public build-

ings).

Victims of a hate crime should call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest LAPD community police station. By understanding how and where hate is occurring, communities can respond with appropriate resources and support, which can include protecting your civil rights against hate and discrimination, processing trauma, beginning to heal, and doing something to prevent hate from happening to others.

It is essential to report a hate incident, which in-

cludes any act of verbal or physical aggression, refusal of service, bullying, or intimidation of any kind that is motivated by hostile prejudice.

Authorities cannot do anything to stop hate crimes and incidents unless they know about them, so that victims do not suffer in silence.

### Anti-Hate Reporting Hotline

For those who have been victims of bullying or a hate motivated act, by dialing 2-1-1, they can now file a report as a victim,

witness, or advocate for a victim of hate crimes, hate acts, or bullying as a part of the Anti-Hate Campaign.

The development of the 211 hate-incident reporting hotline establishes a centralized method across LA County for community members to report acts of hate and bullying, regardless of whether or not a crime has been committed.

For additional information, phone the LA County Commission on Human Relations at (213) 738-2788.



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- 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.



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## Who's Really in Charge?

By James L. Snyder

Living in the country, our family did not have a television in our home. Unfortunately, most people in our neighborhood did not have a television. That just was normal.

Somehow we managed to entertain ourselves without TV, and of course, we did not have the Internet then. So how we got along without Facebook and cell phones is more than I can remember.

Then in 1963, something happened that changed the world when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

When that happened, my father decided he needed a TV to keep up with the news concerning this event. With that TV came something called the TV remote control. I've never seen that kind of thing before and was rather curious about what in the world it was all about.

My father set up the TV and showed us the TV re-

mote control in his hand and how it worked.

"This remote control," my father explained, "is to control the TV."

Then he looked around at us as we sat there and said, "Because I am the man of this home, I have control of this TV remote control. So this is my responsibility."

Looking at me, the oldest of the children, he said, "As a man, you are to be in charge of this TV remote control." When he said that, he looked at all the kids, then looked at my mother, and smiled.

Since my wife and I have been married, I have tried to communicate this to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I am the man of the house and responsible for the TV remote control.

There are many things in our home I have no control over. I'm not allowed in the kitchen area for a variety of reasons. I tried when first married and have been barred from going there ever since. I even tried to

wash the dishes once, which was a kitchen flood disaster.

So, my responsibility is the TV remote control.

That went well for an extended period, but recently something has changed. The remote control batteries have been running out too quickly.

One night I told my wife that the batteries were dead and asked if we had any new batteries for this remote control. She said, "Oh, I thought you were in charge of the TV remote control?"

She then brought me fresh batteries for the remote control with a very suspicious snicker on her face. I looked at her suspiciously, took the batteries, inserted them into the remote control, and it worked just fine.

The next day I tried to turn on the TV, and the remote control was not working for some reason. I checked it and found the batteries were dead.

I asked my wife, "Didn't I put new batteries in the re-

mote control yesterday?"

My wife looked at me and nodded her head. "Do you need new batteries again?"

She then got two new batteries, brought them to me, I gave her the old ones and put in the new ones, which were working very nicely. So I sat back in my chair in complete control of the TV. I was beginning to appreciate my father's advice.

The remote control worked fine for the next few days, and I forgot about running out of battery power.

Then three days later, the batteries again were dead. I had to stop and think a little about what was happening. Batteries don't work like this, at least from my experience.

When my wife walked into the room, she looked at me and said, "Is your remote control working okay today?"

How she said it caused me to think a little about what was happening. Something seemed a little bit out of whack.

Then she handed me two new batteries, took the old ones and walked away with a smile.

Thinking about this, I came up with a plan to figure out if she was playing me or not. I put a little X on the old batteries, and a little 0 on the new ones. I have been wrong so many times, but the thing that danced in my head was, what if I'm right about this?

The batteries worked for two days, and then on the third day, once again, they were dead.

Before I could say anything, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me two new batteries for the remote. "You probably need new batteries today, don't you?"

I put the new batteries in, and the remote was working as usual. So before I went to bed, I checked the marks on the batteries, and it was a 0.

When I got up in the morning, I first checked the batteries and discovered both batteries had an X on

them. So now I was beginning to see what was happening, she was switching them out at her discretion.

While I was trying to process this whole thing I was reminded of one of my favorite of Bible verses. Proverbs 3:5-6, "5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

When I think I know everything is going on around me, that's when I get into deep trouble. I try to start out every day with the idea that I don't know everything. The only person I can really trust for everything is the Lord.

*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.*

## MISSING, from Page 5

in Marshall Shadeland. Her family described her as suicidal and possibly in possession of a firearm. They said Cayla drives a black 2018 Kia Sorento with Pennsylvania plate KZS4334.

Combs, 27, is described as biracial with a light complexion. She stands 5'1 inches and has brown eyes and long black hair.

Police ask anyone with information to call (412) 323-7141 or contact the Black and Missing Foundation.

Tiffany Foster, 36, was last seen on March 1, 2021, at Lakeside Apartments in Newnan, Georgia. Her vehicle was located nearly an hour away in Fulton County with her personal belongings inside.

Foster, who is Black, stands 5'2 inches and weighs about 220 pounds. She has hazel eyes and long black hair.

Police ask anyone with information to call (770)

253-1502 or contact the Black and Missing Foundation.

Family members said Robyn Austin might have suffered a mental health crisis when the 32-year-old Marine veteran disappeared on August 11, 2022, at the San Diego Veterans Center.

Austin is described as biracial, stands 5'6 inches, weighs 135 pounds, and has brown eyes and medium-length brown hair.

San Diego Police asked that anyone with information call (619) 531-2000 or contact the Black and Missing Foundation.

Derrica and Natalie started the nonprofit Black and Missing Foundation in 2008 with a mission to bring awareness to missing persons of color and to provide vital resources and tools to missing person's families and friends.

As laid out in a 2021 HBO special, the foundation's goal remains to edu-

cate the minority community on personal safety.

At one point, statistics from the FBI and other sources noted that approximately 64,000 black women and girls were missing, despite that specific demographic accounting for a relatively small percentage of the U.S. population.

Because of the efforts of the Wilson sisters, the Black and Missing Foundation has helped to find or bring closure to hundreds of cases involving missing persons of color.

The Black and Missing Foundation also helps families immediately after they report a missing loved one.

"Many times, the families don't know how to file a police report, and often when they file the report, an officer tells them that it could be a runaway situation or maybe drugs are involved," Natalie Wilson said during an earlier interview.

"We tell the families that they know their loved ones and know what's not their

behavior. So, we are there for the families to hold their hands or to listen."

Wilson said the foundation is a voice for the fami-

lies, and everyone should have a role in bringing awareness to the plight of missing persons of color.

"We have to help," she

said.

For information about the Black and Missing Foundation or to donate, visit [www.bamfi.org](http://www.bamfi.org).

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# Unforgiveness Hurts



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor

*"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if you have aught against any: that your Father also which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*

*"But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses."*

**- Mark 11:25-26 (KJV)**

*"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"*

*"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you".*

**- Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV)**

For a few years, I have been reminded of a statement that a young lady said, "We didn't realize how much that unforgiveness impacted our own lives."

She was making the statement after realizing how much she had missed in her life because she had been hurt and had not forgiven an individual.



We should become keenly aware that in our world and society, people need people. God created us with a need for fellowship and companionship.

The Bible says, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18.

*"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion..."*

*"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."*

**- Genesis 1: 26-27**

No man is an island and can stand alone. Who among us have not made a terrible mistake?

Who among us haven't wished that we could take back something that was spoken in anger to anyone, especially to a loved one or a friend?

Who among us haven't done something that we would be ashamed to confess to others?

Who among us haven't had to cry out to God for His help? I have read and heard many stories of individuals finally forgiving after long periods of time;

they talk about how much they have hurt and missed in their life because they waited so long to forgive.

Life doesn't stop when you don't forgive someone. Perhaps that person asked for your forgiveness and you refused.

When God saw that they were remorseful, He allowed them to move on with their life while you stayed in a state of self-pity, you couldn't see the forest for the trees.

Most people hate road constructions where they encounter them; it's an inconvenience and it takes us longer to get where we are going.

Everything is in a mess, you are caught off guard when things are placed in unusual places and the natural flow of traffic takes you off the main road on bumpy surfaces.

But what joy when the work is complete, how beautiful the scenery when the work is done. But, we must remember that until we pass from this life to the next, we are all under construction in our walk with God.

Sometimes God takes us through our own life re-construction project, as well as family and friends.

There are times that we may do or say something that is not God-like; yet God still loves and for-

gives us.

There are times that someone in your life will say or do something that they need forgiveness from you.

Just as we want God to have patience and forgive us, we need to have patience and forgive others.


At times this is not an easy task; and you need God's love and help to forgive, but if you ask Him, He can give you the love and strength to forgive.

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# NDG Book Review: A feeling of 'Courageous Discomfort'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

About a size seven.

That's how big your mouth must be, because you just stuck your size-seven foot into it – which is great, because now things are awkward and you never meant harm. You want to have the right conversation about race, you strive to be respectful, and “Courageous Discomfort” by Shanterra McBride and Rosalind Wiseman can help.

So your foot is back on the ground now and that didn't feel good, did it? Probably not, but McBride and Wiseman say that dis-



comfort is necessary for (eventually) doing good in order to make change. Recognizing that everyone has a right to dignity and acknowledging their worth is the first step. The next is reading the series of “ques-

tions” or might-happen scenarios that the authors present, and getting some ideas on how to be a good ally.

Should you speak up, for instance, if a teacher says something racist in class, even if it might mean trouble for you? What if it's a friend, or a family member who says something offensive? Should you apologize for what others have done, even it was a long time ago – and if so, how? You say you don't “see color,” but when do you actually need to see it?

Everyone has biases, the authors say, but curiosity is natural for learning, so take

care that microaggressions don't get in the way. They acknowledge that being curious is tricky, but that you should never be afraid of it.

Don't be offended if someone doesn't trust you; there's a reason for it, and it goes way back. Likewise, don't be mad if they don't always include you in every event. Be willing to listen if someone has a gripe with you, a post, a statement, or something you did that hurt them. Be patient. Figure out what being an ally means to you. Leave a black person's hair alone. And finally, remember that taking ownership isn't about shame, but

about growth. A step in the right direction is a step in the right direction.

In its first few pages, “Courageous Discomfort” is a perky explanation of the friendship of McBride (who is Black) and Wiseman (who is white and Jewish). It doesn't linger; the book then takes a scolding tone before it settles in to the help it promises.

When the authors advise readers to use caution, they mean it, though.

There's a little bit of talking-in-a-circle inside this book, and enough repetition that you'd notice. There's some confusion

in how readers should act when meeting new people – do you ask them about themselves, or don't you dare? – and prompts to speak up when one sees injustices, but no good help on that for the quietest of readers.

Conversely, and to be sure, the advice the authors give lays a great foundation for equality work, but nuances in the narrative mean that this is probably a book for older teens and young adults. If day-to-day activism is the goal, “Courageous Discomfort” helps you put your money where your mouth is.

## ELECTIONS, from Page 1

That brand of American munificence is not just in Ukraine, America has maintained its role as provider and protector the world over...then over again, and all because Americans place such a high value on human existence.

It is at its own shores that American largess is hard to spot, and within the boundaries of its own lands that American politicians demonstrate that charity does not begin at home.

Hopeful and desperate migrants are at America's virtual shores, but now everyone—on both sides of the aisle and both ends of the abortion debate—are flat broke.

To witness America's crueller nature take a purview of the disparate people stuck on the other side of the river.

Recently, a mortician in the border town of Eagle Pass, Texas requested the use of the county's refig-

erated truck trailer. Towns all along the Texas border are recovering the drowned bodies of desperate but hopeful men, women, and children. One child was as young as 3-months-old, who drowned along with her 3-year-old sister.

Del Rio is averaging over 1,000 unlawful migrant encounters a day. Customs and Border Protection numbers show that the entirety of the Texas border has witnessed over 2 million migrant encounters over the past 11 months.

This drastically increased number of crossings means an unfortunate increase in the number of bodies to be recovered. Maverick County alone predicts a year-end total of 300 recovered bodies. These staggering number of bodies, which represent our failure as American benevolence bearers—is causing the firemen who are doing the recovery work to break down.

Eagle Pass Fire Department Chief Manuel Mello III told The Washington Times that the daily body toll is having a “very traumatic” effect on his firefighters and medical personnel. Chief Mello said his staff is experiencing emotional trauma, resulting in a high number of absences.

“These are young gentlemen, young women are seeing more than any normal person would see in a lifetime,” Mello stated. “It's almost like a war zone.”

The border situation might be as traumatic and inhumane as a Ukrainian battlefield. the start of September saw the recovery of 13 unlawful migrants. Chief Mello hope that American politicians would mend their divisions and offer a measure of relief to the border predicament.

“If they (politicians) could at least stop this migration, what would be awesome.”

The only obvious differ-

ence between Ukrainian lives and those migrant lives might be found in the pigmentation of their skin.

Even if migrants legally enter America's land of milk and honey, they are greeted with a handshake lie, before being railroaded by bus or plane to some strange place that they know not.

One must admit that people are seldom so disgusted with their birthland that they would leave for greener pastures. It is not the land that drives them away, it is the lack of opportunity and modern-day human living conditions that cause migrants to undergo that perilous journey that is in search of a better way of life.

If American politicians were to show the same generous goodwill it is showing to Ukraine to the nations of South America or Haiti, we might find that a huge number of those migrants, both legal and illegal, just might decide to stay put in their own land.

Never overlook the fact

that an American politician's main goal in life is to get reelected, so the way they vote in Congress and the nonsensical rhetoric they pontificate in public is based solely on the feedback from American voters (or the silence of non-voters).

Much to his credit, from day one of his presidency, President-Elect Biden understood that the issue of legal and illegal immigrants was a matter that needed to be addressed, so he took the humanitarian route. President Biden sought to do so by addressing the underlying causes for mass migration by proposing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, whose aim was to responsibly manage and secure our border and to better manage migration across the Western Hemisphere as well as to keep families safe.

The Citizenship Act falls well short of what was done for Ukraine, but it would have been a step in the right direction.

Biden purposed a four-

year inter-agency plan that carried a price tag of \$4 billion.

The Act would have meant increased monetary assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, with the proviso that those nations reduce endemic corruption, violence, and poverty that causes people to flee their birthlands. The Citizenship Act would also assist in placing refugees from impoverished third-world nations in the U.S. or other partner countries.

The Citizenship Act of 2021 died in Congress in March of 2021 primarily because voters in favor of the bill did not speak (i.e., vote) loud enough.

If we are the America that truly cares for “all human life” our first step is to monitor the way our elected officials are voting when our backs are turned.

To see how an individual Democratic or Republican politician has voted on any past bill or major issue, refer to the website:

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