



North Dallas Gazette

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Gains in the movement to end most pervasive violence in the world

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Domestic violence is the most widespread pandemic form of violence in the world, explained Angela Davis, yet it has not changed much over the last half century. Davis spoke at a forum on domestic violence sponsored by Blue Shield California Foundation and the Black Freedom Fund last month. Davis said she became interested in domestic violence when it surfaced as a political issue in the seventies.

Domestic violence has been in most human societies for hundreds of years, said Davis, but it is hidden. With a great deal of silence surrounding the issue, the violence has been described as a natural part of human relationships, with no real solution except escape, she said. Davis wanted to change this frame, proposing that violence does not have to play a part in human relationships.

Davis wrote a book about the subject called "Blues Legacies in Black Feminism." In listening to Black women blues singers, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Ida Cox, Edmonia Henderson, Davis said she heard many songs about violence and what was



In listening to Black women blues singers, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Ida Cox, Edmonia Henderson, Davis said she heard many songs about violence and what was happening to them in their relationships. (Unseen Histories)

happening to them in their relationships.

Davis' political activism began as a youngster in Birmingham, and it continued through her high school years in New York. Since her fight to free the Soledad Brothers, which led to her imprisonment, Davis has been an activist committed to prisoners' rights and racism in the criminal justice system. Her social activism drove her underground after false charges were filed against her in 1970. Sixteen months later, a massive "Free Angela Davis" campaign led to her acquittal. Davis has

worked much of her life to combat oppression of all kinds. As a living witness to the historical struggles of the contemporary era, Davis says we have made progress that would have been unimaginable when she was growing up.

"I don't know whether I've ever experienced a moment when vast numbers of people were so politically engaged, vast numbers of people were so concerned about the future of our planet, concerned about the climate, concerned about

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People In The News ...



Liz Cheney



Adenah Bayoh

NDG Quote of the Week: "I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."
- Booker T. Washington

Liz Cheney

Donald Trump is “the most dangerous man ever to inhabit the Oval Office,” and a large swath of Republicans have proven that they’re nothing more than enablers and collaborators willing to “violate their oath to the Constitution out of political expediency and loyalty” to the twice-impeached former president.

That scathing assessment, first reported by CNN, came from former GOP Rep. Liz Cheney, who has penned “Oath and Honor,” a detailed exposé about Trump’s four years in



the White House and how many of her colleagues cowered to the whims of an out-of-control wannabe dictator.

Cheney appeared to have left no stone unturned

in the memoir that hits shelves on Dec. 5, including her takedown of former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and his successor, Mike Johnson. Of McCarthy, Cheney said he knew Trump lost the 2020 election to President Biden but went along with Trump’s lies. She referred to Johnson as a fanboy who “appeared especially susceptible to flattery from Trump and aspired to being anywhere in Trump’s orbit.”

Trump currently faces 91 felony counts in four jurisdictions; much of the charges stem from his alleged attempt to steal the

2020 election. Earlier this year, a civil jury found him responsible for sexually assaulting the writer, E. Jean Carroll. Trump was ordered to pay Carroll \$5 million in damages.

Despite four indictments, his loss in the sexual assault civil trial, and his promise of retribution against his political enemies, Trump is the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination. Several polls also show him leading Biden in the general election.

“As a nation, we can endure damaging policies for a four-year term,” Cheney

declared. “But we cannot survive a president willing to terminate our Constitution.”

Cheney’s 384-page “Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning” is already the top-selling book on Amazon.com. In one passage, Trump is referred to as “Orange Jesus,” a term regularly used by Black Press journalist Barrington Salmon to deride the former president. Using text messages, emails, calls, and meetings, as well as personal conversations, Cheney rails against her GOP colleagues and reams them for being complicit in

threats against democracy.

“So strong is the lure of power that men and women who had once seemed reasonable and responsible were suddenly willing to violate their oath to the Constitution out of political expediency and loyalty to Donald Trump,” Cheney writes in the book, which hits shelves on Dec. 5.

Cheney unveils a hitherto undisclosed conversation with McCarthy, happening a mere 48 hours after the ballots were cast, where McCarthy spilled the beans that he had a tête-à-tête

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Adenah Bayoh

(EINPresswire.com) Adenah Bayoh, a well-known entrepreneur from Irvington, NJ, has always been passionate about giving back to the community.

With the holiday season approaching, Bayoh is again organizing a series of extraordinary give-back events in December. These events are not just about spreading holiday cheer but also aim to positively impact the lives of those in need. Adenah believes everyone deserves to experience the joy and warmth of the holiday season, regardless of their circumstances.

Bayoh’s annual “Break-



fast for Dinner” invites community members to join her for a complimentary meal at each of her four IHOP locations. Community attendees are treated to pancakes, eggs, and other IHOP favorites as her

way of saying thank you for their continued support throughout the years.

Alongside her team and community partners, Bayoh has provided hot meals to various community organizations, donated gift items such as books, toys, and personal care items to women and their children, and has partnered with reentry programs to support formerly incarcerated mothers who are getting acclimated with their children.

She is excited to be able to give back to her community in this way and hopes that it will help bring people together and brighten up their holiday season.

“Bringing warmth and support to our communities strengthens us all,” Bayoh said. “It brings me a great sense of gratitude and joy to be in a position to give back to the communities I serve and to provide a safe haven and food during the holidays.”

Bayoh embodies the American dream.

At age 13, she escaped

the civil war in her native country of Liberia, immigrated to the United States, and is now one of the most successful entrepreneurs in her home state of New Jersey.

Inspired by her grandmother, who owned a restaurant in Liberia, Adenah now owns 10 restaurants, including four IHOP franchises in northern New

Jersey. She opened her first IHOP in Irvington Township, New Jersey, at the age of 27, making her one of the youngest franchisees in the country at that time.

In late 2017, Adenah launched Cornbread, her first independent fast casual, farm-to-table, soul food restaurant, which she co-founded with fellow entrepreneur Zadi B. Smith.

Jean-Claude Blaise

(PR.com)-- Jean-Claude Blaise has completed his new book, “Letters to My Father: Authentic Memoirs of Jean-Claude Blaise”: a potent personal account that mirrors the daily struggles one may face under the Duvaliers’ regimes in the sixties through the mid of eighties to cultural shock and identity in other countries.

Blaise writes, “Blaise! Oh, Blaise! A name that makes you so well-known among your peers, the neighborhood, and among your regular customers through your professional deeds and works. Of course, people are born and grow up with the names



they bear, which identify them for whom they really are. This identity is embedded in their inner soul; and finally they die oftentimes without this personal attachment to their ancestral roots to even know where they have actually come from while nourishing deep in their minds this feverish

idea of the horrifying journey of mankind.”

He continues, “Blaise, a name whose importance has never been inculcated in us, not even from childhood. Nevertheless, thanks to a school assignment entrusted to my son, we were able to discover the brilliant meaning of our name. In fact, it means ‘the one who reigns.’ Yet surprising discovery! It also means ‘the one who stutters.’ Interestingly enough, I remember that as a kid, I had a lot of trouble to talk. I used to stutter horribly. By the way, you acquire a fabulous fame by your name, whose origin you have completely ignored. Your name has be-

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Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

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Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

marketing@northdallasgazette.com
972-509-9049

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy

**Special Projects to
the Publisher**

Stephanie Colunga

Lori Lee

Marland Mosely, Jr.

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

Account Executive

Sterling R. Bradford

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.

Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations



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Words for the Weary

By Frederick Joseph

In our violently turbulent world, where the noise of chaos often drowns the sounds of hope, we stand, sometimes feeling like mere silhouettes against an immense, uncaring universe. We shout, our voices ragged with desperation for humanity, for a semblance of decency, in a world seemingly refusing to hear our pleas. Feeling as if it is a shout into the void, echoing back only our own fears and frustrations.

We shout for Gaza, for the Congo, for Sudan, for bodily autonomy, for the houseless, for the trans community, for the queer community, for teachers, for better pay, for a chance to buy a home, for a future, for a present.

Yet, in the heart of this despair, lies a truth often veiled by the shadow of our doubts: things are not as bleak as they often

seem. And I believe part of my purpose as a writer is to remind us of this fact. Though, it is often difficult to do so.

Most of my days are stitched together with the delicate threads of words and ideas, often devoted to the pursuit of what I believe can help move the world forward. I write, with a heart both hopeful and heavy, about the paths we must journey for progress, the bridges we must build over chasms of ignorance, greed, and despair. My words, I hope, serve as a light, casting a gentle yet revealing glow upon the shadows that shroud our collective destination, illuminating a way out of the darkness that clings stubbornly to the edges of freedom.

Yet, as I do this work, a confession must be made—a recognition of the weight that this journey of progress bears upon the shoulders of

myself, and anyone working to create change. It is a heaviness that makes it difficult for things not to seem impossible some days. I've been thinking about this weight a great deal lately.

A few days ago, an unsettling reality began openly unfolding across the digital landscape. Behemoths such as TikTok and Meta, found themselves at a crossroads shaped by the urging of pro-Israel celebrities and organizations. Their request was for these companies to wipe their platforms clean of pro-Palestinian narratives and content. As expected, these companies complied, their algorithms and policies becoming both judge and executioner. In this purge, content was erased, voices were silenced, and many found themselves exiled from these digital realms for the mere act of advocating on behalf of innocent lives in Gaza.

In clamoring for a cease-

fire and crying for governments to help put an end to the atrocities that have taken the lives of over 13,000 Palestinians, I, too, became one of the many people removed from TikTok during this purge.

My banishment came as a stark reminder of the fragility of our digital existence. My posts, heartfelt, earnest, and informed, were deemed unsuitable, and thus I was cast out. Rather, it might be more apt to say my posts were deemed—not on message for those in power—thus I became a threat to eliminate.

But, days later, in a twist as unexpected as it was welcome, I found my TikTok expulsion lifted. My account was restored, thanks to an outcry from those following me on other platforms. A small beacon in a murky sea of censorship.

I have grown accustomed

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With its release of a new nonbinding code of conduct, the Supreme Court fails on ethics again

By Devon Ombres
Center for American Progress

Following months of confirmed reporting that activist billionaires with business before the Supreme Court have pampered Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito with free, unreported, luxury vacations, the court recently issued a code of conduct that it asserts will prevent corruption at the court. Unfortunately, the document does nothing to address these ethical issues that have been following the justices and, in fact, appears to be an attempt to weaken federal law regarding judicial recusals. The Supreme Court ethics code adopts five canons of conduct that often track portions of the federal code of judicial conduct and federal law—but makes the provi-

sions advisory rather than mandatory. In the end, this code is neither binding nor enforceable when there is an instance of impropriety among the justices.

**The new code of
conduct is weaker than
existing federal law**

With the release of this new ethics code, the justices give the appearance of attempting to ignore a federal law that applies to them by effectively making it discretionary. The language the court issued weakens the federal recusal statute, which requires, "Any justice ... shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned," by replacing "shall" with "should." This theme applies throughout the nonbinding code: It uses the word "should" 51 times, while words such as

"shall," "must," and "may not" appear only sparingly in the court's commentary on the code. Further, the Supreme Court's commentary specifically allows individual justices to continue determining any decisions to recuse themselves from cases, stating that they, "rather than the Court, decide recusal issues." In effect, this new code does nothing to alleviate the ethics issues plaguing the court.

Rather, this supposed advancement in Supreme Court ethics creates a system of permission by omission. It does nothing to prevent billionaires from serving as patrons to Supreme Court justices, nor to prevent justices from maintaining close, personal ties to people and entities with business regularly before the court. By not strictly

prohibiting these activities, the Supreme Court is giving the veneer of acceptability. Under this new purported code:

- Justice Thomas and Justice Alito could still be hosted on annual luxury vacations by billionaires such as Harlan Crow or Paul Singer.

- Justice Thomas and Justice Alito would not have to recuse themselves from matters before the court in which their billionaire patrons could receive millions in financial benefits, such as in *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Association of America*.

- Justice Thomas would not be required to recuse himself from matters involving right-wing judicial activist Leonard Leo, who

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Access remains the most serious barrier to cardiac rehabilitation

PHILADELPHIA (Newsweek) — Noted experts in cardiovascular rehabilitation attending the Third Jim Pattison-Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute Cardiac Rehabilitation Symposium (Banff, April 21-23, 2023) observed that although cardiac rehabilitation benefits diverse groups of patients and affords the most cost-effective prevention for recurrent events, it is grossly underutilized globally. They concluded that access is the hardest obstacle for patients to overcome. Contributions from the symposium are included in the new supplement to the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, published today by Elsevier.

Guest Editor Paolo Raggi, MD, PhD, FACC, FAHA, FACP, FASN, FSCCT, Professor of Medicine/Cardiology, University of Alberta, explained: "During the symposium it became amply clear that despite the well-known benefits of rehabilitation, we still face several obstacles for a more universal uptake of it, and physicians often hesitate or delay offering this therapeutic and preventive solution to patients in need. Symposia such as this one organized by the Mazankowski Heart Institute and the University Hospital Foundation are designed to increase our



Robina Weermeijer / Unsplash

awareness of the extraordinary benefits of rehabilitation that extend well beyond increasing physical activity."

Participants stressed that providing social support, especially in poorer countries, is essential for reducing barriers to accessing cardiac rehabilitation. They proposed that home-based rehabilitation may reach individuals who may not otherwise be able to avail themselves of these services.

Other key topics explored during the symposium included:

- The many barriers that women encounter to participate in cardiac rehabilitation sessions (some universal, others cultural). Recommendations on how to mitigate these obstacles were presented, particularly for unemployed women.

- The benefits of exercise for patients with dialysis-dependent kidney failure, in part to maintain cardiovascular health. Des-

pite over 30 years of research in people with chronic kidney disease on the benefit of exercise, rehabilitation programs are rare in kidney care and are not incorporated into routine management at any stage.

- The emerging field of cardio-oncology rehabilitation in cancer patients. A successful cardio-oncology team requires the strict collaboration of cardiology and oncology specialists as well as clinical pharmacologists and nurses.

- The possible benefits of time-restricted eating. This nutrition strategy could result in improved glucose and blood pressure control and provision of efficient fuel (ketones) for a failing heart.

- Sarcopenia, or loss of muscle mass and strength, with or without obesity and nonalcoholic fatty disease in patients living with HIV. These conditions predispose to developing cardiovascular disease and may prevent patients from par-

ticipating in cardiac rehabilitation.

- The benefits of lifelong exercise prior to a heart transplant. Highly trained athletes demonstrate better and faster recovery of function following a heart transplant. This suggests that a lifelong exposure to exercise may aid at the time of development of heart failure in delaying symptoms and improving the overall outcome.

- The role of telemedicine in facilitating home-based interventions for adolescents with congenital heart disease.

In addition, two highlighted contributions focused on:

Among the topics discussed was heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), which occurs when the muscle in the left ventricle stiffens and does not relax properly. This results in increased pressure in the lungs. A group of investigators explored the relationship between physical activity, cardiac remodeling, and cardiorespiratory fitness across the exercise spectrum, from elite athletes to sedentary individuals, emphasizing the critical role of cardiac size in determining exercise capacity. They found that exercise rehabilitation improves outcomes for patients with reduced and pre-

served ejection fraction.

Senior author Andre La Gerche, MBBS, PhD, FRACP, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, and The University of Melbourne, said, "In contrast to the large compliant left ventricle of the endurance athlete, an individual with a lifetime of physical inactivity is likely to have a small, stiff heart with reduced cardiac reserve. We propose that this may contribute to the development of HFpEF in certain individuals and is key to understanding the link between low cardiorespiratory fitness and increased risk of heart failure."

Another featured presentation focused on secondary prevention strategies for patients with spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD), a serious, noniatrogenic and nontraumatic cardiac event that predominantly affects women and has a high risk of recurrence. The authors' research concludes that cardiac rehabilitation, as a part of a secondary prevention program, may decrease recurrent events and improve quality of life.

Senior author Collen Norris, PhD, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, explained: "The psychosocial burden among SCAD survivors is

high, and rates of anxiety and depression are higher than what is seen in other cardiac patient populations. Therefore, tailored secondary prevention strategies including medical therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, and psychosocial intervention have the potential to decrease recurrent events."

Looking towards the future, Dr. Raggi elaborated, "The burden for society could be lessened by health promotion programs in early childhood that address all aspects of cardiovascular and oncological care such as dietary habits, physical activity, body weight, smoking avoidance, and blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol control. However, we face the usual conundrum: with limited resources where should we focus our efforts and spend our money? It has long been known that one ounce of prevention is far superior to a pound of cure. Yet we keep failing to implement such knowledge. If unable to prevent the first event, we should at least make sure to focus our best efforts and in the most economical way on the next phase of care for the patients who suffered an event: comprehensive rehabilitation efforts, since they do work!"

Growing microtumors in a dish helps identify genes that drive growth

By Emily Stone

(Newsweek) — Researchers have identified a new way to screen genes that cause several different types of cancers to grow, identifying particularly promising targets for precision oncology in oral and esophageal squamous cancers.

The study, published in this month's issue of Cell Reports, used 3-dimensional models of organ tissues

called organoids to identify and test potential gene targets from The Cancer Genome Atlas.

"There's a tremendous amount of data in The Cancer Genome Atlas, and the field has developed life-prolonging and lifesaving precision medicines. But only a minority of these data tell us how cancers grow and whether it's a drug target," explained lead author Dr. Ameen Salahudeen, an assistant professor

of medicine and biochemistry at the University of Illinois Chicago, and formerly a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Calvin Kuo at Stanford University when the research was initiated. "We needed a scalable, functional method to make heads or tails of the data in terms of what's driving cancer growth and whether it can be targeted."

In order to pinpoint the genes that cause tumors to grow, the researchers decid-

ed to focus on areas of the genome that displayed two things: regions possessing abnormally high copies of the same gene, something common to many types of cancer, and regions with high levels of RNA expression, which would indicate that those genes are involved in tumor growth. To do this, they used a novel algorithm developed at Stanford by Dr. Jose Seoane, who was at the time in the laboratory of Christina

Curtis.

The team identified promising regions within the genome for six different cancers: esophageal, oral cavity, colon, stomach, pancreatic and lung. Next, they built tumor organoids — small tumor tissues in a dish — for each of the six organs and tested their candidate genes on the organoids to see which were associated with growing tumors.

Using organoids for this

step is an improvement over previous standard methods, Salahudeen explained. The immortalized cell lines typically used in cellular cancer research often have many additional mutations occurring after years of being grown in the laboratory "that really confound things," he said. And testing this many potential genes in mice would be unscalable and take years.

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Flurry of lawsuits under adult survivors act roils entertainment and political circles

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The clock struck midnight on the New York Adult Survivors of Sexual Assault statute, a law that opened a one year window for accusers to file a lawsuit against their alleged abusers. And when it was all said and done, more than 2,600 claims were filed, including some last-minute cases against Hollywood and music's biggest names.

The state law, which opened on Thanksgiving 2022 and closed at midnight on Friday 2023, has allowed accusers from decades-old encounters to seek financial damages from those they said manipulated them, took advantage of their authority, raped, and otherwise sexually abused them.

Some of the earlier high-profile names were the twice-impeached and four-



The state law, which opened on Thanksgiving 2022, and closed at midnight on Thanksgiving this year, has allowed accusers from decades-old encounters to seek financial damages from those they said manipulated them, took advantage of their authority, raped, and otherwise sexually abused them. (Photo via NNPA)

times criminally indicted former President Donald Trump, whom the writer E. Jean Carroll successfully sued in court this year. A jury found that Trump sexually assaulted Carroll in the 1990s and awarded her \$5 million in damages.

A week before the mid-

night holiday deadline, the R&B singer Cassie Ventura sued Sean "Diddy" Combs for years of sexual abuse and a myriad of other damning accusations, and the two quickly reached a settlement in which one report claimed it netted Ventura \$100 million. Before the deadline,

Diddy was hit with another sexual assault lawsuit, as was Harve Pierre, the former president of Diddy's Bad Boy Records, who is accused of preying on the Jane Doe plaintiff "on multiple occasions in New York City and other locations throughout the country," ac-

cording to a complaint filed in the New York County Supreme Court.

Actors Jamie Foxx and Cuba Gooding Jr. were among those to have allegations leveled against them. Entertainers such as Russell Brand, Marilyn Manson, and Harvey Weinstein were also hit with claims. Comedian Bill Cosby again faced allegations of sexual assault, while Guns N' Roses front man Axl Rose was accused of a vicious assault in 1989. Photographer Terry Richardson and famed music producer L.A. Reid were also served with legal documents from accusations dating back to 2004.

Record mogul Jimmy Iovine, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York State Sen. Kevin Parker, and New York City Mayor Eric Adams were among the many others accused by women of assaulting them in lawsuits filed this week

under the Adult Survivors Act, signed into law by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul in May 2022.

The Adult Survivors Act has evolved from the Child Victims Act, enacted in 2019, which gave individuals abused as minors a "lookback window" to file claims. Hochul noted that the Child Victims Act had overlooked many individuals, prompting the introduction of the Adult Survivors Act. The sheer volume and variety of allegations underscored the seismic impact of the legislation and its role in giving a voice to survivors who claim to have long felt unheard.

Still, most of those accused issued public statements denying the allegations. "Diddy, LA Reid, Steven Tyler, and now they circle back to this," Cosby spokesperson Andrew Wyatt said. "When is it going to stop?"

Effort to rescue controversial surveillance program sparks concerns

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Bipartisan efforts are reportedly underway among US congressional leaders to salvage the controversial Section 702 surveillance program, with a last-minute provision possibly slipping into the crucial National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Private talks between Republican and Democratic leaders, leaking late last week, have raised concerns about House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer attempting to revive Section 702 without the support of their party members.

Section 702, part of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), has faced criticism for its alleged misuse by the FBI, allowing warrantless access to the communications of various groups, including

protesters, activists, donors, journalists, and even members of Congress.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is urging Congress to reconsider reauthorizing Section 702 in the NDAA. In a letter co-signed by 30 civil society groups, the ACLU opposes any attempt to include this authority in "must-pass" legislation.

According to Kia Hamadanchy, Senior Policy Counsel at the ACLU, using the NDAA to reauthorize Section 702 without full legislative scrutiny betrays the public's trust. Hamadanchy warned that the ACLU will oppose the legislation if the NDAA includes an extension allowing Section 702 to persist beyond April 2024 without fundamental reforms. "To use the NDAA to reauthorize a mass spying program that has been so flagrantly abused without going through the full legislative process and robust

debate betrays the public's trust," Hamadanchy stated. "If congressional leadership includes an extension that allows Section 702 to continue to operate beyond April 2024—and which does not include fundamental reforms—the American Civil Liberties Union will have no choice but to oppose the NDAA and score the vote. Members must reverse course before it's too late."

Elizabeth Goiten, Senior Director of Liberty, and National Security at the Brennan Center for Justice added historical context. After 9/11, the government sought to evade FISA's constraints by claiming inherent executive authority. Goiten stressed the importance of addressing gaps in FISA's exclusivity provision, preventing the government from obtaining sensitive data without legal restrictions and bypassing oversight.

"There is ample reason for concern that the government is exploiting these gaps to collect some of the most sensitive data Americans generate with-

out adhering to FISA's requirements, including by purchasing it from data brokers," Goiten asserted. "Congress should fill the holes in FISA's exclusivity

provision and bar the government from buying its way around FISA and other legal restrictions on governmental access to Americans' data."

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A robust arts curriculum is essential to ensure all students succeed

By Pedro Noguera and
Louis Freedberg
Ethnic Media Services

Too often, the things that get kids most excited about learning have been stripped out of the school curriculum. No wonder when asked: “how was school,” so many students respond, “boring.”

It shouldn't be that way and wouldn't be if arts and music education were more widely available. However, over the past few decades, the curriculum in many schools has been narrowed to focus on core academic subjects – principally math and English language arts, the subjects that are assessed on state exams.

How did we let this happen when it was once commonplace for every kindergarten teacher to have a piano in the classroom, that (more often than not) was played to get kids engaged?

According to the Ameri-



Aaron Burden/Unsplash

can Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), the narrowing of the curriculum has produced a “state of crisis” in arts education. The AAAS established a Commission for the Arts co-chaired by John Lithgow, the renowned actor. It issued a report entitled Arts for Life's Sake, to alert the public to the growing absence of arts of education. Sadly, the commission found that the pandemic has “intensified the crisis exponentially.”

Now, as schools bounce back from the pandemic,

research shows that access to arts education could help combat the rise in chronic absenteeism over the past year or two. As John Lithgow told us for our just launched Sparking Equity podcast, arts education “makes students more eager to go to school, it just makes them more educable.”

Distressingly, students of color – and notably Black and Latino students – have been most affected by the evisceration of arts and music education as an integral part of the school curricu-

lum. Schools serving large numbers of these students often have fewer resources, and are more likely to be under pressure to improve test scores in math and literacy. As a result, they are even more likely to eliminate parts of the curriculum that are viewed as an add-on or as a superfluous extra, like the arts. In many cases, they don't even have arts teachers, and may provide no arts education at all.

The decline has occurred over many years, but many observers attribute much of it to the No Child Left Behind law of 2001. The law required that schools assess students in 3rd – 8th grades in math and literacy, and at least once in high school.

Unfortunately, what isn't tested usually isn't taught.

Concerns about improving performance in math and literacy are understandable. But cutting the arts may actually have the opposite effect. Research-

ers at Rice University, for example, found through a large-scale, randomized controlled study that increasing exposure to arts in school has “remarkable impacts on students' academic, social and emotional outcomes.”

Backing that up is a recent study by the USC Brain and Creativity Institute which found that “children who learn a musical instrument have enhanced cognitive function ... improved creativity and confidence, better mental health and emotional stability.”

The Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, which replaced the No Child Left Behind law in 2015, for the first time lists music as a separate stand-alone subject that schools are expected to provide as part of a “well rounded education.” That means that schools can now use Title 1 and other federal funds for both music and arts education, in

addition to whatever state-specific support is available.

California leads the way in this regard, with voter approval last November of Proposition 28, which will pour an additional \$1 billion into arts education in the state – with schools serving low-income students getting a bigger share.

In addition to funding, however, what's needed is a broader view on what the school curriculum should consist of. Arts education is not just fun, although it should be that as well. It yields enormous educational dividends and can help advance equitable outcomes as well.

Pedro Noguera is the Dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, and host of the “Sparking Equity” podcast. Louis Freedberg is director of the Advancing Education Success Initiative, and former executive director of EdSource.

California Students to Receive Media Literacy Classes Under New Law

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

California has enacted a law mandating the inclusion of media literacy education in the K-12 curriculum, which state officials called a proactive approach to address the growing challenge of misinformation. The legislation, known as Bill No. 873, received approval from Gov. Gavin Newsom in October and is set to take effect in January 2024.

The bill, which Assemblymember Marc Berman, a Democrat representing San Mateo County in Northern California, spearheaded, emphasizes the urgent need for students to distinguish between fact and fiction, particularly in the digital age where misinformation has become more pervasive.

Bill No. 873 will integrate media literacy content



Bill No. 873 will integrate media literacy content into the existing mathematics, science, and history-social science curriculum frameworks. (Photo via NNPA)

into the existing mathematics, science, and history-social science curriculum frameworks. According to Berman, the objective is to empower students to navigate the complex online information landscape, fostering a generation equipped to evaluate and counteract misinformation critically.

In a statement posted

on his official website, Berman emphasized the significance of incorporating media literacy into the educational framework. “Teaching media literacy is a key strategy to support our children, their families, and our society that are inundated with misinformation and disinformation on social media networks and digital platforms,” Berman

stated.

The escalating levels of distrust in the media and the tangible consequences of online misinformation underscore the urgency of such education, the assemblyman stated. He pointed to the real-world impacts that have transpired due to the unchecked spread of misinformation, citing examples ranging from cli-

mate denial to vaccine conspiracy theories and even the January 6 attack on the United States Capitol.

According to the National Association for Media Literacy, media literacy builds upon traditional literacy and offers new forms of reading and writing. Media literacy empowers people to be critical thinkers and makers, effective communicators, and active citizens.

“Our children live in a world of powerful 24/7 media. In addition to children's exposure to traditional forms of media and advertisements like television, print (magazines, books), and billboards, new media has exploded in recent years.

Over the last decade, there has been a drastic increase in the amount of time children and youth are engaging with media, particularly digital media,”

officials at Media Literacy Now wrote on their website.

“Children ages 2 to 8 spend an average of two hours per day, children between 8 and 12 spend four to six hours, and adolescents over 12 years old spend an average of seven to nine hours per day, according to recent research.”

Officials at the advocacy group, Media Literacy Now, noted that media is everywhere, and technology is a part of life.

However, they stressed that, with children spending such large amounts of time online and in front of screens, they are exposed to messages and information that can hurt their health and well-being and prevent them from becoming empowered and engaged citizens. “The negative impact that media can have on our children is profound,” officials stated.

Full Gospel Holy Temple Church continues legacy of service with drive-thru grocery giveaways

One day event in Dallas and Garland offers free groceries, open to all North Texas residents and counties

In its fourth decade of providing food for the community, the Full Gospel Holy Temple Helping Hand Outreach announces the date of Dr. Shirley Murray's Helping Hand Drive-Thru Free Grocery Giveaway event on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. at the Full Gospel Holy Temple Church located at 39727 West LBJ Freeway in Dallas and at 1 p.m. on the site of Garland Full Gospel Holy Temple Church located at 308 E. Kingsley Road.

Both distribution events will be contactless, with volunteers placing all items in vehicles. No registration

or proof of residency is required. Grocery baskets are available for up to 1,300 families, and the giveaway is open to all individuals and families.

The Helping Hand Outreach was founded by the late Dallas religious icon and humanitarian Dr. Shirley Murray in 1981 as one of the first citywide community-giving organizations in the metroplex to provide food and clothing for those who were homeless, underprivileged, or simply in need. This organization has provided food to thousands of families annually for over four decades.

"As a faith-based organization, this is an opportunity to meet the natural needs of our community and show Christ's love as we continue the more than 40-year legacy of community giving through the Helping Hands Outreach," organizers said in a statement.

"The Helping Hand is a noted community organization of the Full Gospel Holy Temple church founded in 1981 by the late Dallas Humanitarian and Religious Icon Dr. Shirley Murray, who distributed food, clothing, and toys to thousands in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex for nearly four

decades.

"This community outreach effort continues under current general overseer Apostle Herman Murray and his wife, First Lady Daniele Murray, who worked alongside founder Dr. Murray until her passing in 2020."

During this event, the organization generally serves over 1,200 families from several North Texas cities and counties. If an organization is interested in partnering or supporting this community outreach effort, they should contact 972-572-3448 or visit www.fght.org for more information.



FEEDING OVER 1,300 FAMILIES IN THE DALLAS/ GARLAND COMMUNITY

9:00 AM

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DALLAS, TEXAS 75237

1:00 PM

FULL GOSPEL HOLY TEMPLE - GARLAND
308 EAST KINGSLEY RD
GARLAND, TEXAS 75041

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GOP tries to redirect blame and re-write history for the Jan. 6 insurrection

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

MAGA Republican lawmakers are actively working to reshape the narrative surrounding the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Their primary objective is to absolve the twice-impeached former President Donald Trump of any blame for the attack, with a focus on redirecting scrutiny towards the House Select Committee that investigated the incident.

Prominent figures within the far-right faction of the GOP are now advocating for the establishment of a new select committee. Under the leadership of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), the lawmakers request an investigation focusing on the original commission members to clear the Republican Party's "MAGA" wing of responsibility for the 2021 Capitol assault.

In a recent post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Greene outlined her vision for the proposed committee. She urged Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) to create a Jan. 6 Select Committee to issue



Prominent figures within the far-right faction of the GOP are now advocating for the establishment of a new select committee.
(Photo via NNPA)

subpoenas to the original commission members, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and the witnesses who testified during the initial investigation.

"I'm calling on @SpeakerJohnson to create a Jan. 6 Select Committee. Releasing the tapes is not enough! There needs to be investigations and ACCOUNTABILITY for ALL of the lies, deceit, and lives ruined," Greene asserted in her post.

Johnson recently announced the release of thousands of hours of security footage from Jan. 6, 2021, when pro-Trump rioters attempted to disrupt the certification of President Biden's election. The

mob rushed the Capitol after a Trump rally, some with a noose in hand, and publicly called for the hanging of Trump's Vice President Mike Pence and Pelosi. Five law enforcement officers eventually died because of the insurrection.

Despite concerns raised by Democrats and left-leaning groups about the potential security threats posed by publicizing the footage, Johnson claimed releasing the video would help with transparency.

"This decision will provide millions of Americans, criminal defendants, public interest organizations, and the media an ability to see for themselves what hap-

pened that day rather than having to rely upon the interpretation of a small group of government officials," Johnson stated.

The House panel that previously probed the Capitol attack presented substantial evidence linking the now four-times-indicted

Trump to the incident. Following the panel's unanimous vote recommending the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate Trump for various charges, more than 1,100 individuals have been charged in connection with the insurrection. Trump now faces 91 felony

charges, many of which are related to the insurrection.

In her post, Greene expressed the new committee's goal of making similar criminal referrals. She asserted that, under a hypothetical second term

See GOP, Page 12



Rainbow PUSH Global Automotive Summit 2023 scores high marks for the automotive industry

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer
and Steven N. Larkin

In Detroit in 1998, Rainbow PUSH launched its Automotive Project. The purpose today remains the same as over two decades ago: to work with automotive manufacturing companies to ensure African Americans and other people of color have access to opportunities at every level of the industry.

It needs to be recognized that even while this year's conference was taking place, the founder of the summit, freedom fighter, Rev. Jessie Louis Jackson, was in the hospital in Chicago. Nevertheless, the global automotive industry showed up in full force! It speaks volumes when you have prayers in the bank and your vision continues! It speaks volumes when they continue to help Black Americans working in the automotive industry!

The automotive sector returned to Detroit Nov. 14-15 for the Rainbow PUSH 24th Annual Summit. This year's theme, "Affirming Diversity in the EV Sector," focused on the inclusive landscape of African American and minority involvement in the EV sector. The concept is critical to the future sustainability of the industry. Over 300 auto executives, entrepreneurs, suppliers, dealers, manufacturers, consumers, and government officials attended.

The bottom-line of the summit, according to Rev. Jessie Lous Jackson, is to level the playing field for Black people working with and in the automotive industry. This year's summit focused on the automotive industry building on the future and the impact of electric vehicles (EV) on society.

One of the most significant highlights of the sum-



mit was the release of the Rainbow PUSH Diversity Scorecard, which sums up scores for employment, advertising, marketing, procurement, philanthropy, and African American dealership ownership. The Scorecard also gives Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) an opportunity to self-evaluate relative to diversity. The impact of the Scorecard raises the bar for the industry.

Rev. Jackson in his unique way put the question to industry executives years ago. If the automotive industry takes for granted how you do business with Black America, then all Black America needs to be aware of it. One can only think back to the days of Rosa Parks. If we can't ride in the front or can't be treated fairly, then we may need to stop spending our hard-earned dollars. If we can't work where we shop or be included, it may be time to stop.

Drastic improvements have been made since the rating began in 2012. Toyota, Stellantis, GM and Nissan scored green in almost every category this year. Further, not a single com-

pany has scored red for the past two years.

The industry has taken notice and has become vested in the Diversity Scorecard project. Companies have bought into the aspect of accountability, which helps them see how they are doing and find holes in their efforts. The scorecard tells this story, and it is working to strengthen equity across the board.

"Honda's relationship with RPC began in 1996, when Rev. Jesse Jackson called for a boycott of Japanese automakers to promote diversity in employment and dealerships," said Yvette Hunsicker, Honda's Vice President and Division Lead of Corporate Social Responsibility and Inclusion & Diversity in America and winner of the RPC's Emerging Leader Award.

"That was a call to action for us, and we agreed to take concrete steps toward advancing our commitment to diversity." Honda has continued to uphold that agreement for the past 25 years, she said, and our commitment has only strengthened.



Steven N. Larkin, National Advertising Consultant and Corporate Partnerships, NNPA, Brandon Ramirez, Corporate Social Responsibility and External Relations, Hyundai Motor America, Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III, Chairman Rainbow Push Coalition and John Graves, Chairman Rainbow Push Automotive Project. (Courtesy photo)

"For me, being honored as an Emerging Leader was a great acknowledgement of the growth that we've seen since then, and it speaks to the future we will have when we continue to raise diverse experiences in the automotive industry," she said.

As many you may be aware, Rev. Haynes has recently taken the reins as Chairman of the Rainbow Push Coalition. He along with Chairman John Graves of the Rainbow Push Automotive Project, have not only continued Rev. Jackson's vision of leveling the playing field in the industry but are successfully engaging corporate executives to work even more with Black America. We applaud their determination and work.

It should not be overlooked that the automotive industry is listening and working diligently to improve its place in Black America.

During the press conference to release the results of the Diversity Scorecard, Rev. Haynes quoted Dr. Martin Luther King. To paraphrase, "We must be headlights, not taillights in the automotive industry. Each auto company must serve as headlights, leading the industry from the front, in doing so, they will be-

come the guiding light for economic parity."

John Graves went on to share, "Rainbow PUSH and the automotive industry have worked collectively to achieve advances in diversity, equity and inclusion. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office was non-existent when we began our journey, but currently all auto companies have heads of diversity, equity and inclusion. Rev. Jesse Jackson challenged the auto industry to submit confidential surveys that were utilized to create a Diversity Scorecard, as a result, companies have implemented intentional programs."

CEOs from Ford, Jim Farley, General Motors, Mary Barra, and Toyota, Ted Ogawa, were at the forefront of leading automakers to improve their relationship with the Global Automotive Summit.

The two-day conference was a very busy nonstop event, which included many panel discussions. Chief Diversity Officers Erica Boulden, Mercedes-Benz USA, Kelechi Ikemefuna, Volkswagen of America and Chandra Vasser, Nissan Americas were on point. They led a lively discussion interacting with the attendees regarding ways

their companies are listening and working to improve employment for minorities along with other options people can learn about.

Chief Diversity Officers continued a healthy discussion the following day with Ernest Adams of Ford, Lottie Holland of Stellantis and Yvette Hunsicker of Honda. They continued to listen and share new ways that African American Suppliers can be a part of the workforce.

The marketing and advertising panel was indeed very interesting. It consisted of Kim Adams House, Head of Multicultural Marketing and Advertising for Stellantis NA, Meliza Humphrey, Senior Manager Accura Marketing, and Tarshena Armstrong, Director of Diversity Marketing and Development for GM. They discussed the importance and impact of the electric vehicle (EV) with the opportunities it will have on Black Suppliers. They went on to detail the various ways that Black entrepreneurs need to connect with their respective companies and the requirements needed to do business.

Each year, The Rainbow Push Global Automotive

See SUMMIT, Page 11

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce gears up for the 17th annual Sneaker Ball, names Rep. Bowers as keynote

On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce will present its 2023 year-end Sneaker Ball celebration at the Plano Event Center. Merging the elegance of a gala with the relaxed flair of sneakers, this event promises an evening where empowerment meets top-tier entertainment.

The distinguished Texas House of Representatives, Rep. Rhett Andrews Bowers, will be the guest speaker of the evening. Rep. Bowers, who made history as the first Afro-Latina



elected to the Texas House representing House District 113, will share her insights and journey. An alumna of

Spelman College and Texas Southern University, Bowers has worked in public television, championed

education, co-founded the Dallas Women's March, and passed significant legislation such as the Texas CROWN Act.

A recipient of numerous awards, including the President Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023, her impact and dedication to the community are undeniable.

As the sun sets, attendees will be serenaded by the rhythms and tunes of Vibe the Band. Known for their electrifying performance, the band promises an eve-

ning to remember.

This year's theme, "Stride into Success: Educate. Empower. Expand.," encapsulates the essence of education as a catalyst for empowerment and business expansion. Reflecting the continuous forward momentum of the community, the event will feature educational panels, interactive experiences and presentations that will offer invaluable insights.

Highlights of the evening include awarding youth scholarships, honoring lo-

cal trailblazers, the formal dedication of 2024 Executive Committee Officers and Board Directors, showcasing local vendors and opportunities to win exclusive prizes.

Tickets can be purchased through the Chamber's website under the events section (www.ccblackchamber.org).

For further information or inquiries, visit the website or reach out to the Events Committee at events@ccblackchamber.org.

Miss Black America Pageant returns to Atlantic City for 55th year

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Miss Black America Pageant is coming back to Atlantic City to celebrate its 55th anniversary. It will be held on the Boardwalk on Saturday, December 16th. The return to the city where the "Historic Protest Pageant of 1968" took

place has generated considerable anticipation among many. As announced, a captivating parade and a series of exciting festivities are guaranteed as the prelude to the grand main event at the renowned Showboat Atlantic Hotel.

J. Morris Anderson, an individual who performed at the forefront of his time, established the Miss Black

America Pageant, and made a lasting impact as the founder of the "American Institute of Positivity." "The Seeds of Positivity," the term "Positivity," and the "Success Seekers Seminars" hosted by the institute are all works Anderson authored. His influence transcends the pageant, as does his vision, which surpasses the conventional.

CHENEY, from Page 2

with Trump. According to the book, McCarthy spilled, "He knows it's over... He needs to go through all the stages of grief." Cheney dryly muses that, in Trump's world, those stages appear to involve "tweeting in all caps."

When McCarthy declared on Fox News that "President Trump won this election," Cheney notes, "McCarthy knew that what he was saying was not true." The book further uncovers how other Republicans, like House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan, brushed aside legal processes in a GOP conference call, with Jordan underscoring, "The only thing that matters is winning."

Cheney also took shots at Johnson, narrating how he pressed Republicans to

back an amicus brief challenging the election result. Despite highlighting flaws in the legal arguments, Johnson reportedly insisted, "We just need to do this one last thing for Trump."

Before Trump's followers stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, Cheney described a scene in the GOP cloakroom where members signed electoral vote objection sheets, acknowledging that most were aware it was a "farce" and merely a symbolic gesture of allegiance to Trump. Republican Congressman Mark Green reportedly quipped, "The things we do for the Orange Jesus."

Cheney accuses McCarthy of repeated falsehoods and a "craven" embrace of Trump, detailing his post-Jan. 6 visit to Mar-a-Lago.

McCarthy claimed Trump's staff summoned him, citing concerns about Trump's well-being. Cheney incredulously responded, "You went to Mar-a-Lago because Trump's not eating?" Cheney revealed her unintentional inclusion in a White House surrogate call on Jan. 4, where Trump allies mapped out plans to overturn the election through Pence. She left with a "terrible feeling," unsure if Pence would withstand the pressure, disclosing that Paul Ryan also harbored doubts.

Despite warnings from her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, about her safety on Jan. 6, Cheney remained unwavering. She voted for impeachment on Jan. 13, receiving private support from former President George W. Bush, who hailed her courage.

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NDG Book Review: 'The Black Angels' chronicles history and heroism

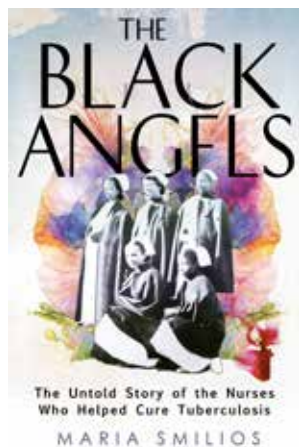
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

No disrespect meant.

You won't tolerate it any way, so that's a good thing. As a human being, someone who walks and talks, forms ideas and creates concepts, you absolutely, righteously demand that others give you the respect you want. The respect you deserve. Even if, as in "The Black Angels" by Maria Smilios, getting it takes decades.

Edna Sutton hated her job sorting papers in a downtown office.

True, it didn't require housekeeping or service, as did most jobs for Black women then, and she appreciated that. She wasn't



interested in being someone's maid; instead, science "set her mind alight," and Edna dreamed of becoming a nurse. She would only be allowed to work in a Black hospital, though; and there weren't many of those in Savannah, Georgia.

But there were up north and in the summer of 1929, when she was told of a hospital in New York that was "recruiting" Black nurses, Edna applied for a position. She'd be caring for tuberculosis patients, and the job promised to further her education.

In early 1930, she became a part of the Great Migration when she boarded a train to Harlem.

For decades, Edna Sutton and her fellow Black nurses did the work that white nurses would not do, tending to the poorest of the poor who often came from overcrowded tenements to Sea View on Staten Island.

Sanity was a wish for those nurses: hand-washing was stressed, but masking was not. Sometimes, masking was frowned-upon.

Some were reminded the hard way that tuberculosis was airborne and highly contagious.

And yet, despite long hours and putting themselves in constant danger, raises and promotions were out of reach for the Black nurses, mostly due to Jim Crow laws. They struck, to no avail; the NAACP urged New York City's mayor to change the law, but he dragged his feet.

To gain respect and recognition, the nurses would

need "something huge... something like a war." With their help, a cure for tuberculosis would take even longer...

Imagine a disease that you can catch from a cough or sneeze, one that steals your ability to breathe and puts you in the hospital, gasping for air and grasping at life. The story of that disease is a big part of a hidden history, and not just déjà vu.

Knowing what we know about pandemics, in fact, makes "The Black Angels" feel closer to home, and it makes the personal and medical sacrifices of Edna Sutton, Missouri Mead-

ows-Walker, and Virginia Allen feel larger. Read, and recent events bring a sense of dread to the tale. Read, and you'll know the frustration involved. Author Maria Smilios then casts a wider story net that takes readers to the periphery for further understanding, to two world wars, to Harlem, medical research, and the political atmosphere of New York, 1945.

Beware: the extraneous coverage goes deep and it may distract from the larger story of Black heroism and history. Go with the dive, though, and you'll find that "The Black Angels" is a pretty respectable read.

GAINS, from Page 1

war, concerned about ending racism," she said. This is a period unlike any other in the history of this country. We're making progress! I feel very hopeful."

Senator Susan Rubio is one of those agents pushing for change. Elected to the California Legislature in 2018, Rubio is a survivor of abuse, who authored 26 bills to protect victims of domestic violence. The legislature moves slowly, said Rubio, but there are a lot of good people involved in the fight.

Domestic violence is a leading driver of female homelessness, with 57% of unhoused women reporting violence as an immediate cause, according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Rubio penned what became the HELP Act, which passed the California Legislature in 2022. The Act will reduce gender bias by embedding in homelessness plans a focus on the often overlooked survivor of domestic abuse. The leg-

islation requires that state-funded continuums of care employ a gender equity lens and establish clear goals for prevention to be measured and tracked. The Act protects those who end up on the street with their children after maximizing shelter stays, which are often limited to 45 days.

Prior to HELP, Gov. Newsom signed the Phoenix Act, which extended the statute of limitations for domestic violence felonies from three to five years. The Act allows domestic violence survivors more time to heal before seeking justice, said Rubio, who wrote the initial bill. Victims can have posttraumatic stress for up to nine years after an event, making them defenseless due to the trauma. Rubio proposed the legislation after hearing a woman who was tied up for four days without nourishment. Though she had audio/video of crime, she wasn't able to gather the evidence within the three-year time limit. Though the senator fought for a 12-year

extension, the bill was negotiated down to five.

Victims are missing the mark because they're not coming forward soon enough, explained Rubio. People need to know there's a support system to help them safely walk out of high-risk situations. For immigrants threatened with immigration status, victims of domestic violence can stay in this country and be protected under visas. Many are unaware these protections exist.

Tina Swithin has been working to get the information out there to help people navigate a rough system. After suffering financial abuse, she fought her way through the legal system on her own. Cut off from funds and forced to act as her own attorney, she typed her first documents from a shelter, successfully obtaining a restraining order. To protect her daughters, she became a fixture at the courthouse, she said, observing cases similar to her own.

When CPS labeled her husband a "moderate" risk and allowed regular visita-

tion, she fought back, and after re-evaluation, his parental rights were terminated.

After her children suffered six years of abuse under an imperfect system, Swithin became an advo-

cate for change in the family court system. She has been active, chronicling her journey and supporting bills to help victims. And for over a decade, she has built the resources and support she said she wished she had had dur-

ing her trials. She promotes awareness through her blog and through her campaign to convince states to adopt Family Court Awareness Month. For more information, visit onemomsbattle.com.

Rifelion announces first feature film 'Ramadan America'

(EINPresswire.com) -- Rifelion Media has greenlit production on Ramadan America, a first-of-its-kind short film anthology written by, directed by, and starring American Muslims. The anthology is the debut film project by the award-winning podcasting and media company.

The feature-length Ra-

madan American comprises five narrative short films written by American Muslim writers, featuring Ramadan and Eid holiday stories. Filming began in late October and takes place in New York City and Los Angeles. The film will premiere in its entirety in March 2024 to coincide with Ramadan.

Rifelion has attached five notable American Muslim directors to the anthology: Jumai Yusuf (Wildflower, Pearl Rain), Huriyyah Muhammad (Chocolate With Sprinkles, Wonders), Amy Omar (Aysegül on Tuesdays, Breaking Fast with a Coca-Cola), Kashif Pasta (Desi Standard Time Travel, Welcome to Surrey), and

Ijaaz Noohu (Start Breaking My Heart).

Asad Butt, CEO of Rifelion, and Valerie Steinberg serve as Executive Producers. Producers for the projects include Thomas Bond (Fishmonger, Bite Size Halloween), Sara Seligman (The Mindy Project, Diego), Pinar Binay, Emily McCann Lesser (Farewell

Amor, Materna) and Yuki Maekawa-Ledbetter (The Black Disquisition, Alieu the Dreamer). Shahjehan Khan, Charlie Golestani, and Mark Annotto are co-producers.

Casting is currently being conducted by MA Casting. For more information visit www.ramadanamerica.com.

BLAISE, from Page 2

come a parody for your fellow citizens of the city, who could have put it in song, as it dotted all their conversations and has embellished the discourse of the day."

Published by Page Publishing, Jean-Claude Blaise's gripping work shares the author's experiences of different emotions regarding his father's absence from the home. The work also shares the author's experience dealing with his sudden death that had such an impact on his life.

Readers who wish to experience this autobiographical work can purchase "Letters to My Father: Authentic Memoirs of Jean-Claude Blaise" at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes Store, Amazon, Google Play, or Barnes and Noble.

MISS, from Page 9

Aleta Anderson, Morris's daughter, stated that it's critical to recognize the differences between the Miss Black America Pageant and a Black Miss America pageant. "I've been working with this pageant since I was a little girl," Anderson declared. "The thing that it originally was meant is still there, and it means so much more in that it provides an opportunity for the young women to participate."

Established in 1968, the organization carved its path, boasting a syndicated television network to showcase Black women's often-overlooked beauty, talent, and intelligence in mainstream pageants. "Miss Black America was always a pageant of access," Anderson told the Black Press. "It wasn't a beauty pageant, but a story of Black beauty, and of confidence, and

self-esteem. And it continues to be a part of our learning process as we now have all these platforms of exposure."

Saundra Williams, a college student from Philadelphia, made history as the first Miss Black America. She used her platform to showcase an enchanting traditional African dance and to challenge the long-standing exclusion of Black women from the Miss America pageant. "Miss America does not represent us because there has never been a black girl in the pageant," Williams once stated. In 1970, Cheryl Browne became the first black Miss America contestant, and Vanessa Williams secured the historic title in 1983.

Over 50 distinguished women will compete for the Miss Black America

title this year, joining the ranks of past champions such as Oprah Winfrey, Toni Braxton, Bern Nadette Stanis, and Nicole Hibbert. Anderson underscored the pageant's lasting relevance as a symbol of hope for young women. The pageant was originally created to celebrate Black beauty, confidence, and self-esteem. Now it has become a platform for challenging traditional ideas of beauty and providing needed exposure.

Anderson emphasized the pageant's diversity, which transcended social, economic, and educational limitations. She described the Miss Black America Pageant as a national and global event that has shaped American history since 1968.

"We have so many young women in the pageant and just because it's the Miss Black America pageant

doesn't mean it isn't diverse," Anderson argued. "The diversity exceeds socioeconomic status, and our education because the way we are educated is different. Every woman who has participated is vested and becomes a lifelong participant and we have so many coming back to Atlantic City to pay homage."

The first-ever senior Miss Black America will be crowned, Anderson believes, marking a historic event that will give the competition a new dimension. She promised to commemorate J. Morris Anderson's de-

votion to Black women by keeping the pageant going forward as a legacy program.

"I want everyone to walk away with the feeling that anything is possible and that they have the support and a window of opportunity," Anderson stated. "It doesn't start in Atlantic City, it starts before. Getting there and showing up, being highly motivated, and having a feeling of going into this that they are now a part of something that provides an experience that elevates the rest of their lives."

SUMMIT, from Page 8

Summit honors African Americans who have done outstanding work in the auto industry. Emerging Leaders recipients: Yvette Hunsicker, Vice-President Corporate Social Responsibility, Inclusion and Diversity, American Honda Motor Co., Inc. Living Legend recipients: Jimmie Comer, founder Comer Holdings LLS, Andra Rush, The Rush Group. Automotive Pioneers: Dave Bing, founder of the Bing Group, automotive supply corporation and Atty. Elliot Hall, retired Vice President of Dealer Development, Ford Motor Corporation.

The final day summit cul-

minated with the Business and Education Luncheon. Senior Vice-Presidents Bob Young of Toyota Motor North America, Mike Lapham of Honda, and Jeffrey Morrison of GM had a candid discussion about the improvements their companies have made and are implementing in the field of supplier diversity and inclusion. It was one of the most meaningful panels of the conference, moderated by Ralf G. Moore.

Afterwards, President and CEO of Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, announced this year's scholarship awards. Dr. Haynes

joined the organization's struggle for equality and justice this summer, following Rev. Jesse Jackson's fifty-year-plus journey with the organization. Dr. Haynes honored the deserving students' hard work with a total of \$500,000 in scholarships dedicated by the automotive industry. The funds will ease the increasing costs of achieving an education and a better life.

Companies contributing to the scholarship fund are CVS, Toyota, General Motors, Nissan, Stallantis, Ford, Hyundai Motor North America American Honda, Volkswagen, Hyundai Motor America, Kia America and Subaru.



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November 1, 2023

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KIB Partners with Connectrac for Community Service Day

(PR.com)-- On Nov. 16, Keep Irving Beautiful (KIB) welcomed 22 Connectrac employee volunteers to Trinity View Park, 2221 E. State Highway 356, for a service project. They conducted a cleanup of Trinity View and the neighboring River Hills Park. The group's combined efforts accounted for a total of 66 volunteer ser-

vice hours. The group collected 182 pounds of trash and 142 pounds of recyclable material, preventing it from reaching the Elm Fork of the Trinity River, which forms the eastern border of the parks.

A brand of the Legrand industrial group, Dallas-headquartered Connectrac specializes in floor-based power and data distribution

systems. Their founder's vision of the Connectrac work culture is to be positive and energetic, be open-minded, think creatively, and care for each other and the community.

"KIB was happy to welcome Connectrac back to Irving," said KIB board member Kely Horn. "We first collaborated with them on a project at Trinity View

prior to the pandemic and have been looking forward to scheduling with Connectrac again. While we typically work with companies here in Irving, we certainly welcome groups from any location who want to help. Connectrac's offices are just a few blocks away on the Dallas side of this river, so we share a common interest in taking care of this

important waterway."

Keep Irving Beautiful is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the community about litter abatement, recycling, and beautification to help preserve the health and promote the social and economic prosperity of the city. As an award-winning affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Texas

Beautiful, Keep Irving Beautiful reaches out to all sectors of the community, including government, businesses, churches, as well as cultural, educational, neighborhood and civic organizations. For more information on volunteering with KIB or making an activity a "green event," visit CityofIrving.org/KIB or call (972) 721-2175.

Judge awards Aretha Franklin's property to her sons from handwritten will

A Michigan judge has allocated properties owned by the late legendary soul singer Aretha Franklin to her sons based on a 2014 handwritten will discovered between couch cushions. The decision came after a jury in the Detroit area affirmed the document's validity four months ago, despite its somewhat messy appearance. The rul-

ing replaces a prior 2010 handwritten will that had surfaced earlier in the estate proceedings.

The judge's ruling outlines that Kecalf Franklin will inherit a property mentioned in the 2010 will, now valued at more than its initial \$1.1 million assessment in 2018. Another of Franklin's sons, Ted White II, who favored the 2010

will, was granted ownership of a Detroit house. However, the estate sold the property for \$300,000 before the emergence of conflicting wills. A third son, Edward Franklin, was awarded a property under the disputed 2014 will.

Still, the judge noted a need for more clarity in the 2014 will regarding the recipient of a property

valued at over \$1 million. Despite the developments, disputes persist over handling Franklin's music assets, with the will suggesting income sharing among her sons.

During an upcoming January status conference, the parties will try to address unresolved matters in the ongoing saga of Franklin's estate. "This was a signifi-

cant step forward. We've narrowed the remaining issues," Charles McKelvie, an attorney for Kecalf Franklin, told the Associated Press.

The Queen of Soul, who died in 2018 at 76, sold more than 75 million records worldwide and left an indelible mark on the music industry with her powerful and soul-stirring

voice. Her iconic career spanned several decades, and she became synonymous with hits like "Respect," "Natural Woman," and "Chain of Fools." Franklin's remarkable contributions earned her numerous accolades, including 18 Grammy Awards, making her one of the most awarded female artists in Grammy history.

GOP, from Page 7

for Trump, these referrals would lead to investigations by a Trump-led DOJ.

Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) joined the chorus of calls for scrutiny into the handling of the Capitol attack by the House Jan. 6 Committee. Lee questioned committee members' "selective" approach, particularly former Reps. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and

Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), the only Republicans on the committee, after security footage was released.

"Why didn't Liz Cheney and [Adam Kinzinger] ever refer to any of these tapes?" Lee wrote on X, suggesting that the committee may have overlooked crucial evidence favoring their narrative.

New York Democratic

Rep. Joseph D. Morelle, ranking member of the House Administration Committee, condemned Johnson's decision to release tapes, calling it "unconscionable" and threatening the safety of colleagues, staff, visitors, and the nation.

"It is unconscionable that one of Speaker Johnson's first official acts as a steward of the institution is to endanger his colleagues,

staff, visitors, and our country by allowing virtually unfettered access to sensitive Capitol security footage," Morelle stated. "That he is doing so over the strenuous objections of the security professionals within the Capitol Police is outrageous. This is not transparency; this is dangerous and irresponsible."

The Congressional Integrity Project (CIP) also expressed their concerns.

Hannah Muldavin, a senior adviser at CIP and former spokesperson for the select committee, accused Johnson of prioritizing loyalty to the far right over national security.

"Speaker Johnson's release of the Jan. 6 tapes is a serious security concern and shows that his allegiance like Kevin McCarthy's before him, is to Donald Trump and the ultra-right-wing faction of

the House," Muldavin asserted. "Not only did Johnson vote against certifying the 2020 election, but he was a leader of the legal campaign to overturn it and continues to be a danger to our democracy today. The Jan. 6 Select Committee worked with U.S. Capitol Police to ensure no sensitive material was released to the public; Johnson releasing the tapes does the exact opposite."

ETHICS, from Page 3

previously ordered that tens of thousands of dollars be secretly directed to Thomas' wife, Ginni, and who has attended lavish sponsored vacations with the Thomases.

Neither Justice Thomas nor Justice Alito would be required to recuse themselves from matters involving Supreme Court litigator David Rivkin, who has accompanied Justice Alito on a luxury, billionaire-sponsored vacation, has interviewed Alito twice for The Wall Street Journal this year on court-related subjects, and represents Leo.

Other government employees are bound by significantly stronger ethics codes

The Supreme Court's new code of conduct is a free-for-all compared with the requirements binding other government employees, including judges on lower courts.

For example, Justice Thomas' vacation on Harlon Crow's megayacht, valued at more than \$500,000, and Justice Alito's private jet to a luxury Alaskan fishing resort with Paul Singer, valued at more than \$100,000, were both spon-

sored by men who stand to profit handsomely from the justices' decisions. Contrary to the justices' and Leonard Leo's claims, the framers of statutory and ethical codes regulating public officials likely never considered that so-called hospitality gifts of this magnitude would ever fall within the exception of gifts from friends.

In stark contrast, an average federal employee cannot accept any gift from any person who "[c]onducts activities regulated by the employee's agency" or who "[h]as interests that may be substantially affected by the performance

or nonperformance of the employee's official duties."

Federal employees cannot accept gifts valued at more than \$50 per year. Members of Congress and their staffs are similarly prohibited from accepting gifts from anyone who is not a family member or close personal friend.

Even so, members and congressional employees cannot accept more than \$100 in gifts annually, and they must seek approval from the House or Senate Ethics Committee to accept gifts from personal friends exceeding \$250 in value. Even the president and his family are required to pub-

licly disclose gifts exceeding a certain amount.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court is the only federal entity with no enforceable ethical code of conduct. This recent announcement of a nonbinding ethical guidelines does nothing to change that. The justices should not be allowed to play by a different set of ethical rules than the rest of the federal government—especially when public trust in the institution is at an all-time low. The court is supposed to uphold the rule of law, not flout it.

Since Chief Justice John Roberts is seemingly try-

ing to sweep the ongoing appearance of unethical improprieties by Supreme Court justices under the rug, Congress must act—and must act forcefully.

The Senate should move forward with a floor vote to create an enforceable code of conduct for the Supreme Court through the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act or any other legislative vehicle it deems appropriate. Since the justices have clearly failed to bind themselves to the most basic ethical standards, the time to defer to the institution to police itself must come to an end.

WEARY, from Page 3

to this dance of resistance and suppression. Finding my books exiled from school shelves, my voice muffled on Twitter ever since Elon Musk took over the platform, and countless companies deciding that I can't be brought in for speaking engagements, identifying me as too "divisive."

My only crime to receive these punishments is maintaining an unwavering voice against the machinations of oppression, a voice that refuses to be tamed or tempered by the expectations of those who would rather maintain their privilege. The list of those receiving similar treatment is growing quickly — especially if they have been found to be supporting Palestinians.

Actors such as Susan Sarandon and Melissa Barrera have been dropped by their agents and booted from films for openly calling for an end to the carnage in Gaza. My dear friends, authors and educators, Saira Rao and Regina Jackson, were also dropped by their talent representation for the exact same reason. And countless others have found themselves placed in a corner or stifled by their employers and universities as well.

As I said, I'm sadly used to this. Yet still, in these sorts of moments, a profound weariness takes hold.

It's a fatigue that seeps into the marrow, not just because our pleas for justice and humanity are swept away in the indifferent currents of expediency, but because each erasure is a testament to how the struggle for progress is so often perennially marginalized, pushed to the peripheries by those in power. A mere push of a button, meeting between executives, or email sent from a wealthy individual, can silence millions.

In these long hours under the weight of everything happening in the world, I've been considering this

weariness, as I know it must be cloaking us all like a heavy, unshakable fog. This tiredness, it's more than just a lack of sleep or a need for rest. It's the kind of exhaustion that comes from carrying a dream so grand and heavy that it often feels like holding the sky on your back.

It can feel like you're constantly pushing against a tide that seems all too ready to sweep you away, so much time spent fighting battles that seem to regenerate just as quickly as they are struck down. As if the boulder of progress is perpetually rolled uphill only to tumble back down under the weight of systemic oppression and entrenched prejudices.

This is part of the legacy of generations who have reached for liberation, only to have our fingers brushed, bruised, and broken by the unyielding grasp of a world that seems determined to uphold genocide, famine, police brutality, homelessness, and oppression. It is a relentless struggle, knowing with an unshakeable conviction, that you are aligned with the right side of history — yet treated as if you are the villain.

The fights we fight, the work we do, the beliefs we hold on to — they are not easy. But as I said, things are not as bleak as they often seem.

The very fact that you're reading this, is a glimmer that flickers in the dark. Despite our exhaustion, we must understand that what we are doing is working. We are, indeed, moving the needle. Slowly but surely towards an equitable world.

I know this for sure. Because if our struggles were fruitless, if our voices were merely whispers in the wind, then why would the forces that stand against us be so vehement in their efforts to push us back? If our cries for the people of Gaza weren't working, if our books combating oppression weren't teaching, and if our arms locked in pro-

test weren't opening eyes — they wouldn't be trying so hard to stop us.

You can see it in the way the ground beneath us shakes with the fear of those who have long stood unchallenged, in the way the status quo quivers at the prospect of change. The relentless efforts to silence us, to erase our narratives, to paint us as the antagonist of a story we did not write, are testaments to the power that lies within our collective voice.

It is a power birthed from resilience, of a history steeped in the relentless pursuit of what is just and true. It is the power of people who have learned to make a way out of no way, who have turned pain into possibility, and despair into a relentless drive for progress. We have been here before, in the shadow of giants who have fought similar battles, who have laid the groundwork for these moments, these movements. Our weariness is an heirloom, but so is our

strength, our ability to stand in the face of adversity and declare, with unwavering conviction, that we will not be moved.

Those in power, trying to maintain the old ways, they are afraid of us because they know we can win. We can have more. We can have better.

This truth, it is a balm to the soul, a ballad of encouragement in the midst of our storms. It says that our fight is not in vain, that each step forward, no matter how small, is a victory against those who would have us remain buried by outdated ideologies and oppressive systems. Our progress may be incremental, it may be slow, and it may be met with resistance at every turn, but it is progress nonetheless.

I know so many of us are weary from the journeys we've endured. Our legs, heavy with the weight of a path long traveled, and our eyes, reservoirs of tears, tell of a struggle deeply felt. Our hearts, flutter-

ing and uncertain, bear the scars of hurt. But we must know this: it's working. This tiredness we feel is the imprint of change, a sign that our efforts are shaping the world.

We can rest, yes. We must. For in rest, we find renewal. But we cannot stop. Our journey forward is lit by the lanterns of those who walked before us, a path of progress and perseverance.

So let your legs carry you, not just with the weight of weariness, but with the knowledge that each step is a declaration, a small yet significant defiance against a world reluctant to transform. Let your eyes continue to weep, for in every tear, there is a truth that cannot be silenced, a depth of feeling that speaks more eloquently than words ever could. And your heart, let it

feel the pain of everything that needs to be reimagined in this world. Let it break and heal and break again, for it is in this relentless cycle of hope and hurt that we find the courage to fight harder for what's right.

When the weariness feels too heavy to bear, remember, it's not just a cloak — it's a banner. A banner of your commitment, your courage, your unyielding resolve to forge a world more just, more kind, more equitable.

Just like you, I'm exhausted from these many battles. But God damn it if they aren't worth it.

Frederick Joseph is an independent writer whose debut collection of poetry, "We Alive, Beloved," is on preorder now. You can find more of his work at substack.com/@frederick-joseph.



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I Don't Eat Crow on Holidays

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I enjoy the holiday season because of the food I get to eat. From Halloween to New Year's Day, the focus is food. Some of the best food of the whole year is during this time.

In true confession, throughout the rest of the year, I eat Crow almost every day. It is a diet developed by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It has taken some time for her to create such a diet for me, and she's done a marvelous job.

It took me quite a while to understand this diet of eating crow. But if I understand it correctly, it means admitting you're wrong and were not right about what you thought or a statement you made to others. That's quite a definition, and I'm not sure I understand it even today.

I must admit that throughout the year, I vehemently made statements that were not true. It's not how many true statements I make throughout the year but the false statements I make that matter.

How many times I've



been wrong is beyond my calculation.

Oh, if I only was 16 again when I knew everything.

Sometimes, we will be with a group of friends, and I'll be telling a story that happened recently, and then in the middle of that story, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will jump in and say, "No, it didn't happen that way." Then she will correct my story, and I'm standing there eating crow.

One of these days, I'm going to figure out a way so that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can find out what it means to eat Crow. So far, I have yet to come to any conclusion here. But I am working very hard to find something

along this line.

She was telling about our wedding one time, and I interrupted her and said, "No, my dear, the wedding was on August 14."

Looking at me with a confused look, she said, "That's what I just said. Our wedding was August 14."

"I'm sorry; I thought you said our wedding was August 14."

Do you know what a pleasure it is to see so many people confused, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage? Sometimes, it does pay to catch people off their guard, and you end up eating crow.

Sometimes, eating crow is worth the situation you find yourself in. I don't

always create chaos in my life, but I try to make the best of it when it does happen.

I'm looking for the opportunity when I catch my wife on something that will cause her to eat crow. I will not give up on this adventure.

But there is so much more to eat during the holiday season than crow. I could spend the rest of my time naming all the ingredients of our holiday meals.

During this holiday season, I don't have time to eat Crow. All of the beautiful meals that are set before us have my attention all the way through.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are a fantastic team. She loves to cook, and I love to eat. What better partnership can you have? All the crow I eat during the rest of the year is worth all the holiday meals at this time.

I must confess that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very careful how I eat Crow. She rarely lets me do it in front of people. I may be telling some story, but she doesn't correct me when people are

around.

On our way home from that gathering, she will begin the conversation by saying, "Soooo, is that really how that situation happened?"

Usually, I'm not sure what she's talking about, and I respond by saying, "What situation?"

Then begins the crow-eating marathon. I always get things wrong, and she loves correcting me, but usually when we are alone.

I would probably get my name wrong if she weren't there to correct me. It's not that I don't like her correcting me because I do. It's agitating at the time, but in the long run, eating crow does have its advantages.

If the truth were known, she has a way of preparing my crow, so I, to some degree, enjoy eating it. How she does it, I don't know; maybe I should begin taking notes.

My problem is when she is talking about a situation in front of a group of people with me there, I really don't know if it's true or not. I assume what she is saying is true.

Driving home from one

of those meetings, she was quiet for a moment and then said something to the effect, "Well, did you get all the mistakes I made in that story I told?"

She told the story and twisted it so much that nothing was true, and I never recognized it. That made me think she could get away with anything as far as I was concerned. Now, that's a different piece of crow to eat that I've never had before.

Thinking about that a verse of scripture came to mind. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Probably the hardest thing I can do is to confess my sin and ask for forgiveness. However, it is the best thing to do. Eating crow sometimes is worth it.

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 jameessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

TUMORS, from Page 4

In collaboration with Dr. David Root at the Broad Institute and Dr. Bill Hahn at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the team then screened the organoids using lentivirus libraries of these genes. The organoids revealed particularly interesting results for squamous cancers of the oral cavity and esophagus, both of which have very few known driver genes that could be targeted with drugs. Furthermore, the researchers tested a clinically available small molecule — a type of drug known as an

FGFR inhibitor — on the esophageal organoids and were able to shrink the tumor.

"That gene, FGF3, is amplified in nearly half of esophageal squamous cancers and is known to interact with FGFR," Salahudeen said. "So this could potentially benefit nearly half of esophageal cancer patients."

Salahudeen, who is a member of the University of Illinois Cancer Center, said the next step is to investigate existing clinical FGFR inhibitors in

this new indication within esophageal squamous cancer patients and to continue investigating other potentially promising genes that the study identified.

Other authors on the paper include co-lead author Kanako Yuki in the Calvin Kuo lab at Stanford. Funding for the study came from the NCI Cancer Target Discovery and Development Network to Kuo and William Hahn; the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research; "LaCaixa" Foundation; Emerson Collective; Ludwig Cancer Research and Stand Up To Cancer to Kuo.

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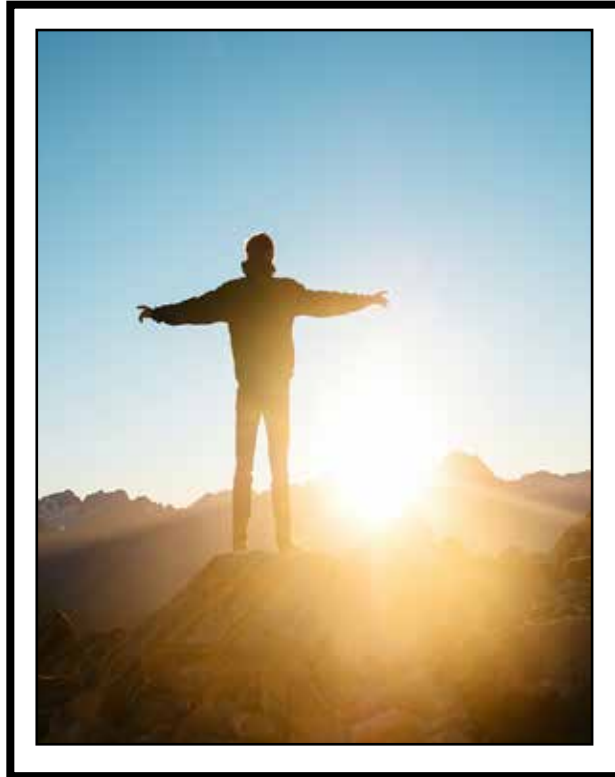
What seemed to be a homeless man walking into town and after a townsman learned the man's story he discovered that the stranger wasn't what he seemed to be.

He said, "My friend Daniel wasn't homeless; he was on a mission and lived this way by choice."

The townsman asked, "What's it like to walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and showing your sign that reads, 'I will work for food?'"

"It was humiliating at first; people stared and made comments. Someone once tossed a half-eaten bread slice and made a gesture; I didn't feel welcome."

Then it became humbling to realize that God used me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."



We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Outside Daniel said, "Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you."

For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

"Could you use another Bible?" I asked. "Yes, but

I prefer a certain translation; it travels well and it isn't too heavy; I've read through it 14 times," Daniel said.

At the church I found a Bible that would work for him; he seemed very grateful.

"Where're you headed Daniel?" "I found this map on the back of an Amusement Park coupon; I figured

that someone there needs a Bible; that's where I'm going."

The warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. Driving back to the town-square, it started raining. We unloaded his things.

"Would you sign my autograph book?" He asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet."

I wrote that Daniel's commitment to his calling had touched my life; and to stay strong.

I left him with a scripture from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a future and a hope.'"

"Thanks," he said. "We just met and we're strangers, but I love you." I said, "I love you too; the Lord is good."

"How long has it been since someone has hugged you?" "A long time," he replied. On the busy cor-

ner, in the rain, my new friend and I embraced.

He put his things on his back, flashed his winning smile and said, "I'll see you in the New Jerusalem." "I'll be there!" was my reply.

As he walked away with his sign and Bibles, he said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?" "You bet," I shouted, "God bless." That was the last I saw of him.

I left my office that evening, the cold front had settled on the town. In my car, I reached for the brakes and saw a pair of well-worn

gloves that was neatly laid. I wondered if my friend's hands would stay warm that night.

Then I remembered his words, "If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

Today his gloves lie on my desk. They help me to see people in a new way; they help me remember my unique friend; I pray for his ministry.

"See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. "Yes, Daniel, I know I will . . ."

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

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