



North Dallas Gazette

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Congress returns to work as election results remain unsettled

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As votes continued to pour in from the 2022 midterm elections, Democrats have retained control of the U.S. Senate and still cling to hope that the House will swing in their favor.

But whatever happens with the remaining count determining control of the House, the Republican Party's anticipation of a red wave crashed into a resilient blue wall, even as members return to work.

"We are going to try to have as productive a lame-duck session as possible," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) stated.

"I'm going to talk to my caucus. I'm going to talk to the Republican leadership and see what we can get done," Schumer added.

There's much on the agenda before Congress goes into recess on December 16.

At the top of the list is funding the government for 2023 and avoiding a shutdown.

Democrats also hope to get a bill to President Joe Biden's desk to strengthen federal election laws surrounding counting and certifying electoral votes in presidential elections.

Many believe such a measure won't stand a chance in a GOP-controlled House.



But whatever happens with the remaining count determining control of the House, the Republican Party's anticipation of a red wave crashed into a resilient blue wall, even as members return to work. (White House photo)

However, some Republicans are on record agreeing that reform of some kind is required.

Congress also must address the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which structures the Pentagon.

Additionally, the January 6 committee should release its final report next month, and members must decide what to do about former President Donald Trump's fight against its subpoena.

The committee could move forward in recommending charges, but with the possibility of Republicans wresting control of the House, the investigation could stall or even cease.

A party must hold 218 seats to gain a majority in the House.

Officials continue to count votes from mail-in ballots in California, Oregon, and Arizona.

The GOP won 211 seats to 204 for Democrats as of press time.

In a significant victory for Democrats, CNN projected that Marie Perez would defeat Republican Joe Kent, a Donald Trump ally, in Washington state's GOP-leaning 3rd District.

In Colorado's 3rd District, Trump loyalist Lauren Boebert remains locked in an unexpected battle with Democrat Adam Frisch.

If Frisch upsets Boebert, it will increase his party's long-shot chance of holding the House.

Democrats also did surprisingly

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We need not forgive

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Sweet drinks cause problems for youth

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Foster children find forever homes

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Program covers child care for scholars

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Black Nativity returns to BATC stage

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People In The News ...



Robert L. Johnson



Brandi Gray-Davis

NDG Quote of the Week: "I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them."

—Madam C.J. Walker

Robert L. Johnson

Founder and chairman of The RLJ Companies and founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), Johnson was inducted into the 26th Hall of Fame Class by the Television Academy along with five television legends. The Hall of Fame honors persons who have made outstanding contributions in the arts, sciences, or management of television over a lifetime career or through singular achievements.

Johnson joins more than 150 individuals previously inducted into the Hall of Fame since its inception in



1984.

During the awards ceremony, Johnson expressed his gratitude to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and challenged the industry to do for up-and-coming

Black entrepreneurs and artists what John Malone, Chairman of Liberty Media, did for him, "If anybody is responsible for BET's existence, it's John Malone. John was critical not only for the financial investment, but his partnership was instrumental in getting an automatic stamp of approval from cable operators when I first started BET."

Johnson further stated, "I'm receiving this award because of what can be done when ideas, capital, and a commitment to give people a chance to be successful is combined. The commitment of one man, John Malone, who took a

young man's vision and turned it into an opportunity. That's the kind of spirit that needs to be put in front of other emerging Black artists – that's what is missing in our industry – the more we start focusing on this combination – the more we will have successful stories like BET," he concluded.

Liberty Media Chairman John Malone who invested in Bob Johnson's vision to create BET wrote, "... Cable was still in its infancy, and Bob recognized a void in cable programming for the African American market. Bob wanted to be the person to fill that void and believed his channel could

deliver entertainment programming options that were unavailable to the African American community on cable...Bob achieved his goal and launched the first Black cable television network, but I believe his contribution goes far beyond BET. The success of BET advanced the careers of many others. I never doubted Bob's commitment to making BET a success."

"These legendary performers, creators, craftspeople and television executives are luminaries in our industry; their work has influenced and immeasurably elevated the current television landscape and

culture," said Frank Scherma, chairman and CEO of the Television Academy. "We are proud to induct these trailblazers into the Hall of Fame and honored to celebrate their extraordinary contributions to our industry."

The 2022 Hall of Fame honorees being recognized alongside Johnson include Debbie Allen (Emmy®-award winning director/choreographer); Ken Burns (16-time Emmy® winner/documentary films); Robert Daly (Warner Bros. television executive and entertainment industry vi-

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Brandi Gray-Davis

Foremost Family Medical Centers selects highly-regarded nurse practitioner Brandi Gray Davis to the role of Associate Medical Director. Brandi Gray Davis, APRN, FNP-BC assumes the role of Associate Medical Director at Foremost Family Medical Centers.

Davis embodies Foremost's mission to "work to be trusted by patients, a valued partner in the community, and a beacon for positive change." She has distinguished herself as a clear strategist, a compassionate provider, and an



excellent thought leader. Davis brings to her new role a focus on patient empowerment and education. Her commitment to delivering healthcare in a fair, inclusive manner inspires co-workers and elevates

patient interactions in the South Dallas and Balch Springs communities supported by Foremost.

Davis discovered her passion and purpose for creating healthcare free of bias and disparity of care during her early life in New Orleans. As a child and a young mother, Davis recalls "being treated like a second-class citizen" at the clinics in the financially depressed areas in which

she lived. It was because of her experiences and innate change-agent approach to addressing issues, that Davis vowed to change how healthcare is provided in historically underserved communities. She determined to work toward equity and quality of care for all people, regardless of circumstance or background. It is that passion that Davis brings every day to Foremost and the communities

served that makes her perfect choice for this important leadership role.

Davis is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certified (FNP-BC). She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Louisiana State University Health Science Center and a Master of Science in Nursing, with the concentration as a family nurse practitioner,

from Loyola University New Orleans. Davis complements her education with over a decade of experience in ambulatory care and as a family nurse practitioner in government and private sectors. She also spent time in community nursing with the homeless during her collegiate years.

To learn more about Davis or the other Foremost providers and facilities visit foremostfhc.org.

Eriq La Salle

It's one thing to write a crime thriller for the first time, but the next level is when none other than James Patterson praises the book in a preview.

That is the catbird seat acclaimed actor and producer Eriq La Salle now sits.

The Emmy-nominated actor has released the first of a three-book deal with Lavette Books/The Poisoned Pen Books, imprints related to the Ebony Publishing family.

Laws of Depravity, the first offering in the series, dropped on November 1.

La Salle will then release Laws of Wrath and then Laws of Annihilation. Fi-



nally, a prequel follows the last offering.

The series takes place in New York in 2011 when authorities find a priest murdered.

"Detectives must track down a serial killer who continues to escalate his

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By Oscar Blayton

We need not forgive racial injustices in America's past, and we must never forget them. But as a nation, we can reconcile.

It is undeniable that the flurry of recent activity to suppress this country's knowledge of its shameful history is an attempt to make us all forget the injustices suffered by large segments of our society. It is also undeniable that forgetting those injustices invites their reoccurrence.

What is imagined to be at stake by those who struggle to bury truths and eviscerate facts is the disappearance of a way of life essential to their very existence. But this only gives testimony to the fact that their cherished way of life is predicated upon injustice.

The danger facing Americans can be demonstrated by looking at South Africa. South Africa went through a truth and reconciliation process after that nation's government was forced to end its practice of apartheid in 1994. It was an attempt to put to rest animosity, resentment and fears after centuries of mistreatment suffered by Africans and other people of color at the hands of white supremacists.

Many history books say that apartheid lasted in South Africa only from 1948 to 1994, but that does not tell the whole story. In 1948, the National Party came to power in South Africa and codified the racial segregation in existence there for centuries. Taking a step back in time, history tells us that in 1913, the South African government passed the Land Act soon after it became the Union of South Africa.

One of the provisions of the Land Act decreed that "natives" were not allowed

We need not forgive

to buy land from whites and vice versa. But more importantly, it was the legal vehicle by which Africans were dispossessed of their lands, much like the First Nations in America had their lands taken from them. This injustice was not solely the doing of South Africans. The Union of South Africa, under Great Britain, came into being when Britain passed the South Africa Act, granting the white minority dominion over Africans, South Asians and other "Coloured" and mixed-race peoples.

At risk of being too te-

Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created only to investigate gross human rights violations, including abductions, killings and torture, that were perpetrated during the apartheid regime from 1960 to 1994. The period to be examined by the commission was so short that in 2024, as much time will have elapsed since the commission's creation as the period to be examined itself.

One may ask, "What is the importance of this story to us?" The answer is frightening. If we consider the painfully short period

As in South Africa, the United States has for centuries maintained a social regime that allowed atrocious acts of violence and inequality against people with little power to protect themselves. Murder, rape, theft of land, labor and other resources was practiced in plain sight of the global community, with the perpetrators assured that no one would dare interfere to change the status quo.

On Oct. 23, 1947, the NAACP sent to the United Nations a document entitled "An Appeal to the World." This document asked the U.N. to redress human rights violations being committed in the United States against African Americans.

Many white Americans opposed the petition, including then-former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who was a member of board of directors of the NAACP and a member of the American delegation to the United Nations. The Soviet Union, however, proposed that the NAACP's charges be investigated. But on Dec. 4, 1947, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights rejected that proposal, and the United Nations took no action on the petition.

As we continue our struggle for justice, we must keep in mind that while we should not forgive and forget our shared history with those who have benefited from the many injustices we have suffered, we should be prepared to seek to find a way towards a true reconciliation.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>.

“The difference between forgiveness and reconciliation is that forgiveness requires nothing from the forgiven. They may not even have to realize that they are being forgiven. Reconciliation requires repentance from the offender, and the offender does not get to dictate the terms of reconciliation.”

dious with a walk back in time, it needs to be pointed out that South Africa has suffered under white supremacy since the Dutch arrived at the Cape in the 17th century. The Dutch arrived at what became Cape Town, numbering only 90 souls, in 1652. By 1795, they had pushed the Africans off enough land to accommodate 16,000 settlers.

In 2014, almost 400 years after Europeans arrived in South Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a report, "The Impacts of Social and Economic Inequality on Economic Development in South Africa." This dismal recounting of conditions in South Africa makes it clear that four centuries of abuse and injustice fostered by white supremacy have not been healed by 30 years of struggle to set things right. To begin, South Africa's

of time examined by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the stalled progress to create a better quality of life for those who suffered under apartheid and centuries of abuse, we must realize that forgiving racial injustice can lead to continued inequality. The difference between forgiveness and reconciliation is that forgiveness requires nothing from the forgiven. They may not even have to realize that they are being forgiven. Reconciliation requires repentance from the offender, and the offender does not get to dictate the terms of reconciliation.

In South Africa, because of the relative strengths of the offenders and the offended, the offenders were able to negotiate – or one might say, "dictate" – the terms of the reconciliation. This should not be allowed to happen in America.

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Sugar-sweetened beverages pose health concerns, with Black and Latino children disproportionately affected

LOS ANGELES (Black PR Wire) ---Report from Public Health shows data large regional and racial differences in rates of consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) recently released a report showing that consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) – drinks with added sugar, such as soda, fruit drinks, sports drinks and energy drinks – remains an ongoing concern to the health of children and adolescents in Los Angeles County. The report shows stark disparities in SSB consumption among racial, ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic groups. The release of the report follows a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors motion on Tuesday calling attention to the importance of the report and its recommendations for environmental and policy changes. The Board has directed Public Health to disseminate it widely.



Thomas Park / Unsplash

nate it widely.

“We are declaring November as Diabetes Awareness Month to focus our attention on this critical health issue and many of the potential factors that contribute to type 2 diabetes, like sugar-sweetened beverage consumption,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, representing the First District.

“The Department of Public Health’s report highlights the fact that despite the decrease in overall consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among youth, consumption among Black and Latino youth

continues to be higher than other populations. For this reason, I introduced a board motion directing our Department of Public Health to disseminate its report to community-based organizations, policymakers, and schools to help raise awareness to help prevent the development of type 2 diabetes in our most vulnerable communities in the future.”

Excess consumption of added sugars contributes to the high prevalence of childhood and adolescent obesity, and increases the risk for dental decay, heart disease, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes. SSBs are the leading source of added

sugars in the American diet.

“This report shows that sugary drinks are a real problem impacting the health and well-being of our kids,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, representing the Fourth District. “The issue I see is that sugary options are often the cheaper options, and healthier alternatives are not always affordable. We have a lot of work to do to shift this reality and tackle the persistent health disparities our kids are experiencing.” Drawing on data from the latest Los Angeles County Health Survey (LACHS), highlights of the report include:

- SSB consumption was higher among Black (47.6%) and Latino (43.1%) children, compared to Asian (25.4%) and White (21.0%) children.

- Findings showed large regional differences in child SSB consumption across Los Angeles County, with SSB consumption lowest in the West Service Planning Area (SPA) (16.7%

in 2018), which includes communities like Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, and Malibu, and highest in the South SPA (51.6%), which includes the communities of Compton, Crenshaw, Watts and surrounding areas.

- While overall rates of daily SSB consumption have decreased (from 43.3% to 37.2%) over the past decade, Black and Latino children continue to have approximately double the rate of SSB consumption compared to White and Asian children.

- Among low-income households living below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 47% of children consumed one or more SSB per day, compared to 22% of children living in households at or above 300% FPL.

- SB consumption was lower among children who participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (32.1%) compared

to children in low-income households who did not participate in the program (40.7%). This notable difference seems to provide a protective factor that may be due to nutrition counseling to reduce consumption of SSBs and the provision of WIC benefits that include only beverages that do not contain added sugar.

“While the overall rates of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption are declining, we continue to see troubling disparities in the populations that are most affected,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MD, Director of Public Health. “We know consumption of sugary drinks among our Black and Latino youth is double that of their White and Asian counterparts. And while it is always easy to blame the problem on individual choices, we are aware that the environment in which children live, study, and play has a tremendous impact on the

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DEA laboratory testing reveals that 6 out of 10 Fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills now contain a potentially lethal dose of Fentanyl

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is alerting the public of a sharp nationwide increase in the lethality of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills.

The DEA Laboratory has found that, of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills analyzed in 2022, six out of ten now contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl. This is an increase from DEA’s previous announcement in 2021 that four out of ten fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills were found to contain a potentially lethal dose.

“More than half of the fentanyl-laced fake pre-



Volodymyr Hryshchenko / Unsplash

scription pills being trafficked in communities across the country now contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. This marks a dramatic increase

– from four out of ten to six out of ten – in the number of pills that can kill,” said Administrator Anne Milgram. “These pills are being mass-produced by

the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel in Mexico. Never take a pill that wasn’t prescribed directly to you. Never take a pill from a friend. Never take a pill bought on social media. Just one pill is dangerous and one pill can kill.”

Last year, the DEA issued a Public Safety Alert on the widespread drug trafficking of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills in American communities. These pills are largely made by two Mexican drug cartels, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco (CJNG) Cartel, to look identical to real prescription medications, including Oxy-

Contin®, Percocet®, and Xanax®, and they are often deadly. In 2021, the DEA seized more than 20.4 million fake prescription pills. Earlier this year, the DEA conducted a nationwide operational surge to target the trafficking of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills and, in just over three months, seized 10.2 million fake pills in all 50 states. Through its “One Pill can Kill” campaign, the DEA is working to alert the American public of the dangers of fake prescription pills.

Fentanyl remains the deadliest drug threat facing this country. It is a highly addictive synthetic opioid

that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, the small amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially deadly dose. According to the CDC, 107,622 Americans died of drug poisoning in 2021, with 66 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl. The Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco Cartel in Mexico, using chemicals largely sourced from China, are primarily responsible for the vast majority of the fentanyl that is being trafficked in communities across the United States.



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Foster Children to Be Adopted by Forever Families at Dallas County's National Adoption Day Event Nov.19

This past Saturday, as many as 30 Dallas children that had been living in the protective care of the state were adopted. The event took place on November 19, 2022, which made it possible for the children to be in their new homes in time for the holidays.

Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) planned this special day to bring together families, children, Child Protective Services and judges, who donated their time and services to make the event

happen.

Dallas CASA planned a great deal for the day, including balloons, superheroes from Capes for Kindness, a photo booth, treats from Northwood Woman's Club, and much more.

The atmosphere in the normally staid and quiet halls at Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center turned jubilant on National Adoption Day, with joyful and tearful adults and children becoming part of forever families.

The Dallas event has

been hosted by Dallas CASA since 2010. District court judges Sandra Jackson and Andrea Plumlee presided over the adoptions along with their court reporters. Officials from the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, the District Clerk's office, Henry Wade security staff, the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, and the Dallas County juvenile department were also in attendance.

On the 3rd floor of the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center, the adoptions

began at 8:30 a.m. and ended by 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022.

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. National Adoption Day is a collective, nationwide effort to raise awareness of the more than 115,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent and loving families.

Since the inception of the event, National Adoption Day has seen more than 75,000 children in 400 communities across the United States be adopted.



Courtesy photos

Tarrant Area Food launches first ever gift catalog; Gift Ideas that Give Back to the Community

FORT WORTH – The Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) launches its first ever Holidays of Hope Gift Catalog. In this new giving opportunity, the giving community has the ability to feed those in need, in honor of those they love.

The holiday season brings much uncertainty for many families as to where their next meal will come

from, thus food insecurity is magnified in the Tarrant Area footprint. Inflation is combining with supply chain squeezes to dampen the purchasing power of both food banks and clients, while also spiking gas and transportation costs. The Tarrant Area Food Bank is responding as best they can by pursuing a number of strategies, including calling

upon government agencies for help, building up pathways for increased produce distribution, expanding relationships with grocer-donors, and ramping up fundraising efforts, such as the Holidays of Hope Gift Catalog.

Gifts made through the catalog, while symbolic, will greatly support TAFB's mission to end hunger in

our community. "Currently, we are spending more than we had budgeted for on food purchasing," said Julie Butner, President and CEO of Tarrant Area Food Bank. "We see this as a way that the Tarrant Area community can further help those in need during the holiday season".

The digital catalog can be viewed at www.tafb.org/

gifts.

Gifts range from healthy food items such as beans, produce, and chicken to support for TAFB programs such as Community Gardens and Home Delivery. Once donation is made, the honoree will receive a special e-card to notify them of their gift.

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK (TAFB):

Empowering our community to end hunger and improve health. Through our network of over 450 partner agencies, TAFB provides access to over 1M nutritious meals weekly to children and adults facing hunger. This work resulted in access to 55 million nutritious meals in fiscal year 2021. Learn more at www.tafb.org.

2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Essay Contest

Nov. 15, 2022 -- **DALLAS** -- The City of Dallas is pleased to announce the 2023 essay contest will award eight scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 (per award) to graduating high school seniors accepted into a college-level educational institution (two-year college,

four-year college, or trade school).

A total of \$27,500 in scholarship awards will be presented to eight finalists:

- 1st Place receives \$10,000
- 2nd Place receives \$7,500
- 3rd Place receives \$5,000

*Awards of \$1,000 will be presented to five honorable mentions.

Essay Contest Rules & Eligibility

The 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest is open to high school seniors attending a City of Dallas high school. These Scholarships are to help

defray the cost of tuition, books, room and board, etc. Winners will be required to submit a short video of their scholarship acceptance and will be formally recognized at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship & Awards Gala on Saturday, January 14, 2023.

Submission deadline is

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022, 11:59 p.m. CST.

- One essay per student;
- Essays must be original, typed, double-spaced, and a minimum of 1,000 words;
- The cover sheet must contain the student's name, school, home/cellular phone number, and email

address (do not include this information in the body of the essay);

- student must attend a high school in the city of Dallas;
- Essays will be judged based on organization, content, creativity, and grammatical structure.

Young Scholars Program launched through Dallas Foundation Grant

Starting in the Spring 2023 semester, Dallas College will launch a drop-in child-care option for students attending its El Centro campus thanks to a \$100,000 grant to Dallas College Foundation from The Dallas Foundation.

The Dallas College Young Scholars Program will lessen the expense of child care as a barrier to parents attending college and meeting their educational goals. Seed funding from Dallas College Foundation's new Dallas Foundation Community Impact Grant will help launch the program in January 2023.

"We are excited to partner with Dallas College to provide students at Dallas College's El Centro campus with free and reliable child care. Everyone deserves an equitable opportunity to unlock economic potential, and this project ensures that student-parents get that opportunity. The Dallas Foundation is proud to be a part of this initiative and looks



Lawrence Crayton / Unsplash

forward to supporting Dallas College in this much-needed work," said Drexell Owusu, chief impact officer for The Dallas Foundation.

Low-income parents often spend over one-quarter of their annual income to afford center-based

child care, according to a Brandeis University study. One group of parents disproportionately affected by the cost of child care is college students. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, many student-parents opted not to return to the class-

room because they needed to tend to their parental and caretaking responsibilities given daycare closures and the rising costs of reliable child care.

"These funds will enable us to provide student-parents attending classes at El Centro with free and reliable drop-in child care. More importantly, this project eliminates another barrier to post-secondary access by ensuring that student-parents get an honest chance at enhancing their journeys at Dallas College," said Dr. Carlos Cruz, associate vice chancellor of student well-being and social support at Dallas College.

Accessible and reliable no-cost drop-in child care will be provided through a partnership with the T. Boone Pickens YMCA facility in downtown Dallas. The facility will promote early childhood development and provide enhanced learning experiences for children of Dallas College

students. This initial implementation will accommodate up to 38 children at one time, with an estimated 75 children participating in the program over the course of the initial Spring semester.

"We are deeply grateful for this game-changing grant from The Dallas Foundation. The Dallas Foundation is a leader in advancing equity and opportunity in our community. We are honored to be counted among the winners of their Community Impact Grant competition and to help Dallas College remove a major barrier to student success," said Josh Skolnick, executive director, Dallas College Foundation.

Dallas College intends to scale the Young Scholars Program to other campuses in a financially sustainable manner. Through this new program, Dallas College will effectively increase persistence and completion rates of student-parents at Dallas College.

Dallas College, formerly the Dallas County Community College District, was founded in 1965, and consists of seven campuses: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland. Dallas College offers online learning and serves more than 125,000 credit and continuing education students during the fall and spring semesters. Dallas College also offers dual credit for students in partner high schools and early college high schools throughout Dallas County. Students benefit from partnerships with local business leaders, school districts and four-year universities, and Dallas College offers associate degree and career/technical certificate programs in more than 100 areas of study, as well as a bachelor's degree in education. Based on annual enrollment, it is the largest community college in Texas.

XPRIZE Racial Equity Alliance Ideas Competition, winners announced

LOS ANGELES (Black PR Wire) -- XPRIZE, the world's leader in designing and operating incentive competitions to solve humanity's grand challenges, and Intel recently announced the ten winners of the \$50,000 XPRIZE Racial Equity Alliance Ideas Competition presented by Intel.

The Racial Equity Alliance Ideas Competition, presented by Intel, crowdsourced ideas for future XPRIZE competitions that would focus on improving racial equity in American education. Participants were asked to identify an educational challenge specific to their community or the U.S. at large and propose a competition that would generate positive and impactful solutions to that challenge.

The ten participants who will share the \$50,000 prize

for their winning ideas are:

- Devin Jackson representing Team We Build Black Inc.
- Eugene Pough representing Team Philadelphia Youth Football Academy
- Dr. Chevelle Hall, Dr. Willis Walter, John Travis, and Dr. Brian Maiden
- Lev Horodyskyj representing Team Science Voices
- Dr. Janet Dewart Bell, Rosia Blackwell Lawrence, and Renée Floyd Myers
- Sara Linardi, Trupti Sarode, and Claire Guth representing Team Center for Analytical Approaches to Social Innovation (CAASI, University of Pittsburgh)
- Jerren Chang representing Team GenUnity
- Christina O'Guinn representing Team Tech Interactive
- Jonathan Quarles
- Daquanna Harrison representing Team Elevation

Education and Consulting Group

"Racial inequity in education is a national issue, and our team was inspired by the creative ideas submitted by people across the country designed to help address this pressing challenge," said Damon Woods, director of the XPRIZE Racial Equity Alliance (REA). "The work of these 10 winners will guide and inform our efforts to create XPRIZE competitions that dismantle barriers of inequity in our classrooms and beyond." "Advancing equity in education is essential to ensuring all students have the opportunity to grow and succeed in today's world," said Dawn Jones, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and Vice President of Social Impact at Intel. "We are proud to partner with XPRIZE on the REA Ideas Competi-

tion, which embodies Intel's commitment to combatting the systemic and structural inequities impacting our communities."

The XPRIZE Racial Equity Alliance is a coalition aimed at creating more equitable solutions to dismantle institutional and systemic structures of racial inequities, with an intentional focus on the Black community. The REA includes representatives from the private sector, government, academia, and philanthropy and operates within seven key domains: Education, Health, Economic Empowerment, Criminal Justice Reform, Food Security, Workplace Equity, and Environment.

The winners of the Ideas Competition were selected by members of the XPRIZE REA Brain Trust, a network of experts, leaders, and other influential

individuals across the racial equity space created by XPRIZE in partnership with presenting sponsor Intel, supporting sponsors eBay Foundation, Comcast NBCUniversal, and AARP, and 18 additional partners. The Brain Trust includes 25 leaders, including representatives from the March of Dimes, McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility, Goalsetter, and more. This diverse group helps shape the REA's vision, direction, and impact. To partner with, sponsor, or join the REA, contact Damon Woods (damon.woods@xprize.org). Learn more at <https://www.xprize.org/alliances>.

XPRIZE is a global future-positive movement of over 1M people and rising, delivering truly radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity. For over 25 years, XPRIZE

has used competitions as the most efficient way to leverage philanthropic investment for impact and an exponential return, in some cases multiplying prize purses 10x – 50x. The first-ever XPRIZE competition, the \$10 Million Ansari XPRIZE for sub-orbital spaceflight, captured the world's imagination and catalyzed a multi-billion-dollar commercial private space industry. XPRIZE made headlines on Earth Day 2021 by launching the largest incentive prize in history, \$100 Million XPRIZE Carbon Removal funded by Elon Musk and the Musk Foundation, with a goal to rebalance Earth's carbon cycle. In total, XPRIZE has launched 25 competitions with more than \$293 Million in prize purses. Join XPRIZE to help create a better future for everyone, everywhere.

Plano hosts 'March of the Toys' followed by Toyland Festival in Downtown

(Rotary Clubs of Plano)
-- Longtime Planoites remember watching the holiday parade in downtown Plano. This year, the parade is back and will be returning to its former home of Downtown Plano.

On hiatus since 2020, the parade will return with a new organizer. Six Rotary clubs have partnered to collectively host the parade as The Rotary Clubs of Plano, with support from the City of Plano.

"The Rotary Clubs of Plano are very excited to be the host. These clubs have been an important part of this city and have had an impact with fundraising for veterans, non-profit organizations and many other efforts to help the community. Rotary is an organi-



Chris Hardy / Unsplash

zation that gives back, and this is another way to show how we can give back to the Plano community," said Liz Lansing, parade co-

chair and immediate past president of the North Texas Pioneers Rotary Club.

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neigh-

bors, friends, leaders and problem solvers. As Rotarians we believe we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's

most persistent issues.

"Rotarians are people of action, and we hope to bring the community together with the parade and festival and to create more connections for the future. Many of the organizations you will see in the parade are groups that Rotary works with directly and continues to support," said Lisa Bloomer, parade co-chair and immediate past president of Plano East Rotary Club.

The holiday parade's theme for 2022 is "March of the Toys." The parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, and is expected to last an hour. It will start at 18th Street and M Avenue near Mendenhall Elementary, head west on 18th Street, turn south on

K Avenue, turn east on 15th Street, and then north on P Avenue to end at Williams High School.

A free "Toyland" festival will follow the parade in the north parking lot of the Plano Municipal Center at 1520 K Avenue. Open from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. the festival will feature visits with Santa, food trucks, vendors and a kids' zone.

The public can find information on registering a float, becoming a vendor, attending the parade or festival and more at rotaryparadesofplano.com. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for businesses. Other Helpful links: rotaryparadesofplano.com; facebook.com/rotaryparadesplano; instagram.com/rotaryparades_plan.

ELECTION, from Page 1

well in gubernatorial races, winning 23 seats.

In potentially the most stunning upset of the 2022 midterms, Republican Kari Lake, a 2020 election denier, trails Democrat Katie Hobbs in the Arizona governor's race by 34,000 votes.

Officials still must count about 290,000 votes before declaring a winner.

Also, in Los Angeles, former Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass had widened her lead over developer Rick Caruso in the race for mayor.

A Bass victory would make her the first Black woman mayor in the history of Los Angeles.

AARP Poll Shows Older Voters May Decide Close Georgia Runoff Election

With the Georgia runoff election between Democratic incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker less than two weeks ago, there's a vast divide between younger and older voters.

AARP Georgia released key findings from a 2022 runoff election survey that shows candidates should

pay close attention to Georgians age 50 and older, with issues such as inflation and rising prices, threats to democracy, and Social Security and Medicare top of mind for these voters.

Warnock, seeking to retain the seat he won in a 2020 runoff, leads the ex-football player by 24 percentage points among voters 18-49.

Meanwhile, Walker leads the senator by 9 points among voters 50 or older.

Overall, the AARP poll shows Warnock with a 51% to 47% lead over Walker.

The big mountain for Democrats is the 55% to 42% edge Walker holds among voters over 65 and Walker's 51% to 47% lead among voters 50-64.

AARP noted that individuals 50 and older make up 62% of likely runoff voters.

Warnock continues to enjoy a commanding 83-point lead among Black voters 50 and older.

"Georgia voters 50 and older are a critical voting demographic that both candidates are competing for in this runoff election,"

Debra Tyler-Horton, AARP Georgia State Director, said in a news release.

"Georgia residents want their leaders to provide solutions to inflation and the rising cost of living, preserve democracy and protect their health and financial security," Tyler-Horton stated.

"The message is clear, if these candidates want to win the U.S. Senate seat, they should pay attention to the issues that matter to Georgians 50-plus."

The survey also found that a significant majority (70%) of voters think the country is headed in the wrong direction, while just 49% think the same about the direction of the state.

Meanwhile, 63% of voters said they are worried about their financial situation.

The vast majority (90%) of voters 50 and older said they are highly motivated to vote in the runoff election.

On behalf of AARP, the bipartisan team of pollsters Fabrizio Ward and Impact Research conducted the survey.

The firms interviewed 1,183 likely Georgia voters.

Interviewees included a statewide representative sample of 500 likely voters, an oversample of 550 likely voters aged 50 and older,

and an additional oversample of 133 likely Black voters in that age bracket.

Officials conducted the survey between November

11-17, 2022.

For more information on how, when, and where to vote in Georgia, visit aarp.org/GAvotes.

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NDG Film Review: 'The Wonder' is a storybook tale

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) It's a very simple story, at first. A modest allegory that pits religious fanaticism against common sense in a test of wills that slowly becomes biblical.

Ireland 1862, 13 years after the Great Famine of 1845/49 caused millions of deaths. Anna (Kila Lord Cassidy), an 11-year-old girl living in the rural Irish Midlands, is seemingly the saint of her devout community. The Chosen. Her family claims she hasn't eaten for four months, yet she walks, talks and shows no signs of stress or the dying process. A local all-male council hires and sends for Lib Wright (Florence Pugh, *Little Women*), an English nurse who tended to soldiers during the Crimean War. She will oversee a 15-day study to determine if the girl is surviving on God's love, or not. The edict: "It's not your job to question us. You are here only to watch."

To Lib's surprise, one of the pillars of the community, Sean Ryan (David Wilmot), states that a second guardian, a nun named Sister Michael (Josie Walker), will also observe the



Photo via NNPA

phenomenon. Their final report is due in two weeks and the council hopes the findings will verify this blessed occurrence. A nosy English journalist, Will Byrne (Tom Burke), also investigates "the miracle girl." He and Lib seek the truth.

Producer Tessa Ross's source material is Emma Donoghue's 2016 novel *The Wonder*, which cuts across themes of religion, deification, child rights and women's issues in ways that are old and new. Writer/director Sebastián Lelio and cowriters Donoghue and Alice Birch wrote an intense script that veers only slightly from the central plot of exposing a hoax or verifying a wonder. Tangents off that main story include a ruse and coverup, a romance between strangers and the dynamics of a nurse whose maternal instincts indicate something is wrong.

That possibly a young girl's stubbornness has backed her into a dark corner. Lib: "If Anna doesn't eat, she'll probably die."

In the Victorian era, "fasting girls" were phenomena. They feigned an ability to not eat and yet thrive due to a miraculous act from God. A magical power. It's likely that marvel back then is what's now known as anorexia nervosa. E.g., in Wales a girl named Sarah Jacob claimed to have the fasting power. She died at age 12 in 1869 and her parents were convicted of manslaughter for not interceding. The real-life history of Anna's situation adds urgency to Lib's mission and gives the film a strong base.

This very primal tale unfolds against the backdrop of the vast Irish Midlands. Barren plains carpeted in earth tone colors, shades of greens and washed-out

browns. A landscape so untouched it looks medieval. Grant Montgomery's production design is as bleak as the surroundings. Art director Til Frohlich's gloomy color palette eschews bright hues. One of the few hints of lighter tones is Lib's pale blue dress (costume designer Odile Dicks-Mireaux), which perceptively has a brown ring of dirt on the bottom.

Earthy, pastoral scenes and cloudy skies are recorded in a storybook way (cinematographer Ari Wegner, *The Power of the Dog*). The footage is further enchanted by an absorbing musical score (composer Mathew Herbert, *The Cave*), which aside from typical ominous string music, features haunting whale crying sounds. Images of a burning house, a girl lying by a holy brook and stubborn old men sitting at a judgement table are indelible.

Chilean director Lelio (*A Fantastic Woman*) favors a minimalism that rarely fea-

tures more than one or two characters on screen, few homes, near empty roads. Though fear, anger and deceit are on view, emotions are rarely peaked. It's as if Lib is trying to rouse the dead and get them to see that a young girl's life is at stake for the sake of religious pride. The drama is understated, but the risks and consequences are monumental. Lelio's only questionable judgement is starting and ending the film in modern times, with a camera focused on a film studio. In those first moments a cryptic voiceover says: "We are nothing without stories... so we invite you to believe this one." It's an unnecessary device.

Pugh portrays the quintessential, mid-1800s Nightingale nurse. Kind, generous, helpful. Trying to sort out holy feats from hard realities. She fights the council, archaic beliefs and unconcerned parents, without hysteria but quite willfully. As the quest for saving

Anna becomes more taxing and urgent, Pugh wears that stress on her face like a martyr.

Burke as Will, the other voice of reason, supports Pugh's efforts adding a surprising chemistry between the two. Cassidy portrays Anna as a child in need of an angel. The entire group of stern heartless council members are well played by a frumpy cast: Wilmot, Ciarán Hinds, Toby Jones, Brian F. O'Byrne, Dermot Crowley.

A brave woman tries to dispel quackery. Stubborn old men block her. It's a sobering, push and pull—a drama shorn down to its essentials, both visually and emotionally. A plight that merits an adult audiences' attention for 1h 48 minutes. Until they see a reckoning, solution or a young victim expire.

In select theaters and on Netflix.

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

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Black Nativity returns for 18th run at Bishop Arts Theatre

Bishop Arts Theatre will present its annual holiday favorite of Black Nativity inspired by Langston Hughes' hand-clapping, toe-tapping, finger-snapping retelling of the Christmas story.

This year's production will be directed by Sheridan Singleton with choreography by J. Alexander Langley.

A 2008 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts, Sheridan received a B.F.A. in theater from Point Park University in 2012.

As a performer, she had

the privilege of participating in a four-week summer intensive with the world-renowned SITI Company, and was trained in the Tadashi Suzuki Method of movement and Viewpoints in 2011.

After moving to the city of Chicago, she began working with the interdisciplinary arts company Mozawa and helped create and devise new works such as *FALLEN*, *Y Portraits: Awakening*, and a devised piece based on Strindberg's *A Dream Play*, all of which involved collaborating with artists from all mediums.

While in graduate school,

Sheridan co-founded F.I.E.R.C.E. Theater Collective and produced work that brought together the artists and their audience.

After receiving her Masters degree in Arts, Media, and Entertainment Management from Columbia College Chicago in 2018, she joined Chicago Opera Theater as their development assistant, and eventually became the Executive Assistant to the General Director and the Board Liaison. Sheridan returned to Dallas in 2020 and worked as a General Management Associate at Cry Havoc Theatre.

Single tickets to Black Nativity are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.bishopartstheatre.org or via phone by calling 214.948.0716 Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets range from \$18 - \$35. Discounts are available for seniors, students, and groups of 15 or more.

Additional details regarding programming events, hours of operation, and online ticket purchases can be found exclusively at bishopartstheatre.org. This event is being sponsored in part by Frost Bank.



Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Eisemann Center presents Christmas with C.S. Lewis starring Gregory Williams Welsch

Celebrate the holiday season with C.S. Lewis! Acclaimed performer Gregory Williams Welsch brings the iconic author to life onstage at Charles W. Eisemann Center's Hill Performance Hall this December.

From "The Chronicles of

Narnia" to "The Screwtape Letters," British author C.S. Lewis's timeless works of literature continue to influence young and old alike. Now, Gregory Williams Welsch brings the beloved author's life from page to stage and invites audiences to discover the

true meaning of Christmas in Christmas with C.S. Lewis. Performances are Wednesday, December 14 and Saturday, December 17 at 2 PM, and Thursday, December 15 through Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 PM. Tickets range from \$46-\$52 and are on sale

now at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972.744.4650. The Eisemann Center is located at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, Texas.

In the early years of his young adult life C.S. Lewis believed the story of

Christ's birth was nothing more than feel-good myth. That all changed after a particular encounter with his great friend and fellow author, J.R.R. Tolkien. Although both men loved mythology in general, Tolkien was convinced that the Jesus myth was the one true

myth. That was the start of Lewis' journey from Atheism to Christianity. From that point on Christmas, for Lewis, took on an entirely different meaning. Here we find him at his home near Oxford on Christmas Eve

See WELSCH, Page 11

Dallas Black Dance Academy presents Espresso Nutcracker with a twist of Jazz-influenced music by Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite

Dallas Black Dance Academy presents its fifth annual Espresso Nutcracker, with a new twist on a holiday tradition. The performance is jazz-influenced by the music of Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite.

Presenting sponsor for the Espresso Nutcracker is Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust and co-sponsor is The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture. The performance is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Majestic Theatre, located at 1925 Elm Street, Dallas, TX. "Espresso Nutcracker" is also available via live streaming and on-demand.

Dallas Black Dance Academy Director Katricia Eaglin, assisted by academy ballet instructors, choreographed Espresso Nutcracker. Eaglin was inspired to use the traditional



Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Tchaikovsky music along with tracks from Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite, selecting Ellington tracks that were still recognizable to the original work. Eaglin added narration to the performance to unlock

the mystery and magic of the storyline. Eaglin also added an African dance to the Land of Sweets Act that includes Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, and Russian dances in the original version.

The original Nutcracker

Ballet, choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with a score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, is one of the most famous ballets in the world. It tells the story of young Clara's magical journey

on Christmas Eve. Students from the academy's Pre-Professional division perform all the youth roles in the production. Many dance academies bring in professionals to dance key Nutcracker roles, but Dallas Black Dance Academy students will dance all key parts, such as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. DBDT professional dancers will dance the adult characters of the Mother, Father, and Drosselmeyer.

"I was inspired to create and produce the Espresso Nutcracker for Dallas Black Dance Academy so our academy students could be involved in the Nutcracker tradition," said Katricia Eaglin. "We're excited to share how our students have grown while training both in-person and virtually during the season!" Academy 2022-2023 classes are

dual with students learning at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre studios and virtually. DBD Academy is the official school of DBDT.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers several discount options for patrons who purchase virtual links to view the performance via streaming or on-demand. Corporations and organizations can also purchase multiple virtual links to gift to employees or clients anywhere in the world.

Email ticketssales@dbdt.com for details. Dallas Black Dance Theatre limits its seating capacity to allow for social distancing in all performance venues. Because of the limited in-person ticket availability, DBDT will not be able to give discounts to groups or subscriptions this season at venue locations.

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USPTO and the Department of Commerce launch Women's Entrepreneurship (WE) initiative to empower more women founders across America

WASHINGTON (USPTO) -- The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Department of Commerce recently launched Women's Entrepreneurship (WE), a community-focused, collaborative, and creative initiative to inspire women and tap their potential to meaningfully increase equity, job creation, and economic prosperity. The new initiative kicks off in advance of Women's Entrepreneurship Day on November 19 and comes on the heels of President Biden's recent proclamation naming November 2022 as National Entrepreneurship Month.

"Unleashing the potential of women entrepreneurs is good for business, good for families and good for our economy," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina



Christina Wocintech / Unsplash

Raimondo. "The WE initiative will serve as a valuable resource to women on their journey to start a business and strengthen the community of women entrepreneurs that continue to power American prosperity."

"Women are still vastly underrepresented in leadership positions in the U.S., and the percentage of women who decide to pursue an entrepreneurial career is

lower than that of men," said Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. "With this important initiative, our goal is to increase the number of women-led businesses to bolster jobs, consumer choice, and our economic prosperity. The time is now to put women's entrepreneurship into overdrive, and we are excited to

launch this valuable initiative to shift it into gear."

While women represent the fastest growing category of entrepreneurs worldwide, they are less likely to be able to secure the capital and the intellectual property protections they need to attract investment and become sustainable. Further, women are severely underrepresented as business owners compared to men. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Business Survey (ABS), men have an ownership stake in about 80% of U.S. businesses and a majority ownership share in 63% of U.S. businesses. Meanwhile, women hold an ownership stake in about 37% of U.S. businesses, but only had a majority share in 21% of businesses.

WE will build on efforts

across the private sector and government to inspire and support start-ups and aspiring women entrepreneurs, connecting them with each other, with support, and with sources for funding. WE includes a new online hub for aspiring women entrepreneurs to provide key information on how to get started, identifying and protecting their intellectual property, options for securing funding, and building and maintaining a network. With a welcome message from Secretary Raimondo, information on upcoming discussions and events, rotating videos featuring tips from successful women entrepreneurs, and key information and resources, the WE hub aggregates this important information in an easy-to-digest format. WE will include USPTO's

Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium series to be hosted in March 2023.

The official WE launch event will take place on Wednesday, November 30 from 12–1 p.m. EDT at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. To sign up to attend this event live or virtually please visit the event page on the USPTO website. Future #WEWednesday events will be announced on the website, on social and to our subscriber list. Email WE@uspto.gov to receive WE notifications.

Stay current with the USPTO by subscribing to receive email updates, including those focused on entrepreneurship. Visit our Subscription Center at www.uspto.gov/subscribe.

The President's initiative on junk fees and related pricing practices

In response to President Biden's call to action, all Competition Council federal agencies are looking for ways to reduce or lower junk fees. While in some cases more work is needed to identify and understand unjustified practices, federal agencies are acting now

in places where there is a compelling case to reduce or eliminate fees – and taking comment and engaging stakeholders where greater transparency and data will help to improve regulatory approaches going forward. To date, the Administration has already taken a number

of actions that will save consumers and businesses billions of dollars:

Eliminating unfair banking fees. Today, the CFPB issued guidance explaining that two junk fee practices are unfair and unlawful – effectively banning both. First, the CFPB is

making clear that surprise overdraft fees are unlawful. These are fees charged for overdrawing a checking account even though at the time the account owner made a purchase, the bank's website or ATM terminal showed the customer that they had suf-

ficient available funds for the purchase. Second, the CFPB is making clear that surprise depositor fees are unlawful. These are fees charged to customers who deposit someone else's bounced check, penalizing the victim. Together, these actions will save consum-

ers more than \$1 billion annually.

Additional CFPB actions on bank and credit card fees. The CFPB is developing rules and guidance on other fees charged by banks and credit card

See JUNK, Page 12

SWEET, from Page 4

choices they can make. Systemic inequities, such as targeted marketing, proliferation of inexpensive sugary beverages, and lack of infrastructure improvements that provide easy access to clean, safe water in communities of color, heavily influence individual behavior. It will take an even larger commitment by

all of us to implement proven, multi-sector strategies to reduce inequities and improve the health and future of our children." Recommended strategies from the report for reducing disparities in SSB consumption among children in Los Angeles County include:

- Limit SSB marketing in public buildings and spaces

- Make drinking water safe, accessible, and free throughout communities and schools

- Allocate SSB tax revenues to programs directed at communities disproportionately impacted by SSB marketing and consumption

- Implement behavioral economics strategies to promote healthier beverage options in schools and restaurants

- Urge national school meals programs to ensure access to healthy beverages and discourage consumption of sugary drinks

- Expand evidence-based nutrition education on the negative health impacts of SSB consumption by federal nutrition assistance programs

To view the full report, visit [http://ph.lacounty.gov/nut/media/nutrition-](http://ph.lacounty.gov/nut/media/nutrition-physical-activityresources/LA_County_Sugar-Sweetened_Beverage_Report_2022_Web_Layout.pdf)

[physical-activityresources/LA_County_Sugar-Sweetened_Beverage_Report_2022_Web_Layout.pdf](http://ph.lacounty.gov/nut/media/nutrition-physical-activityresources/LA_County_Sugar-Sweetened_Beverage_Report_2022_Web_Layout.pdf). The Department of Public Health is committed to promoting health equity and ensuring optimal health and well-being for all 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health

oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health comprises nearly 5,000 employees and has an annual budget of \$1.3 billion. Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

WELSCH, from Page 9

hosting a group of Americans who are celebrating Christmas in England. They are about to experience an unforgettable assortment of Yuletide recollections which stimulate a whole range of emotions – curiosity, laughter, gladness and

even some tears. Above all, they will discover how that encounter with Tolkien forever changed his Christmas celebrations.

A multi-award nominated actor Gregory Williams Welsch has worked with theater companies

that have showcased historic plays giving him the opportunity to bring such iconic characters as Vladimir in Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," and Mitch in the Tennessee Williams classic, "A Streetcar Named Desire" to life. He recently toured nationally with renowned

British actor David Payne, playing JRR Tolkien to David's C.S. Lewis in, "Lewis and Tolkien: Of Wardrobes and Rings." That outstanding performance has led to Gregory being entrusted with the role of C.S. Lewis in David Payne's hit one-man show, "An Evening with C.S. Lewis" and now

"Christmas with C.S. Lewis." These are giant shoes to fill, and yet Gregory has been able to apply his enormous talent to the role; resulting in his own unique portrayal of one of the greatest authors ever to put pen to paper.

The Charles W. Eise-mann Center is located at

2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. The Eise-mann Center is accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/ Campbell Road exit going south, or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park.

DVAP offering multiple free legal clinics in December

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association (DBA) and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and local Dallas law firms have partnered to hold free virtual and in-person legal clinics in December.

Virtual clinics are as fol-

lows:

- Thursday, December 1 – DVAP, DBA Entrepreneurs in Community Lawyering, and Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Thursday, December 8 – DVAP, and Stinson LLP – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Thursday, December

15 – DVAP and Haynes and Boone, LLP – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

In addition, DVAP will host the following in-person clinics. In-person clinics are as follows:

- South Dallas Clinic, Tuesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m., Martin Luther

King, Jr. Community Center, (2922 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas). Sponsored by DVAP and Baker Botts L.L.P.

Virtual Clinics only: Dallas County residents who would like to apply for free legal assistance should fill out the form found on-

line at: <https://tinyurl.com/DVAPClinic>. Once the form has been completed, expect an attorney's call on the respective date. Participants should watch for a call from an unknown number that should be labeled "No Caller ID" or something similar. For legal assistance any

time, contact the DBA's Lawyer Referral Service at www.DallasLRS.org. For more information, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/>. For media inquiries about these clinics, contact DVAP Director Michelle Alden at aldenm@lanwt.org.

JUNK, from Page 11

companies. These fees cost consumers more than \$24 billion a year combined, with the biggest impacts on low-income Americans. This builds on work CFPB began last year that successfully encouraged 15 of the nation's twenty largest banks to drop the use of NSF charges, and Citi and Capital One ended the use overdraft fees altogether. As a result, the overall level of overdraft fees is already on track to be down 20% in 2022 from 2019 levels – \$3 billion less compared to pre-pandemic.

Taking aim at bad junk fee practices that span industries. Recently, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) voted to launch a rulemaking process that would broadly reduce junk fee practices across the economy, including for event ticketing, hotels, funeral homes, and any other

industry that uses mandatory fees. The rulemaking would address practices such as charging consumers fees they never consented to or charging mandatory fees with little or no added value, like hotel resort fees or event ticket processing fees. This action is an important step towards a future rule that would give the FTC additional information and enforcement tools to take action and seek penalties against companies adopting unfair and deceptive junk fees.

Restricting Junk Fees Charged by Auto Dealers. This June, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a proposed rule that would restrict junk fee practices by car dealers that are costly and frustrating for consumers. The rule, if finalized, would (1) ban bait-and-switch claims

by prohibiting dealers from making deceptive advertising claims to lure in prospective car buyers; (2) prohibit fraudulent add-on products (such as "nitrogen filled" tires that contain no more nitrogen than normal air); (3) prevent dealers from charging consumers surprise fees for an add-on without their clear, written consent; and (4) mandate upfront disclosure of costs and conditions by requiring dealers to make disclosures to consumers like proving a "true offering price" for a vehicle.

Requiring Airlines and Airline Search Sites to Disclose Fees Up Front. In September, the Department of Transportation (DOT) proposed a rule that would protect travelers by ensuring they know the full price of airline tickets before they buy. The rule, if finalized as proposed, will require airlines and online search sites to dis-

close up front – while you are comparison shopping – any fees to sit next to your child, for baggage, and for changes or cancellations. The proposal seeks to provide customers the information they need to choose the actual best deal, preventing surprise fees that add up quickly and prevent competition on the basis of price. This builds on previous actions the DOT has recently taken, including issuing proposed rules that would require airlines to refund fees for checked bags that are significantly delayed and for services

not actually provided (like broken WiFi), and requires refunds for delayed and cancelled flights.

Requiring Broadband Nutrition Labels. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued proposed rules that would, if finalized as proposed, require internet companies to display a standardized "Broadband Nutrition Label" that discloses their monthly prices, fees, and internet speeds – so customers can see which company is cheapest and companies will have to compete for business. The

FCC anticipates completing this rulemaking by the end of this year.

Reducing the Cost of Shipping Goods. Congress responded to President Biden's call to crack down on excessive fees in ocean shipping by passing the bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act. The Federal Maritime Commission, which is responsible for implementing the law, recently released a proposed rule that proposes to bring more clarity, structure, and punctuality to ocean shipping fee billing practices.

JOHNSON, from Page 2

sionary); Rita Moreno (acclaimed actress and Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (EGOT) winner spanning more than seven decades); and Donald Morgan (11-time Emmy® winner in directing, photography and lighting). The Academy also honored award-winning and acclaimed actor, director, and activist Sean Penn with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his decades of activism.

About The RLJ Companies

The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson, is an innovative business network that provides

strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies.

Within The RLJ Companies portfolio, Johnson owns or holds interests in businesses operating in hotel real estate; private equity; 401(k) fintech services; automobile dealerships; content streaming; gaming; and sports betting. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, MD with affiliate operations in Charlotte, NC; Little Rock, AR; and San Juan, PR.

About the Television Academy

The Television Academy strives to shape and advance

the dynamic television landscape and advocate for the global television industry capturing the zeitgeist of a new generation of entertainment.

Through its innovative programs, publications and events, the Academy and its Foundation endeavors to foster and empower the diverse community of storytellers fueling the medium while celebrating those who have excelled in the industry, recognizing their achievements through awards and accolades, including the coveted Prime-time Emmy® Award. For more information, please visit TelevisionAcademy.com.



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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SK Signet to create up to 183 jobs for at facility in Plano

SK Signet, a top global manufacturer of electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions, recently announced plans to create up to 183 highly-skilled jobs for a new EV charger manufacturing facility in Plano, Texas.

With this facility, SK Signet will produce a range of fast-charging solutions, including providing the first U.S.-manufactured ultra-fast chargers and power cabinets that offer more than 350kW of power. The facility, covering 136,200 square feet, is expected to be operating at full capacity by July 2023, producing more than 10,000 fast chargers per year. SK Signet plans to create up to 183 jobs at the site by 2026.

The fast chargers made at the facility will support the build-out of U.S. infrastructure for the growing



SK Signet plans to redevelop an existing building in Plano, Texas, as its first U.S. manufacturing facility for electric vehicle (EV) fast chargers. The image above is a rendering of the expected exterior design. (Courtesy photo)

EV market. The manufacturing facility is SK Signet's first in the U.S. and will align with the goals of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, boosting domestic manufacturing of secure, interoperable EV chargers and supporting the growth of a nationwide EV charging infrastructure.

"We are very excited to welcome SK Signet Manufacturing Texas to Plano," said Mayor of Plano, John Muns. "The company's innovative technology is a perfect fit for our business community. We are proud to continue attracting world-class companies to our city that impact the marketplace."

"For the transition from traditional combustion en-

gines to battery-powered vehicles to be successful, access to reliable and efficient EV charging is a necessity," said Jung Ho Shin, Chief Executive Officer, SK Signet. "Our new Texas facility will provide top-tier fast charging solutions that are adaptable to a wide range of vehicle types, helping EVs become a reality for more Americans."

SK Signet, based in

South Korea, already has supplied more than 2,500 fast chargers for the U.S. In addition to manufacturing EV chargers, SK Signet's Texas facility will house cutting-edge research & development, manufacture power modules and conduct charger testing with automakers. The company plans to work closely with state and local officials to

recruit and train workers.

"SK Signet is proud to be making this investment and preparing to open its first EV charger manufacturing facility in the U.S.," said Seung-June (SJ) Oh, President, SK Signet America. "We are grateful to the partnerships with federal, state and local officials, particularly those representing the City of Plano, Texas, who have supported and guided our expansion into the U.S. market."

Building A Better EV Charger

SK Signet's ultra-fast chargers are compatible with a majority of the EVs in the market today and were the first fast chargers (350kW) to be UL certified. As part of the U.S. manufacturing facility, SK

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LA SALLE, from Page 2

crimes," La Salle explained during an appearance on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's live morning news show, Let It Be Known.

He notes that the "Martyr Maker" character has struck for 30 years, leaving behind a legacy of torture and fear.

"The detectives [Quincy Cavanaugh and Phee Freeman], and FBI agent Janet Maclin, know that they have very little time to catch the killer because they know he'll disappear forever," La Salle stated.

According to a preview of the series, the investigation takes a more challenging turn when authorities discover that the seemingly unrelated clergymen are "anything but the symbols of godliness they would have their community believe."

"All thriller, no filter," Patterson exclaimed about La Salle's series.

"A white-knuckled treat," he remarked.

Traditional reviewers were just as excited.

"A delightfully twisting

roller-coaster ride through light, dark, and the shades between," Kirkus Reviews touted.

"A heart-pounding ride of vengeance, murder, and atonement," opined Neal Baer, a former executive producer of Law and Order SVU.

Publishers Weekly called the series a "gritty crime thriller, spiritual quest, and love story all woven into one compelling tale."

"Unfortunately, there has historically been a blatant underrepresentation of authors of color in the thriller/suspense genre," remarked La Salle, who played Dr. Peter Benton on the hit television drama ER.

That role earned La Salle seven NAACP Image Award nominations and three wins, seven Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations and four wins, three Primetime Emmy nominations, and a Golden Globe nod.

La Salle also starred in "Coming to America," "One Hour Photo," and "Logan," among other films and television shows.

"I am both honored and elated to have my thriller series selected to help launch this incredible en-

deavor of showcasing universally compelling stories that exist beyond race and gender," La Salle stated.



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Out to Pastor: A Day Trip in the Sissy Van

By James L. Snyder

Last week was the first anniversary of my heart attack. My celebratory plan was to go to McDonald's for a double cheeseburger, large fries, and a chocolate milkshake.

I tried to keep my plan secret, at least from someone in the house, but I failed

most miserably.

Somehow The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage discovered my celebratory plans. How she found out, I don't know, but I sure would like to know.

She stood in front of me for a moment, with both hands on her hips, and said, "If you proceed with your celebratory plans, a heart

attack will be the least of your problems."

Not knowing exactly what she meant, I immediately canceled my plans just to be on the safe side.

Then I realized she had plans of her own. I had an appointment with my heart doctor on Monday morning at 11 o'clock. I have a checkup every six months;

this was my one-year anniversary.

Of course, I had forgotten about that appointment so all my plans were put in my back pocket to save for some other time.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage offered to drive me to my appointment, and because it was at 11 o'clock, she made plans

for lunch. I was completely okay with that; the only problem was we would have to go in her Sissy Van.

It was only to the doctor's office and then to lunch, so that shouldn't be too long. I don't like riding in that crazy little Sissy Van in which the seating is so tiny my knees are in my face the whole trip. I figured it was

only a short time, so I could handle it.

We arrived at the doctor's office just before 11 o'clock, I signed in and waited for the doctor.

While there, I remembered why doctors call us "patients." It takes great patience to wait for the doctor

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Father sheds light on discrimination against Jewish fathers in family court

RIDGEWOOD, NJ, / EINPresswire.com/ -- A programmer and father of an eleven-year-old is fighting for his parental rights as a Jewish father after he says he experienced domestic violence, antisemitism, and what he calls "blatant discrimination" from the legal system during his three-year child custody battle in New Jersey. Maxim Konstantinovski says he knows that other fathers face the same battles in family court.

A study by Dr. Daniel G. Saunders revealed that fathers often find themselves struggling to get a fair shake in family court. This can be very frustrating and emotionally draining, particularly when it comes to decisions about their children. Fathers who are denied custody or par-



enting time often feel like they have been wronged and may feel like they are not able to adequately protect their children's best interests (Saunders, et al., 2012).

In Konstantinovski's case (FM-02-2226-19), he says, the custody issues are further exacerbated by anti-Semitism and willful non-

compliance by his ex-wife to act in the best interests of the child. On September 29, 2021, a retraining order (PO-02-169-22) was placed on the ex-wife for Konstantinovski and his current wife due to behaviors related to the custody case and anti-Semitic remarks.

According to Attorney

Nicholas W. Richardson, "religion is especially a point of contention if one or both parents follow highly regulated belief systems, common among Judaism and Islam, that make compromise extremely difficult."

Konstantinovski states in the court filing that his former wife "continued to refuse to cooperate with the Parenting Coordinator. She refused to pay her share of the fee, refused to participate in the process, and refused all recommendations. In fact, she repeatedly declared that she "terminated" [the coordinator's] services."

"It is unbelievable to me

that in the U.S. in 2022, Jewish fathers are still being treated by legal system as second-class citizens," said Konstantinovski. "As a Jewish father in a custody battle, my parental and religious rights, and the best interests of my son are considered less important than my ex-wife interests, even though she has disobeyed dozens of court decisions throughout the process. In its commitment to preserving the status quo, the court continues to minimize my parental rights as a Jewish father."

Konstantinovski hopes that bringing awareness to his case will also bring awareness to issues that

other fathers may face in New Jersey courts and courts across the nation. He is also seeking help to raise awareness about this issue and is looking for legal representation and help for his own case.

"It is time for fathers to unite and put an end to this discrimination," said Konstantinovski. "No father should have to go through what I am currently going through. We are fighting for the future of our children, and we will not give up until we are treated equally in the eyes of the law."

For more information or to offer assistance, please contact lindsey@writing-detective.com.

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Looking Backward



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"O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed."

Psalms 30:7.

It is often difficult to recognize the hand of God when we are in the midst of adversity. We often feel God has hidden His face from us. When the Lord takes us through deep valleys, there will be fruit from the deep valley that we cannot see. You must press into Him with all you have during this time.



God uses the deep valley to frame our lives to create a change in our nature, not just a change in habits. The depth and width of our valley is often an indicator of the level of calling and

influence we will have on others in the future.

Our adversity is not just for us, but others who will be in our future path of influence. This is not very comforting when you are in

the middle of the valley, but know this is a truth in the Kingdom.

It is often years later when we discover the wisdom of God and why He intentionally led us through the dark valley. Life is often lived forward, but understood backward.

It is not until we are down the road and we stand on the mountain looking back at our life through valley that we can appreciate the terrain God has allowed us to scale and the spiritual deposits He has made in our life while we were there.

It will help you if you ask God to help you to take one day at a time. Let His Word remind you, *"Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for*

the day is its own trouble."

Matthew 6:34.

I give Him your worries and concerns. God is the all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present, Almighty God and you can ask Him for His peace, grace, and wisdom in your valley.

"He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light."

Job 12:22.

When you begin to realize this, you sit back and breathe a sigh of relief because you know that God was in control all along. It

didn't seem like it at the time, but He was.

Do you find yourself in the valley at this time in your life? Now is the time to fully trust God to guide you to higher ground in your spiritual life.

Remember, it takes two mountains to make a valley; and I love to add this fact that I learned long ago; and it blesses me when God leads me through a valley, think about this fact, God will have blessed you at least twice before He leads you into a valley in order to help you grow spiritually.

TRIP, from Page 14

to call you into his office. My appointment was at 11 o'clock, and by 11:40, the nurse finally called me into his office.

I was worried because it was getting close to lunchtime, and I never want to be late for lunch.

I spent about a half-hour with the doctor while he checked my vitals and then said, "You're good. Everything seems excellent."

I asked him, "Could I have that in writing with your signature?" I wanted someone in our house to know I was "good."

After making plans for my next appointment, we left and got back into that little Sissy Van on our way to lunch. It takes me as long to get into the Sissy Van as it does the doctor to examine me. Oh boy.

Finally, we were on our way to lunch. She wanted me to go with her to a diner she and her daughters discovered a little while back. I was all in for that, and we had a nice time eating lunch.

Then, back in the Sissy Van, and, as I had hoped, we would be on our way home. I was getting tired of kissing my knees in traveling.

"You know what," my wife said as we drove out of the parking lot. "I need to stop and pick up a piece of jewelry that's ready for me at the mall."

Looking at me, she said, "You don't mind if we stop there, do you? After all, we go right by it. It won't take long."

I was okay with that, but I wasn't going to go in because by the time I could get out of the Sissy Van, she could have gone in, picked up her jewelry, and come out. So I stayed in the Sissy Van.

She returned, and driving out of the parking lot, we passed one of her favorite stores. Something along the lines of Tuesday Morning, whatever that might be. And she said, "While we're here, I think I should go in and pick up some things I need for my craft room."

Again, I stayed in the Sissy Van, kissing my knees while waiting for her to return.

She got back into the van, and driving down the street, we stopped at one of her favorite thrift stores. I wouldn't say this out loud, but her favorite thrift store is the one she's shopping at the moment.

We continued visiting thrift stores for the rest of the afternoon, and I was trapped in that silly old Sissy Van.

Finally, we were within two blocks of our house, and I was afraid she would pass another thrift store I had no idea about.

We got home, and it took me some extra time to extricate myself from that Sissy Van. As I got out and stood up, my knees were wobbling, but I did reach the front door, got inside, and headed for my easy chair.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought all her shopping goods in from the Sissy Van and put them on the dining room table.

She looked at me with a big smile and said, "That was a wonderful day. Wasn't it?"

In thinking about my adventure I was reminded of what the Apostle Paul said. Ephesians 4:2-3, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him

at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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Submission Deadline: November 30, 2022

Access the scholarship application at: bit.ly/MLKScholarship23

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NDG Book Review: 'The Light We Carry'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

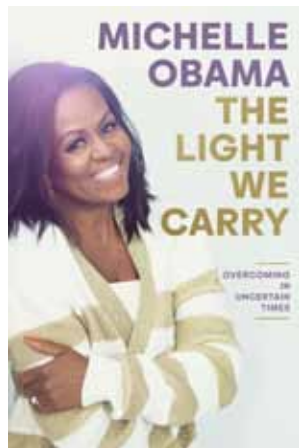
Your entire life is like a gigantic game of "Chutes and Ladders."

Shake the dice, move two steps ahead, and you hit a ladder that takes you to higher places on the game board. Three more squares, and you hit a chute that sends you back to the bottom. Life and children's games are alike in this way: as in the new book "The Light We Carry" by Michelle Obama, the only way to win is to keep playing.

Pandemic, recession, political divide, market volatility. For many months, you've wondered every morning what fresh chaos you'll deal with that day. So what keeps you going? How do we overcome feelings of being "wobbly and unsettled"?

Michelle Obama says she ponders this "a lot." She thinks about the things she uses to keep her "balanced and confident... moving forward even during times of high anxiety and stress." She calls them her "personal toolbox" and she shares them in this book.

Most recently, she says, the pandemic taught her the value of having a hobby to relax into, to let her hands work, "my mind trailing behind." Her early life



taught her the value of seeing the difference between real fear and fear of newness and change, the latter of which is surprisingly easy to overcome. Newness offers us "chances to grow."

"I've come to understand," she says, "that sometimes the big stuff becomes easier to handle when you deliberately put something small alongside it."

Listen to your body, Obama says, and "Pay attention to how you're feeling." Collect small boosts, and learn to look at yourself in a more positive way. Love your differences and be kind to yourself because it's "everything." Be open to connections with others; cultivate friendships you can count on. "Know your own light," Obama says, and "Share it with another person."

Be authentic.

And finally, she says, "Tell the truth, do your best by others, keep perspective, stay tough. That's basically been our recipe for getting by."

Chances are that at some point in the past nearly-three years, you got out of bed one morning and you weren't even sure why. It's been a long haul and you're tired but "The Light We Carry" can get you to the next goal, then the next.

At first glance, it doesn't look like that kind of a book, though.

Author Michelle Obama is a true storyteller, and she uses a Show, Not Tell method of writing. Readers are lulled into an entertaining story of life in the White House, or a gossip snip of Obama's married life, or a shared memory from her childhood and BAM! the words seamlessly roll over to an easy, do-able tip to survive in hard times. Nice surprise.

Readers will be further glad to know that this isn't a cheerleading book. Instead of U-Rah-Rah, it's U Can Do This, told in a calm, knowing manner. And if that's what you need in this time of turmoil, let "The Light We Carry" help you back onto the ladder.

JOBS, from Page 13

Signet will also produce its own proprietary power module, allowing its customers to easily customize the size and power of their chargers. This enables advanced charging technologies, such as Active Power Sharing, that can deliver more efficient charging across a broad range of EVs, which provides EV owners a faster, more flexible, and more reliable charging experience.

SK's Commitment to Sustainable Solutions

This investment is another realization of SK Group's mission to invest in and expand U.S. businesses that have a positive

environmental impact. SK Group companies have pledged to cut more than 200 million tons of carbon emissions by 2030 in an effort to lead greater corporate sustainability practices.

Within the EV space, SK companies have made significant investments to support the growth of EVs in the U.S. SK On, a leading EV battery manufacturer, has made a \$2.6 billion investment in Georgia for two battery manufacturing facilities. Earlier this year, SK E&S acquired EverCharge, a California-based provider of EV charging solutions, and SK Inc. and SK Energy acquired the management

rights of Atom Power, a North Carolina company that's developed advanced energy delivery systems including EV charging.

SK Signet is global leader in smart, convenient charging solutions for all types of electric vehicles. The company holds 19 patents globally in EV charging technology. SK Signet is majority owned by SK Inc., the strategic investment arm of SK Group. Based in Seoul, SK Group is South Korea's second-largest conglomerate with companies that are global leaders in semiconductors, energy, and life sciences. For more information, visit sksignet.com.



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