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Johnson, with weighty support from his party, upholds short-term bill to prevent shutdown

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

In a protracted and contentious process that ground Congress to a halt for over three weeks, House Republicans have finally chosen a new Speaker. Mike Johnson, R-La., a lower-ranking member of the GOP leadership and notorious right-wing election denier, emerged as the victor on Wednesday, succeeding the ousted Californian Kevin McCarthy.

The long and turbulent journey, which has lingered and prevented America from aiding its Israeli and Ukraine allies, saw Johnson become the party's fourth nominee for the role since the MAGA wing of the caucus ousted McCarthy. On Tuesday morning, Republicans initially selected Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., as their nominee, only for him to withdraw later in the day, unable to muster the 217 votes required to secure the position.

To prevent a looming government shutdown on November 17, when the temporary bill expires, Johnson has proposed another stop gap measure, which appears to have his colleagues' support, reports NBC News. Even hard right conservatives, who, as a rule, op-



To prevent the looming government shutdown, Johnson has proposed a short-term bill, which his colleagues are supporting. (Photo via NNPA)

pose stopgap bills, apparently trust the new speaker, given the situation he inherited. Gaetz, who triggered the motion to remove McCarthy over such a measure, said he trusts Johnson will use the bridge toward a more solid solution, they report.

Johnson, apparently with weighty support from his party, won the position with a very slim margin. With only 221 Republicans in the House, any nominee would need almost unanimous support. While the GOP celebrated the long-awaited appointment of a new speaker, some members struggled to break old voting habits. GOP Rep. Kay Granger of Texas initially voted for Rep. Mike Rogers of

Alabama before eventually changing it to Mike Johnson.

In a routine unanimous show of Democratic support, all 212 members voted for New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, the House Minority Leader, as Speaker. As he noted about a potential Jim Jordan speakership, Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California said Johnson would now preside over the counting of electoral votes in the next election. "After he was deeply involved in trying to overturn the last one. Just when you think they can't be more irresponsible, they prove you wrong," Schiff stated.

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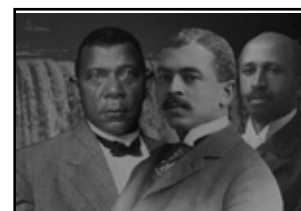
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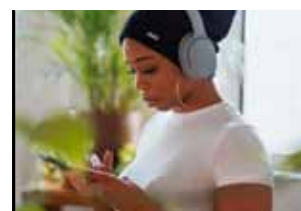
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People In The News ...



Richard Roundtree



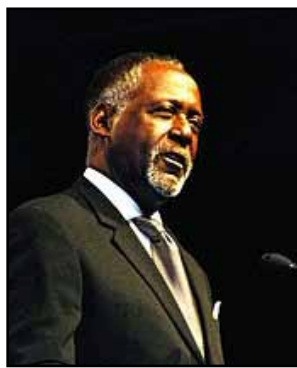
Dr. Brian Williams

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

Richard Roundtree

Richard Roundtree, the iconic actor renowned for portraying the suave private detective in the groundbreaking “Shaft” film series, has died at 81. His longtime manager, Patrick McMinn, confirmed that Roundtree succumbed to pancreatic cancer at his residence in Los Angeles on Tuesday. The legendary actor, who also battled and triumphed over breast cancer in 1993, underwent a double mastectomy.

“Richard’s work and career served as a turning point for African Ameri-



can leading men,” McMinn said. “The impact he had on the industry cannot be overstated.”

Roundtree’s legacy extended beyond the 1970s classics. He reprised his

iconic role in the 2000 “Shaft” film, sharing the screen with Samuel L. Jackson, who portrayed his nephew. The film was a revival that aimed to captivate a wider audience, and Roundtree and Jackson returned in the same roles for the 2019 rendition starring Jessie T. Usher.

In a heartfelt social media post, Jackson hailed Roundtree as the “prototype” and praised him as “the best to ever do it.” Jackson added, “SHAFT, as we know it is & will always be his Creation. His passing leaves a deep hole not only in my heart, but I’m sure a

lotta y’all’s, too.”

Born on July 9, 1942, in New Rochelle, New York to John and Kathryn Roundtree, the young Roundtree showed promise in athletics and academics. He attended New Rochelle High School, earning recognition for his contributions to the school’s nationally ranked football team. In 1961, Roundtree’s athletic prowess earned him a scholarship to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. However, his passion for acting and modeling prompted him to leave school in 1963.

Roundtree’s career took

off when Eunice Johnson of Ebony magazine recruited him to model at the Ebony Fashion Fair in 1963. He joined the Negro Ensemble Company in 1967, where he delivered a memorable performance as boxing legend Jack Johnson in “The Great White Hope.”

The pivotal moment in Roundtree’s career came in 1971, he landed the role of Shaft in the Gordon Parks-directed film.

The film’s success catapulted Roundtree to stardom, culminating in two sequels: “Shaft’s Big Score” (1972) and “Shaft in Africa” (1973). In recogni-

tion of his exceptional talent, Roundtree received the Golden Globe Most Promising Newcomer Award in 1972.

According to the HistoryMakers, throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Roundtree graced the silver screen in an array of films, including “Earthquake” (1974), “Escape to Athena” (1979), “A Game for Vultures” (1979), and “Day of The Assassin” (1979). He also made a memorable appearance in the 1977 ABC television miniseries “Roots.”

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Rep. Jamaal Bowman

New York Democratic Rep. Jamaal Bowman, charged with falsely activating the fire alarm at a congressional office building before last month’s vote on a stopgap spending measure to fund the government, pleaded guilty on Thursday.

In the time since he has taken responsibility for his actions and said he is ready to move on from the event.

“I’m thankful for the quick resolution from the District of Columbia Attorney General’s office on this issue and grateful that the United States Capitol



Police General Counsel’s office agreed I did not obstruct nor intend to obstruct any House vote or proceedings,” Bowman said ahead of his plea.

“I am responsible for activating a fire alarm, I will

be paying the fine issued, and look forward to these charges being ultimately dropped.

“I think we all know that Republicans will attempt to use this to distract everyone from their mess, but I look forward to putting this behind me and to continue working hard to deliver for New Yorkers.”

The office of the D.C. attorney general confirmed in a statement that Bowman “is pleading guilty and has agreed to pay the maximum fine.”

According to court documents, surveillance footage examined by the Capitol Police shows Bowman

allegedly looking at the doors that read “Emergency Exit Only Push Until Alarm Sounds.” According to the complaint, Bowman pulled the alarm and later allegedly walked by Capitol Police officers without alerting them.

“At approximately 1208 hours, the defendant enters the United States Capitol

Building and while showing his credentials, he walks by two USCP officers who are posted at the inside entrance, staffing the metal detector,” the complaint said.

“We finished our investigation. Our agents gathered all the evidence, packaged it up, and sent the entire case with charg-

es to prosecutors for their consideration,” The United States Capitol Police said in a separate statement.

Bowman admitted to pulling the alarm, saying it was an accident. “I was rushing to make a vote,” he asserted in an ABC News interview. “I didn’t know it would trigger the whole building.”

Morgan Linson

LOS ANGELES (24-7PressRelease) -- Many people around the world are stuck in the mindset of not being able to travel due to financial reasons—the number one obstacle. The truth is, anyone can afford to travel, but changing your mindset may be necessary. This means taking a hard look at expenses and making a quick switch, changing habits like going to Starbucks daily to making coffee at home.

As a world traveler, new author Morgan Linson shares her collection of travel experiences, and through her inspiring stories, travel tips, and candid reflections, Morgan Linson shows us that travel can be a trans-



formative experience for anyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. Her personal stories and sincere commentary inspire readers to step outside their comfort zone and explore the world on their own terms.

“If I had one word to describe this book it would be inspired,” said Debra Jones.

“By making some simple lifestyle changes, like purchasing pre-made meals at a grocery store vs. ordering out from restaurants nightly, because I do not cook, I have already saved up enough for my first trip out of the country. I could not be more excited and am purchasing this book for my friends who also want to travel and do not think they have the financial means to do so.”

This book is a gift for a first-time traveler as well as the seasoned traveler—anyone who wants to break free from the confines of their comfort zone and see the world. The Ultimate Experience is the ultimate traveling roadmap for those navi-

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America should embrace prison returnees to our communities

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO
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I am pleased to work and live in our nation's capital. Washington, DC is a city on the move progressively even amidst the continued existence of the COVID-19 pandemic. But there is one emerging issue in the District of Columbia that in my long career in the field of civil and human rights that I am very concerned about. That is the issue of people returning to our communities from prison.

It's difficult to argue that there is not an urgent need for better helping former inmates make the difficult transition back to society. A returning citizen with a pathway to gainful employment and secure housing has a better chance of developing a strong connection to his family and community and not returning to prison.

Mass incarceration in America is a serious national problem that needs to be resolved. African Americans, in particular, are disproportionately imprisoned across the country. I personally know what it is like to be unjustly imprisoned and the difficulties of trying to overcome the aftermath of counterproductive stigmas and unfair stereotypes with respect to the lingering unjustified cloud over former prison inmates.

But as a practical matter, common-sense measures that would bolster support for individuals reentering society sometimes meet sharp resistance — even now, as the nation engages in an emotional and painful debate over whether America has lived up to its promise of social justice, equity, and a fair penal system.

That tension between theory and policy is, sadly, beginning to emerge yet again in Washington, DC, where some community advocates have raised objections to plans for a new residential re-entry center that would provide temporary housing, job and skills training, substance-abuse counseling and other critical support for inmates returning home after serving time.

Many residents in DC share the conviction that we must do far more to lend a hand to the thousands of individuals — disproportionately black men aged 21 to 30 — who return to the District each year after periods of incarceration. But right now, DC is without a single re-entry center that is equipped to provide such support.

In a move that would fill that void, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP) earlier this month awarded a contract for a new re-entry center in Ward 7. BOP tapped CORE DC for the project, a social service provider that operates a homeless shelter and a home confinement program in DC and is a subsidiary of a non-profit organization that manages homeless shelters and re-entry centers throughout New York City.

The effort to establish a functional re-entry center in Washington, DC, has been a difficult and complicated one, partly because of the troubled history of Hope Village, a social service provider that closed its doors earlier this year, ending its 42-year run as the District's only option for returning citizens.

Watchdogs and activists, including myself, have long been calling for Hope Village to be shut down due to poor program manage-

ment and a lack of accountability. Put simply, the provider had lost the trust of the community.

Against this backdrop, representatives at CORE DC have gone to great lengths to reassure the public that they are committed to helping turn the page on this long and turbulent chapter and work closely with the community to establish a re-entry model that is tailored for the District's unique set of needs.

That outreach has included meeting with elected officials, advocates, faith-based organizations and residents to hear their concerns and invite their input on how the community can come together and forge a new way forward on this important issue.

But just weeks after BOP awarded the contract to CORE DC, there are already disturbing, not-in-my-backyard reactions from individuals who should know better, especially now, amid constant reports exposing the systemic injustices that African American men must contend with in the policing and criminal justice systems.

Consider the recent comments made by Tyrell Holcomb, the Commission Chair of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission in Ward 7. Holcomb indicated his opposition to a new re-entry center in his community, saying that "using Ward 7 as a dumping ground to place the least attractive facilities has gone on far too long."

It's time to move past this kind of destructive rhetoric and ugly thinking, which has the pernicious effect of dehumanizing the men for whom such a facility could provide a second chance and be a source of positive

transformation. NIMBY opposition — which so often amplifies stereotypes and falsehoods in order to drum up fear — has long been an obstacle to building support facilities and programs for the most vulnerable, whether such protests have been in response to proposed group homes, drug treatment clinics or homeless shelters.

Many of the fears are simply without basis. Researchers have been studying myths about home values in communities that accommodate re-entry centers for decades, to take one example. One DC-focused study conducted by The George Washington University, Center for Excellence in Municipal Management and the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, found that housing values on streets with halfway houses continued to increase over a period of five years.

If there is any hope to make this a more just society, we have to shed our fears, and open ourselves to new ideas, new insights, and even, as is the case now in DC, new neighbors who are committed to being a part of the solution. We have to break old patterns of thinking that stifle progress and aid and abet the status quo.

We must remember that the men and women returning to DC after terms of imprisonment are not strangers. They are members of our community looking for a second chance to rebuild their lives after paying their debt to society. This is also a national issue. I am hoping that Washington, DC will lead the rest of the nation in welcoming our brothers and sisters back home from the nation's prisons.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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The risk of premature birth from smoking while pregnant is more than double previous estimates

CAMBRIDGE (U.K.) (Newsweek) — Cambridge researchers have found that women who smoke during pregnancy are 2.6 times more likely to give birth prematurely compared to non-smokers. This is more than double the previous estimate.

The study, published today in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*, also found that smoking meant the baby was four times more likely to be small for its gestational age, putting it at risk of potentially serious complications, including breathing difficulties and infections. But the team found no evidence that caffeine intake was linked to adverse outcomes.

Women are currently rec-



The study found smoking meant the baby was four times more likely to be small for its gestational age, putting it at risk of potentially serious complications, including breathing difficulties and infections. (Alev Takil / Unsplash)

ommended to stop smoking and limit their caffeine intake during pregnancy because of the risk of complications to the baby. For example, smoking during pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of fetal growth restriction,

premature birth and low birthweight, though it has also been linked to a reduced risk of pre-eclampsia (high blood pressure during pregnancy).

High caffeine intake has also been shown to be associated with lower

birthweights and possibly fetal growth restriction. Caffeine is more difficult to avoid than cigarette smoke as is found in coffee, tea, chocolate, energy drinks, soft drinks, and certain medications.

Studies looking at the links between smoking, caffeine and adverse pregnancy outcomes tend to rely on self-reported data to estimate exposure, which is not always reliable. A more objective measure is to look at levels of metabolites in the blood — chemical by-products created when substances such as tobacco and caffeine are processed in the body.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge and the Rosie Hospital, part of Cambridge University

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, recruited more than 4,200 women who attended the hospital between 2008 and 2012 as part of the Pregnancy Outcome Prediction (POP) study. The team analyzed blood samples taken from a subset of these women four times during their pregnancies.

To assess exposure to cigarette smoke, the team looked at levels of the metabolite cotinine, which can be detected in blood, urine, and saliva. Only two out of three women with detectable levels of cotinine in every blood sample were self-reported smokers, showing that this measure is a more objective way of assessing smoking behavior.

A total of 914 women

were included in the smoking analysis. Of these, 78.6% were classified as having no exposure to smoking while pregnant, 11.7% as having some exposure and 9.7% as having consistent exposure.

Compared to women who were not exposed to smoking while pregnant, those with consistent exposure were 2.6 times more likely to experience spontaneous preterm birth — more than double the previous estimate of 1.27 from a meta-analysis of studies — and 4.1 times as likely to experience fetal growth restriction.

Babies born to smokers were found to be, on average 387g lighter than babies

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New evidence indicates patients recall death experiences after cardiac arrest

Philadelphia, September 14, 2023 — Up to an hour after their hearts had stopped, some patients revived by cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) had clear memories afterward of experiencing death and had brain patterns while unconscious linked to thought and memory, report investigators in the journal *Resuscitation*, published by Elsevier.

In a study led by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, in cooperation with 25 mostly US and British hospitals, some survivors of cardiac arrest described lucid death experiences that occurred while they were seemingly unconscious. Despite immediate treatment, fewer than 10% of the 567 patients studied, who received CPR in the hospital, recovered sufficiently to be discharged. Four in 10 of patients who survived, how-

ever, recalled some degree of consciousness during CPR not captured by standard measures.

The study also found that in a subset of these patients, who received brain monitoring, nearly 40% had brain activity that returned to normal, or nearly normal, from a “flatline” state, at points even an hour into CPR. As captured by EEG, a technology that records brain activity with electrodes, the patients saw spikes in the gamma, delta, theta, alpha, and beta waves associated with higher mental function.

Survivors have long reported having heightened awareness and powerful, lucid experiences, say the study authors. These have included a perception of separation from the body, observing events without pain or distress, and a meaningful evaluation of their actions and relationships. This

new work found these experiences of death to be different from hallucinations, delusions, illusions, dreams, or CPR-induced consciousness.

The study authors hypothesize that the “flatlined,” dying brain removes natural inhibitory (braking) systems. These processes, known collectively as disinhibition, may open access to “new dimensions of reality,” they say, including lucid recall of all stored memories from early childhood to death, evaluated from the perspective of morality. While no one knows the evolutionary purpose of this phenomenon, it “opens the door to a systematic exploration of what happens when a person dies.”

Senior study author Sam Parnia, MD, PhD, associate professor in the Department

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Study reveals Black Americans prefer fairer news coverage

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

An in-depth study by the Pew Research Center took a deep dive into the experiences of Black Americans with news coverage, shedding light on critical perspectives and recommendations for more equitable representation. The survey involved 4,742 U.S. adults identifying as Black and offered an extensive and comprehensive insight into their attitudes, habits, and experiences with news and information.

The findings revealed a stark divide in how Black individuals perceive news coverage of their community. "There's not a lot of African American coverage unless it's February or it's criminal," one individual stated, according to Pew. That sentiment was echoed by another respondent who stated, "They overemphasize the bad, and not some of the good things that are happening in the community, or if they do talk about the good things, it's just a blurb and they want to focus on the one thing [that] was just terrible."

Almost two-thirds (63%) believe that news about



Almost two-thirds (63%) believe that news about Black people is often portrayed in a negative light compared to other racial and ethnic groups. (Photo via NNPA)

Black people is often portrayed in a negative light compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Furthermore, a significant 57% feel that the news only focuses on specific segments of the Black community, while just 9% believe it covers a diverse range of individuals.

Half of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the coverage, asserting that it often needs vital information, whereas only 9% believe it provides a comprehensive picture. Disturbingly, 43% claim that the coverage tends to stereotype Black individuals, contrasting starkly with the 11% who disagree. The critical views transcended age, gender, and political affiliations and painted a consistent picture of discontent.

According to the survey, 39% of Black Americans frequently encounter news that is racist or racially insensitive towards their community, while an additional 41% report occasional exposure. The respondents identified various factors contributing to this problem, including media outlets pushing agendas (51%), journalists' lack of informed perspectives (45%), and the presence of racist views within news organizations (42%).

Despite the prevailing skepticism, only 14% of Black Americans are highly confident that fair representation in news coverage will occur within their lifetimes. A notable 64% of those who have witnessed racially insensitive cover-

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Dallas CASA honors local heroes...



Above, Dallas CASA honored local legend Francois Reihani (flanked by Cynt Marshall on the left and Mark Berg on the right), owner and founder of La La Land Kind Café, with the 2023 Judge Barefoot Sanders Champion of Children Award. From an initial meeting at Dallas CASA where Reihani learned about the challenges youth aging out of foster care face, he's built a company with a mission to employ former foster youth and spread awareness about their needs.

Below, The author of A Place Called Home, David Ambroz (left) was dynamic and heartfelt. WFAA Anchor Chris Lawrence (right) had a warm conversation with David which gave a glimpse into the hardship and violence he suffered as a homeless child in New York that continued as a youth in foster care. At the end of the program, David challenged us all to not look away from the suffering around us and do more to help children and youth in our country.

(Dallas CASA photos by Kristina Bowman Photography)



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These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

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2493	Winner's Club Overall Odds are 1 in 4.11	\$5	11/20/23	5/18/24
2428	Bingo Times 20 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.36	\$5	12/20/23	6/17/24
2467	Quick \$500 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.33	\$5	12/20/23	6/17/24
2421	Cash Winfall Overall Odds are 1 in 6.83	\$10	12/20/23	6/17/24

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2023 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

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Collin College and Plano ISD partner to create new Wildcat Collegiate Academy

Collin College and the Plano Independent School District recently signed an agreement to create the Wildcat Collegiate Academy. The new academy will start in Fall 2024 and will offer Plano ISD students a streamlined pathway to earn an associate degree and a high school diploma at the same time.

With cohorts of 125 students, the collegiate academy will be open to all eighth grade/rising ninth grade Plano ISD students. Students will start at Vines High School and continue at Plano Senior High School. Transportation will be available for Plano ISD students who are admitted to the academy. Wildcat Collegiate Academy students can earn an associate of arts or associate of



Igor Rodrigues / Unsplash

science degree from Collin College.

"Earning college credit in high school is an academic and financial game changer for many of our students and their families," said Plano ISD Superintendent Dr. Theresa Williams. "As a parent of a child who earned an associate degree at the same time he earned a high school diploma, I know how ben-

eficial this type of program can be in accelerating a student's path at the university level. The Wildcat Collegiate Academy is one of several academy programs designed to advance Plano ISD students to their future, and we are grateful for this partnership with Collin College."

According to Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president, the college

and PISD have a strong, longstanding partnership with approximately 1,350 students enrolled in dual credit classes, the Plano ISD Health Sciences Academy located at Williams High School and Plano East High School, and the Plano ISD Industries Academy located at the college's Technical Campus.

"Collin College is thrilled to partner with PISD to bring the collegiate academy model to Plano," Dr. Matkin said. "This model is a triple win for students, their families, and the communities we serve. Academy students can save time and experience the amazing opportunity of attending their high school graduation as college graduates. With two years of college credit under their belts,

these students can then transfer to area universities as juniors, saving tens of thousands of dollars. And our already vibrant community will reap the benefit of future employees who will be in the workforce much sooner and with less debt."

A Plano ISD academy open house, with information on the new Wildcat Collegiate Academy, will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 at Vines High School cafeteria, in Plano.

For more information about the new Wildcat Collegiate Academy, attend the open house, speak to a Plano ISD counselor, or visit www.pisd.edu/wca. Dual credit courses will still be offered at all three Plano ISD senior high schools for

students who are not in the Wildcat Collegiate Academy.

Collin College serves more than 58,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity, a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Construction Management, and a new Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Clinical Operations Management. The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government, and industry, providing customized training and workforce development. For more information, visit www.collin.edu.

DeSoto ISD Students participate in STEM Fest at Perot Museum

DESOTO — United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, along with presenting sponsors Texas Instruments and Mr. Cooper Group and supporting sponsor Vistra, hosted STEM Fest today, Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

With the help of more than 150 volunteers, 400 fifth through eighth grade DeSoto Independent School District students engaged in interactive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities to challenge their

minds and inspire their imaginations. Activities during STEM Fest included Robot coding, musical coding, AI-vengers, and AI facial recognition.

Learn more about DeSoto ISD Schools and programs for scholars approaching pre-kindergarten through 12th grade by visiting the district's Choice Showcase event from 9 a.m. to noon on Sat., Nov. 4 at DeSoto High School located at 600 Eagle Drive in DeSoto.

DeSoto ISD is a public independent school dis-

trict serving more than 6,100 students and 800 employees. The district is comprised of 11 campuses serving students from early childhood through graduation. A District of Innovation, DeSoto ISD's mission is to ensure students without exception learn and grow at their highest levels. The district's 2021 Be the Future Strategic Plan focuses on creating a modern and relevant educational journey for scholars and their families through the Triple-A experience—the district's well-rounded

and holistic approach to student learning through academics, arts, and ath-

letics. DeSoto ISD serves families in DeSoto, Glenn Heights, and Ovilla.

For more information about DeSoto ISD, visit www.desotoisd.org.



Activities during STEM Fest included Robot coding, musical coding, AI-vengers, and AI facial recognition. (Courtesy photo)

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Storm-drain art installation will help raise awareness about stormwater pollution.
(City of Goshen (IN) / Courtesy photo)

Carrollton seeks artists to paint the town for storm drain art contest

Make a splash in the community by entering Carrollton’s storm drain art contest for a chance to paint an original design on a storm drain inlet in Downtown Carrollton. Applications are now open to submit designs that fit themes of preventing stormwater pollution, maintaining safe drinking water sources or water conservation, and protecting natural habitats.

Submissions are open to all Carrollton residents and organizations, as well as those in the immediate DFW area. Artists must be at least 12 years old to enter. Minors will need a parent or guardian to sign a permission waiver, and organizations must have a single point of contact.

When applying, artists must submit photos of their design concept as they would like to paint it. The artwork must be original and appropriate for all ages. The project aims to deter graffiti vandalism, so designs should not mimic graffiti style. The art may also not be used for advertisement or to promote a business, product, or viewpoint.

A committee will select up to seven winning entries based on the design criteria. Artists will be notified if their design is selected, and installation will take place in March 2024. Winning artists will have their biography featured on the City website and they will also be able to sign their

artwork.

Art supplies such as environmentally friendly acrylic paint, brushes, and mixing containers will be provided to artists, as well as safety equipment such as cones, vests, knee pads, and shade cover. City staff will prep the inlets by power washing and applying a primer, then applying a sealant afterward to preserve the artwork for years to come.

The installation of storm drain art will help raise awareness about stormwater pollution. Each time it rains, water flows through the streets and can pick up pollutants including sediment, trash and litter, or oil and vehicle fluid on its way

See ART, Page 11

SPCA of Texas offering free combo vaccines this Sunday at Martin clinic

DHPPV vaccines for dogs and FVRCP for cats will be offered free at the Myron K. Martin Spay/Neuter & Veterinary Clinic (2400 Lone Star Dr. in Dallas, 75212) from Noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023. The SPCA of Texas will offer free combination vaccines. The no-cost vaccines will be provided through the generosity of Petco Love in an effort to keep community pets healthy and help stop the spread of

deadly, yet preventable diseases in dogs and cats.

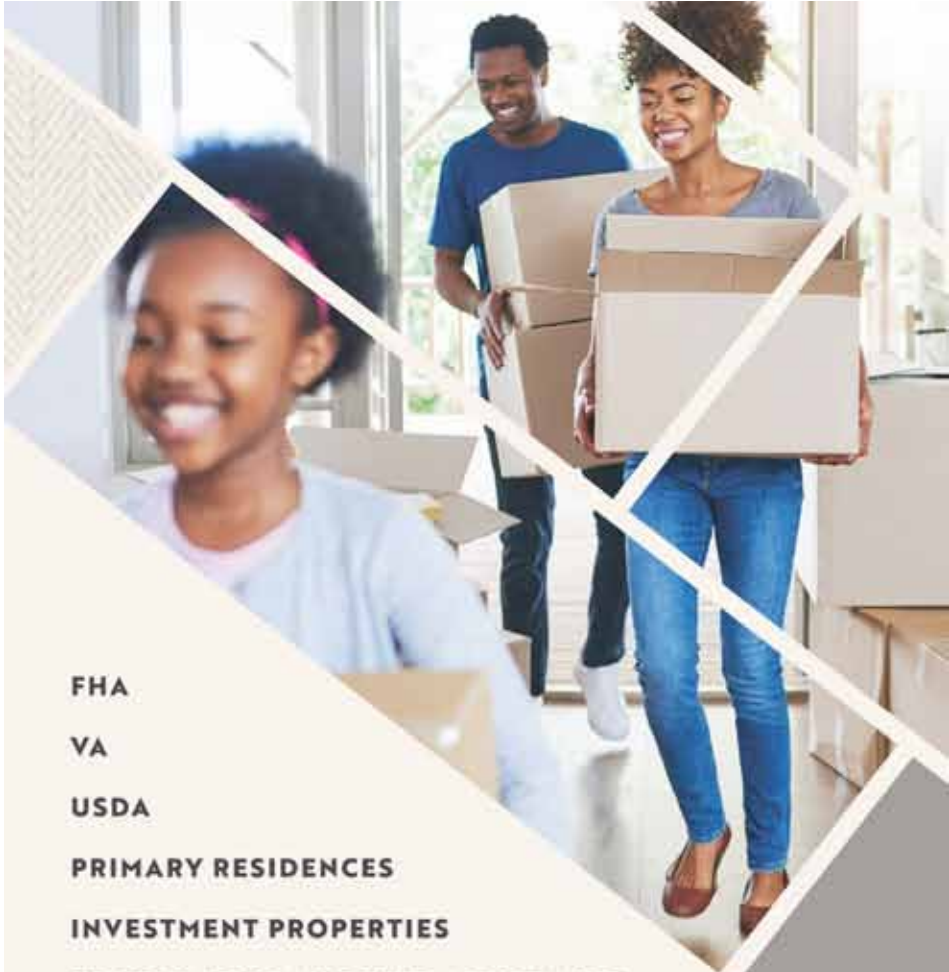
Offering free vaccines is one more way the SPCA of Texas helps keep pets in their loving homes. Combination vaccines protect animals from more than one disease.

The DHPP canine vaccine is a “5 in 1” vaccination that prevents two types of hepatitis, distemper, parainfluenza and parvovirus. It is recommended that dogs receive the DHPP vac-

cine at 8, 12 and 16 weeks, one year later, and then one to three years after that.

FVRCP is a combination vaccine that protects cats from feline herpesvirus 1 and feline calicivirus, which both cause upper respiratory tract disease. It is recommended for both indoor and outdoor cats as a core vaccine.

For more information about the free combination vaccine program, visit spca.org/NovVax23.



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Hollywood unites in plea for hostage release amid Israel– Hamas conflict

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A coalition of prominent Hollywood figures, including Chris Rock, Diddy, and Tiffany Haddish, have penned an impassioned letter to President Joe Biden, expressing gratitude for his leadership during the Israel-Hamas conflict. The group of Hollywood power players connected to the recently launched website “No Hostage Left Behind” also urged continued atten-



The group of Hollywood power players connected to the recently launched website “No Hostage Left Behind” also urged continued attention to the hostages in Gaza in the letter. (Photo via NNPA)

tion to the hostages in Gaza in the letter.

The letter opened with a

note of relief at the recent release of American and Israeli hostages. It cited

the liberation of Judith Ranaan and her daughter Natalie Ranaan, along with Israelis Nurit Cooper and Yocheved Lifshitz, whose husbands remain in captivity. Despite a glimmer of hope, the letter emphasized that 220 people, including 30 children, remain in the terrorists’ custody and are constantly in danger of torture and death.

The letter discussed the history of terrorization that both groups have experienced at the hands of Hamas while expressing

sincere gratitude for what they called Biden’s unwavering moral conviction and support for both Jewish and Palestinian communities. The group has governed Gaza for over 17 years and has left a trail of oppression and victimization.

The letter emphasized a shared desire for freedom and argued for Israelis and Palestinians to coexist peacefully, free from the brutal violence that they said Hamas promotes. It underlined the urgency of securing the release of the

remaining hostages.

The coalition, which also includes Jerry Seinfeld, Lyor Cohen, and Adam Sandler, called on the global community not to rest until all hostages return home safely, regardless of nationality. The list of those captured includes individuals from various countries, including but not limited to Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Russia, Spain, and Ukraine.

President Biden has yet to respond to the letter.

Lawsuit alleges violation of 14th Amendment, capitol attack involvement

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Denver district court is considering a lawsuit to prevent former President Donald Trump from appearing on Colorado’s 2024 ballot due to his alleged involvement in the U.S. Capitol attack on January 6, 2021. Colorado Judge Sarah Wallace recently rejected Trump’s attempt to dismiss the case, which was filed last month on behalf of six voters in the Denver district.

The lawsuit is based on Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. It argues that people who have participated in insurrection or rebellion after promising loyalty to the Constitution should not be able to hold office. Trump, who is currently facing 91 criminal charges after four federal and state indictments, could potentially receive a prison sentence of over 800 years. The lawsuit accuses him of breaking his promise as president by attempting to overturn the 2020 election, which ultimately led to the January 6 insurrection.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), along with several law firms, filed a lawsuit on behalf of six voters from the Republican Party and independent voters. Eric Olson, from



Denver Court Hears Arguments on Trump’s Eligibility for 2024 Ballot. (Photo via NNPA)

CREW, began his testimony by explaining what Trump did before January 6. This included a tweet he sent in December 2020 asking his supporters to come together in Washington, D.C. Olson highlighted Trump’s frequent mentions of January 6. He stated that Trump motivated his followers by making false allegations of election fraud.

Olson showed a video clip of Trump’s speech on the Ellipse on January 6. In the speech, the former president said, “Let’s go to the Capitol.” He argued that Trump was acutely aware of the influence of his words and that his speech before the Capitol riot exacerbated the situation.

Olson also pointed to a post-speech tweet where Trump criticized then-Vice President Mike Pence, asserting that Pence lacked

“the courage to do what he should have done.” That followed a clip of Trump supporters outside the Capitol chanting, “Hang Mike Pence.”

“We are here because Trump claims, after all that, that he has the right to be president again,” Olson asserted. “But our Constitution, the shared charter of our nation, says he cannot do so.”

During his opening arguments, Scott Gessler, Trump’s legal representative, decried the lawsuit as “antidemocratic” and said Monday’s hearing was “politicized.” Gessler argued that Trump used the word “peace” several times during his speech at the Ellipse on January 6, as well as in his tweets on the same day. He claimed that the lawsuit wants the court to approve the January 6 Committee’s

report, which he described as a biased and harmful report.

Officer Daniel Hodges, from the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, testified about his terrifying ordeal during the Capitol attack. Hodges described observing Capitol rioters donning tactical gear, an occurrence that left him “very uncomfortable.” He suffered many injuries when rioters attacked the Capitol, including bruises, a head injury, cuts on his face, and bleeding from his mouth. Hodges also attested that a rioter attempted to gouge his eye. He remembered protesters yelling that the election was stolen and encouraging others to fight for Trump. They also criticized law enforcement for being on the wrong side of history.

During his remote testi-

mony, Rep. Eric Swalwell, a Democrat from California, stated that Trump had clearly indicated before the 2020 election that he would not acknowledge the results if he was not the winner. Swalwell claimed that Trump escalated his rhetoric after legal challenges to the election results were dismissed. He told the lawmakers’ increasing worry when Trump announced, “We’re going to the Capitol” in his Ellipse speech. He then described the distressing experiences of himself and his colleagues as rioters entered the Capitol.

In her ruling last week, Wallace dismissed Trump’s argument that Congress, not the courts, can handle questions about ballot eligibility. She disagreed with Trump’s statement that state election officials cannot enforce Section 3 of the 14th Amendment.

Wallace argued that the clause allows Congress to remove a constitutional disability if a person is disqualified. However, the clause does not specify which government body would decide on such disability initially.

“The Court notes, however, it would be strange for Congress to be the only entity that is empowered to determine the disability and then also the entity that is empowered to remove it,”

Wallace wrote. “States can, and have, applied Section 3 pursuant to state statutes without federal enforcement legislation,” Wallace said.

The judge’s ruling followed a decision by Chief U.S. District Judge Philip A. Brimmer to dismiss Trump’s request to move the Colorado ballot case to federal court. In a four-page order, Brimmer, a nominee of George W. Bush, stated that Trump, who was found responsible for sexually assaulting a journalist by a civil jury this year, did not properly follow the necessary procedures to involve Colorado’s Democratic Secretary of State, Jena Griswold, or get her approval to transfer the case to federal court. As a result, Trump’s attempt to move the case is considered “defective.”

Trump is also facing other challenges to his eligibility to appear on the 2024 presidential ballot. The Minnesota Supreme Court will hear arguments on Thursday concerning a lawsuit to remove Trump from the ballot in Minnesota. The current lawsuit also references a lesser-known provision in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Similar legal challenges are underway in New Hampshire, Arizona, and Michigan.

'The Niagara Movement: The Early Battle for Civil Rights' premieres Nov. 6

BUFFALO — The Niagara Movement: The Early Battle for Civil Rights, a powerful hour-long documentary by WNEP PBS, delves deep into a national crusade that forged the civil rights landscape for the 20th century and beyond.

The film explores the Black elite and intellectual society at the turn of the 20th century and examines the heated national debate and conflict three Black leaders — sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois, publisher William Monroe Trotter and educator and orator Booker T. Washington — had about how best to foster equality and opportunity for Black Americans. The film premieres on Monday, November 6, at 9 p.m. on WNEP PBS and Buffalo Toronto Public Media's YouTube Channel.

The film, produced and directed by Emmy Award-winning and two-time Oscar-nominated filmmaker Lawrence R. Hott, spotlights the early battle behind the civil rights movement that sprang forth as a repudiation of the methods of Booker T. Washington, then the most prominent Black leader in America.



The Niagara Movement: The Early Battle for Civil Rights, premiering November 6 on WNEP (Courtesy photo)

The end of Reconstruction brought about oppressive Jim Crow laws and widespread lynching. Washington pandered to white society with his conciliatory philosophy of racial segregation and industrial training for Blacks instead of other advances.

Washington's position was roundly criticized by Du Bois and by Trotter, a prominent Boston newspaper publisher, and soon a new civil rights organization emerged: the Niagara Movement. The group was formed when Du Bois and Trotter helped summon Black intellectuals, clergy, writers, newspapermen and activists from across the country to Buffalo, New York; the 29 men ultimately met across the Niagara

River in Fort Erie, Canada, to evade disruption by Washington's supporters. The organization's key demand: full civil rights for Black Americans.

Its Declaration of Principles, a sharp rebuke to Washington, stated, in part: "We refuse to allow the impression to remain that the Negro-American assents to inferiority, is submissive under oppression, and apologetic before insults."

The film captures the far-reaching impact of the short-lived Movement — disbanded only four years after its inception — which laid the cornerstone of the modern American civil rights movement, eventually morphing into the NAACP.

"The influence of the Ni-

agara Movement is evident in the protests and court challenges of the American civil rights movement as well as past and current activism," said Tom Calderone, President & CEO of Buffalo Toronto Public Media. "We are pleased to present this important film about such a prevailing influence on our society."

The Niagara Movement will be distributed by American Public Television in February 2024 to public television stations across the country (check local listings). The film will be available on the PBS app in February 2024.

Visit www.theniagamovement.org for more information, educational resources and bonus materials. Follow WNEP PBS on X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram (@wnedpbs).

Major funding for The Niagara Movement: The Early Battle for Civil Rights was provided by The John R. Oishei Foundation, with additional funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Inc. - In Memory of Susan Howarth and Visit Buffalo Niagara.

Buffalo Toronto Pub-

lic Media engages with our communities through exploration and entertainment — everywhere. Our member-supported services include WNEP PBS, WBFO (NPR) (88.7 in Buffalo, 91.3 in Olean, 88.1 in Jamestown), WNEP Classical (94.5 in Buffalo, 89.7 WNJA in Jamestown), WBFO The Bridge (88.7 HD2 and 94.5 HD2 in Buffalo), WNEP Create and WNEP PBS KIDS. WNEP PBS is also a national producer of award-winning documentaries. Additional information about Buffalo Toronto Public Media can be found at wned.org.

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NDG Book Review: 'The Reformatory' is all kinds of scary wrapped in one book

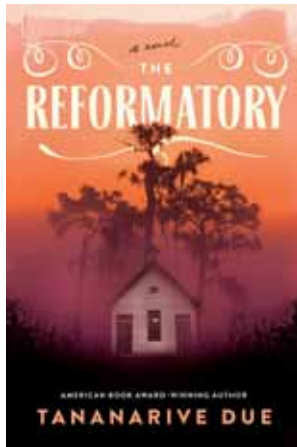
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You'll do better next time.

You're sorry, deeply sorry, sincere in your apology, and it won't happen again. You had a chance to think about your transgressions and you were wrong. What can you do or say to make things better? How can you properly make amends? As in the new book "The Reformatory" by Tananarive Due, how long should you pay for something you didn't do?

The north Florida countryside was passing by fast as Robert Stephens sat small in the passenger seat of the fancy car. Any other time, he'd be enjoying himself but not now. No, this time, he was on his way to The Reformatory, a school for boys who'd broken the law.

How did things get this far, this fast? It wasn't but a day or so that Robert and his sister Gloria were walking down the road when Lyle McCormack, son of Gracetown's richest man,



tried to kiss Gloria and Robert kicked Lyle, in defense of his sister. It was 1950 and every Black person knew that you didn't do that to somebody who was white, but Robert kicked before he could stop himself and he was arrested. And here he was, twelve years old, on his way to a place where Papa said was where the killing started.

But Papa wasn't around anymore, having been run out of town for his union work. It was just Gloria, Robert, and old Miz Lottie, and Robert was terrified.

Ever since he was little, he'd been able to see things

nobody else could see. He told Gloria that Mama visited him sometimes, even though she'd been dead for months. He knew things, too; the closer the car got to The Reformatory, the more he knew he couldn't stay there for the next six months. The place smelled like smoke, but there were no fires.

It smelled like death and fear.

He had to trust that Gloria would get him home. He'd trust Mama to watch over him.

He could see "haints" at The Reformatory. The place was full of them...

Though it might look like one, "The Reformatory" is not just a ghost story. It's tighter, scarier, more ominous because this tale has deep roots based in truth.

Like the tentacles belonging to some sort of evil creature, Jim Crow laws ooze into every corner of this book, wrapping tendrils around the characters and their lives. That's a terror

See BOOK, Page 14

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The magnetism of complex amenities to draw upon urban diversity

VIENNA (Newsweek) — Diversity fuels prosperity in cities, but where do people from diverse backgrounds meet? A study from the Complexity Science Hub indicates locations offering a range of rare shops and services may hold the key.

Extensive research consistently underscores a common factor in successful cities -- diversity. Encouraging interactions between individuals of different backgrounds fosters the exchange of ideas, leading to innovation and economic success. "However, segregation persists in urban areas, not solely based on residence but also on the places people frequent," CSH researcher Sándor Juhász explains.

This new study contributes a piece here. Working alongside colleagues from ANET Lab Budapest, Juhász demonstrates that locations in Budapest offering diverse but not widely available amenities effectively attract people with different socio-economic backgrounds.

These "complex" loca-



Study demonstrates that locations in Budapest offering diverse but not widely available amenities effectively attract people with different socio-economic backgrounds. (Jacek Dylag / Unsplash)

tions provide a range of shops and services, such as cinemas, zoos, and coffee shops, which are not universally accessible, like a zoo, for instance. Juhász explains, "We draw inspiration from the economic complexity framework, which posits that economies with a diversified product portfolio, featuring numerous non-ubiquitous outputs, tend to thrive." Following this approach, the researchers developed indices reflecting the complexity of neighborhoods in Budapest based on the distribution of different Point-of-Interest (POI) categories

on Google Maps.

They also assessed the complexity of amenity types by considering their ubiquity and the number of other POI types available nearby. Just like neighborhoods, less common amenities, such as zoos, surrounded by various POIs attract a more diverse audience.

Both are strongly tied to how centrally located the respective neighborhood or amenity is. While the mixing of different people naturally depends heavily on centrality, understanding the complexity of neighborhoods and ameni-

ties provides an even more precise insight.

To uncover visitation patterns, the researchers employed GPS data from mobile phones. Juhász clarifies, "When you use smartphone apps, you may be asked to permit the collection of your location data. If you consent, the app developers can collect information on your mobility, including time and precise location, but without personal data. This anonymous data can be used by researchers like us to find out how cities can become a better place for everyone."

The team then tracked all the places where people stopped for a short stay over months in Budapest, considering at what period of the day. During the night, the stop is most likely at people's homes, and from 9 am to 5 pm, it's most likely their workplace. "So, we focused on so-called 'third places,' such as coffee

shops or cinemas, as potential locations for interaction," Juhász states. They also used real estate prices in the individuals' residential areas as an indicator of their wealth.

By combining this information, the researchers could assess a person's economic situation and the types of places they frequented. In Budapest, Városliget, the city's largest and oldest public park, stood out as the most complex neighborhood, boasting a museum, spa, zoo, and other unique facilities not widely accessible. In terms of amenity categories, Zoo turned out to be the most complex type.

"People with various aims and objectives are drawn to locations like these, offering a diverse portfolio that includes super-rare amenities. This is why we believe that socio-economically diverse individuals will adhere to this rationale and seek out com-

plex places," Juhász notes. While interaction in these places isn't guaranteed, the likelihood is significantly higher than in other, less complex neighborhoods or amenities.

Given this premise, it would be advantageous for cities to proactively establish spaces where individuals from varying socio-economic backgrounds can come together. Juhász emphasizes, "To achieve this, we must comprehend the characteristics of urban locations that attract people from diverse strata and understand why these locations possess such an appeal."

"Consequently, for policymakers, this knowledge is essential as it enables them to identify potential areas of segregation in their city using the economic complexity framework and to implement measures to mitigate it," Juhász emphasizes.

ART, from Page 7

to the storm drains. These pollutants discharge directly into creeks and surface water throughout the City, flowing into the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Painting the storm drains will not only be a colorful

art installation for the community to enjoy, but a reminder for everyone to help protect the water supply and the environment.

The deadline to submit is Monday, January 15, 2024. For more information and

to apply, find Storm Drain Art Contest at cityofcarrollton.com/stormwater. For questions, contact Andrea McClure, Carrollton Stormwater Coordinator, by emailing andrea.mcclure@cityofcarrollton.com or calling 972-466-3035.

SHUTDOWN, from Page 1

Similarly, Rep. Steve Cohen of Tennessee expressed disbelief in a now-deleted social media post, saying, "I can't believe this is happening after January 6. If Trump can get to another electoral college, House Speaker will be able to subvert votes of the people/ This is the first act in insurrection 2.0."

Johnson, a pro-Trump election skeptic, now holds a position that could influence future election outcomes. Notable for

his involvement in various controversial matters, Johnson pressed Attorney General Merrick Garland on a conspiracy theory involving the Justice Department and Hunter Biden. He also advocated for the expunging of Donald Trump's first impeachment and pushed for a national abortion ban.

Johnson also took a more active stance in the attempt to overturn the 2020 election results. In 2020, he spearheaded efforts to

rally House GOP members to support a Texas lawsuit seeking to invalidate election results in crucial states. Over 125 members eventually signed on.

Essentially, Johnson was at the forefront of rallying support for a controversial theory posited by state Attorney General Ken Paxton, aimed at overturning a U.S. presidential election. His instrumental role earned him recognition as "the most important architect of the Electoral College objections" by The New York Times just a year ago.



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Reforms to meet growing demand for responsibly sourced critical minerals to power consumer electronics

WASHINGTON — The rapid buildout of a clean energy economy is fueling a significant increase in demand for responsibly sourced critical minerals that power consumer electronics, electric vehicle batteries and other gadgets. President Biden recently passed an executive order requiring a review of vulnerabilities in critical mineral and material supply chains.

"To meet the needs of the clean energy economy while respecting our obligations to Tribal Nations, taxpayers, the environment, and future generations, we need a modernized approach to make sure mining in this country is sustainable, responsible and efficient," said IWG Chair and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau.

Following the first-of-its kind assessment, the Interior Department launched a review of laws, regulations, policies and permitting re-



The rapid buildout of a clean energy economy is fueling a significant increase in demand for responsibly sourced critical minerals that power consumer electronics, including electric vehicle batteries. (Juice / Unsplash)

lated to hardrock mineral development, with recommendations to support a sustainable and responsibly sourced supply of minerals.

The IWG report recognizes that the rapidly increasing demand for critical minerals will drive a surge in mine planning, permitting and environmental analyses, and the report responds to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's direction that federal agencies report to Congress on im-

proving mineral permitting and to coalitions of Tribes and mining groups that independently filed rulemaking petitions requesting mining reforms. Pursuant to the Law, within 90 days the Interior and Agriculture Departments will develop a performance metric to track improvements in permitting timelines.

The report recommends that Congress work with the mining industry, Tribes, mining communities, en-

vironmental organizations, labor organizations, and federal agencies to transition to a new leasing system that will strengthen domestic mineral supply chains, advance environmental sustainability, and foster community engagement, while protecting existing mining claims and ensuring that an orderly transition does not disrupt near-term needs for securing responsibly-sourced critical minerals.

In the near-term, the IWG report makes dozens of recommendations for federal agencies that can be undertaken without Congress, including that federal permitting agencies adopt identified best practices for engagement, with early and extensive engagement with applicants, agency and intergovernmental partners, and impacted communities and Tribes prior to the start of the formal environmental review process. This can help alleviate conflicts

and speed permitting reviews, while improving outcomes for public health and the environment. The IWG report also encourages exploration and mining companies to adhere to established best practices, such as beginning community and Tribal engagement at the earliest possible stage, providing financial support to allow communities and Tribes to hire independent technical experts, developing community and Tribal benefit agreements, and considering independent and transparent reporting of air and water pollution monitoring data.

The report represents months of interagency policy work and over 50 meetings with industry, environmental groups, labor unions and tribes, and a review of over 26,000 comments from the mining industry, state officials, equipment manufacturers, academics, legal experts, environmental justice ex-

perts, the public and more. It provides over 60 recommendations to Congress and federal agencies for increasing public and Tribal engagement, making permitting more consistent and predictable, and protecting impacted communities, workers, and environmentally and culturally sensitive lands.

The report identifies reforms to federal support for research in advanced, lower-impact mining and exploration technologies, training and the need to address abandoned and unreclaimed hardrock mining sites that pollute land and water.

"The Department of Energy strongly believes sustainability throughout the supply chain is paramount as this Administration continues to invest in America through the development of next generation clean energy technologies," said Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk.

NEWS, from Page 5

age believe that educating all journalists about issues affecting Black Americans would be an extremely or very effective way to ensure fairer coverage. "There's definitely less empathy, I think, for people of color, for working-class people from people who are not Black... I think they deliver the news in a way that is different than how someone who does understand our

experiences would deliver the news," another survey respondent observed, according to Pew.

Substantial percentages also advocate for including more Black voices as sources (54%) and for hiring Black individuals in leadership roles within newsrooms (53%). That echoed the call for diversification in newsrooms made over five decades ago by the

1967 Kerner Commission.

These findings resonate with the observations of the 1967 Kerner Commission, which highlighted sensationalist, divisive, and inaccurate representations of Black communities in the media. The Commission emphasized the urgent need to diversify newsrooms, a call that remains relevant more than five decades later.

While many Black Americans value the perspective

of Black journalists in reporting on racial issues, only 14% consider it highly important for news in general to come from Black journalists. Just 15% believe a journalist's race is an extremely or very important factor in determining a story's credibility, ranking below factors such as cited sources (53%), multiple outlets (50%), and the news outlet itself (46%).

Diverging opinions emerged when consider-

ing the importance of racial identity among Black Americans. Those who place a high value on their Black identity expressed a significantly stronger preference for journalists who understand the historical context of stories involving Black individuals (82%). Conversely, this dropped to 55% among those who attach less importance to their racial identity.

The study also identified generational and education-

al divides in perceptions of Black journalists' effectiveness. Younger Black adults, aged 18 to 29, were more likely to believe that Black journalists excel at covering issues related to race (54%) and understanding them (50%) compared to their older counterparts. Likewise, individuals with higher levels of formal education and income expressed more positive views toward the work of Black journalists.

SMOKING, from Page 2

bies born to non-smokers, that is, more than 10% smaller than the weight of an average newborn. This increases the risk that the baby will have a low birth weight (2.5kg or less), which in turn is linked to an increased risk of developmental problems as well as poorer health in later life.

Unlike in previous studies, however, the team found no evidence that smoking reduced the risk of pre-eclampsia.

Professor Gordon Smith, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Cambridge, said: "We've known for a long time that smoking during pregnancy

is not good for the baby, but our study shows that it's potentially much worse than previously thought. It puts the baby at risk of potentially serious complications from growing too slowly in the womb or from being born too soon.

"We hope this knowledge will help encourage pregnant mums and women planning pregnancy to access smoking-cessation

services. Pregnancy is a key time when women quit and if they can remain tobacco free after the birth there are lifelong benefits for them and their child."

Smoking cessation is offered routinely to all pregnant women and the NHS has local smoking cessation services for anyone, pregnant or not. Further information is available at <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>.

To assess caffeine intake, they researchers looked for the metabolite paraxanthine, which accounts for 80% of caffeine metabolism and is both less sensitive to recent intake and more stable throughout the day. 915 women were included in the caffeine analysis. Of these women, 12.8% had low levels of paraxanthine throughout pregnancy (suggesting low

caffeine intake), 74.0% had moderate levels and 13.2% had high levels. There was little evidence of an association between caffeine intake and any of the adverse outcomes.

The work was supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre and the Medical Research Council.

DART's Police and Fare Enforcement Open House and Career Fair slated for Nov. 4

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will host a Police and Fare Enforcement Open House and Career Fair on Saturday, November 4, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at DART Police Headquarters located at Illinois Station, 2111 S. Corinth Street in Dallas.

During the career fair

events, applicants will have the opportunity to fill out job applications, meet with hiring officials, and participate in on-site screening interviews. Employing a community-oriented policing approach that emphasizes service, courtesy, assistance and conflict resolution, DART Police and Fare Enforcement Officers are re-

sponsible for the security and safety of customers and employees across DART's 13-city, 700 square-mile service area.

The DART Police Department is offering a signing bonus of \$5,000 for new DART Police Officers and \$2,000 for new DART Fare Enforcement Officers. DART Police Officers are

licensed peace officers of the State of Texas who have all the rights, privileges, obligations, and duties of any other peace officer in the state of Texas while on property and under the control of DART or in the course and scope of their employment.

For more information, visit the DART website at DART.org/policejobs.



DART is looking to boost its ranks in Police and Fare Enforcement with an Open House and Career Fair held on Saturday, Nov. 4. (Mark Patterson / Unsplash)

DOD invests \$40M for research centers of excellent at minority-serving institutions

The Department of Defense recently announced the establishment of four new research centers of excellence at minority-serving institutions of higher education, as part of its Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-serving Institutions Research and Education Program.

Selected through a merit-based competition, the awardees and their academic partners will conduct research over a five-year period in technology areas critical to the Department's drive for Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control: advanced computing and software, future-generation wireless technol-

ogy, integrated sensing and cyber, and renewable energy generation and storage.

The awards total \$40 million and will enhance research programs and capabilities in critical scientific and engineering disciplines, while expanding HBCU's and MII's capacity to participate in DoD research programs and activities. These

awards will also increase the number of graduates in STEM fields, including those from under-represented minorities, which is critically important to the Department's mission.

"These COEs will boost the Department's ability to conduct transformative research in areas that are vital to safeguarding national

security. We look forward to them contributing stimulating ideas and innovations that could lead to the development of novel technologies and methodologies," said DOD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach Director Evelyn Kent. "Establishing the centers at minority-serving institutions also strengthens the STEM pipe-

line by improving the skill-sets of future scientists and engineers, preparing them for careers that will help advance the Department's research enterprise."

The COEs were awarded based on a merit review by a panel of experts. DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory will make the awards to four winning institutions.

LINSON, from Page 2

gating unfamiliar cultures providing priceless insights to overcoming fears and challenges.

New author Morgan Linson of The Ultimate Experience, also known as "Morgan the Explorer" on YouTube shares her personal story as a world traveler, explaining how travel can be accessible and affordable to everyone.

In The Ultimate Experience, Morgan educates readers on how they can save and take advantage

of services offered through AMEX, Booking.com, Delta Air Lines, and Viator.com. The bottom line is that traveling is not as expensive as some imagine. Further, many don't realize how expensive their current lifestyle already is.

"I wrote The Ultimate Experience to educate, inspire, and empower people to explore the world. Through my stories, I seek to transport you to captivating landscapes, introduce you to geography, and in-

spire and encourage you to have your Ultimate Experience," said Morgan Linson, Author, The Ultimate Ex-

perience. "Be inspired and inspire others to change the narrative or how are stories are written."

ROUNDTREE, from Page 2

In the ensuing decades, Roundtree continued to leave an indelible mark in the entertainment industry, appearing in various television series such as "Soul Food," "Desperate Housewives," "Heroes," and "Grey's Anatomy." He secured a recurring role in the 2013 television show "Being Mary Jane" alongside Gabrielle Union and Margaret Avery. Roundtree further graced FOX's television series "Star" with his presence in 2017 and 2018.

In 1993, Roundtree faced a rare form of male breast

cancer with unwavering determination. His resilience led him to become a prominent advocate for breast cancer awareness, lending his voice to the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Know Your Score Men's Health Initiative. Roundtree earned numerous awards, including the MTV Lifetime Achievement Award for his iconic portrayal of Shaft, an Image Award nomination in 1998, a Peabody Award in 2002, and a Black Theater Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

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Do I Need a New Mask for Halloween?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

The older I get, the less patience I have for holidays. I certainly am not a holiday guru in any sense of the word.

When I was younger, my favorite holiday was Christmas because of all the presents I got. I could never get enough gifts for Christmas.

When I got older, got married and had children, I realized that somebody had to pay for those Christmas presents, and I was elected for the job. Holidays really cost a lot, and usually, it's the father that pays the bill.

I suppose my least favorite holiday is Halloween. I'm unsure who came up with this idea, and I don't have the time to research it and find out. If I knew its roots, I might like it less than I do today.

People dress up in scary costumes and go door-to-door collecting candy on Halloween. But what does candy have to do with it?

Today, a holiday is celebrated every month and

sometimes every week. Who has the time to invent all of these holidays, and who has the time to celebrate them all?

Don't get me wrong, no holiday in the year upsets me, and I don't care how many holidays somebody else celebrates. I'm only concerned about celebrating my holiday.

Some people think their birthday is the best holiday of the year.

That was true for me for several years until I realized I was getting one year older every time I celebrated a birthday.

I wonder if I missed celebrating my birthday a year would I get any older? It's worth a try.

A year ago, I tried that and it worked out pretty well until, on my birthday, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me a birthday card she made in her craft room and then wished me a happy birthday. If she wishes me a happy birthday, it must be

my birthday.

One of the things about birthdays is that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's birthday is two days after mine. Now I know why she makes me a birthday card: to remind me that her birthday is coming up.

I've been tempted to make her a birthday card, that just might end the matter because my craftsmanship crashed the day I was born.

Not only is her birthday two days after mine, but it is also two years before mine. I used to remind her of that, but I have grown accustomed to living healthy.

We celebrate Valentine's Day because that was the day I proposed marriage to her, even though I had no idea what I was doing.

I like some holidays, for instance, Easter Sunday, which I prefer to call Resurrection Sunday. That's a holiday I like to celebrate.

I used to like Christmas until I started to pay the bill for all the gifts under

the tree. When the children were young, I could buy them something they would like, not caring about the price.

As they got older, they got more sophisticated in the gifts they wanted. I use the word "sophisticated" because that has everything to do with money. The more a gift cost, the better it was received.

Because I grew up in Pennsylvania, I like to remember Groundhog Day with Punxsutawney Phil. I'm not sure who came up with this holiday, but it's probably the stupidest of the year. And yet, it is celebrated across the country.

The Halloween holiday is quite exciting now that the kids have grown up and moved into their own homes and families. We do have kids in the neighborhood who come by dressed in Halloween costumes, looking for candy. They don't have to beg when they come to my house; they just stand there, and I can't give it out fast enough. How

much do the parents understand that candy is not healthy for their children?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not too excited about Halloween, but I always buy bags of candy I hide so she can't see them. And my goal is to give them all away to kids that come to the door. What she doesn't know does not hurt me.

Usually, I dress up in some scary costume to give the candy to the kids to come to the door.

I like to stay current, so the other day, I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage a very serious question that I don't think she took seriously. I looked at her and said, "Do you think I need a new mask for Halloween this year?" Now, that was a very serious, straightforward question.

Looking at me as usual, she said, "Oh, no, you silly boy. The mask you're wearing now is good enough for this Halloween."

She walked away before I could tell her I was not wearing a mask.

I was thinking about this matter of celebration when I remember a verse of scripture I read recently. Psalm 95:2, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

The thing I need to celebrate each day is my relationship with God. Nothing is more important to me daily than to recognize all that God has done for me throughout my life. I have so much to be thankful for in my life and not a day should pass in my life that I should not be thankful to God for something.

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.

DEATH, from Page 4

of Medicine at NYU Langone Health and director of critical care and resuscitation research at NYU Langone, says, "Although doctors have long thought that the brain suffers permanent damage about 10 minutes after the heart stops supplying it with oxygen, our work found that the brain can show signs of electrical recovery long into ongoing CPR. This is the first large study to show that these recollections and brain wave changes may be signs of universal, shared elements of so-called near-death experiences."

Dr. Parnia adds, "These

experiences provide a glimpse into a real, yet little understood dimension of human consciousness that becomes uncovered with death. The findings may also guide the design of new ways to restart the heart or prevent brain injuries and hold implications for transplantation."

Called the AWAREness during RESuscitation (AWARE)-II study – it followed 567 men and women who suffered cardiac arrest during hospital stays between May 2017 and March 2020 in the United States and United Kingdom. Only hospitalized patients

were enrolled to standardize the CPR and resuscitation methods used, as well as recording methods for brain activity. A subset of 85 patients received brain monitoring during CPR. Additional testimony from 126 community survivors of cardiac arrest with self-reported memories was also examined to provide greater understanding of the themes related to the recalled experience of death.

The study authors conclude that research to date has neither proved nor disproved the reality or meaning of patients' experiences and claims of awareness in relation to death. They say the recalled experience sur-

rounding death merits further empirical investigation and plan to conduct studies

that more precisely define biomarkers of clinical consciousness and that monitor

the long-term psychological effects of resuscitation after cardiac arrest.

BOOK, from Page 10

that's told authentically and is (un)easy to imagine, but then author Tananarive Due kicks the frights into maximum overdrive with ghosts and madmen that you can sometimes barely tell apart.

Even scarier: they're inside The Reformatory, and outside it, and they want revenge – both of the otherworldly kind and based in reality. Scarier still: they're willing to make deals.

If you have a heart condition, you might want to pass on this book because it'll raise your pulse rate to the roof. If you're healthy and brave, though, look for "The Reformatory." When it comes to scary novels, you'll never do better.

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Take Time To Listen



Sister Tarpley
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When you're facing a problem, the very first thing you should ask God for is His wisdom; not money, not power, not even healing, but His wisdom.

God's wisdom is the key that will unlock every door in your life. It will turn your every failure into success.

Stop wasting prayers begging God for things you think you need and spend so e time instead listening to what He has to say about your situation.

If you've never tried that before, practically speaking, here's what you need to do.

First, you must lay the entire problem before the Lord, not because He doesn't know what you're going through but because laying out your problems helps you. It helps you see things from a more objec-



tive point of view.

I remember when I used to take my problems to my father. Somehow, when I was explaining them to him, they began to look different to me.

I would get a new perspective and as I talked, he would point out areas I hadn't considered yet.

Explaining your problems to God, point by point will help you accomplish the same thing.

Second, listen for the Spirit of God to advise you. Pay particular attention to what He says through His written Word.

Most likely, the cares of your problems have choked

the Word of God right out of your heart. **Mark 18-19.** What you need to do is get the Bible and begin to put that Word back in again. Then the Holy Spirit will begin to speak to you through it.

As you are listening, be sure to remain teachable. Be ready to accept rebuke if necessary. Be very honest with God. Look for ways in which you've been wrong and confess them to Him. It's alright.

Those sins won't come as any surprise to Him. He already knows about them. Confession just gives you the opportunity to get rid of them.

Third, act on the wisdom that God gives you. Let go of your own methods and put His methods into operation. Be obedient. If you don't, that wonderful wisdom won't do you any good at all.

As you pray today, set aside your own ideas and start seeking the wisdom of God. It's the only thing that can permanently solve the problems you've been facing. It's truly the most precious gift God has to give. **Seek God's Wisdom!**

Ponder This. Some Christians do not like to read the Bible for themselves; they prefer to listen to a speaker read when he or she is bringing the message of the hour; they are just not that discipline.

But, if the Christian will not commit to knowing what is in God's Word and then following it, they will fail to know and experience God for themselves.

God's Word is life to the Christian's soul. It provides

knowledge that leads to life. The prophet Hosea tells us, *"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thy hast forgotten the law of God, I will also forget thy children."* **Hosea 4:6**

God has given His Word to us and His Word has specific laws and principles that must be followed if we expect His blessing.

King David forgot to follow one of those laws related to the ark. "And when Aaron and his sons have

made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.

When the sons of Kohath were transporting the ark, Uzza innocently reached to steady the ark but was immediately stricken dead when his hands touched the ark of God. Did David know this law or did he simply forget?

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

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