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# Biden makes historic move with pick of General CQ Brown as Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

On Thursday, President Joe Biden announced his selection for the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman.

Air Force Gen. CQ Brown Jr., an exceptional fighter pilot with extensive knowledge of China, has been chosen for this significant role, making history.

If Brown wins confirmation, it will make African Americans the majority in the Pentagon's top military and civilian roles.

"General Brown is a warrior, descended from a proud line of warriors," Biden declared, noting that Brown's father, U.S. Army Colonel, C.Q. Brown, served in Vietnam.

His grandfather, Army Master Sgt. Robert E. Brown, Jr., led a segregated unit in World War II.

"And command pilot General Brown brings to this role more than 3,000 hours of flying — flying experience, including 130 combat hours," Biden stated.

"He knows what it means to be in the thick of battle and how to keep your cool when things get hard, like when your F-16 was on fire.

"And you returned to the base in



*If Brown wins confirmation, it will make African Americans the majority in the Pentagon's top military and civilian roles. (Photo via NNPA)*

Florida in 1991. C.Q. had to eject more than 300 mi- — 300 miles an hour, landing in the Everglades."

The current Defense Secretary, Lloyd Austin, the first Black Pentagon chief, has been serving since the start of the administration.

Previously, Army Gen. Colin Powell was the only African American to serve as Joint Chiefs chairman.

Once the Senate approves, Brown will replace Army Gen. Mark Milley, whose term concludes in October.

President Biden formally introduced Brown as his pick during a Rose Garden event on Thursday afternoon.

President Biden's choice of Brown stems from his exceptional track record of modernizing the U.S. aircraft fleet and nuclear arsenal. Additionally, Brown's extensive experience in shaping U.S. defenses to counter China's emergence played a significant role in the decision. Brown has been deeply involved in efforts to equip Ukraine with billions of dollars in U.S. weaponry to help fend off Russia's invasion.

Throughout his career, Brown has commanded at every level in the Air Force and in joint commands across Europe, the Middle

**See PENTAGON, Page 7**



## Freedom Rides 2.0: Black political responsibility

- See Page 3



## The Top 5 myths about Medicare

- See Page 4



## The Black role in the start of Memorial Day

- See Page 5



## Grabbing two diplomas in two weeks

- See Page 6



## Parade of Playhouses at NorthPark

- See Page 7



## The retirement of Colonel Eddie J. Smith

- See Page 8



## Film Review: The Little Mermaid

- See Page 9



## Sister Tarpley: Wisdom for the new graduates

- See Page 14

## Inside...

People in the News ....	2
Op/Ed .....	3
Health .....	4
Community .....	5
Education .....	6
Dallas CASA .....	7
Entertainment .....	9-10
City of Dallas .....	11-12
Career / Notices .....	13
Religion .....	14-15
Book Review .....	16



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## People In The News ...



**Dr. David Willis**



**Jay K. Sanders, Ph.D, PPA**

*NDG Quote of the Week: "If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it."*  
—Toni Morrison



## Dr. David Willis

Dr. David Willis receives the 2023 A. Maceo Smith Business Award at the 35th Annual African American A. Maceo Smith Community Award Brunch. He received accolades and ovations at the 35th Annual Community Brunch held by the African American Museum Board of Directors and Founder, Dr. Harry Robinson.

Dr. Willis has been noted for his game-changing \$130 million sports complex partnership with the city of Kaufman in North Central Texas.

"I would like to express



Terry Allen / Courtesy

my sincere gratitude for the recognition and award you bestowed upon me. Because the honorable A. Maceo Smith was also a member of my fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., this award has a

deeper honor of being connected to the work of many esteemed members of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. that have transcended time. I am very appreciative that another fraternity member, Terry Allen nominated me. Just as A Maceo Smith was instrumental in developing Hamilton Park, I am carrying the same spiritual torch of community development by building a 52-acres sports complex in Kaufman. I give honor to God as I am a servant leader who knows where my blessings originate. So, I thank God, Dr. Harry Robinson and the African American Board for this honor" stated

Dr. Willis.

The Award is named for A. Maceo Smith, a consummate community leader whose volunteer service spanned a period of more than 50 years. Smith served as a Regional Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Smith was also a leading figure in the Progressive Voters League, NAACP, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Urban League and Bishop College. He was integral in the development of Hamilton Park. He was also a trustee of New Hope Baptist Church and

the National President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and The Fisk University National Alumni Association. He was a founding supporter of The African American Museum, Dallas and the founder of the Hall of Negro Life that was erected at the State Fair in 1936 for the Texas Centennial Fair. The Award which had been given beginning in 1978 was last presented on December 2019.

Dr. David Willis is the mastermind developer of the largest mixed-use development project in the City of Kaufman's history, recently approved by the Kaufman City Council. Dr. Willis is the

owner of the Dallas-based, Cedar Crest Development Company, LLC. He is the developer of the \$130 million public-private partnership project.

South Pointe Park at Kaufman Sports Village will sit on 52-acres of city conveyed land and features a 147,000 square-foot sportsplex with basketball, volleyball, and pickleball courts; indoor turf, batting cages, and an eight-lane bowling alley; a 100 key room limited services hotel, 180 units of mixed-use housing, three-story office building, splash park with walking trails and retail.

## Jay K. Sanders, Ph.D, PPA

MOSELEY, VA (24-7PressRelease) -- Dr. Sanders is a law enforcement veteran with more than 25 years of experience in a variety of criminal justice and security roles. Since 2022, he has been captain of the Defense Logistics Agency, and in 2023, he assumed additional responsibilities as a law enforcement specialist at the Law Enforcement Training Center in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

He is responsible for overseeing a team of two lieutenants, four sergeants, and 27 officers including managing scheduling, dis-



ciplinary actions, and development, and leads the department's registered sex offender program. In addition, Dr. Sanders works with area sheriff's departments to support narcotics investigations and creates standard operating proce-

dures and Sergeant field training curricula for his organizations.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Sanders spent nearly 15 years as a police officer and lieutenant at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Big Spring, Texas. Between 2011 and 2018, he worked concurrently as a federal police officer with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He began his career working in minimum security prison facilities for adult inmates and in maximum security juvenile detention facilities. Outside his work in civilian law enforcement, Dr. Sanders is a

proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps Reserves, where he served for 16 years.

Dr. Sanders was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy in public administration by Walden University in 2015. He holds both a Master of Science and a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice and police science from Fayette-

ville State University, and has completed coursework at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In recognition of his commitment to professional excellence, he has been named Employee of the Month numerous times, earned a 2011 Police Officer of the Year commendation. Most recently, he was recognized

with a 2022 Appreciation Award for policy reviews, having completed nearly 100 throughout his career. Dr. Sanders credits his success to the support of the management personnel that he has worked with and to the influence of his father, who inspired him to pursue a career in law enforcement.

## Cyndy Reed Stewart, Ph.D

TALLAHASSEE (24-7PressRelease) -- Cyndy Reed Stewart, PhD was recently presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Stewart has distinguished herself as a college professor/administrator, special education and elementary education teacher. Her extensive background includes more than two decades of experience at various schools and universities in the Florida and Georgia educational systems, notably as a professor of teacher education at Florida A&M University. Additionally, Dr. Stewart



spent over five years at the University of Cincinnati, recognized as the first African American assistant dean of student affairs.

Apart from her faculty positions, Dr. Stewart was a consultant for the Iowa Department of Education in the school accreditation, administration, and eq-

uity division. She was the youngest African American to serve in this role as well.

Looking toward the future, Dr. Stewart aims to conduct more research on changing the dynamics of teaching and learning. She also aspires to work more with ethnic and linguistically diverse students and develop an academic resource consulting firm.

During her teaching career, Dr. Stewart was responsible for writing a grant in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati in 1992 to fund students of color interested in pursuing teacher education in higher education. Among other accomplishments,

See STEWART, Page 12

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## Freedom Rides 2.0: African American political class responsibilities in this movement moment

By Arthur Fleming

What is politics? Politics refers to the activities associated with the governance of a country or other areas, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power.

What is Moral Authority? Moral is authority premised on principles or fundamental truths, which are independent of written or positive laws.

Democratic and Republican party relationships with the African American communities in general has been a thorny affair.

The Democratic Party was the party of Jim Crow after 1865, called the "Dixiecrats," while the Democratic Party of The New Deal under Franklin D. Roosevelt in the nineteen forties created a political demographic shift in the African American communities throughout the south.

The Republican Party of the nineteen forties was the party of Lincoln, who led the Civil War that helped free enslaved African Americans.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt New Deal made political inroads into the African American communities through military integration, Social Security, WPA work programs, etc, along with the "collective intellectual intelligence" of the African American leadership of that time.

The political shift of the African American intellectual infrastructure, from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party, created a political realignment that led to Brown v. Board of education, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Right Act, Affirmative Action, etc.

It was in the nineteen forties that African American communities shifted, placing its future political and social advancement hopes in the New Deal Democratic Party.

The African American

communities have made progress in a lot of areas since the nineteen forties by supporting the Democratic Party; however, the Democratic Party and our African American political class has failed to aggressively protect our "voting rights," and at times joined the Republican Party, creating policies that were not in the long-term interest of the African American communities. See "war on drugs."

Since the social and political realignment of the nineteen forties, fifties, sixties and seventies, the African American communities have suffered pushback from the Republican Party in particular. The Republican Party has introduced theories like "reverse discrimination," "welfare queens, Willie Horton, war on drugs, Critical Race Theory and more.

The fact that white Americans have had over four hundred years of affirmative action and are now introducing reverse discrimination claims in cable TV ads is an affront to all who traveled the African American diaspora. And guess who was the biggest benefactor of Affirmative Action? White women.

The fascist pushback by the Republican Party started in the nineteen seventies with Governor Ronald Reagan of California. Reagan kicked off his Presidential campaign at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where three civil rights activists were killed for education, and voter registration of Mississippi African American communities in the nineteen sixties.

In 1985, President Reagan with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, went to Bitburg Germany cemetery and laid a Rief at the gravesite of the "Nazi SS." The symbolic act at the Bitburg cemetery invited the Nazi elements of the American Southern Confederate States into mainstream Re-

publican Party politics and created the global fascist infrastructure we see today.

What are the African American political class responsibilities to the African American communities in this American fascist moment?

The African American political class in many ways has been captured or corporatized by the current "money is speech political system."

Today "The Supreme Capitalist Corporations" are people too, our system operates on a pay to play basis, so how can the African American political class maintain its character, integrity and moral authority, while representing our collective African American community's character, integrity and moral authority for the community good.

We say to our African American politicians "don't sellout." By sellout, I simply mean to operate without moral authority or political integrity. By Integrity, I mean doing the right thing when no one is watching. What can our African American political class do in this age of revealing? Don't sellout.

It has come to my attention that Texas State Representatives voted 95-53 to remove books from our school libraries, while eleven Democrats voted for this bill.

The Black Caucus (except Carl Sherman, D-Desoto, who voted for the book ban bill) held strong by voting nay. A serious African American, Hispanic and white democratic coalition conversation needs to be had by the Texas Democratic Party political class.

What can grass roots organizations do to maximize our political powers in this moment of fascism in America? Our main political power is the African American block vote.

In Texas, we have the largest number of African Americans (over four

million) of any state in the union, and that's with rigged census data.

This moment of American fascism is an opportunity to develop an African American "independent political base power" that is independent of both parties and focused on issues of African American concern.

African Americans vote ninety plus percent the same (or block) on issues of concern, regardless of social or economic status. To maximize African American voter impact, communities must increase our overall numbers.

This will have the political impact of empowering the African American political class to demand political and economic power for the community good.

Freedom Riders 2.0 Movement requires the African American political class to act with character, integrity and moral authority, to educate the African American communities about the political urgency in this moment of American fascism, whose goal is the creation of the "oligarchic state," where the "supreme corporate capitalists" rule.

Texas has largest number of African American voters of any state in the union. The African Americans communities vote in a block consistently. An increased African Americans vote in local, state and national elections will empower the African American voter (independent political base) politically, economically and morally, leading to self-determination and freedoms for the community good. Our young people need to see the African American leaders, elders, and parents, fighting for our African American children.

This is not a drill.

This is real.

Arthur Fleming can be found on Facebook at Dallas Civill Rights Issues group and reached at pflashes@hotmail.com.

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# The Top Five Myths of Medicare



**Lamonica Thomas**  
UNITED  
HEALTHCARE  
SALES  
AGENT

## 1. YOU HAVE TO START MEDICARE AT 65

You do NOT have to start Medicare at 65 IF (and only if) you have a credible employer health plan. Many seniors are working beyond age 65. In some instances, your employer's health plan could be less expensive than Medicare or you have a younger spouse who's a dependent on your employer coverage. In those cases, keep your employer plan until you're ready to officially leave your job and start Medicare. When you are ready to enroll, your em-

ployer will have to complete the a form (L-546 form) that let's Medicare know you did have credible health insurance beyond age 65 and therefore you won't be penalized.

## 2. YOU DON'T NEED A PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN WHEN YOU START MEDICARE

Not true. Some seniors think it's an "option" and choose not to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they start Medicare. Especially if they are fortunate enough to not take any medications. However it's mandatory to have a prescription drug plan and enroll in the plan at the same time you start Medicare. If not, you could be subjected to penalties that you will have to pay your entire life.

Medicare calculates number of full uncovered month you didn't have a prescription drug plan.

## 3. ALL MEDICARE PLANS ARE THE SAME

Not true. Many people discover that relying on Original Medicare (Parts A and B) doesn't provide enough coverage. In order to have enough coverage, you may choose to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C) or a Medicare Supplement plan. These are two types of plans.

A Medicare Advantage plan, such as an HMO plan, covers additional benefits not included with Original Medicare. Some Medicare Advantage plans include prescription drug coverage. With an HMO plan you have an in-network primary

care physician (PCP) who keeps track of all your care and refers you to specialists to help you stay healthy. This is one advantage of a HMO plan-you have a team behind you to make sure you are getting the right care. PPO Medicare Advantage plans are also popular because you can select any doctor who will accept your plan, but you can end up selecting doctors who are "out of network" and end up paying more for your medical services.

A Medicare Supplement plan fills in coverage gaps in Original Medicare. Generally Medicare Supplement plans have higher monthly premiums than Medicare Advantage plans but you can see ANY doctor that accepts Medicare. With a

Medicare Supplement plan, you need to purchase a separate prescription drug plan for prescription drug coverage.

## 4. YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE MEDICARE AT 65

Not true. Medicare doesn't tell you when it's time to enroll. Unless you are already receiving Social Security at age 65, you'll need to remember to sign up on your own. When you sign up depends on if you are retiring at age 65 or working past age 65.

## 5. MEDICARE PLANS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Medicare is basic health insurance available to people 65 and older, as well as people under 65 with quali-

fying disabilities. Medicare is a government program that consists of four different parts. But only two parts are provided by the government. The government provides Original Medicare which consists of Part A and Part B. Private insurance companies provide Part C (Medicare Advantage Plan) Medicare Supplement Plans and Part D, prescription drug plan.

(Parts of this article were used from Care Partners of Connecticut, Inc.)

*Ms. Lamonica Thomas is a license agent specializing in assisting Medicare enrollment participants. Her articles will appear monthly through December. Reach her at: La-monica Thomas <lathomas55@gmail.com> or call 972.249.8907.*

# NIH-funded study highlights financial toll of health disparities in the U.S.

(NIH) -- New research shows that the economic burden of health disparities in the United States remains unacceptably high. The study, funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), part of the National Institutes of Health, revealed that in 2018, racial and ethnic health disparities cost the U.S. economy \$451 billion, a 41% increase from the previous estimate of \$320 billion in 2014. The study also finds that the total burden of education-related health disparities

for persons with less than a college degree in 2018 reached \$978 billion, about two times greater than the annual growth rate of the U.S. economy in 2018.

The findings from this study by researchers from NIMHD; Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore; Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, Maryland; TALV Corp, Owings Mills, Maryland; and the National Urban League were published in JAMA.

This study is the first to estimate the total economic burden of health disparities for five racial and ethnic minority groups nationally and for all 50 states and the District of Columbia using a health equity approach. The health equity approach set aspirational health goals that all populations can strive for derived from the Healthy People 2030 goals. It establishes a single standard that can be applied to the nation and each state, and for all racial, ethnic, and education groups. It is also the first study to estimate the economic burden

of health disparities by educational levels as a marker of socioeconomic status.

"The exorbitant cost of health disparities is diminishing U.S. economic potential. We have a clear call to action to address social and structural factors that negatively impact not only population health, but also economic growth," said NIMHD Director Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D.

National estimates teach that most of the economic burden for racial and ethnic disparities was borne by Black/African American population (69%) due to

the level of premature mortality. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (\$23,225) and American Indian/Alaska Native (\$12,351) populations had the highest economic burden per person. Most of the economic burden was attributed to premature deaths for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) (90%), Black/African American (77%), and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) (74%) populations. For Asian (55%) and Hispanic/Latino (43%) populations, most of the burden was from excess medical care costs and lost

labor market productivity, respectively.

State estimates show five states with the highest burden of racial and ethnic health inequities were among the most populous and diverse states: Texas (\$41 billion), California (\$40 billion), Illinois (\$29 billion), Florida (\$27 billion), and Georgia (\$21 billion). Black/African American people had the highest economic burden of racial and ethnic health inequities in most states (33), followed by Hispanic/

**See NIH, Page 16**

# Pursuing work-life balance isn't a want, it's a need for success

Univ. Maryland (News-wis) -- Work-life balance may not guarantee your success, but without it, failure is almost inevitable.

The pursuit of work-life balance feels like a race without a finish line — people are trying to win the battle of doing more of everything while doing it well. The fruits of those labors create sentiments of disharmony, exhaus-

tion, inefficacy, frustration and disappointment — also known as the warning signs of an imbalanced life.

According to Maryland Smith's J. Gerald Suarez, a better approach is to think of balance as the integration of the elements of people's lives in ways that contribute to their stability and steadiness.

"It's in the process of mindful reflection and

discovery that we find inspiration to execute our decisions and bring our priorities to life," says Suarez, professor of the practice in systems thinking and design at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Much like a tightrope aerialist, successful work-life balance isn't about going up rapidly, it's about moving forward steadily.

Aerialists set the goal of making it to the other end and recognize that there are no shortcuts. They focus on their next step and compartmentalize all other potential distractions.

In work and personal life, people must pursue their constancy of purpose and identify the small and achievable steps that will bring consistency of action each day, week and month.

Unexpected events, conflicts, crises, requests and scheduling shifts, however, will challenge that consistency and require mindful choices to maintain the course.

"Is it possible to balance a conflict between an important work presentation that can contribute to a promotion or attending the first recital of our kids? By the time we find ourselves

in this predicament, we can only justify our decision," says Suarez. "But no matter the choice we make, there will be a residual emotional effect and an impact on ourselves and others."

Discerning what is the right choice must be informed by our values — the balancing pole to a person's character, attitude and gen-

**See BALANCE, Page 12**



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# Honoring Black Americans’ role in the inception of Memorial Day

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Memorial Day has a deep historical connection to the African American community in the United States.

The holiday, which originated as Decoration Day, initially began when formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants gathered to honor and decorate the graves of Union soldiers who fought during the Civil War.

“Oddly, that’s a fact that I wasn’t fully aware of,” former U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young told the Black Press.

“It’s not surprising, though,” said Young, an American civil rights leader and hero.



Although the origins of Memorial Day trace back to the period following the Civil War, when some 620,000 soldiers lost their lives, the precise origins remain a source of controversy. (Photo via NNPA)

Indeed, on a day when picnics, family outings, and other leisurely pursuits occur, the founders of Memorial Day meant for the occasion to honor African Americans newly freed from enslavement, and

those who lost their lives fighting for freedom, said actor Wendell Pierce.

“We will never forget those brave and honorable souls,” Pierce stated.

Famous DJ Donnie Simpson called the occa-

sion “very different for me.”

“While we honor those who gave their lives in service for this country, I can’t help but think of those African Americans who were massacred in Tulsa 100 years ago,” Simpson wrote on Twitter.

Author Christina Coles deadpanned, “The Civil War was over, and African Americans had founded Memorial Day in a ritual of remembrance and consecration. They were the true patriots.”

Ben Gold, a historian and founder of the real estate investment firm Recommended Homebuyers, said recognizing Black soldiers, and their families’ sacrifices and bravery is essential because it ac-

knowledges their often-overlooked role in shaping the nation’s history.

“Commemorating Memorial Day with Black heroes in mind serves several critical purposes. First and foremost, it ensures that their stories are included and preserved within the broader narrative of the holiday,” Gold insisted.

He said that by highlighting Black service members’ courage, resilience, and contributions, America pays homage to their sacrifices and honors their memory.

Moreover, Gold asserted that it fosters a sense of inclusivity, promotes diversity, and enriches our collective understanding of the complex tapestry of American history.

“In my experience as an investor and developer, I have witnessed firsthand the power of recognizing and celebrating diversity,” Gold said.

“Just as the real estate industry thrives when it embraces inclusivity, so does our society when we acknowledge and appreciate the diverse perspectives and experiences of all those who have served our country.

“By featuring the stories of Black heroes in Memorial Day commemorations, we not only educate and inspire, but we also contribute to a more inclusive and united nation.”

Indeed, as noted in a Washington Informer edi-

See MEMORIAL, Page 16

# Cell phone data from winter snowstorm shows Dallas is resilient

(Newswise) — Natural disasters can wreak havoc on a community. In any of these situations, policy makers, governing bodies, and aid programs need to know how to measure resilience – the length of time it will take a city to bounce back.

An SMU research team led by engineering professor Nicos Makris measured Dallas’s resilience by looking at anonymous cell phone data among

residents in the Dallas metroplex before, during, and after the February 2021 North American winter storm. Their conclusion: Dallas recovered almost immediately after the winter storm ended, indicating Dallas exhibits a great degree of resilience.

“Despite millions of people losing power and water, forcing many to leave their homes immediately after the end of the storm, the city of Dallas

reverted back to its pre-event response, showing that the city of Dallas has a great deal of resilience,” Makris said. “Citizens are very resilient individuals. They found ways to revert back.”

Measuring a city’s resilience is important for planning responses to future events and revealing potential vulnerabilities. The applications for this research extend far beyond Dallas, as reveal that more

than half of the world’s population currently lives in cities - a number expected to grow to nearly 70 percent by 2050.

Cities serve as global economic and cultural centers, but cities also tend to be in coastal areas and along fault lines, making them prone to acts of nature. This is compounded by climate change, which can enhance the strength or frequency of some of these

natural hazards.

The Dallas study was completed by Makris, Addy Family Centennial Professor in Civil Engineering in SMU’s Lyle School of Engineering, along with SMU’s Gholamreza Moghimi, Eric Godat, and Tue Vu. Moghimi is a postdoctoral research fellow at SMU, while Godat is the team lead for research and data science in SMU’s Office of Informa-

tion Technology (OIT). Vu also works in SMU’s OIT as the AI & ML Research Scientist.

The Dallas results reinforce Makris’ studies of Houston cell phone data after the winter storm as well as data from Hurricanes Harvey (2017) and Irma (2017). Even after the major flooding due to Hurricane Harvey, Hous-

See WINTER, Page 6

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2311	<b>Triple Red 777 Super Ticket™</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.64	\$10	7/19/23	1/15/24
2369	<b>\$50, \$100 or \$500!</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 9.43	\$10	7/19/23	1/15/24
2422	<b>7</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.65	\$10	7/19/23	1/15/24

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## Two diplomas in two weeks: Dallas ISD/college student finishes *busy* year

Diamond Ashanti Jackson is a Dallas ISD high school collegiate graduate. On Saturday, May 27, 2023, she received her high school diploma from Hillcrest High School, while on Saturday, May 13, 2023, she received an Associate's Degree of Science from Dallas College. In addition to her dual credit accomplishment, Diamond was a scholarship recipient.

Diamond is also the fourth generation, oldest and the first great-grand and grandchild in her family to proudly receive both acknowledgements upon completion of high school. Diamond's family overflows with alums of Dallas ISD as far back as their fourth generation. Her maternal great grandparents are graduates of Lincoln and Madison High School, her

paternal and maternal grandparents, graduates of Carter, Kimball and Skyline High School, and her parents are graduates from Carter and Pinkston High.

Diamond is surrounded with college graduates and attendees of UTD, SMU, UNT Dallas, UNT Denton, Paul Quinn, Tarleton State University, and Penn State.

She will be joining those principles of higher education when she attends Prairie View A&M Bridge Program this summer, July 2023, when she will kick off her undergraduate studies to pursue a double major in criminal justice and political science.

Prairie View A&M was her choice amongst 14 other schools that offered her acceptance. Her mother allowed her to choose the

college that she desired and supported her decision.

Diamond was raised by her mother, Demetria Jackson, in a single parent household with two siblings and a pet dog.

Demetria Jackson, a high scholar of the Gifted and Talented Dallas ISD elementary student, an athlete and UTD college scholarship recipient and SMU business certificate holder, has always instilled an educational balance for Diamond to assure her success. Under this leadership, Diamond has obtained medals, achievement certificates, and trophies in areas of academics and sports.

As the highest GPA achiever at T.W. Browne Middle School, Diamond received the Principles Award and the Achieve 3000

Award.

She has been a student athlete since elementary school. In elementary school she was Student Council Secretary. Throughout her younger years to high school, she performed in extracurricular activities such as soccer, track, dance, tennis, and volleyball. Diamond says she also enjoys relaxation, watching T.V., music and spending time with her pet.

In conclusion, Diamond's nana, Rona Jackson, states "When I look at the academic accolades accomplished this far, I have no doubt that success is in the future for Diamond. Her being the oldest, first great-grand and grandchild has trailblazed the path for her siblings and cousins to exceed above the expected."



Diamond Ashanti Jackson with mother, Demetria Jackson.  
(Courtesy photo)



This Kimball senior has been accepted into Texas Christian University's STEM program (Dallas I.S.D.)

## Grad Goals: From Kimball to TCU, Benjamin K.'s story

(Dallas ISD) — It was 11 p.m. and Benjamin K. was nearly asleep after a baseball game, resting for the next day's match-up, when his dad called with some news: "You just got an email about a full-ride scholarship," he said. The Kimball senior had been accepted into Texas Christian University's STEM program, where he would be studying mechanical engineering on a scholarship valued at nearly \$300,000.

"I couldn't believe it!" Benjamin said. "I had

to read the email about 20 times before I could even grasp it. I've always dreamed of going to college for free because I'm very appreciative of the things my parents have done for me. To be able to take a huge burden off them was great news, something I've always wanted to do."

The news was especially welcomed because it confirmed that Benjamin had overcome the challenge of attending four schools in four years of high school

— Cedar Hill, South Oak Cliff, DeSoto High, and, finally, Kimball — to compete in sports, he said. "Switching schools means adapting to a new commute, new classmates, new teachers, and you have to leave friends behind. But the biggest struggle was switching in the midst of COVID and struggling to get caught up over a computer."

Despite the challenges, he was able to maintain top-tier grades and test scores.

In the process, he'd learned that the best way to succeed was to "keep your head down and work hard. Do all the things you're supposed to do because that will put you on the right path. Getting your work done, being on time for class, doing what your parents want you to do, and being respectful to everybody — all those things will put you on a great path for college and even life after that. To me, it's about

See GRAD, Page 13

## WINTER, from Page 5

ton residents went back to their normal patterns almost immediately after the emergency was over.

The study, Mechanical analogue for cities, has been published in Royal Society Open Science.

Measuring Resilience

Prediction is a tricky game because people, on an individual level, are unpredictable. However, group patterns are predictable using large datasets and mathematical models. Makris and his research team used GPS data from

13,000 cell phone users in the Dallas metroplex during February and March 2021 to evaluate when movement patterns went back to what they were before the winter storm. By assuming a mechanical model of the city, Makris' team was able to use the kind of mathematics that is usually applied to large numbers of particles to measure resilience.

Most urban resilience is done in a qualitative way, which is helpful in looking back at what happened,

but less helpful in making predictions. Makris wanted to find a quantitative way to measure urban resilience in hopes that it could help make predictions and point to vulnerabilities. "We thought that maybe we could borrow concepts from physics to look at mobility patterns in large urban centers using GPS location data from cell phones."

In order to crunch the numbers for the location data of 13,000 cell phone users over the course of a month, Makris's team partnered with SMU's Eric Go-

dat, a physicist who leads a dedicated team that assists researchers across campus in using the University's high-performance computing cluster. The HPC cluster has the computing capacity to do ensemble averaging, a kind of machine-learning process that is used to discern signals from noise or, in Makris' case, movement patterns from random events.

By averaging GPS data, Makris and his team outlined the movement patterns of Dallas citizens during a typical week. They then compared normal move-

ment patterns to those during and after the week of the winter storm to determine when Dallas started getting back to normal, or in mathematical terms, "back to its initial equilibrium state."

But why do these patterns translate from one city to another and from one type of natural hazard to another? Makris points out that even though we are the authors of our own actions, our group behavior as citizens of a city shows a great deal of determinism. "Our collective future has a periodic-

ity that is determined, and tomorrow is waiting patiently to become the next present, unless you have a natural hazard in which it is broken."

Makris is planning to use his city-wide data to then conduct studies on the community-level to learn which communities are more or less resilient in the face of a natural disruption. This research will help city planners by providing a quantitative measure of where best to allocate resources to prepare for future natural hazards.



# Dallas CASA announces dates for Parade of Playhouses

Dallas CASA's annual Parade of Playhouses returns this summer to NorthPark Center. The event features custom-designed and built children's playhouses on display and available to win by raffle. All funds raised from the event benefit the child victims of abuse or neglect served by Dallas CASA's volunteer advocates.

Parade of Playhouses brings attention to the needs of children who are living in the protective care of the state because it isn't safe at home. Amidst an overwhelmed child welfare system, Dallas CASA volunteers advocate for these children's therapeutic, medical and educational needs, as well as their need for permanent, loving homes where they can grow to reach their full potential. Dallas CASA's volunteers seek to protect children and restore childhood.

Playhouses are designed and built by Dallas-area



(Above Left) Frans Dutch Windmill by Butscher Construction, (above right) Magic Hive by HKS Architects and Brasfield & Gorrie.  
(Photos by Rosanne Lewis / Dallas CASA)

architects, builders, corporations and craftsmen who donate their time and materials. Playhouses run the gamut of style and design, from pop culture-inspired castles to modern, abstract designs and from tiny versions of North Dallas new construction to play-based climbing structures. Past

houses have included spaceships, animals, a lighthouse, a working car wash, an aquarium and more. Dallas CASA is currently recruiting builders and sponsors for the 2023 Parade of Playhouses.

While NorthPark visitors enjoy the light-hearted, whimsical houses, the houses



are a visual representation of the dreams of children in foster care who simply want permanent homes where they are safe and loved. NorthPark Center has been an important partner for the event, lending its hallways to the playhouses each year since 1996. Crest Cadillac / INFINITI / Volvo returns

as presenting sponsor and KDC will serve as grand marshal for the event.

The event will run July 14 to 30, 2023 at NorthPark Center, 8687 N. Central Expressway, 75225

Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) seeks to protect children, restore childhoods and help

child victims of abuse or neglect achieve their full potential. The agency's trained and supervised community volunteers are assigned by judges to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are living in the protective care of the state. For many children in foster care, their Dallas CASA volunteer is the only consistent, caring adult in their lives during a frightening, uncertain time. Now in its 43rd year, Dallas CASA serves more children than any of the more than 900 CASA programs nationwide. While Dallas CASA envisions a day when all children experience safe and enriching childhoods, the agency currently provides a child advocate for every Dallas child in need. In 2022, 1,324 Dallas CASA volunteers were assigned to advocate for 2,611 children in protective care. To learn more, visit [dallas-casa.org](http://dallas-casa.org).

## IRS, from Page 1

East, and Asia.

He was pivotal in leading the U.S. air campaign against the Islamic State militant group.

As a career F-16 fighter pilot with over 3,000 flight hours and comprehensive command experience, he has broken barriers and achieved several firsts.

For instance, he became the military's first Black Pacific Air Forces commander, spearheading the nation's air strategy to counter China's activities in the Indo-Pacific region.

Three years ago, Brown made history as the first Black Air Force chief of staff, becoming the highest-ranking African American to lead any military branch.

His extensive expertise and focus on modernizing U.S. airpower for 21st-century warfare have positioned him as the front-runner for replacing Gen. Milley as the Pentagon focuses on deterring potential

conflicts with Beijing.

However, Brown's confirmation may face delays due to Alabama Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville's objections.

Sen. Tuberville has been blocking military nominations due to his concerns over the Pentagon's policy on reproductive health care, particularly regarding travel funds and support for troops and dependents seeking such care in states where it is currently illegal.

As the highest-ranking officer in the country, the Joint Chiefs chairman serves as the principal military advisor to the president, defense secretary, and National Security Council.

Although the chairman does not command troops or hold a formal position in the chain of command, they play a crucial role in major military decisions, policy-making, and advising on significant combat operations.

The chairman leads meetings with the joint chiefs of the different armed services.

During his tenure as Air Force chief, Brown has advocated for modernizing U.S. nuclear capabilities, including developing the next-generation stealth bomber.

Officials contend that Brown was key in retiring outdated warplanes and allocating funding to advance unmanned systems.

Additionally, he has supported the establishment and growth of the U.S. Space Force, which received initial resources and capabilities from the Air Force.

President Biden's selection of Gen. Brown highlights his commitment to diversity and expertise in countering emerging challenges, particularly in China's rise and modern warfare domains.

If confirmed, the White House said Brown's historic appointment would mark

a significant milestone in the leadership of the U.S. military.

"I can think of no one better suited or more qualified to lead our force through

the challenges and responsibility ahead," Biden concluded.



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# Colonel Eddie J. Smith: The gift that keeps on giving

By Marland Mosley, Jr  
Contributing Writer

There are very few people who thrive in seeing others around them succeed. Nowadays, when encountering someone, they lend a helping hand with an ulterior motive in mind; Those people tend to expect something in return when helping someone. There's a saying that goes, "It costs nothing to show someone love and support"; Gratitude can go a long way versus expecting everything to come back to you. You can say that kindness really is a virtue, because while there are some who expect the favor to be returned to them, there's also some who are willing to help others out of the kindness of their own heart.

The retirement ceremony for Colonel Eddie J. Smith was filled with family, friends, and previous officers in which he worked with. There was nothing but great things that were said about Colonel Smith, he has been a beacon of light towards all other cadets and trainees. Smith's neighbor, Councilman Casey Thomas II, his pastor, Pastor Homer L. Thomas III, and Colonel Steven L. Tabat shares a few words pertaining to Smith's military journey.

Councilman Casey Thomas II remembers Colonel Smith for being dependable. Thomas says, "I can call on Eddie for anything, and he'll be right there." Thomas II says that it is an honor to call someone dependable. Thomas also describes Colonel Smith as loyal; He says that Smith is loyal towards everything that he does and won't stop until the task is finished. Thomas II also describes Smith as a loving father, husband, and neighbor; He went on to tell Smith "Thank you for your sacrifices, so we can live in a free country." Thomas II recognizes that Colonel Smith has given a lot to his country, and he lets Smith



(Above) Colonel Eddie J. Smith (at left), Major Edward Carr and Colonel Steven J. Tabat commemorate Smith's service during a special presentation. (Below left) The audience was shown a presentation of Colonel Eddie J. Smith teaching a classroom. (Below right) Mrs. Yolanda Burton sang the National Anthem for the ceremony. (Photos by Marland Mosely, Jr.)



know that he is one call away, if he ever needs anything.

Pastor Homer L. Thomas III also shared a few words about Colonel Smith. He was giving Smith some words of encouragement as he enters his last stage in the Army and starts being a full-time civilian. Thomas III prays over him asking God to watch over him and his family; He describes Smith as a selfless type of guy, he's always the guy who will put the needs of others before himself. Thomas III continued to pray for Colonel Smith so that he could help and be of service to people in his community, as he did in the Army.

Also, Colonel Steven L. Tabat had a lot to say about Colonel Eddie Smith. Ta-

bat says that he's become a better human being because Colonel Smith; While it is becoming more common, it is still rare that people become better individuals because of another person. Tabat also gives appreciation to Smith for having such a large impact on him and the people around him. Colonel Smith believed in the upcoming cadets so much that if he saw that they were great upstanding students, he would call the TCU financial aid office to see if he could get the cadets a scholarship. Colonel Tabat graduated from TCU as a Lieutenant of Infantry in 1996, also obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in history, while Colonel Smith works as an Army ROTC Scholarship and Enrollment Officer; These guys both

showcase the true value of what the Army is all about, which is courage, integrity, and selflessness.

Last, but certainly not the least, Colonel Eddie J. Smith shared a few words regarding his ceremony. He starts off by saying "I'm thankful for God seeing me through". He then goes on to thank his mother, Karen Smith, and his wife, Kina Brown, for always being there for him and supporting him when he needs it the most. Colonel Smith is a genuine, hard-working, determined person who will stop at nothing to better someone who is a lower level than him; He wants to be that mentor that wasn't given to him, coming up in

the ranks. Smith wants to help people that are coming up after him, to not make the same mistakes that he made, he wants to be the voice for the voiceless. Smith enjoys making people around him better, in fact, he says that if you're steadily getting better, and everyone else around you aren't, you become selfish; An analogy that he gave, was that if he is climbing a mountain, he will carry the next man with him. Smith solely believes in being a resource for someone who wasn't for him, he assures you that nothing in your life will be easy, but by taking his advice, the obstacles you take will be a little less hard.

There isn't a lot of people that can say they want to help someone, simply because they want to. When people get asked for help, they immediately expect some reciprocation, then there are guys like Colonel Smith; He believes that his purpose is to make everyone around him better, if he can enter a room, and one person leaves better than they came, he feels he has done his job. Smith really enjoys helping become better human beings, because he is that gift that keeps on giving.




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Photo via NNPA

## Film Review: 'The Little Mermaid'

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2) Romantic and social drama ignite this ode to love, tolerance and acceptance.

"He's a human!" Bellows Triton (Javier Bardem), an underwater sea god, who mistrusts those who live on land. "That doesn't make him our enemy." Exclaims Ariel (Halle Bailey), his mermaid daughter as she defends her love for a prince who is a mortal.

"Our worlds were never meant to be together!" Declares Queen Selina (Noma Dumezweni) to her open-minded son Prince Eric (Jonah Hauer-King). He responds to her phobia affirming his liking for merpeople and the need for their kingdom to be progressive: "I'm trying to reach out to other cultures, so we don't get left behind."

The characters, dialogue and narrative are extensions of Disney's brand, which champions love and inclusion, as opposed to fear and exclusion. And so, this live-action adaptation, of the 1989 animated Oscar-winning film, dives deep into current culture wars. It encourages audiences to be accepting of people who are different from the ones they know. A fitting epilogue to Disney's 1960s theme "It's a Small World After All."

Ariel is an 18-year-old mermaid who lives some-

where under the Caribbean sea with her many sisters and widowed father King Triton. She roams around the local waters with her fishy sidekick Flounder (Jason Tremblay, Room), a flighty, dizzy seabird named Scuttle (Awkwafina) and a Jamaican crab named Sebastian (Daveed Diggs), who is an advisor and a spy for her father.

Up above, a ship in a storm is wrecked by winds and waves. A gallant fellow, Prince Eric, is thrown overboard. Ariel saves his life and brings him ashore. He is semiconscious but able to feel her presence and hear her bewitching singing. He is taken, mesmerized and haunted by her beauty and voice. Ariel is smitten too. So much so that she makes a deal with her evil Aunt Ursula (Melissa McCarthy), a sea witch. She can become a human with legs, visit the surface land and pursue the one she loves, Prince Eric. But it's an agreement that comes with poisonous tentacles attached from her cunning, duplicitous, octopus-looking auntie. Watch out!

Director Rob Marshall (Chicago) and the film's producers have pulled together a stellar tech crew that makes the "merpeople's" swimming as thrilling as Superman flying. Speedy, graceful and mercurial movements that capture the eye. Also, the pas-

tel colors in Ariel's fins are captivating and watching her swim is as thrilling as viewing Avatars in Avatar. Seamless VFX and SFX technology is on display.

Anyone connected to the visuals should be proud: cinematographer Dione Beebe, production designer John Myhre, art director Lauren Briggs-Miller, costume designer Colleen Atwood and set decorators Diana Samuila and Gordon Sim. Alan Menken's original songs and music from the animated film hold up well. Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote a clever, catchy rap tune for Scuttle, called "The Scuttlebutt," which is about hot gossip. And for 2h 15m, editor Wyatt Smith keeps your attention glued to the screen with only a few lapses.

Bailey's casting was a genius choice. Sweet voice, angelic look, loving. McCarthy dials her mean bitch factor up to the max. She's campy, hysterical and devilish all at once. It's fair to say that this very multiracial, multicultural version has strayed far away from its original 1837 source, a Danish fairytale written by Hans Christian Andersen. The interracial mix of the sisters and entire cast speaks for itself. The ensemble moves around nonchalantly like having a Black queen, white prince, an Asian bird, a Spanish

See MERMAID, Page 11

 A poster for the Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show. The top half features the title 'Riverdance' in a large, golden, stylized font, with '25th ANNIVERSARY SHOW' written below it in a circular arrangement. The background is a deep blue with a starry, night-sky effect. Below the title, a line of dancers in traditional Irish dance attire (men in green shirts and black trousers, women in white blouses and blue skirts) are captured in a dynamic pose, as if performing a step dance. The bottom half of the poster contains the following text:
 

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# Three Black men partner to confront the fentanyl crisis

Who can forget the 1980's and the formative stages of the crack epidemic. None of us had any idea how this derivative of powdered cocaine would flood the streets and highways of America and pounce on the black community. Imagine how many lives would have been saved and families protected if we could go back in time and do things differently. Today, our fall-back position regarding the crack epidemic is: "we simply did not know the damage the drug would cause."

History reaches out with long talons. Themes repeat from generation to generation.

Today, we approach the abyss of another life altering-family-destroying drug catastrophe. But today it's not crack, it's fentanyl. A leading Pentagon official said: "fentanyl is the most



Matteo Badini / Unsplash

severe threat to the national security of the United States that exists today."

Is it inconceivable that the impact of fentanyl, 'tranq dope' and other combinations will make the crack epidemic seem like 'child's play.' There are many across the healthcare and law enforcement communities who believe this isn't possible; but that it is an eventuality.

History has presented the pattern: vulnerable com-

munities will be decimated, with families wrecked and robbed of hope and stability. Sadly, we recall that during the height of the crack epidemic, more than 40% of black children under 16 lived with a grandparent—often because crack had robbed these children of their parents. The crack epidemic was a public health crisis 're-branded' as a righteous 'law and order' war on citizens of color, dutifully starring dark-

skinned faces on the evening news.

We must not allow fentanyl to unfold with a identical playbook. Fentanyl is coming to your community, your neighborhood, your church, and family. It's only a matter of time. We should be concerned that fentanyl seeks to finish what the crack epidemic began.

As a nation, we offer 'thoughts and prayers' as our default position— somehow hoping that things will be, 'ok.'

We can do more, We can act.

Three black men have joined forces to act. They are producing documentary films that educate, illuminate and inspire communities to confront and act regarding the impact of fentanyl and opioid addiction. The film is called,

unFORGIVABLE: Opioids in America.

Ed Gray of 'The Comish Radio Show' podcast—longtime political strategist and historian, is partnering with Sam Allen, President of the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Association and award-winning filmmaker and producer Lindell Singleton to make this project a reality.

"The scourge of our lifetime' is more than a quote; it is a threat to our communities," Gray said. "In one generation the Fentanyl Opioid Epidemic will be the last combination of destructive punches that will destroy our communities and future. We must act today because the future is here."

There is little doubt that the systemic issues that drive Americans toward illicit drug use, despair

and a dependence on pain medication can ever be eliminated. We must embrace emerging trends and evidence-based treatment methods that will prevent the devastation of communities that occurred during the crack epidemic. This documentary is the starting point for this journey of action.

"There is an embedded sense of angst and loneliness that is part of the American experience," Singleton said. "We search for ways to ease the intensity of the pain. In this film, we present the stories of how real people face this pain while helping them understand the roots of it... and how to stop pushing it forward to the next generation. The power of film and storytelling is the path forward."

## Fans worldwide observe passing of rock legend Tina Turner

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Tina Turner, the "Queen of Rock 'n Roll" whose legend grew after she overcame a bitter divorce to musician Ike Turner that was filled with violence, has died at the age of 83.

The superstar's family confirmed her death in a statement on Wednesday, May 24, noting that Turner died "peacefully" at her home near Zurich, Switzerland.

"Starting with her performances with her ex-husband Ike, Turner injected an uninhibited, volcanic stage presence into pop," Rolling Stone's Brittany Spanos declared in a tribute.

"Even with choreographed backup singers — both with Ike and during her own career — Turner never seemed to reign in," Spanos, who co-authored the tribute with David Browne, asserted.

"Her influence on rock, R&B and soul singing and performance was also im-



The superstar's family confirmed her death in a statement on Wednesday, May 24, noting that Turner died "peacefully" at her home near Zurich, Switzerland. (Photo via NNPA).

measurable.

"Her delivery influenced everyone from Mick Jagger to Mary J. Blige, and her high-energy stage presence (topped with an array of gravity-defying wigs) was passed down to Janet Jackson and Beyoncé.

"Turner's message — one that resounded with generations of women — was that she could hold her own onstage against any man."

Born Anna Mae Bull-ock in Tennessee in 1939, Turner started her career in

1958 as the lead singer for Ike Turner and his Kings of Rhythm band.

Later, the couple changed the name to the Ike & Tina Revue and spun out hit after hit with songs like "Nut-bush City Limits," "River Deep," and the seminal "Proud Mary."

Following a tumultuous and abusive relationship, Tina escaped from Ike's clutches in 1976 with no money and just the clothes on her back that reportedly were bloodied following Ike's latest assault.

During divorce proceedings, Tina simply demanded that she keep her stage name which the judge granted.

With assistance from

rock stars like Mick Jagger and David Bowie, Turner rebounded several years later and topped the pop music charts with her 1984 solo album, Private Dancer.

The album included a bevy of hit singles, including a remake of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together," and

See TINA, Page 11

June is Men's Health Month

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## Why do businesses fail? Study suggests it has to do with when they're born

(Newsweek) — Merely a quarter of fresh enterprises endure beyond 15 years, as per information sourced from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Despite fluctuating economic circumstances within and across industries, this figure has remained steady for three decades. A recent analysis published in the Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal proposes a graceful elucidation: the prolonged triumph of a business is heavily contingent on its initial conditions rather than alterations in its markets.

"The impact of environmental shifts on a venture's performance hinges upon its internal procedures," remarks D. Carrington Motley, an entrepreneurship lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University and co-author of the research. "The founding environmental conditions of a business mold these procedures, and they swiftly solidify and become ingrained in the

principles governing its operations."

Motley, along with his co-authors Charles E. Eesley from Stanford and Wesley Koo from INSEAD Asia, conducted a comprehensive analysis of over 1,000 ventures established between 1960 and 2011. These ventures spanned across 19 diverse industries, including agriculture, energy, and utilities. To assess the level of dynamism within each industry and during each venture's founding year, the researchers utilized data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Additionally, they relied on survey data from alumni to ascertain crucial factors such as the composition of the founding team, the longevity of the business, and its ultimate outcome.

"Ventures established in dynamic environments by a team with functional diversity exhibit a significantly higher capacity to weather market changes,"

stated Eesley. "However, it does not necessarily imply a greater probability of achieving a favorable exit."

In dynamic environments, businesses often gravitate towards slower, decentralized decision-making processes, emphasizing creativity and flexibility. When coupled with a founding team consisting of individuals with diverse functional roles, these behaviors are further enhanced. Such teams exhibit a broader strategic focus and actively seek out extensive information. These risk-averse structures and strategies contribute to the resilience of businesses in the face of environmental changes. However, the study also discovered that these businesses were less inclined to secure initial public offerings (IPOs) or acquisitions if their respective markets stabilized.

"In stable and predictable environments, adopting a more assertive approach can lead to superior

outcomes," explained Woo. "The risk associated with untested assumptions is lower, making the continued use of risk-averse processes less beneficial and potentially hampering a venture's capacity to seize opportunities."

The authors assert that the crucial distinguishing factor for businesses established in dynamic environments by functionally diverse teams was their slower decision-making process. To test this theory, they initially evaluated the performance of such businesses in industries where rapid product development was vital for gaining a competitive edge. Additionally, they examined the speed at which these ventures secured angel or venture capital funding. The findings indicated that businesses founded in dynamic environments by functionally diverse teams fared poorly

in both scenarios.

The study suggests that regardless of whether an industry is undergoing significant change or stabilizing, businesses tend to reap the benefits of market changes only if those changes align well with their founding environment. Although the study acknowledges that founding processes can become deeply entrenched, it provides valuable insights to entrepreneurs seeking to navigate both chaotic and

calm periods. It highlights the importance of examining the founding structure and internal processes of businesses and consistently reassessing whether they are optimally suited to the market environment in order to enhance their chances of survival and success.

Find a full explanation of the study and how founding conditions affect performance in dynamic environments in the full text, available in the *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*.

### TINA, from Page 10

"What's Love Got to Do With It," which became the title of her successful 1993 biopic starring Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne.

She then enjoyed the starring role alongside Mel Gibson in the 1995 movie, "Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome." In 1986, Tina wrote her memoir, "I, Tina," which writers used to create the film, What's

Love Got to Do With It."

Over her career, Turner earned 11 Grammy Awards, and sold an estimated 180 million records globally.

In 2001, Turner earned induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and, in 2008, after having taken a hiatus from performing, toured the world for her 50th anniversary in show business.

"Heaven has gained an

angel," singer Ciara tweeted.

"Thank you for the inspiration you gave us all."

The Defender Network's Twitter account praised Turner as "an unstoppable musical force who exuded grace and resilience."

And hip-hop pioneer Grandmaster Flash said Turner would be missed.

"My condolences to the Turner family," Flash said. "Rest in peace Tina Turner you will be missed."

### MERMAID, from Page 9

sea god, a Pakistani butler (Art Malik) and a crab with a thick Jamaican patois is normal. And it is. It's the new normal.

David Magee's (Finding Neverland) thoughtful script is filled with father/daughter tension. Mother/son misunderstandings. Fear of the unknown. Befriending others. Love

between different people. Warnings about humans wrecking the ocean. Lots of teachable moments. Lots of things to see, discern, digest and learn. Life lessons that entertain and may prepare kids for the new world. Cautionary tales parents should heed if they want to stay relevant.

Families looking for a PG movie that's as illuminating as it is fun will appreciate the joy, love and wisdom of this parable. An enlightening exploration of what might happen if people reached out, accepted others and didn't get left behind.

In theaters May 26th.  
Visit NNPA News Wire  
Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

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# Frontier Airlines opens crew base at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport

DFW AIRPORT – Ultra-low fare carrier Frontier Airlines (NASDAQ: ULCC) today celebrated the opening of a new crew base at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW). Frontier Airlines President and CEO Barry Biffle and DFW Airport Vice President of Airline Relations Milton De La Paz joined members of Team Frontier for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion. The base is expected to employ up to 120 pilots and 220 flight attendants within its first year of operation. Combined with maintenance and airport positions, the airline is expected to generate more than \$78 million annually in local wages with further growth anticipated in the coming years. Frontier has been the fastest growing carrier at DFW since 2019.

“We are thrilled to celebrate this historic occasion for Frontier and DFW,” said Barry Biffle, president and CEO, Frontier Airlines. “This new crew base will bring quality jobs to the DFW community and allow us to expand our affordable and convenient travel options to those across the region. This crew base demonstrates our strong commitment to DFW now and for many years to come.

The carrier offers customers the ability to customize travel to their needs and budget. For example, customers can purchase options a la carte or in one low-priced bundle called the WORKS. This bundle includes refundability, a carry-on bag, a checked bag, the best available seat, waived change fees, and priority boarding.

To celebrate their opening, America’s Greenest Airline is offering fares from DFW starting at \$39\* to four new nonstop destinations from DFW. Those destinations, which started this month, include Montego Bay, Jamaica (MBJ), San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU) Cleveland (CLE), and New York LaGuardia (LGA). With the new service, Frontier will serve 21 destinations from DFW, making Frontier the airport’s third largest carrier based on destinations served.

Frontier is also currently offering the GoWild! All-You-Can-Fly Summer Pass™ for a limited-time at a discounted price of \$499. The summer pass allows access to unlimited flights over the course of five months, from May through September.

Please see website for special details and rules and regulations at flyfrontier.com.

## BALANCE, from Page 4

eral behavior. It also requires a reconceptualization of a person’s definition of success.

“I’d like to think of success as the coordinates where joy meets purpose, a combination that leads to a holistic sense of fulfillment.”

Suarez adds that those who don’t make time to reflect and articulate these aspects of their lives will find it remarkably easy to “succumb to the busyness of the moment, rely on coping mechanisms, inadvertently drift and face the insidious forces of an unstable life.”

He offers the following tips to those seeking to enhance their approach to work-life balance:

Be honest with yourself. Be genuine and articulate what truly matters most to you. Share your intent with your loved ones and heighten their awareness regarding your priorities and the context behind them.

Write it in the calendar. Schedule and honor personal activities and time with friends and family much like with important work-related events. It’s easy to embrace the “always-on” attitude at work and neglect the relationships and experiences that bring stability to our lives.

Set the right tone. For supervisors, be an example to others in the workplace by modeling adequate behaviors for work-life balance. Sending emails in the middle of the night or during weekends may signal there are no demarcations or boundaries.

Create safeguards. Empower and develop team members to become an extension of your leadership. If they feel trusted, empowered, and capable they will amplify your presence and create pockets of freedom in your schedule. Developing your team will allow you to mitigate the discomfort of taking time off, booking your next vacation or having a moment to unplug.

## STEWART, from Page 2

she is most proud of being able to prepare her students to become successful adults in their chosen fields.

Heavily invested in community and nation-wide initiatives, Dr. Stewart maintains affiliations with the Anti-Defamation League, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the League of Women Voters, the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, the National Education Association, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. She also a licensed lay reader in the Episcopal church. Previously, Dr. Stewart was a board member of the Urban Dreams of Iowa; and Recruiting Teachers for America.

Highly educated, Dr. Stewart earned a Doctor of Philosophy in educational leadership from Iowa State University in 1983. She previously received a master’s and bachelor’s degrees from South Carolina State University and holds dual teacher certification. Dr. Stewart is a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi and Phi Delta Kappa and a member and chartered president of the Iowa State Delta Sigma Theta (Des Moines Alumni Chapter).

To remain aware of developments in her field, Dr. Stewart is a member of the Florida Education Association and the National Education Association. She has been recognized with various teaching accolades throughout her career. She has also been recognized for her contributions to developing ethnic educators and her support/mentoring for African American graduate students.

Cyndy Reed Stewart, Ph.D., has been added to Marquis Who’s Who®, which since 1899, when A. N. Marquis printed the First Edition of Who’s Who in America®, has chronicled the lives of the most accomplished individuals and innovators from every significant field of endeavor, including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion and entertainment. Marquis celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2023, and Who’s Who in America® remains an essential biographical source for thousands of researchers, journalists, librarians and executive search firms around the world. Marquis® publications may be visited at the official Marquis Who’s Who® website at [www.marquiswhoswho.com](http://www.marquiswhoswho.com)

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



# Historic Mesquite, Inc. joins others museums to offer free admission to active-duty military and family members

MESQUITE – Historic Mesquite, Inc. is joining other museums across the country to offer free admission this summer to active-duty military personnel and their families.

Historic Mesquite, Inc. has participated for several years in the Blue Star Museum program, a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department

of Defense, and participating museums across America.

Through the Blue Star Museums program, active military and their families will have free admission from Armed Forces Day in May to Labor Day (Sept. 4) to children's museums, art museums, history and science museums, zoos, nature centers, and more – including Mesquite's Florence Ranch Home-

stead and Opal Lawrence Historical Park.

"We're excited to once again be a Blue Star Museum," said Toyia Pointer, HMI Manager of Historic Preservation.

"We appreciate the commitment and dedication of service members and their families. HMI is delighted to make it easier for them to spend family time together."

Tour times at Florence

Ranch Homestead, 1424 Barnes Bridge Rd., are 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Fridays and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. the second Saturday of the month.

Tour times at Opal Lawrence Historical Park, 711 E. Kearney St., are 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Fridays and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Saturday.

Through the Blue Star program, free admission is available for those cur-

rently serving in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps—and up to five family members.

Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent

ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance. Active-duty service members do not need to be present for their families to visit a Blue Star Museum.

For more information, call HMI's office at 972-216-6468 or visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/HMI](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/HMI). For a list of participating Blue Star Museums, visit [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

## GRAD, from Page 6

nailed those good habits."

A student in Kimball's E-TECH program, Benjamin says his teachers in Dallas ISD have always been preparing him to succeed in life. "It was never just about getting good grades and passing exams. It was always about preparing me for college and the next level."

It was his seventh-grade science teacher at Harry Stone Montessori who first made him realize that he had the potential to succeed. "Ms. Sherman always knew I had something in me. I remember once she said, referring to me, 'There's a student in here who can be great if

he starts doing his work and everything he needs to do.' It was at that point that I really learned to go after my education and apply myself. She really helped pave the road for me to prepare myself mentally and set aspirations for myself."

Participation in sports has also had a positive impact. "I've enjoyed football, baseball, track, and field," Benjamin said. "After a long day of school, a hard day of calculus, or whatever, it's great to go out and run around and have fun and compete. But sports is more than that – it has taught me a lot. The main thing is that you will

fail in life. There will be failures, but if you look at your failures as 'This is what I did wrong and this is what I need to do the next time,' you'll be good. It's not about failing; it's about how you bounce back from that failure."

Early on, he developed an interest in STEM, which eventually led to his goal of majoring in mechanical engineering with a specific

dream in mind. "All my life I've been interested in cars – how fast they can go, what makes them go so fast, and the noises they make – all pertaining to the engine. Then, not long ago as I started to do research on cars, I discovered that mechanical engineering is the college major that would allow me to study about combustion engines. I figured it was the perfect

thing for me.

"I hope to one day be able to work on supercars and hypercars like Bugattis, Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and Koenigseggs. I would really love to be able to work on those types

of cars and maybe even design better and more powerful engines for them. If I take off in the profession and end up working on jet engines or things of that sort, I wouldn't mind that either."



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## Dizzy Is As Dizzy Says

By James L. Snyder

Several years ago, I had a heart attack, which surprised my family and friends, who didn't know I had a heart. I was not sure I had a heart either until that day it attacked me.

What my heart had against me to attack me like that I still have not figured out.

Two years later, I have to go in for some tests, including a stress test.

The date was set for my test, and I wasn't supposed to drive myself because of the procedure, so The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage drove me to my ap-

pointment in her Sissy Van.

That alone was a stress test. Just riding in that Sissy Van prepared me for my stress test, and I don't believe the doctor could do anything more stressful.

I went to the cardiac place and prepared for the procedure that would last more than an hour.

The first level of stress, which I considered the most severe level, I was not allowed to have any coffee for 12 hours before the test. I don't know about you, but I live on my morning coffee.

"You do know," I said to my doctor, "that without my coffee, I will be a mess?"

"That's all right, I've dealt with many people like that, and I plan to strap you down, and I will have a needle in my hand that I'm sure will direct your attention from your caffeine."

I was then escorted into a room with a nurse who told me I needed to remove my shirt and T-shirt so she could prep me.

I was nervous and told her, "That will cost you one dollar."

"What are you talking about?"

Looking at her seriously, I said, "I do not strip without getting paid."

It was then that my real stress test began. Nurses

don't have a sense of humor.

I very cautiously removed my shirt and T-shirt and sat in the chair, and she came over and put all kinds of tabs on my chest. According to her, these tabs will be hooked up to lines that go to The Machine that will begin the test of my heart.

Getting all those tabs stuck on my chest in the right place took her a while.

"You don't plan to electrocute me, do you?"

She looked at me with a sinister grin and said, "Time will tell."

Now my stress went up another notch.

This was just the beginning. According to the schedule, I had at least another 45 minutes under some machine that would be doing another level of stress testing.

I was escorted back to the room where this would occur and introduced to two young guys who would set me on this machine.

"I'm going to give you a shot of some medicine, and you might feel a little dizzy or lightheaded. Don't worry. It's part of the process."

That sure was easy for him to say he didn't have to go through all this nonsense.

"Just relax. You might

hear noises, see things, lights, and so forth, but you're okay; everything is under control."

I love it when a plan comes together, but this wasn't part of it.

I was put on the table, and then all of these cords were attached to the tabs on my chest. I was getting ready to go through that tunnel that was just behind me.

"You're going to be all right, and we have everything under control. Just relax, and maybe you even want to take a nap."

Right. I want to nap when somebody has hooked me

**See DIZZY, Page 15**

## What You Can Learn From Children

By Daris Howard

When I was asked to be the music teacher for all the children in our congregation who were under twelve years old, I was scared to death. I had never led music before. In our church, we call the organization that works with children of that age "primary." The woman who was the primary leader told me the most important thing was to just love the children.

That was the one thing I knew I could do. I loved the children, and after I learned to let go of my fear of making a fool of myself, it became the greatest assignment of my life. That is not to say that I didn't still make a fool of myself. I just learned that it didn't matter to the children when I did.

One spring, I decided we should sing a few songs for the season. We had just finished singing a song about baby animals being born and how life was new, when a little four-year-old boy raised his hand.

"Yes, Jeremy," I said. "What do you want?"

"Baby animals don't just get born in the springtime," he said.

"That's true," I replied. "Baby animals are born all year long."



Jason Leung / Unsplash

"Did you know our dog had puppies last fall?" Jeremy asked.

"No, I didn't," I replied. "I'm sure that was a lot of fun."

"And I got to see baby chicks hatch this last winter," Jeremy added. "They were all fuzzy and cute and barely fit in the egg."

"Watching a baby chick being born is really amazing, isn't it?" I said.

"I asked my dad how the baby chick got into the egg," Jeremy said. "The eggs we eat don't have any baby chicks in them. My dad explained to me all about how animals get born and why the baby birds were in there."

I was sure that this was quickly turning into a lesson on the birds and the bees, and that was the last thing I wanted to talk about during music time for chil-

dren, especially at church. I decided that I should try to change the subject.

"That's nice that you and your dad had a good talk about it," I said. "How about we sing another song about springtime?"

"But don't you want to know about how baby chicks get in the eggs?" Jeremy asked.

"Well, that is probably something that is special and should be shared just between you and your dad," I replied.

But Jeremy was not to be dissuaded. He wanted to impart his newfound knowledge

"My dad said that when a person just has hens, there can't be any baby chicks," Jeremy said. "Did you know that?"

"Uh, yes, Jeremy," I replied, "I did know that."

"My dad said that a per-

son has to have a rooster," Jeremy said.

"How about we sing a song about growing gardens and how God gives us sunshine and rain to make them grow?" I interjected.

But Jeremy didn't miss a beat. "That's why we don't have any eggs with chicks in them," he said, "because we don't have any roosters."

"That too bad," I re-

plied. "Well, let's sing . . ."

"So, you see," Jeremy interrupted, "the eggs the hens lay don't have baby chicks in them, and that's why we eat those eggs. It's only the eggs that roosters lay that have the baby chicks. I think that after our hens get old and die, the next time we should get all roosters so we can have rooster eggs and have baby chicks."

I smiled. "I guess you'll have to take that up with your dad, Jeremy."

It truly is amazing the things a person can learn from children.

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

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# Words of wisdom for graduates

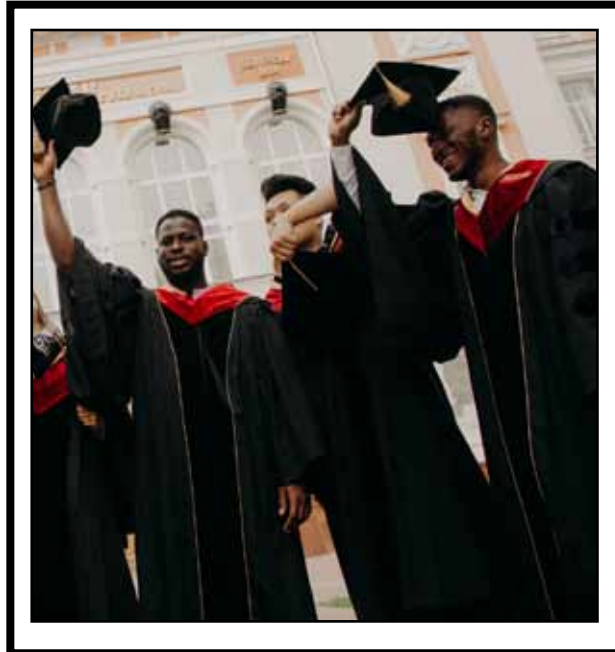


**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

Congratulations to all the graduates from Kindergarten to Elementary School to Middle/Junior High School; from High School to a College/University or Trade School and from a College/University to a school of higher learning or the workforce.

As you reach another crossroad in your life, remember to draw on wisdom found in "The Bible." The Bible "Is the greatest instruction book you will ever read and study. *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness . . .* II Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

I have learned that true success goes beyond the trappings of wealth, power, and prestige; it is honoring God in your everyday life. It's honoring Him in your home, your school, your workplace, at church, and in your community.



An unknown author once said of the Bible: The Bible, "Contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is Holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable." "Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be Holy."

The Bible contains, "Light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, and the soldier's sword. In

The Bible paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its main object, and the glory of God is its end."

The Bible should, "Fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet." "It is a source of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of joy."

The Bible is given to you in life, it will be opened at the judgment, and it will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibilities; it will reward the greatest labor; and it will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

Stress can be very stressful; at least, that's my experience.

I couldn't help but think of a verse of Scripture. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

I can try to handle everything on my own, or I can cast all my care upon the Lord. The choice is mine.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Many people have what seems like insurmountable problems, they have life pressures. The Bible says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray . . . II Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

I believe that if people revered the Scriptures as they once did, this world would be a much better place for everybody.

Secret to Happiness—Learn to: 1) Trust God in the face of adversity. 2) Forget the unpleasant things that come into your life. 3) Apologize if you believe that you have offended someone; believe that a sincere apology is the superglue of life. 4) Admit an error; and do your best to learn from them. 5) Try your best to Avoid mistakes. 6) Listen to advice; and ask God to help you make the right decision. 7) Keep your temper (God

said to be ye angry and sin not. 8) Shoulder the blame. 9) Make the best of things. 10) Maintain high standards. 11) Think first and act accordingly. 12) Put the needs of your family and others before your own. 13) Forgive and forgive some more. 14) Pray without ceasing for family, friends, church members, leaders of your church and leaders our country.

In Four Steps: 1) Ask God to show you Self-Realization, how undone am I? What to say, do, act, and how to talk. 2) Learn to make Quality Decisions

based on God's Word, not on what you have or what you don't have. 3) Ask God to, Renew Your Mind, "Turn on the light from Heaven, show you the truth so that you may see, walk, talk right, and help to get away from the Spirit of Covetousness. 4) Ask for help to Build Boundaries. Be selective of people, places and things; help in where you go and what you do. Stay with God's thoughts, and hold to His unchanging hands.

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

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## DIZZY, from Page 14

up to cords I'm not sure what will happen. It's not that I don't trust doctors; I just don't trust doctors.

For the next 45 minutes, I was going through this machine, and I heard noises, saw flashes of light, and heard someone on the outside say, "Just breathe normally, and you might even just want to take a nap."

Then the stress test was over, and I could put on my shirt and T-shirt. They said everything went through just fine, and the doctor would get to me sometime next week with the results. I was then ushered to the outside, where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was waiting to take me home, which was the last

level of my stress test.

As I walked out, a lot of people in the lobby area were waiting for their doctor's appointments. As I walked out, everybody looked at me, which brought me to another level of stress.

Feeling slightly dizzy, I looked back at them, then pointed both hands to my face and said, "I've just had a facelift. How does it look?"

For some reason, all the air was sucked out of the lobby, and even a couple laughed. Someone looked at my wife and said, "Is that your husband?" She smiled and ushered me out of the room to the waiting Sissy Van.

## Have Medicare questions? I have answers.

I'm Lamonica Thomas, a licensed sales agent in Dallas-Fort Worth. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs.

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# NDG Book Review: 'Crowned' is a great read, and look too

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Once upon a time, fairy tales were full of dragons and ogres and sprites.

There were magic mice and talking frogs. There were wondrous spells. And there were kings and queens, princes, princesses, lords and ladies, all of them white. But in "Crowned" by Kahran and Regis Bethencourt, it's time for a new kind of magic.

Ask any kid about their favorite storybook character, and they'll have a quick answer. They want to be like this princess or that king. They want to dress the part, too.



The thing is that "the images that surround us on a daily basis" are what we ultimately come to consider as normal – and if those "normal" characters don't look like the child who loves them, the child is "often left with unrealistic standards of beauty" and

power.

To change the atmosphere and set things right, authors Bethencourt "wanted to reimagine some of our favorite childhood stories with our idea of what could be."

Here, The Little Mermaid is Aliya, and selflessness in the face of a mean girl saves the day. Snow White becomes Ebony Black, and Goldilocks learns to appreciate what she has instead of searching for perfection. Rapunzel learns that her hair is not her strength. Asha meets a young prince at a dance, but without pumpkins or white horses. And a child named Red

meets a big bad wolf, and it's all good.

In the middle section of this volume are classic folktales: the story of Anansi the spider is told, with patience as a lesson. There's a tale of a king with a magical ring in this book, a story about how the zebra got his stripes and the baboon got a red butt, a tale of a princess who wanted a life "of adventure and fun," and stories of a "Lion's Gifts."

Even if authors Kahran and Regis Bethencourt stopped here, adult readers could sit back and relax, satisfied that they're holding

one of the most majestic, most creative storybooks money can buy – but the last section of "Crowned" changes everything once again. That last segment is filled with modern classics, complete with skateboards, candy, cowboys, lessons on personal beauty, and an invitation to believe in "fairy folk." That addition gives this book a nice twist for today's kid, who'll certainly want to spend a lot of time immersed in these pages.

The tales are only part of this book, however. Richly illustrated with colorful costumes and backdrops, the rest is a feast for the

imagination.

Readers of all ages will be awed and amazed by the dozens of photos accompanying the stories, each featuring Black and Brown children dressed in wondrous finery, in settings that follow the story and enhance the sense of magic.

It's the photos that will pull a young reader in. It's the stories that will keep them returning, whether they do it themselves or with you, together. "Crowned" is a book you'll proudly display on a shelf or coffee table, and it'll make your child happily ever after.

## NIH, from Page 4

Latino (nine states), American Indian/Alaska Native (eight states), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (one state) individuals. The burden of racial and ethnic health disparities relative to each state's GDP varied from 0.14% (Vermont) to 8.89% (Mississippi). Seventeen states had a burden higher than the annual growth rate of the U.S. economy in 2018.

### Economic burden by educational levels

National estimates indicate per person, adults with a high school diploma had the highest burden (\$9,982), followed closely by adults with less than a high school diploma (\$9,467) and then adults with some college (\$2,028). Although most

of the burden of education-related health inequities was borne by adults with a high school diploma/GED (61%), a disproportionate share was borne by adults with less than a high school diploma/GED—they were only 9% of the population but bore 26% of the burden. Across all educational levels, most of the burden was attributable to premature deaths (66%), followed by lost labor market productivity (18%) and excess medical care costs (16%).

State estimates show per person, the economic burden of health disparities varied substantially across states by educational levels. For adults with less than a high school di-

ploma, the burden ranged from \$3,152 (California) to \$21,372 (Kentucky). For adults with a high school diploma, it ranged from \$6,201 (West Virginia) to \$25,555 (South Carolina), and for adults with some college, it ranged from \$1,072 (Illinois) to \$8,374 (South Carolina).

In 31 states, adults with less than a high school diploma/GED had the highest economic burden of education-related health inequities. In 20 states, the burden was greatest among adults with a high school diploma/GED. Adults with some college had the lowest burden of education-related health inequities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The burden of education-related health inequities relative to each state's

GDP varied from 1.90% (District of Columbia) to 18.29% (South Carolina). Forty-six states had a burden higher than the annual growth rate of the U.S. economy in 2018.

"The results of this study demonstrate that health inequity represents not just unfair and unequal health outcomes, but it also has a significant financial cost," said lead author Thomas LaVeist, Ph.D., dean of Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. "While it surely will cost to address health inequities, there are also substantial costs associated with not addressing them. Health inequities is a social justice issue, but it is also an economic issue."

Researchers collected and analyzed data from four databases to estimate

the burden of racial and ethnic and education-related health inequities: 2016-2019 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 2016-2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2018 National Vital Statistics System, and 2018 American Community Survey. Specifically, estimates were produced using medical care costs, lost labor market productivity, and premature deaths for Asian, AI/AN, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and NHPI populations. Previous estimates did not include the AI/AN and NHPI populations as together they constitute about 2.5% of the U.S. population. Education-related inequities were estimated for adults without a four-year college degree, who were categorized into three edu-

cation groups (adults with less than high school/GED, those with high school/GED, and those with some college).

While the economic burden of racial and ethnic and education-related health disparities is significant, the researchers noted that the burden could be reduced if investments are made to address structural contributors to known inequities, including racism and socioeconomic inequalities. They also recommended that federal and state health policymakers and offices of minority health could use these estimates to inform areas where policies and programs are most needed to address health inequities.

For more information about NIMHD, visit <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov>.

## MEMORIAL, from Page 5

torial, the significance of African Americans in the holiday's development and the numerous ideas regarding its origins may not be widely known.

Although the origins of Memorial Day trace back to the period following the Civil War, when some 620,000 soldiers lost their lives, the precise origins remain a source of controversy.

Several cities have staked claims to be the first

to celebrate Memorial Day.

Still, a different narrative, perhaps more accurately, says that African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1865 were the true founders of the holiday.

Renowned historian David Blight, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and American history professor at Yale University recounted a poignant commemoration in Charleston on May 1, 1865.

Organized by formerly enslaved people and white missionaries, Blight determined that the event occurred at a former racecourse that had served as a Confederate prison for Union soldiers during the war's final year.

At least 257 prisoners had perished there, primarily due to disease, and were buried in unmarked graves.

Eventually, two dozen African American residents of Charleston meticulously rearranged the graves into orderly rows.

They erected a three-meter-tall white fence around them, creating what they called the 'Martyrs of the Racecourse' memorial.

"After the Confederate evacuation of Charleston Black workmen went to the site, reburied the Union dead properly, and built a high fence around the cemetery," Blight documented.

"They whitewashed the fence and built an archway over an entrance on which they inscribed the words, 'Martyrs of the Racecourse.'"

He continued:

"The symbolic power of this Low Country planter aristocracy's bastion was not lost on the freed people, who then, in cooperation with white missionaries and teachers, staged a parade of 10,000 on the track."

The gravesites were transformed into a breathtaking "sea of flowers," as described by the New York Tribune, and the event was hailed as a procession of mourning and remembrance, unlike anything South Carolina or the Unit-

ed States had witnessed before.

Despite documented evidence about this event, the narrative of African Americans being the founders of Memorial Day essentially went untold.

"That's the surprising part," said Ambassador Young, a civil rights icon who also served as mayor of Atlanta from 1981 to 1990.

"It's history I want to read and know more about, and everyone else should as well."