



North Dallas Gazette

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Republican State Attorneys General warn CEOs of the legal consequences of considering race in hiring Practices

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Thirteen Republican state attorneys general have sent a cautionary letter to the CEOs of the 100 largest U.S. companies, highlighting the potential legal ramifications of using race as a factor in employment practices.

The letter follows the recent Supreme Court ruling striking down affirmative action in higher education.

It has stoked fears that the court's ruling will extend to corporate America.

"Racial discrimination in employment and contracting is all too common among Fortune 100 companies and other large businesses," the attorneys general wrote in the July 13 letter to the CEOs of Fortune 100 companies.

"In an inversion of the odious discriminatory practices of the distant past, today's major companies adopt explicitly race-based initiatives which are similarly illegal."

The attorneys continued, noting that "these discriminatory practices include, among other things, explicit racial quotas and preferences in hiring, recruiting, retention, promotion, and advance-



Republican State Attorneys General Warn CEOs of the legal consequences of considering race in Hiring Practices. (Tim Mossholder / Unsplash)

ment."

"They also include race-based contracting practices, such as racial preferences and quotas in selecting suppliers, providing overt preferential treatment to customers on the basis of race, and pressuring contractors to adopt the company's racially discriminatory quotas and preferences."

The high court's ruling, which declared race an inadmissible factor in college admissions, could also apply to private entities, including employers.

Additionally, the attorneys general suggested that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs might constitute a form of

discrimination.

Already DE&I positions appear targeted.

Shortly after the Supreme Court's decision, it was revealed three prominent studios and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences had bid farewell to their top diversity executives.

And at the same time, the Academy bid farewell to Jeanell English, its EVP of Impact and Inclusion.

Academy CEO Bill Kramer created English's role in July 2022.

Still, several experts noted that the Supreme Court's ruling does

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People In The News ...



Hill Harper



Aretha Franklin

NDG Quote of the Week: "I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up."
—Rosa Parks

Hill Harper

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Hill Harper, the well-known actor recognized for his roles in television shows “CSI: NY” and “The Good Doctor,” has declared his candidacy for Michigan’s vacant U.S. Senate seat.

Harper’s bid for the Democratic nomination sets him on a direct collision course with U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin.

With Harper’s entry into the race, he becomes the sixth Democratic contender vying for the seat left open



by retiring Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

A four-term senator, Stabenow announced her decision not to seek re-election in 2024, adding to the significance of the battleground

state’s upcoming election.

Although born in Iowa, Harper has established strong ties to Michigan. He owns a residence in Detroit and made a notable investment in the city’s business landscape by purchasing Roasting Plant Coffee in 2017.

Before pursuing an acting career, Harper attended Brown University and Harvard Law School.

Harper’s involvement in public service extends beyond the entertainment industry. In 2012, President Barack Obama appointed Harper to his cancer panel because of his personal ex-

perience as a cancer survivor.

Harper’s background as a small-business owner, union member, and activist positions him as a unique candidate who emphasizes his status as a non-career politician.

He declared that his campaign would be “powered by the people, for the people,” hoping that this trait would give him an advantage in Congress.

In an interview with The Associated Press leading up to his announcement, Harper stressed the importance of representing the people rather than focusing

on party lines. He also said he believed Michigan residents desired an independent voice in the U.S. Senate.

Harper faces the daunting challenge of catching up to Slotkin’s impressive fundraising efforts and established campaign. Slotkin, who has garnered endorsements from fellow U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, has raised \$5.8 million in just over four months, with \$3.6 million remaining unspent.

Though in recent months, the field of Democratic candidates has expanded, initially, many prominent Democratic candidates considering a Senate run chose

not to compete after February Slotkin’s announcement. State Board of Education member Pamela Pugh, former Detroit state Rep. Leslie Love, businessman Nasser Beydoun, and attorney Zack Burns have all thrown their hats into the ring.

Michigan holds significant importance for the Democratic Party, as the state represents a must-win for maintaining control of the Senate. In the 2020 election, Republican John James narrowly lost to incumbent Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, who now serves as a

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Aretha Franklin

A Michigan jury has deemed a handwritten note by the late Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, her official last will, and testament.

The jury rendered its decision after an intense legal battle that pitted family members against one another over the inheritance of the legendary singer’s estate.

In the fall of 2019, Franklin’s niece made a remarkable discovery while rummaging through the corners of the singer’s suburban Detroit home.

Nestled beneath a couch



cushion, she stumbled upon a cache of three handwritten documents.

Among them was a particularly significant piece from 2014, which would ultimately take center stage in the courtroom drama.

Franklin’s two sons, Kecalf and Edward Franklin, enlisted the assistance of their legal representatives to champion the cause of the 2014 note, ardently contending that it should supersede a separate will crafted in 2010.

Their brother, Ted White II, stood firm, citing the 2010 will, safeguarded under lock and key within the confines of Franklin’s sprawling home.

The crux of the contentious dispute lay in the divergent provisions outlined in the two conflicting wills.

The 2014 note stipulated that Kecalf and Franklin’s grandchildren would inher-

it her prestigious Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, residence.

The 2014 will, in contrast, conspicuously omits the requirement that the sons obtain a certificate or degree in business, which was a requirement in the 2010 version.

Both wills bestowed upon Franklin’s four sons the privilege of benefiting from her vast musical

royalties and copyrights, ensuring their ongoing connection to her enduring legacy.

Franklin’s fourth son, Clarence Franklin, reportedly resides in an assisted living facility and wasn’t involved in the litigation.

The courtroom saga captivated the nation as fans and legal experts awaited the jury’s verdict.

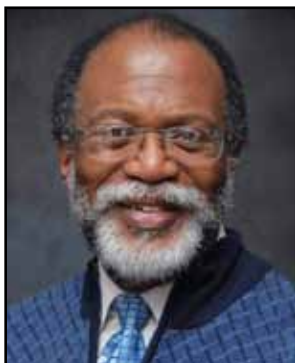
After carefully weighing

the evidence and considering the merits of both sides’ arguments, the Michigan jury validated the handwritten note as binding.

Franklin’s music career spanned decades and included global record sales of more than 75 million. Among her many accolades, she was a recipient of both the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Jeffery Jerome Grace, MD

BUFFALO, NY, (24-7PressRelease) -- Dr. Jerome Grace is an established medical doctor, medical director, and general adult psychiatrist who maintains Jeffery Jerome Grace, MD, PC, a private practice in Buffalo, New York. An established leader in the industry, he serves as an addiction medicine specialist and general adult psychiatrist who treats various conditions ranging from schizophrenia, personality disorder, and bipolar disorder to clinical depression and other mental health issues. Dr. Grace also serves as a physician at an outpatient mental health clinic and a medical director and



addiction specialist at a clinical dependency clinic in Buffalo, NY. He previously spent more than 25 years as the clinical director of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, which is recognized as a regional psychiatric hospital.

As a seasoned researcher, Dr. Grace has contributed

numerous articles to scholarly medical journals. Attributing his success to the support of his family and colleagues, Dr. Grace looks forward to continuing to provide excellent patient care in his field.

Dr. Grace graduated from Highland Park Community College with an Associate of Science, magna cum laude. Accepted to the University of Michigan, he earned an undergraduate degree in zoology in 1975. Shortly thereafter, he acquired a Doctor of Medicine at Wayne State University in 1981, followed by a residency in adult psychiatry at the University of California Davis Medical Center from

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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 our community’s abused and neglected children living in foster care.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

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For more information or to register for this event, please visit dallascasa.org

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Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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editor@northdallasgazette.com

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy

Lori Lee

Marland Mosely, Jr.

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

Special Projects to**the Publisher**

Mrs. Clinique Hill

Account Executive

Sterling R. Bradford

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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Freedom Rides 2.0: White privilege, the longest running Affirmative Action Program in American History

By Arthur Fleming
NDG Contributing Writer

We just celebrated another Fourth of (You-Lie) July. The Fredrick Douglas speech on July 5, 1852 at Corinthian Hall in Rochester N.Y. asked why the NEGROE should celebrate the 4th of July. This was in response to being invited to speak at a Fourth of July event, while America continued the business of owning African American families. The Frederick Douglas speech provides a clear marker for a comparison to today's America.

In Mr. Douglas' speech, he stated that You (white America) celebrate your freedoms, but on this day, you still deny the African American people their freedoms, which Mr. Douglas called American hypocrisy.

White privilege (a status not a race--see Clarence Thomas) is the residual rights or privileges that manifest in today's economic and social spaces like politics, jobs, families, etc.

White privilege is the fuel that feeds the Black/white abusive relationship in a framework that results from enslavement of African people.

Today, African Americans must navigate and negotiate our way through the white privileged paradigm or frame.

White status is a requirement to access white privileges?

From America's beginning to today, white privilege remains an obstacle to be overcome for African Americans. Frederick Douglas' words serve as a reminder that white privilege has not changed much since Mr. Douglas's 1852 speech.

Here are a few of the white privilege advantages

since the 1852 Frederick Douglas speech.

College legacy -- College entrance and admission are based on a family's past affiliation with the school as alumni or financial donor. While overturning affirmative action, this anti-democratic Supreme Court had no problem with legacy considerations. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson made the point that African Americans with an enslaved past had no College legacy opportunities.

Redline and deed restrictions for most of the 20th century denied generational wealth through land ownership.

Funding for Black colleges was denied, while entry into the white politically powerful colleges and universities was denied.

Public school funding was based on pre-civil war slave land owners' rights, a model designed to limit educational opportunities based on economic class.

Political books were banned to avoid hurting white children's feeling about America's true history.

Racist testing systems have been used to redirect opportunities away from African American communities.

In law enforcement, the FBI authored a report to Congress stating racist organizations have infiltrated law enforcement systems, including the FBI, where the name J. Edgar Hoover is still respected in the hallowed halls of that storied governmental agency.

The recent Supreme Court massacre of the Affirmative Action laws affirmed and confirmed the Leonard Leo Court Capture Program mentioned in previous Freedom Rides 2.0 articles. The

Court Capture Program has worked well for the super-rich and Oligarchs. The dark (light) money influencers' effect was obvious by the astroturf organization that filed the Amicus brief for the Supreme Court Harvard Affirmative Action case. Mr. Blum had no clear issue at stake, and many legal scholars say he had no standing to bring the case.

This recent Supreme Court Affirmative Action ruling was a Lenard Leo Federalist Society "special," aimed directly at the African American communities.

For the record, it was a now 73-year-old white man name Edward Blum, a stockbroker, who filed the Harvard suit on behalf of Asian Americans who didn't ask for it, and Asian students testified against removal of these admission rules. The real goal here is to divide and cause chaos between minority groups competing for the same small piece of the educational pie, while legacy that benefits wealthy white students goes untouched and unremarked.

Maya Angelou said "when someone tells you who they are, believe them the first time." The Supreme Court has presented themselves as the Republican Party. I believe them.

Freedom Rides 2.0 is about bringing back the 1960s freedom rides with a 2024 flavor. The goal of Freedom Rides 2.0 is to connect the African American diaspora throughout the south by registering voters to increase the African American community's economic and political power.

Freedom Rides 2.0 is a planned response to the growing storm of fascism organized by federalist society leadership led by Lenard Leo, with fascist talking points coming from the

Republican Party aimed at the African American communities.

The fascism clouds have burst over the Supreme Court.

The main lesson or take-away from the recent Supreme Court ruling is "no freedom gained is guaranteed" but must be protected with "the African American vote."

Dear white people: Now that you have successfully removed affirmative action as a tool for African American advancement, I sincerely ask, that as the African American communities rise again politically, economically and socially through community restructuring around this Supreme Court decision, I ask that you respect African American self-determination. The Oklahoma courts on July 7, 2023 dismissed with prejudice the Tulsa Oklahoma Black Wall Street lawsuit, meaning the case can't be re-filed in state court. The Black Wall Street case will be appealed to the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. The judge ended the lawsuit in state court without explanation or reason.

As the African American communities rebuild post Affirmative Action, I again ask white America to not repeat Black Wall Street, Rosewood, and other violent economic and physical acts against the African American communities, as happened in the past when African American economic success was perceived or real.

The good news is the African American community possesses more tools than Martin L. King and the Freedom Fighters of that day. Today the African American community have

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What is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid?



Lamonica Thomas
UNITED
HEALTHCARE
SALES
AGENT

What is Medicare?

Medicare is federal health insurance plan for people 65 or older, and some people under 65 with certain disabilities or conditions. A federal agency called the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services runs Medicare. Because it's a federal program, Medicare

has set standards for costs and coverage. This means a person's Medicare coverage will be the same no matter what state they live in

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that helps cover medical costs for some people with limited income and resources. The federal government has general rules that all state Medicaid programs must follow, but each state runs its own program. This means eligibility requirements and benefits can vary from state to

state. Medicaid offers benefits that Medicare doesn't normally cover, like nursing home care and personal care services. People with Medicaid usually don't pay anything for covered medical expenses but may owe a small co-payment for some items or services.

Who's Eligible for Medicaid?

In all states, Medicaid gives health coverage to some individuals and families, including elderly people with certain incomes, and people with disabilities.

Some states have expanded their Medicaid programs to cover other adults below a certain income level.

SLMB vs. QMB Types of Medicaid in Texas

To qualify for the SLMB (Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary) Program. You need to have limited financial resources. This means that when you add up all of your resources as an individual, those should value no more than \$9090. As a couple, your maximum countable resources should be \$13,630.

QMB (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary) covers the cost of 1. Medicare Parts A and B monthly premiums and 2. Payments of coinsurance and deductible amounts for services covered under both Medicare Parts A and B. Typically, you should not be billed for Medicare-covered services when seeing Medicare providers or providers in your Medicare Advantage Plan's network.

All information for this article is from the Texas Health and Human Services

website, www.hhs.texas.gov. For more information on applying and to understand Medicaid, please call the Texas Department of Health and Human Services at 211 Texas or 877-541-7905.

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

For older adults, every 500 additional steps taken daily may lower heart risk

(American Heart Association) Cardiovascular disease claims more lives each year in the U.S. than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined, according to the American Heart Association. Yet, a new study found that walking an additional 500 steps, or about one-quarter of a mile, per day was associated with a 14% lower risk of heart disease, stroke or heart failure, according to preliminary research presented at the American Heart Association's Epidemiology, Prevention, Lifestyle & Cardiometabolic Health Scientific Sessions recently.

"Steps are an easy way to measure physical activity, and more daily steps were associated with a lower risk of having a cardiovascular disease-related event in older adults," said Erin E. Dooley, Ph.D., an assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health and lead researcher of the study. "However, most studies have focused on early-to-midlife adults with daily goals of 10,000 or more steps, which may not be attainable for older individuals."



Clem Onojeghwa / Unsplash

Researchers analyzed health data for 452 participants who used an accelerometer device similar to a pedometer, worn at the hip, that measured their daily steps. The devices were worn for three or more days, for ten or more hours, and the average step count was about 3,500 steps per day. Over the 3.5-year follow-up period, 7.5% of the participants experienced a cardiovascular disease event, such as coronary heart disease, stroke or heart failure.

• A study of people ages 70 and older found walking an additional 500 steps per day, or an additional quarter mile of walking, was associated with a 14% lower risk of heart disease, stroke or heart failure.

• Compared to adults who took less than 2,000 steps per day, adults who took about 4,500 steps per day had a 77% lower observed risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event.

• Only about 3.5% of participants who took around 4,500 steps per day had a cardiovascular event, compared to 11.5% of those who took less than 2,000 steps per day, over the 3.5-year follow-up period.

The analysis found:

• Compared to adults who took less than 2,000 steps per day, adults who took approximately 4,500 steps per day had a 77% lower observed risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event.

• Nearly 12% of older adults with less than 2,000

steps per day had a cardiovascular event, compared to 3.5% of the participants who walked about 4,500 steps per day.

• Every additional 500 steps taken per day was incrementally associated with a 14% lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

"It's important to maintain physical activity as we age, however, daily step goals should also be attainable. We were surprised to find that every additional quarter of a mile, or 500 steps, of walking had such a strong benefit to heart health," Dooley said. "While we do not want to diminish the importance of higher intensity physical activity, encouraging small increases in the number of daily steps also has significant cardiovascular benefits. If you are an older adult over the age of 70, start with trying to get 500 more steps per day."

Everyone can improve their cardiovascular health by following the American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8: eating healthy food, being physically active, not smoking, getting enough sleep, maintaining a healthy weight, and controlling cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure levels.

Participants in the current analysis were part of a larger study group of 15,792 adults originally recruited for the ongoing Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study. Participants were an average age of 78 years old; 59% were women; and 20% of participants self-identified as Black adults (70% of whom were women, and 30% of whom were men). The study evaluated health data collected from ARIC study visit 6 (2016-17) to evaluate the potential association between daily step counts and cardiovascular disease.

The study had limitations. Participants had to enroll in the accelerometer device study, and hip-worn accelerometers are limited in capturing other activity behaviors that may also be important to heart health, such as bicycling and swimming. Study participants were more likely to have had at least some college or above education compared to the overall ARIC sample, and primarily self-identified as white and female, which may limit the study's generalizability. Additionally, steps were only measured at one single point in time, and the researchers were unable to examine if changes

in steps over time impacted CVD event risk. Additional research is needed to determine if meeting a higher daily count of steps prevents or delays cardiovascular disease, or if lower step counts may be an indicator of underlying disease.

Co-authors are Brady Rippon, M.S.; Pablo Martinez-Amezcu, M.D., Ph.D.; Amanda Paluch, Ph.D.; Lisa Pompeii, Ph.D.; Priya Palta, Ph.D.; and Kelley Pettee Gabriel, Ph.D. Authors' disclosures are listed in the abstract.

The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study has been funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health; the National Institutes of Health; and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The American Heart Association receives funding primarily from individuals; foundations and corporations (including pharmaceutical, device manufacturers and other companies) also make donations and fund specific Association programs and events. The Association has strict policies to prevent these relationships from influencing the science content.



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NAACP Garland Legal Redress workshop coming up on July 25

The Garland Unit of the NAACP is an active part of the Garland community, frequently hosting educational training sessions, political forums and legal redress workshops.

The group's upcoming Legal Redress Workshop and General Information Seminar will be held on July 25 at 7:00 p.m. It will be an online event, including guest panelists Maria Hazan-Cohen, Attorneys Shaun Naido and B.D. Howard, Police Chief Jeff Bryan, Mark Quijnn, Security Operations Coordi-



The Garland NAACP Youth Council, chartered in 1996, has received state, regional and national awards. (Garland NAACP)

nator for GISD, and Traci Paramore-Chambers.

Chartered on July 6, 1984, the Garland Unit of the NAACP includes 127 members. Ms. Goldie

Locke served as founding president, and Mr. Johnnie O. Steadham served as its first vice president, along with 18 Executive Committee members. Two of its

original 18 board members are still active today.

With core support of the African American faith-based community since 1984, the unit fought for

the school district during desegregation in 1989, and has successfully won discrimination cases on behalf of African Americans in the community. The unit organized the Garland MLK parade and March in 1989—now the largest suburban MLK event in Texas, and it has awarded scholarships to over 100 African American seniors in the Garland ISD. It hosts local ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) competitions and annually sponsors winners to travel and compete

at NAACP national ACT-SO competitions.

The Virtual Legal Redress event is sponsored by the NAACP Garland Legal Redress Committee. Dr. Chester B. Johnson chairs the Legal Redress Committee, and Mr. Ricky C. McNeall is NACCP President.

To find more information about NAACP Garland and its accomplishments, please visit <http://garland-txnaacp.org/>.

Contact the Garland NAACP for Zoom link info.

City of Dallas collaborates with NOAA to map heat island areas in Dallas

Heat islands are urban areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), heat islands contribute to higher daytime temperatures, reduced nighttime cooling, and higher air-pollution levels. Heat islands also increase demand for air conditioning, which increases air pollution, when electric suppliers rely on fossil fuels.

Compared to natural surfaces, like grass and water, which absorb heat and pollution, building materials, like concrete and brick, hold onto the sun's



With more concrete and other building materials, cities have fewer natural surfaces to absorb the sun's heat. (Pawel Janiak / Unsplash)

heat longer and are worse about re-emitting that heat and pollution back into the atmosphere. This makes urban areas hotter, with higher levels of pollution and heat, less comfortable and less healthy. The Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention recorded an average of 702 heat-related deaths per year from 2004 to 2018. And according to the EPA, increasing global temperatures exacerbate the effects of normally oc-

curing heat waves.

The City of Dallas will join the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and 18 other communities in the western hemisphere to collect data to map where people are most at risk during extreme heat waves.

Using specially designed sensors mounted on moving vehicles, community volunteers will drive prescribed routes to record ambient temperatures and humidity during three specific times of day. Volunteer citizen scientists will travel through their neighborhoods in the morning, afternoon and evening on one of

the hottest days of the year with heat sensors mounted on their own cars. The sensors will record temperature, humidity, time and the volunteers' location every second. The City of Dallas Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS) will collect this data on Aug. 5, and the City is encouraging residents to volunteer and participate in the annual project.

"Without projects like the NOAA Urban Heat Island map, we would not be able to understand our city's response to heat like we do now," OEQS Director Carlos Evans said. "This is a great opportunity

for our community volunteers to not only learn more about Dallas, but to play an active role in keeping fellow residents safe from the heat."

Now, in its seventh year, the NOAA Urban Heat Island (UHI) mapping campaign addresses extreme heat, the number one weather-related cause of death in the U.S. over the last three decades. Urban heat islands — areas with few trees and more pavement — can be up to 20 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than nearby neighborhoods with more trees and grass and less black asphalt.

RIDERS, from Page 3

more tech power, political power, financial power, business power, education skills and intellectual power, compared to our ancestors. Every man, woman or person has their time. Every generation has its time. America is being reborn right before our very consciousness. What kind of future will African American leadership leave for the African American children? Let's leave our children the ability to advocate for themselves.

Has America changed since the 1852 speech by Frederick Douglas? Of course, it has changed, as

has the world for that matter. The many community tools mentioned attest to African American progress generally, but the white privileged systems of the 1800s have mind melded (see Dr. Spock) into the American infrastructure of local, state, and national government and civic institutions today—It's called "systematic racism."

As the African American consciousness expands through knowledge of history and self, know and recognize there is no resting or hiding place in the march toward African American constitutional justice and

freedom. As of today, Frederick Douglas' words in 1852 stand. I can't celebrate the 4th of (You lie) July for the same reasons stated by Mr. Douglas, but I remain hopeful that one day I can. The African American community doesn't need Affirmative Action. The African American community deserves Affirmative Access.

From tilling the land to reaching the stars

African-American greatness knows no bars

With strength, resilience, and pride held high

The African-American self-determination reaches the sky.

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Bold Idea offers Dallas ISD students unique coding education

Over 100 Dallas ISD students discovered computer science this year through a unique, after-school coding program led by the education nonprofit, Bold Idea. The nonprofit's ideaSpark Coding Clubs combine project-based learning in computer science with mentoring from technology professionals. Across 28 weeks, students created engaging coding projects, like websites and video games, while learning computer programming languages like Scratch, HTML, CSS, and Javascript. Students participated at their school campuses or through an online Coding Club.

The program is avail-



IdeaSpark Coding Clubs brings programs to priority neighborhoods, including Oak Cliff and Vickery Meadow. (Dallas I.S.D.)

able for students in third to twelfth grades, whether they have coding experience or are just getting started. Students are supported by volunteer mentors, many of whom have

backgrounds in technology, including roles as engineers and computer programmers. Mentors develop positive relationships with students in the Coding Clubs and serve as role models

to support students' career aspirations in technology. They come from companies such as State Farm, TEKsystems, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Fidelity Investments.

"Before Bold Idea, I never really thought about computer science much, but now that I'm doing it, I think it's really cool to make my own game. The mentors really help you step by step. I think it's great," seventh grader Nadia F. said.

Robyn Brown, CEO and founder of Bold Idea, said that exposing students to computer science and computational thinking at a young age will help them

become creative problem solvers using digital technology. "Our mission is to expand access to computer science for all students, especially our youngest learners, and create a pathway for students to careers in technology," she said.

For seven years, Bold Idea has partnered with Dallas ISD to provide its ideaSpark Coding Clubs program at elementary and middle schools in priority neighborhoods, including Oak Cliff and Vickery Meadow. The nonprofit currently partners with eight schools in the district and plans to add three more in the 2023-2024 school year: Mark Twain School for

the Talented and Gifted, George B. Dealey Vanguard Elementary, and John Neely Bryan Elementary.

Dallas ISD campuses that currently partner with Bold Idea:

- Margaret B. Henderson Jr. Elementary School
- Rosemont Lower and Upper School
- Whitney M. Young Jr. Elementary School
- Dallas Hybrid Preparatory at Stephen J. Hay
- Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Middle School
- Dr. Frederick Douglass Todd Sr. Middle School
- William B. Lipscomb Elementary School
- Jack Lowe Sr. Elementary School

Dallas Black Dance Academy continues Adopt-a-School Dance Program with support of Genesis Foundation

The Genesis Inspiration Foundation issued Dallas Black Dance Academy (DBDA) a \$50,000 grant enabling the dance school to continue its Adopt-A-School Dance Program for a second year. Genesis gave Dallas Black Dance Academy a gift last year, allowing the organization to launch the program. Adopt-A-School will provide dance instructors for at least two schools in the Dallas Independent School District during the 2023-2024 school year.

"Research shows that when a child has access to the arts, they can be inspired to be creative thinkers and pursue academic excellence," said Cameron Wagner, Sr. Group Manager, Field Operations, for Genesis Motor America.

"We are dedicated to funding enriching art education programs that inspire youth development beyond the classroom and introduce children to a new world of the possible." The foundation has awarded over \$8 million in grants to promote youth arts education programs since the foundation started in 2018. This year the Academy's



Olivia Bauso / Unsplash

grant was funded by Huffy Hyundai Plano.

The academy's new expanded arts education initiative offers free training to help elevate students by enriching their in-school dance class instruction. Dallas Black Dance Academy partners with the classroom dance teachers to provide opportunities to develop skills for careers in dance.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, has a history of producing dance professionals for over 50

years. The academy trained one of the first students in the nation to receive the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. Since 2012, 100% of Dallas Black Dance Academy students have graduated from high school and attended college. Numerous DBDA Alumni have received full scholarships in dance and other careers to prestigious universities across the nation.

For more information on how your school can join the Dallas Black Dance Academy's Adopt-A-School Dance program

email, academy@dbdt.com. For more details on Dallas Black Dance Academy, visit www.dbdt.com/academy.

The official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates 50 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. It was founded by Ann Williams. The academy trained the first student in the nation to receive the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. Students participate weekly in 36 dance classes, including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African on-site at DBDT's studios. Classes are held at Dallas Black Dance Theatre's studios and are open to students ages four to adult. The academy has three performing ensembles: Allegro Performing Ensemble, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble.

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, and currently under the direction of Melissa M. Young, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance

at the highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. As the largest and oldest professional dance company in Dallas, DBDT is the fourth-largest Black dance company in the nation, the ninth-largest contemporary modern dance company, and ranked 40th among the nation's leading ballet companies. Located in the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, DBDT has performed worldwide for over 4.6 million arts patrons and 2.8 million students in 33 states and 16 countries on five continents. The performances include two Olympics (1996 & 2012), the nation's most prestigious venues (Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Broadway, Jacob's Pillow), and for such luminaries as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and South African President Nelson Mandela. Since the pandemic began in 2020, DBDT performances have also been viewed virtually in 34 countries. The Company has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as

an American Masterpiece Touring Artist (2008) and received the Texas Medal of the Arts Award for Arts Education (2017).

DBDT's 2022-23 Legacy Sponsor is Harold Simmons Foundation. Its Catalyst Sponsors include The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Texas Instruments, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Anonymous. Its Season Sponsors include The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, NBC 5, The Dallas Morning News, Texas Metro News, American Airlines, Oversee My IT, Shubert Foundation, Inc., DART, TACA, Dallas Weekly, and Texas Commission on the Arts. Its Seasons Supporters include The Rea Charitable Trust, Lexus, fyi50+, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, Trendy Africa, and Arts+Culture, and its Education Sponsors include Genesis Inspiration Foundation, Neiman Marcus, and Racial Equity Fund of The Dallas Foundation Texas Commission on the Arts.

Plano Parks and Recreation Art Contest is seeking entries

Create a masterpiece depicting what parks and recreation in Plano means to you. Then submit it to the Plano Parks and Recreation art contest. All ages and abilities are encouraged to participate as we celebrate National Park and Recreation Month's "Where Community Grows" theme. Prizes include annual recreation passes, pool cabana rentals, giveaways and more. One special



Dan Farrell / Unsplash

grand prize winner's artwork will be featured in our 2024 Summer Catalog! All entries are due Sunday, July 30 at 5 pm. One submission per per-

son in these age categories:

- Ages 5-12
- Ages 13-18
- Ages 19 and older

Artwork mediums accepted: pencil, chalk, paint, recycled items, digital drawings, textiles, etc.

How to submit artwork:

- Include the artist's name, age category, contact information and a short description of the artwork;
- Email a high-resolution photo of the artwork

to parksinfo@plano.gov (Subject Line: Art Contest Submission); and

- Bring your creation to Plano Parks and Recreation's main office (5901 Los Rios Blvd.) or any recreation center.

"Local parks are often our first experiences in nature, our introduction to a favorite hobby or physical activity. They are places to gather with friends and family to celebrate life's

special moments as well as spots of respite and healing," Plano Parks and Recreation Director Ron Smith said. "This is the perfect time to reflect on and appreciate all the ways our community is stronger, more vibrant and more resilient because of parks and recreation."

We cannot wait to see parks and recreation through your eyes, experiences and expression.

Richardson Mayor's Summer Internship Program kicks off 'Healthy Kids Snack Drive'

As part of the Richardson Mayor's Summer Internship Program, the public is invited to donate kid-friendly snacks for the "Healthy Kids Snack Drive" now through Aug. 1. Benefiting families served by the Network of Community Ministries, the snack drive is organized by high school interns participating in the sixth-annual

Richardson Mayor's Summer Internship Program. Donations can be made in person at the Network of Community Ministries on scheduled dates and times, or pre-selected items may be purchased online via the Healthy Kids Snack Drive Amazon Wish List.

As inflation continues to affect North Texas families, these donations are more

important than ever. Healthy snack items include individual fruit cups, applesauce cups or squeeze bottles, cereal cups, oatmeal cups, macaroni and cheese cups, soup cups, pasta cups and juice boxes. The items will be distributed at the Richardson ISD "Backpack Bash" on Aug. 5 at Richardson High School. The Network of Communi-

ty Ministries will distribute any leftover items to area children.

The Network of Commu-

nity Ministries is located at 741 S. Sherman St. in Richardson.

If dropping off in person,

please email Angela Shellene at ashellene@thereedsprc.com to coordinate a time.

Acclaimed South African Contemporary Exhibition extended through Oct. 22

After overwhelmingly positive reviews and unprecedented attendance, "If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future: Selections of Contemporary South African Art from the Nando's Art Collection" has been extended through Sunday, Oct. 22, at the African American Museum, Dallas in historic Fair Park. Culled from one of the world's largest collections of contemporary South African art and featuring 62 pieces from 55 artists, the exhibit will run through

the end of the State Fair of Texas and will remain free of charge to all visitors.

From a continent with a rich and dynamic art scene, some of the must-see works are drawn from the collection's strength in portraiture, landscape, cityscapes and abstraction.

Several of the featured artists on display have received recent accolades:

- Zanele Muholi is a ground-breaking Black queer photographer with a current retrospective in Paris at the Maison Euro-

péenne de la Photographie.

- Represented by the Stevenson gallery in South Africa and David Zwirner in New York City and London, Portia Zvahera is a rising star with works featured at the 59th Venice Biennale.
- A 35-year survey exhibition from William Kentridge, "In Praise of Shadows" is currently on display at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
- Recently profiled by CNN, Mbongeni Buthelezi,

See MUSEUM, Page 11



On view during the State Fair of Texas, "If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future" highlights 55 emerging, mid-career and renowned artists. (Courtesy photo)

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Once a safe haven for escaped slaves, small Arkansas town suffers water crisis amidst heatwave

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

During the Civil War in 1863, Helena, Arkansas, located in the South and under Union occupation, provided refuge to runaway slaves, becoming a safe haven for them.

The city also served as a training ground for various regiments comprised of colored soldiers.

In the 1940s and 1950s, Helena transformed into a thriving blues community, flourishing as a bustling port town along the Mississippi River.

According to the city's official website, musicians from all corners of the South would make a stop in Helena, contributing to its vibrant music scene.

To this day, Helena remains the proud host of the nation's longest-running blues radio show, King Biscuit Time.

The show played a crucial role in launching the careers of numerous re-



typical of Black communities across the country, Helena-West Helena has its share of problems that arise from discrimination.

(Photo via NNPA)

nowned musicians.

Presently known as Helena-West-Helena, the city serves as the county seat for Phillips County and is home to a population of slightly over 9,000 people, predominantly African Americans.

And typical of Black communities across the country, Helena-West Helena has its share of problems that arise from discrimination.

Today, as blistering heat beats down on Helena, the city faces a water crisis and meaningful state, and

federal aid has remained elusive.

As the city braces for more scorching temperatures, the mercury expected to reach a sweltering 98 degrees next week, it has grappled with a dire water shortage for the past three weeks.

Aid has been slow to arrive, leaving the community to rely on bottled water for their daily needs.

The root cause of Helena-West Helena's water woes lies in its aging infra-

See CRISIS, Page 12

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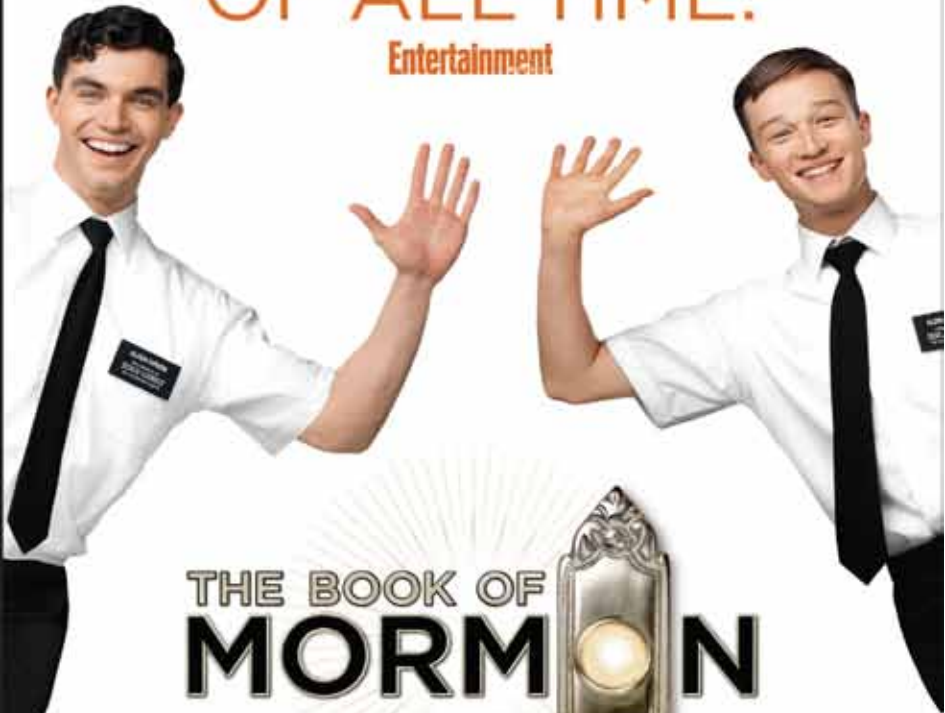
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Film Review: 'Black Ice' is eye-opening, but could have been better

By Dwight Brown
Film Critic for NNPA

(**1/2) Hard to imagine that in the late 1800s, men of African descent played hockey in Canada. That's a major surprise considering the demographics of today's National Hockey League. But there's a back-story--an evolution, and lots of it is quite sobering.

Director Hubert Davis (Oscar® nom Best Documentary, Short Subject for "Hardwood") and producers Vinay Virmani and Scott Moore seem to have four goals for their ice hockey doc: 1) reclaiming and showcasing the history of Black players; 2) pointing out the inequities of the sport and its systemic racism; 3) letting Black players reveal their love of the sport and abusive experiences; and 4) showing ways veteran players are supporting the next generation.

As an educational en-



Willie O'Ree in "Black Ice" (Photo via NNPA)

deavor, the research, photos, newspapers articles, interviews and anecdotes from pioneers who've made inroads into the game are illuminating. Learning that the slap shot (Eddie Martin) and aggressive goalie play (Henry Franklin) stemmed from the Colored Hockey League is both fascinating and inspiring. In fact, inspiration is one of the film's strengths.

At the end of the film, when former NHL players like Akim Aliu (Calgary Flames) prepare kids to take over a sport they've

rightly inherited as much as white Canadians, it sends a message of hope. Solutions, like funding the equipment for kids are encouraging efforts that viewers will likely revere -- more reasons for audiences to watch a 97-minute hockey doc, even if they know that this volatile sport continues to be hostile towards Black players.

As athlete after athlete relives the degradation they've faced, their personal anecdotes become increasingly alarming and emotionally draining.

Name calling, bananas being thrown on the ice and spectators making grunting ape sounds -- makes you wonder if hockey is worth the fight. Many sports have evolved from a deeply racist background that often included segregated leagues. Black players would break into all-white pro teams and endure hostility so that those who follow in their path will have it easier. That's true with baseball, basketball, tennis...

Most recently, the illuminating documentary "The League," successfully chronicled pioneering Black baseball leagues and its innovators. And the sports doc "Unfinished Business" chronicled the

origins, disparities, breakthroughs and survival of the WNBA. Both films used interviews with sports icons, historians and intellectuals to retell the story of the innovators who braved baseball and basketball. No punches were pulled. The difficulties, pejorative names, dehumanization, racism, sexism and homophobia were exposed. But somehow those hard truths were balanced by the perseverance, achievements and innovations those heroes brought to their sports back in the day and now. Viewers walked away inspired. Hopeful.

"Black Ice" gets into the trenches on racism in hockey with graphic ex-

pressions of humiliations endured by players yesterday and today. Yet something seems off, like there is no balance between the negative and positive reasons for participating in hockey, a sport that clearly doesn't love its Black players back.

In opening scenes that reveal the film's intentions, it is said: "If we don't talk about it, we don't have to take ownership of the negative things that happened." In that way, as a filmmaker, airing the justified grievances makes sense, especially if the perpetrators are listening. But as a viewer looking to learn more about the history of black

See ICE, Page 10



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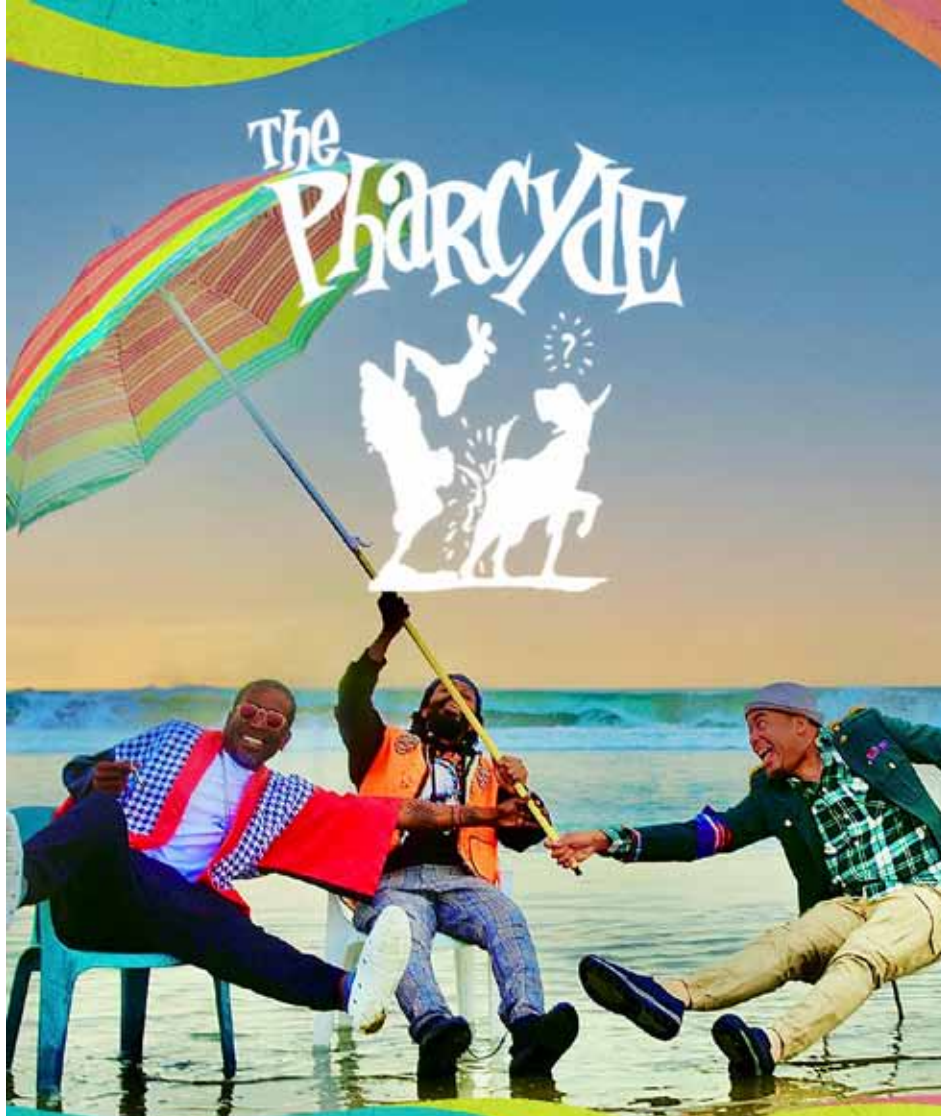


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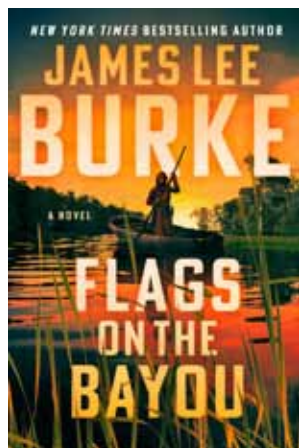
NDG Book Review: 'Flags on the Bayou' is a hard but great read

By Terri Schilchenmeyer

There's right. And there's wrong.

You know the difference, even if you can't or don't want to know. One is more exciting, fun, more profitable, and easier to do. The other is hard, and can leave you holding an empty bag but a fuller heart. So which do you choose? Or, as in the new novel, "Flags on the Bayou" by James Lee Burke, do you wait and see what happens?

The box was made of dark wood, slightly bulkier than the flintlocks inside it. Pierre Cauchon, oversight



constable for a large area of Louisiana, didn't want to fight Wade Lufkin that day in 1863, but though the woman activist from Massachusetts tried to stop them

and Lufkin give Cauchon a small chance to resist, Lufkin also seemed determined to have this duel.

He would live to regret it, but barely.

Once, Lufkin was a little bit in love with Hannah Laveau, a former slave on his uncle's estate but she merely tolerated his offers of friendship. He wanted to know her better but Hannah only wanted to find her small son, who accidentally toddled off and went missing in the heat of battle some time before.

She knew Samuel was alive. Somehow, he told her so.

But Hannah herself

wasn't safe. Cauchon was looking for her; word was that she was stirring up trouble on other plantations. Word was that she'd mutilated and murdered Minos Suarez after he tried to bed her. Cauchon felt certain that Lufkin's uncle had some hand in the murder, too.

But the more he investigated, the more he believed that Hannah wasn't the killer he was looking for. His own intuition, and the duel-gone-wrong, altered Cauchon's outlook on a lot of things. So did the presence of a syphilitic, perhaps insane, outlaw tasked with

guarding the Lufkin plantation...

Aha, you think. A nice new Dave Robicheaux book for the summer, right?

Not by a long shot. "Flags on the Bayou" couldn't possibly get any further from that series or any other thriller by author James Lee Burke.

There's a lot of chaos and a lot to keep track of inside this book, and much of it isn't pleasant to read. You may, in fact, spend a lot of time wincing at the vice and violence in the story, at the realistic but cringeworthy language, and the cruelty that's authentic here

but still hard to take. These things can make the story feel stained and grimy, like you'd pick it up with two fingers so you don't soil your hands. Other times, it feels like any other thriller, exciting but somehow safe before Burke sneaks in a chuckle, incongruous and welcomed.

Is this a good book? Yes, but don't be surprised if you stare into space for a few minutes after you've shut the back cover. You won't shake this novel off easily, and if that's the kind of book you love, with "Flags on the Bayou," you can't go wrong.

ICE, from Page 9

hockey players, this well-meaning, well-shot (Chris Romeike) documentary makes it seem like hockey is a sport so repulsive and entrenched in bigotry that it's not worth the effort. If that is not this film's goal, it needs further editing (editor Eamonn O'Connor), a rewrite (screenwriter Daril Fosty) and a shift in emphasis.

A smarter balance of en-

lightening history, social analysis, graphic recollections and solutions would attract a wider audience to hear this film's message. Otherwise, it's hard to imagine who would sit through this doc twice or why any parent with a Black child would submit their kids to a sport that hasn't evolved racially and that exposes Black players to vile treatment by

the front office, crowds, coaches and other players.

Brave hockey pros like Aliu, Saroya Tinker, Sarah Nurse, Wayne Simmonds, P.K. Subban and Willie O'ree tell their horrific stories candidly, with grace, hope and attempts to effect change. But if there is a case for people of African descent to continue to be involved in a sport that won't even meet them halfway, it cannot be found in this honest but bleak film.

The noble cause, good intentions and efforts to hold Canada's #1 sport ac-

countable are admirable. Yet something about this doc doesn't click.

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

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New development to bring neighborhood activity and convenience to six Dallas DART stations

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

In a move that means real progress for Dallas communities, the Office of Economic Development is moving forward with negotiations to encourage new, active transit-oriented neighborhoods after council gave them the authorization last month.

Life is easier for people in transit-oriented neighborhoods. These efficiently designed communities support convenience for both residents and businesses. In these neighborhoods, people can be seen running by the gym on the way to work, picking up groceries on the way home, or stop-



David Wilfong / NDG

ping by a restaurant to meet neighborhood friends. It is a way of life that is simpler and free of the stress of fighting traffic.

With a mixture of retail, office, and residential spaces situated compactly near each other, a person's every-day needs are met with ease. And with retail

and services located on the ground floor, the layout keeps streets active, which is good for safety by keeping eyes on the street. This type of development also supports getting to know neighbors by encouraging repeat encounters at neighborhood destinations.

Transit-oriented development simplifies life and also saves time otherwise spent in traffic. And because these neighborhoods are adjacent to mass transit, they make it easy to access other places in the metroplex. They can dramatically reduce the need to drive, up to 85% according to the Transit Oriented Development Institute.

Such reductions can help

curb pollution significantly, while contributing to worldwide efforts to reduce global warming.

After approval by the City Council last month, the Office of Economic Development is authorized to move forward with exclusive negotiating agreements with the most advantageous proposers of mixed-use development near six DART transit stations. This step moves the City closer to bringing transit-oriented development to the six DART-owned properties at 8th & Corinth, Hampton, Westmoreland, Lake June, Buckner and Royal Lane. While the sites are currently underutilized with parking, the plan is to

replace this parking with vibrant mixed-use developments or more active residential neighborhoods.

In December 2021, DART and the City of Dallas executed a Memorandum of Understanding, giving the City the ability to solicit transit-oriented development proposals for six DART-owned sites adjacent to its light-rail stations. The City followed

in September of 2002 with Requests for Proposal to solicit transit-oriented development for the six sites, wherein potential respondents were invited to submit ambitious proposals, including affordable and mixed-income residential components. Each request prioritized proposals that maximize public benefit

See DART, Page 14

MUSEUM, from Page 9

not directly alter existing employer obligations or commitments to DEI.

Greg Hoff, associate counsel of the HR Policy Association, told PBS that the decision does not legally impact Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which governs employment discrimination and workplace bias.

Several experts opined that the ruling pertains specifically to higher education institutions and entities that receive federal funding rather than private employers.

They emphasize that affirmative action in college admissions differs significantly from DEI efforts in workplaces, which can encompass various initiatives such as expanded outreach for diverse hires, the establishment of employee

resource groups for underrepresented workers, and the reduction of bias in hiring through practices like blind applications.

David Glasgow, executive director of the Meltzer Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at New York University's School of Law, said in a PBS interview that opponents of DEI have been deliberately conflating affirmative action with DEI initiatives to serve their political agendas.

Glasgow emphasized that although affirmative action in the workplace is still technically legal according to Supreme Court precedent, it is still infrequent.

He suggested that if there's a challenge to workplace affirmative action, the current court might

overturn such cases, mirroring the decision made in college admissions.

However, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) recently sent a letter to Target's CEO, alleging that the company's DEI program and "racial quota for hiring" were discriminatory, citing the affirmative action ruling.

The attorneys general have expressed their intent to monitor companies' hiring practices for employees and contractors closely.

They specifically called out several companies, including Airbnb, Facebook, Google, Goldman Sachs, Microsoft, and Netflix, for their programs to increase racial diversity in their workforce and supplier networks.

Despite the forceful nature of the letter, only about half of the nation's Republican attorneys gen-

eral signed it, while Democrats have criticized the Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action.

HARPER, from Page 2

U.S. representative.

While two GOP candidates, including state Board of Education member Nikki Snyder, have declared their intentions to run, Republicans have yet to field a

high-profile contender for the seat.

Notable figures like former U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer are reportedly considering bids.

Democrats anticipate

tough races in other battleground states like Ohio, West Virginia, Montana, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. Yet Republicans have been successful in only one of Michigan's last 15 Senate races, securing an open seat victory in 1994.

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NCRF and T-Mobile join forces to empower underserved communities

LOS ANGELES (Black PR Wire) -- NCRF is proud to partner with T-Mobile on a mutual mission to provide exceptional career opportunities to underserved and under-resourced communities. This national campaign is open to all high school graduates and adults looking to discover a range of different career opportunities at the

company.

The collaboration opens doors to individuals seeking diverse career opportunities at T-Mobile. The company offers a comprehensive range of roles across different sectors, including customer-facing store roles, business-to-business, sales, and HR, among others.

T-Mobile's robust em-

ployee benefits package includes healthcare, 70% off phone bills, and college tuition assistance programs. These benefits are designed to support employees' educational pursuits alongside their career growth. T-Mobile also provides a wide array of entry-level positions that include internships, returnships, and fellowships. Af-

ter 90 days of employment, employees can apply for tuition reimbursement and assistance programs offering monetary aid for education at one of nine universities.

NCRF's partnership with T-Mobile is emblematic of its mission to close the gap in educational achievement and create employment opportunities for underserved and

under-resourced students.

To view a short T-Mobile success story, click here: <https://youtu.be/YspWSdp-WNms>

Through strong industry partnerships like this with T-Mobile, NCRF provides essential resources and career opportunities. Those interested can join the T-Mobile talent community at any time

during this ongoing partnership to explore the numerous career opportunities available at T-Mobile.

To search all T-Mobile careers scan the QR code or visit: <http://careers.t-mobile.com/job-search>

For more information on NCRF and its many programs please visit: www.ncrfoundation.org.

CRISIS, from Page 8

structure, with pipes dating back at least 60 years, which have been bursting throughout the city.

Mayor Christopher Franklin expressed his concerns in an NBC News interview.

"Some of the problems are about infrastructure being neglected over the years. It's just been a systemic failure," Franklin said.

The crisis reached its tipping point on June 25 when a major water line broke, causing the city's computer operating system that runs the water plant to fail automatically.

As a result, the predominantly Black community endured a grueling 20-hour period without water in scorching temperatures of up to 97 degrees.

Since then, the city has been under a boil water alert, which remains in effect due to leaks sprouting from various compromised parts of the infrastructure.

According to NBC News, city officials estimate that the cost of repairing the antiquated piping system ranges from \$1 million to \$10 million.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued a \$100,000 loan to help address the leaks in the primary water system, but Franklin and his chief of staff, James Valley, deemed it insufficient to resolve the issue.

Although water service had been partially restored, low pressure and new leaks persist.

Franklin has tirelessly sought aid from state and

federal authorities but claims that his pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

Speaking truth to power, Franklin also wasn't afraid to express his frustration.

"In America, where people have the right to good, quality drinking water, the federal government should be running aid to provide that," he told NBC.

"Instead, there's no sense of urgency for us. I mean, why would it be? We're Black. There's no urgency until they want our vote. And that's what's happening here. What else are we left to think?"

The mayor called upon Arkansas' two Republican senators, Tom Cotton and John Boozman, both of whom failed to provide a satisfactory response to the crisis.

While Cotton sent an aide to assess the situation, Boozman is scheduled to send one soon.

However, Franklin stressed that what his city truly needs is immediate access to resources and a comprehensive solution, not just visits from representatives.

Acknowledging the assistance provided by entities such as the Arkansas National Guard, the Red Cross, Walmart, and Dollar General in offering support and bottled water, Franklin said he worried that if those organizations are the sole sources of help, the city will face a long, scorching summer.

He others have questioned why substantive and timely aid has been slow to materialize, citing simi-

lar delays experienced in other predominate African American communities like Flint, Michigan, and Jackson, Mississippi.

In his seven months as mayor, Franklin said he has focused on revitalizing

the city by demolishing 90 abandoned homes to eliminate blight and attract residents back to the area.

He said he sees this as an opportunity to replace the aging water lines that lie beneath those houses.

However, the water crisis has not been the only challenge for Franklin.

Since defeating a white incumbent in the mayoral race, Franklin said he's encountered racism, including death threats, property

intrusions, and social media attacks.

"I'm not arguing about a football game. I'm arguing about the quality of life for Black people and all the people in this inner city," Franklin stated.



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. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.

Santa Fe-based Meow Wolf artist's platform expands to Texas

SANTA FE - Meow Wolf, which began in Santa Fe, has recently expanded to other parts of the Southwest. The company has been in the unique position of providing a platform for artists around the world to connect with audiences who enjoy art and who want to interact with it. Offering an immersive, transformative audience experience, the company offers art and musical performances, attracting top artists such as Kaskade, Grouplove, and Phoebe Bridgers. Meow

Wolf has also launched two major music festivals, Taos Vortex and Dark Palace, which have brought together world-renowned musicians and local artists to create unforgettable concert experiences.

Working with a large group of highly talented artists from concept to creation, Meow Wolf opened its first permanent exhibition, "House of Eternal Return," in March 2016 in Santa Fe. The company has grown since to open in both Las Vegas and Denver in 2021. It comes to

Grapevine this summer, and it will entertain Houston audiences beginning in 2024.

In addition to their contributions to the art world, Meow Wolf has also been a staple in supporting social change through the arts, and it is a certified B-Corp. To date, the company has contributed over \$1.4 million in funding to non-profit organizations in their local communities, along with an annual DIY Fund in support of art and music spaces nationwide. Meow Wolf is proud

to have already supported 213 different non-profit organizations and groups through financial and in-kind support in 2019.

Meow Wolf is celebrated for redefining the experience economy by providing an entry point into a new kind of immersive experience: one that makes interactive art accessible to all audiences through discovery and exploration.

Meow Wolf was recently included in Fast Company's annual list of the World's Most Innovative Companies. The list hon-

ors 434 businesses from 39 countries who are making a profound impact on both industry and culture, showcasing a variety of ways to thrive in today's fast-changing world. The Santa Fe-based arts and entertainment company has earned the #50 spot on the World's Most Innovative Companies list, as well as #1 in the Live Events category.

"These companies are applying creativity to solve challenges within their industries and far beyond," said Fast Company

senior editor Amy Farley, who supervised the issue with deputy editor David Lidsky.

This month, the company brings "The Real Unreal" to Grapevine, which tells the story of a fictional multigenerational family and their quest to bring a family member home. The exhibition will host local vendors, a retail space, a live performance venue for local and up-and-coming music acts, and events for youth and community members.

MUSEUM, from Page 7

known for his innovative work created from melted plastic, is an artist activist who collects and repurposes litter into breathtaking portraits.

Other notable artists on view include David Goldblatt, Claudette Schreuders, Kagiso Patrick Mautloa, Igshaan Adams, Stephen Hobbs, Vivien Kohler, Anastasia Pather, Penny Siopis, Clyde van den Berg and Samson Mnisi. Many of the young and emerging artists are showing work in North America for the first time.

"Our supporters, our visitors and our community have rarely witnessed an exhibit that so exquisitely tells the stories of the diverse cultural and political experience found in Africa," said Dr. Harry Robinson Jr., president and CEO of the African American Museum, Dallas. "We've had very large crowds, and our visitors have warmly embraced the powerful, beautiful and bold messages presented by these talented artists."

Dick Enthoven, the late-South African businessman, philanthropist, art collector and primary shareholder of the beloved-restaurant group Nando's, had a passion for supporting South African artists which led him to create the Nando's Art Collection and

feature original works of art in Nando's restaurants. Enthoven then created the Spier Arts Trust, a nonprofit that continues to collect and support South African artists, as well as managing the artworks of the Nando's Art Collection. Enthoven spent more than two decades building the 25,000+ piece collection from which the exhibit was curated.

Tapped by the Enthoven family to curate the North American debut of exemplary works from the collection never before seen together, Laurie Ann Farrell is one of the most important curators working to showcase artists from Africa and the African Diaspora to the U.S. Farrell served as a curator at The African Center (formerly known as The Museum of African Art) in New York City, an executive director of museums and exhibitions at Savannah College of Art & Design, curator and head of the modern and contemporary art department at the Detroit Institute of Art, and now a Dallas-based independent curator and writer.

Administered by the Spier Arts Trust, an initiative promoting emerging Southern African artists called "The Creative Block" offers original and reasonably priced South African artworks that visitors may buy and add to their per-

sonal collections while supporting artists early on in their careers. Artists who are invited to join the program are given blank blocks to create new works. The Spier Arts Trust team then mentors these artists and acquires selected blocks. Some of these Creative Blocks end up in the Nando's Art Collection

and others are made available for purchase. A broad array of Creative Blocks is being offered at the African American Museum and are displayed near the museum shop.

From now through Sept. 28, the African American Museum, Dallas, will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m.-5

p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. From Sept. 29-Oct. 22 during the State Fair of Texas, the Museum will be open daily from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and will open

at 3 p.m. on Oct. 7 after the Texas/OU game. During the State Fair of Texas run, visitors must purchase State Fair admission to gain access to the museum.



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Out to Pastor: Our Summer Vacation Jamboree

By Dr. James L. Snyder

After months and months of planning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finalized our vacation plans for the summer.

Because of our busy lifestyle, something like this cannot be done with just a snap of a finger, especially since the great-granddaughter invaded our family circle. If my wife does not see her every day, something is wrong. It took her a long time to plan a whole week, so she would not have to see the great-granddaughter.

The time, however, had come, and we were on our way to a well-deserved vacation in St. Augustine.

I remembered why we were here on our first day in St. Augustine. Silly me, I thought it was vacation time, but then I remembered we were at the capital of thrift store shops. I'm not sure how many thrift store shops are in the area, but I know The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knows exactly how many are open. She knows when a thrift store shop opens two

months before it opens.

I knew part of my vacation time would be spent at some thrift stores. I am not a thrift store shopper connoisseur to any degree at all. They all look the same, and I can't remember the last time I found something in one that I wanted.

Not only does The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage know where the shops are, but she knows what the shop has and where they are located in that shop.

I remember going to one thrift store shop with her, and when we entered, I went one way, and she went the other way. I was lost for the next 90 minutes and did not know how to get out or even where my wife was. Fortunately, she found me and led me outside. It's been several years since that experience.

One day we were at one of her favorite shops, and she was talking to one of the managers. They had known each other for many years, so they had much to catch up on.

In the middle of their

conversation, a customer approached the manager and asked if they had a certain item and where she could find it.

Before the manager could answer, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage spoke up and said, "That product is down the aisle there, and turn left at the fourth aisle. You will find it on the top of the shelf."

She thanked her and walked off after the product.

The manager looked at my wife and asked, "How did you know where to find that product?"

"I saw it the last time I was here," my wife replied.

Being one of the managers, she offered my wife a job. Fortunately for me, she did not take the job.

It's something when my wife knows where things are in the shop more than the shop manager.

We visited a few thrift stores during the days that we were there.

One day my wife asked if I wanted to go to the shopping mall with her. It's been a long time since I was at a

shopping mall, so I agreed to accompany her.

As we arrived at the shopping mall I looked at my wife and said, "You do remember our rule for going into a shopping mall, don't you?"

She nodded, took my hand, and we walked into the shopping mall together.

We walked around for almost an hour, and then two older ladies approached us, smiled, and said, "That is so sweet. Both of you at your age, are holding hands as you walk around the mall."

I smiled and replied, "If I let go of her hand, she will go off shopping, and I will not be able to find her for hours."

The ladies looked at me, smiled and then kept walking.

Towards the end of the week, something happened that I totally wasn't expecting and it could change my life.

The toilet in our bathroom was jammed and couldn't be flushed.

My wife went down to the main office and got a plunger. She worked and

worked at it, but could not get the toilet to flush.

I'm not sure what came over me, but I walked in and said, "Do you want me to try?"

She gave me the plunger, and without much thought, I started plunging away, and within a few minutes, the toilet was working. At first, I smiled, then I realized what had just happened.

My wife has a reputation for fixing everything and anything. In contrast, I have a reputation for not being able to fix anything. I've enjoyed that reputation, and it has a lot of benefits. But now, I fixed something that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage could not fix. My reputation is ruined.

As we were driving home in The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's Sissy Van, she looked at me and

said, "That was a wonderful vacation, wasn't it?" I just smiled.

A verse of Scripture came to my mind as we were driving.

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

It's God's word that really makes a difference in my life. The Bible is absolutely true to God's heart and will.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

DART, from Page 11

and that produce development which increases DART ridership, creates jobs and affordable housing, and which serves new residents and surrounding neighborhoods with new amenities, consistent with DART Transit Oriented Development Policy and DART TOD Guidelines.

With the request for proposals closing in December 2022, the City received three proposals for Hamp-

ton Station, two for Westmoreland Station, three proposals for Lake June Station, and one for 8th & Corinth Station. The City also received two proposals for Buckner Station and one for Royal Lane Station.

A six-member evaluation committee composed of City staff and DART came together to review and evaluate the proposal. Following the review and after interviews with each

proposer, the Office of Procurement Services recommended the City proceed with the highest scoring proposals, or those most advantageous to Dallas residents. In June, Council approved their selection.

Lori Lee holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Texas in Arlington, with work focused on neighborhood revitalization, neighborhood sociability, and environmental management.

GRACE, from Page 2

1981 to 1985 and a research fellowship in the biological and psychopharmacology of psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine from 1985 to 1986.

Recognized as a distinguished life fellow of the

American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Grace also maintains affiliation as a member of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Jeffery Jerome Grace,

MD has been included in Who's Who in the World. An accomplished listee, Dr. Grace celebrates many years' experience in his professional network, and has been noted for achievements, leadership qualities, and the credentials and successes achieved in his field.

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Train Up a Child...



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

It has been said that child-rearing can be frightening to the best-prepared and most eager parent, it doesn't matter how many children you have.

Parents will likely meet with success when they allow themselves to be guided by God and His Word.

"In times like these . . ." children must feel secure in their environment; they must feel being loved, being respected, and feel being proud of.

At the same time, they clearly must be taught about what is unacceptable behavior to God. Children must be disciplined with



love instead of anger or abuse; they must be able to retain their dignity even when they see they have erred.

"In times like these. . ." all parents and family members can help to instill Godly pride and a can-do attitude in children so that they will be able to go through life's adversities.

We must recognize that life does have adversities, but it is our attitude about our adversities that determines our altitude in life, as the saying goes.

And remember, teach them that it doesn't matter

how scary or explosive the adversities in life are, there was peace before and there will be peace after the adversities.

Parents who love God and are guided by Him through Bible-based scriptures in their parenting skills; and with plenty of prayers; will go a long way in helping children shape their morals, their values, and their views on having a successful life.

I challenge parents to be more accountable, as well as other family members to be more accountable about all children in their life;

and to that I will add, to be a positive example for children.

Teach them to fear (dread grieving) the Lord because, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . . Praise ye the Lord.

Parents and those that fail to allow God to guide them in their parenting skill with children could be in danger of over control. "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king." **1 Samuel 15:23**

It has been said that whenever a car goes out of control and begins to spin, the only thing to do is to relax your grip on the controls and the car will right itself.

However, tis goes against our natural inclination to control and manipulate in order to bring things back under control. It is scary to be out of control.

In the Bible is the story of Saul. He was a man out of control. He was losing control of his kingdom to David. Saul's fear and insecurity made him more afraid of the people and what they thought than of God.

At the core of Saul's disobedience was fear of losing control. That fear of losing control led to partial obedience and the loss of his reign as king.

Many parents have such a need to control their children and circumstances because they fail to train their children to fully walk in

obedience to God's voice in our lives. Saul provides a great lesson for us as parents.

The need to over control things around us can prevent us from receiving all that God has for us.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord that delighteth greatly in his commandments. **Psalms 111:10 and 112:1. (KJV)**

It doesn't matter if it is your child or your children; or someone else's child or children; 'Especially in times like these, it is wise and best to, "Train Up A Child. . ."

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