



North Dallas Gazette

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The intersection of race, gender, and policing: following the public impact

(Newswise) — When two friends of Frank Rudy Cooper were stopped by officers for questioning but had nothing in common with the suspects but their race and gender, Cooper, now a UNLV Boyd School of Law professor and expert on race and policing, became interested in why the police tend to stop young Black males more than other subgroups. Cooper, along with Boyd School of Law colleagues Stewart Chang and Addie Rolnick, heads UNLV's Program on Race, Gender, and Policing, which publishes research and brings together international scholars and works nationwide with law enforcement regarding excessive force, racial bias, sexual assaults by police officers, and policy reforms.

Policing and problems that can arise due to bias or misconduct impacts communities across the nation, and discussions on these issues are both interesting and important for American equality, explains Cooper. Their goal is to help navigate those issues by challenging the public to call for reforms and help police craft reforms, particularly for communities of color, which have a disproportionate amount of police attention and police misconduct. We are all better off when we



While the temperature is lower in public debate than it was last year, there is still a lot of attention being paid to how police forces interact with minority communities. (Photo: Munshots / Unsplash)

have policing that represents all of us in the way we want to be represented, he explains. "Police act for us, and we want them to speak for a community that's equitable."

Most scholars believe there are two strands from which contemporary U.S. policing developed. One is the southern slave patrols of the 1700s that checked any Black people out after dark for passes from enslavers. Over time, formal police departments grew out of that experience. Especially around the Reconstruction era, the focus was on monitoring movements

of freed Black men. In the North, they developed from something called the "night watch," to watch for anything untoward. Originating in England in the 1700s, these groups operated mainly in big U.S. cities and eventually became more formalized in the North after the 1850s.

Stepping into the 1950s, there's a sense, especially in the North, that police departments were captured by big city bosses and patronage hires. Part of the criticism is they weren't particularly professional,

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Careful with those tax returns

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People In The News ...



Brandon Johnson



Rick Whitted

NDG Quote of the Week: "Today we know with certainty that segregation is dead. The only question remaining is how costly will be the funeral."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Brandon Johnson

Brandon Johnson will take on the role of mayor in Chicago this May. Johnson defeated former public schools executive Paul Vallas on April 4 in a runoff, according to the Associated Press.

Lori Lightfoot lost her bid for the post in February, with a resounding defeat, finishing third in a race that reflects public dissatisfaction with her progress over the city's crime issues reports the New York Times.

Johnson will take on the role with a fresh, new voice of leadership.



Johnson is part of a multicultural and multigenerational coalition that is fighting for the future of all Chicago, according to his campaign website. He comes from a background

of teaching at Jenner Academy in Cabrini-Green, then at Westinghouse College Prep. He later became an organizer with the Chicago Teachers Union, defending schools from privatization and expanding access to state funding. In 2018, Brandon was elected commissioner of the 1st District of Cook County, where he led efforts to pass the Just Housing Ordinance, prohibiting housing discrimination against formerly incarcerated people. He also collaborated with colleagues to secure legal representation for immigrants facing deportation and advance recognition of

Indigenous Peoples' Day. Brandon and his wife Stacie live in Austin, raising their children Owen, Ethan and Braedyn.

As the son of a pastor and one of ten siblings, Brandon Johnson was raised on a foundation of hard work, faith and service. Brandon began his career as a public school teacher, first at Jenner Academy in Cabrini-Green and then at Westinghouse College Prep on the West Side, where he experienced firsthand how school closures, unemployment and gun violence impacted his students and their communities. Brandon went on to become an organizer

with the Chicago Teachers Union, where he led multi-racial coalitions to defend neighborhood schools from privatization, reduce high-stakes standardized testing and expand access to state funding. In 2018, Brandon was elected commissioner of the 1st District of Cook County, where he led the effort to pass the Just Housing Ordinance, which prohibited housing discrimination against formerly incarcerated people. As commissioner, he also collaborated with colleagues to eliminate the gang database, secure legal representation for immigrants facing deportation and

advance recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brandon convened a statewide "Save Our Seniors" response to the crisis in low-income nursing homes.

In the wake of civil uprisings in the summer of 2020, he organized the Cook County Board to commit to the "Budget for Black Lives," bringing new investments in health care, public transportation, internet access, and affordable housing. Brandon and his wife Stacie live in the Austin community, where they are raising their children Owen, Ethan and Braedyn.

Rick Whitted

(24-7PressRelease) -- RISE is pleased to announce that Rick Whitted, CEO of U.S. Hunger, was awarded the 2023 RISE Health Care Hero Award at The RISE Summit on Social Determinants of Health.

The Health Care Hero Award is a prestigious award presented at The RISE Summit on Social Determinants of Health that acknowledges an individual's effort to make a significant impact on the lives of underserved populations through health care and/or social services inter-



ventions, and through superior example of the RISE mission to promote health equity among all patients.

RISE received a total of 56 nominations for this year's award. Whitted was chosen for his leadership

and innovation in addressing food insecurity while also tackling the systemic causes of hunger and dramatically improving health and wellbeing.

Whitted joined U.S. Hunger as a board member in 2017 and became CEO in 2020. He has led several initiatives to further the fight against hunger, including a virtual food bank program, meal packaging events, and disaster relief worldwide. In 2022, Whitted and his team ran 198 Hunger Projects, packaging nearly nine million meals for families in need around the world. Through his unprecedented work in

targeting the root causes behind food insecurity, Whitted has also led U.S. Hunger in collecting more than 160,000 survey responses to date from individuals who have shared their experiences with food insecurity.

"Rick Whitted is redefining how our industry approaches the interconnect-

edness between hunger and health. Rick recognized that food is just the beginning. He has committed to listening, documenting, and preserving the real-life stories of those affected by food insecurity. These collected voices provide the insight to address root causes and drive lasting change," said the nomination.

The Health Care Hero Award is presented each year to an individual who has made a significant impact on the lives of underserved populations through health care and/or social services interventions, and through superior example of the RISE mission to promote health equity among all patients.

Nathan Jones

OAKLAND (24-7PressRelease) -- Nathan Anthony Jones has enjoyed a prosperous career as a scholar, speaker and educator, accepting appointments across distinct contexts that include charter and religious schools and the higher education arena. A tenured English instructor at Skyline College, he has taught in the Language Arts Division and English Department since 2011. Mr. Jones partners with students and colleagues to promote key learning tenets that advance comprehensive scholarly aptitudes as well as personal preparedness.

At an early age, Jones



realized his deep interest in education and acknowledges the inspiring influence of the superb teachers with whom he interacted. Awareness surrounding the issues of equity and social justice is foundational to Mr. Jones' curricular objectives and course content. In 2016, he engaged in a co-

operative effort to secure funding for students active in the African American Success Through Excellence Program Learning Community by co-founding the ASTEP Scholarships.

Jones has proudly promoted racial and cultural equity through his collaborative efforts with the 2020 Equity Academy-Equity Institute Conference, of which he was a co-facilitator. He has shared his expertise through participation in academic conferences and symposia throughout his varied career, delivering talks founded on comprehensive research and his academic, corporate and cultural experiences.

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\$322 billion bank failures become a different 'March Madness'

By Charlene Crowell

In 2023, "March Madness" took on a new meaning. Traditionally known as the nation's premier college basketball competition, this year that moniker could also describe the madness that sprang from the closure of two banks with combined assets of \$322 billion that affected consumers and small businesses in over 15 states.

Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), established in 1983, grew its operations to 15 states by 1996 -- from California to New York, north to Washington state to as far south as Texas and Florida. In December 2022, its assets totaled \$212 billion and the bank employed over 8,500 people.

But on March 8 in an attempt to improve its own liquidity, SVB instead incurred a \$1.8 billion loss. The next business day, a run of bank withdrawals totaled \$40 billion. And on March 10, SVB was forced

to close and became the second-largest bank failure since Washington Mutual in 2008.

Similarly, Signature Bank, founded in 2001 as a commercial bank headquartered in New York City, grappled with its own problems that also led to a March closure. Signature Bank had 40 branches and 1,800 employees throughout the New York metropolitan area, Connecticut, North Carolina, California and Nevada, in addition to its online banking services. In December 2022, the bank had assets of \$110.4 billion and total deposits of \$88.6 billion.

Only days after SVB's closure, Signature, with heavy concentrations of investments in private equity (\$28 billion in loans) and commercial businesses like cryptocurrency, experienced its own \$10 billion run on deposits. With an estimated 90 percent of its deposits uninsured, according to Barron's, Signature's

stock dropped 50 percent. On March 12, it was forced to close, and became the third-largest bank failure in the nation since 2008.

Many might wonder how costly bank failures could occur when 2008's Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was created to prevent such financial calamities.

Congressional leaders want answers to that question.

"[T]hese events are a wakeup call," said Maxine Waters, a California Congresswoman and Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee. "We must uncover how management, regulatory, and supervisory failures contributed to these events and explore solutions to strengthen the safety and soundness of our banks. Small business owners should not be expected to serve as a financial regulator when paying their employees, and community banks and minority depository in-

stitutions should not have to pay for the failures of bank mismanagement at SVB or Signature Bank."

Rep. Waters also decried efforts to shift blame for the collapse from bank management and panicked investors onto so-called "woke" capitalism, as signified by the presence of one person of color on the board of directors of Silicon Valley Bank. "Silicon Valley Bank collapsed because of management failures and possible regulatory weaknesses -- not because there was one Black man on the board," said Rep. Waters. "We saw this same racist playbook during the 2008 financial crisis when some Republicans blamed the Community Reinvestment Act and loans made to people of color."

Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, chair of his chamber's Banking Committee, shared similar concerns.

"In less than a day, Sili-

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Don't get hit with IRS penalties



Lisa Ford
Genesis Business & Tax Services

Under federal law, taxpayers must pay taxes during the year as they earn or receive income, or they can find themselves falling victim to substantial underpayment penalties. Even worse, they may have spent the money, and when tax time comes are unable to pay their past taxes and spiral into financial distress.

To facilitate the pay-as-you-earn concept, the government has provided several means of assisting taxpayers in meeting that requirement. These include:

Payroll withholding for employees - W-4;

Pension withholding for retirees - W-4P;

Voluntary withholding for Unemployment and Social Security benefits - W-4V; and

Estimated tax payments for self-employed individuals and those with other sources of income not covered by withholding - Form 1040-ES.

Employees with primarily wage income can use the IRS online tool, the Tax Withholding Estimator, to determine if their withholding closely matches their projected tax liability or if they need to adjust their tax withholding by providing a revised Form W-4 to their employer.

Employees and those with significant income

from other sources, multiple jobs, rentals, side gigs, children subject to the kiddie tax, capital gains, etc., may find it appropriate to consult with this office for a more sophisticated tax projection and estimate of needed withholding and/or estimated tax payments.

When a taxpayer fails to prepay a safe harbor (minimum) amount, they can be subject to the underpayment penalty. This nonrefundable interest penalty is higher than what might be earned from a bank. The penalty is applied quarterly, so for example, making a fourth quarter estimated payment only reduces the fourth-quarter penalty. However, withholding is treated as paid ratably throughout the year, so increasing withholding at the

end of the year can reduce the penalties for the earlier quarters.

This can be accomplished with cooperative employers or by taking an unqualified distribution from a pension plan, which will be subject to 20% withholding, and then returning the gross amount of the distribution to the plan within the 60-day statutory rollover limit.

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Worrying about election stress can harm your health

(Newswise) — New research from North Carolina State University finds that simply anticipating stress related to political elections causes adverse physical health effects. The study also finds there is something people can do to mitigate those negative effects.

In the first study to show that anticipatory stress related to elections can harm our health, Shevaun Neupert, professor of psychology at NC State, writes, “It’s well established that stress can adversely affect our health. This study tells us that thinking we’re going to feel stress in the near future can also adversely affect our health.”

The study draws on data collected from 140 adults from across the United



Jana Shimpelson / Unsplash

States. Study participants were asked to fill out an online survey every day for 30 days, from Oct. 15 to Nov. 13, 2018, the weeks just after the 2018 midterm elections.

“We found that study participants reported worse physical health on days when they also reported having high levels of anticipatory stress, explained

Neupert, indicating those that expected to experience election-related stress within the next 24 hours, do so. The study found that simply anticipating possible stress was enough to make participants feel worse.

The good news, researchers found a strategy people can use to help preserve their health, even when anticipating stress.

It’s a method called problem analysis.

“Problem analysis, in this case, is when people think critically about why they believe they’ll experience election-related stress over the next 24 hours,” Neupert says. If they think they’re going to have an argument about the election with an acquaintance in the next 24 hours, she explains, they might contemplate why they might have that argument or what that argument will be about.

“Basically, problem analysis is all about mentally engaging with whatever problem they’re anticipating,” she explains.

During the study, participants reported no decline in physical health on days

when participants anticipated stress but were also actively engaging in problem analysis, she reports.

Problem analysis is a necessary first step for many additional coping strategies,” Neupert explains, which may help people think of ways to avoid having an argument that they’re anticipating. It can also help them think of ways to make the argument less heated. These findings were true across the board, the report states.

The study relied on study participants self-reporting about their health, a well-established and widely used approach that has consistently proven to be an objective indicator of physical health and well-

being. The study controlled for the political orientation and age of study participants, explained another author, Brittany Johnson, undergraduate at NC State. Researchers also controlled for whether they actually experienced election-related stress on the days when they anticipated it, and for the presence of other types of stress as well, she said.

The study indicates that anticipating election-related stress adversely affected health, with the exception of when people were engaged in problem analysis.

The paper, “Combatting Election Stress: Anticipatory Coping and Daily Self-Reported Physical Health,” is published in the journal Psychological Reports.

Communication may guide family members’ decisions after sudden cardiac death

(American Heart Association -- Improving communication among death investigators, health care professionals and family members after a relative’s sudden cardiac death may help relatives understand the cause of death and influence their decision to seek follow-up screening for inherited heart conditions, explains new research published recently in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, a peer-reviewed American

Heart Association journal.

Sudden cardiac death occurs when the heart stops suddenly and unexpectedly. This claims the lives of an estimated 4 to 5 million people globally each year. In the U.S. alone, sudden cardiac death was cited as a cause in more than 436,000 deaths in 2020, according to the American Heart Association’s 2023 heart disease and stroke statistics.

In people younger than age 45, sudden cardiac death is usually due to an underlying

heart condition, such as a structural abnormality in the heart or an irregular heart rhythm. These heart conditions may be passed down through genes from parents to their children.

2020 joint American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology guidelines recommend genetic testing for all first-degree relatives of people who died from sudden cardiac death to identify other family members who may also be at risk for sudden cardiac

death.

Researchers interviewed parents, siblings, adult children and spouses of 12 people — ages 12 to 45 years — who died from sudden cardiac death between 2014 and 2018 in Ontario, Canada’s most populous province which includes Toronto. The interviews focused on family members’ experiences learning about their relative’s cause of death, understanding their own risk of heritable heart conditions and deciding

whether to pursue follow-up screening.

The study found that families of people who had died from sudden cardiac death rely on communication from death investigators and health care professionals for two main reasons: 1) to find answers about their relative’s cause of death, and 2) to understand their own risk for an inherited heart condition.

“Our findings suggest that the communication formats, methods and processes,

along with other external factors, such as funeral costs and unpaid time off from work, may influence family members’ decisions to seek follow-up screening,” Allan said. “More families may go for follow-up screening if their risk is adequately explained by a health care professional and if other external factors are manageable.”

Several participants described feeling a range of emotions in the “whirl-

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con Valley Bank customers pulled \$42 billion out of the bank — fueled by venture capitalists and their social media accounts,” said Sen. Brown. “They created the largest and fastest bank run in history. In the following days, Signature Bank lost \$17.8 billion.”

After noting that Silicon Valley Bank’s executive pay was tied to profits and the bank operated without a risk officer for more than a year, Chairman Brown pointed

to the proverbial financial finger at the bank executives who took on high risk that fed their collective greed.

“Wealthy elites do anything to make a quick profit and pocket the rewards. And when their risky behavior leads to catastrophic failures, they turn to the government asking for help, expecting workers and taxpayers to pay the price.”

Michael Barr, who testified before Senate Banking on March 28, testified

on behalf of the Federal Reserve System’s Board of Governors, as its vice chair for supervision. Calling for transparency and full accountability with recent bank failures, Barr announced an investigative report on supervisory assessments and exam materials would be made public by May 1.

“SVB failed because the bank’s management did not effectively manage its interest rate and liquidity risk, and the bank then suffered a devastating and unexpected run by its uninsured deposi-

tors in a period of less than 24 hours,” testified Barr. “SVB’s failure demands a thorough review of what happened, including the Federal Reserve’s oversight of the bank.”

Speaking before the National Association for Business Economics on March 30, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen weighed in on the recent closures:

“When the President and I took office in January 2021, we inherited a financial stability apparatus at Treasury that had been decimated,” said Yellen. “Over the past

two years, I have made it a top priority to rebuild the financial stability infrastructure at Treasury.”

“Our prosperity depends on the work to safeguard financial stability before a crisis occurs — just as the implementation of a strong fire code can prevent a fire from breaking out,” concluded Yellen.

Consumers and small businesses affected by these closures are urged by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to remain watchful of scams and frauds. These scams often

begin by seeking personal information while posing as representatives from Signature Bank, Signature Bridge Bank, N.A., or the FDIC.

More related information is available online: <http://www.fdic.gov/resources/resolutions/bank-failures/failed-bank-list/>. A 24-hour toll-free call center is also available by dialing: 1-866-744-5463.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



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CAPCO remembers children lost to abuse in 2022

The Dallas County Child Abuse Prevention Coalition (CAPCO) and its partners hosted the Dallas County child abuse prevention awareness event Monday, April 10, in the parking lot at Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). The event honored the seven children who lost their lives due to abuse or neglect in 2022 and recognized all child welfare agencies and nonprofits whose workers serve children and families in need.

"The business of child welfare can be quite com-



Jeffrey Riley / Unsplash

plex," said Mosley Hobson, a disproportionality manager for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS).

"It's a matter of underpaid and overworked staff doing their best to serve Texas families.

"But the prevention of

child abuse and neglect is everybody's business."

The event's emcee was Miss Texas Averie Bishop. In-N-Out Burger donated lunch for the event. CAPCO agencies include Dallas CASA, the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, Family Compass, TexProtects and many more. In addition to colleagues from Child Protective Services and the TDFPS, the Dallas Police Department's Child Abuse Squad and the Dallas District Attorney's Crimes Against Children Division were also invited to the

CAPCO event.

Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel shared with the crowd that the focus of April's Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month is truly on prevention. "Let's get ahead of the curve," she said.

In Dallas County in 2022, 5,818 children were confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect and 738 children were removed from their homes due to abuse. In Dallas County at the end of 2022, 254 children in protective care were

waiting to be adopted.

"We care about what happens to children and families because we don't want our community to suffer," said Judge Delia Gonzales of Dallas County's Child Protection and Permanency Court. "I ask in my court 'Do we want our children to thrive or survive?' In my court, the answer is thrive because these children deserve that."

The evening of April 10, downtown Dallas buildings were lit blue in recognition of child abuse and neglect.

Nashville Council votes to return Justin Jones to State House

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In a unanimous vote and a rebuke of Tennessee Republicans, the Nashville Metropolitan Council on Monday voted to reappoint Justin Jones to the state House of Representatives.

Jones returns as an interim representative and will again act on behalf of House District 52.

The 36-0 vote came after the council suspended its rule that disallowed an individual from being nominated and appointed to the seat in the same meeting.

A spokesperson for House Speaker Cameron Sexton said he'd go along with the council if they chose to send Jones back.

He also indicated that he'd also welcome back Justin Pearson if Memphis officials voted later this week to return him to the House.

"The two governing bodies will make the decision as to who they want to appoint to these seats," the Speaker said in a statement.

"Those two individuals will be seated as representatives as the constitution requires."

The Shelby County commission expects to take up a motion to return Pearson on Wednesday.



Photo via NNPA

The expulsion of the two Democrats, who vociferously called on their colleagues to act on gun control after the latest school shooting in Nashville that claimed the lives of three elementary school students and three adults.

The reinstatement of Jones comes on the same day a gunman in Kentucky, believed to be a disgruntled ex-employee, killed five people at a bank in Louisville.

It's the latest in a string of mass shootings that have rocked the nation in recent years, with gun violence continuing to be a divisive and contentious issue.

Some politicians and interest groups have pushed back against calls for stricter gun control. They say that doing so would violate their rights under the Second Amendment.

As the nation mourns the victims of the Louisville shooting and grapples with the ongoing issue of

gun violence, many are left wondering when, if ever, meaningful action will be taken to address the issue.

Across the country and in Tennessee, the backlash has been palpable, and even some Republicans have expressed regret for the actions of party members and Sexton, who led the vote to oust Jones and Pearson.

"If my job, along with other members of the R.N.C., is to protect the brand of the Republican Party, this didn't help," Oscar Brock, a Republican National Committeeman from Tennessee, told the New York Times. "You've energized young voters against us. Worse than squandering support, you've made enemies where we didn't need them."

He continued:

"Even in Tennessee, we have swing districts in the State House and Senate, and if you've angered tens of thousands of students and presumably their par-

ents, you could theoretically expose yourself to a united front," Brock demanded.

Rev. Mark Thompson, the host of Make it Plain and an NNPA contributor, returned to Tennessee on Monday for the vote to re-seat Jones, his longtime friend.

On NNPA's Let It Be Known, Thompson stated, "My understanding is that the Nashville National City Council will re-seat Jones, and I believe the Memphis Council will meet later in the week to discuss Pearson."

Thompson noted that

most, if not all, flights to Nashville have been sold out, signaling the large demonstrations ahead.

"This isn't going away," Thompson asserted.

"This is a movement. This is going to build and grow. You can't do this, it's not sustainable. I'm not sure that if the two Justins are re-seated the movement will stop. This is bad for the national Republican party."

Phyllis Qualls, who's covering the proceedings for the Tennessee Tribune, said the G.O.P. leadership miscalculated in expelling Jones and Pearson.

"Republicans had no vi-

sion as to the aftermath of what they can do," Qualls said. "Mom has always said, 'what's done in the dark will come out in the light.' The Republicans took a major issue like gun control and reduced it to decorum. It's almost like children in the car complaining that 'Mom, he's looking at me.' The crimes don't equate, and to do this during holy week, you crucified these men, and they are rising to a level that nobody expected. They have become leaders of the gun control issue, and it was the Republicans who caused that."

Policy of Non-Discrimination UTBOC Churches – Uniting the Body of Christ, Incorporated

UTBOC Churches – United the Body of Christ, Incorporated places emphasis on the dignity and worth of all people while valuing everyone. As we preserve the integrity of our beliefs, **UTBOC Churches – Uniting the Body of Christ, Incorporated** is committed to welcoming membership and participation in our religious practices regardless of race, color, and national origin.

According to Galatians 3:28 – "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Nothing But Kudos to Share



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

In the classroom, on the court, on the stage, and yes, even on the golf course, our children are amazing! I have kudos galore to share. Here's a glimpse of what our District 6 students have been up to lately.

Academic Excellence Rewarded

Kimball High School senior Benjamin King was presented with the TCU

STEM Scholarship in the amount of \$293,000. What an accomplishment! Congratulations, and best wishes in your college career.

Congrats also to Kyle Givens, for being named valedictorian this year at Carter High. He's also a baller, having been selected 13-4A All-Academic basketball player.

Student-Athletes Basking in their Wins

The Kimball Knights have been celebrating their Boys Basketball 5A State Championship win, and rightly so. They joined us at our recent Dallas Board

of Trustees meeting and were also feted at a celebration on Saturday, April 8, at Sprague Athletic Complex. You make us proud.

David W. Carter's boys' golf team has claimed the District 13-4A Varsity Golf Championship! Congratulations to the team and to Coach Calahan. Job well done.

Stars in the Making

Talented students at Ronald McNair Elementary put on a wonderful performance of "The Wiz" recently, showing what they can do, even without an auditorium. Imagine how

they'll shine when they get one.

In Other Accolades:

Kudos to Principal Tangela Carter at Zan Wesley Holmes Middle School, for being named a Master Principal.

Congratulations to Elsie Moreno, retired Kimball High School coach and Dallas ISD administrator, who was inducted into the Dallas ISD Athletic Hall of Fame.

Much respect for Superstar Nicholas Smith, who was named All-Area boys basketball coach and newcomer of the year.

And congrats to Carter Coach Lyndon Love, for being selected 13-4A coach of the year.

The ribbon was cut recently for the reopening of the restored Kathryn Joy Gilliam Museum and learning center, right in our backyard. Visitors got a guided walk-through of the museum, featuring exhibits, awards, a community mural, cultural artifacts, and more. It's definitely worth your time!

It's Pre-K Enrollment Season

April 1 marked the beginning of the enrollment

period for Pre-K children for the 2023-2024 school year.

It's been shown that children who attend pre-kindergarten have a solid start to their education as they learn how to socialize with their peers, manage their emotions, and get the foundational skills to boost their learning potential. To better assist our families, Dallas ISD will hold several events to provide information about our programs and help them enroll. Learn more about these opportunities at www.dallasisd.org/prek.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra announces 2023 Music Teacher of the Year awards

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra announces the winners of its annual Music Teacher of the Year Award. Shelley Couch of Central Elementary and John Thomas of Seagov-

ille North Elementary were chosen from nominees across the Dallas Independent School District.

The Music Teacher of the Year Award coincides with Music in Our Schools

Month, a nation-wide campaign focused on the importance of high-quality music education in public schools.

"The DSO is delighted to see the high-quality music

education happening across the district," said DSO Director of Education, Jennifer Guzmán. "We have watched as music educators throughout the district continue to go above and

beyond for their students, providing incredible learning opportunities despite the challenges. We are excited to honor these two outstanding teachers at our Texas Instruments Classi-

cal Series concert on April 21, and we applaud their achievements."

Shelley Couch currently serves as music educa-

See DSO, Page 7

Baylor University dedicates statues of first Black graduates on historic day

Before a celebratory crowd in front of the iconic Tidwell Bible Building, Baylor University today unveiled and dedicated statues honoring the University's first Black graduates, the late Rev. Robert L. Gilbert, B.A. '67, and Barbara A. Walker, B.A. '67.

Created by renowned sculptor Benjamin Victor, the more than 7-foot-tall bronze statues were installed on each side of the walkway leading into Tidwell, where – as students – Gilbert and Walker took their academic major classes in history and sociology, respectively. On June 2, 1967, the pair became the first Black students to earn undergraduate degrees from Baylor, receiving their diplomas in alphabetical order during the same commencement ceremony. They both left Baylor and went on to live as servant leaders in their communities.

Standing atop limestone bases, each inscribed with an inspiring message from Gilbert and Walker, the statues were simultane-



ously unveiled to a cascade of cheers – as well as some tears – for a long-awaited, historic recognition on the Baylor campus.

"Baylor University is to be commended today for this recognition of two sainted, pioneering African American bearers of human dignity and intelligence," said Kenyatta Gilbert, B.A. '96, Ph.D., professor of homiletics at Howard University and son of Rev. Robert and Elwayne Gilbert, who spoke on behalf of his family at the dedication.

"In memorializing my father, Rev. Robert Gilbert, and the living legend Mrs. Barbara Walker, the Uni-

versity has said, by way of this act, that it chooses to be a university that remembers history rightly, to be forward-thinking and to be scrupulous in seeking out tangible ways to reimagine responsibility for the future. That it intends to live into a grander moral vision that would make her worthy of bearing the imprimatur Christian university."

In her remarks after the unveiling, Walker dedicated her statue to the memory of her mother, who graduated top of her class and always dreamed of going to college. Born in 1908, she loved education, but there were few opportunities for her to attend school.

"If it weren't for her, I would have never had the opportunity to go to Baylor," Walker said. "I always felt an obligation that I need to make my mother's dream come true and get an education. From the time I was a little girl, it was always in my heart that I was going to college. Baylor opened up a way for me to graduate in 1967, and I feel like we both graduated from Baylor."

A direct outgrowth of the work of the University's Commission on Historic Campus Representations, the statues celebrate the strength, courage and accomplishments of Gilbert and Walker. In 2020, the Commission researched the record of the University and its early leaders relative to slavery and the Confederacy while evaluating and offering guidance regarding all statues, monuments, buildings and other aspects of the campus within this context. In March 2021, the Commission publicly released its final report, which included a recommendation to establish representations that better communicate the

contributions of Black students, faculty and staff.

"Today, the landscape of Baylor University's campus is changing," said Baylor President Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D. "Rev. Gilbert and Mrs. Walker were two young people who endured racism, threats and injustice before, during and after their time at Baylor. I am so thankful they did not give up or surrender to hate. Through their perseverance in the face of tremendous adversity and injustice, they paved the way for Baylor to grow into a multicultural, welcoming place for thousands of new students each and every year."

More than 100 family members and friends of Gilbert and Walker attended the ceremony, along with Baylor administrators, faculty, staff and students, as well as members of the University's Board of Regents. Special guests included students in the inaugural cohort of Baylor's Trailblazer Scholars Program, which was named after Gilbert and Walker. This scholarship program is designed to

recognize the importance of fostering diversity and mutual respect at Baylor.

The ceremony included remarks from Waco Mayor Pro Tem Josh Borderud, B.A. '01, M.A. '03, J.D. '03, who declared April 4, 2023, Rev. Robert Gilbert and Barbara Walker Day in Waco. Baylor Regent Michael Heiskell, B.A. '72, J.D. '74, the first Black graduate of Baylor Law School, closed the ceremony with a prayer of dedication.

The Gilbert and Walker statues were sculpted by Victor, who is celebrated for telling the stories of individuals from historically underrepresented groups, and he is the only living artist with three pieces in the National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

Victor sculpted the Gilbert and Walker statues in clay, then used a rubber-type mold to create 1.5-times life-size bronze casts at a foundry. Each statue has a special patina finish developed by Vic-

See BAYLOR, Page 10

Carrigan-Turner seeks to carry life experiences into trustee role

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

The daughter of teen parents, Margaret Turner-Carrigan was raised by her grandparents in McCaskill, Arkansas. Refusing to be sharecroppers, they worked very hard to own the land they farmed, and they raised Margaret to study hard and work hard.

One of two African American students to integrate at Blevins School District, Margaret endured "meanness" in school and witnessed her grandfather being fired from his job with a school board member after daring to send Margaret to a formerly all-white school under a freedom of choice option.



Courtesy photo

Margaret would become the first African American to be valedictorian of her high school, and at age 60, her grandfather would later become a double entrepreneur, earning more money than he had working for the school board trustee.

Though her counselor encouraged her to attend trade school, she applied to

the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where she graduated with top honors. After enduring the pressures and competition of Law School and graduating from UT-Austin School of Law, she moved to California to live near her father and other relatives. There, she met a fellow Arkansan and moved to Pine Bluff with him. While the marriage did not last, she operated a successful business there and was blessed with the birth of her daughter.

As life would have it, she ended up marrying her high school sweetheart and became a military spouse. The couple moved to South Dakota, where she worked as coordinator of the para-legal program at Western

Dakota Technical Institute. It was only after her husband retired from the Air Force, that they moved to Plano, after having read an article about Plano I.S.D., which influenced their decision.

Now a resident of thirty years, Carrigan is an active member of the Plano community, volunteering in the past for Robinson Middle School, Jasper High, and Plano West Sr. High. She is a community leader and former business owner, and she has been active in the PTA and its Board of Directors. Her daughter is an honor graduate of Plano West Senior High School, and her two grandchildren currently attend school in the district.

Carrigan's life experiences have prepared her to serve Plano as trustee. Working as President of the JROTC parent boosters, and as a member of the band boosters, she has plumed band students, worked as a chaperone, and drafted the parent JROTC bylaws.

Carrigan is a licensed attorney and mediator in Arkansas and Texas, and she has been an adjunct instructor for Collin College. She received training as a mediator at Collin College, Texas Woman's University, and the University of Texas at Arlington, and she is a Certified Hearing Officer, having received training by the Texas Education Agency.

Carrigan has overseen budgets as managing attorney for her own firm and for the Office of the Attorney General. She brings leadership skills from her time as Vice President, President, and secretary of the North Dallas Suburban Foundation for Life Development and Community Involvement. She brings experience as President of the North Dallas Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a community service organization with over 300,000 members, and also, as member of the Southwest Region member of Scholarships and Standards, where she drafted policy and con-

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DSO, from Page 6

tor for Central Elementary School in Seagoville, Texas. Mrs. Couch received her Bachelor of Music Education from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. With her mother being an educator, she grew up seeing the impact teaching had on students' lives and their educational journey. She continued that same journey by learning music at an early age and being involved in both school and church choirs. As a result, she wanted to instill that in her students. Being raised in the piney woods of East Texas in the big football town of Longview, she expanded her love for music both in the choral program and as a part of the Longview Lobo Marching Band. In 1997, she moved to Dallas to start her teaching career. She considers it a privilege to have served 24 years as a music teacher on the same campus which has given her the unique opportunity to know generational families and how she can best connect with them at school and in the community.

Ms. Couch considers her greatest achievement being a part of a child's educa-

tional journey and making connections through music. Sometimes a smile and a song can go a long way. Students in turn have taught her the importance of having fun, that relationships matter, and when given the opportunity they will reach further than we could ever imagine. Sharing with students the ballet, opera, and symphony only validates that facts can be forgotten but feelings and experiences last forever.

John Thomas has been a Texas music educator for 39 years. He came to Texas in 1982 after graduating with a B.S. in Music from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. Mr. Thomas has taught with Birdville, Grand Prairie, Garland, Richardson, Rockwall and Dallas districts. His experience includes 29 years as head or assistant band director, eight years teaching elementary and four years teaching private low brass lessons. He taught private low brass for the Sunnyvale ISD and West Mesquite High School after he retired in 2015. In the fall of 2019, Mr. Thomas returned to the classroom with Dallas ISD as a retire/rehire teacher at Seagoville North

Elementary School where he teaches elementary music to kindergarten through fifth grade students. What he enjoys most about his role as a music educator is teaching his students that music is a language that is communicated by writing, reading, singing, moving and playing instruments.

Family is very important to Mr. Thomas. He and his wife, Judi, have been married for 33 years. He is still a busy Dad with three young adult children who make him proud everyday: Dante, 25; Claire, 21; and James, 20.

Nominations were submitted to the DSO with an application and follow-up in-person observations. Shelley Couch and John Thomas were selected from a group of five finalists. The other three finalists were:

- Enrique Andino, School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove
- Stacy Redding, Bethune Elementary
- Michelle Vallejo, Mata Elementary

The finalists and winners were chosen by the DSO's Education Committee, which is comprised of members of the education department, the Dallas Symphony Association's

Board of Governors, DSO League members, DSO musicians as well as members of the community at large.

Shelley Couch and John Thomas will be presented with an award and recognized on April 21 at a DSO concert at the Morton H.

Meyerson Symphony Center. They will also each receive a \$500 cash award, underwritten by Rita Sue and Alan Gold.

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City highlights projects to help the Dallas community in National Community Development Week

The City of Dallas' various federally funded programs and resources for low-income residents were highlighted this week during National Community Development Week.

National Community Development Week, which runs April 10 through April 14, is an initiative to educate residents and lawmakers about services offered through the Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Programs.

Programs recently funded in Dallas include a mixed-use development that brings new community to downtown. The Galbraith was built through a partnership between Matthews Southwest, Volunteers of America and the City of Dallas. The development brings 217 new apartments, 100 of which are designated



affordable to help meet the city's desperate needs for affordable housing. The community, centered around shopping, includes retail facilities and child care to support downtown workers, is next to the old Dallas High School building and the Pearl/Arts District rail station in downtown. "The project provides greatly needed workforce housing options in the core of Downtown Dallas while

allowing its residents access to employment centers, transit and other world-class amenities such as the Dallas Arts District and Klyde Warren Park," said Courtney Pogue, Dallas Economic Development director.

Another project, Austin Street Center for Community Engagement, has expanded operations through a new 60,000 square-foot homeless shelter and day service center. The addi-

tion more than doubles the size of the former homeless shelter, including separate, vast spaces for men and women. The new community, built to serve the Dallas homeless population, includes classrooms, a dining and engagement space, a larger computer lab, and dedicated rooms for medical services. The new facility allows more daily volunteers and service groups to visit, according to the facility's website.

Additional housing will be provided in La Maison

at Five Eleven, a 16-unit affordable housing development to serve people who have AIDS. With over \$1 million from the City and HUD, AIDS Services of Dallas remodeled the former housing development in Oak Cliff to house people with AIDS affordably, as reported by NBCDFW. "The reason we did this was to model, not institutional, but model nice products of housing so that we can collaborate and partner with other developers in our community," said AIDS

Services of Dallas President and CEO Traswell Livingston III. "Other developers can do this too," he said.

Located in a community where street violence has been a problem in the past, the recently built Oak Cliff Works facility is run by the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce. The facility helps unemployed or underemployed Dallasites who cannot afford it to pursue a career in healthcare. The facility was created to change

See COMMUNITY, Page 11



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DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT

Film Review: 'Sweetwater' drops a brick on the big screen

By Dwight Brown
NNPA film critic

(**) This b-ball, biofilm dribbles but can't shoot. The direction, acting, script and tech team are all in play, but nothing scores.

Part of the problem is its subject. OG b-ball Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton was a pioneer. His achievements are worth retelling, but a bit murky. Technically, he was the first African American to sign an NBA contract, and on November 4th, 1950, he played his inaugural game with the New York Knicks. However, Earl Lloyd of the Washington Capitols was the first Black man to play in an NBA game, which happened on October 31st, 1950. And, Chuck Cooper, of the Boston Celtics, was the first Black player to be drafted, and his first game was on November 1st, 1950. So, Sweetwater's place in history is a bit crowded.

In the 1940s, 26-year-old Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton (Everett Osborne) plays forward for the iconic Harlem Globetrotters, an exhibition basketball team



whose roots date back to 1926. In the late '40s, manager Abe Saperstein (Kevin Pollak, *A Few Good Men*) guides the Globetrotters as they compete against famous all-white b-ball teams—and beat 'em.

Sweetwater, a trickster on the court, gets scouted by New York Knickerbockers coach Joe Lapchick (Jeremy Piven, *Entourage*), who talks the Knicks' president (Cary Elwes) into buying out Sweetwater's contract. Saperstein is paid \$12,500, and pockets \$10K. Sweetwater only gets \$2.5K. Behind the scenes at the National Basketball Association, owners debate Black players integrating the NBA. The Association's president, Maurice Podoloff

(Richard Dreyfuss, *Jaws*), is skeptical until he isn't: "Change is happening, but I don't know if my city can take it." A lot is riding on Sweetwater's NBA debut. The rest is history.

Beginning scenes display the film's only imaginative moments. A sportswriter (Jim Caviezel) rides in a cab in Chicago and engages in conversation with the elderly driver, who recounts his glory days in the NBA. It's Sweetwater. That's what happened to the champ who led the Knicks to the NBA finals and was on the 1957 NBA All-Star Team. No pension. No plush retirement. Driving a taxi to make a living. The former pro baller's poignant recollections anchor the film. It's a nice

touch.

The script by writer/director Martin Guigui truncates Sweetwater's life. Very little of his pre- or post-basketball career is depicted. The dehumanizing experiences an all-black basketball team faces touring America in the height of segregation are on view, but seem generic. Turned away from hotels, harassed in white restaurants. It's all there, but surface deep. The Globetrotters aren't written as three-dimensional characters. Their banter seems stilted. Not like the conversations and language one would expect from urban Black athletes who work and live together like family. The script does a slightly better job depicting the back-room behavior and talking points of the NBA board and its prejudices.

Guigui's direction is proficient, nothing more. Not artful, innovative or capable of creating that exhila-

rating spirit sport movies require. The footage lacks umph. Scenes seem staged, not organic and the camerawork (Massimo Zeri), particularly during the basketball games, is never immersive. If Michael B. Jordan could reimagine the way boxing matches are shot in *Creed III*, this film could have done the same for basketball.

Hallways leading from NBA courts look like they were shot in office building basements (production design Jack G. Taylor Jr., *Mystic River*). Clothes look appropriate, but not impressive (Tiffany Hasbourn, *Hustle*). The standard-issue musical score (Jeff Cardoni and Guigui) and the film's low budget contribute to an old-fashioned, lackluster made-for-TV-movie feel that seems dated.

In real life, Sweetwater was six 6'8". Everett Osborne, a former pro ball player in Australia, is

6'4"—almost that tall and he knows the game. His acting skills are decent, but not on par with that of Boseman in *42* or Jordan in *Creed*—they powered their movies to success. A different type of directing might have pulled a more galvanizing performance out of Osborne. Piven, Dreyfuss, Pollak and Elwes, all acting pros, are more convincing, but even they seem out of sorts. Like they're performing without a net.

The Michael Jordan-based movie *Air* has very little footage of live basketball games yet found a way to get its audiences pumped up. This movie had far more potential for exciting movie fans but doesn't.

Sweetwater can't find the net. Like Shaq's foul shots. Sorry Shaq.

In select theaters April 14th.

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The rise of AI: Is the future of music in the hands of tragic bloody fools?

LOS ANGELES (24-7PressRelease) -- In the music industry, artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being used to create works of art, including musical scores for films.

At its core, AI is a set of algorithms and programming techniques designed to allow machines to replicate and even surpass human intelligence.

However, there are also some serious drawbacks to this technology. For one, AI cannot develop empathy because it cannot understand emotion or the feelings of others. While it might be able to generate marketing messages that humans are more likely to click, it is not capable of understanding the context and meaning behind the emotions that are triggered by that message.

Additionally, AI is heav-



AI, heavily dependent on previous examples, without new input of created works of art, would not be able to evolve. (Courtesy photo)

ily dependent on previous examples to learn and develop. And without new input, namely human created works of art, AI systems will not be able to evolve.

Rock band Tragic Bloody Fools turned to AI to create the artwork for their upcoming album, "Pareidolia", and had some alarming results.

The Southern California-based band, who are known for their heavy, melodic sound and gothic visuals, wanted to create a unique look for their new album cover. With this in mind, they experimented with using a phone app that generates avatars using AI algorithms.

The band fed the app

with a variety of images, including photographs of the band members, images of the album's song titles, and a selection of their own artwork. The app was then able to generate an array of striking, eye-catching images that captured the mood and tone of their music, in a "too-perfect and scary" way.

"What bothered us about it was how good it was... not just at interpreting the song themes, but to some degree, at analyzing our individual personalities," says guitarist and co-writer Vinay Kumar. "We immediately understood the severity of the threat AI will have to our shared consciousness, and particularly around experiencing art."

The threat of artificial intelligence (AI) to artists is no secret. In a world where machines can produce art, create music, and even write stories, many fear that the age of the artist is coming to an end. But is this fear unfounded, or are there real dangers in a world where AI can replicate the creative process?

Ultimately, the threat of AI is real, and it is something that all artists need to be aware of. While AI

could potentially revolutionize the creative industries, it could also be a threat to the livelihood of artists, and the integrity of the art world. Therefore, it is important for artists to stay informed, and move towards a revenue model of direct support from their audiences.

Meanwhile, we can look to artists like Tragic Bloody Fools who continue to produce original works that take the listener on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. The album title "Pareidolia" refers to the psychological phenomenon of perceiving meaningful patterns or images in random or vague stimuli. This theme is reflected in their complex compositions, and lyrics that explore the human tendency to find order in chaos. Pareidolia is scheduled for release in Spring 2023.

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COMMUNITY, from Page 8

the economic situation of people living in Dallas with low incomes. The program will allow people in the opportunity to get into an uplifting career that will allow them to give back in their community.

Catholic Charities serves West Dallas through the

Marillac Community Center, which serves breakfast and lunch from 8am to 3pm and provides daily activities for low- and moderate-income seniors. The facility offers a food pantry and a diaper pantry.

Services of Hope Walk Thru Food Pantry was also

built to help low-income residents of Dallas. It provides food and goods like diapers, wipes, clothes, shoes, and hygiene products to the community.

It is important for residents to know the services being offered and for lawmakers to understand how federal funds are being used on a local level, "said Coun-

cilmember Chad West. The event celebrated the array of resources available in Dallas, and it highlighted the impact of programs funded in the community through events and outreach. CDBG and HOME grants were highlighted -- grants that help bring homebuyer assistance and affordable housing to the community, as

well as early childhood and youth services.

National Community Development Week kicked off Monday, April 10, when Dallas City Hall hosted an informational fair, National Community Development Fair in the City Hall Lobby at 1500 Marilla St., Dallas. On Tuesday, it hosted an open house at Oak Cliff

Empowered, on Zang in Dallas, and on Wednesday, April 12, Mayor Eric Johnson gave a proclamation to mark April 10-14 as National Community Development Week at City Council Chambers, and on Thursday, April 13, there was an open house event at La Maison at Five Eleven, 511 S. Lancaster Ave, Dallas.

BAYLOR, from Page 6

tor. The two pieces were conceptualized and created in his Idaho studio, and he personally drove them to Waco for permanent placement outside Tidwell Bible Building.

"I spent my heart and my life getting to know Mrs. Walker, getting to know Kenyatta Gilbert and the Gilbert family, and wanting, in this whole process, to do justice to the amazing legacies of these two individuals," Victor said. "Every bit of the spirit that comes through in the artwork is thanks to the families and thanks to Mrs. Walker. I'm very humbled as an artist and as a sculptor to get to do this, and I'm very thankful to all of you for accepting me into your families and allowing me to represent your loved ones."

An influential educator, pastor and civil rights

leader in the Waco area, Gilbert came to Baylor as a transfer student from Paul Quinn College. He earned his B.A. in history, and three years later, he became the first Black student to enroll in Baylor's graduate program in religion. Eventually going into ministry and despite severe health challenges, Gilbert pastored local churches, was the first Black Wacoan elected to the Waco ISD Board, and in 1992, was honored as Humanitarian of the Year by the Waco Conference of Christians and Jews. He died in 1992 at age 50. In 2020, Baylor's department of religion established the Robert L. Gilbert Scholar in Religion Graduate Stipend.

Walker also transferred to Baylor from Paul Quinn, excelling academically from an early age and finding her fit at Baylor in the

field of social work. She earned her B.A. in sociology from Baylor then went on to establish a career that integrated her service to the Lord with her work in the community. She spent 32 years playing a pivotal role in the State of California's Department of Mental Health, helping patients find the right help and receive assistance to transition back into jobs and the community. Like Gilbert, she saw her life's work as a calling and ministry. She retired in 2001, but has remained connected to Baylor, often returning to speak to students. In 2017, Walker received Baylor's Medal of Service for Contributions to the Professional, Christian Ministry.

"In 1845, the Baylor foundation was laid, literally and figuratively, by people who never had an opportunity to attend the University," said Board of Regents Chair

Mark Rountree, B.B.A. '86, M.T.A. '87. "Today we celebrate Rev. Robert Gilbert and Mrs. Barbara Walker for having the courage to do something that had never been done before. They are pioneers - true trailblazers - deserving of our deep gratitude and sincere admiration."

In addition to the Gilbert and Walker statues, Baylor is in the early stages of re-conceptualizing the area of campus around the Judge Baylor Statue; creating a "Memorial to the Enslaved" on Founders Mall; and incorporating contributions

by Indigenous and other groups along Speight Avenue, among other actions as the University works to address historical aspects

of the Baylor story and celebrate the value of all members of the Baylor Family in fulfillment of the institution's Christian mission.

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FTC urges consumers to protect themselves from consumer scams

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Tax season is a good time to watch for scams, with more than 75,000 Americans losing over \$28 million to imposters pretending to be with the IRS, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) advises.

The agency receives millions of reports each year from consumers about experiences with fraud in the marketplace, explains Maria Mayo, Acting Associate Director for the Division of Consumer Response and Operations in the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commis-

sion (FTC).

The FTC provides law enforcement agencies with access to information obtained from these reports through the Law Enforcement Database. After investigating these claims, the FTC attempts to enforce consumer protection laws and refund consumers.

Though the number of scams decreased over the past year, the amount of money taken from consumers has dramatically increased, totaling over \$8.8 billion in losses, the highest amount in history, reports Mayo.

The top two schemes

over this time involved investment schemes and imposter scams, she explains.

Investment scams, which doubled last year, became the number one generator of losses, averaging \$5,000 per consumer. Investment scams get your attention with promises to get rich quick. Many real estate investment seminars are scams, sometimes offering a free seminar only to hit you with exorbitant fees in the end. Other schemes promise financial freedom by coaching on stocks, bonds, tax liens, or foreign currency investing. Cryptocurrency schemes have been on the rise, especially

over the past year. Most often originating on social media, these schemes have become increasingly sophisticated, offering fake websites that claim to track customer investments.

Following investment schemes, imposter scams caused the greatest losses to American consumers, claiming \$2,000 per consumer last year. This type of scam involves entities that claim to be well-known businesses, government agencies, or personal relations. The FTC reported 725,000 such schemes last year, and more than half of those posed as businesses, mostly Amazon.

The sale of online goods, which people reported purchasing but never received, became common during the pandemic, and they continue today.

Another common trick is to inform people they've won a lottery but charge a fee to receive it. This has been reportedly occurring over the past year via telephone.

Formerly, the telephone was the primary means of contacting people. More recently, other contact methods have been increasing, especially social media, which accounted for the highest aggregate dollar losses last year, the

FTC reports.

Social media tends to target younger people, enticing them to order online merchandise, or offering jobs and business opportunities as a means of obtaining personal data.

A real-life example involved a cold call to a man in his 30s, where a well-known media company offered a job with very high pay. The victim had diligently searched online and found the named individual on the staff directory. Though the caller eventually caught on, many consumers realize what's hap-

See FTC, Page 13

POLICE, from Page 1

so a 1950's to early 60's movement developed standardized procedures for conduct and hiring so police could be seen as significant civil servants.

For decades, there were proponents and opponents of increased police funding. The declaration of a war on crime during Nixon and the war on drugs during Reagan gave urban police a mission of fighting rampant drug use, and due to the violence during the crack era from mid-1980s into the 90s, they made the case for more and more equipment.

The Clinton era, with Biden's support, beefed up money for police departments across the nation. One measure was offering free military surplus equipment. That militarization continues in lots of ways today. We saw that especially during protests over the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Brown, and to some extent, prior to that during the Occupy movement, when police were very militaristic when dealing with protesters, using military tactics and gear.

Social media has certainly put more scrutiny on police. The Rodney King video is seen as a watershed moment when officers' violent, excessive activities came to light, opening some eyes for the first time to the possibility that police misconduct could be a problem. But as we got into

the social media era, people could talk about their experiences with the police. Especially in communities of color, people were having negative police experiences, which allowed them to magnify and amplify their voices.

I think it came to a head with Ferguson with Michael Brown when we think of how the 'BlackLivesMatter' hashtag really collected people into a movement against police abuse toward Black people. The movement sprang out into the physical world, with meetings of Black Lives Matter groups as a rallying point. I think it's an important social moment: The George Floyd-Ahmaud Arbery-Breonna Taylor summer really brought attention, when tens of thousands in the U.S. and worldwide marched to protest police misconduct. We saw a lot of white people participating. One of the most poignant things was the Portland grandmothers standing on the front lines to protect younger protesters behind them.

People now have cell phones with cameras. There'd already been an increase of misconduct videos and, post-Ferguson, I think a lot of people felt deputized to record police. A number of state judiciaries have ruled that there's a right to record police doing their jobs.

The use of body cameras also enhances the chances of recording police misconduct. Consider Tyre Nichols, with video taken by body camera and a public camera on a light pole. If not for the footage of officers beating him to death, we might not know what happened. On the flip side, body cameras have been helpful to police in cases of wrongful accusations.

Repeated video exposure to police beatings and killings impacts all viewers, especially people of color. This exposure has mixed effects. It enables people to see that misconduct continues as a significant problem, and it can give people fatigue as they get used to this exposure. But when they're not as dramatic as the George Floyd or Tyre Nichols images, the images don't stick to the headlines. It's particularly painful to people of color to see these constant reminders. It could be traumatic in feeling of empathy or a signaling of second-class status.

I certainly wouldn't suggest that we should stop releasing these videos, but they can be a double-edged sword. It should be something that validates what communities of color, especially those of lower socioeconomic status, have been saying since the '60s. The reason for a lot of race riots during that era was a police encounter gone bad and what people felt was the result of police misconduct.

Policing is part of the story of increasing segregation because officers too often harass Black and brown people for being racially "out of place." It's my understanding that the U.S. is more segregated now than before the Civil Rights Act, at least in northern urban areas.

Cooper's article "Who's the Man" thinks about why police officers have a greater tendency to get macho with civilians and why some civilians may feel they have to prove their manhood by standing up to the police. Police have a role of taking charge of situations when needed. That's why they talk about "command presence," the ability to take over situations, hopefully verbally, and, if necessary, by physical force. Sometimes that need to take command can be exaggerated by male officers who feel their manhood is being challenged by kids on the street who don't listen right away. This can lead to conflicts, incidents of violence and police misconduct.

This is triggered in some ways by our changing norms of what it means to be a man and traditional norms a lot of police officers adhere to, which say to punish disrespect. Police tools like "contempt of cop," where somebody didn't really commit a crime, but police charge them with something like

disorderly conduct or resisting arrest, which becomes a way of punishing them for not doing things the way the police officers want it done. A few prosecutors' offices around the country have started to reign in on contempt of cop arrests.

Going back to enslavement, mainstream white exaggerations of Blacks' physical abilities were perceived as threats to whites. Moving quickly forward to today, studies show whites tend to overestimate the age of Black children. The way you'd treat a 9-year-old and a 15-year-old committing vandalism is very different, especially given the tools police use to intervene. This can result in child abuse due to a perceived higher age. The means to fix this is not so much a police reform, but reforming the way our larger society thinks about Black people and Black children in particular and allowing them the opportunity to be children.

Light was shed recently on white neighbors calling police on Black people doing lawful or insignificant activities, aka "white caller crime," which brings the threat of excessive force. I think the police don't like it either because when they're told that someone is acting suspiciously, they may make a mistake. New York has adopted a statute to combat this.

The three facilitators of

the Program on Race, Gender, and Policing have written an article on multiple incidents of U.S. police violence in 2020 and the phenomenon of "white-caller crime."

Several reforms were adopted or recommended over the decades to train, reduce incidences of violent police encounters, and instill checks and balances across law enforcement. Under the Obama administration, more investigations of police departments, a mostly unused power of the Department of Justice, showed patterns of abuse. After Las Vegas Police utilized COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Office to achieve voluntary reform plans, police killings, especially of Blacks, dropped. The program works to peaceably come up with reforms rather than being prompted by court-ordered changes in the midst of a lawsuit. Of the important reforms were transparency around public notification of use of force, the release of body camera footage, and de-escalation training, where a continuum of force allows those involved to comply, de-escalating potential conflict. The department has continued to re-evaluate, establish reforms and update policies, and the Program on Race, Gender, and Policing has hosted Metro officers to discuss their use of force reports.

FTC, from Page 12

pening only after they've given out a social security number or a copy of their license, later to be used for identity theft.

Another scheme and perhaps the most embarrassing, involved imposters pretending to be a romantic interest. Approaching victims through social media, these imposters tend to offer an excuse for not meeting in person, like being in the military, and they tend to use a photograph rather than a real image, explains Mayo.

While social media most often targets younger people, those falling between the ages of 30 and 39 were more likely to fall victim last year, Mayo reports. Enticed to order online merchandise, this age group most often used credit cards to pay for purchases that they never re-

ceived.

People 80 and older are targeted most often by telephone, as technical support specialists or business imposters. They demand money or attempt to gain private data. Such scams resulted in more than \$1,600 in losses last year, and most of these victims paid scammers with credit cards, according to the FTC.

People who are new to the U.S. are particularly vulnerable. Those who lack knowledge of our system can be easily taken advantage of when seeking out work, purchasing vehicles, or going through the immigration process, explains Cristina Miranda, Consumer Education Specialist for the FTC's Division of Consumer and Business Education.

Yes, scammers have the

ability to create fake adds in a number of languages. Some of the top scams reported by Latino immigrants were investment and debt collection schemes, and scams involving car dealerships. Although the FTC has stopped the practice for the time being, auto dealers have been caught charging higher fees to minority populations, including Black people.

Both Black Latinos and Latinos have also been targeted with fake job offers and businesses opportunities, like at-home sales of luxury products.

Similarly, members of the Black community have reported incidents of fraud through payday loan and debt relief schemes, where information was fraudulently obtained via online applications, reports Rosario Méndez, senior member of the Division of Consumer and Business

Education in the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Some important signs that should make consumers wary include robocalling. Legitimate marketers will not usually try to sell something or ask for money via robocalling, reports Mayo.

Secondly, the method of payment requested can be a strong indicator. Consumers should avoid requests through wire transfer, gift cards, and cryptocurrency, the FTC advises. The FTC warns, the federal government will never ask for gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency payments. These are unregulated forms of payments that are both difficult to trace and offer no fraud protection. Such requests should automatically seem suspect. Losses soared using these types of payment last

year, especially in minority communities, the FTC reports.

Most notably, government institutions, like the IRS, contact people via U.S. Mail. If someone claiming to be a government agency reaches out by telephone, email or text, consumers are advised to gather legitimate contact information and inquire with the agency if needed. Avoid pressing buttons or otherwise engaging with people using these tactics, advises Mayo.

Consumer education is

the best line of defense. If you spot a scam, consumers are encouraged to report it at [FTC.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint). All consumers are advised to report matters related to identity theft to identitytheft.com, and for those who have paid a scammer with a gift card, please visit [FTC.gov/gift-card-scams](https://ftc.gov/gift-card-scams). To help all communities avoid fraud, the FTC now has a multilingual platform, and anyone can sign up to receive consumers alerts to keep them current on ongoing scams.

TRUSTEE, from Page 7

ducted nominations and elections webinars for more than 1000 chapters.

Experiences from Carrigan's tireless work as a community volunteer also bring experience conducting meetings, overseeing budgets and candidate interviews.

As a Christian and a mediator, she can work collaboratively with other trustees, the community, PISD administrators, and staff. As an attorney, she has the know-how to work within the parameters of the state and federal constitutions, statutes, courts, and administrative agencies.

Trustees manage growth, adopt the budget, levy taxes and submit bond issues to finance construction projects. They employ and evaluate the superintendent of schools, select, and supervise internal auditors and ensure administrative rules and statutes are correctly interpreted and enforced. They also review and approve textbooks and curriculum.

Carrigan will use the office to ensure all Plano ISD students receive the best

education possible, first, by ensuring the district hires and retains excellent teachers and after careful review, ensuring needed budgets are passed. Carrigan admires PISD for the attention they give to their special education program, and she will strive to ensure this and other academic programs continue to thrive.

Carrigan will seek out ways to help students catch up socially, emotionally and intellectually post-pandemic, including computerized programs, hard-copy exercises, and as much individualized tutoring and counseling as possible. Some safety issues can be addressed by installation of bullet-proof classroom windows and doors, installing doors to all classrooms, consistent drills and the use of school resource officers, along with safety plans approved by local law enforcement.

While she believes the voucher system will negatively impact public school budgets and warns private schools will not be held to state standard or accept all

students, she believes public education should be of the highest quality to prepare students to either continue their education or for work and life.

The primary reason she and her husband selected Plano was for the school district's stellar reputation, she explains. "I respected the district then, and I continue to respect the district almost 30 years later.

As school boards across

the country have been attacked at many angles, Carrigan believes Board members must be informed, non-partisan, and be a calming factor in the system. Carrigan says her unique ability of discernment will help her to make decisions for the district without being distracted by partisan politics. "This is a nonpartisan position," she explains, "and I will honor that."

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Has Anyone Seen My Marbles?

By James L. Snyder

Whenever a week goes by without any hitches, I have learned that something somewhere is wrong.

I have lived long enough to realize that problems are a part of life. Most of my were created by me. I guess I'm a great creator in that regard. I don't think there is any reward for that kind of creativity.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is exceptionally educated in this area of my mistakes. She could receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She can recognize one of my mistakes two days before it even happens. I don't know how she does that and probably never will find out.

Whenever I screw something up, she always responds, "Have you lost your marbles?"

Initially, I didn't know I had marbles, nor did I understand what marbles were. But as I grew as a husband, I began to understand what she meant by marbles. I didn't know I had as many marbles as I had lost over the last 20



years.

One morning last week, I got up before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and went out and got my coffee, I saw the kitties out on the porch looking in, so I opened the door, and they came marching in. What a great time they had together. As I was going to feed them, I heard a familiar voice down the hallway, "Have you lost your marbles? Get those cats out of here."

Of course, I didn't have to get the cats out because they ran for fear when they saw her coming down the hallway. I just stood there looking at the floor, trying to find my missing marbles.

Life has ups and downs, and I'm unsure which is better or worse. But

throughout my life, I have never been helped in any situation by my marbles. How do my marbles help me in my everyday life? After all, my life has not changed much during these years of losing my marbles.

If I had more appreciation for my marbles, maybe, just maybe, I would not be getting in as much trouble with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Her obsession with marbles is beyond my ability to comprehend.

If I still have one or two marbles left maybe I could figure out how I can get back at her.

We had a doctor's appointment last week, so she drove her Sissy Van, and I sat over on the passenger side. It's hard for me to get

in and out of that Sissy Van, but it saves me gas money for my truck.

As we were going down the street, I looked at her and said, "Have you lost your marbles? You missed the street we were supposed to turn on."

Inside I was laughing hilariously, but she did not share in that. She just looked at me and flashed one of her quirky smiles.

I sure do like it when a plan comes together.

One morning this week, I got up rather late and walked out to the living room in my pajamas. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Have you lost your marbles? We have a breakfast appointment in about 10 minutes across town."

I had no idea, or at least I forgot about it, and maybe she was right; I did lose my marbles on this one.

I was thinking recently about how my life would change if I had all the marbles I lost. So what would my life be like at that point?

The other day as she was coming in the front door

from a shopping trip I said to her, "Have you lost your marbles?"

Looking at me strangely, she said, "What are you talking about?"

Smiling back at her, I said, "Nothing, I just wanted to know if you had all your marbles together."

She didn't think that was funny and scowled at me and took the shopping bag into the kitchen.

If anybody has marbles, I think she does. So my question is simply, what is she doing with all those marbles?

I think I have one or two marbles left, and I was thinking of a plan for her birthday. I've been putting a lot of thought into it, and I'm almost done with the thinking aspect and about ready to put it all together.

I was in Wal-Mart the other day, and walking down one of the aisles, I saw something that got my attention. There on the shelf were bags of marbles. It was the first time I ever saw marbles for sale. When I saw them, it gave me an idea. So I bought a bag of marbles.

This year I plan to give her a special birthday gift. It will be a box filled with marbles, wrapped in red paper with a lovely bow on the top.

When she opens it, I expect she will say, "Have you lost your marbles?"

I will respond, "No, my dear, I found your marbles."

I could not help but think of a Bible verse in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God has never lost His "marbles." God shares His thoughts with us in the word of God.

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.

Police Reports

By Daris Howard

I grew up in the middle of nowhere. We were the last house on the road with miles of open country between us and juniper-covered hills far to the north. I usually had a lot of work to do, but when I had some free time, I loved to ride my horse across the sagebrush-covered rangeland.

Then for a time, I lived in some of the bigger cities in New York. It was a huge culture shock for me. But after a while, I got used to the fast pace of city living. When I returned home, some of the things about the simpler lifestyle of rural living made me smile. One thing I realized I had missed was our small-town newspaper. It contained news like police reports, which I

never saw in a paper in New York, probably because they would take up the whole paper. But it wasn't just the fact that the paper had room to carry the reports, but what was in them that was different from life in the big cities.

The local paper doesn't carry police reports anymore, but before they quit, I had made quite a collection of ones I found to be humorous or different compared to my life in big cities. I thought I'd share a few here.

- False fire alarm at student apartments. Students said they burnt their dinner so bad it was nothing but charcoal, and it set off the fire alarm.

- Complaint of an intruder. Complainant realized she was on new medication and it was just a bad dream.

- Complaint that an ATM machine kept complainant's credit card. Subject wanted the officer to open the machine and retrieve credit card. Subject was shocked to find out the officer didn't have a key to it.

- Suspect caught on video stealing sock from dryer at laundromat. The suspect didn't feel it was really stealing since the dryer had stolen one of hers on the previous visit.

- Verbal dispute. Subject came to another's business office to educate him on the proper way to do business. Business owner didn't appreciate the help, and words were exchanged about who was the best business person.

- Vehicle damage com-

See REPORTS, Page 16

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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Some Reasons To Go To Church



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

A man that goes to church wrote a letter to the editor of a local newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.'

So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column; much to the delight of the editor it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time



my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But, I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!' When you are DOWN to nothing, God is

UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, 'Jesus, could you get that for me, while I forward this message to your children?'

If you cannot see God in all things, you cannot see God at all! And, B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before

Leaving Earth!

Did you know that . . . 1) When you carry "the Bible", Satan has a headache? 2) When you open it, he collapses? 3) When he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and,

4) When you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you! Author Unknown

Productivity is a term all believers can relate to. It is the by-product of what we desire from our lives. Without productivity, we do not make friends for God, and we do not achieve our goals.

There are things in our lives that can creep in making us unproductive with our walk with God.

The Apostle Peter tells us that we can become knowledgeable of Jesus but fail to be effective and productive in our relationship with Him.

We are a society that has great knowledge, but our comparable scale of pro-

ductivity from that knowledge is extremely weighted to the knowledge side.

The Apostle Peter tells us there is a solution to this dilemma. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control.

And to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective

and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8.

Is your Christian experience filled with knowledge, but little power? Is there staleness in your walk with God? Is there unrest in your soul? It may be due to a need to develop character that only the Holy Spirit can develop out of an obedient heart.

Ask the Lord today to add these qualities to your faith so that you can be productive as a soldier of Jesus Christ.

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

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STUDY, from Page 4

wind" following their relative's sudden cardiac death, emotions that impacted their ability to go about their daily routine, let alone search for and process answers. Grief also influenced fami-

lies' ability to understand and process information received about the cause of death and their own risk for heritable cardiac conditions. Families reported that receiving information

in multiple complementary formats, such as in-person, by phone and written materials, was beneficial, due to the difficulty retaining, understanding and processing the information both during and after their relative's sudden cardiac death.

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NDG Book Review: 'A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Who's in charge around here?

That would be you, the person at the top of the chain, the head honcho, the Fearless Leader. Your desk is where the buck stops in your organization. Everything is in your hands and you're in charge – but, as in the new book "A Fever in the Heartland" by Timothy Egan, don't get too comfortable on that throne.

When the Ku Klux Klan first appeared, they came in the night and people thought they were ghosts – which was the point. None



of the six original founders, nor any of their subsequent followers wanted to be known as a member of the Klan in those post-Civil War years, and being ghost-

like kept their secrets. Then, the Klan was mostly in the South, although filmmaker D.W. Griffith and Washington politics weren't against its spread. But by 1922, the Klan had slowly crept northward.

Up north, in Indiana, D.C. Stephenson, who went by the name "Steve," was a "young man on the make," just starting a new life in Evansville, and he noticed what was happening. He knew the Klan had vowed to keep Evansville mostly white and Protestant, and that made him almost giddy. This was something Steve could sink his teeth into.

That spring, he ran for Congress on a platform that promised to fight for the Klan on behalf of every white person in Indiana. In short order, he'd worked his way up and was the leader of the nation's fastest-growing KKK chapter in the north.

One year later, though a handful of people quietly fought against what Steve was doing, he was a powerful man who did whatever he wanted to do, bragging that he was the law in Indiana. But his swagger hid something that few knew: Steve was a predator and an alcoholic, and before the

spring of 1925 was out, he was also a murderer with a corpse as a witness.

That was when those against him knew it was time to take the Klan down...

For readers who have no patience for laying out the long facts, "A Fever in the Heartland" can be a bit of frustration.

It starts off with a meeting that, despite good intentions, is clearly not going to end well at all. Author Timothy Egan then switches to a history of the Klan, which is informative and necessary and slides into a long, long horror story of the ter-

rorism of an entire state by a man who gained power with frightening speed. The length of it may numb you to the terror, and getting to the meat of the story – the subtitle's promise – feels like forever.

The good news is that when it does, the frustration dissipates immediately and you'll be turning pages like they're on fire. Things happen quickly here, as you begin to see how "A Fever in the Heartland" might resonate for modern readers. If you relish that kind of historical crime drama, look hard at your to-be-read pile and put this one on the top.

VOTE, from Page 8

plaint. Claim the touchless car wash scratched vehicle and felt that calling it touchless was false advertising.

- Snoring/Wall knocking complaint at apartment complex

- Complaint of mail being stolen. After search, mail was found under roommate's mattress.

- Medical assistance. Person accidentally had can of raid turned wrong way and sprayed self when trying to spray bugs.

- Disturbance. Complaint of subject shopping at Walmart with a hysterical three-year-old girl. Twenty-six-year-old male asked employee to watch the screaming girl for him while he shopped. Subject said he was joking to lighten the mood.

- Complaint of a vehicle being booted wrongfully.

- Theft of a vehicle boot.

- Numerous complaints of loud music and loud groups

- Snoring neighbor complaint

- Theft. Roommate stole a postal letter which had \$100 check in it.

- Complaints of horses on the road

- Fire in apartment kitchen that kicked on the sprinkler. Smoke and water damage.

- Police responded to a

call that cardboard cut-outs of cats were being placed in the roadway, causing people

to swerve. There was concern for a possible accident.

Daris Howard, award-

winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at [daris@](mailto:daris@darishoward.com)

[darishoward.com](http://www.darishoward.com); or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>

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