



North Dallas Gazette

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Border wall resurgence: Biden's controversial move sparks debate

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Biden administration has bypassed 26 federal public health, environmental, and cultural preservation laws to fast-track border wall and road construction in Starr County, along the southern border of Texas. The decision marks a significant departure from President Biden's earlier stance to halt border wall development in favor of comprehensive reforms.

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump famously vowed to construct a wall along the southern U.S. border to curb unauthorized immigration, promising that Mexico would foot the bill. That never materialized.

While most perceived the Biden administration as more immigrant-friendly, the new border announcement has puzzled many. Trump's recent admission that his insistence on Mexico financing the wall was merely rhetoric further confounded many opponents of such construction.

According to a notice published in the Federal Register on Thursday, Oct. 5, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas called it imperative, within the bounds of the law, to waive specific statutes, regulations, and le-



The decision marks a significant departure from President Biden's earlier stance to halt border wall development in favor of comprehensive reforms. (Photo via NNPA)

gal requisites to ensure the swift construction of barriers and roads near the international land border in Starr County, Texas. Reportedly, in the 2023 fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, the U.S. Border Patrol in the Rio Grande Valley encountered over 245,000 migrants who had entered the country between ports of entry or unlawfully.

Argues Jonathan Blazer, director of border strategies at the American Civil Liberties Union, "On the campaign trail, President Biden put it best when he said that the border wall is not a serious policy solution, and we couldn't agree more," Blazer continued. "Instead of upholding this promise, the Biden administration is doubling down on the failed policies of the past that

have proven wasteful and ineffective."

Construction of a border wall will result in the deaths of at-risk animals, explained Defenders of Wildlife, an organization dedicated to the protection of native animals and plants. They point out that jaguar, Mexican gray wolf, Peninsular bighorn sheep, some pygmy-owls, among other species found nowhere else in the U.S., will be at risk as a result of the wall. Cut off from their major water source, The Rio Grande River, and blocked from migrating, these species will face serious consequences if their habitat is interrupted, added Laiken Jordahl of the Center of Biological

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Allred brings momentum and unity

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People In The News ...



Zoleka Mandela



Claudine Gay

NDG Quote of the Week: "Have a vision. Be demanding."

—Colin Powell

Zoleka Mandela

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

According to a family spokesperson, Zoleka Mandela, the granddaughter of South Africa's inaugural democratically elected President and global icon Nelson Mandela, succumbed to cancer at the age of 43.

Recently, the younger Mandela has garnered recognition for her candid accounts of her battle with cancer, offering a poignant



insight into her treatment journey.

She was equally forthright about her history of drug addiction, shedding light on issues many faces in silence.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation expressed deep reverence for her work, stating that she inspired cancer awareness and played a pivotal role in dismantling the stigma associated with the disease.

Mandela was a champion for cancer awareness, bravely shared her struggles with depression, and disclosed that she had endured childhood sexual abuse.

Additionally, she proved at the forefront of the cause of improved road safety after a tragic car accident

claimed the life of her 13-year-old daughter in 2010. Tragically, she also lost a prematurely born son. Mandela leaves behind four children.

Hailing from the lineage of Nelson Mandela's second wife, Winnie, Mandela penned her remarkable journey in her autobiography, *When Hope Whispers*. Diagnosed with breast cancer at 32, she initially went into remission, only to face a recurrence of the illness.

Last year, she revealed the disheartening news of cancer's presence in her

liver and lungs, subsequently spreading to other vital organs. Though she received outpatient care, Mandela checked into a hospital over a week ago.

In a poignant Instagram post from August 2022, she reflected, "What do I tell my children? How do I tell them that this time around I may not get to live my life as a survivor? How do I tell them everything will be OK when it's not? I'm dying... I don't want to die." During an interview with Kaya FM in April, Mandela shared, "I'm learning to be okay

with my eventuality." Her unvarnished revelations garnered her a substantial following on social media platforms, where heartfelt tributes continue to pour in.

"Utterly tragic loss of a human being in her grandfather's footsteps. A decent, honest human being in a dishonest, hypocritical world," lamented one individual on social media. Another wrote on Instagram beneath the Mandela family's announcement, "You were one of the bravest people I know, and you inspired many people on your life's journey of hope."

Claudine Gay

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Harvard University now has its first Black president, Claudine Gay, who already has made her mark in the institution's history. Gay also stands as only the second woman to helm the university since its founding in 1640 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

During her inaugural address, Gay articulated her vision for the Ivy League institution, acknowledging the weight and honor of this



groundbreaking appointment. "I stand before you today humbled by the prospect of leading Harvard," remarked Gay amidst a rainy inauguration ceremony last Friday. "Emboldened by the trust you have

placed in me and energized by your own commitment to this singular institution and to the common cause of higher education." The new president went on to emphasize Harvard's historical role as an agent of change, stating, "The courage of this University — our resolve, against all odds — to question the world as it is and imagine and make a better one: It is what Harvard was made to do," she exclaimed.

Harvard Corporation, the university's main governing body, chose Gay after an extensive search process. Massachusetts Gov.

Maura Healey, who attended Harvard, praised Gay's presidency in a speech. She called it a "truly historic" moment and expressed her admiration and support. Gay earned her Ph.D. in government from Harvard in 1998 and joined the faculty in 2006. She previously held the distinguished position of Edgerley Family

Dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and is recognized as an expert in political behavior. She also serves as the founding chair of the Inequality in America Initiative which was launched in 2017 to examine social and economic inequalities.

Outgoing president Lawrence Bacow character-

ized her as "a person of bedrock integrity," according to CNN. Bacow also expressed confidence in Gay's "moral compass," which he said remains essential for guiding the prestigious university. He praised the search committee for choosing Gay and predicted a bright future under her leadership.

Tsion Amare

Social worker and community advocate, Tsion Amare, last week announced her campaign for House District 113. The district includes parts of Rowlett, Garland, and Mesquite.

"As a former Texas House staffer and advocate, I have had a front-row seat to our state's most important problems. I have witnessed lawmakers failing to represent the very people that elected them into office. I have seen policies enacted into law that strip women of their bodily autonomy, fail to protect our teachers and children, penalize the poor and needy, and disregard the impacts



of a warming climate.

But it doesn't have to be like this. Change starts here, and it starts now," said Tsion.

Tsion Amare is a first-generation American born in Ethiopia. She began her career in politics by serving as a legislative aide in the office of State Representa-

tive Rafael Anchía (D-Dallas) during the 2021 Legislative Session. Tsion served as an assistant committee clerk in the Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services Committee and was a fellow with the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC).

"We deserve a community where children go to school to learn and dream instead of hid[ing] from bullets. We deserve to live in a community where everyone has access to a safe, clean, and healthy environment that sustains life for decades to come. We deserve a Texas we all are proud to call home, and that is why I'm running to rep-

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Published by

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Understanding the nation's ticking fiscal time clock: Federal funding to expire by mid-November

By Charlene Crowell

For the second time this year, Congress' inability to reach consensus on essential fiscal legislation has devolved into largely partisan bickering and literal, last-minute temporary financial band-aids. On September 30, the last day of the 2022-2023 federal fiscal year, a continuing resolution (CR) provided a 45-day reprieve, just in time to meet a midnight deadline that would have resulted in a federal government shutdown.

In signing the stop-gap appropriations measure, President Joe Biden acknowledged its benefit and also reminded the nation of how unnecessary it really was.

"This bill ensures that active-duty troops will continue to get paid, travelers will be spared airport delays, millions of women and children will continue to have access to vital nutrition assistance, and so much more," said President Biden. "But I want to be clear: we should never have been in this position in the first place. Just a few months ago, Speaker McCarthy and I reached a budget agreement to avoid precisely this type of manufactured crisis."

Readers may recall that in late spring and facing a first-ever national debt default, another piece of compromise legislation led to the Fiscal Accountability Act.

That eleventh hour maneuver provided a two-year window for the Treasury Department to borrow – as needed – funds to pay the nation's more than \$31 trillion of debt. In return, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), cutbacks on discretionary spending would result in

a drop in projected budget deficits of about \$4.8 trillion over the next decade, and a savings of \$0.5 trillion in interest. But this fiscal compromise requires Congress to return to that deferred problem in January 2025.

Neither of these developments have been well-received by the public. Only days before the September 30 fiscal rescue, a consumer poll taken September 19-24 by Monmouth University echoed President Biden's concerns:

- 74 percent of respon-

tions for annual Thanksgiving gatherings. If a full federal spending plan for the new 2023-2024 fiscal year that began October 1 is not approved, many will also await learning whether the federal government will be able to function during a season dedicated to blessings.

As with most budget cut decisions, potentially-affected personnel are understandably anxious. Currently, there are 4.5 million people who are either military or civilian federal employees, according to the

every three days," testified Criswell. "We strive to be vigilant stewards of taxpayer dollars, and we are careful in our projections of how much funding will be required for the Disaster Relief Fund. However, there are times when the number and intensity of disasters outpaces appropriated funds, and we find ourselves in such a moment today."

Funding for these and other needs now have been added to the traditional conservative calls to cut entitlement programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) more commonly known as food stamps. As of this spring, 41.9 million people who comprise 22.2 million households were enrolled in SNAP, according to Pew Research.

According to the Department of Education, an estimated 26 million students would be affected by a proposed \$4 billion cut in funding schools serving low-income children. In higher education, Pell Grants that provide a critical source of financial aid for low-to-moderate income college students would be cut by 22 percent, and the maximum award would be lowered to \$1,000 – at a time when the cost to attend college continues to soar.

Time will tell whether this Congress will face and respond to America's real needs. But tens of millions of Americans potentially could be impacted by a federal government closure while the nation is on a ticking fiscal time clock.

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

“As with most budget cut decisions, potentially-affected personnel are understandably anxious. Currently, there are 4.5 million people who are either military or civilian federal employees, according to the CBO.”

dents disapproved of the job Congress is doing;

- 68 percent believed the government is on the wrong track; and
- 64 percent supported compromise to enact a new budget.

"The vast majority of Americans want to avoid a shutdown. The faction who does not want any compromise may represent a small proportion of the public, but they hold outsized influence in the U.S. Capitol," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

By mid-November, the nation will again face a shutdown at a time when families typically and excitedly finalize prepara-

CBO.

Similarly, agencies that administer programs that respond to vital needs are in a similar dilemma.

For example, the stark rise in requests for disaster relief from flooding, hurricanes, and wildfires caused the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recently appeal to Congress for an additional \$16 billion to serve communities in distress. On September 19, Deanne Criswell, FEMA Administrator testified before a House subcommittee, alerted lawmakers to the agency's shrinking ability to keep pace with surging requests.

"On average, we are seeing a disaster declaration

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Saturated fat may interfere with creating memories in brain

COLUMBUS (News- wise) — New research hints at a few ways fatty foods affect cells in the brain, a finding that could help explain the link between a high-fat diet and impaired memory — especially as people age.

The Ohio State University study in cell cultures found the omega-3 fatty acid DHA may help protect the brain from an unhealthy diet's effects by curbing fat-induced inflammation at the cellular source.

Separate experiments using brain tissue from aging mice showed a high-fat diet may lead specific brain cells to overdo cell-signaling management in a way that interferes with the creation of new memories.

The same lab found in an earlier study in aging rats that a diet of highly processed ingredients led to a strong inflammatory response in the brain that was accompanied by behavioral signs of memory loss — and that DHA supplementation prevented those problems.

"The cool thing about this paper is that for the first time, we're really starting to tease these things apart by cell type," said senior author Ruth Barrientos,



Study finds DHA protects brain cells from fat-related inflammation (Elizabeth Jamieson / Unsplash)

an investigator in Ohio State's Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral health and neuroscience in the College of Medicine.

"Our lab and others have often looked at the whole tissue of the hippocampus to observe the brain's memory-related response to a high-fat diet. But we've been curious about which cell types are more or less affected by these saturated fatty acids, and this is our first foray into determining that."

The study was published recently in the journal *Frontiers in Cellular Neurosci-*

ence.

For this work, the researchers focused on microglia, cells in the brain that promote inflammation, and hippocampal neurons, which are important for learning and memory. They used immortalized cells — copies of cells taken from animal tissue that are modified to continuously divide and respond only to lab-based stimulation, meaning their behavior may not precisely match that of primary cells of the same type.

Researchers exposed these model microglia and neurons to palmitic acid, the most abundant saturated fatty acid in high-fat foods

like lard, shortening, meat and dairy products, to observe how it affected gene activation in the cells as well as functioning of mitochondria, structures inside cells that have a primary metabolic role of generating energy.

Results showed the palmitic acid prompted gene expression changes linked to an increase in inflammation in both microglia and neurons, though microglia had a wider range of affected inflammatory genes. Pretreatment of these cells with a dose of DHA, one of two omega-3 fatty acids in fish and other seafood and available in supplement form, had a strong protective effect against the increased inflammation in both cell types.

"Previous work has shown that DHA is protective in the brain and that palmitic acid has been detrimental to brain cells, but this is the first time we've looked at how DHA can directly protect against the effects of palmitic acid in those microglia, and we see that there is a strong protective effect," said Michael Butler, first author of the study and a research scien-

tist in Barrientos' lab.

When it came to the mitochondria, however, DHA did not prevent the loss of function that followed exposure to palmitic acid.

"The protective effects of DHA might, in this context, be restricted to effects on gene expression related to the pro-inflammatory response as opposed to the metabolic deficits that the saturated fat also induced," Butler said.

In another set of experiments, the researchers looked at how a diet high in saturated fat influenced signaling in the brains of aged mice by observing another microglial function called synaptic pruning. Microglia monitor signal transmission among neurons and nibble away excess synaptic spines, the connection sites between axons and dendrites, to keep communication at an ideal level.

Microglia were exposed to mouse brain tissue containing both pre- and post-synaptic material from animals that had been fed either a high-fat diet or regular chow for three days.

The microglia ate the synapses from aged mice fed a high-fat diet at a faster

rate than they ate synapses from mice fed a regular diet — suggesting the high-fat diet is doing something to those synapses that gives the microglia a reason to eat them at a higher rate, Butler said.

"When we talk about the pruning, or refinement, that needs to occur, it's like Goldilocks: It needs to be optimal — not too much and not too little," Barrientos said. "With these microglia eating away too much too soon, it outpaces the ability for these spines to regrow and create new connections, so memories don't solidify or become stable."

From here, the researchers plan to expand on findings related to synaptic pruning and mitochondria function, and to see how palmitic acid and DHA effects play out in primary brain cells from young versus aged animals.

This work was supported by grants from the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Additional co-authors, all from Ohio State, were Sabrina Mackey-Alfonso, Nashali Massa and Kedryn Baskin.

Medicaid managed care organizations scrutinized over prior denials

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A recent review of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) has revealed concerning trends in approving prior authorization requests for services. In 2019, MCOs denied one out of every eight requests for prior authorization of services, according to a report by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Among the 115 MCOs examined in the review, 12 exhibited denial rates for prior authorization requests

that exceeded 25 percent—twice the overall rate. This discrepancy in approval rates highlights potential disparities in access to essential healthcare services for Medicaid enrollees.

Despite the high number of denials, many state Medicaid agencies reported that they did not routinely review the appropriateness of MCO denials. Additionally, many still needed to have mechanisms in place to collect and monitor data on these decisions. More robust oversight is required, potentially allowing inappropriate denials to

go undetected within the Medicaid-managed care system.

The OIG has recommended measures to improve enrollee protections and state oversight of prior authorization denials in Medicaid-managed care in response to these findings. These include:

- States must regularly review the appropriateness of a sample of MCO prior authorization denials.
- Mandating States to collect data on MCO prior authorization decisions.
- Issuing guidance to states on utilizing MCO

prior authorization data for oversight.

• States must implement automatic external medical reviews of upheld MCO prior authorization denials.

In their official response, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) did not indicate concurrence with the first four recommendations. However, they agreed with the recommendation to collaborate with States to identify and address MCOs that may be issuing inappropriate prior authorization denials.

Senator Robert Casey (D-Pa.), who chairs the

Senate Special Committee on Aging and U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.), Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member, has voiced concerns about the potential prioritization of MCOs' financial interests over the needs of patients seeking care. "I'm deeply troubled by reports that Medicaid managed care plans denied an average of one out of every eight requests for treatment, more than double the rate of service denials in Medicare Advantage," Pallone said in an earlier statement.

"Medicaid is a lifeline for over 80 million people, including children, people with disabilities, seniors, and hardworking families," he continued. "This report strongly suggests that some private insurance plans, which states have contracted with to provide health care coverage to their residents, may be improperly denying access to critical services to maximize their profits."

In a letter to the OIG, Casey emphasized the role of insurance companies in

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Allred brings momentum and a landmark bipartisan victory to Texas

Congressman Allred has spent the past week further building his campaign's momentum. He secured additional support from a broad, diverse coalition of Texas leaders, including Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis. This new slate of endorsers builds on the support of Reps. Escobar, Veasey and Fletcher, State Senator Cesar Blanco, and many others.

In addition to local Texas leaders, Allred was proud to earn the endorsement of the League of Conservation Voters this morning – with the environmental advocacy group saying that,



Courtesy photo

“On the heels of the hottest summer on record, continued electric grid issues, and constant attacks on our voting rights, Texans deserve leaders like Colin Allred who will prioritize fighting the climate crisis and protecting our democracy, especially in communities already at the forefront of

extreme weather and pollution.”

The League of Conservation Voters is a known player in important races across the country, and they join other national organizations, such as End Citizens United // Let America Vote, Congressional Black Caucus PAC and others in

their early support of Colin Allred's candidacy.

These statewide and national endorsements come days after Congressman Allred was in Austin on Saturday for the Texas Tribune Festival. There, he spoke with NPR's Tamara Keith about his race to defeat Ted Cruz, comparing his pragmatic record of bipartisan wins for Texas families to Cruz's record of extremism and absentee leadership. On the same stage, just hours later, Cruz reaffirmed his desire for a national abortion ban and said he fled Texas during the 2021 winter freeze because he “[doesn't] know how to string power lines.”

Colin Allred's ability to reach across the aisle and work to deliver massive wins for Texans was on display this week, as it was announced that ARPA-H, “[a] \$2.5 billion federal biotech research agency will call Dallas home after months of targeted campaigning by Texas cities, universities and science advocates, cementing North Texas' place among the nation's major life sciences hubs.”

As we approach the end of the fundraising quarter, the Colin Allred for Senate campaign remains well-positioned to defeat Ted Cruz and finally send our state's junior part-time senator and

full-time podcaster packing.

About Congressman Colin Allred: Born and raised in Dallas by a single mom, Colin Allred started his journey as a standout high school athlete in Dallas ISD before playing football at Baylor University thanks to a full-ride scholarship. He played five seasons in the NFL as a linebacker before going to law school to be a civil rights attorney. He now represents the 32nd Congressional District of Texas and is currently serving his third term. He lives in Dallas with his wife Aly and his two sons Jordan and Cameron.

SPCA of Texas announces Fur Ball 2023 Gala: 'Fifty Shades of Purple'

The SPCA of Texas is thrilled to announce that Fur Ball 2023 will be Friday, October 20 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at The Factory in Deep Ellum (2713 Canton Street, 75226). This year's annual black-tie gala will focus on raising important funds for the SPCA of Texas in support of the critical work the organization does in the community through live and silent auctions packed with fabulous items, the always-exciting Pony Up for Paws, and more.

2023 Fur Ball Chairs El-



Taylor Kopel / Unsplash

bert and Christie Choi, co founders of the CB Choi Family Foundation, look forward to this year's gala having a little bit of something for everyone. “From a cool, hipster vibe to a glam-

orous, dignified setting, Fur Ball 2023 will let everyone know that it's cool to give and that when they give, donors are making actionable change for the animals,” they said.

“This year's Fur Ball will feature giving opportunities that identify what you are providing to SPCA of Texas,” Elbert added. “For example, a \$3K sponsor-

ship is so many vaccines, or \$5K is so many spay/neuters.

Fur Ball is DFW's salute to the bond between people and their pets and a

celebration of the SPCA of Texas' important mission to provide every animal with exceptional care and a lov-

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 MR. RICKY MCNEAL Garland NAACP Unit President	 CONGRESSMAN COLIN ALLRED Texas 32nd District Congressman	 MR. DANIEL Dallas County Commissioner District 1	 MR. SCOTT LEMAY City of Garland Mayor
 MS. LAURIE CARSON Acting Executive Director, Office of Equity Assurance, Veterans Benefits Administration	 MS. SHERRILL WALKER Assistant Director for Outpatient Services, VA North Texas Health Care System	 MS. ROSANNE S. GRIFFIN Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, United States Department of Labor	 MAJOR GENERAL JAMES L. WILLIAMS USMC (Retired)
 MS. CATHERINE SMITH Texas Veterans' Commissioner			

“Several other specialists not pictured will also be on the forum”

Information to be discussed:

- VA regulations updates
- Depression
- Military Service Opportunities
- PACT Act Register
- Camp Lejeune Justice Act
- Veterans Benefits (medical, disability, and others)
- Agent Orange Register
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Veteran Support Group Locations
- Veterans Housing Assistance
- Burial and Memorial Service Information
- Question and Answer Session

For more information, please visit the NAACP Garland Website: garlandtxnaacp.org.

Closing the 'opportunity gap' on STAAR performance



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Thanks to Superintendent Elizalde for participating in our recent Community Conversation, presented by The Dallas Examiner. The paper is holding a series of these conversations at the African American museum to provide factual information on critical issues affecting our community from leaders with direct knowledge on these topics.

Our superintendent was the first to appear in the

series, and she shared the good news that Dallas ISD is now performing at or above pre-pandemic levels in most categories on the STAAR test. She noted that the district is positioned very well when compared to surrounding districts and in some areas we are performing at or above the state average. Let's keep up the good work closing those "opportunity gaps"!

Proud of our principals

Principal Troy Tyson of David W. Carter High School is to be commended for ensuring that his students are College, Career and Military Ready (CCMR) during the past school year. Because of

his efforts, Carter High takes the lead in Region IV growth for the percentage points gained (+49) for CCMR for the 2022-2023 school year. Congratulations!

All of our District 6 principals are outstanding, and I recently enjoyed an enlightening evening with them. I am grateful that I get to work with each of them. Thank you all for the great job you are doing with our students.

Discover Dallas ISD is coming up

Join us for the 2023 Discover Dallas ISD event at W.H. Adamson High School on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come

and explore school offerings, preview all choice and application-based schools, and receive support in submitting applications on-site. Representatives from the Office of Transformation and Innovation (OTI) choice and application-based schools will be on-site and available to answer questions.

Athletes showing their talents

As you may know, I am a huge fan of our student-athletes, so it was a joy for me to cheer for two amazing District 6 schools in the "Oak Cliff Superbowl." Kimball and Carter high schools both were well represented, and Carter took

home the trophy this year. Thank you, Executive Directors Dr. Cheryl Wright and Dr. Dayanna Kelly.

On the national level, I was also proud to see Dallas ISD graduate Xavier Gipson, a Woodrow Wilson alum, score the winning touchdown for the New York Jets! Our grads are excelling in all fields of endeavor.

In remembrance ...

Lastly, I want to take a moment to remember Mr. John E. Kincaide, who was a teacher, coach, principal, and administrator in Dallas ISD for 38 years as well as the first African American to serve as the district's executive director of athlet-

ics. He also served at Paul Quinn College in various leadership roles including interim president. Mr. Kincaide was highly respected and will always be remembered by Dallas ISD.



John E. Kincaide
(Courtesy photo)

New tools for teachers to address math learning loss

(Newswise) — University of Oregon researchers have developed research-based programs to identify students who struggle with numbers in kindergarten, provide support at the whole-class level and equip families with home-based interventions. The new programs are needed to help youngsters who struggle with numbers. The pandemic compounded math learning loss and left many students further behind than their pre-pandemic peers.

Those programs include:

ROOTS: Interventions that start in kindergarten

The transition to kindergarten comes at a critical juncture. Missed foundational skills can cause learning problems to intensify and persist over time. To ensure all children are supported and able to start on an upward curve of learning math, UO researchers developed a program called ROOTS.

The 50-lesson kindergarten program focuses on



Interventions are designed for kindergarten, whole class and home.
(Roman Mager / Unsplash)

understanding and working with whole numbers and is designed to teach students at risk for difficulties in math.

"Our work focuses on developing programs that can be easily used by educators in the field to quickly intervene and provide critical math skills that enable all students to access the increasingly complex math content they encounter as they advance through school," said Ben Clarke, professor of school psychology and director of the Center on Teaching and Learning in the College of

Education.

ROOTS and its follow-up program, Fusion, which continues the work in first grade, have undergone rigorous trials in Massachusetts, Texas and Oregon. Results have been strong for a range of learners, especially students who enter school with the greatest level of risk and those learning English as a second language.

Whole-class interventions

Districts across the nation are struggling to meet the academic and behavioral needs of an increas-

ingly high-needs student population. Jessica Turtura, research associate at the Center on Teaching and Learning, recently received a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to modify the ROOTS intervention to be delivered at the whole-class level.

The whole-class intervention also will blend in techniques designed to teach students behaviors that will support long-term learning. "The program will bridge the gap between effective early mathematics instruction and positive behavior support and provide an evidence-based approach for kindergarten teachers to comprehensively support the needs of students," Turtura said.

Home-based interventions

Researchers also are extending the interventions to include a home-based component for students with physical and developmental disabilities. Children with such disabilities often enter

school with lower mathematics skills compared to their typically developing peers and require supplemental support in mathematics.

"To date, many home-based math intervention studies have excluded children with disabilities," said Gena Nelson, a research assistant professor in the Center on Teaching and Learning. "Our team is taking a unique approach to home-math interventions by engaging parents of young children with disabilities as co-designers of the activities. Our ultimate goal is to design home-based math activities that are feasible and accessible for all types of children and families."

While many caregivers are comfortable in supporting early literacy skills, fewer realize that they can engage children in math activities as well. Targeted home interventions offer the opportunity for students to practice and extend the concepts they are learning

in school and further build their foundation for a strong start in math.

This research was funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation.

The College of Education at the University of Oregon is a community of leading researchers and practitioners dedicated to transformational scholarship, integrated teaching, and collaborative practice designed to enhance individual lives and systems. The College of Education is UO's highest-ranking and largest research-contributing college known for its innovative teaching and research in special education, counseling psychology, human services, education, and prevention science. The college is a leader in culturally responsive Indigenous and bilingual teacher preparation programs as well as community-based research. For more information, please visit education.uoregon.edu.

SPCA, from Page 5

ing home. All money raised through Fur Ball 2023 will go directly to the SPCA of Texas to help rescue, heal and find homes for thousands of animals and

help keep pets in homes, out of shelters and off the streets. During this challenging financial time, the SPCA of Texas depends on its patrons' generosity to

continue to provide these essential services to our community's most vulnerable pets and their people.

Fur Ball 2023 is sure to be the bark of the town thanks to Honorary Chair Jack Knox. The Gala also

will feature beautiful animals that have benefited from donor generosity; pets that have undergone stunning transformations and now live with loving families as well as those that are ready and available for

adoption.

SPCA of Texas has partnered with HALL Arts Hotel at 1717 Leonard St., 75201 to offer a special 2023 Fur Ball Room Block. Pricing for the courtesy block, which is available

Friday, Oct. 20 – Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, is \$299 per night plus 17.3% occupancy rate in rooms with either a Deluxe King or Double Queen beds. Booking deadline is Friday, September 29th.

Carrollton participates in nationwide drug disposal event Oct. 28

The City of Carrollton will participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The drop-off location will be the south parking lot of the Carrollton Police Station (2025 E. Jackson Road).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the United States, approximately 107,622 people died as the result of drug poisoning last year. This means that someone in the United States is dying of drug poisoning every five minutes.

Results from the most recent DEA national survey on drug use and health showed that 16.9 million Americans over the age of 12 have misused controlled



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the United States, approximately 107,622 people died as the result of drug poisoning last year. This means that someone in the United States is dying of drug poisoning every five minutes. (National Cancer Institute / Unsplash)

prescription drugs over the last year. According to the DEA, non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks as the second most common form of drug abuse in America, and the majority of teenagers abusing drugs get them from family,

friends, or the home medicine cabinet.

The DEA considers prescription drug collection programs the best way to dispose of old or unused drugs, as cleaning out medicine cabinets helps to minimize accidental

poisoning, overdose, and abuse. Notably, flushed, unused prescription drugs can contaminate the water supply and cause widespread harmful effects.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) coordinates a one-day collaborative effort with local agencies to remove potentially dangerous prescription drugs from homes. The public will be able to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. There will be no questions or requests for identification.

Participants may dispose of medication in its original container. Controlled, non-controlled, and over-

the-counter substances will be collected. All solid dosage pharmaceutical products and liquids in consumer containers will also be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original containers.

Items that will not be accepted include any items marked biohazard, sharps, inhaler medications as well as bulk quantity medications from pharmacies, veterinarians, or other medical organizations.

Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment. Since October 2017, more than 10,142 pounds have been collected in Carrollton.

If residents require additional means of drug

disposal, there are several options available year-round including the drop box in the Carrollton Police Department jail lobby. Acceptable items include prescription medications, pills, patches, ointments, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, medication samples, and pet medications. No item marked biohazard, needles, or sharps are accepted at the PD jail drop box.

Republic Services, Carrollton's residential solid waste provider, offers a curbside Household Hazardous Waste program which includes the careful collection and handling of medical sharps. Call 469-451-3713 (Monday-

See DRUGS, Page 11

Study finds political independents are more negative than partisans

(Newsweek) — It's common to blame negative partisanship for our political polarization and dysfunction. In this era of extreme partisanship, the people who express the most negativity in their political choices are those some may least expect -- political in-

dependents.

In some ways, it is not surprising that independents were more negative than partisans, said Joseph Siev, who led the study as a doctoral student in psychology at Ohio State University.

"The thing about inde-

pendents is that they don't like either party or candidate enough to say they are a supporter," he said. "They start out with a negative view of the options."

The results do not mean partisans don't dislike their opponents on the other side -- they do, and maybe more

than independents do, Petty said.

"But political partisans base their electoral choices more on who or what they like, whereas independents base their preferences to a greater degree on who or what they don't like," he

said.

The researchers conducted five studies that found independents are more likely than partisans to frame their positions in terms of opposition to one party, candidate, message or option rather than in support

of the other choice.

And it's not just in politics: One study found that "independents" who didn't have a strong preference of baseball teams, or even academic subjects and ice

See STUDY, Page 12

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U.S. pledges to help Israel defend against Hamas attacks

By Jim Garamone
U.S. Department of Defense

Hundreds of Israelis have been killed in the attacks that also killed 11 Americans, President Joe Biden said in a written release. Hamas terrorists have also kidnapped people in Israel and taken them to Gaza.

"While we are still working to confirm, we believe it is likely that American citizens may be among those being held by Hamas," Biden said. "I have directed my team to work with their Israeli counterparts on every aspect of the hostage crisis, including sharing intelligence and deploying experts from across the United States government to consult with and advise Israeli counterparts on hos-



The support for Israel emphasizes the importance of solidarity with nations and communities facing acts of violence and terrorism.
(Taylor Brandon / Unsplash)

tage recovery efforts."

The Hamas attack on Israel out of Gaza is at a different level than in the past, a senior defense official said today. The unprecedented Hamas attack is notable for its violence. "I want to differentiate this from other times we have seen conflicts between Israel and

Hamas in Gaza," the official said. "This is ISIS-level savagery that we have seen committed against Israeli civilians — houses burned to the ground, young people massacred at music festivals."

Since the attack on Saturday, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has been

working to make clear that the U.S. unequivocally supports Israel's right to defend itself. Austin and the rest of the National Security Council have been calling allies and partners throughout the Middle East and Europe with this message. "We're also making very clear to adversaries or those that might be entertaining entering this conflict to escalate it that they should think twice and not take advantage of the instability," the official said.

Austin spoke to Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Saturday and Sun-

day, Austin is getting operational updates and learning what equipment and capabilities Israel needs to defend itself, the official said.

The United States is "surging" support to Israel, including air defense capabilities and munitions. "We remain in constant, ongoing contact with our counterparts in Israel to determine, and then support, their most urgent requirements," the official said. "The bottom line is we are working as fast as possible to provide critically needed munitions of various types and other equipment."

Defense Department officials are also working with U.S. industry to expedite the shipment of military equipment that the Israelis had already ordered. "We're also working across the DOD enterprise, including with U.S. Central Command, to assess what munitions and other equipment are in U.S. inventories that can be made quickly available to Israel," the official said.

The United States is also bolstering U.S. presence in the region. Austin ordered

See ISRAEL, Page 16

8th annual Braid Freedom Crown March and Festival

On Saturday, October 21st, at 9:00 a.m., a street parade and march will celebrate the passage of the Texas CROWN Act and the 2015 Bill 2717, the "Isis Brantley #2717 Bill." Organized by supporters of the Texas CROWN Act, economic freedom and Black natural hair enthusiasts, and presented by NaturallyIsis, the march will celebrate the accomplishments of the activists who pushed to have the Texas CROWN Act enacted into law. The march will also protest the continued discrimination against Black natural hair.

The parade, including floats, drummers, and high steppers, is scheduled to form up at 9:00 a.m., with the march to take place beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 12:00 p.m.

Participants are to line up at 1500 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd at Gould Street, Dallas, and the parade will end at the MLK Center at 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

A festival celebrating the act is scheduled for later that day at Ann's Health



Mike Von / Unsplash

from 4 p.m. till 8 p.m. with healthy food selections offered. Ann's Health is located at 2634 S. Zang Blvd, Dallas 75224.

Calling all drummers, poets, singers, vendors to participate in music, drumming, and poetry reading. Artists will perform on an outdoor stage, alongside vendors scheduled for the event.

The Official Campaign of The CROWN Act is led by the CROWN Coalition,

founded by Dove, National Urban League, Color Of Change, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

The CROWN Act, which stands for "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair," is a law that prohibits race-based hair discrimination, which is the denial of employment and educational opportunities because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including braids, locs, twists or bantu knots.

Film Review: 'Killers of the Flower Moon' is an artistic win

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) Why in the 21st century is anyone making a film about the Native American experience from a white man's perspective? What is there to gain? Just great artistry that overshadows indigenous people.

Author David Grann based his novel "Killers of the Flower Moon" on information he gathered from FBI reports and archival materials. His mix of fact and fiction centers around the Osage "Reign of Terror" in early 1920s Oklahoma. It was a tragedy that happened around the time of the Tulsa race massacre of 1921, when white racists, envious of Black wealth, terrorized and burned down neighborhoods.

Similarly, Osage tribe members have become rich from the oil on their lands. Thirty million dollars (\$400M in today's money) comes their way, making them the wealthiest people per capita in the world. The mineral rights to their reservation are put in a federally managed trust, and they receive royalties doled out by guardians. White men pray on them, marrying their women for their wealth--scoundrels to the left, scoundrels to the right.

The gold digging is heinous, the charlatans devious. Even worse, some truly sociopathic types marry and murder tribal members for financial gain. This is that story, though not largely told from the standpoint of the Native American themselves, but from that of the perpetrators.

The novel highlighted the government's investigation. Now this film veers away from the Osage too, making them supporting characters in their own story.

A long-winded initial scene sets up the film's two main characters. Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) is poor as a church mouse when he reconnects with this uncle, Wil-



Leonardo DiCaprio and Lily Gladstone costar in "Killers of the Flower Moon" (Image via NNPA)

liam "King" Hale (Robert DeNiro). That rich cattle rancher is a local kingpin in the town of Fairfax, in the county of Osage, Oklahoma. Ernest becomes a car service driver to make money, and one day he picks up a beautiful and rich Native American woman, Mollie (Lily Gladstone, *Fancy Dance*). The two flirt. She's cautious at first. Pity she wasn't more vigilant, because when she opens the door to the henhouse, and the fox comes in for the kill. Mollie: "Coyote likes money."

Members of the Osage tribe are being murdered in mysterious and sometimes brutal ways. Tribunals gather and assess the problems. Says Paul Red Eagle (Everett Walker): "When this money start comin,' we should'a known it came with something else." Local law enforcement is inept, only carrying the bodies away. Mollie's family members start to meet the same fate, and she's nervous for the ones that are still alive. She should be. The killers lurk close.

King acts concerned and pretends to be a friend of the Osage people. He knows more than he's saying. There's no blood on his hands. Hard to trace anything back to him. When will people get wise?

Rarely in a good murder mystery does the storyline peg the killers right from the jump. This adaptation, written by Eric Roth ("Dune") and director Martin Scorsese, does. Viewers watch the scheming and slayings from the eyes of the culprits. Yes, there are

scenes with Mollie and other Osage members showing their concern, going to the authorities for help and even to Washington DC. But too much of what's on view does not involve them, the protagonists, solving their own problem, which is a standard rule in good screenwriting. This is a dubious creative choice at best and a gamble.

As audiences watch the gruesome killings, they'll wonder when will this stop? When will the Osagers grab a gun and kill the perpetrators who decimate their people? Will they have satisfaction? Watching killing after killing becomes repulsive then macabre. Finally, when the calvary shows up, it's the white saviors. Bureau of Investigation (BOI) Agent Tom White (Jesse Plemons, "The Power of the Dog") is sent by J. Edgar Hoover on what will be the bureau's first major homicide investigation.

Tom: "I was, uh, sent down from Washington D.C., to see about these murders." Ernest: "See what about 'em." Tom: "See who's doin' it."

Within the confines of the script's follow-the-devil's structure, Scorsese proves that he is still a master storyteller—in the epic feature film format. Though, many viewers, whose butts will grow numb from sitting for 3h 26 m, may wish his expertise was with mini-series or series, more appropriate formats.

Regardless, the visuals are stunning. The director and cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto (*The Irishman*)

are artists. The angles, composition, interior and exterior lighting, and saturated colors are visually stunning. Scorsese is particularly adept at the movement within crowd scenes, from the extras to the leads. He gives the entire cast, top to bottom, room to emote, exchange thoughts and express feelings from fear to rage.

The technical aspects fluctuate down and up. Jack Fisk's ("The Revenant") production design is too perfect. Jacqueline West's ("The Revenant") costumes should have been rougher around the edges. Editor Thelma Schoonmaker ("The Irishman") needed a heavier hand and should have cut 20 minutes from the footage—or more. On the other hand, Robbie Robertson's ("The Irishman") musical soundtrack is incredibly atmospheric. His music alternates between a funky, drum-heavy

Native American beat, and chants and evocative songscapes. To hear more of his indigenous-themed music, listen to Robertson's groundbreaking 1994 album "Music for Native Americans," which drew from his Mohawk heritage.

Any film that pairs DeNiro and DiCaprio is a gem. DeNiro shines and sneers well, but sometimes it feels like he's interjecting 21st century urban sensibilities into the King character. DiCaprio is invisible, deep inside the increasingly culpable and murderous Ernest.

As he walks through a crowd on Fairfax's main dirt road the actor grabs the camera's attention. The way he walks, wears his cowboy hat, makes facial expressions and his mannerisms steals the scenes from the hundreds of extras. He's totally believable as a 1920s man and as earthy as any Steinbeck

character. He's magnetic.

Gladstone's presence is felt even in the scenes she isn't in. Her Mollie is the sane voice among the debauchery and criminal conspiracy—a low-key, strong-willed woman destined to find help when no one else can. Pity her character is rendered so helpless for so long. Pity when she finally confronts the person who's tortured her, there's no anger, no slap, no wishing him dead for what he's done. It makes you wonder if a woman, specifically a Native American one, had written the script, would she have allowed Mollie, or the Osage Nation members, to look so passive?

If you're looking for a good glimpse into the world of Native Americans, from their perspective, check out Lakota Nation vs United States, an enlightening documentary that's

See KILLERS, Page 11

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LIVE NATION

Third-annual Minority Outdoor Festival this weekend at McKinney Roughs Nature Park in Cedar Creek

AUSTIN – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), in conjunction with the Minority Outdoor Alliance (MOA), will host the third-annual Minority Outdoor Festival Oct. 13-14 at McKinney Roughs Nature Park in Cedar Creek.

The festival, open to the public, centers around the theme “uniting communities for joy and conservation,” and will offer a wide array of activities, including bird dog demonstrations, archery lessons, ATV rides, fly fishing instruction and river rafting. Addition-



The MOA seeks to create a more unified world by bringing people from all backgrounds together to enjoy the outdoors and learn about conservation. (Jonatan Lewczuk / Unsplash)

ally, MOA will host a career networking event where more than 150 university students in the Austin and Houston areas can engage

with potential employers and industry professionals.

“By continuing a conversation around conservation and participating in an op-

portunity to help all audiences explore the sports that utilize their natural resources, we can draw attention to the importance of preserving these places and the hobbies that help make life better outside,” said Robert Owen, outreach and education director for TPWD.

The MOA seeks to create a more unified world by bringing people from all backgrounds together to enjoy the outdoors and learn about conservation. The two-day event is rooted in its mission to “cultivate inclusivity for a healthier

outside.”

“The partnership between MOA and TPWD exemplifies the potent synergy that arises when agencies and communities unite for a shared cause,” said Ashley Smith, CEO for MOA. “This collaboration showcases the collective strength derived from unity in pursuit of the common goal of conservation. Such alliances serve as vital engines for positive change and are an illustration of how community-driven conservation efforts are crucial in safeguarding our natural world for genera-

tions to come.”

To learn more about the festival or to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moafest-23-tickets-623382252097>.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides outdoor recreational opportunities by managing and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and acquiring and managing parklands and historic areas. It has inherited the functions of many state entities created to protect Texas’ natural resources.

Broadway Dallas launches Night OUT in partnership with the Turtle Creek Chorale

Broadway Dallas is thrilled to announce its newest affinity group Night OUT, in partnership with the Turtle Creek Chorale. Night OUT is the latest addition to Broadway Dallas’ current

lineup of groups including Associate Producers (AP) and the Guild. Night OUT is an exciting opportunity for members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community to gather, socialize, and expe-

rience the best of Broadway together.

Night OUT will take place at a designated performance during the Dallas engagements of MJ, TINA – The Tina Turner Musical,

and Hairspray.

Attendees will enjoy pre-show mixers with complimentary drinks and apps at each selected performance. The inaugural event will take place Wednesday, No-

vember 29 with an MJ pre-show mixer at the Music Hall at Fair Park. A ticket to the performance is required for entry. For more information, visit broadwaydallas.org.

“We are so honored and thrilled to partner with Broadway Dallas on this exciting initiative! Any opportunity to bring our com-

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Take the money now or later? Financial scarcity and decision making

WASHINGTON (News-wise) — When people feel that their resources are scarce — that they don't have enough money or time to meet their needs — they often make decisions that favor short-term gains over long-term benefits. Because of that, researchers have argued that scarcity pushes people to make myopic, impulsive decisions. But a study published by the American Psychological Association provides support for a different, less widely held view: People experiencing scarcity make reasonable decisions based on their circumstances, and only prioritize short-term benefits over long-term gains when scarcity threatens their more immediate needs.

"This research challenges the predominant view that when people feel poor or live in poverty, they become impatient and short-sighted and can't or don't think about the future," said study co-author Eesha Sharma, PhD, of San Diego State University. "It provides a framework, instead, for understanding that when people are experiencing financial scarcity, they're trying to make the best decision they can, given the circumstances they're in."

The research was published in the Journal of

Personality and Social Psychology.

Sharma and co-authors Stephanie Tully, PhD, of the University of Southern California, and Xiang Wang, PhD, of Lingnan University in Hong Kong, wanted to distinguish between two competing ideas: That people's preference for shorter-term gains reflects impatience and impulsivity, or that it reflects more intentional, deliberate decision-making. To do so, they examined how people's decisions change depending on the timeline of the needs that they feel they don't have enough money for.

"Needs exist across a broad time horizon," said Tully. "We often think about immediate needs like food or shelter, but people can experience scarcity related to future needs, too, such as replacing a run-down car before it dies, buying a house or paying for college. Yet research on scarcity has focused almost exclusively on immediate needs."

In the current study, the researchers conducted five experiments in which they measured or induced a sense of scarcity in participants, and examined how the choices people made changed depending on whether that scarcity was related to a shorter- or

longer-term need.

Overall, they found that when people feel that they don't have enough resources to meet an immediate need, such as food or shelter, they are more likely to make decisions that offer an immediate payout, even if it comes at the expense of receiving a larger payout later. But when scarcity threatens a longer-term need, such as replacing a run-down car, people experiencing scarcity are no less willing to wait for larger, later rewards -- and in some cases are more willing to wait -- compared with people not experiencing scarcity.

In one experiment, for example, the researchers identified more than 1000 participants via Facebook ads who were planning a wedding. For some, they induced a sense of scarcity by asking whether wedding planning ever made them feel as though they didn't have enough money, and what part of the wedding cost they were most concerned about. A control group was asked to reflect on the part of their wedding they were most excited about.

Next, participants were told they'd be entered into a lottery to win a cash prize: \$200 immediately or \$300 several months later. The researchers found that

on average, participants in the scarcity group were not significantly more likely to choose the immediate payout than those in the control group, suggesting that scarcity, on its own, did not cause greater impatience. But when they examined participants' choices through the lens of wedding dates, they found scarcity did affect preferences. When the participants' wedding dates were before the payout date of the larger prize (a shorter time horizon), participants were more likely to choose the smaller, sooner payout, but when participants' wedding dates were after the payout of the larger prize (a longer time horizon), they were more likely to choose the larger, later payout.

In a follow-up experiment, the researchers found that the time horizon effect only influenced participants' choices when the payout was relevant to

the threatened need, suggesting that the decisions reflected participants' deliberate attempts to meet the threatened need. In other words, when participants felt short on money for an immediate need, they were more likely to choose a smaller, quicker cash payout, compared with when they felt short on money for a long-term need. But when they were made to feel short on time rather than money, then whether the need was im-

mediate or long term didn't affect whether they chose a small, quick cash payout or a larger, later one.

ARTICLE: "Scarcity and Intertemporal Choice," by Eesha Sharma, PhD, San Diego State University; Stephanie M. Tully, PhD, University of Southern California; and Xiang Wang, PhD, Lingnan University. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, published online Sept. 14, 2023.

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DRUGS, from Page 7

Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) or download the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Collection Instructions form by clicking Household Hazardous Waste at cityofcarrollton.com/solidwaste.

The public can email the completed form to

CarrolltonHHW@republicservices.com to set up an appointment for the collection of these items. Medical sharps must be in a sharps container or a plastic container with a screw-on lid (ex: an empty laundry detergent bottle). Residents will be mailed

a collection bag in which to place the container in preparation for the collection appointment.

For more information on the many local resources available for medication disposal, including area pharmacies and FDA disposal recommendations, visit cityofcarrollton.com/drugdisposal.

KILLERS, from Page 9

streaming on Prime Video and Apple TV+.

Watching "Killers of the Flower Moon" to learn anything about the view-

points of Native Americans may be a frustrating experience. Watching the movie for its magnificent artistry may not. It's an opulent,

indulgent crime/drama/history film made from bits of facts and padded with fiction, nothing more.

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



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How gender inequality in the media industry impacts job satisfaction

LONDON (Newswise) — Research led by experts at City University of London has found lower perceptions of gender equality and the prevalence of workplace sexual harassment negatively impact on job satisfaction in newsrooms across global regions. While sexual harassment is widespread in numerous professions, newsrooms are no exception to this unfortunate reality.

Job satisfaction in the news industry has attracted a number of studies that explore the effects of organizational size, salaries, contract types, work-life balance, gender, race and even political leanings of the outlet. Indeed, in many areas of the world women are heavily underrepresented and often have shorter careers in the media than male colleagues due



Study uncovers how workplace gender equality curbs experiences of sexual harassment and boosts job satisfaction in the Global South. (Tim Mossholder / Unsplash)

to social and cultural barriers such as discrimination, pay gaps and gender stereotypes.

The new study from Dr. Lindsey Blumell, Senior Lecturer and Dr. Rana Arafat, Lecturer in Journalism at City, along with Dinfin Mulupi, University of Maryland, analyzed how news personnel from Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast

Asia, and the Arab region evaluated job satisfaction in relation to gender equality and experienced sexual harassment.

The regions explored contain countries particularly renowned for unequal pay, short-lived female careers and exclusivity of senior roles for males.

Key findings from the research show:

- Men from across the three regions enjoy significantly higher job satisfaction than women, but not gender non-conforming individuals.

- Similarly, men also have far higher perceptions of newsroom gender equality than women – that is, they find easier access to the field and more senior roles than women. Again, this is not substantially different from gender non-conforming people.

- Women were significantly more likely to be verbally and physically harassed both in the newsroom and on field work assignments than men across all three tested regions.

- Physical harassment against women was more prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa than in Southeast Asia and the Arab region which were not dissimilar.

Cases of verbal harassment varied significantly between the three regions, with Sub-Saharan Africa the highest, followed by the Arab region and then Southeast Asia.

- Combined instances of physical and verbal sexual harassment had significant negative impact on job satisfaction.

Surveys included 33 closed questions and one open-ended question, with data collected between July and October 2020 for Sub-Saharan participants, December 2020 and March 2021 for Southeast Asia and between February and April 2021 for the Arab region. The total sample size was 1,583 males, females and gender non-conforming people (576 from Sub-Saharan Africa, 487 from Southeast Asia and 520 from the Arab region).

Dr Blumell said the study highlighted an urgent need for culture shift in the news industry across the world.

“Journalism is a heavily male-dominated industry across the world, and quite heavily so by design,” she said.

“With many cultures discouraging extended careers in the media for women after marriage and child birth due to domestic responsibilities, and in a lot of cases even prohibiting the necessary qualifications, the most senior roles with key decision-making powers in news organizations are held by men.

“This imbalance in turn creates an acceptance of stereotypes and a perception power held by males that often leads to sexual harassment and a worsen-

See MEDIA, Page 13

BROADWAY, from Page 10

munity together to enjoy a night out for a Broadway show is a wonderful thing and we are grateful to Broadway Dallas for making this all possible,” says Jeremy Wayne, Turtle Creek Chorale Executive Director.

Associate Producers (AP) is the young professional affinity group of Broadway Dallas. AP helps bring Broadway Dallas to the forefront of the Dallas cultural scene through networking with peers and connecting over the excitement of live

theater. AP membership benefits include discounted show tickets on designated AP nights with complimentary pre-show mixers, 50% off tickets to season kickoff and wrap parties, exclusive access and discounted pricing to Broadway Dallas special events, discounted tickets to remaining Broadway

shows on season, and additional meetups throughout the year. There is no membership fee to join; tickets to the shows on designated AP nights are your membership.

The Broadway Dallas Guild is a social and hospitality organization that will allow you to take your en-

gagement with Broadway Dallas to another level. It's the ultimate Broadway fan club. If you want to get closer to the talent and spend time with fellow Broadway fanatics 40 years old and up, this is the organization for you. Guild membership benefits include preshow mixers on designated Guild

nights, providing weekend meal service for cast and crew of touring Broadway Dallas shows, organize and host cast parties, community service volunteer opportunities, and more. There is no membership fee to join. For more information on any of these opportunities, visit broadwaydallas.org.

STUDY, from Page 7

cream flavors were more likely to choose based on what they didn't like than on what they liked.

The research team found evidence of independents' embrace of the negative in a variety of contexts.

In one study, the researchers used data from the 1968-2020 American National Election Studies, involving 38,759 national respondents reporting their views of political parties and presidential candidates on a feeling thermometer from 100 (very favorable) to 0 (very unfavorable).

The researchers subtracted the degree of negativity toward the non-preferred side (sometimes called “outgroup hate”) from positivity toward the preferred

side (“ingroup love”), creating a positive-versus-negative partisanship score.

The results showed that independents – including Democrat-leaning and Republican-leaning independents – had more negative scores of the political parties than partisans in all 14 years of the survey. Independents were also more negative than partisans on the candidate-based measure in 12 of the 14 years.

The results were even more explicit when the researchers examined political surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center that specifically asked voters if their choice of a presidential candidate was more for one candidate or against the other candidate.

Pew asked that question before the 2000, 2008, 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.

Across all the elections, independents were more likely to vote against a candidate than partisans were.

Both before 2008 and after 2016, negative voting was consistently 10 to 17 percentage points higher among independents than partisans. And since 2016, the majority of independents said they voted against a candidate rather than for the other option.

“Independents were voting negatively even before it became more generally popular before the 2016 election,” said study co-author Richard Petty, professor of psychology at Ohio State.

“We think this stems

from independents defining themselves in terms of what they are not, rather than what they are.”

In another study, conducted online, partisans and independents who leaned Democrat or leaned Republican were asked whether they agreed with messages that argued why it was good to support their party (or the party they leaned toward) or why it was good to oppose the other party.

Results showed that Republican-leaning and Democrat-leaning independents agreed more with appeals to oppose their non-preferred party, while partisans agreed more with messages that supported their party.

The lean toward negativity among independents ex-

tends beyond politics. In a study conducted online, the researchers looked at several non-political preferences – between professional baseball teams (Yankees versus Red Sox), ice cream flavors (chocolate versus vanilla) and academic subjects (math versus writing). The researchers compared those who had a clear preference of one over the other to participants who said they simply “leaned” one way or the other.

As in the American National Election Studies, participants completed a feeling thermometer rating how favorable they felt about both choices on a scale of 0 to 100. They were also asked if their choice was more for one alternative or against the

other.

And again, the independent leaners based their choices more on negativity against their non-preferred choice compared to the partisans.

“This helps put our results from politics in a broader perspective,” Siev said.

“It suggests that independents may be psychologically distinct from other people in meaningful ways. They may have different ways of approaching the world, and framing their preferences in positive or negative ways. It is worth researching more.”

Daniel Rovenpor, a former postdoctoral fellow at Ohio State, now on faculty at Baruch College, was also a co-author.

Upgrading metal plants could save two years of carbon emissions

LONDON (Newsweek) —Upgrading, or retrofitting, the world's iron and steel processing plants early could reduce carbon emissions by up to 70 gigatonnes by 2050, roughly equivalent to two years' worth of net global carbon emissions, according to a new study led by UCL researchers.

Published in the journal *Nature*, the researchers found that by upgrading the world's iron and steel production facilities, carbon emissions can be reduced by 58.7 gigatonnes between 2020 and 2050, roughly equivalent to two years'

worth of net global carbon emissions. They further found that by bumping forward emissions reduction retrofits five years ahead of typical schedules would reduce emissions by 69.6 gigatonnes over that time frame. Iron and steel production contributes about 7% to total global carbon emissions.

Iron and steel production is a carbon emissions heavy process. The researchers found that as of 2019, the last year that data is available, 74.5% of the world's steel was produced in coal powered plants that release considerable carbon emis-

sions. Technologies exist to reduce these admissions, but upgrades are expensive and time consuming and so are usually only undertaken at the end of a processing unit's operational lifetime.

Refining is also hard on the equipment, and the individual processing units within each plant need to be retrofitted periodically to prolong their operational lifetimes. Overall, 43.2% of global iron and steel plants have been retrofitted with new technologies or have otherwise enhanced their processes to extend their operating lifetime. The frequency of their retrofits de-

pends on the technique they employ and how old they are, but typically they occur after 15 to 27 years of use.

The researchers found that if all currently operating processing units were upgraded to incorporate low-emissions technology at their predicted time of their refit, total emissions from the iron and steel sector could be reduced by 58.7 gigatonnes between 2020 and 2050, but if all the refits and upgrades were bumped forward and completed five years early, the total carbon savings would be 16% greater at 69.6 gigatonnes.

But the team also emphasizes that mitigation efforts will have to take place at the individual facility level, and that the decarbonisation of the entire iron and steel industry depends on the efforts undertaken by every single plant. Because of the complexity and variety of methods involved in steel production around the world, there's no one-size-fits-all decarbonisation technology or solution for the entire sector, and each processing unit should be upgraded individually according to its technical specification.

About 63% of the world's

steel production is from some type of blast oxygen furnace, while most of the remaining capacity is produced by electric arc furnaces. Upgrading the global inventory of blast oxygen furnaces will yield the greatest net carbon savings, about 74% of the total projected carbon savings. Upgrades to electric arc furnaces would account for the second highest net carbon savings, at about 16% of the projected whole, though this may be limited by the total amount of stock scrap available worldwide as the technique is dependent on recycling existing metals.

MEDIA, from Page 12

ing of job conditions for women.

"Our study highlights the need for structural and organizational changes to combat these inequalities that disproportionately affect women. Organizations must implement policies that address all types of sexual harassment and enact ethical charters to define gender discrimination

in its different forms.

Dr Arafat said the effects on job satisfaction of these attitudes towards women required greater attention from employers.

"There is a great misconception that 'real' sexual harassment is only a rare occurrence among flirting and 'banter', which demonstrates a misconception of how we situate types of ha-

arrassment," Dr Arafat said.

"What might seem like harmless flirtation can in fact hurt, humiliate and dominate individuals and amount to verbal sexual harassment. If news organizations and employers in general were more aware of this, as well as the physical sexual harassment that also goes underreported – and

their overall effects on job satisfaction – they would hopefully take greater action to combat it.

"Educating organizations is one step, but training staff to understand effects of the many negative psychological and performance effects of sexual harassment is critical to solving the problem from within.

"By addressing gender inequalities that lead to women's lower job satisfaction, news organizations can also counter women's early exit from the news industry."

"The Impact of Sexual Harassment on Job Satisfaction in Newsrooms" by Dr Lindsey Blumell, Dinfin Mupuli and Dr Rana Arafat is published in *Journalism Practice*.

WALL, from Page 1

Diversity. Their survival depends on connected habitat extending southward into Mexico.

After feeling the strain of receiving thousands of immigrants bused to cities across the country, a number of democratic mayors have put pressure on the President to reduce the pace of immigrant arrivals, Washington Post reporter

Nick Miroff said in a PBS News Hour interview. The President has now spoken of the border wall as an urgent necessity, he said.

"This politically motivated action will only harm border communities," explained Blazer. "It's time for the Biden administration to choose humanity and real solutions over politics."

AMARE, from Page 2

resent the people of House District 113.

Texas needs young leaders who are passionate about creating lasting solutions to our state's most pressing issues. We are at a critical and historic moment where youth are spearheading movements for a better future. Young leaders need to have a seat

at the decision-making table so we can bring fresh perspectives and a passion for activism and service to Texas politics," added Tsion.

If elected, Tsion Amare will be the youngest member to serve in the Texas Legislature and the first Ethiopian-American legislator.



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Out to Pastor: Life Can Be a Series of Dreams

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Lately, I've been having some fascinating dreams at night. Usually, I don't give much thought to dreams, but lately, I've been thinking more about them.

Last night, for example, I had this exciting dream, and everything seemed to be coming in my direction, and then I woke up before the end. Once I woke up, I did not know how the dream ended.

I tried thinking about the dream, but I could not remember any elements of that dream. While dreaming, everything was very clear, and I even noticed people I knew. Then, I woke up and couldn't remember anything.

I've been having these kinds of dreams lately. Maybe it's because I'm getting older, and my brain has nothing else to do. I wish I would not wake up until the dream was finished.

I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage at breakfast if she knew about a certain building. I then described that building in as much detail as I possibly could.



She finally nodded at me and said, "That doesn't ring any bells with me."

I'm the only ding-a-ling here; if she didn't remember that building, it never existed.

It had to exist somewhere, and I needed help figuring out where in the world I saw that building.

Then I said, "Do you remember..." And I described a person that was in my dream.

Again, none of her bells were ringing on that one either.

"Why are you asking me these questions?"

I explained to her that these things were in my dreams and I couldn't remember where I saw them last.

Thinking about this throughout the day, I realized that my life, in gen-

eral, is pretty much like these fading dreams I've been having. None of these dreams made sense after I woke up. While I was dreaming of them, they made sense, but when I woke up, all sense disappeared.

Maybe life should be more like that. If I didn't wake up, I would know what was happening.

One time, at a conference, I drove through a little town and saw several familiar buildings. I had never been to this town before, so I couldn't figure it out. But it came to me.

These buildings were in my dreams the other night.

So, as I was driving, I began to think, am I dreaming, or am I driving?

I guess it doesn't make any difference one way or the other.

If I could remember my dreams, my life would change a little bit for the better. But I have these wonderful dreams and wake up before they're finished and then don't remember anything about them, which is rather sad.

I tried an experiment the other night. I went to bed, had my prayer time, and then decided to invent a dream for the night. I've never done this before and was not sure how to do it. I tried to put together all kinds of little suggestions of my dream that would catch.

In a few minutes, I was sound asleep. The next thing I knew, it was morning, and I was awake. I lay there in my bed thinking, what happened to that dream? It was the first time in weeks that I did not have any kind of a dream. That made me a little frustrated.

For the next few nights, I tried the same experiment all to naught. Where in the world do these dreams come from?

That morning at the breakfast table, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and

smiled and said, "I had the most marvelous dream last night." Then she told me about her dream and how it ended. She remembered everything about it.

What disturbed me was that was the dream I was trying to create for myself last night. How in the world did she get my dream?

I'm beginning to think she can get inside my head whenever she wants, which is much more than I can do.

All day long, she was smiling, and once in a while, she would remember something of that dream and share it with me.

That evening, I decided to ask her about her dream. "How did you get such a wonderful dream in your head last night?"

Then she talked for quite a few minutes, explaining how all of that came together in her head.

"Why didn't you wake up before the dream ended?" I asked with anticipation.

"I make it a habit not to scare my dreams away like some people I know," she explained.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well," she stuttered a

little bit, looking at me, "I do not snore when I'm sleeping which is what scares dreams."

I got the implication that I snored at night, which scared my dreams away, which was a little difficult for me to understand. I see and hear my dreams but have never heard me snore. How does all of that work?

Life is not built on dreams. I was reminded of a Bible verse. "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

My faith in God is what guides my daily life, not my dreams.

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.

MEDICAID, from Page 4

administering Medicaid benefits through MCOs, which receive fixed fees known as "capitated payments."

Casey noted that independent watchdogs have consistently raised concerns about the MCO model, which may incentivize insurers to limit payments and deny coverage. He highlighted that MCOs have expanded significantly, becoming the "dominant delivery system" for Medicaid, providing coverage to over 67 million Americans, or 84 percent of Medicaid enrollees.

The senator noted that the OIG's national evaluation of Medicaid MCOs, published in July, examined 115 plans with a minimum

of 10,000 enrollees operating across 37 states and managed by seven companies. For example, the report found that, on average, MCOs denied 12.5 percent of requests for prior authorization in 2019, with notable variations from state to state and among different companies and plans.

Casey said one insurer in 13 states exhibited denial rates ranging from 5 percent to 29 percent. In California, denial rates for various MCOs ranged from 7 percent to 29 percent. The OIG report also identified 2.7 million individuals enrolled in MCOs with 25 percent or higher denial rates. Notably, one Illinois plan had a denial rate of 41 percent, while two other

plans in Georgia and Texas denied one-third of claims.

Casey has called for a thorough examination of the MCO system to ensure that patients enrolled in Medicaid have unfettered access to the services they are entitled to. Additionally, he has urged the CMS to provide robust oversight to safeguard the interests of enrollees in receiving the care they need.

"When patients are denied coverage of medically necessary services, they often face tight timelines to file actionable appeals," Casey said. "Assuming such appeals are filed in a timely manner, the process can be complicated and time-consuming, creating barriers that can make it difficult for Medicaid enrollees to seek recourse."

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Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." John 21:6a

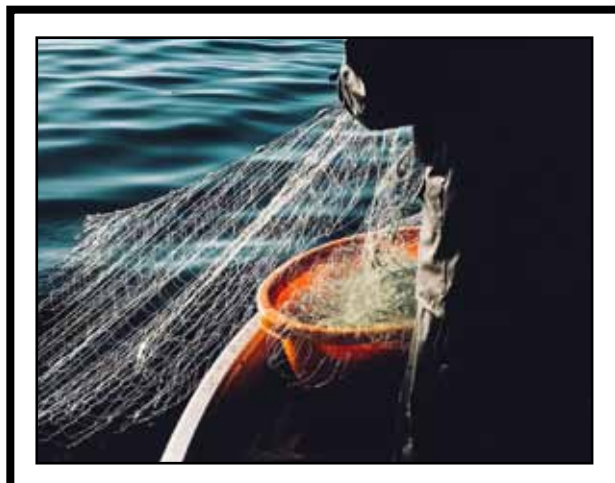
The disciples were fishing. It was after Jesus had been crucified. Peter had gone through his most agonizing moment in which he had denied Jesus three times.

He had lost a friend. No doubt he probably wondered whether the last three years were a dream. What now?

Peter had been prepared three years, but he was not going out to preach; he was going fishing.

He had returned to his trade of days gone by. He had a level of experience with Jesus that no other human on earth can boast.

This was the third encounter he was about to



have with Jesus after His resurrection. Jesus looked to Peter and John in their boat and made a suggestion.

"Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, *"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."* **John 21:6a.**

Now, if you are as seasoned in your fishing as these guys were, wouldn't you be a bit irritated if a stranger suggested that you simply put your nets over the other side to catch some fish?

Yet, we find that they

took this stranger's advice. Once they were obedient, the Lord revealed Himself.

When they followed Jesus' advice, the catch was enormous - 153 fish in total. In most cases such a haul would have broken the net. Jesus invited them to have breakfast with Him - fish and bread; He had already started the fire.

I can only imagine that this scene would resemble some buddies going out and camping together.

There is so much that we are to learn in this passage about God's ways. As a

Christian believer, we must understand that after we have spent years with Jesus, this does not always mean we must leave our professions in order to fully follow Jesus.

Peter went back to his profession - fishing. It was here that Jesus asked him a simple question: Do you love Me and will you feed My sheep?

He didn't say to Peter, "Fishing is a waste of time for you now, Peter." This recommissioning was in the area of his original calling - his work.

We need not feel that we must go to the "mission field" to please Jesus. Our work is our mission field. We must, however, make a paradigm shift in our thinking about our place in the world.

We must have an overriding sense of mission and ministry that comes out of that work.

This is what is meant

when we say that we must all be circumcised before we can enter the Promised Land.

When this happens, we can expect to see God fill the nets with His blessings. He wants to do this because He now owns the net, and He can trust us to manage it.

Give God the Glory - No matter how beautiful and handsome you are, just remember that Baboon and Gorillas also attract tourists. Stop Boasting.

No matter how big and strong you are, you will

not carry yourself to your Grave.

Be Humble. No matter how tall you are, you can never see tomorrow. Be Patient.

No matter how Light Skinned you are, you will always need Light in darkness. Take Caution.

No matter how rich and how many cars you have, you will always walk to bed. Be Contented. Life is short. Take Life Easy. WHAT A LIFE WE LIVE!

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

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NDG Book Review: 'The New Brownies' Book' is a good family read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The kids are back in school now and already, your family's going in six different directions.

You're busy, between sports, extracurricular activities, work commitments, family gatherings, and community activity. If there was a meaningful way to get everybody together at once, you'd be all over that so grab "The New Brownies' Book" by Dr. Karida L. Brown and Charly Palmer and take a hint from Grandma's time.

Ten years after the launching of the "infamous The Crisis magazine,"



W.E.B. Du Bois, Augustus Granville Dill and Jessie Redmon Fauset had another idea: they called it The Brownies' Book, though it was really a magazine that sold for less than two dollars for six issues, or fifteen cents for a single issue. It was 1920, Jim Crow laws

were in effect, and their intention was that the publication would "serve as a much-needed medium for Black and brown children," by showing them what people of color had contributed to the world. It was also something white families could use and learn from, too.

"... it was," say Brown and Palmer, "a crown jewel of African American children's literature."

This book, meant to "evoke the spirit of... [the] original Brownies' Book," pulls together dozens of original stories, poems, plays, essays, lessons, and artwork that mirrors what

Du Bois had initially intended more than a century ago.

Here, you'll find tales of ancestors and why it's important to know yours. You'll find games for the whole family to play, including even the littlest kids. You'll find photos and reproductions of Brownies' Book pages from the 1920s and new artwork from a variety of Black artists. There's humor in some of these stories, and one is a fun challenge for pre-teens. There are tales for older kids here, pages that help teach morality and empathy, stories to read aloud to a grade-schooler, stories

that seem to end abruptly but that beg for meaningful discussion, and biographies of "she-roses" and other giants in Black history...

Absolutely, "The New Brownies' Book" lives up to its subtitle: it is, indeed, "a love letter to Black families." It's also pretty sweet on art and poetry, too.

Many of the essays and stories, though, may confound readers who are not prepared for their abrupt endings. It's as if the pages have run out and that's that – but look again. Those ends-too-quickly tales invite a child to imagine what happened next or to think of a better storyline. They

are ready-made to teach a child to be a storyteller, and for families to discuss.

Don't think that this book is only for small children, though. This is the kind of reading that you can leave around for a teenager to find and browse, to provoke thoughts and spark ideas. There are inspirations inside here, as well as subtle lessons.

You can feel comfortable giving this to a family, new, old, or blended. It would be a great gift for your favorite babysitter or a grandparent, too. For your household, "The New Brownies' Book" is a great direction.

ISRAEL, from Page 8

the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The aircraft carrier has an embarked airwing and accompanying cruisers and destroyers. The force will

conduct maritime and air operations in order to assure allies and partners throughout the region and ensure regional stability. The strike group is prepared for the full range of missions.

Austin also ordered more Air Force F-35, F-15, F-16 and A-10 fighter aircraft to squadrons in the region.

"These posture increases were intended to serve as an unequivocal demonstration in deeds, and not only in words, of U.S. support for

Israel's defense and serve as a deterrent signal to Iran, Lebanese Hezbollah, and any other proxy across the region who might be considering exploiting the current situation to escalate conflict," the senior defense official said. "Those adversaries should think twice."

Iran is in the picture, but there is no proof of active involvement by that country. "Iran has provided support for years to Hamas and Hezbollah," the official said. "We've long discussed Iran's role in equip-

ping, training and providing guidance to militant groups. I'm not talking about any specific intelligence in here. But we've been very clear for years about Iran's role in fomenting instability and inciting violence across the region."

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