



# North Dallas Gazette

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## National Newspaper Publishers Association wins in four-year internal voting rights civil cases

In a definitive and consequential ruling, the Honorable Ebony Scott in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Civil Division, issued on May 10, 2023, a factual "Summary Judgment" in favor of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

More recently, in an official notice sent out to each member publisher of the NNPA, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President, and CEO of the NNPA, confirmed, "In the matters of Dorothy R. Leavell v. NNPA, Amelia Ashley-Ward v. NNPA, and Carol Geary v. NNPA, the courts in the District of Columbia have now ruled in favor of the NNPA."

The NNPA is the national trade association of the Black Press of America representing over 240 African American-owned newspapers and multimedia companies throughout the United States.

Chavis resoundingly attested, "Finally, after four years of extended and financially costly, frivolous lawsuits against the NNPA, we have good news for the NNPA upon winning these significant legal victories."

Chavis concluded, "The NNPA will continue to work diligently to



"We are pleased with the judge's decision, and it's been a long time coming," NNPA General Counsel Attorney A. Scott Bolden stated. (Bermix Studio / Unsplash)

ensure that the voting rights of all our member publishers are protected from any future effort to subvert the overall interests of the membership of the NNPA."

Leavell, Ashley-Ward, and Geary who are members of the NNPA, disagreed with the outcome of the 2019 NNPA national elections and sued the NNPA, in part, to contest the results of the 2019 NNPA Board Elections.

In 2019, the membership of the NNPA duly elected Karen Carter Richards, publisher of the Houston Forward Times, as the new NNPA Chair.

Leavell was defeated by Richards for Chair of the NNPA.

"As much as I would like to say that I'm excited about this ruling I'm not [because] this should have never happened to our esteemed organization or the wonderful publishers who make up this important entity," Richards stated.

"This entire ordeal has been a stain on this organization, led by three individuals who refused to accept the will of the qualified vote of our publishers."

Richards continued:

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### People In The News ...



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



Aasha Yvette Butts-Ealy, JD

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "There comes a time when people get tired of being plunged into the abyss of exploitation and nagging injustice."  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a member of the illustrious Kennedy dynasty, is making an unlikely run for the Democratic presidential nomination and has declared that he is steadfastly committed to continuing his family's enduring legacy.

In a one-on-one interview with the Black Press of America, Kennedy spoke about his relentless focus on combating environmental racism, ending qualified immunity for law enforcement officers, and addressing the alarming racial disparities within the American medi-



cal system.

The 69-year-old District of Columbia-born candidate said he's championing causes that have plagued marginalized communities for far too long.

His mission, he insisted, extends beyond rhetoric, seeking to dismantle systemic barriers and usher in a brighter, more equitable future, particularly for African Americans who have borne the brunt of injustice, including the problematic issue of maternal mortality.

As he steps onto the political stage where his uncle, John F. Kennedy, counts as one of the most popular presidents in American history and where his father had all but sewn up the Democrat nomination before his assassination in 1968, Kennedy's audacious bid could challenge the sta-

tus quo and spark a transformative movement that reverberates through the nation.

"Black Americans are going to be a principal priority for me, particularly in ending that fear of dangerous interaction with law enforcement," Kennedy asserted.

He also pledged a move to end qualified immunity, which protects police officers from personal liability in the event of a lawsuit.

"There is no incentive for individuals to change bad behavior," Kennedy remarked.

"We need systemic chang-

es. We need to remove qualified immunity, which would make it necessary for an individual to consider his liability with every interaction. Every good economic system [should] incentive good behavior and punish bad behavior. We need to have that."

Kennedy added that there's a need for a reorganization of police to understand the mission of protecting and serving "instead of being in combat mode when they come into the Black community."

One of the children of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy, who was assassinated in

1968, Kennedy announced his presidential candidacy earlier this year.

His father and uncle, John F. Kennedy, both demonstrated a desire for a united and strong America, which he said inspired him.

Despite his anti-vaccine views that have caused controversy, some surveys have given Kennedy as much as 20 percent support among Democrats.

His unlikely challenge to the incumbent President Joe Biden has gained steam.

A poll by The Economist and YouGov showed that

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## Aasha Yvette Butts-Ealy, JD

INGLEWOOD, (Cal.) (24-7PressRelease) -- Leveraging several years of excellence in criminal defense, on her own case, while attending law school, Aasha Yvette Butts-Ealy has earned distinction as a provisionally licensed attorney with Unite the People, Inc.

Since 2021, she has focused her efforts on dealing with writ of habeas corpus for people who are wrongfully incarcerated. These cases can range from years sentenced to overturning cases entirely due to wrongful conviction. She also handles prison inhibitions and



other reasons people should be released early, such as for clemency.

Prior to her that role, Ms. Butts-Ealy earned a BA degree in Ethnic Studies, a BA in English, and a BS in Sociology from Santa Clara Uni-

versity. She then attained a Juris Doctor from the University of West Los Angeles in 2021. She became provisionally licensed in 2021, while awaiting admission to the State Bar of CA.

Outside of her primary career efforts, Ms. Butts-Ealy is a personal fitness trainer and volunteer head of the fitness ministry for Sunnyside Baptist Church. She has served as the founder and president of the University of West Los Angeles chapter of the National Black Law Students Association and is a valued member of the Ambitious Women of Color Association and the National Association of Criminal De-

fense Lawyers. She also created a biography documenting a journey of a woman who was in fitness named Ms. Bennett. The piece also focused on African American women and their images, noting the positive images utilized in media.

After being admitted to the State Bar of California, Ms. Butts-Ealy intends to establish her own private

practice and pursue a Master of Business Administration to gain expertise in the business aspect of the law. She also aims to start a clinic that offers very low or no-cost legal services for people who cannot afford an attorney, empowering people to determine how they can proceed with their legal issues without needing to hire an attorney.

Aasha Yvette Butts-Ealy, JD, has been included in Marquis Who's Who. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

## Electra Harris

Electra Harris is using her experience as the founder of her highly successful Mysteek Naturals brand to host a free webinar to help other aspiring entrepreneurs who want to get started in the multi-billion-dollar Black beauty and hair industry. Her webinar is an interactive beauty and hair course that has ren modules and eight weeks of videos and downloadable resources that's a deep dive into her personal profit accelerator system. It's called "Beauty & Hair Business Secrets from a 7 Figure Earner," and it broadcasts live on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Electra is the perfect business mentor because



of her success in building a company known for its creation of temporary hair color that is completely free of harsh chemicals. She says that she began developing the product in 2016 because, like so many other women, she was looking for an alternative to bleaching with permanent hair dyes

and rinses. "Other products just weren't giving me the vibrant popping color that I so badly wanted yet without the harmful chemicals," she comments.

Electra has realized through her bootstrapping experience that many other product-based businesses lacked the proper knowledge to build a solid foundation for their brand going from the kitchen to the warehouse. She was reminded of how confused, lost, and frustrated she had been trying to obtain resources, using breadcrumbs given by service-based courses, seminars, and webinars here and there. She remembered try-

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**DOING THE RIGHT THING**

"The time is always right to do what is right." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve Black children living in foster care.**

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Volunteer Advocate and Past Chair, Dallas CASA

**Priscilla Anthony**, Volunteer Advocate, Dallas CASA

**Cynt Marshall**, CEO, Dallas Mavericks  
Chair, Dallas CASA

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## Freedom Rides 2.0: African American proxy warriors in today's American Civil War

By Arthur Fleming

Let's end the civil war. Really, let's end it. As proxy warriors in one of the longest running civil wars of all time -- the American Civil War. Let's end it.

What does proxy war mean? Proxy wars are conflicts where a third party intervenes indirectly in a preexisting war in order to influence the strategic outcome in favor of a preferred faction.

The American Civil War of 1861-1865 actually never ended.

I know you are aware of Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox and the ceremonies associated with the event; however, certain issues concerning African American freedmen and women were not addressed when decisions were made at Appomattox concerning transitional strategies for the newly freed Freedmen.

No education -- It was against the law for enslaved African Americans to read, even with no formal education.

Our ancestors' building of the country meant our ancestors had labor skills and abilities still in great demand by the former enslavement owners.

No food stamps -- Imagine being pronounced free on a plantation where all matter of wrong had occurred, and now you must negotiate wages.

No unemployment check -- only the clothes on your back and the freedom to leave, but to go where?

No bootstraps -- "Pull yourself up by your bootstraps" says the Supreme Capitalist, but to quote Martin L. King, "It's all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps."

Fourteen years after June 1865, the Andrew Johnson administration gave up on African American political power as a

concept, sold out our hopes and dreams of freedom, and ushered in the era of terror.

After letting the Confederate traitorous insurrectionists go free without consequences, and by abandoning the newly freed enslaved communities throughout the south, the North left the African American communities exposed to the ways of the KKK and other terrorist organizations' deadly and suppressive activities.

This was the beginning of the fascist state of America in the south, where federal and state political power consolidated around issues related to white power and privileges.

Why did the North abandon the NEGRO South, leaving our ancestors politically defenseless?

The tensions between North and South continued after war's end. The Northern political establishment grew tired of policing their Southern white brothers on behalf of their commitments to the African American communities promised after 1865.

Another reason for the tension was white jealousy of the African American prosperity and success, in spite of obstacles like "Black slave codes" that empowered Southern whites with state police power (schools to prison pipeline today). The coming together of poor whites and Blacks was seen as a threat to the Southern aristocracy.

The same fear dynamics concerning the combined power of Blacks and poor whites exists today. The Rev. William Barber now has taken the baton from MLK and leads the National Poor Peoples Campaign to address the issues that are common to Black and white communities.

The North/South political elites' agreement concerning the African American communities' governance structure was based on the white privileged principle of superiority.

The North and South agreed in effect to continue the Civil War with the African American communities as proxy soldiers. This was done by creating discrimination laws in finance, education, land ownership, business, and violence. This was the beginning of the North and South fascist systems, developed in the South with the North as white privileged brothers.

The unresolved issues concerning the Civil War were termed "the white man's burden." African Americans call it "the Black man's burden." Since that time, not much has changed in the macroeconomic sense. The North and South colluded to rewrite American history with economic redlining, over policing of African American communities, suppressing voters, introducing addictive drugs (crack), naming military bases after traitors to the country, and establishing school to prison pipelines.

The African American communities are proxy warriors in the extended American Civil War that never ended and that rages on today. As African American proxy warriors, we have some power we can apply. The African American proxy warriors have been used as symbols in political parties, churches, media portrayals, and military--If you breathe air in America, you are a proxy warrior.

Because the African American enslaved were not consulted about our American Freedman future, the white privileged agreement between North and South remains the status quo.

First, we must understand that African American communities are in a four-hundred-year abusive relationship with white America.

In "White Fragility," Author Robin DiAngelo talks about the inability of white people to acknowledge their own history. Still, by becoming conscious of

who and what we are, we are allowing the abuse and the abuser to evolve.

We have begun to move past the current state of white fragility to grow conscious of who and what we actually are. We are the people that can make a way outta no way. As African American proxy warriors know, you are the symbol and the embodiment of American freedom. Your proxy power is in your knowing from whence you came.

As proxy warriors, the African American communities want what's promised in the Constitution of the United States of America. The African American community wants access to the ballot minus voter suppression. The community wants real American history taught in schools, not the current suppressed versions that leave Black children feeling less than. We want health care for our communities, not the big pharmaceutical weighted system we have now.

As proxy warriors, these are just some of the issues worth fighting for. The African American communities, per the proxy war definition, must seek to influence our political leadership to choose American values stated in the Constitution over the current fascist values being displayed by many political influencers.

I grew up around a wood stove. The warmth and fire from that stove still burns in me today. The fire that burns in me today is Freedom Rides 2.0. Let's gather wood for the Freedom Rides 2.0 fire and shine a light on our political power and political rights.

As African American proxy warriors in this great American experiment, know that you are America. Make it what you want. Make it what you will.

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

Keep up with the news

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# Racial discrimination contributes alcohol craving to cope with racial stress

(Newswise) — Alcohol craving is associated with relapse following alcohol use disorder (AUD) treatment. A new study is the first to examine how distinct experiences of interpersonal racial discrimination contribute to elevated alcohol craving. Findings will be shared at the 46th annual scientific meeting of the Research Society on Alcohol (RSA) in Bellevue, Washington.

“Cravings can be intense and challenging to not act on,” said Sarah L. Pedersen, associate professor of psychiatry and psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. “Research has also shown that stress increases craving for alcohol and can precipitate a lapse or relapse following AUD treatment. My team is invested in identifying influences of inequities in alcohol-re-



Mae Mu / Unsplash

lated problems and, given prior research showing associations between general stress and craving, we wanted to understand how specific experiences of discrimination may increase alcohol craving.”

Pedersen will discuss her study’s findings at the RSA meeting on Sunday, 25 June 2023.

Data for this study were drawn from a larger ongoing alcohol administration

study: 140 young adults (44% self-identified as Black or African American, 56% self-identified as White or European American) who consume alcohol at least weekly completed a survey and a 17-day assessment of acute alcohol craving as well as experienced microaggressions.

“The Racial and Ethnic Microaggressions Scale is a 28-item self-report measure examining five

domains of racial discrimination experiences during the previous six months,” explained Pedersen. “Examples include: ‘Someone told me that they don’t see color,’ ‘I was ignored at school or work because of my race,’ and ‘someone assumed I was poor because of my race.’”

Black individuals reported higher average levels of alcohol craving across the 17-day assessment window compared to White individuals.

Pedersen believes that experiences of interpersonal racial discrimination contribute to increases in craving alcohol to cope with racial stress. “These results have treatment implications related to promoting the development of emotion regulation skills and strategies after experiencing racial discrimina-

tion, and policy and training implications regarding the deleterious effects of exposure to interpersonal racial discrimination,” she said. Additional analyses by Pedersen’s team will integrate momentary experiences of discrimination and subsequent alcohol craving in a naturalistic environment.

“My team uses a community-engaged approach and we have worked closely with community members to understand their needs, experiences, and ideas for research,” added Pedersen. “Our community partners are centered in our research and have been incredible contributors to this study; including the interpretation and presentation of these results.”

Individuals who reported reductions in alcohol use simultaneously reported

reductions in depression symptoms, even when their alcohol consumption exceeded healthy levels.

The Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) provides a forum for communication among researchers who share common interests in understanding the disease of alcoholism and alcohol’s various effects, both positive and negative, on the body and behavior.

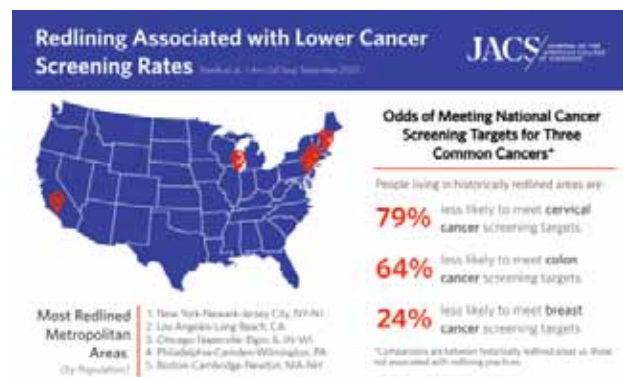
The Society’s purpose is to promote research that can lead the way toward prevention and treatment of alcoholism, and a reduction in the harmful effects of alcohol in society. RSA is the leading international society of research scientists working on alcohol problems, with over 1,500 members in the United States and around the world.

# Historic redlining practices cast long shadow on cancer screening rates

CHICAGO (Newswise) — Although redlining was outlawed more than 50 years ago, its legacy persists in discrimination affecting people in these historically underfunded and neglected areas. New research shows that people today who live in historically redlined areas are less likely to be screened for breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer than people who live in areas not associated with redlining practices.

Redlining is associated with lower odds of hitting screening targets for all three types of cancer: 24% lower odds in breast cancer, 64% lower odds in colorectal, and 79% lower odds in cervical cancer, compared with non-redlined areas.

Redlining is a discriminatory practice in which financial institutions refuse to provide loans or insurance to people who live in an area deemed to be a poor



financial risk. The practice predominately impacted Black home buyers, contributing to segregation and inequality. Congress banned the practice under the Fair Housing Act of 1968, but people who live in the areas that were once redlined continue to be negatively affected, as evidenced by low rates of cancer screening, according to a study recently published in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. Until this study, the impact of historical redlining on cancer screening, regard-

less of contemporary social vulnerability, has been largely unexplored.

“Our study shows that the legacy of redlining has a long historical arc that still persists today due to chronic under investment in these areas,” said the study’s lead author Timothy Pawlik, MD, PhD, MPH, MTS, MBA, FACS, FRACS (Hon), a surgical oncologist who is the surgeon-in-chief of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. “Redlining serves as a surrogate for systemic racism, especially as it pertains to

those who live in areas that lack adequate investment in education, employment, transportation, and healthcare.”

An example of how redlining persists is the case of a national real estate company sued for discrimination by fair housing groups for its policy of not offering real estate services to owners selling homes under a minimum price level, Dr. Pawlik said. In 2022, the company, Redfin, agreed to a \$4 million settlement and to expand its services for lower-priced houses.

Using national 2020 census-tract level data on cancer screening rates and historical redlining grades, the researchers found that among 11,831 census tracts, 3,712 tracts were redlined, with the greatest number of redlined tracts in New York and California, particularly in the New York City and Los Angeles

metropolitan areas. A large proportion of the total effect of redlining on cancer screening was attributable to poverty, lack of education, and limited English proficiency.

“I find this study on the impact of historic redlining practices on current cancer screening rates to be incredibly important and sobering. The findings clearly demonstrate that the legacy of redlining continues to contribute to significant disparities in breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer screening, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions and policy reforms to address underlying structural racism and improve health equity in our historically marginalized communities,” said David Tom Cooke, MD, FACS, professor and chief of the Division of General Thoracic Surgery at UC Davis Health, and president of the Thoracic Surgery Directors

Association.

Dr. Cooke, who was not involved with the study, added, “This study underscores the responsibility of healthcare systems, including academic and non-academic medical centers, to proactively tackle social determinants of health, such as redlining, to achieve equitable access to cancer screening and ultimately save lives.”

## How to alleviate the impact of redlining on cancer screening rates

By demonstrating the long-term implications of discriminatory practices, the study results can help shape healthcare and social policy reform to reduce health inequities, Dr. Pawlik said.

Those efforts start with specific, actionable initiatives, Dr. Pawlik said. To determine how to improve cancer screening rates in

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# Supreme Court allows redrawing of Louisiana Congressional map to create additional majority-Black district

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Supreme Court has permitted redrawing the Louisiana congressional map, paving the way for adding another majority-Black district.

The justices have reversed their initial plans to hear the case directly and lifted the hold placed on a lower court's order regarding the need for a revamped redistricting regime.

Notably, there was no dissent among the justices.

This move by the Supreme Court follows a recent ruling made earlier this



Unseen Histories / Unsplash

month regarding Alabama's congressional maps.

The ruling upheld the historical approach of courts when dealing with the redistricting provisions in the Voting Rights Act, a historic civil rights law that Black voters are utilizing

to challenge the Louisiana congressional plan.

The lower court proceedings, which the conservative majority had put on hold in June of last year, will now resume because of this new order.

At that time, the 5th

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had been preparing for an expedited review of a judge's ruling that suggested the 5-1 congressional plan likely violated the Voting Rights Act.

U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick, who presided over the case, had been considering a remedial congressional plan after Louisiana lawmakers refused to pass a plan that included a second majority-Black district.

The Supreme Court clarified on Monday that their latest decision "will allow the matter to proceed before the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for re-

view in the ordinary course and in advance of the 2024 congressional elections in Louisiana."

A congressional map that the Republican legislature had passed over Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards' veto last year led to the lawsuit against Louisiana state officials.

The map, which only designated one out of six districts as majority Black, came under scrutiny considering the 2020 census revealed that 33% of the state's population is Black.

Over a year ago, Judge Shelly Dick ordered the map redrawn to include a second Black-majority dis-

trict, concluding that the Republicans' map likely violated the Voting Rights Act's prohibition of racial discrimination in voting.

Judge Dick emphasized that "the evidence of Louisiana's long and ongoing history of voting-related discrimination weighs heavily in favor of" the arguments put forward by the Louisiana State Conference of the NAACP and other challengers involved in the case.

Subsequently, Robinson v. Ardoine proceeded to the conservative-leaning 5th Circuit Court of Appeals,

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## West and Lewis win featured match, Spruce trio grabs scholarships for Juneteenth exhibition

Celebs, smile, sweat --They enjoyed it all at the Juneteenth Tennis Exhibition held Saturday, June 17. Whether celeb players, high school participants or a growing crowd, they were all into it.

Dallas Council Member West returned to win the Celebrity Doubles Match, this time with Rev. Lewis. West smiled, reminding everyone how thrilled he was to come back and win

once more. "This is a great event," he said. West also hosted the event.

Lewis, assistant to the Bishop of the North Texas Conference UMC, echoed West's sentiments. "This exhibition serves a great purpose. I'm happy to be a part of it. Just glad we won," he said.

Like Lewis, Rev. Edlen Cowley and Melissa Clay played in their first JTE outing. Though Cowley

and Clay weren't victorious on the court, their smiles captured their enthusiastic spirit.

"I never played tennis, but this was fun," laughed Cowley, district superintendent at the conference. "It's for a good cause. I'm down with that."

Said Clay, a Dallas elementary principal and laity speaker at The Village UMC, "Yeah, I don't usually sweat this much, but it

was really, really fun. I'd do it again."

### High schoolers chase scholarships

Welcoming one more summer opportunity to display their best tennis skills, area high schoolers chased scholarships at the Juneteenth Tennis Exhibition.

Ultimately, only three were awarded tennis schol-

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Courtesy photos

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specific areas may require resident questionnaires to determine the potential barriers, he said. For example, if transportation was a barrier, travel vouchers could be provided; or if English proficiency was a barrier, an interpreter could be provided.

Among the approaches that could help improve cancer screening rates in historically redlined areas include:

- Government policies that target the areas with social services aimed at poverty alleviation, affordable housing, and education.
- Initiatives to improve

access to preventive cancer care may mitigate cancer screening disparities. One example is the Mobile Mammography Van by the Navajo Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program.

• Alternative methods to make it easier for affected people to get screened. For example, since colonoscopies pose significant barriers, such as bowel prep and devoting most of the day for the exam, tests to detect DNA mutations and blood in the stool may be a more workable approach, Dr. Pawlik said.

Actionable initiatives

to improve cancer screening rates include questionnaires to determine barriers to cancer screening, mobile cancer screening efforts, and alternative screening tests, can help address these inequities.

"I think the fact that the cancer screening is so disparate in these communities is a real wake up call to all of us," Dr. Pawlik said.

Study coauthors are Zorays Moazzam, MD; Selamawit Woldesenbet, MS, MPH, PhD; Yutaka Endo, MD, PhD; Laura Alaimo, MD, PhD; Henrique A. Lima, MD; Jordan Cloyd, MD, FACS; Mary E. Dillhoff, MD, FACS; and Aslam Ejaz, MD, FACS.

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# CSU report calls for bold actions to improve Black student success and elevate Black excellence

(Newswise) — The California State University (CSU) today released a plan designed to both elevate Black excellence and address the continuing decline in Black student enrollment, retention and graduation rates across the 23 CSU campuses. The comprehensive report, “Advancing Black Student Success and Elevating Black Excellence in the CSU: A Call to Action,” includes 13 recommendations ranging from a comprehensive enrollment strategy for Black students to the creation of a Central Office for the Advancement of Black Excellence. The report is the product of a workgroup called for by Interim Chancellor Jolene Koester following the sys-



Raul de Los Santos / Unsplash

tem’s inaugural Juneteenth symposium last summer.

“It was an event that crystallized, for me, the CSU’s institutional, societal and moral imperative to take meaningful action,” said Koester. “While we have been welcoming and seeing Black students succeed at our universities, we must go further by asking, ‘What are we

doing to meet the needs of our Black students?’ We need to create an entirely new and holistic approach for supporting Cal State’s Black community.”

The workgroup included CSU university presidents and subject matter experts from across the system with the recommendations informed by feedback from listening

sessions and focus groups with more than 250 Black students, faculty and staff. The recommendations are organized around four key areas that historically have had the greatest impact on Black student success: 1) K-12 community outreach and the recruitment cycle; 2) student retention, persistence and academic success; 3) campus culture, community and belonging; and 4) the role of faculty, staff and university leadership in advancing and being held accountable for Black student success.

The effort is part of the system’s overall commitment to increase student success through its Graduation Initiative 2025, which has contributed to increased graduation rates

systemwide, but has not yet closed stubborn equity gaps in both Black student enrollment and retention.

CSU has prioritized efforts to reach out and support Black students with initiatives including Super Sunday, Black Student Unions and Black Associations, cultural resource centers, Black faculty and staff associations, as well as graduation celebrations for Black students. In its report, the Black Student Success and Black Excellence Work group calls for the CSU to build on these efforts.

“While there is a greater awareness and sensitivity to the reality of Black life in America, this acute attention has also shone a spotlight on the gap be-

tween our aspirational and actual selves in the CSU. The mission set before all of us in the CSU community – the Board of Trustees, the Office of the Chancellor, and our university leaders, faculty, staff and students – is to close that gap and realize the full potential of Black excellence in the CSU,” concludes the report.

The CSU has committed an initial investment of \$10 million over three years to advance these priorities.

“The collective and unified commitment on the part of CSU leadership to implement the report’s recommendations underscores the importance and urgency of this work,” said

See STUDENTS, Page 13

## Study finds a small number of teachers effectively double the racial gaps among students referred for disciplinary action

WASHINGTON (News- wise) — The top five percent of teachers most likely to refer students to the principal’s office for disciplinary action do so at such an outsized rate that they effectively double the racial gaps in such referrals, according to new research.

The jump in racial gaps caused by top referrers is largely driven by referrals issued for more subjective reasons such as interper-

sonal offenses and defiance—as opposed to more objective reasons such as violence, drug use, and class skipping.

In May, the Biden administration issued a letter to school leaders indicating that schools that unfairly discipline students based on race could be in violation of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act.

Top referrers effectively doubled the Black-White,

Hispanic-White, and multiracial/other-White ODR gaps. The ratio of the Black-White gap in ODRs was about 1.6-to-1 when considering all referrers but jumped to 3.4-to-1 when including top referrers.

Prior research has shown that receiving referrals, especially frequent referrals, is a strong precursor for receiving suspensions, which can hurt student engagement, achievement,

and long-run success. The body of research evidence also indicates that implicit or explicit racial bias contributes to racial disparities in exclusionary discipline.

“It is important for teachers to be aware of their referring frequency and the reasons for their referrals so they can be more aware of the potential impact of their actions on students and adjust how they approach student misbehav-

iors accordingly,” said Liu.

“Schools leaders need to know that they can leverage information about referring frequency to identify the top referrers and the specific school contexts where extensive referring is concentrated,” Liu said. “Targeting support and interventions to these individuals and contexts might ultimately reduce the overall use of, and racial disparities in, exclusionary

discipline.”

The results from Liu and his colleagues suggested that teachers who are White, early career, and who serve middle schools are most likely to engage in extensive referring. As teachers accumulate more years of teaching experience, especially after three years, their likelihood of being a referrer or top referrer quickly drops.

### TENNIS, from Page 5

arships out of nearly 20 players. Bi Kupoe, Joseph Kupoe and Ropoe Moo won the tutoring scholarships.

They’ll receive more

training at Kiest Tennis Center. The center’s director is Craig Cole. Each of the Spruce High players said they hope to develop their skills and improve

their competitive game.

“These players work hard. I’m proud of them,” Spruce’s Tennis Coach Robert Sakaguchi said. “Thanks for the opportunity to get better.”

New school was too

much

Youth controlled the “New School vs. Old School” Match.

“Bi and Ropoe were too much for us old dudes,” said Germal Berry, the event’s chair who, with

retired Rev. James Minor, lost. “James did all he could. I played like a real old man... pitiful,” he joked.

Spectators were delighted to witness the court action, but some, especially

those over 60, certainly were glad it wasn’t them sweating, hustling points or chasing yellow balls.

The charity event is organized by Camp Wisdom UMC and primarily supports its Youth Outreach.

### VOTING, from Page 5

where a three-judge panel, including two Republican-appointed circuit judges, declined to suspend Judge Dick’s order.

The appeals court expedited a comprehensive review of the case, but those

proceedings were halted last summer when Louisiana officials successfully sought intervention from the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court then took up the case in June but paused it while deciding

the challenge to the Alabama map.

Republicans representing Louisiana’s state officials argued in subsequent filings that the Louisiana case presented a “unique situation” for the Supreme Court to address unresolved legal issues with the

Voting Rights Act because of the Alabama ruling in Milligan.

“Today’s decision in Milligan does not address the district court’s significant errors of law that should rightly result in reversal,” the Louisiana filing stated.

However, opponents of

the state’s position countered by highlighting that the district court in the Louisiana case had determined that the 5-1 map likely violated the Voting Rights Act using the same legal test that the Supreme Court endorsed in its Alabama ruling.

With the Supreme Court’s latest decision, the ongoing debate surrounding the Louisiana congressional map’s compliance with the Voting Rights Act will proceed through the ordinary review course in the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



## Residents rate high quality of life, strong economic health in McKinney

McKINNEY — McKinney residents confirmed they enjoy a high quality of life in a recent citizen satisfaction survey, as 92 percent of residents rated the City of McKinney as an excellent or good place to live. Residents also gave high ratings to the overall economic health of McKinney, the overall feeling of safety, and the quality of parks and recreation opportunities in the city.



Courtesy photo

“The City Council and staff are committed to maintaining a high quality of life and guiding the

growth of our city’s economy. Satisfaction with these areas is fundamental to the

people who choose to live in McKinney,” said CoCo Good, Director of Communications and Marketing.

McKinney earned far better ratings than the national benchmark in the vibrancy of the downtown and commercial area. Citizens also gave higher ratings for the city’s quality of business and service establishments, as well as employment and shopping opportunities within McKinney.

Citizens lauded the overall design and layout of the city’s residential and commercial areas, giving higher marks than the national benchmark for McKinney’s overall appearance, preservation of historical and cultural character, and the design and planning of neighborhoods and residential growth.

The 2023 citizen survey is part of The National Community Survey™, a

collaborative effort between National Research Center Inc. and Polco, a civic communication and analytics platform. The survey and its administration are standardized to ensure high-quality research methods and directly comparable results across The National Community Survey™ communities.

The citizen survey results and a summary are posted at the City’s website.

## Collin County median home price declines as homes sales increase

PLANO — While the lack of housing inventory has held home prices up in North Texas, Collins County has shown recent decreases in home prices, the Collin County Association of Realtors (CCAR) reporting the fifth month of 2023 continued a five-month trend of increased closed sales as the county’s median home price trended downward.

In May 2023, homes under contract increased by 21.4% from May 2022, while the median sales price decreased by 9.3% compared to the same time last year. This resulted in a median sales price of \$525,000 for homes in Collin County, they report.

“The market is stabilizing as much as it can with limited inventory and maintained demand. Our

area is going to be a competitive market as long as our inventory has less than 4 months of supply, which we are a long way off from as our growing economy and high quality of life continue to draw new residents daily,” said CCAR President Shana Acquisto.

As buyers competed for limited new listings, with 16.9% fewer new listings than the year before,

the percentage of original list price sellers received at the closing table was 97.9% in May 2023.

However, inventory from previous months carried over as homes remained on the market for 42 days in May 2023, 30 days more than the same time last year, providing buyers with 28.1% more homes for sale in May 2023 from May 2022

Indeed, Collin County remained a strong sellers’ market, with a 1.9 months’ supply of homes for sale in May 2023, 49.5% more than the previous year. A market is considered balanced when there is a 6-month supply of homes for sale.

The US Census Bureau reports that more than 98 new residents move to Collin County every

day, requiring 9,004 new dwellings per year, as calculated by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

As new build communities pop up across the county, many wonder how long it will take until Collin County inventory reaches a balanced market. To wonder less and know more, contact a Collin County Realtor.

## Dallas Library salutes 10th Street Historic District in honor of Juneteenth

Remembrances of the historic Tenth Street neighborhood in Oak Cliff headlined the Juneteenth celebrations at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library on Saturday, June 17 in Dallas.

The Tenth Street neighborhood is located east of I-35 and north of Clarendon

Drive in Oak Cliff, including Oak Cliff Cemetery and more than 250 residences built in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Established after the Civil War by former slaves, the district flourished through the Jim Crow era as a self-contained African

American community. It is considered one of the few remaining intact Freedmen’s towns in the United States.

In 1994, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its cultural and architectural significance.

Activities began with a presentation by Dallas historian and African American genealogist Don-

ald Payton, followed by a performance by musician Stanley Glenn, playing blues music originated by

Tenth Street native T-Bone Walker.

See LIBRARY, Page 12



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# Supreme Court ruling limits challenges to unlawful convictions for innocent federal prisoners

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court delivered a blow to the rights of federal prisoners, particularly those who may be completely innocent.

This week's ruling in *Jones v. Hendrix* establishes a significant hurdle for prisoners seeking to challenge their convictions in court.

The case revolved around Marcus DeAngelo Jones, a federal prisoner convicted in 2000 of possessing a firearm after a felony conviction.

However, in a 2019 case called *Rehaif v. United States*, the Supreme Court declared that individuals could not be convicted under the felon-in-possession statute unless they were aware of their prior felony conviction at the time of possessing the gun.

Jones argued that he mistakenly believed his previous felony conviction had



*This week's ruling in Jones v. Hendrix establishes a significant hurdle for prisoners seeking to challenge their convictions in court.*  
(Photo via NNPA)

been expunged when he acquired the firearm, rendering his conviction invalid under *Rehaif*.

He said because he was unaware of his felony status, federal law did not make his possession of the firearm illegal.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court's ruling, as outlined in Justice Thomas's opinion, prevents Jones from challenging his conviction altogether.

The outcome is because of a federal law known as Section 2255, which generally bars federal prisoners

from making multiple challenges to their convictions or sentences.

Jones had previously succeeded in petitioning a federal court to vacate a portion of his sentence before the *Rehaif* decision, which Thomas argued extinguished his sole opportunity to challenge his conviction, even though Jones had no way of knowing that his claim of innocence would become potentially valid after *Rehaif*.

Although Section 2255 does include exceptions that allow for a second

challenge under certain circumstances, Thomas narrowly interprets the provision, stating that the usual process is "inadequate or ineffective" to test the legality of a prisoner's detention.

In her dissenting opinion, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson criticized Thomas's restrictive construction and even mocks it by claiming that only a fire or mudslide could provide relief.

Thomas's majority opinion extends the consequences beyond individuals like Jones, who hope to overturn their convictions due to developments like the *Rehaif* decision.

Many other individuals who are entirely innocent and wrongfully convicted will also be denied the opportunity for second appeals and remain unjustly imprisoned.

Before Section 2255's enactment in 1948, federal prisoners had to challenge their convictions in the judicial district where they were incarcerated.

However, the system was impractical and burdensome for federal trial courts near prisons, as they often needed easier access to necessary records, evidence, and witnesses.

Section 2255 addressed this issue by requiring prisoners to bring challenges to the court that initially tried and convicted them, ensuring a more equitable distribution of cases among federal district courts, and providing the court most familiar with the prisoner's case to hear the habeas suits challenging their confinement.

Although Section 2255 ordinarily restricts prisoners from filing a second habeas challenge if they were previously denied relief, it permits a second challenge if the usual process is "inadequate or ineffective" to test the legality of their detention.

However, Thomas characterized previous decisions allowing prisoners to file second challenges as an "end-run" around the limits

set by federal law for habeas petitions.

He interpreted the "inadequate or ineffective" provision so narrowly that very few cases would meet its requirements, leaving prisoners fighting unlawful convictions with limited recourse.

In response, Justice Jackson argued in her dissent that Thomas's reading of Section 2255 is completely unsupported by the text.

Both justices agreed on the historical purpose of Section 2255, which aimed to relieve the burden on district courts near federal prisons.

However, the statute contains no language that aligned with Thomas's interpretation of the "inadequate or ineffective" provision.

Jackson asserted that Congress reenacted this exception in 1996, using identical language, and intended it to preserve prisoners' ability to bring postcon-

**See INNOCENT, Page 11**



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# Black films shine in the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

Diverse views of life on earth are showcased annually at the Tribeca Film Festival. Visions and voices from Black filmmakers are shared in their experiences, observations and art. The in-theater portion of the fest (June 7-18) is completed. Now the Tribeca At Home part of the festivities unfolds (June 19 – July 2). Download the Tribeca At Home app and watch films on Apple TV, Fire TV, Roku or get a standalone app on IOS and Android. TFF is in the house.

## "The Blackening" (\*\*1/2)

This is an Afrocentric horror/comedy of the highest standard, which is a dubious distinction at best. But see it, and you'll love its craziness. It's funny, funny, funny. The project evolved from a short film by the comedy troupe 3Peat. From that nugget, screenwriters Tracy Oliver & Dewayne Perkins place seven friends in a cabin in the woods on Juneteenth for a reunion. They're stalked by an archer with a grudge and forced into playing a deadly board



game, "The Blackening." To save their lives, they must answer Black history, horror film and pop culture questions—or else. They're also ordered to sacrifice a member who is the Blackest (fingers point to Shanika who says "n---a" the most) or the whitest (Clifton voted for Trump. Twice! He's got to go!).

"Ride Along" director Tim Story gives the film a rhythm that moves the story and characters along to a surprise ending. The young cast has a chemistry that is so affable, it seems like your dizzy friends got caught in a horror movie by mistake. Filthy, racist language and the casualness

of Molly and Adderall drug use are just some of this satiric film's secret weapons. Hilarious, yet astute—If you're tuned into Black life, culture wars, horror film tropes and social issues, the jokes are even funnier. Bound to be an immersive cult classic. In a theater, expect audiences to scream at the screen as if they were lost in the woods too!

## "The League" (\*\*\*)

We know that in the '40s, '50s and beyond Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays and Hank Aaron were baseball heroes. What we didn't know, until director Sam Pollard and executive producer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, gave us a clue,

is that Black baseball players can be traced back to the 1880s and that the 1887 Supreme Court ruling for Plessy vs Ferguson, which allowed equal but separate accommodations for the white and colored races, was the event that separated Black players from white leagues.

That finding along with a long list of players (Satchel Page), team owners (Gus Greenlee) and baseball staples created by Black players (the screwball, stealing bases) are essential elements in this very comprehensive look into the history of Negro leagues. The photos, clips of games and interviews with surviving players are priceless. This deep dive is very

dense and comes with few frills. It will play best on the college or educational circuit or on PBS. The accomplishments on view are a source of pride. As Mrs. Jackie Robinson puts it so eloquently: "We stand on their shoulders." An exceptional documentation of the men who played the game of baseball their way and became role models in the process.

## "The Perfect Find" (\*\*\*)

Isn't it romantic?! A fortynish fashion editor, Jenna (Gabrielle Union), heads back into the work force after overcoming a bad break up. She lands a job with a nemesis who's a mogul, Darcine (Gina Toretz), and injudiciously has an affair with the boss's twen-

tysomething son (Keith Powers). Fans of the Prime Video series "Harlem" will love this sex in the cityish ode to older women feeling their oats. Credit the rapid-fire, snarky, sexually explicit and roaringly funny female banter to screenwriter Leigh Davenport. Darcine to Jenna: "I run out of boyfriends you can f---k and you go after my son!!!!"

Davenport can also take a victory lap for the ultra-modern narrative, engaging characters and frank discussions about female/male relations. E.g., the very pragmatic Jenna explains why an impending blind date has potential:

See **TRIBECA**, Page 12

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# New film shines light on the rich legacy of the Negro baseball leagues

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

On the Black Press of America's "Let It Be Known" show, renowned filmmaker Sam Pollard took center stage in an exclusive interview about his new film that shines a spotlight on the fabled Negro leagues.

Pollard's latest documentary, "The League," will make its world premiere at the Tribeca Festival before a theatrical release in July.

Based on the book "The Negro Baseball Leagues" by Bob Motley and Byron Motley, the film counts as another triumph for Pollard, whose past directorial works include the critically acclaimed "Mr. Soul!", "Sammy Davis, Jr. I've Got to Be Me," and "MLK/FBI."

The documentary also boasts Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, the executive producer responsible for the Oscar-winning "Summer of Soul."

The film illuminates that the sport was integrated in its earliest days, albeit with Black players forming only



*The film illuminates that the sport was integrated in its earliest days, albeit with Black players forming only a minority of team members. (Photo via NNPA)*

a minority of team members.

That changed in the late 1800s, as racist white players like Pop Anson of the Chicago White Stockings, who infamously refused to take the field with Black athletes, sparked a shift.

However, as Jim Crow laws engulfed the nation, Black players were banned from the game.

In 1920, Rube Foster, a trailblazing Black baseball pioneer who excelled as a pitcher, manager, and owner, founded the Negro National League.

Inspired by Frederick Douglass' words, the league adopted the motto "We Are the Ship, All Else

the Sea."

Three years later, the Eastern Colored League emerged as a competitor, culminating in the inaugural Colored World Series in 1924.

Foster, hailed as the "father of black baseball," serves as one of the documentary's most compelling subjects.

Noteworthy for pitching seven no-hitters and inventing the screwball, Foster even taught the pitch to white player Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants, who popularized it.

Tragically, Foster met a grim fate, succumbing to the effects of a gas leak in

a hotel room.

He suffered from delusions and spent several years institutionalized in an asylum before passing away at 51 in 1930.

Although the Negro National League eventually succumbed to the economic pressures of the Great Depression, other leagues emerged, serving as a springboard for numerous Black players who would later achieve legendary status.

Several of these players, including Ernie Banks, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, and Satchel Paige, would eventually join Major

League Baseball (MLB).

The documentary features captivating archival interviews with these players and more.

The film poignantly chronicles the immense challenges faced by Black players as they traversed the country, often denied accommodation in hotels and meals in restaurants.

Additionally, the negro leagues provided a home for many talented Latino players from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and other parts of Latin America.

Following World War II, with many Black service

members having bravely fought for their country, pressure began mounting for the integration of MLB.

Notably, Paul Robeson became a prominent advocate for this cause. Despite years of resistance from MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who evoked comparisons to a character from "Birth of a Nation," progress emerged.

Landis died in 1944, and three years later, Branch Rickey recruited Jackie Robinson as the first Black player to join the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson's entry

**See BASEBALL, Page 13**

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# Why the inflation news is better than some headlines suggest

ST. LOUIS -- On June 13, the Federal Reserve released updated inflation figures showing that the Consumer Price Index grew at a 4% annual rate in May. The difference in consumer prices from April to May, however, was just 0.1%. These two numbers paint very different pictures of the current state of inflation and the American economy.

The confusion comes from the way in which we calculate inflation, according to John Horn, a professor of practice in economics at the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis. Horn earlier explained how the "math" of inflation works.

"As a refresher, inflation is an annual measure — the increase in prices over 12 months," Horn said. "The Bureau of Labor Statistics creates a representative basket that an average person would buy, then calculates the price for that basket. To determine inflation, they take the current value of the basket, subtract the value of the same basket last year and divide by the cost of the basket last year.

"That's just the definition of a percentage change: the change over time divided by the initial value. Using this formula means inflation can increase really fast but has a hard time coming back down. That has nothing to do with economics; it has everything to do with math."

Take a very simple example. Say the monthly price for the basket of goods is \$100 every month and has been for a couple of years. That means inflation is 0%, since  $(100-100)/100$  equals 0%. If the price suddenly increased to \$110 in January, then inflation would be 10% because  $(110-100)/100$  equals 10%.

But here's how annual inflation numbers can distort the economic reality: If prices stayed flat in February, then the price of the basket would still be \$110, and inflation would be:  $\$110$  (current February's price)- $\$100$  (last February's price)/ $\$100$  (last February's price). That's 10% again. And in March, if prices stayed flat at \$110? Then current March equals \$110, last March equals \$100, so inflation is  $(110-100)/100$ ,

which equals ... 10%.

In this simple scenario, there was a one-time fast increase in prices and then prices stayed stagnant for a full year, but the lag in inflation calculation would lead to 10% inflation for a full year.

"This is troublesome because the news reports and headlines would scream, 'Inflation stays stubbornly high at 10%,'" Horn said. "That's true, but in terms of buying power, there was only a one-time increase in prices. For the rest of the year, prices stayed flat — admittedly, at an elevated rate. And that's assuming prices remain stagnant after January. Even in a healthy economy, we expect prices to rise modestly — typically around 2% annually."

"When prices continue to rise modestly after a one-time spike in prices — as they did in 2022 — it can make the situation seem much worse than it really is," Horn added.

The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics figure shows inflation for May 2023 was 4% — good, but still above the Fed's target level of 2%. What should infla-

tion have been if prices had started rising at 2% starting in August 2022?

"Under this scenario, the annual inflation rate in May would have been 3%," Horn said. "Is that below the 4% we're actually at? Sure, but not that far off to think we're wildly stuck in an inflationary economy. In fact, since December 2022, we've been off this 2% trendline by about 0.5 to 1% each month — pretty steadily, in fact. We are running only slightly ahead of where we should be."

"Overall, inflation is not running away it's gliding back to the path we'd like to see of around 2%," Horn said.

When thinking about the economy, and inflation in particular, Horn said it's important to not fall into "base rate fallacy" thinking by focusing too much on specific details — like the prices of commercial real estate, used cars or eggs — and ignore the larger-

picture trends. For example, there are some worrying trends in rental rates, since those prices are rather sticky for longer periods of time, baking in those changes into inflation for longer. But those changes are often offset by changes in other products' prices in the overall basket.

While rental prices are currently keeping inflation up, unemployment — which is often mentioned as a driver of higher inflation — has stabilized at the

rates we saw right before the COVID-19 pandemic, when inflation was right around the Fed's target of 2%, Horn said.

Looking back to last summer, Horn pointed out that many feared the Fed would either overcorrect by raising interest rates too high, which would throw the economy into a recession, or it was going to undercorrect and raise interest rates too little and create

See INFLATION, Page 13

## HARRIS, from Page 2

ing to find books with that truly shed a light on the huge differences in product-based vs service-based businesses such as automation, systems, SOP's, how to calculate ones cost of goods sold, profit margin analysis, and different analysis types needed when it comes to maintaining a product-based business. She also remembered the extensive number of conferences given by various masterminds that don't necessarily cater to product-based businesses.

Electra knows what it's like to be single, have children, work a full-time job, be a first-generation entrepreneur, building and then scale a business all while taking care of her mother and trying to make time

after work to give her business the breath of life she knows it needs to succeed.

She knows how to go from the kitchen to the warehouse, from a warehouse to third-party logistics and manufacturer. She knows what it's like to need and fight to gain more funding to further one's business to the highs you know it can go. She knows what it takes to be able to build a solid life for herself, to have the momentum to one day have to decide if she should leave a "safe job" to bet on herself and her business.

As her success began to thrive within her current product-based brand, she received more emails, texts, and social media direct messages asking tons

of questions on where and how to start or when and how to scale a business. Questions often came from people on a similar journey of scouring the internet to encounter mounds of confusing and conflicting information. Many had information overload and just did nothing because it mentally paralyzed them.

She often had to explain that service-based businesses and product-based businesses have some significant similarities yet some critical differences that need to be shown and explained.

To join the free webinar, go to <https://app.nanodealers.com>, and to register for the free "Beauty & Hair Business Secrets From a 7-Figure Earner" webinar, go to <https://api.leadconnectorhq.com/>.

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## TRIBECA, from Page 9

“Once I heard that he had dental and vision benefits, he was an option.”

Union has never been funnier. She makes Jenna come alive. Director Numa Perrier has a strong background in TV (“Queen Sugar”), which helps her get animated performances from her cast and create a New York atmosphere that seems very urbane. Production design (Sally Levi) and set decoration (Amber Thrane) stand out as much as the costumes (Amit Gajwani) and cinematography (Eric Lin). Wondrous soundtrack includes oldies (Billie Holiday) and newbies (Giveon). Tune into Netflix and get tickled by

an adult romantic/comedy that will keep you amused and titillated.

### “Rise: The Siya Kolisi Story”(\*\*\*)

Rugby was an all-white sport in South Africa and a symbol of white supremacy until Siya Kolisi broke through the color barrier. Abandoned by his father, orphaned and struggling with street drugs in his youth, it’s a miracle he became a sports star. His journey, as he becomes captain of the South Africa national union rugby team, is a lesson in courage, ambition and perseverance against formidable odds. Director Tebogo Malope co-wrote the script with Jon Day and

Ebenhaezer Smal and it plays out like a compelling docudrama.

Kolisi’s own recollections are particularly poignant when he reflects on South Africa’s history of apartheid, the country’s indigenous people and his unique experiences. He was parented by a loving grandmother who died in his arms at age eight. He was raised in a small village where adults watched over everyone’s kids. He believes in “Ubuntu,” a philosophy that encourages compassion and humanity.

Transitioning from a shared troubled past to a shared hopeful future is captured in archival foot-

age, photos and interviews with his wife, first rugby coach and star athletes. Dreamy, cryptic reenacted images of figures playing rugby are a dubious effect at best. A routine sports bio doc approach would have sufficed. Sports fans and those curious about Black life in South Africa will enjoy watching Kolisi’s rise.

### “Uncharted” (\*\*1/2)

They’re 12 songbirds. Budding neo-soul writers/singers/producers/engineers chosen by Alicia Keys for her “She Is The Music” songwriting camp. The learning center is a haven, especially for the young women who’ve had tough experiences working

in a predominately male industry where verbal, emotional and sexual abuse are issues. These talented artists create ultramodern soul songs that are catchy, the kind you’d play over and over. Their confessions and perceptive anecdotes are relevant to the music business and the world at large.

Watching them write words, form melodies and harmonize is magic. Three of the songs stand out and have top-ten potential: The wonderfully playful “Stank-ass Walk,” the ethereal “Purpose” and the very modern “Like It That Way.”

Director/producer Beth Aala finds the essence of each artist and explores

the group’s sisterhood. Each feels like tomorrow’s breakout star who could become a Spotify sensation.

The camerawork (cinematographer Ayana Baraka) isn’t fancy but does the job. The editing (M. Watanabe Milmore) cuts the footage down to a tidy 95 mins. In the end, the music these women create makes this documentary as memorable as a song you can’t get out of your head.

For more information about Tribeca Film Festival go to: <https://www.tribecafilm.com>

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

## NNPA, from Page 1

“Not only did we have to fight through the COVID-19 pandemic and other changes in the market, but we also had to fight against the frivolous actions of three of our member publishers.

“Now, thankfully after four years, we can put this unjustified action behind us and move forward for the betterment of our organization and continue to do what’s right for the NNPA.”

During the past four years, however, the NNPA continued to make substantial progress even in the face of the continued civil litigation.

“We are pleased with the judge’s decision, and it’s been a long time coming,” NNPA General Counsel Attorney A. Scott Bolden stated.

“There was never any substance to the plaintiffs’ allegations. Unfortunately, it took four years and a lot of legal expenses to prove that there was nothing there.”

Bolden said Judge Scott also issued a separate order of sanctions – the second during the case – “for some of the conduct of the plaintiffs and their counsel.”

“This isn’t the first time the plaintiffs and their lawyers were sanctioned,”

Bolden asserted. “It is fortunate that we were able to emerge victorious.”

Bolden said many lessons were learned about how the lawsuit was brought and how the plaintiffs and prior judges handled it.

“Going forward, we’re looking forward to working with NNPA members and the board members to prevent any future lawsuits against the organization by amending the NNPA By-laws to ensure that any disputes will require mediation or arbitration,” Bolden said.

He said the two avenues are far less expensive than civil litigation.

Bolden also noted that Carole Geary, publisher of the Milwaukee Courier, lost her lawsuit against the NNPA in 2022, appealed the defeat, and lost again.

“Thanks to our outstanding legal team, our leadership, and Dr. Benjamin Chavis, our president/CEO for pressing forward as we endured such an unfortunate and costly situation,” Richards added.

The NNPA is now preparing to celebrate the 196th Year Anniversary of the Black Press of America at its 2023 Annual National Convention in Nashville, TN, June 28-July 1, 2023.



### McKinney Housing Authority Amendment to the 2023 ANNUAL PLAN & SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year. Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2023 fiscal year. Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

#### Autoridad de Vivienda McKinney PLAN ANNUAL MODIFICADO 2023 & ENMIENDA SIGNIFICATIVA AL PLAN DE CINCO AÑOS

#### REUNIONES DARSE CUENTA

La Ley de Vivienda y Responsabilidad Laboral de Calidad de 1998 requiere que la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney presente un Plan de la Agencia cada año.

El Plan PHA es una guía completa de las políticas, programas, operaciones y estrategias de las agencias de vivienda pública (PHA) para satisfacer las necesidades y los objetivos de vivienda locales. Hay dos partes en el Plan PHA: el Plan de 5 años, que cada PHA presenta a HUD una vez cada quinto año fiscal de PHA, y el Plan anual, que se envía a HUD cada año.

A continuación hay una lista de reuniones que están programadas para revisar y analizar los documentos del Plan de la Agencia para el año fiscal 2023.

Se alienta a los residentes, al público y al personal a asistir a las reuniones.

Tuesday June 27, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday July 25, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday August 22, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed Amended ANNUAL Plan and Significant Amendment to the Five Year Plan is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 603 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

Comments can be submitted by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 603 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or [info@mckinneyha.org](mailto:info@mckinneyha.org). The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.



## USDA planning Chile Agribusiness trade mission

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service is accepting applications from U.S. exporters for a trade mission to Santiago, Chile.

During the week of September 25-29, U.S. agri-

businesses will participate in business-to-business meetings with potential importers from both Chile and Peru. The trade mission will coincide with the USDA-endorsed Espacio Food and Service trade show, Chile's major food show and a

significant gateway to the Latin American market. In addition to conducting business-to-business meetings, the trade mission participants will also have an opportunity to receive detailed market briefings from FAS staff and local and regional

industry experts.

To apply, please complete the Santiago, Chile Agribusiness Trade Mission Application available on the USDA website. The deadline to apply for the Chile trade mission is Wednesday, July 5th.

## LIBRARY, from Page 7

Afternoon events included a remembrance stone activity led by the Nasher Sculpture Center to honor Black residents who shaped the history of the Tenth Street neighborhood; an interactive exercise on building your ideal neighborhood facilitated by the

nonprofit RAYO Planning; and a staging of "A Free Man Cries for the Future," and an original play by Iv Amenti about the joys and struggles of a mid-20th century family from Tenth Street.

These programs were made possible thanks to the

Friends of the Dallas Public Library. "A Free Man Cries for the Future" is funded by the Office of Arts and Culture and the Community Arts Pop-Up Cultural Center.

An exhibit of historic photographs and artwork from the event will continue to be available for viewing through October.

The historic photos were presented by the Dallas Public Library archive, while items of historic significance were provided by Tenth Street Residents' Association.

The exhibit will continue to run on the 7th floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library through Friday, Oct. 20.

## STUDENTS, from Page 6

Koester. "While correcting longstanding inequities will take time, we must take immediate and decisive action. The CSU's Black community deserves it. Our mission and core values demand it."

The recommendations presented in the report will not only serve as a path forward for Black student success across the CSU's

campuses, but could potentially serve as a model for other colleges, universities and university systems across the nation.

"Today, the CSU is called on to effect a cultural change that will impact the lives of not only our current students, but the generations of African American faculty, staff and other Black people

to follow," wrote CSU Dominguez Hills President Thomas Parham and Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, co-chairs of the Black Student Success Workgroup. "While culture change and organizational excellence are difficult to achieve, they are not impossible — especially when the na-

tion's largest and most diverse four-year institution of public higher education draws upon its many resources with unusual intentionality to realize the full measure of its promise and possibility."

To learn more about the report, please visit the Black Student Success website.

## INNOCENT, from Page 8

viction claims, including those based on statutory innocence, that might have been inadvertently barred by the language adopted in the amendment.

Experts said the outcome of the Jones case revealed not only the complexity of federal habeas law and the procedural challenges prisoners face but also a longstanding philosophical divide within the Supreme Court.

Liberal-leaning justices argued that the criminal justice system should primarily focus on determining a defendant's actual guilt and provide adequate safeguards for challenging wrongful convictions.

On the other hand, conservative justices, including Thomas, emphasized finality in criminal judgments, even if it meant potentially denying the innocence claims of prisoners.

## INFLATION, from Page 11

endemic inflation that would never come down.

"No one had great confidence that the Fed could achieve the soft landing, whereby the economy didn't enter a recession while inflation slowly came back down to the 2% target," he said. "We clearly

didn't have a recession, and while we're still about a percentage point too far above the tarmac, the plane appears to be on an approach glide path.

"At least, if we take a longer view and remember the math behind inflation," Horn said.



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## BASEBALL, from Page 10

opened the door for other Black players such as Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, and Jim Gilliam, all of whom had roots in the Negro leagues.

Effa Manley, a formidable businesswoman, also features prominently in the documentary.

Known as the "First Lady of Negro Baseball," she co-owned the Newark Eagles and became the only woman inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Manley fiercely advocated for fair compensation for Negro league teams when MLB began recruiting their players.

The integration of baseball eventually led to the decline of the Negro leagues, which ceased op-

erations by the late 1940s.

Through masterful use of vintage footage, interviews, oral histories, and contributions from modern-day historians and scholars, the documentary makes a case for the enduring significance of the Negro baseball leagues.

Reflecting on his connection to the project, Pollard said, "I grew up in the 1960s being a huge baseball fan... But what I did not know much about... was that [Jackie] Robinson had come out of the Negro leagues and that the Negro leagues had been home to Black and Latino ballplayers who had to play segregated baseball during the height of the Jim Crow era."

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# I'm Too Smart to Be Stupid

By Dr. James L. Snyder

After being married for over 50 years, my wife, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, knows more about me than I know about myself. At least, that's the perception I get from her actions.

It must be true when she says something about me, and I won't challenge her with anything she says. I have a Ph.D. (Pretty Hard Dude) in the husbandology field. I can take anything she throws at me.

Recently we were watching TV, and the news had an outlandish story. Looking at my wife, I said, "I sure hope I'm not that stupid."

Of all the times to be stupid, I chose the right time.

Looking at me, she said, "Well, my dear, my opinion

is that you are too smart to be that stupid."

I did not think I heard what I heard, so I asked her to repeat it.

"You heard me. You just want to hear it again," she said laughingly.

It was just the beginning of a new chapter, and I wasn't sure where it was going.

One day this past week, we drove across town, and the traffic was rather crazy. Cars were weaving in and out and racing down the street. Then a motorcycle passed, weaving in and out of the traffic.

Looking at me, my wife smiled and said, "At least you're too smart to be that stupid."

With a nod of agreement, I smiled as we continued our journey. I'm not sure

what's happening, but that phrase is ringing in my head like no other phrase I've heard before. The fact that my wife of 50 years thinks I'm too smart to be stupid has to have some credibility.

I've been thinking of ways to use this to my advantage. I've never had such an advantage, so I need to be very careful about how to use it. For example, I need to be able to use it in such a way that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage doesn't recognize my advantage.

I was smiling as I thought about this because I would have a great victory if I could pull this one over on my wife. The problem is, if I do have this victory, how can I celebrate it without giving myself away? After

all, she said I was too smart to be stupid.

To process my plan, I needed to have her repeat what she said, so as we were driving, I pointed to one driver and said, "I hope I'm not that stupid."

"Remember what I said," she chuckled, "you're too smart to be that stupid."

Smilingly I thanked her, and we continued driving while I looked for something stupid to call her attention. By the time we got to our destination, I had found about three incidences of stupidity, and for all three, I got her to tell me that she thought I was too smart to be that stupid.

I can't relay how wonderful it was to hear that phrase. I need to be able to develop more ways in which to hear her say that

without showing my hand. I don't often get compliments like this, so I will try to plan it out carefully.

Just before we got home, we saw someone doing something more crazy than I had ever seen. Not thinking too much, I said, "I hope I'm not that crazy."

Smiling at me, she said, "My dear, I said you were too smart to be stupid but not crazy."

At the time, I didn't quite understand what she was saying, but as I thought about it, I was concerned about what she thought I was doing that was crazy. Now if I was in my right mind, and believe me, I have no mind left, I would ask her what she meant by being crazy.

If I asked that, I was sure she would tell me, and

when she told me, I was sure I would not be a happy camper. It's very obvious through time that her idea of crazy and my idea of crazy are certainly not twins.

I think crazy is something people do that makes them look foolish. That's what I would think, but then if that's what she thinks, then she doesn't think I'm not smart enough to be crazy. As I was thinking about that, my brain went into an ultra-crazy mode. I had to be careful in case some of that crazy seeped out, and my wife saw it.

I thought maybe I could trick her into describing it to me, so I asked, "When have you seen me acting crazy?"

She laughed like I'd nev-

See SMART, Page 16

## Cat Names

By Daris Howard

One of our cats had kittens this week. They are, I suppose, quite cute. Cats have never been my favorite animal, though there was one that I ended up liking. Its mother was killed by coyotes, so I raised it on a bottle. But usually, I view cats as annoying creatures that tend to trip me when I have an armful of something or that tend to wrap themselves around my ankles as if I wanted them to.

Because of my lack of attachment to cats, I can never seem to remember what the other family members choose to name them. They use fancy names like Shimmer, Duchess, or Princess. I usually call them by how they look or act.

For example, we have a cat that was born perfectly white. I started out calling him Snowball. But then his coat changed, and he had an orange tinge within the white. It changed in the summer when we would eat popsicles. I started calling that cat Creamsicle.

Another cat was mostly black with a white belly. I called him penguin. An-

other one that looked like him I called Tux. One cat especially kept wrapping himself around my feet when I tried to walk. Once in a while, I would end up stepping on him, and he would let out a screech and run to hide. He would sulk for a few days then be right back to his idiotic pestering. I less-than-affectionately named him Dumb Dumb. Another cat had a tail that had a strange twitch to it. No matter what he was doing, his tail would flicker, even if he slept. That one got the name of Twitch.

Other cats received the names Grey Kitty, Orange Kitty, and Black Kitty.

The thing about it, I could use the names I called them, and everyone knew exactly which cat I was talking about. But when the others in the family used the names they designated, such as Cuddles, Precious, Charlotte, or Zinnia, how was I to know which one that went with? Even the one I called Sylvester was obvious to anyone who had watched Saturday morning cartoons.

However, a problem with this naming convention of

mine arose when it was me who started taking them to the vet.

I remember the first one. The receptionist brought up our family account on the computer. "What's the cat's name?" she asked.

I stood there trying to remember the name the kids had given it, but my mind was blank.

The receptionist looked up, somewhat impatiently. "This is your cat, right?"

"Yes," I replied. "But I can't think of the name my kids use."

"What do you call it?" she replied.

"Doormat," I replied.

"Doormat?" she said.

"Yes," I replied. "It always lies right in front of the door, so I step on it if I'm not looking."

"I suppose it doesn't matter what you call it as long as you know which cat it is," she said.

I was relieved. I thought she was going to give me a lecture about how cats are people too and should have proper names. I had received that lecture from my mother-in-law.

I continued taking the cats to the vet as needed,

just registering them with the names I called them. But one day I came home, and my wife was holding a postcard.

"Perhaps I should be the one to take the cats to the vet from now on," she said.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because the mailman got a real good laugh out of this postcard."

I took the card and read it.

"Just a reminder that it's time for Hitler Cat's and Clown Kitty's shots."

Perhaps it would be better if someone else took the

cats to the vet.

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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## Short Stories & Poetry



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor

In The Valleys I Grow: Sometimes life seems hard to bear, full of trouble, sorrow and woe. It's then I have to remember, that its, "In The Valleys I Grow."

If I always stayed on the mountaintop and never experienced pain, I would never appreciate God's love and would be living in vain.

I do not always understand why things happen as they do, but I'm very sure of one thing, my Lord will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing when I picture Christ on the cross; He went through the valley of death, His victory is our gain and Satan's loss.

Forgive me Lord for complaining when I'm



feeling so very low. Just give me a gentle reminder that it's, "In The Valleys I Grow."

Lord, continue to strengthen me and use my life each day, to share Your love with others and help them find their way.

Thank you for the valleys, Lord. For this one thing I know, the mountains are glorious, but, it's "In The Valleys I Grow."

—Anonymous.

"Remember that it's takes two mountains to

make a valley; therefore, you've been blessed more than you've been in the valleys."

"Because": Just because no one has been fortunate enough to realize what a gold mine you are, doesn't mean you shine any less.

Just because no one has been smart enough to figure out that you can't be topped, doesn't stop you from being the best.

Just because no one has come along to share your life, doesn't mean that day

isn't coming. Just because no one has made this race worthwhile doesn't give you permission to stop running.

Just because no one has realized how much of an awesome man/woman you are, doesn't mean they can affect your masculinity/femininity.

Just because no one has shown up who can love you on your level doesn't mean you have to sink to theirs.

Just because you deserve the very best there is, doesn't mean that life is always fair.

Just because God is still preparing your Queen/King, doesn't mean that you're not already a King/Queen. Just because your situation doesn't seem to be progressing right now doesn't mean you need to change a thing.

Keep shining, keep running, keep hoping, and keep praying, keep being exactly what you are al-

ready. Complete! Being a man/woman of God!

—Bishop T. D. Jakes.

Heavenly Father, You knew me before I were in my mother's womb; You knew that I would be coming soon. Thank You Heavenly Father for all that You do. Thank You for bring me through.

Trials and tribulations come and tough times too, but all I have to do Heavenly Father is call on you. You kept a roof over my head and even a warm bed. If it wasn't for You; I would have been misled.

Thank You, Father for

all that you do, Oh Lord, I'm learning to depend on You. Thank You for all that You've done; You gave your only Son.

You're everything to me, and I want You to know it; I'm going to work harder Lord, and I'm going to show it.

Thank you for all that you're going to do, Your Son is coming back for all of them and me too. (Job 1:21-22)

—Bobby J. Tucker

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

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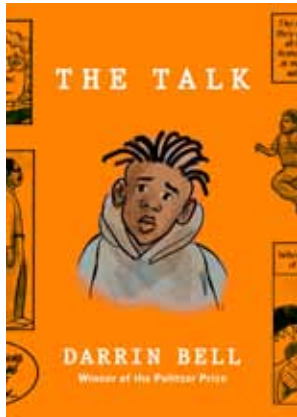
# NDG Book Review: 'The Talk' is a great read for young Black readers

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Someone who was older than you taught you to tie your shoes.

An elder showed you around a kitchen, a car, a workplace, a classroom, and the inside of a library. A lot of what you know has thoughtfully come from someone with years – which might make you wonder, as in the new book, “The Talk” by Darrin Bell, why weren’t you taught the most important lessons of all?

It was 1981 and little Darrin Bell wanted nothing more than a squirt gun. It



seemed like everyone had a squirt gun, but the one Darrin’s mother bought him was lime green, not black like a real gun. She tried to tell him why his was green, but he didn’t understand.

He only knew that his mother must never find out that a policeman took his squirt gun away.

Once he was old enough, Darrin attended a school where he was one of a small handful of biracial students. White kids teased him because his dad was Black. Black kids teased him because his mom was white. He wanted to know what to do so he asked his father, who was good at knowing all the answers but this was one time when Dad had nothing. He could only say that “a White boy’s words never made me run for my life.”

Soon afterward, Darrin’s dad left the family home and Darrin’s mom became super-protective. She made a scene many times over racism, in and out of school. Still, Darrin learned to get by, he found a tribe, found a girlfriend, and learned what it felt like to stand up for himself. As an adult, his comic strip and political cartoons were picked up by national and local newspapers and news outlets. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his work, and he started a family.

But on a sunny afternoon, as his son helped him with some gardening tools,

Bell saw the past, and he saw the future. He saw that it was time for people to stop lying...

Looking for a good biography with a bit of edge? Here: hovering over every panel of artwork and action inside “The Talk,” there’s a threat. It starts at the beginning and never lets up.

Author Darrin Bell doesn’t voice that threat until several pages into his story, but it’s there and readers won’t be able to ignore it. Racism is subtle in the opening pages of his book, and it taints the innocence of play. From there,

the threat increases and readers are made to squirm as Bell grows up through his art; we see his charming awkwardness and his maturing – but still, that threat. By the end, we know how Bell perceives it, too, which is one of the more powerful ways of ending a book that you’ll ever see.

This story is great for readers, especially male readers ages 16 to 30, but also for parents of any young Black child, not just boys. Give “The Talk” to an older kid. Give it to an elder.

## KENNEDY, from Page 2

Kennedy was viewed favorably by 49% of respondents and unfavorably by just 30%, leaving him with a net rating of 19 points—higher than any other candidate in the poll, which surveyed 1,500 adult respondents from June 10 to 13.

Further, Biden had a negative 9-point net favorability rating, with 52% of respondents viewing him somewhat or very unfavorably.

In comparison, 45% have very or somewhat favorable impressions, and Trump had a negative 10-point net rating, with 53% viewing him unfavorably and 43% favorably.

“Could Bobby Kennedy catch a spark? Maybe,” Michael Novogratz, a billionaire Democratic donor who supported Biden in 2020 but has pledged not to back any candidate older than 72, told the New York Times.

“He’s alienated himself because of some of the anti-vax positions, but he is a bright man, articulate, eloquent, connected, has the Kennedy name, and would pull a lot of the Trump voters.”

Meanwhile, Kennedy said he’d also work to end medical racism “entrenched in our medical system in this country.”

He noted a recent video

he created about medical racism, where health experts have concluded that Black Americans are less likely to receive quality medical care than whites.

During the pandemic,

Kennedy noted that African Americans were dying at 3.6 times the rate of whites.

Regardless of their income or social status, Black mothers suffered maternal mortality alarmingly higher

than any other race.

“If you’re Black in this country, you’re getting third-world style medical care,” Kennedy insisted.

“The medical system is not attuned to taking care

of Black patients. Being a Black patient in this country is almost as dangerous as being a Black prisoner. You won’t get good medical care, which will be one of my priorities.”

## SMART, from Page 14

er heard her laugh in a long time. At the time, I didn’t understand what she was laughing about, and then she told it.

“Oh my dear,” she said, taking a deep breath, “when you are acting crazy, believe me, you are not acting.”

I had to think about that for a long time. So if I had to choose between “crazy” and “stupid,” my best choice would be crazy.

Later as I reflected on this I remembered what Solomon said. “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth

unto counsel is wise. A fool’s wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame” (Proverbs 12:15-16).

I’m going to commit myself to hearken unto some wise thinking to cover my shame.

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