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DOJ Inspector General exposes critical failures in federal prisons leading to inmate deaths

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

A scathing report released by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz unveiled a disturbing pattern of operational and managerial deficiencies within the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), shedding light on the alarming rate of inmate deaths. The report, covering the years FY 2014 through FY 2021, scrutinizes 344 deaths in BOP institutions and points to a multitude of issues, notably suicides, homicides, accidents, and a concerning number resulting from unknown factors.



The report, covering the years FY 2014 through FY 2021, scrutinizes 344 deaths in BOP institutions and points to a multitude of issues, notably suicides, homicides, accidents, and a concerning number resulting from unknown factors. (Phot via NNPA)

Suicide Epidemic: BOP's Alarming Shortcomings Revealed
Suicides emerged as the predominant cause of death, constitut-

ing over half of the 344 cases investigated. The DOJ Office of the
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Celebrating Black History Month

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Looking out for kids' hearing

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Irving calls \$200M bond election

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District 6 is continuing with excellence

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Juneteenth Memorial gets \$2M boost

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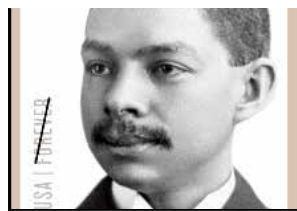
Rundown of the race in House Dist. 32

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NT Irish Fest rolls into Fair Park in March

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Sister Tarpley: Building a Firm Foundation

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Mark Your Calendars...

EARLY VOTING			
Feb. 20-23	Tue - Fri	8 AM - 5 PM	
Feb. 24	Saturday	7 AM - 7 PM	
Feb. 25	Sunday	12 PM - 6 PM	
Feb. 26	Mar. 1	Mon. Fri.	7 AM - 7 PM

ELECTION DAY	
March 5	Tuesday 7 AM - 7 PM

"Voting is the foundation stone of political action."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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People In The News ...



Rep. James Clyburn



Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr.

NDG Quote of the Week: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

— Harriet Tubman

Rep. James Clyburn

Longtime South Carolina Democratic Rep. James Clyburn has announced his resignation from his House leadership position, effective immediately, while simultaneously committing to run for reelection.

Clyburn, a staunch supporter of President Joe Biden, said he aims to focus on conveying the message of inclusivity and unity that defines the greatness of the United States.

During an interview on Sunday, Feb. 18, Clyburn, 83, expressed his continued disdain for former



President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" mantra, asserting that the country is already great but needs to ensure accessibility and affordability for all citizens. He

encouraged Biden to emphasize his experience, wisdom, and commitment to maintaining connections with the American people during the upcoming presidential campaign.

"I am fond of saying, this is a great country in no need of being made great. We just got to figure out ways to make this country's greatness accessible and affordable for all of our citizens. And Joe Biden is doing that. And we have got to stay focused on that," Clyburn stated emphatically.

Clyburn, who had previously announced his inten-

tion to seek reelection, also reiterated that he's only stepping aside as assistant Democratic leader, which marks the end of his influential tenure in House leadership.

The move comes amid years of speculation about Clyburn's retirement and the subsequent race to fill the void in the majority Black 6th Congressional District, covering substantial parts of the Interstate 95 corridor, Northeast Columbia, and North Charleston.

Expressing gratitude for the trust placed in him by colleagues throughout his career, Clyburn acknowl-

edged the changing political landscape and his role in shaping it. Last year, he played a pivotal role in moving the South Carolina Democratic presidential primary to a leading position. He collaborated with Republican Governor Henry McMaster to expand broadband access to rural South Carolina.

The departure of Clyburn from his assistant Democratic leader role represents a broader shift in leadership dynamics, completing the transition from the era of former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, to a younger generation led by

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.

"I am deeply grateful for the confidence my colleagues have placed in me throughout my career," Clyburn stated.

Clyburn entered the U.S. House in 1993, filling the seat formerly held by Democrat Robin Tallon. His journey into the political world began in the midst of the 1969 Charleston hospital strike, later assisting in the successful campaign of St. Julian Devine for a seat on the local city council. He served on the staff of Governor John C. West before running for congress.

Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr.

By Chanel Hill
Philadelphia Tribune

Civil rights leader Benjamin Chavis delivered a powerful keynote speech on Thursday at The Philadelphia Tribune Christopher J. Perry/Carter G. Woodson Black History Awards Luncheon.

The theme for his speech was American democracy and how it relates to education, community, business, and politics.

Chavis is currently the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, an organization that focuses on



supporting and advocating for publishers of the nation's more than 200 Black newspapers.

"One of the things that I learned from Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement was to not let anything or anybody break your spir-

it," Chavis said. "There is a lot going on in some of our communities that is trying to break our spirit.

"I'm glad that Pennsylvania as a state has not joined Florida as a state to ban books and change the curriculum to deny the truth not just for Black youth, but for white youth," he said. "Everybody deserves high quality education and there should be no attempt to deny equal education."

Chavis also spoke about the upcoming presidential election and charged the audience to make a difference by voting.

"There have been not only attempts to keep us

from voting, but I'm concerned about social media and the distribution of content targeting young people and having them think that voting is not important," he said. "I want us to be mindful of what's going on, but also realize how important the right to vote is."

Approximately 300 peo-

ple attended the event at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. NBC10 anchor Fred Shropshire guided the program.

Attendees were welcomed by Robert W. Bogle, president and CEO of The Philadelphia Tribune. Tiffany Thurman also spoke on behalf of Mayor

Cherelle Parker, who was unable to attend the event due to illness.

"This gathering is a stark reminder of the rich and diverse tapestry of African-American history in our beloved city," said Thurman, who is chief of

See CHAVIS, Page 13

Elijah McClain

More than four years after the tragic death of Elijah McClain, advocates led by Midian Holmes, a friend and supporter of Elijah's mother, are intensifying their efforts to ensure justice is served. The focus is now on the upcoming sentencing of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) Peter Cichuniec, 51, and Jeremy Cooper, 49, scheduled for March 1, 2024.

McClain, a young Black man, died in 2019 following a police encounter in Aurora, Colorado, which escalated into a chokehold and a severe health emergency. Cichuniec and Cooper were found guilty of



criminally negligent homicide, with Cichuniec also convicted of second-degree assault for administering a fatal overdose of ketamine, a potent sedative, during Elijah's health crisis on the scene.

Holmes, relentless in her pursuit of justice, emphasizes the gravity of the situ-

ation: "It's a pretty horrific situation where police basically stopped this young Black man, ended up in a cop chokehold, went into a health emergency, was injected with a massive dose of the sedative from EMTs, and died." Holmes and the McClain family advocate for the maximum sentence, viewing it as a crucial step toward accountability.

In an email statement, Holmes urged supporters to join the cause by writing to Judge Mark Warner, the presiding justice in the Adams County Court. A template has been provided, urging the judge to impose the maximum sentence on the convicted EMTs.

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Celebrating Black History Month



Dr. John E. Warren
Publisher,
San Diego
Voice &
Viewpoint

This year, perhaps more than ever, we need to be especially mindful of Black History.

This time of banning books from local libraries, especially those that tell of the history and struggle of Black Americans against slavery and racism, pose a threat to both our presence and our future.

It has often been said that if you don't know where you come from, you will have no idea of where you are going. Well, African Americans in particular must remember that we are here today because of

strong ancestors who did not allow the circumstances under which they lived, to stuff out their dreams of a future for themselves and their descendants.

We must remind ourselves that we are not to be defined by others; that we are not disadvantaged, or handicapped; that we are born with a right to equality and that we have always demanded equity even though others have tried to deny it to us.

We are "We The People". We must not allow the changes that have been removed from our bodies to be placed on our minds. We have the ability to remove ourselves from poverty by using the tools in our hands.

We must remember that we now possess everything that Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. spoke of when in his 1957 speech he said "give us the ballot and we will place the right people in office to in essence, further our cause.

Today, so many of us have not because we will not use that which we do have. We have freedom of movement, of thought and how we use our minds.

Yet,so many choose to squander these freedoms on how others tell us we should think and dress and what we should be with the few dollars that so many of us waste on things that are not necessary. We have freedom of worship, yet so many of us don't bother to pray until we find ourselves in crisis.

In addition to Black History, Carter G. Woodson, left us a most valuable

book, "The Miseducation of the Negro".

It's time to honor is gift of Black History with our own personal contributions to the times in which we live and those we share this life experience with.

Only when we engage in this level of thought and activity while making black history a daily experience, can we truly honor what we have been given beyond the month of February each year.

Where do you stand and what are you doing with what you have been given? Let's move beyond complaints and expectations by others to what each of us can do right where we stand. Let's get back to defending ourselves and not allowing others to do it for us.

U.S. forgives nearly \$137 billion of student loans for 3.7 million borrowers

Teachers, social workers and other public servants among those to benefit

By Charlene Crowell

Miguel Cardona.

Teachers, social workers, and other public servants are among those expected to benefit from recent Biden Administration efforts to expand eligibility for federal student loan forgiveness.

Collectively, these borrowers will be relieved of \$4.9 billion debt in return for their service to communities that earned them forgiveness under Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and Income-Driven Repayment (IDR).

"The Biden-Harris Administration has worked relentlessly to fix our country's broken student loan system and address the needless hurdles and administrative inaccuracies that, in the past, kept borrowers from getting the student debt forgiveness they deserved," said U.S. Secretary of Education

James Kvaal, U.S. Under Secretary of Education added, "The Biden-Harris Administration is not going to stop until we've helped all of those harmed by the broken student loan system."

Announced by the federal Department of Education in January, this latest expansion boosts the Biden Administration's total student loan forgiveness to \$136.6 billion for more than 3.7 million borrowers. Here's how this unprecedented loan relief was accomplished:

- \$56.7 billion for 793,400 borrowers enrolled in PSLF since October 2021. Prior to the Biden-Harris Administration's fixes to PSLF, only about 7,000 borrowers had ever received forgiveness;
- \$45.7 billion in IDR relief for 930,500 borrowers;
- \$11.7 billion for almost

513,000 borrowers with a total and permanent disability; and

• \$22.5 billion for more than 1.3 million borrowers who were cheated by their schools, saw their institutions precipitously close, or are covered by related court settlements.

In late 2023, the Federal Reserve determined that although most consumers pay \$400 or less in monthly loan payments, 19 percent of borrowers pay far more. As reported by Motley Fool, payments between \$500 and \$999 are made by 14 percent of borrowers, while payments of \$1,000 or more are paid by five percent of borrowers.

"Outstanding student loan debt exceeds outstanding auto loan debt and credit card debt," recently noted Rohit Chopra, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). "If student loan

borrowers are unable to successfully enroll in payment plans or obtain accurate information about their accounts, this can have a domino effect on the rest of their financial lives."

In December 2023, CFPB issued a new report entitled, Making Ends Meet in 2023. Two findings in this report highlight the heavy and disproportionate financial effects for borrowers of color:

"Consumers who currently have student debt were 10 percentage points more likely to have difficulty paying bills than consumers who had student debt at some point in the last 10 years but no longer do and consumers who have not had student debt for at least 10 years if ever."

"Nearly 58 percent of Black consumers and 54

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Keep up with the news

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Kids increasingly exposed to noise health risks via earbuds and headphones

(Newswise) — ANN ARBOR — While it's not surprising to spot teens wearing headphones and earbuds, it's also becoming a widespread trend among younger children, a national poll suggests.

Two in three parents say their child ages 5-12 uses personal audio devices, with half of parents of children ages 5-8 reporting elementary-aged kids use a device.

Among parents whose children use headphones and earbuds, half say kids spend at least an hour a day using them while one in six say a typical day for their child includes at least two hours of use, according to the University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health.

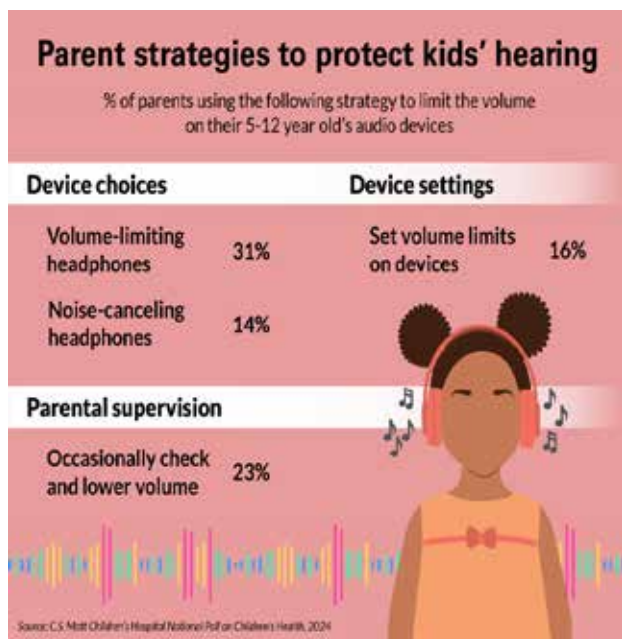
"Over recent years we've mostly been concerned about teens overusing audio devices. But earbuds have become increasingly popular and prevalent among younger kids, exposing them to more intense noise on a regular basis," said Susan Woolford, M.D., M.P.H., Mott pediatrician and co-director of the Mott poll.

"Noise exposure risks to young children have historically involved loud singular events like concerts or fireworks, but parents may underestimate the potential harm from excessive use of listening devices. It may be difficult to know whether their child's exposure to noise is healthy."

Children are most likely to use these devices at home, school and in the car, report findings show. About a fourth of parents also say children occasionally use audio devices on airplanes while less than 10% say kids use them on the bus, outside or in bed.

Half of parents agree that headphones or earbuds help keep their child entertained.

The nationally representative report is based on responses from 1,152 parents



(Graphic courtesy of University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health)

with at least one child age 5-12 surveyed in August 2023.

The American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement in 2023 on the need to reduce noise risks to children, with increasing evidence that children and teens may be more exposed through personal listening devices.

Prolonged or extreme exposure to high volumes of noise can result in long term health issues, including hearing loss or tinnitus, Woolford says.

"Young children are more vulnerable to potential harm from noise exposure because their auditory systems are still developing. Their ear canals are also smaller than adults, intensifying perceived sound levels," Woolford said.

"Tiny hair cells inside the inner ear pick up sound waves to help you hear. When these get damaged or die, hearing loss is irreversible."

Noise exposure among children can also affect their sleep, academic learning, language, stress levels and even blood pressure, she adds.

More parents of children aged 9-12 years than 5-8 years report their child uses headphones or earbuds and daily use was also more

likely to be higher among the older age group, the poll suggests.

But only half of parents share they've tried to limit their child's audio device usage, citing strategies such as asking the child to take a break, having set hours for use and using a timer.

Parents whose child uses headphones for more than two hours a day are also less likely to set time or volume limits, compared to parents who report less headphone use for their child.

Woolford offers four tips to reduce risks of noise exposure to children through headphones and earbuds:

Monitor volume levels

Parents can minimize the negative impact of audio device usage by monitoring and adjusting the child's volume and time on devices, Woolford says.

She recommends parents follow the 60/60 rule — children should be limited to no more than 60 minutes of audio devices a day at no more than 60% of the maximum volume.

The sound level on listening devices that are less than 70 dBA (relative loudness of decibels heard) are very unlikely to cause noise-related damage.

"A good way to tell if an audio device is too loud is if a child wearing headphones

can't hear you when you're an arm's length away," she said.

Parents can also limit their child's risk by setting specific hours for audio device use or using a timer to keep track.

Use noise cancelling or volume limiting headphones

Parents should consider the risk of noise exposure when purchasing audio devices for their child by checking the information on device packages to identify products that limit the volume.

But some products marketed as "kid safe," Woolford warns, do not limit the volume to 70 decibels.

However, children should avoid using noise-cancelling listening devices in situations when perception of sounds is crucial for safety.

"Noise-cancelling devices may help prevent children from increasing the volume to levels that are too high," Woolford said. "But these devices shouldn't be used when a child is engaged in activities where it's important to hear their surroundings for their safety, such as walking or bike riding."

Ensure kids take breaks from personal listening devices

Parents should help children intentionally have daily "device-free" time, Woolford says. This may involve putting away or locking the child's audio devices when time limits are up.

They may also encourage kids to enjoy things like music on a low volume in their rooms instead of using earbuds to reduce noise intensity.

Personal audio devices should also be avoided when children are sleeping or at bedtime, Woolford says.

Be mindful of early signs of hearing loss

If parents hear their child

See HEARING, Page 13



Celebrate Irish culture in the heart of Dallas

March 1-3, 2024

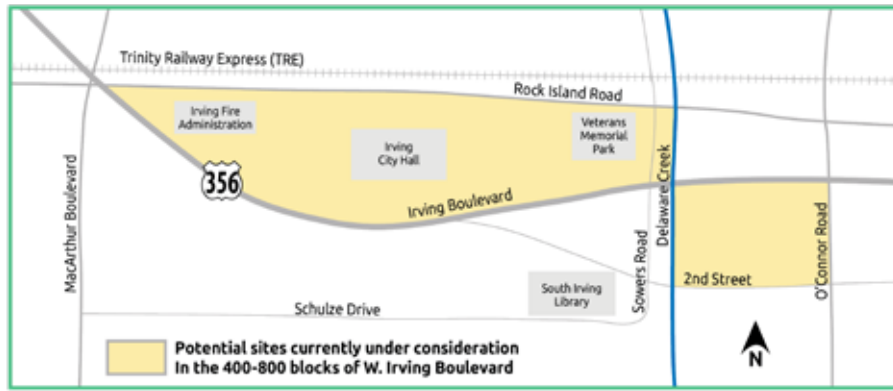
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Irving City Council calls bond election for \$200 million city hall complex

Irving City Council called the city's general municipal election for City Council Districts 4, 6 and 8, as well as a special bond election for a City Hall Complex on May 4.

In addition to the City's general election, the ballot also includes a proposition for the issuance of \$200 million in bonds for a City Hall Complex project. If approved by voters and based on current assumptions, there will be a property tax increase of about 1.81 cents, which would impact the average taxable



value of a single-family home (\$279,704) by approximately \$40.50 (with 20% Homestead Exemption) per year. If voters approve, these numbers may

change based on interest rates at the time debt is anticipated to be sold in 2024 and 2025.

If approved by voters, two potential sites, located

between the 400 block and the 800 block of W. Irving Boulevard, are being considered for the new City Hall Complex (see attached map).



More information about the City Hall Complex Bond Proposition is available at CityofIrving.org/CityHall.

A district map, candidate information and Irving Vote Center locations, dates and times are available at CityofIrving.org/Elections.

Registered voters can vote at any Vote Center location in Dallas County; Visit DallasCountyVotes.org for a complete list.

The City of Irving is home to 9 Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, over 8,500 businesses, four 18-hole championship golf courses and the DFW International Airport.

Centrally located in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Irving has a population of 256,000+ residents and is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the state and nation.

Historic White House gathering celebrates descendants of civil rights icons

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

In a Black History Month event at the White House on Tuesday, Feb. 13, Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the descendants of some of the most influential civil rights leaders from the 1950s and '60s, along with other foundational historical figures. The gathering marked the first time many of those families convened in the same room.

Prominent figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Emmett Till, Thomas Jefferson, and Sally Hemings were scheduled to attend.

Harris praised the descendants as "extraordinary American heroes" who embody the promise of the nation and the Constitution. "They've passed the baton to us," Harris remarked during her address.

Stephen K. Benjamin, the director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, outlined the administration's initiatives, including an executive order related to police accountability and President Joe Biden's signing of the law establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

The group, known as



Photo via NNPA

"The Descendants," gathered to pay homage to their familial legacies in celebration of Black History Month. One of the coordinators, Joshua Jordison, revealed that discussions to bring this diverse group together began several years ago. "It was amazing that many of them had never met," he said.

While invitations were extended to other notable families, some could not attend due to scheduling conflicts and other factors. According to Kenneth B. Morris Jr., a descendant of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, the goal of The Descendants is to lead the nation in a spirit of collaboration and community.

"This historic event marks the beginning of coalescing The Descendants' families and like-minded leaders and organizations to catalyze transformative positive societal change

amongst the most significant challenges faced by our country," Morris emphasized.

Beyond the White House reception, a series of activities were planned for the descendant families in Washington on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The itinerary included stops at the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, and a tour of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Additionally, there were dinners and opportunities for group dialogue.

Ernestine "Tina" Martin Wyatt, a great-great-grandniece of Harriet Tubman, was among those to express excitement about meeting the descendants of fellow freedom fighters. "It's an equal collaboration. We are all coming together," Morris asserted.

Nearly 100 other guests, including members of the Congressional Black Cau-

cus and administration officials, attended the event. Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), a featured speaker, commended the families for their personal sacrifices and tireless work to preserve and protect their ancestors' legacies. "At a time when our fundamental freedoms are once again under attack, we are grateful to President Biden not only for convening this event but for his commitment to furthering the progress that our foremothers and forefathers fought and died to achieve," Sewell stated.



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District 6 is continuing with excellence in 2024



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Student Athlete Success

Our student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom and on the court. The Judge Louis A. Bedford Law Academy's basketball team won Dallas ISD's middle school basketball championship, and the freshman basketball championship was won by David W. Carter High School.

Black History Month

During February, we celebrate Black History Month, and this year the focus is on African Americans and the arts. Dallas ISD will host a range of activities throughout the



Judge Louis A. Bedford Law Academy's basketball team
(Courtesy photo)

month, highlight inspiring narratives from our communities. To learn more about these events, visit dallasisd.org/blackhistory-month

Budget Meeting

Dallas ISD will host 2024-2025 budget meetings. This is the public's opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions

on the proposed budget for next school year.

The District 6 meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on March 4 at Kimball High school.

Back in the Zone

Dallas ISD's acclaimed student-hosted television shows, School Zone Dallas and Zona Escolar de Dallas, are returning after



David W. Carter High School freshman basketball team
(Courtesy photo)

nearly a decade. DeTory C. of Carter High School will represent District 6 as a student anchor. School Zone Dallas will air on NBC at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The Spanish version, Zona Escolar de Dallas, is set to air on Telemundo every Saturday in March, but will be live on Dallas ISD's Youtube channel.

African American Family Involvement Day

This month, I urge families in District 6 and all across the district to actively engage in their student's education. While the official African American Family Involvement Day took place on Feb. 15, engagement is a year-round

commitment.

I encourage everyone to visit their children's schools, observe their classroom experiences, and engage in conversations with their students about their educational aspirations. National African American Involvement Day, established in 1997, emphasizes the importance of ongoing participation by African American families in their children's academic journey.

Fam Jam

Save the date for Feb. 24. All District 6 families are invited to the upcoming Fam Jam at David W. Carter High School. This event promises free resources, fun activities for the family, exciting prizes, and more. Join us for a day of community connection.

Biden administration announces \$1.2 billion in student debt forgiveness for 153,000 borrowers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In a significant move to alleviate the burden of student debt, the Biden administration revealed on Wednesday its decision to automatically forgive \$1.2 billion in student loans for 153,000 borrowers. Those eligible for debt relief are individuals enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) repayment plan who have diligently made payments for at least ten years.

The Department of Edu-



The Department of Education said it would email those who will receive the debt cancellation today, another step in the administration's ongoing efforts to address the nation's staggering \$1.77 trillion student debt crisis. (Photo via NNPA)

cation said it would email those who will receive the debt cancellation today,

another step in the administration's ongoing efforts to address the nation's stag-

gering \$1.77 trillion student debt crisis. The announcement comes after the Supreme Court invalidated the administration's previous plan for widespread student loan forgiveness, which aimed to assist over 40 million borrowers in wiping away up to \$20,000 in debt.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona emphasized the administration's commitment to providing relief, stating, "If you've been paying for a decade, you've done your part, and you deserve relief."

This latest move brings

total approved loan relief to nearly 3.9 million borrowers, with a cumulative debt cancellation of almost \$138 billion through various executive actions. The 153,000 qualifying borrowers represent the first group to benefit from the SAVE plan policy, which allows debt forgiveness after ten years of repayment for those who borrowed \$12,000 or less in student loans.

Originally scheduled for July, the Biden-Harris Administration implemented this provision of the SAVE plan nearly six months

ahead of schedule, which the White House said amplified its commitment to delivering swift relief to those who have faithfully repaid their loans.

Under the SAVE plan, borrowers enrolled in the program who have been in repayment for at least a decade and took out \$12,000 or less in loans will receive immediate debt relief. The Department of Education identified and notified the nearly 153,000 borrowers enrolled in the SAVE plan who qualify for debt can-

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percent of Hispanic households could not cover expenses for more than a month in February 2023," continued the CFPB report, "while this was the case for only 34 percent of non-His-

panic white households and 32 percent of households of another race. These differences among groups were largely unchanged since 2022."

Secretary Cardona said

the Education Department's Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan will deliver even greater debt relief and help put more borrowers on a faster track to loan forgiveness. Borrowers who originally took out \$12,000

or less for college and are enrolled in the SAVE Plan will see forgiveness after as few as 10 years of payments. Those who are enrolled in SAVE and are eligible for early forgiveness will have their debts automatically cancelled starting

next month, months ahead of schedule, with no action needed.

The Department and its partners are reaching out to encourage eligible but unenrolled borrowers to sign up for SAVE. Borrowers can find additional resour-

es at StudentAid.gov and sign up for the SAVE plan at StudentAid.gov/save.

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



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BNSF Railway donates \$2 million to the National Juneteenth Museum and the revitalization of Fort Worth's Historic Southside

The National Juneteenth Museum announced a founding donation of \$2 million from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF Railway). One of North America's leading transportation and logistics companies, its contribution underscores BNSF's commitment to promoting education and community development in Fort Worth, Texas, where they are headquartered.

"BNSF is proud to partner with the National Juneteenth Museum to help honor American history and foster opportunities for economic and cultural growth, right near our headquarters here in Fort Worth," said Zak Andersen, VP of corporate relations and president of the BNSF Railway Foundation. "We look forward to all the museum will bring to the community and the country by shining a light on those who have paved the way for future generations."

The National Juneteenth Museum, a landmark project dedicated to building opportunities to advance future generations while

fostering conversations on the global significance of freedom and the celebration of Juneteenth worldwide, will stand as the cornerstone of Fort Worth's Historic Southside neighborhood's revitalization efforts.

"We are incredibly grateful to BNSF Railway, a world-class service provider and highly regarded community stakeholder, for its generous investment," said NJM President and CEO Jarred Howard. "We are thrilled that guests of the National Juneteenth Museum will be made aware of BNSF's commitment through this inaugural naming rights partnership."

More than a museum, the 50,000 square foot cultural center will host guest lectures, community events and performances in its 250-seat amphitheater, bring families together at the on-site food hall featuring emerging chef concepts, and launch big ideas into reality through its business incubator. The National Juneteenth Museum will serve as an economic driver for tourism and a cultural

hub for Fort Worth, Tarrant County and the Historic Southside through job creation, tax revenue and non-local patrons spending money at local businesses and establishments during their visit.

To learn more and about the National Juneteenth Museum and ways to support its construction and mission, visit, visit nationaljuneteenthmuseum.org.



The National Juneteenth Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and will be a 50,000 square-foot epicenter for education and celebration of Juneteenth that is dedicated to building opportunities to advance future generations. The museum will be located in the Historic Southside neighborhood of Fort Worth, Texas. The National Juneteenth Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and will be a 50,000 square-foot epicenter for education and celebration of Juneteenth that is dedicated to building opportunities to advance future generations. The museum will be located in the Historic Southside neighborhood of Fort Worth, Texas. (Image: Bjarke Ingels Group and KAI Enterprises)

Trump and associates ordered to pay \$354 million in damages in fraud trial

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

When she assumed the role of New York Attorney General, Letitia James made little bones about her desire to take down Donald Trump for what she said was the massive business fraud his organization had committed in the Empire State. She also took aim at his politics, filing numerous lawsuits related to immigration and environmental policies during Trump's White House tenure. James

also inherited an ongoing state lawsuit against Trump's charitable foundation, initiated before her term, successfully steering it towards a settlement that included a substantial \$2 million fine.

Demonstrating her commitment, she filed another civil lawsuit against Trump the following year, accusing his company of deceiving banks, insurers, and others by artificially inflating the value of assets and his net worth on financial

See TRUMP, Page 16

Join State Senator Royce West in supporting Senator Nathan Johnson

100% Pro-Choice

State Senator Nathan Johnson stands up to the extremists to deliver for Texans.

- Bringing jobs to community areas that need it most
- Defended and funded our public schools—even as Gov. Greg Abbott tried to defund them
- Provided healthcare coverage for hundreds of thousands of uninsured Texans
- Authored laws to reduce gun violence
- Fought to restore abortion rights alongside Planned Parenthood
- Ended decades of injustice in misdemeanor drug cases
- Stood up to the extremists to protect voting rights
- Passed critical legislation to build a \$2 billion statewide backup power system

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- Texas State Representative Carl Sherman
- Former Superintendent of DISD Michael Hinojosa

Democratic Primary: March 5 | Early Voting: February 20 - March 1

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Coveted Hot Seat: The race for Texas' 32nd Congressional District

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

The announcement that Texas' 32nd Congressional District incumbent Colin Allred would be making a bid for Ted Cruz's Senatorial chair created a field of hopeful replacements that was a plentiful as the contenders for the Republican presidential nomination.

The redistricting of the 32nd District in 2021 produced a visual rendering that resembles a Rorschach ink blot drawing for which there is no definitive interpretation. That mapping is what causes it to be coveted by hopeful Democratic politicians, because the district that was once solidly Republican suddenly shifted its color from red to Democratic blue.

In 2013, the district was 52% White, 25% Hispanic (white and other), and 12% Black. The 2021 redistricting caused the 32nd District to become a district that made whites a little less than 50% of the district residents, Hispanic became approximately 20% or residents, and Blacks became 14% of the total residents.

The alluring value of the 32nd District is that with its boundaries—which zigzag from southernmost parts of Balch Springs to northern reaches of Plano—are jerrymantered in a way that makes it a sure win for some deserving Democratic candidate. That was not always the case.

Republican Pete Sessions was the 32nd Congressional District incumbent from 2003 to 2019, that was until Sessions was ousted by upstart Allred in the 2018 general election. Allred's surprise victory caused that drastic shift in the political hue.

All totaled, there were at least fifteen hats tossed into the ring for the March 5, 2024, Democratic and Republican primaries.

Clayton Chapman (Independent)

Callie Butcher (Democrat)



As U.S. Rep. Colin Allred prepares to square off against longtime U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, Democrats are lining up to try to keep the district on the blue side of the political aisle. (Photo: Dan Dennis / Unsplash)

Raja Chaudhry (Democrat)

Alex Cornwallis (Democrat)

Kevin Felder (Democrat)

Julie Johnson (Democrat)

Zachariah Manning (Democrat)

Jan McDowell (Democrat)

Justin Moore (Democrat)

Christopher Panayiotou (Democrat)

Brian Williams (Democrat)

*Plus, a field of four perspective Republican challengers

At one point, even State Representative Rhetta Bowers set her sights on the Congressional seat. Then she pulled out of the race almost immediately.

When the dust had settled, only four remained.

For a recent primary debate in Richardson, there were but four remaining candidates who proved they had the plan, the bank and the cache that qualified them to participate. The results made for a highly diverse mixture of political hopefuls.

The four remaining candidates' response to a Ballotpedia survey and/or their campaign website provided insight as to their background and those issues central to their campaign.

Callie Butcher

• Butcher is a native Dallasite who earned a law degree in 2014 from the University of Texas School of Law

• If Butcher's bid for the vacated seat is successful, Butcher will become

Congress' first transgender member.

• Butcher's key achievement goals for the 32nd Congressional District constituents are:

- People over Power
- Medicare for All and Bodily Autonomy
- LGBTQ+ Rights Now

Julie Johnson

• Johnson earned a law degree from the University of Houston. Johnson is currently the Texas House of Representatives Democratic incumbent for District 115.

• Johnson is the most experienced politician in the race.

• Johnson's key achievement goals for the 32nd Congressional District constituents are:

- Reinstating Reproductive Rights
- Stricter Gun Control laws
- Quashing the extremist agenda of hate and divisiveness

• Reduction in the Cost of Prescription Drugs and securing the Affordable Care Act

Justin Moore Moore

• Moore is a native Dallasite who earned a law degree at SMU's Dedman School of Law, and who has experience as a Dallas County District Attorney and a Civil Rights attorney.

Moore's key achievement goals for the 32nd Congressional District constituents are:

- Equal rights for all Texans
- Expansion of access to affordable Healthcare
- Addressing the issues

of Climate Control

- Providing Quality Education for all Texans
- Community Engagement

Dr. Brian Williams

Dr. Williams, an Air Force veteran, earned a medical degree in 2001 from the University of South Florida College of Medicine before completing general surgery residency training at Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr.

Williams of new to politics, although, he has experience as a congressional health policy advisor.

If his bid is successful Dr. Williams will become the first trauma surgeon in the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Williams' key achievement goals for the 32nd Congressional District constituents are:

- Subduing the "Epidemic of Gun Violence" and Advocating for Gun Safety
- Building Safer and Healthier Communities across Texas and the nation
- Providing Healthcare to Americans who do not have access
- Addressing "Extremist Republicans" on basic rights

An analysis of the Texas 32nd District following the 2020 redistricting and presidential election showed that President Joe Biden claimed 65.7% of the votes, while Donald Trump claimed 32.7% of

the vote. So, the winner of the four-way battle for the Democratic nomination is presumably a sure winner against a Republican challenger.

If after the March 5th Democratic primary, no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, the top two finishers will advance to a May 28th primary runoff.

(Editor's Note: This article has been edited from the original printed version to retract comments attributed to candidate Julie Johnson in regards to the withdrawal of a previous candidate and that she was previously a Republican. Johnson's campaign asserts that she never publicly made these comments, and has been a Texas Democrat from the beginning of her political journey. The story has been edited to reflect this, and is being reprinted in the Feb. 22, 2024 issue.)

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Scan to go to:
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By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

North Texas Irish Festival dances a jig into Dallas's Fair Park March 1-3

It's a weekend of culture, with music, food, dance, storytelling and so much more at this family-friendly event produced by volunteers from the Southwest Celtic Music Association

It's almost time to kick up your heels and dance a jig: The North Texas Irish Festival brings Celtic culture to Dallas's Fair Park March 1-3, 2024. This family-friendly festival is a beloved annual event celebrating the best in music, dance, food and spirits, storytelling, art and more originating in the Emerald Isle and alive and well today in North Texas.

The largest cultural celebration in DFW, the North Texas Irish Festival is produced by the Southwest Celtic Music Association and is staffed by hundreds of volunteers, some of whom have volunteered for decades, often alongside generations of their families. This year's festival theme, Circle of Life, acknowledges the dedication of volunteers present, past and future, and is symbolized by Celtic-style art depicting the tree of life.

Bring your family, friends – even the family dog! – to Fair Park in Dallas to enjoy 10 stages of



Magdalena Smolnicka / Unsplash

live music, Irish step dancing, chef demonstrations and more, indoors and outdoors. Guests will also enjoy beer and whiskey tastings (for 21+), shopping, horse shows, sheepherding demonstrations, animal rescue groups, child-friendly entertainment, and free arts and crafts for the kids. This indoor-outdoor festival takes place rain or shine.

“Our attendees enjoy being able to walk from stage to stage, settle into a comfortable chair, and enjoy the very best Celtic music in the world, live and right here in front of them in North Texas,” said

Sheri Bush, president of the Southwest Celtic Music Association Inc., the non-profit organization that produces the North Texas Irish Festival and provides music and dance scholarships to local students. “There is so much here for everyone, from children to adults and more. How many places can you sit and enjoy multiple concerts in a weekend with a beer, your family and your dog?”

The festival gets off to a festive start with the North Texas Irish Festival Fun Run, a jaunt through the beautiful grounds of Fair Park on Saturday, March 2,

at 8 a.m. Perfect for runners or walkers of any age or ability, this activity is perfect for the whole family (even the family dog!). All registered participants will receive a T-shirt, a “bottle opener” medal, one ticket to the North Texas Irish Festival, and two beers after the run (if they are of legal drinking age). This non-timed 5K fun run will benefit Fair Park First and the Southwest Celtic Music Association. More information and a link to registration are available here.

Music

The roots of the North Texas Irish Festival are in its celebration of music and every year, the festival is able to bring some of the biggest names worldwide to Fair Park.

Dance

If you have ever seen “Riverdance,” you know that the rhythmic magic of Irish step dancing is en-

chanting to watch and to tap your toe right along with. At the North Texas Irish Festival, Celtic music comes alive in the steps of dancers of all ages, including those from The McLane School of Irish Dance, Maguire Academy of Irish Dance, Inishfree School of Irish Dance-Dallas, McTeggart Irish Dancers of North Texas and the Shandon-O'Regan Irish Dance Academy, who will delight audiences. Irish step dancers perform on a dedicated dance stage and also with musical performers throughout the festival.

Chef Stage and Whiskey Tastings

Chefs doing their own modern take on traditional Celtic fare, or using traditional ingredients in new ways, delight audiences who love to learn and sample the fare on the chef stage. And don't miss special mixology demon-

strations on Friday night! Whiskey tastings are also available through a special ticketed event located inside the North Texas Irish Festival.

Kids

Urchin Street at the North Texas Irish Festival is a special place where kids can find child-friendly entertainment, education, play and fun, including crafts, music, dance, storytelling, magic and mystery. Storytellers -- or “Shanachie” – will tell traditional Irish stories in the way that the Irish learned of their history for hundreds of years.

Pets

The North Texas Irish Festival is pet-friendly! From dogs to rabbits, cats and even a squirrel or two, guests bring leashed pets to the festival to enjoy indoor and outdoor festivi-

See IRISH, Page 12

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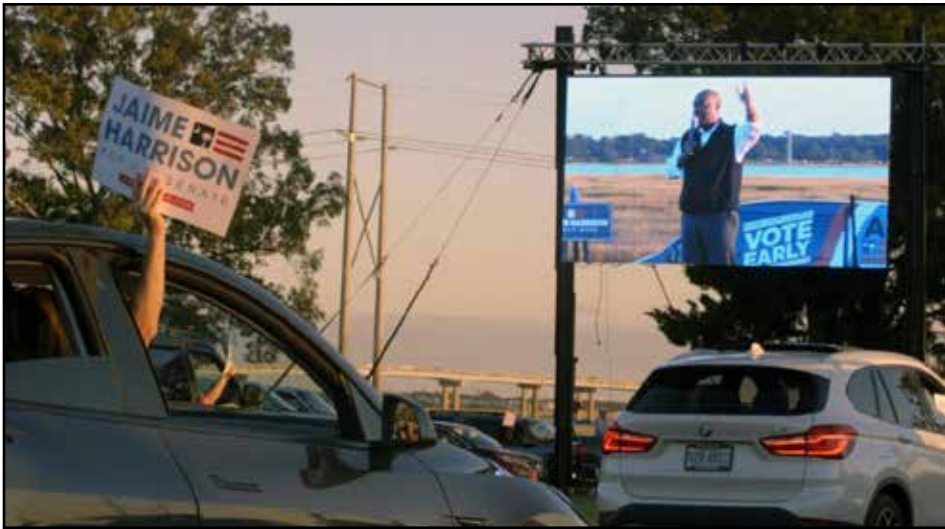
“The time is always right to do what is right.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve our community's abused and neglected children living in foster care.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

Friday, Mar 1 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Thursday, Mar 14 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Mar 7 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Friday, Mar 22 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

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



Harrison's journey continued as he served as an aide to the renowned South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn. (Photo via NNPA)

Charlamagne Tha God helps capture DNC Chair Jaime Harrison's inspiring journey in PBS documentary

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison's political odyssey mirrors a narrative of triumph over adversity. Raised by his grandparents in Orangeburg, South Carolina, as the son of a single teenage mom, Harrison knows firsthand the struggles of a family forced to choose between basic necessities. His childhood experiences included nights without heat due to power shut offs.

Despite these difficulties, a combination of his grandparents' love, a good public school education, and community support changed Harrison's trajectory. These factors made it possible for him to receive a scholarship to Yale University and then enroll at Georgetown Law. After completing his education, Harrison returned to Orangeburg to teach at his alma mater, dedicating himself to empowering underprivileged students to pursue higher education.

Harrison's journey continued as he served as an aide to the renowned South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn. In 2013, he achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first African American chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party, a position he

held until 2017. His dedication and leadership earned him an appointment as an Associate Chair of the DNC by Tom Perez.

Harrison ran a groundbreaking campaign for the U.S. Senate from South Carolina in 2020, setting a record for the most money a Senate candidate has ever raised. His national grassroots movement garnered attention, and his remarkable run against incumbent Lindsey Graham is now the focus of a documentary series, "In the Bubble with Jaime Harrison," executive produced by Charlamagne Tha God. The film will broadcast on WORLD with distribution on PBS Plus and the PBS Documentaries Prime Video Channel. The film is a co-presentation with Black Public Media.

Charlamagne, discussing the documentary on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Let It Be Known morning show, emphasized the importance of showcasing positive stories from South Carolina. He praised capturing both the highs and lows of Harrison's campaign, recognizing the impact on viewers during Black History Month.

"Any story coming out of South Carolina that is positive and showing Black people in a positive light, I want to tell," Charlamagne

said. "When it comes to Black America, I feel like the Black American experience started right there in Charleston, South Carolina. I can't remember what the exact number is, but it's like half of over of all enslaved Africans came through that port."

Charlamagne continued: "And if you ask me, I feel like a lot of us were already indigenous to the land too. So, we were here. And so, I feel like so much of the Black American story starts right there in South Carolina. When you saw what Jamie was doing as far as threatening to beat Lindsey Graham. You know, that was unheard of. It was unprecedented."

During the 20-minute discussion, Charlamagne highlighted the shared goal of upward mobility, transcending race and economic background. He underscored that resources and the ability to create them are pivotal in addressing the needs of communities, resonating with Harrison's focus on empowering disadvantaged individuals.

"In the Bubble with Jaime" chronicles Harrison's political journey and serves as a testament to the power of perseverance and the potential for change. Charlamagne's insight adds depth

See PBS, Page 12

Cincinnati addresses housing inequities in landmark settlement

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



Nationally, 73 percent of whites own homes compared to 44 percent of Blacks, representing a 29-percentage-point disparity. However, Greater Cincinnati reportedly experiences an even wider gap, with only 33 percent of Black residents owning homes, creating a 40-percentage-point difference. (Photo via NNPA)

Cincinnati officials have settled a federal lawsuit spanning four years, addressing allegations of racial bias in the city's residential tax abatement program. The lawsuit, which accused Cincinnati of favoring white homeowners, shed light on enduring disparities in homeownership between Black and white residents. Advocates said the resolution, signed on Feb. 8, signifies a crucial step towards rectifying historical injustices and fostering a more equi-

table housing landscape.

National data from the National Association of Realtors and Zillow revealed a stark homeown-

ership gap between whites and Blacks. Nationally, 73 percent of whites own homes compared to 44 percent of Blacks, represent-

ing a 29-percentage-point disparity. However, Greater Cincinnati reportedly experiences an even wider gap, with only 33 percent of Black residents owning homes, creating a 40-percentage-point difference.

Elisabeth Risch, executive director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal, emphasizes that historical discriminatory practices, including redlining, persistently impact contemporary housing trends. Redlining, a policy preventing minorities from buying homes in wealthier, predominantly white areas, contributes to the deeply rooted segregation legacy in Cincinnati,

Risch said.

Darrick Dansby, president of the Cincinnati chapter of the Realtists, also highlighted the potential gap worsening due to rising interest rates and low inventory, particularly affecting first-time and traditionally marginalized homebuyers.

The nonprofit, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, proposed comprehensive recommendations to narrow the homeownership gap, including tax abatement policy reforms, creating a grant fund for low- and moderate-income homeowners, zoning modifications for inclusivity,

property tax relief, and establishing a transparent monitoring process to prevent discriminatory practices.

Now, the recent settlement in the federal lawsuit mandates that the city expand outreach about the tax abatement program in areas with larger populations of poorer and Black residents. Cincinnati City Council has earlier considered reforms, including fair and non-predatory lending expansions to Black and low-income homeowners.

The Council's action was in response to city records

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PRISONS, from Page 1

Inspector General (OIG) identified recurring policy violations and operational failures contributing to inmate suicides. Among the highlighted deficiencies were lapses in staff completion of inmate assessments, inappropriate Mental Health Care Level assignments, and the heightened risk associated with single-celled inmates. The report uncovered a lack of coordination among staff departments, hindering the provision of necessary treatment and follow-up for distressed inmates. Furthermore, a glaring oversight revealed that the BOP failed to provide evidence of completing the required mock suicide drills essential for staff readiness. The report found that, despite a significant drop in the overall inmate population, plummeting from 214,149 in 2014 to 144,448 in 2021, the number of suicides within the BOP system surged.

The report also spotlighted BOP-run facilities failure to conduct mandatory "mock suicide drills." Investigators said 67 out of the 194 BOP facilities were unable to provide evidence of running a single mock suicide drill between 2018 and 2020, violating the required three drills per year,

one for each shift.

Insufficient Emergency Response: BOP Staff's Failures Exposed

The OIG's findings underscored significant shortcomings in the BOP's response to medical emergencies, with almost half of the inmate deaths reviewed reflecting inadequate reactions. From a lack of urgency and unclear radio communications to issues with naloxone administration in opioid overdose cases, the report paints a picture of systemic failures compromising the safety and well-being of inmates.

Information Void Hinders Prevention: BOP's Limited Understanding of Inmate Deaths

A critical revelation emerged regarding the lack of available information about inmate deaths, hampering the BOP's ability to prevent future fatalities. The report exposed the BOP's inability to produce required documents following an inmate's death, limiting their understanding of circumstances leading to deaths and impeding the identification of preventative measures. The OIG also highlighted the absence of in-depth action reviews for inmate homicides or fatalities resulting from

accidents and unknown factors, further limiting the BOP's capacity to learn from these tragic incidents.

Operational Challenges: A Recipe for Disaster

Long-standing operational challenges such as contraband interdiction, staffing shortages, outdated security systems, and staff non-compliance with policies were identified as contributing factors in nearly one-third of inmate deaths. The report singled out 70 inmates who died from drug overdoses, emphasizing the pressing need for comprehensive reforms to mitigate these risks.

Recommendations for Reform: BOP's Pledge for Change

The OIG proposed 12 recommendations to address the root causes of inmate deaths. In a rare show of unity, the BOP has pledged to implement all the recommendations, signaling a commitment to rectify these systemic issues, and upholding its duty to ensure inmates' safe and humane management.

The report concluded that chronic understaffing contributed to multiple failures in the BOP. "The report is an urgent call to action. No family should ever have to receive a call that a loved one has died while incarcerated simply because a facility was understaffed,

under-resourced or out of compliance with BOP policy," Inimai Chettiar, Deputy Director for the Justice Action Network, said in an emailed statement.

"There is strong bipartisan support for comprehensive oversight of our

nation's prisons, and it is long past time for congress to enact the kind of transparency and accountability that will prevent deaths like these in the future. We are encouraged by Senator [Dick] Durbin's prompt commit-

ment to hold a hearing in the wake of the report's release. Families of the deceased, and those whose sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters are being detained in federal facilities right now deserve immediate attention."



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Georgia State University, Comcast and CodePath announce launch of new computer science education and career readiness program

(Black PR Wire) ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Georgia State University (GSU) and CodePath announced today a partnership that will the launch of the CodePath E3 Program. This new program, which will be run by GSU and CodePath, provides students with high-quality, tech industry co-developed and vetted courses, student course and program support services, access to a network of professional engineers, and a career center offering 1:1 coaching and mentorships.

CodePath, the organization dedicated to reprogramming higher education to create the most diverse generation of technologists, works with colleges and universities around the country to provide both computer science (CS) and computer information systems (CIS) educational courses and career development and placement oppor-

tunities. Since its founding in 2017, more than 20,000 students have been admitted into CodePath programs, 64% of whom identify as low-income or coming from underrepresented communities.

This partnership represents an expanded commitment to the Atlanta region, as CodePath first expanded to Georgia State University in 2021. To date, CodePath has served nearly 500 CS majors at GSU.

“As a tremendous tech hub, the City of Atlanta knows that investing in local pathways to tech careers is essential to building a resilient and prosperous community,” said City of Atlanta Senior Technology Advisor, Donnie Beamer. “We are proud to support CodePath and Georgia State University working together to create an inclusive and diverse tech ecosystem in Atlanta with this new pro-

gram that is being made available to thousands of students. CodePath’s work aligns with our focus on equity, and we are excited to support their efforts to provide high-quality technical training to students from underrepresented backgrounds.”

Nationally, CodePath alumni see an 80% increase in successful job or internship placement and leave school with a \$92,000 average salary, which is nearly double that for non-computer science graduates.

The partnership is currently being offered to the more than 3,000 computer science students at GSU and the 1,000 computer science students at Georgia State’s Perimeter College. The E3 Program is supported by grants from the United States Economic Development Administration, the Kapor Foundation and Project UP, Comcast’s

\$1 billion initiative to connect people to the Internet and provide the digital skills training needed to advance economic mobility.

“Comcast is excited to provide financial support to CodePath and GSU to help launch this critically important program that will create new opportunities for students in Atlanta and beyond,” said Dalila Wilson-Scott, EVP & Chief Diversity Officer of Comcast Corporation and President of Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation. “Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, so we know it is imperative that our educational and career preparation programs have the resources needed to stay up to date. We look forward to seeing Atlanta play a major role in developing the next generation of technologists and engineers.”

“This new program —

which further supports our Beyond College to Career and Student Success 2.0 strategic plan pillars — will help us prepare all students, including more women and diverse students, for rewarding careers in tech,” said Georgia State President M. Brian Blake. “As a computer scientist and a person of color, this is extra special for me.”

“This is a big deal for the students in the GSU system and companies nationwide due to increasing demand for CS and CIS grads. Our goal at CodePath is to work with great institutions like GSU and funders like Comcast, so that we can meet the needs of and best prepare all of the students who take these courses to step seamlessly into fulfilling internships and careers,” said CodePath Co-Founder and CEO Michael Ellison. “By doing this work, we are

helping to bridge the gap for communities of kids who for too long have felt shut out of tech. This new program represents a massive acceleration of our work in Atlanta and we are grateful to the entire team at GSU, Comcast, the Atlanta Mayor’s Office, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration for their support of these efforts.”

CodePath program participants can take courses in Technical Interview Prep (TIP), Web Development, iOS Development, Android Development, and Cybersecurity. Students will also get access to CodePath industry partners for site tours and paid internships.

Students at GSU and Perimeter College can start enrolling in the E3 Pathway program now by visiting <https://www.codepath.org/e3>. Courses began in the Spring 2024 semester.

PBS, from Page 10

to the narrative with quotes like, “I just want people to be inspired. That’s what it always is for me.” He expressed hope that the positive story of Jaime Harrison will motivate young minds,

echoing the sentiment that success should be defined beyond sports and entertainment.

Harrison and his wife, Marie, reside in Columbia, South Carolina, where they

raise their two young sons. The documentary captures a slice of history, portraying a man who, against the odds, aspires to shatter glass ceilings and make a lasting impact on his community and beyond.

Visit worldchannel.org.

IRISH, from Page 9

ties. Need a new best pal? Animal rescue groups at the North Texas Irish Festival are happy to introduce you to animals to see if you might have a new “fur-ever” friend.

Hours, Admission and Location

Gates open on Friday evening, March 1, at 6 p.m. Hours are 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, March 1; 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 2; and 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 3.

Admission is FREE on Friday from 6 to 7 p.m.; \$15 after 7 p.m. for adults and \$10 for children ages 6-11 (children ages 5 and under get in free). A one-

day ticket is \$25 on Saturday or Sunday at the gate, while a weekend pass is \$45 for adults and \$20 for children. Discount tickets are available at area Tom Thumb and Albertsons stores for \$20 for a one-day ticket starting February 1. Children under 6 are FREE when accompanied by an adult family member. Seniors 65+ or current military members (with valid military ID) receive \$5 off all gate prices. Pets are allowed in on a short leash. Leprechauns (in full ceremonial dress and carrying pot of gold) are FREE.

Tickets are available online now, at Tom Thumb and Albertsons stores

(starting February 1), and at the gates on the days of the event.

Parking is available in and around Fair Park, or guests can take the DART (take the Green Line!) to the front entrance of Fair Park and the North Texas Irish Festival. Detailed directions and parking tips are available at ntif.org. Interesting in volunteering at the festival? Please visit ntif.org for more information.

Social

Connect with the North Texas Irish Festival at:

- Facebook: @NTIF-SCMA
- Twitter: @NTIF_scma
- Instagram: @NTIF_SCMA

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Chevrolet and National Newspaper Publishers Association offer summer internship: Discover the Unexpected Fellowship

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In a bid to amplify Black voices and highlight diverse stories, Chevrolet, in collaboration with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), invites budding journalists, content creators, and communications enthusiasts to embark on the summer internship of a lifetime through the Discover the Unexpected (DTU) Fellowship.

The DTU Fellowship is geared towards historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) students who are passionate about storytelling and eager to contribute to the media landscape. This opportunity offers a platform for aspiring journalists and provides financial support in the form of a \$10,000 scholarship and an \$8,000 stipend.



One of the key aspects of the DTU Fellowship is the chance to collaborate with some of the largest and most influential Black-owned newspapers in the community. The collaboration aims to bridge the gap

between emerging talents and established media outlets, fostering an environment of mentorship and shared knowledge. The selected DTU fellows will embark on a transformative journey beyond conventional internships. This experience promises exploration, learning, and, most importantly, amplifying their voices. The fellowship recognizes the

unique perspectives of HBCU students and aims to provide a platform for these voices to be heard. What sets the DTU Fellowship apart is the hands-on guidance and mentorship provided by industry professionals who understand the power of diverse perspectives. Fellows can elevate content and gain career-building knowledge through interactions with

seasoned journalists and media experts. The importance of diverse storytelling has never been more evident, and Chevrolet, in partnership with the NNPA, is committed to empowering the next generation of storytellers. By offering this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the DTU Fellowship seeks to make a lasting impact on both the individuals selected and the media landscape. As the application deadline approaches, interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity. The application window for the DTU Fellowship closes on April 1, 2024. The tight deadline emphasizes the

urgency and exclusivity of the opportunity, urging potential applicants to act promptly. The Discover the Unexpected Fellowship by Chevrolet and the National Newspaper Association represents a unique chance for HBCU students to receive financial support for their education and gain invaluable hands-on experience in collaboration with influential Black-owned newspapers. By taking part in this transformative journey, aspiring journalists can leave a lasting impact on the media industry. Don't miss out on the chance to elevate your content and amplify your voice – apply before the April 1, 2024 deadline!

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CHAVIS, from Page 2

staff for the Parker administration.

“As we come together to commemorate the legacy of Perry and Woodson, we pay tribute to their resilience, determination and contribution to the African-American community that has left a lasting mark on the city’s identity,” she said.

“Your stories are intertwined with the essence of Philadelphia. A city that has stood as a beacon of liberty a

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro praised The Tribune during his speech for being an accurate source of news.

“I want to applaud The Philadelphia Tribune for

getting out accurate information at a time where there is misinformation in political discourse and in

the news cycle,” Shapiro said. “The Philly Tribune is a source that we need and you can trust.”

HEARING, from Page 4

may be at risk of hearing loss due to using audio devices, Woolford recommends checking with a pediatrician, an audiologist, or an ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialist.

“Early signs of hearing loss may include asking for repetition, hearing ringing noises often, speaking loudly to people nearby,

delayed speech, or lack of reaction to loud noises,” Woolford said.

“Healthcare providers may be of assistance to parents by offering a simple explanation about hearing loss to help the child understand the reasons for limiting their use of audio devices.”

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Who Doesn't Like Baloney?

Dr. James L. Snyder

When I was young, my favorite sandwich was the baloney sandwich. Sometimes, with cheese and other things, but most importantly, baloney. I can't imagine what my childhood would have been like without those bologna sandwiches. Until I went to school, I thought my mother had invented the baloney sandwich.

My mother even prepared bologna sandwiches for my school lunch. Just about every boy in my class had baloney sandwiches for their lunch. I remember we would trade around and eat each other's baloney sandwiches. If there was a sandwich contest, nobody really won because the baloney sandwich is a reward in itself. It's hard to find a better lunch.

It's been a long time since I've had a simple baloney sandwich for lunch. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is a culinary

expert specializing in making delicious meals. The simple baloney sandwich would not necessarily be on her menu.

Sometimes, the simple things in life are the best things.

We were talking about something the other night. I'm not sure if it was politics or sports, but I expressed my opinion as clearly as possible. When I was through, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage just looked at me momentarily and said, "You do know that you're full of baloney?"

At that point, I didn't know if she was complimenting or criticizing me. From my point of view, baloney would be a high compliment. I did not pursue that then, but just let it go. An important lesson I have learned is that there are times just to let things go. This was one of those times.

Last week, I thought about pulling a little prank

on her. I don't know what I was thinking but I waited until she was in her craft room. I walked in and began looking around. Believe me, there is a lot to look at, and I'm not sure what I was looking at.

"What are you doing in here? Are you looking for something?"

Looking at her with a serious glare, I said, "I was just thinking that maybe I could come and help you organize your craft room. I have a lot of ideas of how you can make this a better organized craft room."

The fact that I was in the craft room was a project in itself. If I ever went in there alone, I probably would get lost and never be found until she came into the craft room herself. If there ever is a time when I seem to disappear, just look in her craft room.

I then began to tell her some of the things I would do to help reorganize her craft room.

She just sat there star-

ing at me with one of "her stares," and just let me go on talking.

When I finished, I looked at her, smiled, and said, "So, what do you think?"

"What do I think?" responded The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. "Let me tell you what I think. I think you are full of baloney. I do not need any help organizing my craft room, especially from you."

I graciously left the craft room smiling and headed for my easy chair to enjoy my prank.

For me to reorganize her craft room would've been so far over the moon that I was starting to think I really was full of baloney.

A few days later, I was working in my office, and she stepped in for a moment and began looking all around at my bookshelves. For a few moments, all she did was look around at my books. Then she said, "I think I can help you reorganize your office here."

At that point, I didn't

really know what to say because I did not need any help reorganizing my books. I looked at her and said, "Do you think I'm full of baloney?"

She laughed at me and said, "Yes, I do think you're full of baloney." And then she left the office laughing and went back into the kitchen.

It's amazing that we both live in our own worlds. Her craft room is at one end of the house, and my office and library are at the other end of the house, and the twain never shall meet.

I had to think about that for some time because, after 53 years of marital bliss, we have never had a major conflict. Oh yes, there is the Apple Fritter and broccoli issue that still continues. But that's about as bad as it ever got.

I wouldn't say this to her, but I'm kind of thinking that might it might be that my baloney is one of the secrets of our good marriage. After all, what else is there?

The best celebration we could ever have, in my opinion, is a bologna sandwich lunch. That would make my day, but I'm not sure she could handle all that baloney. Then, of course, she's handled me for 53 years. If she can handle that much baloney, she can handle anything.

I then thought of a verse of scripture on this subject. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Thinking of this, it occurred to me how important agreeing really is in all relationships. Yes, there are certain things to disagree about. But, the key is what do we really agree about. Those things we agree on will establish a relationship of unity.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

HOUSING, from Page 11

that revealed that, by 2020, Cincinnati had granted 2,640 residential tax abatements totaling \$183 million, with over \$53 million directed to a predominantly white, affluent neighborhood. In contrast, two majority-Black neighborhoods received less than \$1 million in tax abatements between 2014 and 2018.

As part of the settlement,

the city will pay \$110,000 to the homeowners who initiated the lawsuit. Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval underscored the city's commitment to making the residential abatement program more impactful and accessible to underinvested communities. Pureval pledged to continue efforts to bring incentives and information about home im-

provement resources to those who need them the most, ensuring a more just and inclusive housing landscape for all residents.

"Since taking office, we've worked to make our residential abatement program more impactful and accessible to the folks who need it the most. I'm proud of our administration's steps to bring more incentives, an easier process, and information about

other home improvement resources to our underinvested communities," Pure-

val told Atlanta Black Star in a statement.

"As we move forward,

those goals will continue to be our guiding light," Pureval said.

MCCLAIN, from Page 2

Holmes asserts, "It's not a huge amount of time, but we must fight for every measure of justice we can get."

Holmes and the McClain family have already seen success in their pursuit of justice. Following Elijah's death, changes were implemented within the Aurora Police Department (APD). In June 2020, the department banned carotid pressure holds, and the circum-

stances surrounding the case led to a 5-year-long consent decree with 68 mandates. A recent report indicates substantial compliance with 31 out of the 68 mandates as of October, two years into the independent review.

At the state level, in July 2021, Governor Jared Polis signed a bill prohibiting police officers from directing paramedics to administer ketamine. The legislation

mandates professionals to weigh individuals before injecting ketamine and bars medical providers from using ketamine to calm someone suspected of criminal behavior.

As the sentencing date approaches, Holmes said the family remains steadfast in their pursuit of justice, hoping to send a powerful message that accountability and reform are crucial components in preventing similar tragedies in the future.

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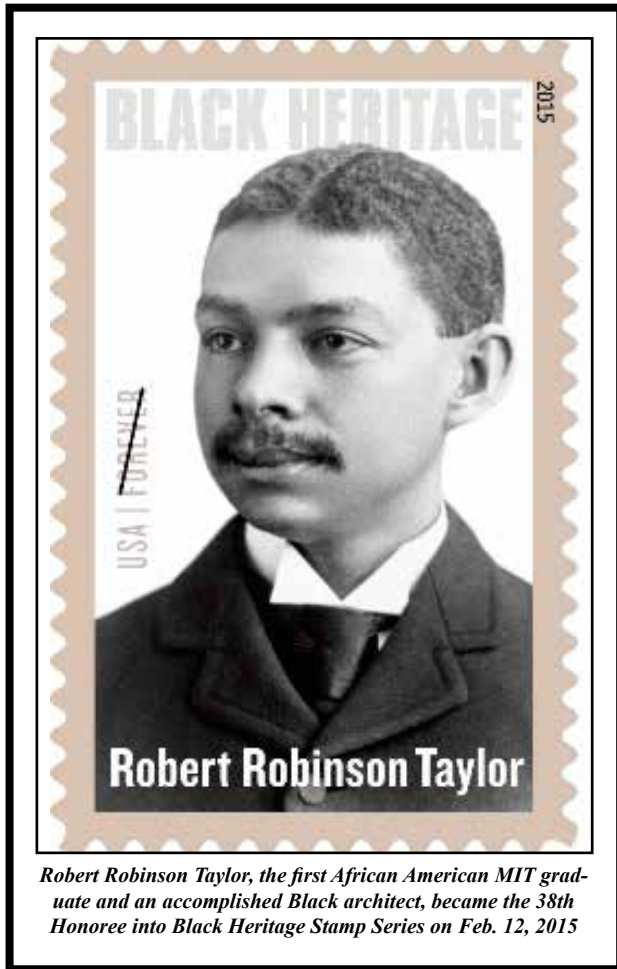
Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Robert R. Taylor, a Black architect, was born in 1868 in Wilmington, NC, he came from a middle-class family. His father, Henry, was the son of a white slave owner and a Black mother.

The elder Taylor had been allowed to go into business for himself before the Civil War, building cargo ships for trade routes between the United States and South America through the Caribbean.

He also built many commercial and residential edifices. Young Taylor's early schooling took place at the Williston School and the Gregory Institute, a school for Blacks operated and maintained by the American Missionary Association.

After graduating, he worked in his father's building trade business with his sights on Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Robert Robinson Taylor, the first African American MIT graduate and an accomplished Black architect, became the 38th Honoree into Black Heritage Stamp Series on Feb. 12, 2015

He was admitted to the regular freshman class on September 23, 1888, although a couple of years older than the average freshman because of his work with his father.

Taylor was one of a

handful of students from the South. Even the southern whites encountered prejudice but Blacks even more so.

Few Blacks were part of the MIT community in its early years, even though

founder, William Barton Rogers, had shown a keen interest in issues relating to race.

Taylor's record at MIT during the four years he attended, 1888-1892, was above the class average; he earned honors in trigonometry, architectural history, differential calculus, and applied mechanics. He never failed a course.

He was twice recommended for the Loring Scholarship, which he held for two consecutive academic years.

Taylor was the first Black person to receive an architecture degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After graduation, he married Nellie C. Taylor and worked as an architect and educator at Tuskegee Institute nearly until the end of his career.

Taylor designed most buildings at Tuskegee built before 1932, including the original Chapel and the li-

brary, between the years 1899-1902.

For a short period, he was employed by a Cleveland architectural firm. Some believe he had disagreements at Tuskegee with the dictatorial style of Booker T. Washington.

Though he could have been better employed elsewhere, he retired from Tuskegee in 1935.

Throughout his life, Taylor retained a deep respect for MIT. In 1942, he wrote to the secretary of his MIT class indicating that he had just been released from treatment for an unspeci-

fied illness at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

"Thanks to a kind Providence and skillful physicians," he said, "I am much better now." Taylor lived his life as one of faith to his race.

Taylor collapsed and died on December 13, 1942 while attending services in the Tuskegee chapel that he had designed and considered his outstanding achievement as an architect.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in February 2017.)

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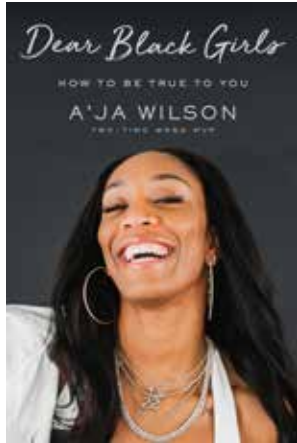
NDG Book Review: 'Dear Black Girls' stretches beyond its teen base

By Terri Schilchenmeyer

The envelope on the table is addressed to you.

It caught your attention because – who, besides politicians, utilities, and creditors sends anything in the mail these days? Still, it was a nice surprise, no matter what, like a throwback or something. And like the new book, “Dear Black Girls” by A’Ja Wilson, every letter means something.

From the time she was born until she was in fourth or fifth grade, A’Ja Wilson lived in a bubble. She didn’t know it; she was



only a kid, just being herself with no worries. And then, right before one of her best friends was having a birthday party, Wilson learned that the girl’s dad “really [didn’t] like Black

people.” Those few words shook Wilson’s dad, they made her mother quietly angry, and they made Wilson doubt herself for many years.

It was her first reminder: “You’re a girl.

Oh! And you’re a Black girl.

Alright, good luck!”

With the help of her parents and her beloved grandmother, Wilson healed but she never forgot. She made sure to know her roots and her family’s story. She was dyslexic, so she struggled, tried to fit in, and grew taller than most boys, which didn’t help her self-esteem.

Neither did the fact that at almost every point in her life, the color of her skin mattered in ways that it shouldn’t have mattered. That included her activity on a basketball court.

Wilson was a young teen when her father first threw her a ball and she hated it, but by the time she graduated from high school, she’d found her way. She’d developed a good “Nonsense Detector.” She got some therapy (“Ain’t no shame in it.”); she learned that when she did her best, there were still going to be haters; and she always remembers to be herself and

to be a light for others

Remember, she says, “You don’t have to be an WNBA player or a politician or a celebrity to have an impact on someone.”

So will you learn a thing or two by reading “Dear Black Girls”?

Yes and no. In her short introduction, author A’Ja Wilson says that this “is not a self-help book,” that it’s just “a diary of somebody... who looks like you...” Eh, that’s nothing new but despite her protests, “Dear Black Girls” is helpful. You just have to be ready for it.

That’s not hard; Wilson, a two-time WNBA MVP

tells her story with a flair for fun. She even tells the sad tales with exuberance, subtly letting readers know that it’s okay, she’s okay, and it’s all just part of her story. Her voice lets you know how much she enjoys life, even when she has tough things to deal with. It’s like hearing encouragement from the top bunk, or getting straight talk from a mentor.

While it might seem to be a book for teenagers only, “Dear Black Girls” would also be a great resource for younger adults. Take a look, see if it doesn’t get your stamp of approval.

TRUMP, from Page 7

documents. In a clever twist, when announcing the case against Trump, James quipped, “It’s the art of the steal,” playing on the title of Trump’s book, “The Art of the Deal.”

On Friday, Feb. 16, James nailed the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president as Judge Arthur Engoron ruled in a civil business fraud trial against the MAGA leader, his sons, business associates, and the Trump Organization, ordering him to pay over \$354 million in damages. Engoron also slapped Trump and his company with temporary restrictions on conducting business in New York.

The verdict comes after a prolonged trial where James sought \$370 million, alleging “repeated and persistent fraud,” including the falsification of business records and financial statements. And, in a clear-cut victory for James, Engoron dis-

missed attempts by Trump to shift blame to accountants. “The buck for being truthful in the supporting data valuations stopped with the Trump Organization, not the accountants,” the judge determined.

The judgment imposes a three-year ban on Trump from serving as an officer or director of any New York corporation, along with the appointment of an independent monitor and a directive to install an independent director of compliance for the Trump Organization.

The judge highlighted Trump’s lack of remorse, stating it “borders on pathological” and necessitates external oversight. This marks the second financial setback for Trump this year, following an \$83.3 million defamation verdict he was ordered to pay for sexually assaulting a journalist. He also faces four criminal trials later this year, with the first scheduled



New York Attorney General Letitia James addresses crowds gathered on the status of Trump’s trial. (Phot via NNPA)

for March 25 in New York State Court. By the time the November election arrives, Trump could also be a convicted felon.

During the New York civil trial, Trump and his executives, including his sons attempted to downplay the significance of exaggerated financial statements. Examples of fraud included inflating property values, such as at Trump Tower and Mar-a-Lago, by significant amounts. Trump, who claimed his innocence, asserted that the case was politically motivated.

The judgment cancels

Trump’s business certificates in New York, a decision he is appealing. Trump’s attorney, Alina Habba, naturally denounced the ruling as a “manifest injustice” and expressed confidence in overturning the verdict through the Appellate Division.

“Judge Engoron levied the financial death penalty on Trump,” Trial lawyer Neama Rahmani, a former federal prosecutor and president of West Coast Trial Lawyers, said in an email. “Even for someone with Trump’s net worth, this decision inflicts a serious

blow to Trump’s financial health, especially when he has to spend more and more money on legal fees in his many criminal cases.”

Rahmani said Engoron tipped his hand when he granted partial summary judgment before trial. The attorney noted that the judge’s distaste for Trump and his antics was apparent during trial, and the allegations of perjury against defense witness and former Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg made the Attorney General’s case even stronger. “This decision is unprecedented, but I don’t think we’ll necessarily see similar cases against other individuals,” Rahmani stated. “Trump is unique in that he stubbornly thumbs his nose at our justice system and finds himself in legal turmoil. Sometimes it’s better to cooperate with authorities or to settle a civil lawsuit rather than fight a losing battle. The E. Jean Carroll defamation judgments and

his handling of the classified documents requests and subpoena are previous instances where Trump unnecessarily litigated a losing case, and the New York civil fraud case is yet another example.”

Los Angeles-based trial attorney V. James DeSimone, of V. James DeSimone Law, added that Trump found out exactly how powerful New York’s civil fraud law is. DeSimone opined that Engoron’s detailed opinion provides ample basis for the \$354 million in penalties he assessed against the Republican presidential frontrunner and his family. “When it comes to anything involving Donald Trump’s court cases, it’s best to figure that he’ll appeal any ruling that finds him in the wrong, and he’ll appeal until the end of time, or he runs out of lawyers. At some point, the findings of fraud against a presidential candidate should matter to the voting public.”

STUDENTS, from Page 6

cellation. Additional outreach will be conducted to encourage eligible borrowers not currently enrolled in SAVE to join the program.

The accelerated timeline for forgiveness is expected to particularly benefit community colleges and other borrowers with smaller

loans, propelling them toward freedom from student debt faster than ever before. According to the Biden-Harris Administration, 85 percent of future community college borrowers under the SAVE plan will be debt-free within a decade.

Biden introduced the

SAVE plan last year, which offers the most affordable repayment option ever by basing monthly payments on income and family size rather than loan balance. Additionally, the plan ensures that borrowers making monthly payments do not accumulate interest, and starting in July, undergraduate loan payments will be

halved.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers released an issue brief today, highlighting the potential savings for low- and middle-income borrowers enrolled in SAVE due to interest and principal forgiveness. The Biden-Harris Administration’s track record of canceling student debt

now includes nearly 3.9 million Americans receiving almost \$138 billion in debt relief through various actions.

“The President remains dedicated to delivering debt relief to as many borrowers as possible, continuing to fight for comprehensive solutions to address student loan debt challenges,” offi-

cialists stated in a Fact Sheet. “The administration has also taken historic steps to improve the student loan program, including significant increases in Pell Grants and reforms to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.” Borrowers interested in enrolling in SAVE can visit studentaid.gov/save for more information.