



# North Dallas Gazette

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## With election season looming, Biden-Harris reaches out to Black voters

By Gerren Keith Gaynor

This week, the Biden-Harris campaign released its first targeted radio ad buy in key competitive swing states as part of a historic \$25 million paid media campaign. The "Commitment" ad highlights executive and legislative actions that the president expects have made a real difference for Black America.

Policy actions include an executive order signed advancing racial equity throughout every federal agency on Biden's first day in office. Funding for Black businesses has also been expanded to help close the racial wealth gap, and costs of energy bills and prescription drugs like insulin have been lowered through the Inflation Reduction Act.

"There's no doubt Black voters have been and will continue to be the backbone of the democratic coalition," said Michael Tyler, the Biden-Harris campaign's communications director. "They were crucial to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' victory in 2020. They were crucial to our historic successes in the midterms."

The campaign released its first nationwide ad targeting Black voters in September with the TV ad "First Day," which highlighted President Biden's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and subse-



*Biden-Harris launches a string of ads geared toward informing Black voters what the Biden-Harris administration has done on their behalf. (Gayatri Malhotra / Unsplash)*

quent economic crisis. A second TV ad, "Get Ahead," was released almost two weeks ago.

Faced with the greatest public health crisis in a century, the greatest economic crisis since the Great Recession, and the greatest threat to our democracy in our lifetimes, Tyler said, "He got to work particularly on fixing the economy. It wasn't just about restoring the economy that we had, pre-pandemic. It was also an opportunity for him to tackle what he saw as historic injustices that were baked into the fabric of our economy."

With growing income inequality and a growing racial wealth gap, Black communities had been victimized by disinvestment for generations, said Tyler. The stakes are high for the Black community, he

said.

Through the first round of ads, the campaign wanted to ensure that people "understand the intent behind what the president has accomplished."

The results of Bidenomics have been lowering the Black unemployment rate to the lowest rate ever and unprecedented funding to HBCUs, explained Tyler. The bipartisan infrastructure law also addresses neglected infrastructure in Black communities. The results are not a byproduct of the president's work, he said, but his precise intent.

The campaign's latest targeting of Black voters through radio is an intentional strategy, as more than

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### People In The News ...



**Hughes Van Ellis**



**Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**

*NDG Quote of the Week: "We all require and want respect, man or woman, black or white. It's our basic human right."*  
— Aretha Franklin



## Hughes Van Ellis

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

One of only three known survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre has died on October 9 at the age of 102 years old.

Hughes Van Ellis, 102, died in Denver, Colorado on the morning of October 9. Van Ellis was born on Jan. 11, 1921. The two last known survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre are now Viola Ford Fletcher, 109 and Lessie Benningfield Randle, 108.

The Greenwood District



was a prosperous African American community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, often referred to as "Black Wall Street." It was a thriving business district with a vibrant Black cultural and

economic life, home to many Black-owned businesses and residences. On May 31, 1921, a young Black man named Dick Rowland was falsely accused of assaulting a young white woman named Sarah Page in an elevator. The allegation led to Rowland's arrest and tensions escalated as rumors spread about the incident.

At the time, Hughes Van Ellis was three months old. Over the years there have been several attempts to earn damage rewards for the destruction of life and property by the white community in Tulsa. None of

the challenges have been successful so far.

A statement released by the family stated, "Mr. Hughes Van Ellis, 102, passed Mon. Oct. 9th at 11:30 am in Denver, Colorado. A loving family man, he was known as "Uncle Redd." He was among the three last known survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the most horrific acts of racist terrorism on American soil. A WWII war veteran, Mr. Ellis, bravely served America, even as he spent a lifetime awaiting atonement related to the Tulsa Race Massacre. Mr. Ellis was aware, that

survivors, his sister Mrs. Viola Ford Fletcher, 109, Mrs. Lessie Benningfield Randle, 108, and family descendants were recently at our state capitol as part of an interim study focused on 2001 state-commissioned reparation recommendations.

Two days ago, Mr. Ellis, urged us to keep fighting for justice. In the midst of his death, there remains an undying sense of right and wrong. Mr. Ellis was assured we would remain steadfast and we repeated to him his own words, "We Are One" and we lastly expressed our love. The scripture of Jeremiah 6 reads "This is what

the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." We celebrate the rare life of Mr. Hughes Van Ellis who still inspires us!"

Funeral details are not yet known. Van Ellis' funeral ceremony is likely to be another touchpoint around the issue of reparations for the damage done to members of the Black community as a result of systemic racism.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the publisher of Black Virginia News.

## Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. officially threw his hat into the ring for the 2024 U.S. presidential race, switching affiliations from Democrat to Independent.

Polls show far more Republicans than Democrats have a favorable opinion of Kennedy, cites AP News. He also gained support from some far-right conservatives for his fringe views, including his vocal distrust of COVID-19 vaccines, which studies have shown are safe and effective against severe



disease and death, they report.

"I'm here to declare myself an independent candidate for president of the United States," Kennedy proclaimed, eliciting resounding applause and chants of support during his

announcement.

Kennedy thanked his wife, children, campaign team, and other family members for their unwavering support. The 69-year-old, who initially vied for the Democratic presidential nomination, making him the sole contender against President Joe Biden, recently teased a highly anticipated revelation regarding his campaign.

The scion of the illustrious Kennedy political dynasty has faced criticism for propagating unfounded conspiracy theories linking COVID-19 to anti-Semitic sentiments, positing that the virus was engineered to favor specific demographics,

notably Chinese and Ashkenazi Jews.

During an exclusive interview with the Black Press of America earlier this year, Kennedy emphasized his steadfast dedication to combating environmental inequities, dismantling qualified immunity for law enforcement, and rectifying the stark racial disparities ingrained within the American

healthcare system.

Born in the District of Columbia, Kennedy had underscored his commitment to rectifying longstanding issues afflicting marginalized communities. Kennedy emphasized that his agenda extends beyond mere rhetoric, as he said he envisioned breaking down systemic barriers and forging a more inclusive and equitable fu-

ture, particularly for African Americans who have borne the brunt of injustices, including the dire issue of maternal mortality.

Surrounded by political history, his uncle John F. Kennedy was a highly respected president, and his father, whose Democratic nomination abruptly ended

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## Whoopi Goldberg

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In a recent episode of "The View," Whoopi Goldberg stirred controversy with her comments regarding actor Idris Elba's candid admission about seeking therapy. As Parade Magazine first reported, Elba's revelation came during an appearance on Annie Macmanus' podcast, "Changes with Annie Macmanus," where he disclosed his year-long journey in treatment.

"It's a lot," Elba told Macmanus. "It's not because I don't like myself or anything like that; it's just



because I have some unhealthy habits that have really formed. And I work in an industry that I'm rewarded for those unhealthy habits... I'm rewarded for that. Whether it's to be selfish or [because] I'm a workaholic. I'm an absolute workaholic, and that isn't great for life generally."

While Goldberg's co-stars on "The View" lauded his openness, she expressed a different perspective. The veteran actress, 67, emphasized her preference for a more uncomplicated life, stating, "I like waking up to kitty cats that say feed me. There's no fuss, no muss. There's nobody that says, 'I can't come home 'cause I'm busy.'"

Ana Navarro, a View co-host, commended Elba for breaking the silence surrounding men's mental health. "I think it's important, though, that he's talking about seeking therapy; as we know, men get therapy and address mental health issues a lot less than

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## We must protect the foundation of our democracy

By Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn

Earlier this month, I stood alongside my colleagues as we announced the reintroduction of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, legislation aptly named after the stalwart civil rights champion and my dear departed friend. I often recount the story of how and when I first met John Lewis. It was in October 1960. We were 19-year-old college students attending an organizing meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Years later, we would serve together in the U.S. House of Representatives, once again united under the cause for "a more perfect Union."

In 2013, we sat down together and discussed the Supreme Court's decision in Shelby v. Holder. We reflected on the efforts that we had undertaken as college students and wondered what the decision meant in the larger fight for equal access to the ballot box. We were reminded of the years when our Black brothers and sisters, especially those in the South, were subjected to indignities such

as being required to answer questions like how many jellybeans were in a jar and being subjected to literacy tests to cast a ballot. Importantly, we feared what was to come. Although we lost John just a few short years later, he too began to see some of those fears realized.

In the years since Shelby v. Holder, several state legislatures across the country have introduced or enacted laws to curb Black Americans' access to the ballot box. Arizona and Mississippi enacted legislation to require burdensome proof of citizenship to determine eligibility to register to vote. Dozens of state legislatures introduced bills to restrict the practice of voting by mail. Other states have begun aggressively removing voters from the rolls and re-drawing Congressional maps blatantly designed to silence the Black vote. Look no further than Ron DeSantis' Florida and the dismantling of an opportunity district held by former Congressman Al Lawson. Then, in July 2021, the Court further weakened the 1965 Voting Rights Act in its decision in Brnovich v. DNC, making it more difficult to challenge discriminatory voting

laws.

Yet, this is far from the first time that access to the ballot box has come under such attacks. Ahead of the 1876 Presidential Election, South Carolina Democratic Congressman Martin Witherspoon Gary devised a devious campaign, known as the "Edgefield Plan," to impede the Black vote. The Edgefield Plan called for physical violence, and even murder, to keep Blacks from voting. He worked closely with rifle clubs and the South Carolina white supremacist group known as the "Red Shirts" to execute it. Devastatingly, he was successful. The violence and disorder tilted the scale and placed the Democrats back in power after years of Republican control.

We've already begun to see these terrifying echoes of the past reverberating today. There are the restrictive voter suppression laws I described above. Then came January 6, 2021 — a day that will live forever in our history as a moment of discredit and disgrace. We are clearly treading in dangerous waters and if we want to preserve the foundation of our democracy, we must pass this bill.

The John R. Lewis Voting

Rights Advancement Act would restore and modernize the protections outlined in the 1965 Voting Rights Act and call on states and localities, with a recent history of discrimination, to preclear new election changes. It would also restore Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which was struck down in Brnovich v. DNC, making it easier to challenge discriminatory voting laws. It is the remedy our nation needs to fight back against these dangerous challenges to our democracy and ensure that all Americans can make their voices heard at the ballot box.

Importantly, it would also honor John's life work. He was one of the most courageous people I've ever known, and I think constantly of how much we owe him. Almost none of us made the kinds of sacrifices that John made, even as a young college student, at a level that some of us could only strive for. Enacting the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would make a statement to the people of this country that this august body believes in the sacred promise of "a more perfect Union" as expressed in the preamble to our Constitution.

## Congress can help save more lives by removing barriers to cancer screenings

By David Ford  
Board Member  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network

Twice. That is how many times I have had to battle cancer. I still consider myself very fortunate, although surviving a disease that is expected to kill nearly 609,820 Americans this year is not a matter of luck. The fact is that cancer screenings can help save lives.

When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, I

thought my prospects were dire. According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer incidence among Black men is more than 70% higher than in White men, and Black men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than White men. In fact, Black men have the highest death rate for prostate cancer of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S.

Thankfully, my prostate cancer was detected early. Three years prior, a tumor ruptured my colon, which is

how I learned I had colorectal cancer. Had I heeded my doctor's recommendation to undergo a colonoscopy months before, I could have had the tumor removed and prevented it from causing additional damage.

I learned that early detection is key to surviving cancer, so I prioritized my physical exams and cancer screenings. In 2018, elevated prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test results signaled the potential for prostate cancer, and a biopsy confirmed it. I started my radi-

ation treatment right away. Today, I am in remission.

Prostate cancer accounts for more than a third of all new cancers in Black men. Now this is what I want you to remember: when prostate cancer is found early, the 5-year survival rate is nearly 100%. However, the likelihood of survival drops to 32% when it is found in its advanced stages.

This means that a future generation with zero deaths from prostate cancer

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## How parents' work stress affects family mealtimes and children's development

URBANA (Ill.) (News-wise) — Family mealtimes are important for parents and children as a space to communicate, socialize, and build attachment relationships. But it can be difficult for busy parents to balance family and work life. A new study from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign explores how parents' job stress influences their attendance at family mealtimes, and in turn, children's socioemotional development.

"We all struggle to maintain the balance between work life and family life. But this might be especially challenging for parents, who are engaging in childcare after a busy and stressful day at work. And when it comes to co-parenting in dual-earner families, which comprises 65% of families with children in United States, we do not know much about how mothers and fathers share caregiving roles under work stress,"



*Association of parents' work-related stress and children's socioemotional competency: Indirect effects of family mealtimes is published in Journal of Family Psychology. (Luis Arias / Unsplash)*

said lead author Sehyun Ju, doctoral student in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at U. of I.

The study included data from more than 1,400 dual-earner families, consisting of heterosexual married couples with children, in a nationally representative

survey that traced children's development across family, home, child care, and school environments from 9 months to kindergarten. The researchers focused on the interplay of child characteristics, family mealtimes, and parents' job and financial dissatisfaction.

"We found that children of parents who expressed higher work-related stress when the children were

2 years old had lower socioemotional competency at age 4 to 5, measured by lower positive and higher negative social behaviors," Ju explained.

There were significant differences regarding the impact of mothers' and fathers' work stress. For mothers, higher job dissatisfaction did not impact frequency of family mealtimes; however, it was directly associated with lower socioemotional competency in their children.

On the other hand, fathers who had higher job and financial dissatisfaction were less likely to attend family mealtimes with their children, and this in turn resulted in the children having lower socioemotional competency at age 4 to 5.

"Even when the mother increased her mealtime presence to compensate for the father's absence, the child's socioemotional development was still negatively impacted. This

indicates fathers may have a unique influence that cannot be replaced by the mother. Future intervention programs should help both parents obtain a better balance between work and family, and highlight the importance of family routines to promote healthy child development," stated co-author Qiujie Gong, a doctoral student in HDFS.

The findings speak to the pervasiveness of traditional gender roles, added Karen Kramer, associate professor in HDFS and co-author on the study. "Mothers are considered primary caregivers, and they are expected to be present and feed their children no matter what. The study showed they didn't adjust their mealtime frequencies in response to job dissatisfaction as fathers did."

Kramer notes the study is unique in combining topics from different disciplines, including psychology, sociology, economics, and

nutrition, and connecting them in a holistic way that provides insights for policy measures.

"We have to acknowledge the challenges that families face in creating consistent routines. It's not just an outcome of individual influences. Outside factors, such as parents' work environment and financial situation can affect their interactions, mealtimes, and child development. For example, dinner time for young kids is typically around five or six o'clock, but the expectation that parents are home early in the day doesn't align with being an ideal worker. Policy initiatives to help provide a work environment and community support that facilitate family mealtimes would be important," Kramer concluded.

Authors are Sehyun Ju, Qiujie Gong, and Karen Z. Kramer. The research was supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

## Department of Defense transforms biofabrication industry, manufacturing lifesaving, restorative therapies for injured soldiers

WASHINGTON -- Dr. Steven Wax, performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology, recently concluded a visit to two of the Department of Defense's nine Manufacturing Innovation Institutes. The visit included both the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute/BioFabUSA and Advanced Functional Fabrics of America. MIIs were created to revitalize U.S. manufacturing capabilities through domestic public-private partnership designed to enhance competitiveness within the innovation ecosystem. Today, there are 17 MIIs nationwide, and nine are operated by the Department of Defense.

BioFabUSA, located in Manchester, New Hampshire, brings together the manufacturing process for science of regenerative medicine to create regenerative manufacturing. It has more than 170 members including corporations, academia, and not-for-profit organizations. "Dr. Wax is a trusted collaborator, who I have had the opportunity to work with from his time at DARPA," said Dean Kamen, Executive Director, and Chairman of the Board for BioFabUSA.

"Thanks to his leadership along with others at the Department of Defense, America is building the biofabrication industry. This new industry will be

responsible for manufacturing lifesaving, restorative therapies for injured warfighters and veterans and will transform treatments for traumatic injuries and chronic illness for all Americans."

During the visit, Kamen briefed Wax about future capabilities that are being developed at BioFabUSA, such as on-demand battlefield red blood cell production, on-demand battlefield IV fluid production, and biofabricated ligaments and tendons used to repair musculoskeletal injuries.

"Regenerative medicine will no doubt become an important asset at the Defense Department," Wax said. "These innovative capabilities are just one of

many reasons successful technology transitions are needed."

AFFOA, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, transforms traditional fibers, yarns, and textiles into integrated and networked systems that will allow fabrics to become tech-enabled products. AFFOA leadership team, including Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sasha Stolyarov, demonstrated active textile capabilities that can utilize light-based communications and aid in warfighter rehabilitation.

"The active textiles being developed at AFFOA will provide a strategic advantage to the warfighter," Wax said. "Military uniform fabrics that can store

power and sense potential hazards are truly a game-changing technology." AFFOA, like all MIIs, collaborates with industry, academia, and government partners to identify solutions for targeted issues.

"Dr. Wax's visit to AFFOA highlights the Department of Defense's commitment to the manufacturing innovation institutes and the growing importance that we serve as part of the Department's innovation ecosystem," Stolyarov said. "We had the opportunity to discuss how AFFOA is bringing industry, academia, and government stakeholders together to address critical challenges for the nation. AFFOA is grateful for the partnership

with the DOD and looks forward to further strengthening the collaboration in the years ahead."

Both MIIs have a unique technology concentration and work with DOD to effectively transition capabilities into production. "DOD is committed to an accelerated technology transition for the prototypes that have the best long-term operational value for the department," said Wax. "The DOD is actively collaborating with our interagency partners to develop the best processes to field capabilities at speed and scale."

For more information about the MIIs please visit <https://www.manufacturingusa.com/institutes>



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# Dallas CASA Classic raises record-breaking \$2.5 million

The Dallas CASA Classic raised a record-breaking \$2.5 million for Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and the children served by the agency.

The tournament, jointly hosted by AT&T, Goldman Sachs and Pioneer Natural Resources initially raised \$2 million, but a surprise day-of gift from Pioneer pushed the total to \$2.5 million in honor of the 25th anniversary of the tournament.

"The Dallas CASA Classic is something we look forward to all year. The energy and enthusiasm for our mission brought by these companies is simply unmatched," said Kathleen M. LaValle, president and CEO of Dallas CASA. "The sponsoring companies are not just supporters; they are dear friends to Dallas CASA and the children we serve. They support and celebrate with us every way we can strengthen, broaden and deepen our impact for children in foster care."

Founded in 1998 by Archon Group, which later merged with Goldman Sachs, the tournament has transformed Dallas CASA from a small agency advocating for only a fraction of children in protective care to an agency with the service capacity to provide an advo-



AT&T, Goldman Sachs and Pioneer Natural Resources Partner for Invitational Charity Golf Tournament (Courtesy photo)

cate for every Dallas County child in need. Pioneer Natural Resources joined the tournament in 2012, followed by AT&T a year later. By joining forces, the three corporations have amplified and diversified their impact on Dallas CASA, providing a foundation for the agency's tremendous growth.

"The public-private partnership model at Dallas CASA is what makes the agency so unique," said Paige Richey, vice president and chief of staff at Goldman Sachs and a Dallas CASA board member. "Dallas CASA's funding is leveraged to greater impact because so much of the work is done by volunteers with the support of staff.

The model also empowers community members who see an overwhelmed child welfare system and want to step up to help."

"For a child who has been abused or neglected, knowing there's someone who cares and looks out just for them is transformative," said Corey Anthony, a senior AT&T vice president and Dallas CASA board member.

The tournament, held over two days at The Las Colinas Resort and Cowboys Golf Club, draws around 500 golfers from across the country who play to support the mission of Dallas CASA. Many golfers have been coming since the earliest days of the tour-

namment. All funds raised at the tournament support the children served by Dallas CASA.

Last year, more than 1,300 Dallas CASA volunteers advocated on behalf of over 2,600 children living in the protective care of the state. And over 26 years, the tournament has raised over

\$26 million for this cause.

Dallas CASA's volunteers work with judges, attorneys, educators, therapists, doctors, children's families and many others to promote healing, safety and, ultimately, permanency for children. The goal is for children to be able to achieve their full potential and grow into strong and capable adults. Dallas CASA's trained volunteers partner with professional staff to advocate for the best interests of children in protective care. Volunteers go through 30 hours of training before being assigned by the courts to the cases of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are living in the protective care of the state. For many children in foster care, their Dallas CASA volunteer is the only consistent, constant "I show up when I say I will" adult in their lives while they navigate the system.

Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) seeks to protect children, restore childhood and help child victims of abuse or neglect achieve their full potential. The agency's trained and supervised community volunteers are assigned by judges to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are living in the protective care of the state. For many children in foster care, their Dallas CASA volunteer is the only consistent, caring adult in their lives during a frightening, uncertain time. While Dallas CASA envisions a day when all children experience safe and enriching childhoods, the agency currently is able to provide a child advocate for every Dallas child in need. Dallas CASA today is the largest of more than 900 CASA programs nationwide. To learn more, visit [dallascasa.org](http://dallascasa.org)

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 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  
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 Question and Answer Session

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# Landmark federal rules to protect consumers from unaffordable student debt

WASHINGTON -- At least half of graduates have higher earnings than a typical high school graduate in their state's labor force who never enrolled in postsecondary education, and these lifetime earnings increase with master's and doctoral degrees. Data compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show those with bachelor's degrees had a 2.2% unemployment rate in 2022, while high school graduates with no college education had a 4% unemployment rate. College graduates are also more likely to own a home and are less likely to be in poverty or need social services, according to findings from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

However, it matters a great deal not only which institution a student chooses, but also which major they choose.

The Biden-Harris Administration released final regulations late last month giving students more information to make better choices about their pursuits of education and establishing safeguards against unaffordable debt or insufficient earnings for postsecondary students. The final rule has



*New actions answer President Biden's call to hold colleges accountable for rising costs and will protect approximately 700,000 students a year from unaffordable debt and poor earnings outcomes at career programs. (Adetayo Adepoju / Unsplash)*

two key parts. First, a revitalized and strengthened Gainful Employment (GE) rule, will protect approximately 700,000 students a year from career training programs that leave graduates with unaffordable loan payments or earnings no better than what someone who did not pursue postsecondary education earns in their state. Second, a new Financial Value Transparency framework will provide students and families with the most detailed information ever available about what they are likely to pay out-of-pocket for programs, how much debt they can expect to take on, and how much money students are likely to earn

after graduation. The program will help students understand potential risks involved in their program choices while requiring them to acknowledge viewing the information before enrolling in certificate or graduate programs whose graduates have been determined to face unaffordable debt levels.

"We are fixing a broken system and making sure that students know, before they take out loans, when college programs have a history of leaving graduates with high debts, low earnings, and poor career prospects, said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The Biden-Harris administration believes

that when students invest in higher education, they should get a solid return on their investment and a greater shot at the American dream."

"These protections are about ensuring career college programs live up to higher education's promise as a pathway to a better life," said U.S. Department of Education Under Secretary James Kvaal. "Students overwhelmingly say that they're going to college to find a good job and build financial security, but too often their programs leave them no better off financially than those with no postsecondary education at all.

In addition to forgiving student debt, the Biden-Harris Administration has championed the largest increase to Pell Grants in a decade and is fighting to put the grant on a path to doubling the maximum award by 2029. President Biden will also continue to fight for tuition-free community college and tuition assistance at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions.

The "earnings premi-

um" assesses whether the program enhances its students' earnings potential, while assessing whether programs offered by private for-profit institutions and certificate programs at all types of colleges meet the statutory requirement to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. Under the rules, the share of annual earnings typical graduates need to devote to paying their debt (i.e., their "debt-to-earnings ratio") must be less than or equal to 8 percent, or less than or equal to 20 percent of their discretionary earnings (defined as their annual earnings minus 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline). This metric captures whether a program's debt is affordable.

Programs that fail either metric will need to warn students that the program is at risk of losing access to the federal student aid programs. Those that fail to meet the standards on the same metric twice in a three-year period will not be eligible to participate in the Department's Federal student aid programs.

The Department focused the Financial Value Trans-

parency (FVT) framework acknowledgements on certificate and graduate programs in the final rule because they are the programs where unaffordable debt is most common, and students tend to enroll directly into particular programs. Enhanced transparency under the FVT program includes new reporting requirements for institutions related to costs (including tuition and fees, books, and supplies), non-federal grant aid, and typical borrowing amounts (for both private and federal loans). This information will be made publicly available to students on a website run by the Department. By contrast, many students seeking undergraduate degrees do not select a program when they enter the institution.

The GE accountability and FVT reporting provisions will go into effect on July 1, 2024. The first official financial outcome rates will be published in early 2025. Programs that fail the same GE metric in the first two years the rates are issued will become ineligible in 2026. An official copy of the regulations can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov>.

## What's it like to be accused of cheating in the age of ChatGPT?

PHILADELPHIA (Newsweek) — While the public release of ChatGPT has created excitement around the promise of expanded use of AI, it has also seeded a good bit of anxiety around what a program that can churn out a passable college-level essay in seconds means for the future of teaching and learning. Naturally, this consternation drove a proliferation of detection programs — of varying effectiveness — and a commensurate increase in accusations of cheating. But how are the students feeling about all of this? Recently published research by Drexel University's Tim Gorichanaz, Ph.D., provides a first look into some of the reactions

of college students who have been accused of using ChatGPT to cheat.

The study, published in the journal *Learning: Research and Practice* as part of a series on generative AI, analyzed 49 Reddit posts and their related discussions from college students who had been accused of using ChatGPT on an assignment. Thirty-eight of them said they did not use ChatGPT, but detection programs like Turnitin or GPTZero had nonetheless flagged their assignment as being AI-generated. As a result, many of the discussions took on the tenor of a legal argument. Students asked how they could present evidence to prove that they hadn't cheated, some

commenters advised continuing to deny that they had used the program because the detectors are unreliable.

"As the world of higher ed collectively scrambles to understand and develop best practices and policies around the use of tools like ChatGPT, it's vital for us to understand how the fascination, anxiety and fear that comes with adopting any new educational technology also affects the students who are going through their own process of figuring out how to use it," said Tim Gorichanaz, assistant teaching professor in Drexel's College of Computing & Informatics.

Many students expressed concern over possibly be-

ing wrongly accused by an AI detector, Gorichanaz said. "Some discussions went into great detail about how students could collect evidence to prove that they had written an essay without AI, including tracking draft versions and using screen recording software. Others suggested running a detector on their own writing until it came back without being incorrectly flagged."

Another theme was the perceived role of colleges and universities as "gatekeepers" to success and, as a result, the high stakes associated with being wrongfully accused of cheating. This led to questions about the institutions' preparedness for the new technology and

concerns that professors would be too dependent on AI detectors — whose accuracy remains in doubt.

"The conversations happening online evolved from specific doubts about the accuracy of AI detection and universities' policies around the use of generative AI, to broadly questioning the role of higher education in society and suggesting that the technology will render institutions of higher education irrelevant in the near future," Gorichanaz said.

The study also highlighted an erosion of trust among students—and between students and their professors—stemming from the students' perception that they are persis-

tently under suspicion of cheating. Developing attitudes can be seen in some of the students' comments:

- "I never would have expected to get accused by him, out of all my professors."
- "Of course she trusts that AI detector more than she trusts us."
- "I know I sure as hell didn't plagiarize, but unfortunately you can't always trust others."

Generative AI technology has forced institutions of higher education to reconsider their educational assessment practices and policies about cheating. According to the study, students are asking many of

**See CHEATING, Page 12**



## City of Irving hiring incentives extended to Nov. 30

The City of Irving is recruiting the best and THE brightest, and the city is paying up to \$3,000 to all new full-time employees and up to \$5,000 for mission-critical positions filled by Nov. 30. Eligible new hires will receive \$1,000 after the first 30 days, \$1,000 after the first six months, and \$1,000 after the first year.

Mission Critical posi-

tions include Animal Services, or Vet, Vet Tech, Animal Care Tech and Animal Control Officers. Mission Critical positions also include Fleet – Mechanics, Fire – Firefighters, Fire Prevention Specialist, Human Resources – Senior Compensation/HRIS Analyst, Information Technology – IT Support Specialist, Police – Dispatchers, Detention Officers, Police

Officers, Solid Waste Services – Waste Collection Workers, and Water Utilities Utility – Pumping Operator and Tech I/II.

Eligible new hires in this special category will receive \$1,666 after the first 30 days, \$1,667 after the first six months, and \$1,667 after the first year. Incentive payments are made as long as there are no attendance or disci-

plinary issues. Applicants should create an account and fill out an online employment application in order to be considered for a position with the City of Irving.

If you experience any problems with the application system, please contact Human Resources at (972) 721-2696. To view available positions, visit CityofIrving.org/Jobs.



Clem Onojeghuo / Unsplash

## Mesquite earns highest level of 2023 Scenic City award designation

Mesquite recently earned the highest designation from Scenic Texas certification program for the City's demonstrated commitment to high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and spaces.

City officials received the 2023 Platinum Scenic City Certification award in Dallas during the Texas Municipal League's Annual Conference on Oct. 5.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from Scenic Texas," said City Manager Cliff Keheley. "Maintaining an attractive community has long been



City of Mesquite

a strategic goal and objective of the City Council. A clean, attractive city helps to boost property values, economic development opportunities and the quality of life in a community."

The Scenic City program evaluates and recognizes

Texas municipalities that implement standards that create a more scenic environment in their communities, which could include creating scenic roadways, preserving historic sites or improving parks and green spaces.

Mesquite is one of 23 cities in Texas to earn certifications in 2023. Certification is for five years and is awarded based on a comprehensive assessment of existing city ordinances for landscaping, tree planting and sign regulation.

Mesquite has earned four consecutive certifica-

tions and has been a certified Scenic City since the program began in 2010.

"Scenic City Certification shines a light on Mesquite's strong commitment to high-quality municipal standards, scenic conservation and public spaces," said Brenda Dees, executive director of Scenic

Texas. "This recognition is intended to support cities that have a long-range vision and high-quality municipal standards, and we hope it incentivizes other Texas cities to follow Mesquite's example."

For more information about Scenic Texas, visit [www.scenictexas.org](http://www.scenictexas.org).



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# Hate crimes surge in 2022 leading to urgent call for unity and action

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has released its comprehensive Hate Crime Statistics for 2022, revealing a troubling surge in hate-fueled incidents across the United States. Recent attacks in New York and Chicago are stark reminders of the urgent need for increased awareness and action.

In 2022, the FBI transitioned to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for data collection, representing a significant step towards more accurate report-



Jason Leung / Unsplash

ing. The new data reflects submissions from 13,293 law enforcement agencies employing NIBRS data, covering over 256 million U.S. inhabitants. Additionally, data from 2,431 non-transitioned agencies was accepted, representing 55,441,278 inhabitants,

expanding the population coverage to 93.5%.

The Hate Crime Statistics 2022 report reveals that law enforcement agencies reported 11,634 criminal incidents involving 13,337 related offenses motivated by bias towards race, ethnicity, ancestry, re-

ligion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity.

In New York, a Sikh man faced a vicious attack aboard an MTA bus in Queens this week. The assailant, allegedly expressing xenophobia, targeted the victim and attempted to remove his turban—a sacred religious symbol—forcibly. This incident is a stark reminder of the persistent hate plaguing American society.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, a horrific incident over the weekend resulted in the tragic murder of a six-year-old boy. Wadea Al-Fayoume and his mother fell victim to a brutal at-

tack, with the assailant singling them out due to their Muslim faith. The suspect, Joseph Czuba, now faces charges of murder and hate crimes. This shocking incident highlights the devastating consequences of hate-fueled violence.

In response to the surge in hate crimes, President Biden released a statement condemning the 25 percent increase in antisemitic incidents from 2021 to 2022. He stressed the imperative of unity in speaking out against hate and bigotry, pledging his administration's dedication to combating antisemitism and Islamophobia.

While there was a posi-

tive 38 percent decrease in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans, the overall levels remained stable, underscoring the need for sustained efforts to eradicate hate-fueled violence. Anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes rose 16 percent, and Muslim and African Americans continue to be overrepresented among victims, Biden said.

"There's more to do when it comes to ending hate-fueled violence," the president insisted. "That means coming together and speaking out against hate and bigotry in all its forms. All Americans deserve to live their lives with dignity, respect, and safety."

## Students launch drive to collect 25,000 pairs of shoes to fight global poverty

Local students Ben Blount and Bryce Santiago, with help from moms Jen and Yvonne, respectively, have a goal to collect 25,000 pairs of shoes to create economic opportunity in developing countries with the nonprofit Soles4Souls.

Blount and Santiago began their mission of creating a shoe drive after seeing how much a pair of shoes can change the lives of children in their own community. After doing some local fundraising, the team began to reach out to their larger community and partner with stores such as VANS and Bear Creek Running Co. for more support.

After three years, the team completed their original goal of collecting and donating 10,000 pairs of shoes. Then, they set out to



Local students launch drive to collect 25,000 pairs of shoes to fight global poverty. (Hermes Rivera / Unsplash)

reach a new goal: 25,000 pairs.

"Seeing how excited the kids were to have shoes on their feet made it all worth the effort," Blount recalls. "Seeing the power of a pair of shoes has given us the motivation to continue this drive over the past five years."

The donated shoes will be used in Soles4Souls' 4Opportunity program, which creates jobs and provides

individuals in developing countries the ability to start small businesses through a steady supply of high-quality, low-cost shoes and apparel. They also give a second life to unwanted shoes, keeping them out of landfills and protecting the environment.

If you are interested in donating, the team will be collecting shoes at the Southlake Fire Station, located at 600 State Street in

Southlake. The collection point will be inside the Fire Service entrance on the south side of the building. Donations can be made 24 hours a day.

Soles4Souls turns shoes and clothing into educa-

tional and economic opportunities. Our programs, 4Opportunity, 4Relief, and 4EveryKid, aim to make a positive difference on the planet and in people's economic, educational, physical, and psychosocial

well-being. Since 2006, more than 93 million pairs of shoes and pieces of clothing have helped create opportunities for people across 137 countries. Visit soles4souls.org for more information.

## The Friends of the Mesquite Public Library present Fall Book Sale

The twice annual sale, which benefits the Mesquite Public Library System, features gently used books and DVDs. This may include children's books, fiction, cookbooks, textbooks, popular movies and more available for reasonable prices.

"The book sale events are vital to the Library because these funds pay for programs, prizes and giveaways, artwork and much more," said Virginia Mundt, Director of Library Services.

The Fall Book Sale will be held at Mesquite's Main

Library, at 300 W. Grubb Dr., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, October 27, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28. Cash or check are the only payment forms accepted.

For information, call 972-216-6220 or visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/library](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/library).

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## Film Review: 'Silver Dollar Road' documents a scam worth exposing

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*) Swindlers stealing land from Black folks is an age-old scam. One worth exposing.

Silver Dollar road is a waterfront property in North Carolina that's been in the Reels family for generations. Unbeknownst to them, they've been conned out of a large portion of their acreage by a deceitful relative and conniving white land developers.

That parcel sits on a lake and would be prime real estate for hotels and such. But for the family its home, the place where generations



The experience of the Reels family is the focus of "Silver Dollar Road." (Photo via NNPA)

docked their boats and went out fishing. No one could know how much it means to them. How much history is there. This robbery feels personal. So, how do you get back what never should have been stolen?

Documentarian and filmmaker extraordinaire Raoul Peck (I Am Not Your Negro, Lumumba) focusses on the Reel's specifically. But land grabbing and using law enforcement to intimidate victims is a monstrous rip-off

game that goes well beyond one family's experience in North Carolina. Watching the land stealers scheme, with cops at their beck and call, is sobering. It's an unfair fight. But a fight it will be.

Peck's investigation uncovers systematic racism, greed and a clear battle between good and evil. Shock, outrage, evictions and jailtime are on screen in this cautionary tale. Through an exhausting cycle of trials, appeals, trials and appeals this family stands strong and their journey is inspiring.

Luckily, they had an inkling that their strength would be tested one day.

Their patriarch, Elijah Reels (born in slavery in 1866, died in 1962), gave them fair warning before he died: "Whatever you do, don't let the white man have my land."

A matriarch's old video footage and Peck's prying lens tell all. Viewers see all. They hear all. The Reels' kin share their shock, fear, anger and determination in very intimate interviews. Their recollections include what was and what is: "It was a beautiful memory, until I became an adult and realized that some of the things that happened made me think that this is not such a pretty place

anymore." Their resistance movement is led by family members whose determination doesn't wane. Not over days, weeks, months and years.

Peck's one flaw is that the footage needed more judicious editing. An 80 to 90-minute succinct doc that resonates would have been far more effective than a 100-minute one that occasionally loses momentum.

A very loving, normal family heroically sought justice. Documentary fans will want to see how they did it. Here it is.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

## EarthX Film & Music Festival to feature three evening programs Oct. 20-22 in three Oak Cliff venues

The EarthX Film & Music Festival is the only environmental film festival in Texas. The 2023 festival takes place Oct. 20-22 and will feature three evening programs in three beloved venues in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas. Each program will feature film, music and conversation with themes around outside adventure, conservation, activism, intersectional environmentalism and representation in the outdoors.

Friday, Oct. 20 features "Common Ground." The festival opens on Friday, Oct. 20 at the historic Texas Theater with a screening of "Common Ground," the follow-up film to Kiss the Ground from filmmakers Josh and Rebecca Tickell. Doors to the venue will open at 6 p.m., and guests are invited to enjoy a drink at the bar and find a seat in the theater. The program will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The feature-length Common Ground explores the regenerative farming movement as narrated by Rosario Dawson, Laura Dern, Jason Momoa and others. Following the screening, members of the film team will join local



Each night will feature film, music and conversation surrounding environmental issues. (Merch-Husey / Unsplash)

farmers for further conversation around the subject. The evening will feature a concert by acclaimed indie artist, Donna Missal. An after-party will take place at vegan Tex-Mex fave Casa del Vegano with food, drinks and DJ music.

Saturday, Oct. 21 – The Heart Beats Outside: An Evening of Immersive Environmentalism. The second night of the festival is designed to tantalize all the senses. At the beautifully restored Arts Mission Oak Cliff in the heart of historic Winnetka Heights, guests will enjoy an evening of environmental film, food, music and storytelling.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a curated menu from Dive Coastal Cuisine presented as guests stroll the garden adjacent to the former church. Beautiful projection mapping from Dallas-based Lightware Labs will transport North Texans to far-off land and waterscapes, followed by a thoughtful short film block and conversation centered around the powerful ways in which nature communicates with us.

Featured shorts include "Walking on Clouds," "Soundscape," "Light Beams for Helena" and "Tempo II: Movement in Jungle."

The evening will close with extraordinary music performances from the Nick Rothhouse Trio and

world-renowned cellist and multi-instrumentalist Ben Sollee.

Sunday, Oct. 22: Where

Passion Meets Purpose. The closing night evening

See FILM, Page 10



# Broadway Dallas seeks to push STEAM edu-tainment for Dallas students

Broadway Dallas, Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) and a consortium of generous underwriters announced today a district-wide STEAM education program themed around the Broadway musical Beetlejuice.

Over the course of multiple weeks, 3,400 theatre students and teachers from 26 Dallas ISD High Schools will participate in specially created curriculum that relates to the production, taught in classrooms by Broadway Dallas teaching artists. As part of the lesson plan all the participating students and teachers will attend a dedicated performance of Beetlejuice at the Music Hall at Fair Park, where the show will play from February 20 – March 3, 2024.

The program was borne of a growing partnership between Broadway Dallas and Dallas ISD, which strives to provide students access to “the spirit of Broadway” through a wide array of programs and ini-



Edwin Andrade / Unsplash

tiatives. The program has previously featured the national tours of Hamilton in 2021 and Ain’t Too Proud – The Life And Times Of The Temptations in 2022.

This year, the curriculum was developed to prepare students for college and 21st-century careers and includes a sequence of lesson plans where students will learn the art and science of hand drafting, which in the theater is used for scenic design. Through hand-drafting, students will apply basic principles of scales, measurement units, and physics, thus developing fundamental skills can be transferred to the con-

struction, engineering, and architecture industries.

“We believe that access to live theater can be life-changing and being able to offer students an opportunity to see a Broadway show, many for the first time, is what we value most,” says Ken Novice, president and CEO of Broadway Dallas. “We take great pride in this program as it extends the theater experience into classrooms with a customized curriculum relating to each production. This year, Beetlejuice is the perfect match for our students as they learn about scenic design because it’s a visual spectacle we couldn’t be

more excited to share with our Dallas ISD students and teachers.”

“The immersive learning opportunity our students will receive is an integral part of their educational journey,” said Executive Director of Academic Enrichment and Support Scott Rudes. “Exploring the captivating realm of live theater production under the guidance of experts, all the while honing vital 21st-century skills, is a profound blessing. We graciously thank Broadway Dallas and their partners, for providing

a truly unforgettable learning experience.”

T.D. Jakes Foundation is a Dallas-based nonprofit that focuses on being the bridge connecting underrepresented communities with life-changing opportunities. The Foundation, as an extension of its STEAM Academy, joins Broadway Dallas again this year as the presenting sponsor of the program through a special partnership with the Dallas Mavericks.

“The work of our foundation is unwaveringly committed to reshaping the future for under championed communities by prioritizing education and workforce development. By infusing insights about STEAM into education we are ensuring students are equipped with the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow,” said T.D. Jakes, Chairman of T.D. Jakes Foundation. “Our collaboration with Dallas Inde-

pendent School District and Broadway Dallas exemplifies the transformative impact we aim for. I believe students can only aspire to what they’ve been exposed to, and through this program, we’re igniting the potential in countless young lives guiding them towards career paths they might not have considered otherwise. With our partners, we are building a stronger tomorrow, one that empowers and uplifts every individual in in Dallas and beyond.”

The Foundation and the Dallas Mavericks are excited to continue their multi-year partnership that expands opportunities and enables more young people to explore STEAM education and careers. The Dallas Mavericks’ sponsorship fits with its larger MavsTake-ACTION! program, which is designed to address ra-

See STEAM, Page 13

## FILM, from Page 9

for the EarthX Film & Music Festival will take place at the beautiful Kessler Theater in the heart of historic Oak Cliff. At 5:30 p.m., the theater will open for seat selection. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., a series of short films will be screened that highlight stories of characters that not only find purpose in the outdoors but strive to share that opportunity with others. Themes of conservation, food sovereignty and intersectionality will also be discussed both on screen and in thoughtful panel conversations. Films included are “Well Worn Life,” “The Ghost Rainforest,” “4DOWN,” “Miles to Go” and “The Mud on Their Hands.”

The evening will also feature an intimate performance from Danielle Ponder, a rising R&B/soul singer who left her career as a New York public defender to pursue her calling

in music, and the closing night after party will be held at The Wild Detectives and will feature music by DJ Elkin Pautt.

Festival Director Hayley Nenadal believes the stories shared and characters developed in these films and performances will resonate with a wide range of audiences.

“Environmentalism takes so many forms, and we’ve worked to share expressions that range from urban ecology and food insecurity to climate change to the emotional reactions our planet can evoke,” explained Nenadal. “We want to celebrate the diverse views and perspectives of our amazing world with all of North Texas.”

The EarthX Film & Music Festival will take place on Oct. 20-22, 2023 at various locations throughout Oak Cliff, Texas Theatre, 231 Jefferson Blvd., Dal-

las, TX 75208. Tickets are on sale beginning Oct. 20, 2023.

About EarthX Film. EarthX Film & Music Festival’s mission is to build an annual flagship environmental film festival in Dallas, Texas, and a year-round community that supports film, music, culture, and the outdoors. We seek to promote film and the art of storytelling in a way that entertains, informs and inspires audiences to get outside, push boundaries, and protect the environment.

We are reaching beyond the choir with the environmental conversation. <https://earthxfilmfestival.org/>. For more information, please visit [earthxfilmfestival.org](https://earthxfilmfestival.org/).

Early bird tickets are available for each night of the festival beginning Friday, Sept. 8. Early bird pricing, which offers a 15% discount, will run through Monday, Oct. 9.

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# Justice Department issues report to improve police hiring nationwide

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Law enforcement faces a challenge as more officers resign or retire, and fewer qualified applicants are interested in becoming police officers. A new report from the Justice Department suggests that police agencies should reevaluate their mission, values, culture, and employees to improve their service to communities.

In the report titled "Recruitment and Retention for Modern Law Enforcement Agency," DOJ officials concluded that the law enforcement profession needs to update its hiring and retention practices.

Officials say that law enforcement agencies can enhance the appeal of policing as a career by implementing the solutions and strategies presented in this publication. They can also attract candidates, train recruits, show appreciation to employees, prioritize workforce well-being, and build community trust.

"The U.S. Department of Justice, through BJA and the COPS Office, is dedicated to assisting law enforcement agencies in navigating the recruitment and



*In the report titled "Recruitment and Retention for Modern Law Enforcement Agency," DOJ officials concluded that the law enforcement profession needs to update its hiring and retention practices. (Photo via NNPA)*

retention crisis and providing support for incorporating these solutions," DOJ officials stated.

A dwindling number of sworn officers is a persistent issue that police departments all over the country are facing, according to a study by the Police Executive Research Forum in April 2023. A study found that the number of staff in law enforcement agencies in January 2023 was 4.8% lower than three years ago.

The study highlighted that the issue extends beyond recruitment hurdles; it encompasses the retention of existing officers. In 2022, the number of sworn

officers hired surged by 35% compared to 2020 and by 5.6% over 2019. Officer resignations in 2022 increased by 47% compared to 2019, according to the police research study.

The report highlights the alarming decline in law enforcement staffing levels. "The recruitment and retention crisis is the number one issue I hear about from our state, tribal, and local law enforcement partners across the country," Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta stated.

The report says that there are many reasons for staffing problems. These include the lasting effects

of COVID-19, changes in the job market, increased safety concerns, and growing frustration towards the police.

The report, which Attorney General Merrick Garland commissioned, calls for a multifaceted strategy in response to these difficulties. It emphasizes the need for police leaders to gain a deeper understand-

ing of their communities while advocating for the modernization and streamlining of hiring practices.

The report emphasized a significant discovery from a meeting of police leaders in April 2023: that negative public opinion significantly affects officers' morale and job satisfaction. Enhancing law enforcement's image and highlighting the profession's virtues are critical to boosting recruitment.

The DOJ report emphasizes the importance of emotional intelligence and non-traditional skills, like conflict resolution and empathy, for effective policing. It states, "Strong emotional intelligence is linked to fewer cases of excessive force and improved relationships within the community." Officials emphasized the importance of recruiting candidates with traditional policing knowledge and critical interpersonal skills.

Further, agencies have

been advised to implement diversity initiatives and remove barriers hindering inclusivity to build a more inclusive workforce. The DOJ recommended working with community leaders to encourage diverse candidates to consider law enforcement as a career.

The report offers recommendations for improving training and retention once officers are recruited. These include signing bonuses, comprehensive pension plans, and various retirement options. Additionally, addressing limitations on overtime and pension payouts could significantly improve retention rates.

Concerns over work-life balance and wellness, particularly concerning child care and mental health, were also highlighted in the report. The stigma of seeking mental health support within the law enforcement community is a big problem that needs fixing, officials said.

## BIDEN, from Page 1

90 percent of Black adults consume radio monthly. While the Biden-Harris campaign acknowledged that voters might not be consuming political news at the moment, they didn't want to wait until election season was in full swing to reach them where they were with the president's message.

The campaign also launched its rapid response operation at the Biden campaign's headquarters in Delaware to push back against misinformation and disinformation on social media — another platform where Black voters consume information and content.

Misinformation targeting Black voters has been

a major concern in the past several election cycles, including disinformation campaigns launched by foreign actors like Russia and China. The campaign plans to arm itself with tools to fight back against falsehoods that seek to encourage Black voters to sit out in the 2024 elections.

The campaign said another message it wants to get out to Black voters is that the alternative to another four years of the Biden-Harris administration will be detrimental to communities of color.

"The past three years will stand in stark contrast to the extremist MAGA Republicans, whether it's Donald Trump or whoever

else we're faced with who wants to return us to these failed policies that gut investments to Black communities, that ships more jobs in Black communities overseas," said Tyler.

"We're showing up right now and focusing on this administration's successful efforts to help create good-paying jobs in Black communities, provide more funding for Black businesses, and lower the cost of living for Black families," added the Biden-Harris campaign official.

The president's efforts stand in stark contrast to the former president's desires to roll back our progress with tax giveaways to the ultra-wealthy and corporations at the expense of working people.



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# Social Security benefits to increase despite Republican calls for reform

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In the face of increasing pressure from elected Republican officials to reform safety net programs, the Social Security Administration has announced a 3.2% increase in benefits for 2024. Starting December 29, recipients of Social Security will see an average boost of \$50 per month in their retirement benefits, a change attributed to the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) calculated based on inflation readings from July, August, and September.

“Social Security and SSI benefits will increase in 2024, and this will help millions of people keep up with expenses,” stated Kilolo Kijakazi, acting commissioner of Social Security.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which showed increases of 2.6% in July, 3.4% in August, and 3.6% in September, is where the adjustment comes from.

Despite this positive news for Social Security beneficiaries, a political battle looms over the long-term fate of these crucial programs. During the 2022

campaign season, several Republican incumbents, and candidates, including Florida Sen. Rick Scott and Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, advocated for significant changes, including cuts and the need for annual funding reauthorization.

Scott’s 11-point legislative agenda included a provision proposing the expiration of all federal laws every five years, which he argued would best serve to “preserve those programs.” Johnson, who narrowly won reelection, called for transforming all mandatory spending into discretionary funds, asserting this would enable better evaluation

and problem-solving for programs facing financial strain.

Unsuccessful GOP Senate candidates in various states also floated proposals to end at least one of the programs through privatization or significant cuts, highlighting a growing divide on the issue within the Republican Party.

Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security each constitute critical pillars of support for a significant portion of the American population, particularly seniors and those with limited means. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Social Security alone

accounts for most older Americans’ monthly income, with nearly a quarter relying on it for 90% of their income.

According to the Social Security Administration, over 67 million people received benefits in 2023, with nearly 90% of those over 65 relying on the program. Stanford University’s white paper on Social Security outlines its historical development, emphasizing its role in safeguarding retirees against financial insecurity.

While the program remains crucial for many, the same Stanford paper highlights that demographic

and economic shifts pose challenges to its long-term financial stability. The authors contend that policymakers must confront the issue and explore potential reforms to ensure the program’s continued viability.

“Social Security is an essential program that provides critical support to millions of retirees, survivors, and disabled individuals,” the authors asserted. “While reforming Social Security is challenging, policymakers must act to address the program’s long-term funding shortfall and ensure that the program can continue to meet its important mission.”

## CANCER, from Page 3

is not a dream but an attainable goal IF the people who need cancer screenings can get them. It also means that more lives can be saved if the disease is detected and treated early when treatment is more effective and less expensive. Unfortunately, Black people generally have lower rates of cancer screening, likely due to factors such as having less access to care, lower likelihood of doctor recommendation and medical mistrust. Out-of-pocket costs can also be a barrier to accessing screening.

As a prostate cancer survivor and member of the

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network’s (ACS CAN) Board of Directors, I believe that everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. I know that having equitable access to screening is critical to reducing prostate cancer deaths and saving more lives, especially in the Black community.

That’s why I’m glad to see that there’s a bill before Congress that would help remove cost barriers to prostate cancer screening for men at high risk for the disease, the Prostate-Specific Antigen Screening

for High-risk Insured Men (PSA Screening for HIM) Act. Introduced by Representatives Larry Bucshon, M.D. (R-IN) and Yvette Clarke (D-NY) and Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and John Boozman (R-AR), this bipartisan bill would waive cost-sharing requirements for prostate cancer screenings for men with the highest risk of prostate cancer, focusing on Black men and those with a family history of the disease.

If the bill is passed, this means that men at high risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer would be able to get prostate cancer screenings without out-of-pocket costs, such as de-

ductibles, copayments, or coinsurances.

Our elected officials play a vital role in helping reduce the cancer burden and persistent disparities by advancing public health policies that improve access to prevention and early detection services. As part of ACS CAN’s Leadership Summit and Lobby Day, I traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to meet with members of Congress to urge them to support the PSA Screening for HIM Act. Passing this legislation is a crucial step to saving more lives from prostate cancer. It would also help address the unjust and unacceptable cancer dispari-

ties in the Black community. Everyone at high risk for prostate cancer who has made an informed decision with their doctor to get screened should have access to that screening without cost-sharing posing an obstacle.

This Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, my plea to all men — Black men in particular — is to get your regular checkups, talk to your doctor about the benefits and limitations of PSA screening, and urge your Congressional representatives to support the PSA Screening for HIM Act. If health is wealth, consider this practice part of your legacy.

*David Ford is a dedicated cancer advocate and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate for the American Cancer Society. Ford has served on the American Cancer Society’s Board of Directors for the Los Angeles area and has championed local and national efforts to advance health equity. He is also the government relations manager at Southern California Edison, managing relationships with government municipalities and promoting awareness of a clean energy future.*

## STUDY, from Page 7

the same questions.

“There were comments about policy inconsistencies where students were punished for using some AI tools such as ChatGPT but encouraged to use other AI tools like Grammarly. “Many students reached the same conclusion that universities have been

grappling with: the need to responsibly integrate the technology and move beyond essays for learning assessment.”

The study could play an important role in helping colleges and universities communicate to their students about the use of generative AI technology, Go-

richanaz suggests. “While this is a relatively small sample, these findings are still useful for understanding what students are going through right now,” he said. “Being wrongly accused, or constantly under suspicion, of using AI to cheat can be a harrowing experience for students. It can damage the trust that’s so important to a quality educational experi-

ence. So, institutions must develop consistent policies, clearly communicate them to students and understand the limitations of detection technology.” The study could play an important role in helping colleges and universities communicate to their students about the use of generative AI technology, Gorichanaz suggests.

Gorichanaz noted that even the best AI detectors could produce enough false positives for professors to wrongly accuse dozens of students — which is clearly unacceptable, considering the stakes. “Rather than attempting to use AI detectors to evaluate whether these assessments are genuine, instructors may be

better off designing different kinds of assessments: those that emphasize process over product or more frequent, lower-stakes assessments,” he wrote, in addition to suggesting that instructors could add modules on appropriate use of generative AI technology, rather than completely prohibiting its use.

## KENNEDY, from Page 2

with an assassin’s bullet in 1968, Kennedy is engaging in a daring attempt to challenge the current political status quo and potentially ignite a nationwide move-

ment for change.

“Empowering Black Americans will be a central focus for me, especially in eradicating the pervasive fear of perilous encounters

with law enforcement,” Kennedy asserted in his interview with the Black Press.

He vowed to end qualified immunity, a legal safeguard shielding police officers from personal liability in the

event of legal action.

“Incentives for reform are lacking under the current system,” he asserted. “We must eliminate qualified immunity, compelling individuals to weigh their accountability in every interaction.

A robust economic system should incentivize virtuous conduct and penalize transgressions. That’s what we need,” Kennedy emphasized.

Kennedy stressed the imperative of reshaping law

enforcement’s perspective to one centered on safeguarding and serving communities rather than adopting a combative stance upon entering Black neighborhoods. “We need systemic changes,” Kennedy insisted.



# Varghese Summersett named a 2023 Small Business of the Year

FORT WORTH – The law firm of Varghese Summersett has been named a “Small Business of the Year” by the Fort Worth Chamber, a distinguished award that recognizes and honors small businesses that have demonstrated exemplary best practices of entrepreneurship.

The award recipients were announced on Friday, October 6, during Mayor Mattie Parker’s annual “State of the City” event at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Mark Nurdin, President and CEO of Bank of Texas-Fort Worth, presented the awards before a sold-out crowd of over 1,000 attendees.

“Small businesses are the lifeblood of a growing economy and essential for Fort Worth,” Nurdin told the audience. “They drive innovation, create jobs, and fuel growth, so their success is success for Fort Worth. Bank of Texas is honored to support and empower these small businesses, and many others, as they continue to innovate and thrive.”

In all, 12 small business finalists were invited to the event, where 5 winners were announced in categories based on size



and stages of development. Varghese Summersett won in the category of 21 to 50 employees.

“Being named a ‘Small Business of the Year’ by the Fort Worth Chamber is an incredible honor,” said Benson Varghese, Managing Partner of Varghese Summersett. “When I started out, nearly a decade ago, I knew Fort Worth was the place to be. The incredible growth we’ve seen is a reflection of what is happening in Fort Worth. We’re privileged to help good folks in this community through the toughest times in their lives.

“This award is for every member of our team who works tirelessly to uphold our commitment to excellence by providing unmatched service and obtain-

ing unparalleled outcomes for our clients. I couldn’t be prouder, and I am thankful to the Chamber for recognizing those efforts.”

The Fort Worth Chamber presented its first awards for Small Business of the Year (SBOY) in 1998 and the prestigious program has continued to evolve. The annual awards are presented to businesses that have demonstrated exemplary best practices of entrepreneurship, including sound business planning, fiscal responsibility, and work process innovation.

This year, the first round of judging utilized blind assessments, where the judges evaluated the companies without being aware of their names. The selection process criteria included talent attraction and retention (45 percent); business challenges and solutions (30 percent); and community engagement and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

From there, the judges nominated 12 finalists – 3 in each category, who attended in-person interviews with a panel of community leaders. The finalists were also invited to set up a table at a newly created “Small Business of the Year Showcase,” which was held before the State of the City address and allowed the businesses to showcase their services or products.

After the Showcase, the finalists were invited to attend the State of the City event, where the winners were announced in the fol-

lowing categories:

- Divine Intervention Recovery: Emerging Business
- 6th Avenue Storytelling: 1-20 Employees

- Varghese Summersett: 21 – 50 Employees

- Ampersand Coffee and Auticon USA: 51-100 Employees (co-winners)

Steve Montgomery, President and CEO of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, extended congratulations to the 2023 award recipients for their exceptional achievements and invaluable contributions to our community.

“Fort Worth has always been a city that champions its small business,” Montgomery said. “We take immense pride in recognizing the hard work, dedication, and innovation demonstrated by Divine Intervention, 6th Avenue Storytelling,

Varghese Summersett, Ampersand Coffee, and Auticon USA. These businesses epitomize the entrepreneurial spirit that rules Fort Worth’s prosperity.

Headquartered in downtown Fort Worth, Varghese Summersett is a premiere criminal defense, personal injury, and family law practice dedicated to helping people through life’s greatest challenges. The firm’s roster is full of highly-experienced, award-winning attorneys committed to providing exceptional legal services. Varghese Summersett has more than 680 5-Star Google reviews and has been named a “DFW Favorite,” a “Best Place to Work,” and a “Best Place for Working Parents,” among numerous other accolades.

## STEAM, from Page 10

cial inequalities, promote social justice, and drive change within the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Additional project funding is being provided by the Addy Foundation, Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust, H-E-B/Central Market, and the Dallas Education Foundation.

Beetlejuice is directed by Tony Award winner Alex Timbers (Moulin Rouge!, Director of Warner Bros. forthcoming TOTO, the animated musical film adaptation of Michael Morpurgo and Emma Chichester Clark’s 2017 book) with an original score by Tony Award nominee Eddie Perfect (King Kong); a book by Tony Award nominee Scott

Brown (“Castle Rock”) and Tony and Emmy Award® nominee Anthony King (“Robbie”); music supervision, orchestrations and incidental music by Kris Kukul (Joan of Arc: Into the Fire); and choreography by Connor Gallagher (The Robber Bridegroom).

Beetlejuice is based on the 1988 Academy Award-winning Geffen Company motion picture presented by Warner Bros. and directed by Tim Burton. The smash hit comedy starred Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis, Jeffrey Jones, Catherine O’Hara and Winona Ryder with story by Michael McDowell and Larry Wilson.



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## In Memorium: Donna Francine Cleaver Holloway

Donna Francine Cleaver Holloway was the first child born to Mr. Leroy Cleaver, Jr. and Mrs. Oma Love Bagley on May 5, 1946, in Hempstead, Texas. She grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was baptized at the Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church. She graduated from Booker T. Washington (BTW) High School in 1963, where she was the proud Drum Major, sang in the Harry T. Burleigh Concert Choir and the BTW Leopard Marching Band.

At age 16, Donna attended Tennessee State University where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology and Counseling. There, she pledged Alpha Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta



Sorority, Inc. in 1965. It was at TSU, she met James Holloway; and, they were married in August 1967 in Wichita Falls, TX. They settled in Chicago, Illinois. To this union, Oma Sharee and Guy Emmanuel were

born.

Donna was a loving and dedicated educator. She began her teaching career at Saint Dorothy's Catholic School in Chicago. She served as a crisis school counselor for the school

system in Harvey, Illinois. In 1986, Donna returned to her home state of Texas and served as a School Counselor in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), including her last assignment at DISD Metropolitan School until her retirement in 2007. Her relocation to the Dallas area included the exciting side career as disc jockey (DJ) on KKDA, where she was known as Lady D. She enjoyed disc jockeying and hosting shows and concerts for many famous and local Blues artists. As a lover of people and music, she co-owned the Brass Rail Club, where she extended her line of friendships. She was featured in a local newspaper article for her unique careers as professional

counselor and DJ. Donna loved family, classmates, colleagues, and friends, and touched the lives of so many people in various walks of life.

Loving memories will be celebrated and greatly remembered by her family: Daughter, Oma Sharee Holloway, and granddaughter Athena Love; Son, Guy Emmanuel Holloway, wife Michelle and grandsons: Emmanuel Holloway, Nafi'u Holloway, Dakari Holloway, and Akkil Holloway; and Great Grandchildren: Moriah, Mikah, and Maelani (Emmanuel); and Zaliyah, Ziaire, and Zuri (Nafi'u).

Siblings: Hubert Cleaver (Shirley), Joan Cleaver Anderson (Eddie), Juanita Cleaver Simmons (Alex-

ander), Rev. David Cleaver (Valita), Gloria Cleaver Lewis. Maternal Aunt: Peggy Bagley Freeman. She leaves a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, Sorors, and classmates. She was preceded in life's transition by her parents, the Rev. Dr. Leroy Cleaver, Jr. and Mrs. Oma Bagley Cleaver; and her Stepmother, Mrs. Gloria Cleaver.

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday, October 19 at 11am, at Mt. Sinai Church of God in Christ (311 E. Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas, TX).

The service will be live-streamed. Cards and Flowers can be sent to:

Sandra Clark Funeral Home  
6029 R.L. Thornton Freeway  
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## Out to Pastor: Where Did The Summer Go?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

This past week started out as the best week of the whole year. At least, I thought so at the time.

I finished my book manuscript and sent it to the publisher. I caught up with some other projects that were lagging. And I had time to balance my check-book.

What could be better than that?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and said, "Why are you smiling so much? Did you win the lottery?"

It was better than the lottery.

"No, my dear, I'm just so excited that I'm all caught up with my projects. Now I'm ready for summer to begin." Then I laughed with a joyful laugh.

"What you mean you're ready for summer?"

"Like I said, I'm all caught up and now I have the whole summer to really enjoy myself and have a little bit of fun."

Looking at me rather strangely, which is not unusual, she said, "You do know it's October, don't you?"

Although my smile was frozen, it began to deteriorate inside.

"What you mean it's October?"

She laughed at me and said, "Don't you have a calendar? Don't you know what day it is?"

I could not say anything for a moment because I did not know what to say. Then I got out my cell phone and checked the calendar.

Sure enough, like every other time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was right. If I live a thousand years, there will never be a day when she is wrong.

It is October, and for some reason, I have not kept up with the time. I was so busy trying to get caught up with my projects, especially my book manuscript, that I wasn't paying attention to the ticking clock.

Looking at her in frustration, I said, "Where did the summer go?"

I guess that's the trouble with life. You are so focused on one thing that everything else falls by the wayside. I am glad I'm caught up, but I don't know how I lost track of time.

I wish there was a way to freeze time for as long

as you want to. If I have a project on a schedule, I could freeze time so that I can be caught up and then come back and unfreeze time. Where are these genius scientists when you need them?

"So," I said to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "it is October and I just got caught up with my time."

Being caught up with time is not a possibility. When I get up on a Wednesday morning that means Tuesday is gone forever.

"If you need help getting caught up," my wife said, giggling, "just let me know." Then, she returned to her craft room.

I sat back in my chair and thought a little bit. How can I keep this from happening again? How can I keep time in hand?

Of course, I could ask help from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, but you know what that would do. I need to figure out how to keep up with time.

What I really need is a nice hot cup of coffee and a fresh Apple Fritter. Of course, if I had the Apple Fritter, I would be in "time-

out." I just went and got a nice hot cup of coffee, returned to my office and sat down to think this through.

It was not that I missed that time; I was focused on some important things then. Sometimes, my priorities overtake what I should

be doing.

What bothers me is, what did I miss by missing the summer?

Thinking back over that time, I realized I did not miss anything. In fact, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is in charge of all our activities, and not

one was missed. She has a wonderful way of keeping up a good schedule and balancing our time like nobody I know.

I lived through the summer and enjoyed each day of that summertime; it's

See SUMMER, Page 16

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If I Knew...



Sister Tarpley  
NDG Religion Editor

NOTE: A friend and I discussed how words and actions are important; once words are spoken or an action taken neither can be recalled; and they will not be forgotten. Some individuals are not able to say their last good-bye. I thought, "What would I do if I knew it was my last time to see or talk to a loved one?"

IF I KNEW: If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time that you would walk out the door, I would give you a hug, a kiss and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd hear your voice in praise, I would



video tape each action and word, and play them back again.

If I knew it would be the last time, I could spare an extra minute or two to say "I love you," instead of assuming, "You KNOW that I do!"

If I knew it would be the last time that I would share your day . . . well I'm sure you'll have many more, so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight; we always get a second chance to make everything just right.

There will always be another day to say "I love you." Certainly there's another chance to say our, "Is there anything I can do?"

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you. I hope that we never forget; tomorrow is

not promised to anyone, young or old alike; and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

If you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret that you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss that you were too busy to give, and it turned out to be their one last wish.

Hold your loved ones close today, and whisper in their ear, tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say, "I'm sorry." "Please forgive me." "Thank you." or "It's okay." And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

One Word Counts "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." (Proverbs 25:11)

Consider the "infamous" statements below. Notice that they all could be corrected by changing or inserting only one word!

"Everything that can be invented has been invented." Charles Duell, Director, U.S. Patent Office in 1899.

"Who wants to hear actors talk?" H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers Pictures, © 1927.

"Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote." Grover Cleveland in 1905.

"There is no likelihood

man can ever tap the power of the atom." Robert Millikan, Nobel Prize winner in physics, 1923.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, © 1895.

To be only "one word off" can make a great deal of difference!

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in October 2015.)

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# NDG Book Review: 'Activate Your Greatness' puts the pedal to the mettle

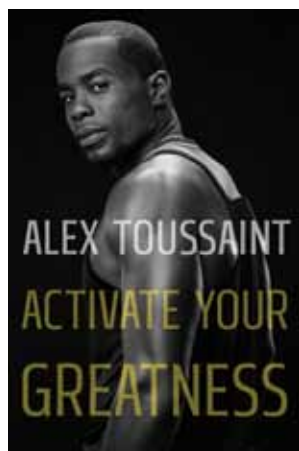
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It was all about the balance.

You didn't think of it that way, though. All you were interested in was riding your bike with the big kids, pedaling without training wheels and without an adult holding you up. You got a lot of skinned knees, but you could see the goal and one day, zoom, you rode that bike all by yourself. So now read "Activate Your Greatness" by Alex Toussaint and find that determination again.

He had what seemed like a privileged life.

The son of Haitian immigrants, Alex Toussaint grew up in a stable, middle-class household with both parents involved in his up-



bringing and with education in the forefront. Alas, Toussaint fell in with the wrong crowd as a pre-teen, and his father, who was disabled by then, was unable to claw the boy back himself.

Because of that, Toussaint was sent to "a military school in the middle of No-

where, Missouri..." and it made him hate his father. Still, he grew there, and learned, but he eventually decided to make the school expel him – which landed him back under his father's thumb. He was accepted at college, but he quit that, too. After another battle with his dad, Toussaint stormed out of his parents' house to stay with a friend until another friend offered him a job at a "new company" called Flywheel.

Intrigued by the stationary bikes and spinning classes, Toussaint began to dream. He studied the classes and instructors,

taught himself things he figured were important, and he asked for a job as a spinning class instructor. From there, he was noticed by an up-and-coming business called Peleton...

To succeed, says Toussaint, "requires confidence." It means being "comfortable with... failing." Success is knowing how "to turn your pain into power." It's being grateful for things big and small, seeing yourself as you hope to be, being unabashedly authentic, and knowing how to tame distractions.

"And once we glow internally," Toussaint says, "we

start to shine externally. It is impossible to ignore."

Sometimes, when everything is in pieces around your feet, you just need to take a deep breath and remember that it's all about the hustle. "Activate Your Greatness" is a great example.

From mistakes to milestones, author Alex Toussaint tells a dual story that readers will find quite interesting. First, he offers his own memoir, filled with bootstrap-pulling and determination, but also a nod to the "angels" who gave him a boost along the way. Surely, this happens all the

time but Toussaint makes it feel fresh, exciting, and unique.

The other, much smaller part of this book is a memoir of a business. Still a Peleton instructor, Toussaint was there at the launch and he writes about how he does his job. This will be of particular interest to anyone fascinated by an unusual workplace.

If you want a different kind of memoir that brings advice along for the ride, this book could be what you're looking for. Find "Activate Your Greatness" and put the pedal to your mettle.

## SUMMER, from Page 14

just that I was more focused on projects. I wanted to complete each project in good time.

One of the great aspects of getting old is not remembering. Oh, don't get me wrong, I don't forget hardly anything; it's just that many things I don't remember.

For example, on a Monday morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come to my office and say, "Do you remember you have a doctor's appointment this afternoon?"

Then I remembered I had a doctor's appointment.

In all truth, my not remembering is entirely the fault of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. The simple fact is I don't have to remember anything because she remembers everything, and I can depend upon her memory. I can use my memory for better things.

In the morning, I get up,

go to my office and prepare for the day, and if there are any appointments for that day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will remind me. So, why do I need to waste my time remembering things like that?

In my thinking, a certain Bible verse came to mind.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

I only have one shot at today, and I had better make the most of it. My best shot is to rejoice and be glad in it. This I plan to do.

*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.*

## GOLDBERG, from Page 2

women," Navarro noted. She further underscored the significance of influential figures like Elba using their platforms to destigmatize the topic.

However, Goldberg disagreed with the sentiment, contending that Elba's revelation could harm his personal relationships, particularly with his spouse.

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Personal attention is everything, which is why I'll work with you to help answer your Medicare questions. Let me help you become fluent in Medicare and together we'll find a plan that may fit your needs.

I'm here to help you learn more about Medicare Advantage and Part D plans available in Dallas - Fort Worth. Contact me today at the phone number listed below.



**Lamonica Thomas**

Licensed Sales Agent  
TEAM ONE MEDICARE  
9722498907

**I am happy to meet with you  
one-on-one.**

I'm here to help you better understand your local Medicare choices. I would be happy to talk with you over the phone or in person.