



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Biden issues another executive order seeking to curb gun violence

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

As he visited Monterey Park, California, on Tuesday, President Joe Biden lamented that every few days in the United States, the country mourns a new mass shooting.

Biden argued that daily acts of gun violence, including community violence, domestic violence, suicide, and accidental shootings, may not always make the evening news.

Still, they cut lives short and leave survivors and their communities with long-lasting physical and mental wounds.

Before the President met with the families and victims of the Star Ballroom Dance Studio shooting on January 21, which killed 11 people and injured nine others, he signed an executive order to stop gun violence and make the country's neighborhoods safer.

Also, the President told U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to ensure that the laws already in place about background checks are followed.

Biden also told Garland to clarify that part of the law that says who has to do background checks because some gun dealers might not know that they fall under that part of the law.

"We cannot accept these facts



Before the President met with the families and victims of the Star Ballroom Dance Studio shooting on January 21, which killed 11 people and injured nine others, he signed an executive order to stop gun violence and make the country's neighborhoods safer. (Photo via NNPA)

as the enduring reality of life in America," Biden asserted.

"Instead, we must together insist that we have had enough and that we will no longer allow the interests of the gun manufacturers to win out over the safety of our children and nation."

He said his administration's policy remains that executive departments and agencies would pursue "every legally available and appropriate action to reduce gun violence."

"Through this whole-of-government approach, my administration has made historic progress to save lives," the President asserted.

"My administration has taken ac-

tion to keep guns out of dangerous hands and especially dangerous weapons off of our streets; hold gun traffickers and rogue gun dealers accountable; fund accountable, effective community policing; and invest in community violence interventions and prevention strategies."

Biden has taken several steps that he hoped would stop the mass shootings that have become common in the United States.

Administration officials said it's up to Congress to act.

"Few policy ideas are more popular among the American people

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### People In The News ...



Frances Terrell



Jean C. Accius, Ph.D.

NDG Quote of the Week: "Freedom is not something that one people can bestow on another as a gift. They claim it as their own and none can keep it from them." —Kwame Nkrumah



## Frances Terrell

ALEXANDRIA (VA) (24-7PressRelease) --With five decades of experience to her credit, Frances Colbert-Terrell has held considerable expertise in management and organization, which has set her apart as a leading figure in her various endeavors.

Inspired by the work ethic and path of her mother, who worked within the federal government, Ms. Terrell earned a diploma from Parker-Gray High School before pursuing higher education at Hampton University. After graduation, she initially pondered a career in teaching



but realized that she wanted to work in business administration. Shortly after that, she joined the United States House of Representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. as a congressional staff assistant in 1976, which she

recalls as a tremendous accomplishment.

Ms. Terrell spent two decades with the House of Representatives, working with numerous United States representatives between 1976 and her retirement in 1999. Some notable political figures she worked with included Rep. Jack Brooks, Rep. Parren Mitchell and Rep. John Conyers, Jr. Despite her retirement in 1999, Ms. Terrell came out of retirement briefly to spearhead the Fran and Cal Travel Agency, which she did from 2006 to 2010.

Toward the end of her tenure with the House of Representatives, Ms. Terrell earned certification as a church deaconess in 1996 and continues to serve as a deaconess for the Oakland Baptist Church today. To add to her civic endeavors, she has also remained active in her community as a board member of the Seminary Hill Association in Alexandria, Virginia since 2019. Likewise, she previously served as president of the Seminary Civic Association from 2011 to 2021 and was instrumental in spearheading the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society. Ms. Terrell also holds membership with the NAACP, the National Urban League and

the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations. Through her active involvement in community service and preservation, Ms. Terrell has been integral in the City of Alexandria's efforts to preserve and incorporate the history of African Americans who had first come to Fort Ward following the Civil War. In the past, African Americans did not have a cemetery to bury the dead; therefore, Ms. Terrell and her association members collaborated with the local church to create the Fort Ward Cemetery and Altan Baptist Church Cemetery. During this project, she worked directly with

the Fort Ward Seminary African American Descendants Society to ensure that the graves were preserved, which she considers a highlight of her career. Ms. Terrell feels honored to have been so instrumental in returning Alexandria's valuable history to the public eye.

Ms. Terrell attributes the success of her career and efforts to dedication and determination, along with her upbringing. She also credits the inspiring advice and encouragement of her two mentors, Linda Quinn and Carl Fleming. Looking

See TERRELL, Page 14

## Jean C. Accius, Ph.D.

ALEXANDRIA (Va.) (BPRW) -- Creating Healthier Communities, a national nonprofit that removes the barriers to good health and equity, today announced Jean C. Accius, PhD as its new president and CEO. The influential national executive and thought leader joins CHC to grow the organization's impact, relevance and revenue.



that advance equity and foster greater health security so everyone can live longer and healthier lives.

Dr. Accius previously served as Senior Vice President of Global Thought Leadership for AARP, the nation's largest nonprofit advocating for solutions

Accius was instrumental in establishing AARP as a global convener and thought leader, elevating

bold solutions and innovative programs, and forming strategic partnerships across industries to scale for impact and accelerate the pace of change. Prior to that, he held other senior roles at AARP and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"I was drawn to CHC's powerful mission and dedicated board and staff team," said Dr. Jean C. Accius. "It's an incredible honor to join CHC at this significant time, just as the organization has completed a successful evolution to health equity."

This is an era of unprecedented opportunity, and

I look forward to continuing to grow CHC's impact, relevance and revenue. Together, we'll break down the barriers to good health and equity and create resilient communities where everyone can thrive."

"Leading CHC has been the highlight of my 40-year nonprofit career," said Thomas G. Bognanno,

president and CEO at CHC. "As I retire, I couldn't be prouder of our board of directors and staff team and what we've accomplished together at CHC. I'm excited to welcome Jean as CHC's new leader and am confident he will take our organization to new heights as we enter our seventh decade addressing critical

health issues and advancing health equity."

Jean is an inspiring, impactful leader, personally and professionally dedicated to our mission, said Bognanno. This successful appointment was a unanimous decision and is a testament to the commit-

See ACCIUS, Page 4

## Rep. Colin Allred

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) recently visited Richardson-based semiconductor manufacturer Photodigm. Allred toured their headquarters and discussed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which he helped to pass into law.

The CHIPS Act, which was signed into law last year, is a bipartisan legislative package that will create jobs and lower costs for North Texans by investing in American manufacturing, research and supply chains. Allred was a leader in the House calling for the bill's passage, which will bolster the production of semiconductors in Texas and strengthen our national security.



Allred also discussed the need to invest in semiconductor chip manufacturing in order to grow businesses like Photodigm and to create jobs across Texas.

"I was proud to help pass the CHIPS Act to help North Texas companies like Photodigm expand, create jobs, help shore up our supply chains and ensure we

can compete with China for decades to come," said the Congressman.

"North Texas has always been a leader in producing the semiconductor chips that power our lives and protect our national security, and I was glad to see that in action yesterday at Photodigm," said Allred.

Bill Stuart, CEO of Photodigm said the company was incredibly honored to have Congressman Colin Allred visit Photodigm, and they were grateful for the visit. "It's clear that he understands the crucial importance of our innovative semiconductor chip technology and is incredibly quick to grasp the real-world challenges companies like ours face as we scale production of our leading-edge photonic chips to meet customer demand."

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# The economic case for expanding the scope of reconciliation

By Josh Bivens  
Economic Policy Institute

The economic case for expanding the scope of reconciliation

The Republicans having a razor-thin majority in the House and Democrats with a slim majority in the Senate, it should, in theory, be possible to pass broadly popular legislation.

In practice, however, the senate filibuster requirement for a sixty-vote supermajority, has made it radically more difficult for even significant Senate majorities to move legislation.

The budget reconciliation senate procedure, does, however, provide a limited end run around the filibuster to allow a certain subset of legislation to pass with a simple majority.

One feature of the reconciliation process—the so-called Byrd Rule—limits its scope to budget-related measures. However, the criteria for what types of bills should or should not be allowed to proceed under the Byrd Rule is highly subjective.

While the most direct way to restore majority rule and break gridlock in the U.S. Senate is to abolish the filibuster, short of that, one could still allow a simple majority to pass a broader range of legislation by expanding the scope of what is allowed to proceed under the expedited rules of reconciliation. While this is a suboptimal path, it would be far better than the status quo.

In this report, we argue that the criteria currently interpreted as dictating what legislation can proceed under the auspices of reconciliation are arbitrary, incoherent, and outright damaging. Given this, the carve-out from the filibuster's reach offered to (some) fiscal measures in the Senate under the current

rules of reconciliation has no particular logic and protects far too few potentially popular legislative proposals from Senate gridlock.

To resolve these problems, the Senate should either abolish the filibuster for the vast majority of legislation, or, second best, greatly expand the scope of reconciliation to allow more pieces of legislation to pass than in earlier periods.

Our argument rests on the following points: the perception that the federal budget changes have bigger impacts on the economy than other legislation. The history of the budget reconciliation process and the Byrd Rule strongly suggests that they were instituted in response to this perception. However, many legislative changes that older conventional wisdom would have put outside the bounds of budget reconciliation have profound effects in shaping the trajectory and distribution of economic growth. Given this, there is no reason, even on narrow economic grounds, to privilege budget-related rules over other rules that affect economic outcomes.

The Byrd Rule's explicit bias toward deficit reduction has not proved useful even for the narrow goal of reducing deficits. Narrow Republican majorities have been able to game the rule to allow large, sustained regressive tax cuts to pass in the past 20 years and have, in turn, increased budget deficits substantially.

The goal of always biasing policy toward deficit reduction is itself misguided. Sometimes deficits should be made smaller to foster economic growth, while sometimes, they should be made larger. For most of the past three decades, the U.S. economy has faced chronic shortfalls of aggregate demand relative to

productive capacity. These shortfalls are sometimes labeled "secular stagnation," meaning larger deficits would have been useful over that time. The past two years have seen evidence of a demand shortfall fade away, but it is possible that the longer-run trend of secular stagnation will reassert itself before too long.

To achieve smaller deficits while also providing a counter to chronic shortfalls in demand, it makes sense to allow a broader range of measures—including nonbudgetary measures that would boost aggregate demand—to pass under the Byrd Rule.

The most obvious drawback to expanding the scope of reconciliation is that it compacts much of an entire year's legislative agenda into a single vehicle. This potentially short-circuits a thoughtful policymaking process around each individual plank of a reconciliation bill and could lead to poorly crafted bills. Crucially, however, the drawbacks of the reconciliation process have minimal impact on policies that are straightforward, like increases in the federal minimum wage or labor law reform.

Today's budget reconciliation process came about with the Congressional Budget Act (CBA) of 1974 and the "Byrd Rule" in 1985. Before 1974, the filibuster could be applied to budget bills in the U.S. Senate. The act changed the federal budgeting process, shifting power for budgetary decision making away from the executive branch and toward Congress. One key impediment to Congress asserting more influence in the budget-making and enforcement process was a minority's ability to filibuster budget-related bills and hence cause legis-

lative gridlock.

Between 1974 and 1985, the new fast-track procedure to pass bills that could not be filibustered eroded the super majoritarian norms of the Senate. In response, a prominent defender of these norms—Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.)—introduced the "Byrd Rule," putting limits on what could be included in budget reconciliation bills. Most important was the provision that disallowed "extraneous" legislation from being included in budget reconciliation bills, where extraneous relates to a change in outlays or revenues incidental to the non-budgetary components of the provision.

Defenders of the current conventional wisdom point to this provision regarding its reach in disallowing a federal minimum wage increase or labor law reform to pass. This interpretation often leads to incoherent outcomes, ruling out some bills with larger fiscal effects than previous bills passed under reconciliation. Zipperer, Cooper, and Bivens (2021), for instance, surveyed evidence showing that raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 would likely reduce public expenditures by roughly \$10 billion annually. This is several times the size of the fiscal effect of opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), a provision allowed under reconciliation in 2006 and forecast to boost federal revenues by about \$2.5 billion over three years. Even on its own terms of privileging legislation with significant fiscal effects, the Byrd Rule is inconsistently applied. This shows that measures with only "extraneous" effects on fiscal policy can strongly shape the economy.

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Keep up with the news

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# CDC recommends all adults get tested for Hepatitis B

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Centers for Control and Prevention have issued a new recommendation urging all adults to receive screening for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime.

The agency describes hepatitis B (HBV) as a liver infection caused by the HBV virus. It can progress to liver cancer and other serious illnesses.

CDC officials said as many as 2.4 million people live with HBV, and most might not know they have it.

A severe infection could lead to chronic HBV, which could increase a person's risk of getting cancer or cirrhosis.

Further, the CDC said those diagnosed with chronic or long-term HBV are up to 85% more likely



As many as 2.4 million people are living with hepatitis B, according to the CDC. (iStock photo / NNPA)

to succumb to an early death.

"Chronic HBV infection can lead to substantial morbidity and mortality but is detectable before the development of severe liver disease using reliable and inexpensive screening tests," CDC officials stated.

Even though the number of people with HBV has decreased significantly in the last 30 years, the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says it is

still a problem for African Americans.

That office reported that, in 2020, non-Hispanic blacks would be 1.4 times more likely to die from viral hepatitis than non-Hispanic whites.

Also, non-Hispanic blacks were almost twice as likely to die from hepatitis C as white individuals.

Further, while having comparable case rates for HBV in 2020, non-Hispanic blacks were 2.5 times more likely to die from

HBV than non-Hispanic whites.

Medical officials noted that HBV spreads through contact with infected blood or bodily fluids, which can occur through sex, injecting drugs, or during pregnancy or delivery.

The CDC previously issued a recommendation in 2008, when it urged testing for high-risk individuals.

In its most recent recommendation, the agency said that adults over 18 must be tested at least once.

The agency declared that pregnant individuals should also undergo screening during each pregnancy, regardless of whether they've received a vaccine or have been previously tested.

Additionally, incarcerated individuals, those with multiple sex partners, or people with a history of hepatitis C should test periodically, the CDC said.

The agency warned that

symptoms of acute HBV could include fever, fatigue, abdominal pain, dark urine, and jaundice.

Symptoms could take several months or longer to present and last for months.

The CDC's latest report further notes the following:

- It's estimated more than half of people who have the hepatitis B virus (HBV) don't know they're infected. Without treatment and monitoring, HBV infection can lead to deadly health outcomes, including liver damage and liver cancer.

- The report updates and expands previous guidelines for HBV screening and testing by recommending screening for all U.S. adults and expanding continual periodic risk-based testing to include more groups, activities, exposures, and conditions.

- Providers should implement the new CDC hepatis

B screening and testing recommendations to ensure all adults are screened for HBV infection with the triple-panel at least once in their lifetimes and that people who are not vaccinated for hepatitis B – but are at increased risk of HBV infection – receive periodic testing.

"Although a curative treatment is not yet available, early diagnosis and treatment of chronic HBV infections reduce the risk for cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death," CDC officials noted in the report.

"Along with vaccination strategies, universal screening of adults and appropriate testing of persons at increased risk for HBV infection will improve health outcomes, reduce the prevalence of HBV infection in the United States, and advance viral hepatitis elimination goals."

## Explore health, wellness options at free Dallas Parks and Recreation event

The Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and Dallas Park and Recreation want families to feel good inside and out! Together, they are hosts for the Health and Wellness Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave, Dallas 75215.

The event is free to everyone. Families and individuals of all ages can get a variety of wellness screenings, senior and mental health services and lifestyle infor-

mation from more from 50 specialized vendors. Event organizers said the expo will connect residents with affordable resources Dallas families need to so that they can have long, healthy lives.

"As a national organization committed to the well-being of our community through our Physical and Mental Health initiatives, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority promotes self-care through physical wellness, emotional wellness, and awareness/advocacy. It is our hope that this Health and Wellness Expo will continue to connect community mem-

bers to resources needed to sustain a long and healthy life in Dallas county," said Tonya Muraguri, President of the Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

This is the third year Dallas Park and Recreation and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority have come together to give south Dallas residents access to free and low-cost health and wellness resources. In a 2019 Dallas County Health Assessment Report, health disparities are the most acute five south Dallas zip codes: 75210, 75215, 75216, 75217 and 75241.

The average life expectancy for someone living in the 75215 zip code is the lowest in the county at 66 compared to the highest life expectancy of 90 years in the 75204 zip code that is just north of downtown.

"Public parks and recreation programs offer services that impact a community's health and well-being. When park and recreation agencies partner with other organizations to bring resources together in one place, we encourage health equity and improve the quality of living for residents," said Crystal

R. Ross, Deputy Director, Dallas Park and Recreation. "We want everyone to come out and discover the many health and recreational benefits available to them at the expo and at the recreation center throughout the year."

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated ([www.deltasigmatheta.org](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org)), founded on January 13, 1913, is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. Since its founding more than 200,000 women have

joined the organization. The organization is a sisterhood of predominantly Black, college educated women. The sorority currently has 1,000 collegiate and alumnae chapters located in the United States, Canada, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and the Republic of Korea.

Dallas Park and Recreation Department (DPR), one of the nation's largest urban park systems. Visit [dallasparcs.org](http://dallasparcs.org) for information about program activities.

## ACCIUS, from Page 2

tee's integrity and diligence throughout the process."

Accius has published numerous journal articles and research reports and is a sought-after speaker and

presenter. His impressive educational credentials include a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration from American University; Master of Science

in Aging Studies, Social Gerontology from Florida State University; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration also from Florida State University; as well as various certifications and Executive

Education from notable institutions including Stanford Graduate School of Business, Georgetown McDonough School of Business, Harvard University School of Public Health and more.

Accius is a certified director with the National Association of Corporate Directors and a fellow with the Executive Leadership Council. His official start date was Feb. 27, 2023, including joining that week's

CHC Board of Directors meeting. To ensure a smooth transition and demonstrate his full support for the new CEO, current CEO Thomas G. Bognanno will remain with CHC through March 31.



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# Media outlets report violent chatter has increased as authorities prep for Trump indictment

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Federal officials, including those at the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, are monitoring what they say has been an uptick in violent rhetoric online since former President Donald Trump asked his supporters to “protest” what he said was his imminent arrest.

Several media outlets have reported that chatter includes comments like “civil war,” and “worse than January 6.”

But the online discussion has been just that – and has not had the coordination,



Several media outlets have reported that chatter includes comments like “civil war,” and “worse than January 6.” (Photo via NNPA)

information, and volume before the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, US officials and security experts told CNN.

“There has been nothing

specific or credible — both in terms of large-scale activity or violence,” the senior official said.

A senior law enforcement official also told CNN

that while the online chatter is growing with time, it’s all “familiar” to the intelligence community, meaning nothing that rises to the level of major concern as of now.

A key difference two years after January 6, sources told CNN, is the threat of arrest has risen in the minds of many potential protesters.

A senior law enforcement official said that a small protest on Monday in New York City was a good example of the current situation. He said that one group that was scheduled to come decided not to out of apparent fear of being arrested.

Still, federal, state, and local law enforcement officials are wary of underestimating the potential violence, as they did before January 6, when a deadly attack at the Capitol was followed by weeks of online threats.

CNN further reported that officials in Washington were preparing for demonstrations surrounding any indictment of Trump that could erupt into violence.

But FBI and Department of Homeland Security officials are also wary of opening themselves up to political attacks by Republicans, the senior US official said, who are eager to call out both agencies for anything

perceived as infringing on people’s First Amendment rights.

On top of that, online rhetoric has been relatively muted compared to 2021.

“The steady stream of anti-government hostility and increasingly violent rhetoric is worrying, but it hasn’t reached the volume of what we saw in the run-up to January 6 yet,” Ben Decker, the CEO of online threat analysis firm Memetica, told CNN.

Some posts from influential right-wing figures in recent days have seemingly been more geared at creating chaos than at sparking

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## Democrats and Republicans alike call for scrutiny of TikTok as security issue

Democrats in Congress are making it clear that they want to ban the Chinese app TikTok in the U.S.

Reported national security concerns over massive amounts of data that TikTok collects on its millions of American users sit at the core of why lawmakers want the app banned.

Democrats and Republicans alike have said certain information of serious concern could be transferred to China, making it a national security issue.

However, TikTok’s parent company, ByteDance, has repeatedly denied that it shares user data with the Chinese government.

“TikTok is a modern-day

Trojan horse of the [Chinese Communist Party], used to surveil and exploit Americans’ personal information,” said Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, the Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

“It’s a spy balloon in your phone,” McCaul said, alluding to a February incident in which a spy balloon from China traversed American skies.

Last month, House Foreign Affairs Committee members pushed for a bill that would give President Biden the power to ban TikTok on all mobile devices in the U.S.

However, Democrats

voted against the measure.

Democrats in the U.S. Senate did offer support late last year for a bill that would ban TikTok on federal devices, and a bipartisan group of senators, led by Mark Warner (D-Va.) and John Thune (R-S.C.), also introduced a bill that would let Biden ban TikTok and other apps that come from other countries.

Five Democrats and five Republicans have signed on a co-sponsor on that legislation.

President Biden reportedly supports the measure and has indicated a willingness to ban TikTok, which has more than 1.53 billion users globally as of 2023,

with 1 billion monthly active users.

In February, Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado called on Apple and

“Unlike most social media platforms, TikTok poses a unique concern because Chinese law obligates ByteDance, its Beijing-based parent company, to ‘support, assist, and cooperate with state intelligence work,’” said Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who has demanded that Apple and Google remove TikTok from their app stores.

During a national television appearance, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said

a TikTok ban “should be looked at.”

The economic battle between the U.S. and China has been ongoing, with escalating tensions leading to threats of a potential armed conflict.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre even alluded to the conflict in her remarks attacking a House Freedom Caucus budget plan.

“Extreme MAGA Republicans’ proposals would ship manufacturing jobs overseas, in a crushing blow to states from Ohio to

Georgia to Arizona – and would provide a windfall of economic benefits to China,” Jean-Pierre stated.

TikTok spokeswoman Brooke Oberwetter argued that a U.S. ban on TikTok would ban the export of American culture and values to over a billion people who use the app worldwide.

“A ban would stifle American speech and would be a ban on the export of American culture and values to the billion-plus people who use our service worldwide,” Oberwetter declared.

## Final demolition begins on remaining portions of Valley View Mall in North Dallas

At last, demolition began last week on the final portion of the former Valley View Mall site at LBJ Freeway and Preston Road.

Plans for the site include an ambitious mixed-use business, entertainment, and residential development centered around a 21-acre park. The future development will be part of

a new International District and carry urban center development into North Dallas.

The mall closed in 2015 and since then, the City of Dallas has attempted to work with property owners to clear the site for future economic development. AMC Theater, the final tenant, closed in 2021 after

holding a lease that expired after demolition began, reports NBCDFW.

The project has suffered a decade of delays and numerous hurdles, including the pandemic and the need for a sewer line that could serve the dense development, they report, and demolition of the final structure was also held up

until the removal of asbestos from the site.

Due to the delays in completing demolition of the mall, the site had become a hazard, inviting transients and criminal activity. Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson recently commented on the risks the site had been

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# Covenant Classical School wins State High School Mock Trial Competition

The team from Covenant Classical School, of Fort Worth, won first place at the 44th Annual Texas High School Mock Trial Competition earlier this month at a competition held at the George Allen Courthouse.

The competition included more than 20 high school teams from across the state, to argue a hypothetical criminal court case written by local attorneys with the Dallas Bar Association. These teams, which have emerged as the best among their school districts and regions, were matched against one another, culminating in the final championship round on Saturday afternoon. The Covenant



Courtesy photo

Classical team will represent the State of Texas at the 2023 National High School Mock Trial Competition held in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 18-20, 2023.

Judges and attorneys served as “jurors” and selected the teams that were

best prepared and demonstrated exceptional presentation skills. Students portrayed prosecution and defense attorneys, as well as “witnesses.” The “case” is tried by students from approximately 160 Texas schools annually.

Taking home additional top places were: Frisco Center for Technical Education, who won 2nd place and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Woodrow Wilson High School from Dallas (DISD), who tied for third place. In addition, Sophia Foster, of Covenant Classical School, received the 2023 Outstanding Advocate Award; Emery Chenault, of Henderson High School, received the 2023 Outstanding Witness Award; and Jacquie Wheeler, of Booker T. Washington High School received first place in the 2023 Courtroom Artists competition. The win-

ning courtroom artist will also compete in the national competition.

The National High School Mock Trial Competition is the ultimate law-related education experience for the best and brightest high school students around the globe. The program is dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through an academic competition.

The Dallas Bar Association has sponsored and coordinated the statewide program since its inception in the 1970s to teach high school students how the justice system works and how the law is applied in

everyday life, and to expose them to critical thinking exercises and quick analysis through preparation and presentation. In the 44-year history, the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition has had more than 150,000 participants and has awarded approximately \$400,000 in scholarships at the local, regional, and state levels.

More information about the program is available at [www.texashighschoolmocktrial.com](http://www.texashighschoolmocktrial.com).

The Dallas Bar Association is a professional, voluntary organization of more than 11,000 Dallas-area attorneys. Find out more at [www.dallasbar.org](http://www.dallasbar.org).

## SCOPE, from Page 3

In addition, the explicit target of the Byrd Rule’s “extraneous” tests was deficit reduction, but imparting a bias toward deficit reduction in the congressional budget process is unwise. Finally, despite the bias toward deficit reduction embedded in the Byrd Rule, Republican majorities have managed to sidestep the rule multiple times to enact large tax cuts.

There is no convincing economic rationale for privileging budgetary bills in the legislative process. By most accounts, a precipitating event leading to the CBA of 1974 was the Nixon administration’s refusal to spend money that had been appropriated by Congress. One example, the Nixon administration refused to disburse funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appropriated for clean water efforts. This impoundment of funds in defiance of Congress was indeed an abuse of executive power and one that was properly rectified by congressional action.

Congress noticed and reacted to this impoundment only because revenue and spending flows are more visible to them than other economic influences under the joint control of Con-

gress and the executive branch. However, more visible does not mean more important. The Nixon impoundment of funds that attracted the ire of Congress was related to legislation aimed at boosting environmental quality. Yet there are other ways besides outright impoundment of appropriated funds that the executive branch can frustrate the intent of Congress to improve environmental quality. Most historians say the Reagan administration’s EPA gutted the effectiveness of environmental protections through lax enforcement and the redistribution of resources to activities that slowed enforcement of regulations. This begs the question: Why should a fast-track legislative remedy be available for executive branch fiscal actions that impede the improvement of environmental quality but not for regulatory actions?

In short, Congress has shaped many crucial policies that have driven economic outcomes in recent years even outside the area of tax and budget policy. In fact, changes in market incomes over recent decades have driven income trends far more than changes in taxes and transfers. Given this reality, the idea that

Congress needs a privileged way to fast-track tax and budget policies while other policies languish makes very little sense. The modern U.S. economy needs a Congress able to legislate across all relevant policy areas.

The intended Byrd Rule bias toward fiscal contraction is misguided but could be partially alleviated by allowing more policies to pass through the reconciliation process.

The Byrd Rule disallows any legislation that adds to long-run (10 years) increases in federal budget deficits. This intended bias toward deficit reduction reflected a conventional wisdom that public debt restraint was nearly always and everywhere an economic good except in outright recessions.

The recovery from the COVID-19 recession has seen a reversal of many of the data signatures of secular stagnation—interest rates have risen as the Fed has sought to contain the largest outbreak of inflation in nearly 40 years. However, it does not follow automatically from this episode of high inflation and higher interest rates that secular stagnation is decisively over, for a couple of reasons. For one, secular stagnation was always a background condition

of the economy that could be overcome with enough policy force. The problem was insufficient spending, and any policy that boosted spending (like deficit-financed federal spending) could overcome this problem.

For another, the COVID-19 recovery saw a sharp decline in the economy’s productive capacity as labor force participation declined and rolling supply chain disruptions snarled the ability to manufacture and produce goods. This decline in supply helped “solve” the gap between aggregate demand and the economy’s productive capacity. However, these supply declines are highly likely to be temporary. In the U.S., labor force participation has steadily climbed back to near pre-COVID trends, and supply chains (at least before the recent COVID-19 outbreak in China) have been healing rapidly.

Whether one thinks that the reprieve from the condition of secular stagnation in 2021 and 2022 was the result of extraordinarily rapid demand growth (spurred by large fiscal policy interventions) or the result of shocks from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, the reprieve seems likely to be temporary. Nothing fundamen-

tal occurred to change the underlying condition (for example, a rollback of the post-1979 rise in inequality was not achieved). Secular stagnation is likely to persist as the economy returns to more normal conditions going forward. In a few years, the Byrd Rule bias toward fiscal contraction is likely to be as un-useful as it was in the two decades before the COVID-19 shock.

The Byrd Rule in practice has restrained spending increases, not tax cuts. It stands to reason that policy changes that boosted the bargaining power of the bottom 90% of the labor market and led to faster broad-based wage growth would likely raise aggregate demand greatly. This would make the Byrd Rule’s bias toward fiscal contraction less damaging.

Even under narrow budgeting-based views of the Byrd Rule, higher minimum wages and fundamental labor law reform have significant fiscal effects. Both changes to the federal minimum wage and measures to boost the unionization rate in the U.S. economy are straightforward policies that should be allowed to move forward through an expansion of the reconciliation process. These policies would have profoundly progressive im-

pacts on the U.S. economy and are at least as relevant to working peoples’ lives as the vast majority of bills that have been ushered through reconciliation in recent decades.

Abolishing the filibuster would be the simplest and most effective way to allow popular legislation to have a chance of actually moving through the U.S. Senate. However, given the limited time window for this Congress and the Biden administration to make progress on an effective economic policy agenda, and given the political resistance of some senators to abolishing the filibuster on principle, policymakers should consider all other options realistically available to them.

As they finalize the rules and procedures for the 118th Congress, Senate Democratic leadership should expand the scope of reconciliation. The economic assumptions used in the past for adopting the Byrd Rule are not borne out in reality. The status quo limitations on the types of policies considered under reconciliation need not continue to artificially constrain the Senate. The Senate should be enabled to pass much needed economic legislation with the support of a simple majority.



# Carrollton partnership nets fourth State-of-the-Art Dream Court

Local youth will soon enjoy a newly remodeled basketball court, thanks to the collaboration of the City of Carrollton, Nancy Lieberman Charities, and Covenant Church in Carrollton.

The new multipurpose play space will provide a safe place to shoot hoops, socialize, and learn about teamwork and good sportsmanship. The court design will include an image of Carrollton Police Officer Steve Nothem's badge #1070. Nothem was killed in October 2022 while responding to a traffic incident in support of a fellow officer. Officer Nothem's death is the Carrollton Police Department's first death of a police officer in the line of duty.

The state-of-the-art Dream Court™ and synthetic playground was celebrated as the result of the partnership at a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this month at Ward Steenson Park. The park is located at 2050 Jackson Road in Carrollton.

The City's Parks & Rec-



Collins Lesulte / Unsplash

reation and Police Departments worked with both the charity and the church to provide this Dream Court to foster a sense of community, upgrade neighborhood amenities, and build relations between young people and law enforcement.

"Projects like the Dream Court are made possible only when everyone gets involved, and the same is true for maintaining a safe, secure environment in which to live ... and play,"

Arredondo said. "A crucial part of building productive, long-lasting relationships with our community is providing opportunities for police and the people we serve to positively interact, like these courts."

Guests at the ceremony heard from Carrollton Parks & Recreation Director Scott Whitaker, who emceed the ceremony, Mayor Steve Babick, Police Chief Roberto Arredondo, and Basketball Hall of Famer

Nancy Lieberman. Covenant Church serves as the Dream Court™ donor and was represented by Lead Pastor Amie Dockery.

"The City of Carrollton would like to thank Covenant Church for their gracious donation of this court and the City's previous three Dream Courts," Babick said. "It is from combined efforts like these between the church and this community that makes Carrollton one of the best cities in Texas, a City that families and businesses want to call home."

Nancy Lieberman Charities has opened more than 100 Dream Courts nationwide since 2009, and the completion of the Ward Steenson Park court makes number 118 with plans for three more Dream Courts in Carrollton to be added over the next eight years.

"It makes me happy to continue our partnership with Dream Courts in the Carrollton community with our friends at Covenant Church," Lieberman said. "Our heart is with Officer

Steve Nothem's family, we feel humbled that we can use this opportunity to honor him for his service to the community. This court will continue to inspire generations of community children to hope and dream about the possibilities of their future."

Lieberman is a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer, two-time Olympian, and founder of Nancy Lieberman Charities which serves over 5 million children annually. She made history in 1976 as the youngest basketball player in Olympic history to win a medal; again in 2010 as the first and only woman to be named head coach of an NBA-level team, the Texas Legends, and once more in 2015, when she became the second female assistant coach in NBA history after she was hired by the Sacramento Kings. Lieberman is currently the first female head coach of a men's professional league with Ice Cube's BIG3 League. She took team Power on to win the 2018 BIG3 League

Championship and was named BIG3 Coach of the Year.

In January, Lieberman was one of the 18th Annual National Civil Rights Museum Sports Legacy Award honorees for laying the foundation for future leaders through her career in sports; and in February, she received the Steinberg DeNicola Humanitarian Award during NFL Superbowl weekend for Coach recognizing outstanding individuals in the sports community who devote and dedicate their time to address community issues and the welfare of humanity.

The Dream Court™ installation was completed by NexCourt Inc., and the new playground surface was constructed by SYN-Lawn®.

For more information on Carrollton Parks & Recreation facilities, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/park-sandrec](http://cityofcarrollton.com/park-sandrec). For information on Dream Courts, visit [nancylibermancharities.org](http://nancylibermancharities.org).

## Second Annual Traffic Signal Box Art Contest to feature Richardson's 150th Anniversary

The tiresome drill of driving to work, fighting traffic, and waiting for lights to change can be mind-numbing. The City of Richardson and the Richardson Kiwanis Club are changing the routine with unique fresh works of art along Richardson roadways. The theme, sesquicentennial celebration will kick off Richardson's second annual Traffic Signal Box Art Contest. The

competition was started last year to beautify local intersections using art reflective of the community.

"The 2022 winning Traffic Box Art designs showcase Richardson arts in a unique, new way that adds beauty to our city streets and furthers a sense of pride in the community," said Anthony Pampillon, Richardson's Cultural Arts Commission Chairman. "Building on that success,

we're excited to see this year's entries based around the theme of Richardson's 150th anniversary. The first five winning designs installed in June of 2022 have received an abundance of positive feedback from the community, so we are hoping to receive twice as many entries in 2023 as we did in 2022."

Five winning artists will be showcased at key intersections throughout the

community this summer. The contest is open to individual artists residing in the city or students attending a school located within Richardson. The five winners will be determined based on creativity, adherence to the Richardson's 150th Anniversary theme, and artistic merit as the three main criteria. A selection committee will review submissions and select contest finalists.

In addition to their artwork being showcased in the community, artists with winning entries will also receive \$200, a plaque and have their work published in Richardson Today and other municipal communication channels. Maybe most important, the winners will have the chance to beautify their community and make it more interesting.

Winning designs chosen

for the traffic signal boxes will be showcased at the following intersections:

- Main Street and North Greenville Avenue (two traffic boxes)
- North Collins Boulevard and North Greenville Avenue
- West Arapaho Road and Coit Road
- West Renner Road at Custer Parkway

See ART, Page 8

## GUNS, from Page 1

than universal background checks, but Congress refuses to act," a senior administration official stated.

"This move will mean fewer guns will be sold without background checks, and therefore few-

er guns will end up in the hands of felons and domestic abusers."

Meanwhile, Biden called on his cabinet to act, including educating the public on "red flag" laws and addressing firearm thefts.

Already, the President was able to get the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act through Congress.

According to the White House, this law gives communities new tools to fight gun violence, such as better background checks for people under the age

of 21, money for extreme risk protection orders and other crisis interventions, and more mental health resources to help children who have been affected by gun violence heal from the grief and trauma it has caused.

"I continue to call on

Congress to take additional action to reduce gun violence, including by banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, requiring background checks for all gun sales, requiring safe storage of firearms, funding my comprehensive Safer America Plan, and expand-

ing community violence intervention and prevention strategies," Biden continued.

"In the meantime, my administration will continue to do all that we can, within the existing authority, to make our communities safer."



## A difference in culture

By Daris Howard

I was nineteen years old and living in New York when I first met Juan. His family had come to the United States from South America, and he was proud of his heritage. He was a pleasant young man and a jokester. But one thing he especially liked to do was to challenge the rest of us to see who could eat the hottest, spiciest foods.

Juan would eat a hot pepper and say, "Where I live, we eat chili peppers like you eat M&Ms."

Of course, living in Buffalo, New York, the most famous spicy food was Buffalo Chicken Wings. Juan issued a challenge to the rest of us, claiming he could eat hotter chicken wings than anyone, and he dared us to prove otherwise. In our group of a dozen young men, four decided to take the challenge.

There were a few places



Atharva Tulsii / Unsplash

in Buffalo, all of which claimed to be the restaurant that first made chicken wings. Juan told the challengers to choose whichever one they wanted.

One of the challengers, Donaldson, chose a restaurant based on its hotness factor. This restaurant claimed to have chicken wings from super-super mild to what they called "hot death." On a day off from work, the twelve of us went there to eat and watch the challenge.

Though most of us didn't

plan to be part of the competition, we thought we would see how far up the hotness scale we could go. We started by ordering a platter of the super-super mild. We each ate one. They were barely spicy, and I liked them. We ordered a super mild next. This burned slightly for me, and some of our group went no hotter. Next was the mild. When I tried that, tears rolled from my eyes, and I decided I was happy to end there.

Most of us quit at that lev-

el, but the four challengers and Juan kept going. But as the temperature increased, one by one the challengers, eyes watering, dropped out. There were still three heat levels left when the last challenger conceded victory to Juan. As each person reached their hottest level, there would be lots of gulping of pop or anything to try to wash away the burn, and Juan would point at the person and say, "Gringo," and laugh.

After the last challenger dropped out, all pitched in and bought a platter of "hot death," and Juan, to our great admiration, ate every wing on it.

Juan's victory was the talk of our meetings for about a week. Then, one day, Donaldson received a package from home. In it was a note from his mother to share it with all of us. It was full of cookies and something else that Donaldson said was his favorite

treat. There were twelve small vials of sweetened cinnamon and a package of toothpicks. Donaldson showed us that he loved to dip the toothpick into the cinnamon and then lick it.

We each took our cinnamon and followed his lead. It was really good, and soon we were all licking our cinnamon toothpicks. But that was when something interesting happened. Juan licked his the first time, and his eyes grew wide, and he started to scream. He rushed to the kitchen sink and started gulping water and trying to rinse his mouth. Finally, he turned to us.

"You tricked me!"

"It's just cinnamon oil," Donaldson said, dipping a toothpick and licking it off.

Juan walked over to Donaldson and jerked the bottle from his hand. He picked up a new toothpick, dipped it in the cinnamon, and licked it. Again, his eyes grew

wide, and he screamed and ran to the kitchen sink. He still thought it was a trick, so after Donaldson showed him again, and licked off a toothpick, Juan grabbed the toothpick out of Donaldson's mouth, and to our disgust, licked it, too. Once more, we watched Juan scream and run to the sink.

"It must just be a difference of spices that we are used to in our culture," I said.

When Juan finally pulled his mouth away from the water faucet, Donaldson pointed at him and said, "Non-Gringo," and we all laughed.

So, Donaldson had an extra container of cinnamon for himself, and Juan never teased us again.

*Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at [daris@darishoward.com](mailto:daris@darishoward.com); or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>*

## Collin College hosts 30th annual Collin Jazz Festival

Collin College will host the 30th Annual Collin Jazz Festival featuring world-renowned jazz trumpeter Sean Jones, Friday-Saturday, March 24-25, at the Plano Campus. Concert admission is free and all events are open to the public, but tickets should be reserved through the college's University Tickets web portal.

Established in 1993, the Collin Jazz Festival features performances by mid-

dle school and high school jazz bands from across the region and evening concerts featuring Collin College jazz students and faculty. Each participating ensemble will receive an onstage clinic with one of the festival's adjudicators immediately following their performance. Participating school ensembles will perform from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on March 25 in performance spaces across the Plano Campus.

Evening concerts featuring Jones are planned at 7 p.m. on March 24 and 25 in the John Anthony Theatre. Jones will perform with the Collin Jazz Lab Band, Collin Combo PM, Collin Combo Too, Collin Jazztet, and the Faculty Combo. Jones will also host a masterclass at 1 p.m., March 25 in the theatre.

Jones has performed and recorded with notable

See JAZZ, Page 12

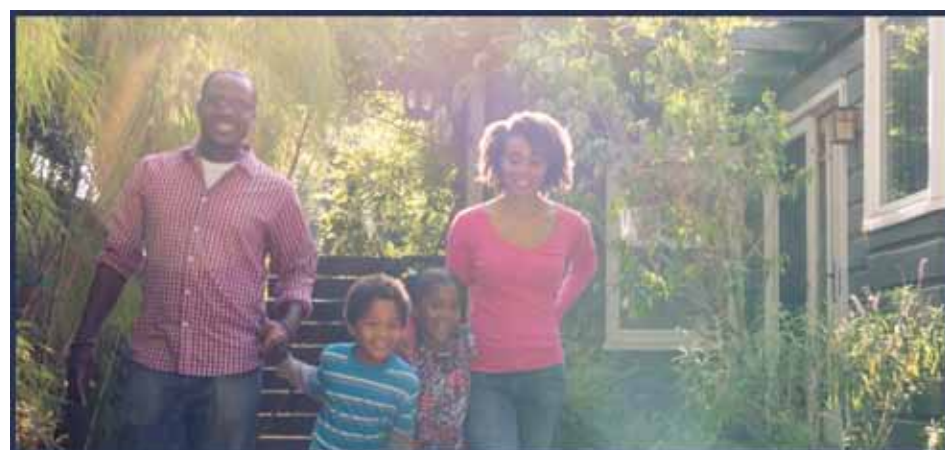
## ART, from Page 7

Participating artists may submit one original digital design aligned to the 150th Anniversary theme that can be easily converted to a digitally printed wrap that covers the entire traffic signal box. All designs must be original artwork and cannot include copyrighted or trademarked images, commercial logos or

advertisements. Designs should be free from any representation that includes traffic lights, signs or signal images of any kind. Artists may sign their designs but should limit any other wording. All submissions should feature a design appropriate for viewing by all ages.

All completed applica-

tions and artwork submissions are due by Friday, April 28 no later than 5 p.m. Information about the contest is available at [www.cor.net/our-city/arts-and-culture/traffic-signal-box-art-contest](http://www.cor.net/our-city/arts-and-culture/traffic-signal-box-art-contest). Any questions about entry requirements may also be directed to Suzanne Etman by phone at 972-744-4213 or by e-mail to [suzanne.etman@cor.gov](mailto:suzanne.etman@cor.gov).



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# Film Review: 'John Wick: Chapter 4' is a beautiful slaughter fest

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2) Artistic, balletic and acrobatic violence separates the "John Wick" franchise from other action/crime/thrillers. That ritual continues as the hitman's hitman discovers friends can be foes and foes can be friends.

John Wick (Keanu Reeves) is a badass, hired killer. He works under the mandates of a clandestine council, "The High Table." The group of 12 crime lord's reigns over the underworld's most ruthless paid killers. Wick is at odds with the governing body, shunning protocols and ignoring ultimatums. This time he's



Photo via NNPA

gone too far. The Table has put a bounty on his head. Assassins can make millions murdering him.

Old friends aid and hide him. The Bowery King (Laurence Fishburne), head of a covert intelligence network, gives him tips. The proprietor (Ian McShane)

and concierge (Lance Reddick) of the New York Continental Hotel, a lair and safe haven for assassins, protect him.

Wick seeks refuge with his old ally Shimazu (Hiroyuki Sanada, Bullet Train) at his Osaka Continental Hotel, against the

man's daughter's (Rina Sawayama) better judgment. Even Wick's fellow hatchet man Caine (Donnie Yen, Ip Man) hunts him. Caine: "You're going to die." Wick: "Maybe not." That betrayal was coerced by The Table's relentlessly evil emissary Marquis (Bill Skarsgård), who continuously ups the bounty—\$18M to \$40M. He'll kill anyone who gets in his way.

Seconds into this chapter people are killed. Minutes into the movie ingeniously choreographed fight scenes portend what's to come. The script by Shay Hatten and Michael Finch adds complication on top of complication. Murders on murders. Bullets fly non-

stop. Fist fights don't end until someone is pummeled to death.

Normally this kind of non-stop savagery would become unbearably repulsive. But as directed by Chad Stahelski, who helmed previous Wick chapters and was a stuntman, the visuals are so heady, the tumbles, punches, flips and gunfights so over the top, viewers will sit in amazement laughing nervously. They expect no less from this series, and this episode delivers in the most imaginative ways.

The settings range from New York, Jordan and Japan to Berlin and Paris. The geographic scope is so vast, it competes with the inter-

national locations in "Mission Impossible" and James Bond films. That global flair should entice American, European, Middle East and especially Asian markets where Yen and Sanada are superstars.

Sequences in an airplane hangar-sized Berlin disco where patrons dance wildly as a gun/fist fight erupts are electric. Overhead shots when Wick battles adversaries through rooms in a building catch the eye. Car chases, guns blazing and auto crashes on streets around the Arc de Triomphe are mind blowing. But the astonishing carnage truly crescendos during the

See WICK, Page 13

## MALL, from Page 5

posing to public safety personnel. "Dallas deserves safe structures, a strong International District, and a vibrant new development on the site of the former Valley View Mall. This is a major step forward on every front," said Mayor Johnson.

In November 2022, the City of Dallas had issued a

letter to the property owner requiring demolition of the structure be completed by Jun. 1, 2023. In response, the property owner obtained the appropriate city and state approvals and began remediating the asbestos on Dec. 15, 2022.

In February 2023, following ongoing criminal activity that resulted in a

series of fires, the Dallas Police Department notified the property owner that the Valley View Mall property would be designated a habitual criminal property. DPD expects to make a final decision by Mar. 30, 2023.

District 11 City Council Member Jaynie Schultz said: "With today's demolition of the remaining structure of Valley View

Mall, we turn the page on this long dormant property and safety hazard in our community. We look ahead to transforming the area, including as part of the planned Dallas Interna-

tional District."

Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax said: "It is always our practice to work towards a constructive resolution that serves the residents of Dallas. I want

to thank the community for not giving up on us and to the team for their commitment to getting this done."

Final demolition is expected to be complete by Jun. 1, 2023.

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## Fort Worth Museum of Science and History explores the Diversity of Life on Earth in Smithsonian traveling exhibition

Fort Worth, TX (March 7, 2023) — The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History announces the temporary exhibition “Life in One Cubic Foot.” The exhibition follows the research of Smithsonian scientists and photographer David Liittschwager as they discover what a cubic foot of land or water—a biocube—reveals about the diversity of life on the planet. “Life in One Cubic Foot” will be on view March 18, 2023 through June 11, 2023. The exhibition is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

A biocube—the tool at the heart of the exhibition—is a 1-by-1-by-1-foot framed cube that organ-



NY Public Library/Unsplash

isms from the surrounding environment can enter and pass through. Biocubes featured in the exhibition were placed in environments across the globe to learn what forms of life, both known and unknown, could be found in the cube during a 24-hour period. In addition to exploring life through the exhibition, visitors are also invited to participate in citizen sci-

ence and uncover the biodiversity in their backyard by creating and monitoring their own biocube.

“Life in One Cubic Foot” explores life from exotic environments, like the coral reefs of French Polynesia and the alien mid-water ocean off the coast of California to the more familiar locales, like

See SCIENCE, Page 12

## Black Restaurant Week continues through Sunday

Black Restaurant Week was founded in 2016 by three friends who shared a unified voice for their community: Warren Luckett, Falayn Ferrell and Derek Robinson. It began as a one-city food experience in Houston where participants can dine in or order from a litany of Black-owned restaurants in their city. The mission: provide complimentary marketing and PR services for the business under the BRW campaign, educate consumers on the abundance of cultural cuisines within their neighborhood and share the disparities faced by minority-owned businesses. Since 2016, the organization has supported more than 3000 restaurateurs, bartenders, chefs, caterers, and food trucks.

Last year, the organization showcased 1250 Black-owned culinary businesses across the United States – including Toronto

and Vancouver – and generated an average of 15% sales increase. With more than 17 million keyword searches, the website also promoted more than 1700 Black-owned culinary businesses across North America last year.

“Since 2016, we aspired to set ourselves apart from similar organizations. BRW is solely guided by business owners and operators. They are in the trenches every day and experience the ebbs and flows of running a business during one of the most difficult periods in US history,” states Falayn Ferrell, Black Restaurant Week, LLC’s Operations Managing Partner.

According to the Independent Restaurant Coalition, 500,000 restaurants and bars are faced with an uncertain future due to lost revenue and increased debt over the past 2 years. Additionally, 1.1 million minority-owned businesses

often face heightened challenges and disparities when securing business funding. The shocking statistics championed Black Restaurant Week to revisit their “More Than Just a Week” campaign.

“COVID-19 changed the landscape since 2020. Now, the price of food is soaring. From being overlooked for revitalization funds to inflation, most Black-owned culinary businesses cannot afford advertisements/PR/marketing to build awareness and attract consumers. That’s why we proudly do this for free – it’s peer-to-peer support for 10 days within each market and for the past seven years.” shares Warren Luckett, Black Restaurant Week, LLC’s founder.

For more information about Black Restaurant Week, its events, and participating restaurants, please visit: [blackrestaurantweeks.com](http://blackrestaurantweeks.com)

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# Down Payment Strategies for First-time Home Buyers



**Sam Seward**  
Independent  
Financial  
NMLS# 908058

The idea of buying a first home is exciting, but coming up with a sizable down payment can be discouraging, especially when the average home price in the U.S. is nearly \$400,000 and many lenders want 20 percent down. Fortunately, there are options to help first-time buyers purchase the home they dream of calling their own.

## Low Down Payment Loans

Government-secured loans offer lower down payment options to buyers, making the home-buying process more achievable for the average family.



Getty Images

- VA Loans are offered by the Veteran's Administration to veterans meeting specific service requirements. These loans allow for a more relaxed qualifying process, considerably less paperwork and the ability to purchase a home with no money down.
- FHA Loans are government-backed through the Federal Housing Administration and allow borrow-

ers to get into their homes for as little as 3.5 percent down.

- USDA Loans are available in certain rural areas across the country, allowing qualifying borrowers to purchase homes in designated areas for as little as zero down.

Some borrowers may also qualify for conventional loans that allow them to purchase homes with as

little as three percent down if they have good credit. However, conventional loans are not government-backed and often require higher credit scores. Lower down payment loans allow buyers to get into a home sooner, though there are a couple of drawbacks to consider – mortgage insurance and higher interest rates.

Private mortgage insurance (PMI) is specialized insurance designed for conventional mortgages and protects lenders from defaults. With many traditional lenders, PMI can be canceled once a buyer has 20 percent equity in their home. For FHA loans, a mortgage insurance premium (MIP) is paid for the life of the loan. However, many borrowers consider it a small price to pay for the

benefit of being able to purchase a home sooner.

## Sources of Down Payment Funds

Most lenders accept down payment funds from a variety of sources. Cash savings is preferred, but money gifted/borrowed from family and a 401(k) withdrawal/loan are other options. While drawing for borrowing against retirement savings may result in penalties, fees or taxes, it is one of the best immediate sources of down payment funding.

## Assistance Programs

Assistance programs can also help borrowers with a down payment. Many of these are available at state and local levels and combine substantial grants, zero-interest loans, a combination of tax benefits and lower interest rates,

but they often involve limited availability, maximum sales prices and income limits for borrowers. Non-profit organizations, employers and community foundations are other resources to explore for down payment assistance.

## The Bottom Line

With the right funding and program assistance, the dream of first-time home ownership can become a reality sooner than later.

## About the Author

Sam Seward is a community mortgage lending originator with Independent Financial. He has over 30 years of experience in the mortgage industry and specializes in helping new buyers achieve home ownership. Connect with Sam at 214.307.7551 or Sam.Seward@IFinancial.com.

# Study examines women of color's invisibility in the workplace

(Newsweek) — “As a Black woman, I’m invisible. They just erase your humanity. You don’t exist in front of them,” said Tessa, a 33-year-old Black research assistant.

“It wasn’t about disliking what I did or being judgmental of what I did. It was a different kind of problem, to not be acknowledged. They didn’t care. There was no curiosity. They didn’t give a f\*\*\*. We were invisible,” said Brinda, a 30-year-old South Asian consultant.

Invisibility is a salient and recurring experience of mistreatment for women of color working in traditionally white and male professions, two researchers found in their recent landmark study.

The study examines how differences in race, immigration status, age, and organizational status – which determined the women’s proximity to social power – informed the types of invisibility they experienced, as well as their responses to invisibility. Although there is much research examining workplace mis-

treatment experiences of women in general, very little research explores how women of color experience and respond to workplace mistreatment.

“The study offers a more theoretically complete understanding of the experiences of invisibility for a variety of women of color at work,” said Bhattacharyya. “By interviewing a diverse sample of women of color, we identified distinct forms of invisibility that made them feel unseen for their true selves.”

Powerful and revealing interviews show the experience of invisibility was common, painful, and dehumanizing for women of color, and identified four distinct forms of invisibility:

- Erasure, invisibility in its most literal sense, means being unheard or unseen. Ninety-five per cent of interviewees reported experiencing erasure at work. East/Southeast Asian women experienced erasure the most acutely frequently.

- Homogenization is being treated like a homogenous and interchangeable

member of an unrelatable out group. Eighty-six per cent of interviewees reported homogenization, often describing being treated as virtually indistinguishable from other women of color. Even though Black women made up less than one-fifth of the sample, they represented one-third of those who experienced homogenization most acutely and frequently.

- Exoticization is a unique race and gender-based sexualization that made women of color feel reduced to foreign objects of fascination and fetishization. Seventy-eight per cent of interviewees experienced exoticization. Although most participants across racial groups reported exoticization, a disproportionate number of those women were younger and of lower organizational status. Further, every Latina woman and all but one Black woman noted being exoticized.

- Whiteness is when one’s similarities to white people are highlighted and complimented and non-white racial/ethnic iden-

tities and cultural backgrounds discounted and ignored. Fifty-one per cent of interviewees reported whitening, which was confusing because it was framed as inclusion and praise, but undermined the women’s racial and cultural identities, making them feel invisible. Most of the interviewees who reported whitening had grown up in Canada or the U.S., were older, and/or had high organizational status.

Importantly, the study identified three distinct responses to experiencing invisibility in the workplace. How women of color attributed causes of their invisibility, combined with their social power, shaped whether they engaged in withdrawal, approach, or pragmatic responses.

In general, women of color with less social power at work experienced invisibility most strongly. They were more likely to blame themselves for their invisibility, and were more likely to engage in withdrawal (e.g., further staying quiet, making themselves small), which intensified their in-

visibility and marginalization. Women with more social power experienced less invisibility. They were more likely to blame the perpetrator for their invisibility and were more likely to engage in approach tactics (e.g., speaking up strongly against an invisibility experience, challenging the perpetrator), which risked backlash.

Women who attributed their invisibility to structural causes (e.g., systemic racism, systemic sexism) were more likely to engage in pragmatic tactics. Although least common among the interviews, such tactics often empowered women to engage in radical honesty with those who had made them feel invisible.

“Our findings offer novel insights for organizational practices around diversity and inclusion by highlighting the complexity that exists within women of color’s experiences at work,” said Bhattacharyya. “Some are more invisible than others, and women of color experience, and respond to, invisibility in different ways depending on their

identities and positions. This also gives women of color legitimacy and language about subtle workplace mistreatment experiences.”

While the paper’s findings provide insight into the unique marginalization of women of color in the workplace, they also highlight the need to design more sophisticated practices around Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at work. In particular, there is a need to pay attention to different ways in which marginalized groups experience mistreatment at work, and design EDI policies and tools that address them accordingly. Typically, there is a blanket EDI approach and solution (e.g. gender bystander intervention training) that only serves a few.

Organizations also need to create climates and conditions for dialogue, where radically honest conversations can occur in psychologically and socially safe environments that recognize structural barriers to

See WOMEN, Page 13



# Connecting eligible inventors and entrepreneurs with free legal assistance for patent and trademark issues

(USPTO) -- Are you in need of free legal assistance for issues related to patents or trademarks? We can help!

We invite you to take advantage of one of our free legal assistance (pro bono) programs that connects eligible individuals with volunteer legal counsel. And please check out our new blog on free resources for inventors and entrepreneurs, which dives into our programs that provide no-cost, one-on-one assistance wherever you are on your innovation journey. Read on for a sample of some of these great programs.

The Patent Pro Bono Program is a nationwide network of independently operated regional programs that match volunteer patent professionals with fi-

nancially under resourced inventors and small businesses. Applicants for pro bono assistance who meet certain financial thresholds and other criteria may be eligible for free legal support when preparing and filing a patent application. Email [probono@uspto.gov](mailto:probono@uspto.gov) to get started.

If an inventor's application is denied, or "rejected," by the USPTO, the inventor can seek free legal assistance to help prepare an appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) through the PTAB Pro Bono Program (known as an "ex parte" appeal). The PTAB is a neutral body that functions like a court for patent matters at the USPTO. To participate in the PTAB Pro Bono Program, an applicant must

meet certain eligibility requirements. The PTAB Bar Association administers the program. Email [PTAB-probono@uspto.gov](mailto:PTAB-probono@uspto.gov) if you have any questions.

Similarly, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) is a neutral body that functions like a court for trademark matters at the USPTO. If an applicant whose trademark application was rejected by the USPTO wants to appeal the rejection, or if the validity of a registered mark is challenged, it can often come before the TTAB. The TTAB Pro Bono Clearinghouse Program recognizes organizations that coordinate free legal services for eligible members of the public—including financially underresourced individuals, small and

medium-sized enterprises, and nonprofit or charitable organizations with low operating budgets—in proceedings before the TTAB. Each recognized clearinghouse organization has different requirements for accepting new clients and matches eligible applicants with volunteer member attorneys. We welcome all questions at [TTAB@uspto.gov](mailto:TTAB@uspto.gov).

Additionally, our Law School Clinic Certification Program includes over 60 participating law school clinics that provide free legal services to eligible members of the public, including inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. Each participating law school has requirements for accepting new clients and accepts new clients at their

discretion. A list of participating law schools and their contact information can be found on the Law School Clinic Certification Program page of our website. Questions can be sent to [lawschoolpilotinformation@uspto.gov](mailto:lawschoolpilotinformation@uspto.gov).

"By meeting people where they are with these free legal services, the USPTO is working to strengthen our innovation economy by making it more inclusive and equitable for all," remarked Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director Kathi Vidal. "Pro bono counsel serve as a valuable bridge to the innovation economy by providing critical assistance to underrepresented

**See INVENT, Page 13**

## JAZZ, from Page 10

figures, including Illinois Jacquet, Herbie Hancock, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Nancy Wilson, Dianne Reeves, Gerald Wilson, and Marcus Miller. He was the lead trumpeter for Wynnton Marsalis' ensemble for six years and is currently a member of the SFJAZZ Collective. His most recent musical release is "Sean Jones: Live from Jazz at the Bistro."

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## SCIENCE, from Page 10

New York City's Central Park. Hundreds of different organisms ranging in size from the head of a pin to the full size of the biocube are featured in the exhibition through collages of photographs, models, interactive elements and exhibi-

tion videos.

Biocubes in the exhibition were not only used by scientists to explore what is already known about life on Earth but also to spotlight how much biodiversity remains for aspiring scientists to discover.

Scientists estimate that there are more than 1 million species still unknown or unnamed by scientists. Environmental changes, like climate change and other man-made forces, are taking their toll on life around the world, both discovered and unidentified. Global efforts to under-

stand the impact of these changes and answer questions about how to manage the complex dynamics of wildlife and natural resources will be improved as gaps in the tree of life are filled.

After seeing how scientists use the concept of one cubic foot to understand

the diversity of life in the field, visitors can learn how biocubes can be used to uncover life in more familiar places. They are invited to build their own biocube and contribute to citizen science by studying and sharing discoveries from their neighborhood habitats.

## TRUMP, from Page 5

violence.

Right-wing provocateur Jack Posobiec took to Trump's preferred social media platform, Truth Social, to call for a "nationwide bank run" after Trump announced that he expected to be arrested.

"The risk here is that narratives surrounding the recent collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and potential arrest of President Trump may converge as influencers like Posobiec foment conversation around a potential run on banks as a form of nonviolent protest," said Lisa Kaplan, founder of tech firm Alethea Group, which tracks online disinformation campaigns.

One law enforcement

expert said that the level of engagement on some of the most aggressive posts they had seen was much lower than they had expected.

Some Trump allies, like Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, have warned that any protests against an arrest of Trump could be infiltrated by federal agents.

It's widely believed charges against Trump will come on Wednesday, with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg having already spoken to law enforcement with communications extending to the U.S. Secret Service.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice

President Mike Pence and other Republicans have called the potential arrest of Trump a political witch hunt.

Three House GOP chairmen on Monday sent a letter to Bragg calling for the Manhattan DA's testimony before Congress. They said the investigation was an "unprecedented abuse of prosecutorial authority."

"While we have not yet identified specific plans to engage in large-scale violence, we remain concerned about singular acts of political violence occurring in the days ahead," Daniel J. Jones, president of Advance Democracy, a not-for-profit research organization, told CNN.

Meanwhile, intelligence sources told CBS News that there's been a "sig-

nificant increase" in threats and violent rhetoric online from domestic violent extremists as an indictment of Trump looms.

Domestic violent extremists in online postings have warned that prosecutors from the Manhattan District Attorney's Office would cross a red line if Trump is indicted, and it would be met with more violence than the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, the source told CBS.

CBS Sources said the threats are mostly aimed at law enforcement, judges and government officials in New York and elsewhere who they see as participants in what they see as a political persecution of Trump.

"We do not tolerate attempts to intimidate our office or threaten the rule of law in New York," Bragg wrote.

"Our law enforcement partners will ensure that any specific or credible threats against the office will be fully investigated and that the proper safeguards are in place so all 1,600 of us have a secure work environment."

In Washington, D.C., U.S. Capitol Police is expected to have extra staffing Tuesday and Wednesday, CBS and NBC News reported.

A senior congressional source said Capitol Police plan to make an emergency declaration Tuesday ahead of any possible indictment, CBS reported.

The declaration allows for mutual aid assistance from other departments and has been used ahead of other recent protests.

The source said there is no specific intelligence they are tracking, but the department is making the declaration proactively.

The Metropolitan Police Department said it's not aware of any potential protests related to Trump in the capital.

"MPD will continue to monitor and will plan accordingly with our federal law enforcement partners to ensure the safety of DC residents and visitors," MPD said in a statement.

"MPD encourages the public to remain vigilant, if you see something, say something."



## Stereotypes influence whether people buy stocks

University of Bonn (Newsweek) -- A study from Germany indicates that an image of stock owners as "selfish gamblers" inhibits investments.

Whether people invest in stocks depends on what they think about stockholders. This is what a team led by Luca Henkel, a member of the ECONtribute Cluster of Excellence: Markets & Public Policy at the University of Bonn in Germany, found. The study has been published as an ECONtribute Discussion Paper.

The study found that 80 percent of respondents consider people who invest in stocks to be selfish and greedy "gamblers". "Which opinion people have of stockholders plays an important role in whether someone invests in stocks

themselves," says Luca Henkel, who conducted the study with Christian Zimpelmann.

The researchers asked around 4700 study participants from the Netherlands and the USA what they thought about people who are active or inactive on the stock market. On a scale of one to ten, participants could indicate how strongly they assigned character traits such as selfishness and greed to the respective group. The result: More than 80 percent of participants rated the group of stock owners as significantly more selfish and greedier than non-stock owners.

In a second step, the researchers use experiments to show that these views causally influence investment decisions: the more

negatively participants view stockholders, the less they invested in stocks.

According to the researchers, only two reasons are more important for the decision whether to invest in the stock market than people's opinion about stockholders: their income or wealth and the belief whether shares yield positive returns.

Equity investments are part of people's identity.

"The negative picture contributes to the low participation in the stock market," says Luca Henkel. In Germany, less than 30 percent of people invest in shares.

The study reveals that respondents have a stereotype of stockholders in their minds, which in reality only applies to a small

group. People overestimate character traits such as egoism and greed in relation to the total group of all shareholders. This may lead to the decision not to invest in stocks to become an important part of people's identity. For instance, 40 percent said they were proud not to own stock.

"We should talk about who is investing in the stock market in the first place," says Luca Henkel. "In reality, this is not a homogenous group, but consists of individuals having a wide variety of characteristics." Education, for example in the form of school lessons on finance or public information campaigns, could encourage more people to engage with the stock market.

ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy.

## INVENT, from Page 12

inventors." For example, our data shows that while women make up about 13% of U.S. inventors, 43% of those who utilize our pro bono services identify as women, while 35% identify as African American or Black, 14% identify as Hispanic American, 5.7% as Asian American or Native Pacific Islander, and 1.5% as Native American.

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## WICK, from Page 9

bloodbath on the 200+ steps leading up to the Sacré-Coeur Basilica. That's the wow moment. The money shot. That's when the direction, photography, stunts and acting show off and hit nirvana.

The emotional struggles between the characters run deep. When the betrayals between friends and colleagues look like they will be the centerpiece, the script throws a curve ball. A duel is proposed, with strict rules: "Failure to meet at sunrise will result in execution." This Burr-Hamilton plot device threads all the chaos together and herds it

into one and provided an extra momentum that will reenergize audiences and take their minds off the film's 2h 49m length (editor Nathan Orloff).

The evocative settings are interesting to watch because the interiors and exteriors (production design Kevin Kavanaugh, "The Dark Knight Rises") are magnificent, the palette of colors flourish (art directors Emil Birk, Gilles Boillot, Karim Kheir) and the characters parade around in slick, tailored bullet-proof suits (Paco Delgado, Les Misérables). The cinematography (Dan Lausten,

The Shape of Water) meticulously frames everything.

Each actor stands out but also blends in, creating a twisted group dynamic that brands the film. Reeves, Yen and Sanada are obvious superstars. Shamier Anderson (Dear White People) as the mysterious Tracker, an ambivalent interloper with a trusty German Shepherd, adds a humanizing factor to the mayhem. Sawayama, as Shimazu's daughter Akira, is mesmerizing in a fight scene where she mounts a

behemoth assassin, knives in hands, stabbing him as he climbs steps until she pierces his neck delivering the coup de grâce.

JWC4 is an elaborately choreographed, gorgeously crafted slaughter fest. A blood-thirsty spectacle. A circus of scoundrels fighting to the death in the most gracefully violent ways.

In select theaters March 24th.

Visit *NNPA News Wire*  
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## WOMEN, from Page 11

women of color's visibility and inclusion in organizations.

Barnini Bhattacharyya of the Ivey Business School at Western University and Jennifer Berdahl of University of British Columbia looked at a diverse sample of 65 women of color in Canada and the U.S. for the study. Their paper, Do you see me? The examination of experiences and respons-

es to invisibility at work was recently published in the Journal of Applied Psychology and is available on the journal's website.

The authors include Barnini Bhattacharyya, Assistant Professor, Organizational Behaviour, Ivey Business School at Western University, and Jennifer L. Berdahl, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia.

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# Learning what 'Me-Time' is all about

By James L. Snyder

Several months ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said she and her daughter and granddaughter were going to St. Augustine for a week and wondered if I wanted to go along.

I said, "Let me think about it for a while, and I'll get back to you."

I then overheard a conversation between my wife and her daughter concerning their trip to St. Augustine. One phrase that kept coming up in that conversation was "thrift stores." That caught my attention.

If there's a place I do not like to be, it is a thrift store. However, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is an expert in everything thrift store.

The week before she went, she asked me if I wanted to go along with them. She smiled and said, "After all, we will be spending a lot of time at the thrift stores in the area."

I was not too fond of her

smile on this occasion; I knew exactly what it meant.

Thinking about how to get out of the situation, I told her, "No, I don't think I want to go; there are some things I need to do here, so you girls go and have a great time."

"What is it that you need to do?"

I said as seriously as possible, "I need to spend some Me-Time here by myself."

"Me-Time," she said as she laughed. "Do you need any advice on how to do that activity?"

The week of the "girl's trip" had arrived, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had her Sissy Van packed for the trip. I noticed a large empty spot in the back, but I didn't say anything to her about it. I knew exactly the purpose of that space.

Finally, she said goodbye, kissed me and was out the door to begin the trip to St. Augustine.

Early the following day, I began doing some of my

projects for the week. I had some books that needed reading, and started my work.

A little after noon, I checked my watch and wondered where lunch was. Usually, by this time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has lunch ready. So I got up and went into the kitchen to see what was holding her up.

When I got into the kitchen, it dawned on me that I was involved in "Me-Time" for the week. I'm not sure I had included lunchtime in my preparation for this week.

I opened the refrigerator, picked out some things for lunch, and enjoyed my lunch. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had prepared many things in the fridge for this week, so I took advantage of her generous preparations.

As I was munching on my lunch, I was thinking about this "Me-Time" that I thought was wonderful. But at least I had lunch, and

then I could return to what I was doing.

At suppertime, it was the same routine. As I ate my supper, I couldn't help but think that this "Me-Time" wasn't worth the time. But I was in the middle of it, so there was nothing I could do, but it did help me with an excuse not to go to St. Augustine.

I put in a lot of hard work and finally went to bed.

I must've slept very well that night because before I knew it, morning arrived, and time to get up and have breakfast. I noticed it was empty on the other side of the bed, and I just thought that she had gotten up ahead of me and was getting everything ready for breakfast.

I walked out to the kitchen, and there was nobody in the kitchen. So I wondered where she could have been and how soon she would have breakfast.

Looking out the front window, I noticed her Sissy Van was missing, and then

it dawned on me.

She's not here, and I'm on my "Me-Time" misadventure. I'm on my own for today.

The first thing I had to do was to make the coffee. So how can you start a day without coffee?

Looking around, I could not see any coffee, only an empty coffee pot on the counter. Now, I had to figure out how to work that coffee pot.

I found the coffee grounds for the coffee pot. I didn't know how much to put in, so I put in a lot because I like a nice hot cup of coffee. Then I put water where it was supposed to go and thought I had everything well done.

With my fingers crossed, I pressed the start button and the coffee pot, and nothing happened. Now, what was I supposed to do? As I moaned over this, I noticed that the coffee was unplugged. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage seems to unplug the coffee

pot every night before bed.

I sighed a deep sigh and plugged it in and pressed the button in the coffee pot started to work.

That was just the beginning of "Me-Time," and much more was happening.

After two days of this, I realized all the work that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage did that I was unaware of.

Giving this a lot of thought, I was reminded of the verse of Scripture. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Maybe instead of focusing on "Me-Time," it would be much better to focus on "We-Time." There is much more advantageous to this.

*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.*

## TERRELL, from Page 2

ahead, Ms. Terrell aims to remain involved in her community and her respective organizations for as long as possible. Also planning to continue enjoying her well-deserved retirement, she looks forward to dedicat-

ing more time to European travel.

Frances Colbert-Clements Terrell has been included in Marquis Who's Who. Since 1899, when A. N. Marquis printed the First Edition of Who's Who in America®,

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# Women's History Month continues...



**Sister Tarpley**  
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Sarah E. Goode was the first Black woman to be granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, for her invention of a folding cabinet bed in 1885. She showed other Black women the possibilities.

Marie Van Brittan Brown, a nurse and who invented a pre-cursor to the modern home TV security system. The crime rate was high in Brown's neighborhood, and the local police didn't always respond to emergencies.

The Browns filed a patent for their closed circuit television security system in 1966, and it was approved on December 2, 1969.

Sheila Lynn Jeter, patents for creating a non lever driven toaster; hand-held, multi-functional devices in one housing including a stapler, staple remover, pencil sharpener, hole punch, calculator, tape measure, architectural and engineering scale.

Lyda Newman, an inventor and women's rights activist. She received a patent for an improved model of hairbrush. She also fought for women's right to vote, working with well-known



Shirley Ann Jackson

women's suffrage activists.

Alice Parker, a heating unit that would warm up your house and regulate its temperature. The heating furnace provided central heat throughout a house.

Shirley Ann Jackson, she first developed an interest in science and mathematics during her childhood; a graduate of MIT she received a bachelor, and doctoral degree, all in the field of physics; she was the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from MIT.

Jackson also fostered advances in telecommunications inventing the portable fax, touch tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting.

She foster advances in telecommunications invent-

ing the portable fax, touch tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting.

Annie Easley, she was a computer scientist, mathematician, and rocket scientist. She was a leading member of the team which developed software in Computer Codes for the Centaur rocket stage and one of the first Blacks to work as a computer scientist at NASA.

She started working for NASA in 1955 for the Lewis Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space administration (NASA) and retired 34 years later.

Madeline M. Turner was an American inventor. She invented Turner's Fruit-Press, which paved

the way for further development of the fruit press. She was granted U.S. Patent 1,180,959 in April 25, 1916 and exhibited her invention at the Panama-California Exposition.

Turner lived in Oakland, California. Her fruit press allowed fruit to be pushed into an opening and cut in half. The fruit would be shifted between different plates until juiced. The press resembled a form of an assembly line. The fruit press was called "ingenious" by a patent review committee member.

Erica Baker, (born 1980) is an engineer and engineering manager in the San Francisco Bay Area, famous for being outspoken in support of diversity and inclusion. She has worked at several companies, including Google. She attained notoriety in 2015 for revealing that she had started an internal spreadsheet where Google employees reported their salary data, to better understand pay disparities within the company.

Based on the spreadsheet,


a number of her colleagues were able to negotiate pay raises. Baker reported that a number of her colleagues sent her peer bonuses for starting the spreadsheet, but her peer bonuses were de-

nied by management.

The spreadsheet sparked discussion on Google's pay disparities, non-transparency in pay determination, and

See HISTORY, Page 16

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# NDG Book Review: 'Lucky Medicine' can be raunchy, but is a great read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

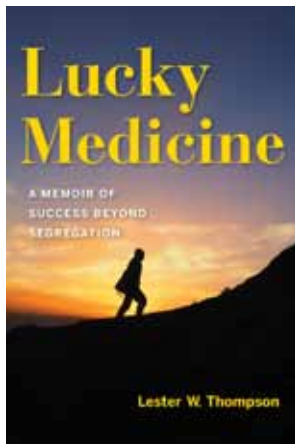
It didn't arrived in a package.

It wasn't wrapped in fancy paper, it didn't arrive with cake or candles. And yet, the gift you got, that thing that someone gave you was better than anything that could've come in a pretty box. It was bigger than you ever expected. As in the new memoir, "Lucky Medicine" by Lester W. Thompson, the gift was a life-changer.

Born and raised in Indianapolis, Lester Thompson grew up with "rules" that his Southern-born parents instilled in him all his life. Even though Jim Crow racism wasn't entrenched in the North like it was in the South, such rules were "the frame of reference."

And that lent mystery to a very curious relationship Thompson's father had with a white Jewish man, a Mr. Goodman. Cal Thompson cut Goodman's hair in the privacy of Goodman's home; Thompson sometimes accompanied his father there but he never fully understood the friendship between the two men. He says "It didn't occur to me to wonder..."

When he was thirteen, he learned the truth: he was named after Goodman, who was his father's closest friend. Furthermore, Goodman was Thompson's godfather and he'd made a vow to pay for Thompson's



entire college education.

That he was going to be a doctor someday was another thing Thompson had known all his life. His father, an authoritarian alcoholic, never left any room to question it. And so, after high school graduation, Thompson headed to IU in Bloomington, Indiana.

It was an eye-opener, in many ways.

An only child, Thompson

had to learn how to share. He had to learn to live with white people next door, and how to study for classes that seemed impossible to ace. He fell in love, and fell again. And he watched the world change as the Civil Rights Movement began.

"I will never know what prompted Mr. Goodman to make his gift," Thompson says. "but in the end, I suppose, all that matters is that he did."

Sometimes, change can come with a big ka-BOOM. Other times, it sneaks in the back door and sits quietly. That mixture's what you get with this unique memoir, "Lucky Medicine."

Unique because while racism figures into author Lester W. Thompson's story, it's not a very big part, considering the mid-last-century setting. The Movement is barely a blip on the

radar; only a handful of troubles with white people are mentioned, and they're not belabored. So racism is in this book, but only at whisper-level.

Instead, Thompson focuses on his relatively insulated life, his parents and friends, his studies, and the mysterious, still-unsolved relationship his father had with Goodman. And that's where this story glows: Thompson's tale is nostalgic and mundane. It's not overly-dramatic. It doesn't shout or beg for attention. It's just warm and happily, wonderfully, ordinary.

Be aware before you share this book with an elder that there are four-letter words in here and a rather eyebrow-raising, too-much-information bedroom scene inside. If you can handle that, though, "Lucky Medicine" is a one-of-a-kind gift.

## HISTORY, from Page 15

potential gender and ethnicity differentials in pay.

Bessie Blount Griffin, Physical Therapist and Inventor who worked with injured soldiers during World War II. She recognized their need and desire to do more on their own, and she invented an assistive device that permitted people who had lost limbs to feed themselves.

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



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