



# North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

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## A Giant of the Community: The life and legacy of Dr. W. Larry Lundy

Born during the great depression and segregation in Selma, Alabama, he overcame the odds to become a podiatrist and start his own practice. He worked his way through college and podiatry school and became the first person in his family to become a doctor.

Dr. W. Larry Lundy passed away on February 23 in Dallas, Texas. He was 95 years old.

"I'm proud that my father persevered to achieve his goals," said his son Larry Lundy, president of Lundy Marketing Group. "My father was always committed to serving his patients and community."

Dr. Lundy went to Knoxville College and pledged to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He received a degree from Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine in 1956 and later married Mary Lundy (Houchins) in Chicago. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1960 and had two children.

In 1969, Dr. Lundy was recruited to help serve patients in Dallas. Well known for his compassion and desire to help those in need, many patients sought his services including high profile athletes, politicians, and civic leaders.

"I have known Dr. Lundy since I was in elementary school and I was one of his many patients," said Everson Walls, a former Dallas Cowboy player and a Super Bowl Champion with the New York Gi-



Dr. W. Larry Lundy passed away on Feb. 23, leaving a legacy of both professionalism and civic commitment in the community. (Courtesy photo)

ants. "He was loved, and he will be missed."

Many agree with Mr. Walls that Dr. Lundy was a dedicated doctor and community servant who made a lasting impact on the Dallas community.

"He was a loving and caring brother," said Charles O'Neal, president of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce and a fraternity brother. "Dr. Lundy was an icon who extended his courtesy beyond his medical profession. He was an active member of his community and supported other businesses."

Frank Drayton, another fraternity brother who frequently drove Dr. Lundy to fraternity meetings, recalls Dr. Lundy as an active mem-

ber of the Theta Alpha Chapter in Dallas well into his 90s. They both attended the same Sunday school class at Hamilton Park United Methodist Church in North Dallas.

"He was a lifetime member of the fraternity," Mr. Drayton said. "He cared so much about people and the community, and he was a rarity in making house calls."

Clara Brown Trimble, who serves on the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Advisory Board remembers Dr. Lundy being devoted to his patients and the South Dallas community where he opened his first office. She said he helped introduce and educate local residents on the importance of taking care of

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### Politicizing human trafficking

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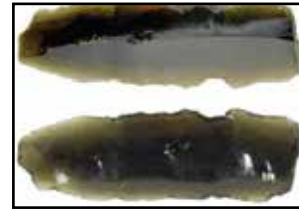
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### People In The News ...



Charles V. Hamilton



Wendy Williams

NDG Quote of the Week: "In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."  
—Thurgood Marshall

## Charles V. Hamilton

Austin Cooper recalled the first time he met Professor Charles V. Hamilton, a philosophical luminary and key architect of the Black Power movement. Cooper, who earned a Master of Public Administration from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs under Hamilton's tutelage, said the professor wasn't simply an academic advisor. To Cooper and others, he was a mentor and friend. Mostly, though, Hamilton was "Doc."

"He hired me to be one



of three research assistants at The Ford Foundation where he headed a three-year project on 'Social Welfare Policy and the American Future,'" said Cooper, the managing editor of the

Our House DC newsletter and who, among other accomplishments, served as a State Lobbyist (pension, education and labor) to former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins and Vice President of Government Affairs for the Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.

Like many others, Cooper was saddened by the news that Hamilton had died at 94. Though his death occurred on Nov. 18, 2023, it was only confirmed and made public this week. Hamilton, a distinguished political scientist, and educator, played a transformative role in reshaping

the discourse on racism in the United States through his groundbreaking work, "Black Power: The Politics of Liberation."

Hamilton's collaboration with Stokely Carmichael in 1967 produced a seminal piece that challenged traditional civil rights approaches. Unlike Carmichael, known for his impassioned speeches, observers noted that Hamilton brought a quiet and dignified intellectualism to the movement. According to scholars and others who knew him, Hamilton conveyed his profound influence through the strength

of his ideas.

He co-authored work that shifted the narrative on racism, introducing the concept of institutional racism to the forefront. Prior discussions primarily focused on overt acts of prejudice, but "Black Power: The Politics of Liberation" redirected attention to the entrenched biases within American institutions. Hamilton's belief in self-determination and self-reliance for the African American community permeated his work, laying the intellectual foundations for the Black Power movement.

A Wallace S. Sayre Professor Emeritus of Government at Columbia University, Hamilton made history as one of the first African Americans to hold an endowed chair at an Ivy League university. His extensive research delved into urban politics and the Civil Rights movement. Another of his notable contributions was, "Adam Clayton Powell Jr.: The Political Biography of an American Dilemma (1991)."

Thomas J. Davis of the University of New York at Buffalo, who championed

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## Wendy Williams

Wendy Williams' team has confirmed that the former daytime talk show host has been diagnosed with primary progressive aphasia and frontotemporal dementia (FTD). In a press release, aides to Williams said her condition, including aphasia, has impacted her language and communication abilities, while FTD has impacted Williams's behavior and cognitive functions. Last year, actor Bruce Willis also shared his battle with the same form of dementia.

Known for hosting "The Wendy Williams Show" from 2008 to 2021, Wil-



liams has faced a myriad of health challenges leading to her departure, including Graves' disease and lymphedema. The show ultimately concluded in June 2022 after several guest hosts took over.

"Over the past few years,

questions have been raised at times about Wendy's ability to process information, and many have speculated about Wendy's condition, particularly when she began to lose words, act erratically at times, and have difficulty understanding financial transactions," her team said in the news release.

"The decision to share this news was difficult and made after careful consideration, not only to advocate for understanding and compassion for Wendy but to raise awareness about aphasia and frontotemporal dementia and support the thousands of others facing similar circumstances."

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce honored Williams in 2019 with the 2,677th Star on the World-Famous Hollywood Walk of Fame, in the Category of Television. Born in Asbury Park, New Jersey, Williams counts as one of the world's foremost media moguls, philanthropist, entrepre-

neur, performer, and bestselling author. She became a household name thanks to her nationally syndicated talk show, The Wendy Williams Show.

The show was a powerhouse on daytime television, earning multiple Daytime Emmy nominations and boasting memorabilia

in the Smithsonian Museum. Broadcasting in over 50 countries, The Wendy Williams Show consistently drew more than 1.6 million viewers per episode.

At the show's heart was a diverse mix of interviews with celebrity guests from

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## Hinton Battle

The Broadway community will honor the late Hinton Battle, a three-time Tony Award-winning actor celebrated as one of Broadway's most versatile and groundbreaking acting, dance, and song figures. Battle died on January 30, 2024, at 67, leaving behind a legacy that has profoundly influenced the theater world.

The Committee of Theatre Owners has announced that on March 12, 2024, at exactly 6:45 pm, all Broadway theaters in New York will dim their lights for one minute to pay tribute to the iconic performer.

"After further consultation among the Commit-



tee of Theatre Owners and reflecting on the impact of Hinton Battle, the Committee has shared with his family that all Broadway theatres will dim their lights in his honor on March 12, 2024, at 6:45 pm for one minute," Jason Laks, Interim President of The Broadway League, wrote in an

email. "As we continue to remember Mr. Battle's remarkable talent and array of roles, the decision was made to dim all lights as the most appropriate way to recognize his legacy on Broadway and within our community."

Battle's journey in performing arts began at a young age. Trained as a ballet dancer at the renowned Jones-Haywood School of Ballet in Washington, D.C., and later at the School of American Ballet in New York City, Battle made his Broadway debut at the age of 18. He starred as the original "Scarecrow" in the 1975 musical The Wiz, marking

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# Don't politicize the very real human trafficking problem

By Allen R. Gray

We survive on the belief that all men have been emancipated, set free of slave shackles.

Not necessarily so.

Enslavement has merely been baked deeper into the American system. It might be argued that the 13th Amendment ended slavery or involuntary servitude but only with this proviso: "...except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted..." That is when a bifurcated and unjust American judicial system began throwing Black folk in prison in disproportionate and alarming numbers.

The practice of slavery is just not as overtly practiced as it once was. Enslavement has become more sophisticated and covert, and it now goes by a different name: Human Trafficking.

When there is a certain degree of force, fraud, or coercion used to elicit labor, services, or a commercial sex act, therein lies Human Trafficking. Contrary to the what the name might imply, one does not have to cross state lines of galivant about the globe to qualify for Human Trafficking. It is not a matter of mobility. The victim does not even have to leave her/his own hometown and there can still be human trafficking.

The Wolf of trafficking is opportunistic in his dealings. The Wolf will seek out potential victims who have been rendered vulnerable by their harsh societal standing—be it object poverty or lack of citizenship—and subject them to this new brand of slavery in either of two forms: Sex trafficking; or Forced labor.

When the Wolf comes calling, it is not a respecter of a victim's age, race, gen-

der, sex, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, or socioeconomic class. The Wolf seeks merely to capture, devour, and then monetize its victims.

Human Trafficking is something we do not necessarily recognize yet we see it every day. Even harsh, abusive, or unfair working conditions on a job can be construed as human trafficking. But do not overreact because you have become frustrated with your typical 9 to 5.

Thoughts of modern-day slavery in any form seemed to lie dormant despite the over four hundred years of blatant oppression Black people have suffered at the hands of this nation (albeit righteous Republicans are rewriting history books so those 400+ years of subjugation may not count by way of omission).

The event that made human trafficking a thing worth voting about is that unabashed Jeffrey Epstein happening. Although, human trafficking is a thing that is much higher, deeper, and wider than an illegal act of an underaged blonde sitting on the lap of some perverted billionaire. Human trafficking is a global condition that must be of global concern. Human trafficking is not a condition that only affects young white girls. In fact, people of color are among those most victimized by this social disease.

Of the human trafficking cases reported by the Bureau of Justice from January 2008 to June 2010 (not counting the cases not reported), those races most victimized by sex trafficking were 40% Black in first place, and 26% white in second place.

At anytime and at any place around the world, any woman might become

a victim of sexual exploitation, or any man might become entrapped in forced labor, or anyone's child might become exploited for begging, child pornography, or child labor.

With labor trafficking victims, 63% of those cases reported were Hispanic in first place, and Asians were in second place accounting for 17% of reported cases.

Among the nations of the world, the USA is ranked among the worst offenders of human trafficking. An educated estimate of the total cases of human trafficking in the USA is a little shy of 200,000 yearly incidents.

In 2020, there was a little under 9,000 reported cases of sex trafficking in the US. Most of these (reported) cases occurred in seedy massage parlors and spas, and the pornography industry.

With these awakening statistics in mind, it will serve voters well to gauge how this newfound war on human trafficking is fairing in their state. We will look at those states that reported the most offenders.

The state that is leading the number of human trafficking cases for 2020 is California with 1,334 reported cases. In second place is Texas with 987 reported cases, the state that also had Dallas and Houston listed among USA's top 10 cities as the worst offenders of human trafficking. Then there was Florida with 738 human trafficking cases reported, and New York with 414 cases reported.

There is no political grandstanding to be had here since two of the aforementioned states are led by Republicans and the other two are Democratic-led states.

To be fair, those inflated

numbers might be easily attributed to the population density of those states. But when one views a state's human trafficking condition from another angle the political party difference shifts dramatically to one side.

Looking at the number of reported human trafficking cases per 100,000 residents, Mississippi ranks first with 6.31 per 100,000 people, then Nevada (5.99/100,000), Missouri (4.34/100,000) and the District of Columbia (4.14/100,000) rounds out the top four. The top three vote-getters are all led by Republican governors.

The District of Columbia is not a state, nor does it have a governor. The mayor and the City Council lead DC.

Talking about what needs to be done about human trafficking and how to solve this global ill is fodder that is chewed at political stumps. Talk is cheap, but too many extremist Republicans with ill intents have doled out enough cheap talk to be reelected far too often. They have done very little about human trafficking...they have done nothing at all.

Human trafficking is a problem that affects us all in one way or another. We must address this menacing crisis head on. The best time to address poisonous serpent is when we cast our vote.

This time around, vote for a politician who does not chide human trafficking on the one hand—but promotes social conditions that, in some greater or lesser way, support human trafficking.

Then be aware of professional politicians who dismiss the thought of hu-

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Keep up with the news

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# Study reveals officer-involved killings of unarmed black individuals linked to adverse sleep outcomes in Black community

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

A comprehensive national study has brought to light distressing connections between officer-involved killings of unarmed Black individuals and adverse sleep outcomes within the African American community. The research was published in the journal *JAMA Internal Medicine* and utilized a nationally representative repeated cross-sectional design. It delved into the repercussions of structural racism on sleep health outcomes following incidents of police violence.

The central inquiry of the study focused on whether officer-involved killings of unarmed Black individuals are associated with adverse sleep health outcomes in the community. Utilizing a difference-in-differences



*The central inquiry of the study focused on whether officer-involved killings of unarmed Black individuals are associated with adverse sleep health outcomes in the community. Utilizing a difference-in-differences design, researchers examined changes in sleep duration among non-Hispanic Black individuals before and after exposure to such incidents. (Photo via NNPA)*

design, researchers examined changes in sleep duration among non-Hispanic Black individuals before and after exposure to such incidents.

“There are lots of reasons why Black Americans’ sleep — at least in terms of duration as well as quality — is worse than for poten-

tially other groups,” said lead study author and associate professor of medical ethics and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Atheendar Venkataramani. “Part of it has to do with some economic factors, the types of jobs people are in, the environments people are living in

— with regards to the noise or crime or things that are around — and the experience of discrimination can also create stress, which is bad for sleep.”

Data from the US Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) were

analyzed, covering 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018 for BRFSS and 2013-2019 for ATUS. The study included responses from 181,865 Black and 1,799,757 white participants in the BRFSS and 9,858 Black and 46,532 white participants in the ATUS.

The findings revealed a stark reality: non-Hispanic Black individuals were more likely than their non-Hispanic White counterparts to report short sleep (less than 7 hours) or very short sleep (less than 6 hours) following an officer-involved killing of an unarmed Black person in their area of residence. The trend persisted after nationally prominent incidents, irrespective of location within the United States.

The study suggests a concerning association between exposure to officer-involved killings and racial

disparities in sleep health. It further posits that these sleep disparities may play a mediating role in broader health outcomes linked to structural racism.

The study underscored the pervasive impact of structural racism on racial disparities in sleep health outcomes. The implications for public health are significant, with study authors emphasizing the need for a deeper understanding of the systemic issues contributing to these outcomes and the development of targeted interventions to address the root causes.

Medical professionals have urged policymakers, healthcare professionals, and communities to collaborate in addressing the underlying issues to foster a society where everyone can enjoy equal access to health and well-being.

## For young people, irregular meals, E-cigarette use linked to frequent headaches

(Newswise) — MINNEAPOLIS — For children and teens, irregular meals such as skipped breakfasts are linked to an increased risk of frequent headaches, according to a new study published in the February 28, 2024, online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The study also found that for those ages 12 to 17, substance use and exposure, specifically electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), were associated with frequent headaches.

For the study, frequent headaches were defined as occurring more than once per week.

“It is not uncommon for children and teens to have headaches, and while medications are used to stop and sometimes prevent headaches, lifestyle changes may also offer an effective route to relief by preventing headaches from happening and improving quality of life,” said study author Serena L. Orr, MD,



*Wild Vibes/Unsplash*

MSc, of the University of Calgary in Canada and a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

The study included nearly 5 million children and teens, ages five to 17, who were enrolled in a large Canadian health survey. They were asked if they had experienced headaches over the previous six months and how often. Approximately 6% of participants had headaches more than once a week.

The survey asked about several lifestyle factors including screen time, sleep hours and meals. Anxiety and mood disorders were assessed. Participants ages 12 to 17 were also asked

about substance use and exposure.

For meals, participants reported how many times over the past week they ate breakfast and how often they sat down to eat dinner with their family, for a total of 14 possible meals. Those who experienced frequent headaches had an average of nine such meals compared to an average of 12 meals for kids who had one or fewer headaches a week.

After adjusting for factors such as age, sex, household income and the other lifestyle factors, researchers found that participants who regularly ate breakfast as well as dinners with their family had an 8% lower

risk of frequent headaches than those who did not eat regular meals.

Participants ages 12 to 17 were also asked how often they used substances like alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes and cannabis. E-cigarettes were used daily by 8% of participants with frequent headaches compared to 3% of participants with one or fewer headaches per week. Also, 79% of participants with frequent headaches had not used e-cigarettes in the past month compared to 88% of those who did not have frequent headaches.

After adjustments for age, sex, household income, and the other lifestyle factors, researchers found those who used e-cigarettes daily had double the odds of frequent headaches compared to those who never used e-cigarettes.

After similar adjustments, researchers did not find links to headaches for sleep, screen time and other substance use.

Participants with anxiety

and mood disorders had twice the risk of frequent headaches as those without.

“We assessed anxiety and mood disorders because they have been linked to headaches and may impact lifestyle behaviors,” said Orr. “It is possible regular family meals may lead to greater connectedness and communication within the family, and better mental health outcomes, which in turn may impact headache frequency.”

Orr added, “Our findings suggest that asking about lifestyle factors such as substance abuse may help medical professionals identify lifestyle interventions that may be helpful to young people and may help to reduce frequent headaches.”

A limitation of the study was it did not include children and teens living in foster homes, institutions or on First Nation reserves and other Indigenous settlements in Canada.

Learn more about headache at [BrainandLife.org](http://BrainandLife.org),

home of the American Academy of Neurology’s free patient and caregiver magazine focused on the intersection of neurologic disease and brain health. Follow *Brain & Life* on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The American Academy of Neurology is the world’s largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, migraine, multiple sclerosis, concussion, Parkinson’s disease and epilepsy.

For more information about the American Academy of Neurology, visit [AAN.com](http://AAN.com) or find them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

# Super Tuesday victories sets stage for Biden-Trump rematch

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

President Joe Biden and his twice-impeached and four-times indicted predecessor, Donald Trump, emerged victorious on Super Tuesday, wrapping up their respective party nominations and setting up a rematch of the volatile 2020 election.

More than a dozen states participated in primaries and caucuses, constituting the most significant nominating race day, and shifting the focus from the one-by-

## Texas Senator Nathan Johnson wins in Democratic primary for Senate District 16

Incumbent State Senator Nathan Johnson won the Democratic Primary Election for Senate District 16 with approximately 60% of the vote. Reflecting on the election outcome, Johnson said, "We ran a positive race about understanding the needs of the district and delivering results for people, about fighting effectively against the rightward lurch of Republican leadership, and about growing the strength of the Democratic party in Texas."

"The voters responded. They overwhelmingly approve of what we've

achieved and have said they want me to get back to work. I'm back at it today.

"I am deeply grateful to my fantastic team and to all those who've supported our campaign and our efforts in office. My team and I are energized and inspired by the results."

"We now all the more eagerly embrace our responsibilities to engage with constituents, craft good policy that addresses their concerns, and build a coalition that serves the diverse needs and aspirations of the people of this state."

one march through early-voting states.

Despite signs of potential

weaknesses in their election strategies, both Biden and

Trump faced challenges.

Numerous progressives, reportedly disillusioned

with Biden, opted for the

"uncommitted" option in places like Minnesota and Michigan, while college-educated suburbanites leaned towards alternatives to Trump. While the 15 states in contention didn't officially provide Trump with enough delegates to secure the GOP nomination for a third consecutive time, he closed the gap, leaving little room for his main rival, Nikki Haley, who suspended her campaign on the morning after. Haley and Biden earned victories in the District of Columbia's primaries held the Sunday

before Super Tuesday. The latest delegate estimate revealed Trump's substantial gain of 617 delegates on Tuesday, propelling his overall count to 893, or 92% of those awarded, putting him on the brink of the 1,215 delegates required for clinching the GOP nomination. In contrast, Haley lagged significantly with only 66 delegates.

"They call it Super Tuesday for a reason," declared Trump, whom a civil jury twice sanctioned for sexu-

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## 38 months since the January 6 Attack on the Capitol and DOJ investigations and legal actions continue

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

March 6, 2024, marked 38 months since the tumultuous attack on the U.S. Capitol, and even as the primary instigator of the events of January 6, 2021, former President Donald Trump moves to clinch the GOP presidential nomination, the Department of Justice (DOJ) said it remains committed to holding those responsible accountable.

Under the continued leadership of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Dis-



As of October 14, 2022, the losses resulting from the attack, which disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress attempting to certify President Joe Biden's victory, are estimated at approximately \$2.9 million. (Photo via NNPA)

trict of Columbia and the FBI's Washington Field Office, officials said the investigation into the Capitol breach has progressed at an unprecedented speed

and scale. As of October 14, 2022, the losses resulting from the attack, which disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress attempt-

ing to certify President Joe Biden's victory, are estimated at approximately \$2.9 million.

The DOJ said its resolve to prosecute those who committed crimes on that fateful day remains steadfast. According to public court documents on the Capitol Breach Investigation Resource Page, more than 1,358 defendants have been charged in nearly all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Criminal charges range from assaulting, resisting,

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2503	Break The Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	3/31/24	9/27/24
2462	30X Cash Blitz Crossword Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$3	4/17/24	10/14/24
2463	50X Cash Blitz Overall Odds are 1 in 4.19	\$5	4/17/24	10/14/24
2524	Money Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 4.34	\$5	4/17/24	10/14/24
2485	RUBY 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$10	4/17/24	10/14/24
2475	Jackpot Millions Overall Odds are 1 in 3.76	\$20	4/17/24	10/14/24

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2024 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



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# SMU: Artifact could be linked to Spanish explorer Coronado's expedition across Texas Panhandle

(Newswise) — DALLAS (SMU) — It's a small piece of obsidian, just over 5 centimeters long, likely found on a hard-scrabble piece of rangeland in the Texas panhandle. But when SMU anthropologist Matthew Boulanger looks at it, he gets a mental image of Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado making his way across the plains more than 470 years ago in search of a fabled city of gold.

Boulanger believes that the flaked-stone tool with its sharp edge was likely dropped by a member of Coronado's expedition, which included people indigenous to Mexico, as they trekked across parts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Kansas. His theory is backed by spectrometer analysis of the blade's chemical composition, which ties it to Central Mexico's Sierra de Pachuca mountain range, where indigenous people used obsidian to produce cutting tools until the Spanish conquest.

"This small unassum-



*A small piece of obsidian, just over 5 centimeters long, likely found on a hard-scrabble piece of rangeland in the Texas panhandle. (Photo: SMU)*

ing artifact fits all of the requirements for convincing evidence of a Coronado presence in the Texas panhandle," said Boulanger. "It is the correct form of artifact, it is fully consistent with other finds, the correct material, found in the correct location, and there are no indications of an intentional hoax."

Boulanger, director of

the Archeology Research Collections in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, published his findings in the *Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society*, with co-author Charlene Erwin.

Other researchers have traced the path of Spanish explorers and indigenous people from Mexico across what is now the United

States through the presence of central Mexican obsidian blades; because the blades were brittle, they were discarded along the way as they broke.

Boulanger concedes that where the blade was found is subject to conjecture, as he examined the artifact after the death of its collector. But a reconstructed map of Coronado's expedition shows that the travelers likely passed by or through the ranch near McLean Texas where collector Lloyd Erwin grew up.

As a child, Erwin became interested in historical artifacts and started collecting items he found on the ranch. Years later, his daughter-in-law, Charlene, asked Boulanger to authenticate some of the obsidian pieces in a collection of artifacts that he had framed. Upon closer examination, Boulanger noticed a greenish tint to an obsidian piece that looked like it had been placed in the frame as an afterthought.

Using a spectrometer,

Boulanger traced the obsidian to Central Mexico's Sierra de Pachuca mountain range, where indigenous people widely used obsidian to produce tools until the Spanish Conquest.

So how did an obsidian blade from Central Mexico end up in the Texas Panhandle? There is no clear evidence for a trade network that would have connected Indigenous peoples of the Texas Panhandle to those living in Central Mexico prior to the Spanish Conquest of Mexico in the early 1500s.

Boulanger offered three theories for consideration: young Lloyd Erwin obtained the blade through trade or exchange of artifacts with other collectors, the blade is a hoax to garner attention to Erwin and his collection, or the blade was genuinely found in Texas by Erwin and is indeed an archaeological find. After piecing together Erwin's travels and interviewing his family, Boulanger believes the third hypothesis is cor-

rect.

He suspects the obsidian blade was carried northward by one of the many people indigenous to Mexico who accompanied the Coronado expedition to Quivira, near modern-day Salina, Kansas. If more corroborating evidence is uncovered near where Erwin found the blade, it could provide archaeologists more proof the artifact is part of a Coronado-related site and a clue to the expedition's trail.

"Because we know Erwin found the knife on his family ranch, we can speculate that someone on Coronado's expedition discarded it," said Boulanger. "When I talk to people collecting artifacts, I tell them to document where they find objects. Because most of us now have mobile phones, we can record GPS coordinates easily. You can now provide archaeologists precise locations, which helps them authenticate artifacts and possible lead to more discoveries."

## College students appear resistant to using 988 crisis phone line

(Newswise) — Alexandria, Va. (February 20, 2024) — The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline launched across the U.S. nearly 2 years ago. But college students — who are particularly vulnerable to substance use problems and related mental health crises — appear disinclined to use it, according to new research published in the *Journal of Addiction & Offender Counseling*, a publication of the American Counseling Association.

"While the 988 Lifeline is intended to be used for substance use crises, the major-

ity of students would not refer to this service for said concern," Georgia State University doctoral student Afroze N. Shaikh and her colleagues concluded in their research.

According to federal government data, 8.2 million adults ages 18–25 meet the criteria for a substance use disorder. Researchers have identified a link between substance use, depression and suicidal thinking, but studies also show that college-age students are unlikely to seek help for substance use and mental health problems.

Shaikh and her colleagues wanted to assess college students' intentions to call or text 988 for substance use concerns. They recruited 446 undergraduates at a university in the southeastern U.S. and had them anonymously fill out a battery of questionnaires. The participants anonymously rated their level of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and other drug use within the previous three months. They also were asked about their use of and experience with the 988 service.

See **CRISIS**, Page 10

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# Guilty verdict in the 2002 murder of hip-hop icon Jam Master Jay

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent



Graffiti of Jason Mizell "Jam Master Jay" at 5 Pointz in Long Island City, Queens, New York City. (Photo: Youngking11/Wikimedia Commons)

After years of speculation and decades of frustration for family members, detectives, and fans alike, a federal jury in Brooklyn has finally reached a verdict in the murder trial of hip-hop pioneer Jam Master Jay. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York announced that Karl Jordan Jr. and Ronald Washington had been found guilty of the 2002 killing in a New York City recording studio. Jam Master Jay, born Ja-

son Mizell and co-founder of the groundbreaking hip-hop trio Run-DMC, was fatally shot at a recording studio in Jamaica, Queens, on October 30, 2002. The trial revealed that the mo-

tive behind the murder was linked to a drug deal.

Washington, a childhood friend of Jay, and Jordan, Jay's godson, had both pleaded not guilty to charges of murder while engaged

in narcotics trafficking and firearm-related murder. The jury's decision means the two men could face a minimum of 20 years behind bars and a maximum sentence of life in prison. Notably, prosecutors opted not to seek the death penalty.

Throughout the trial, a key witness, Uriel Rincon, who was present at the recording studio the night of the murder, testified that Jordan and Washington entered armed. Rincon claimed that Jordan was the one who shot Jay in the head, but Rincon said he kept the attackers' identi-

ties a secret out of confusion and fear.

In the prosecution's closing arguments, Assistant U.S. Attorney Artie McConnell emphasized the role of greed, money, and jealousy in the crime. "It's about the actions of two men, Karl Jordan, Jr., and Ronald Washington, that the evidence proves are killers," McConnell demanded.

The defense countered the claims, arguing that a third defendant, Jay Bryant, was the actual perpetrator. Defense attorneys pointed to DNA evidence on a hat found near Jay's body,

which reportedly contained only Bryant's DNA. They also highlighted security camera footage that allegedly showed Bryant as the sole defendant present at the scene.

Bryant, charged separately in May 2023 with murder while engaged in narcotics trafficking and firearm-related murder, has pleaded not guilty and is set to go on trial separately in January 2026.

Earlier this month, the much anticipated and widely acclaimed documentary, "Kings from Queens: The Run DMC Story," was released on Peacock.

## DOJ finds unconstitutional jailing practices in Mississippi police department

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Justice has announced that the Lexington Police Department in Mississippi, situated in one of the na-

tion's poorest counties, has unconstitutionally incarcerated individuals for unpaid fines. The revelation follows an ongoing investigation into alleged civil rights violations by the police in Lexington, initiated by the Justice Department in No-

ember. In a letter addressed to Katherine Barrett Riley, the attorney for the city of Lexington, Federal prosecutors asserted that the police department imprisoned people for outstanding fines without determining their

financial means, violating the Fourteenth Amendment. The letter stated, "Thus far in our investigation, which is continuing, we have reviewed hundreds of case files, watched hours of body-worn camera footage, and interviewed doz-

ens of witnesses, including Lexington residents and LPD leadership, officers, and staff."

The investigation raises significant concerns about the city and the police department's conduct, leading to incarceration for

nonpayment of fines without assessing individuals' financial capabilities, violating the Fourteenth Amendment. Prosecutors cited recent guidance from the Department of Justice,

See DOJ, Page 11

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## A NEW WAY TO PAY YOUR WATER BILLS

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) customers will soon use **DallasGo**, the new online payment platform for paying water bills and other City of Dallas bills.

Launching in spring 2024, **DallasGo** will replace ePay to offer customers a more convenient bill paying experience.

For more information on **DallasGo**, visit [dallas.gov/DallasGo](http://dallas.gov/DallasGo) or call DWU Customer Service at 214-651-1441, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## LUNDY, from Page 1

their feet.

"Years ago, when I was 20 and seeking employment, Dr. Lundy hired me as his bookkeeper. This was my first job in Dallas and very pivotal in building my career," Ms. Brown Trimble said. "Dr. Lundy also helped seniors at the community center with free foot examines and treatment. He has been honored many times for his services."

"He was very connected," added Candace Wicks who also serves on the MLK Advisory Board. "He was community oriented. He helped many residents who could not afford medical treatment. He was a great man of faith and with his wife and children served several civic organizations."

Dr. Lundy's dedication also included his strong faith and enthusiasm to serve on church committees at Hamilton Park, where he was a member for over 55 years.

Rev. Sheron C. Patterson, pastor of Hamilton Park believes Dr. Lundy will be remembered as a valuable figure in Dallas history.

"He was part of a trio of groundbreaking black physicians that were members of the church who inspired us all. What I admired so much about Dr. Lundy was that at his age (well into his 80s and 90s) he was able to touch his toes and did so regularly on request," said Rev. Patterson with a chuckle.

While many knew Dr. Lundy as a podiatrist and business leader, others shared how he was a great teacher and mentor. He was also a fitness advocate and promoted eating healthy and exercising.

"He had a passion for health and wellness," said Dr. David Lief, a podiatrist who has known Dr. Lundy since the late 60s. "He was a jogger, very health conscious and consistent in his workout routine."

Dr. Dan Jones, who has been a podiatrist for over 30 years, said Dr. Lundy was one of the physicians who participated in his surgical training in Dallas. He remembers the encouragement and positive support he received.

"He was a great mentor and lead by example," said Dr. Jones who has a podiatry clinic in the Dallas DeSoto area. "He was an essential leader who recruit-



Dr. W. Larry Lundy with his wife, Mary. (Courtesy photo)

land, Ohio when Dr. Lundy was a clinical instructor. Today, he has a private practice in Oak Cliff.

They both helped found the Black National Podiat-

ric Medical Association for minority podiatrists. "We had too many black feet and too few black hands," Dr. Clark said.

quiet, but a hilarious and fun guy to be around," he added. "He was a very good friend. We talked when I was a resident in Kansas, and he encouraged me to come to Dallas. While in Dallas, we assisted each other in surgeries."

Andrea Breedlove, Dr. Lundy's daughter, remembers many awards her father received. "My father had a giving spirit. He was always trying to help a relative, friend or someone he just met," said Ms. Breedlove, a Crisis Intervention Counselor in Birdville ISD. "When I pledged Delta, he told me it was important that I be a lifetime member and always give back."

***"I have known Dr. Lundy since I was in elementary school and I was one of his many patients. He was loved, and he will be missed."***

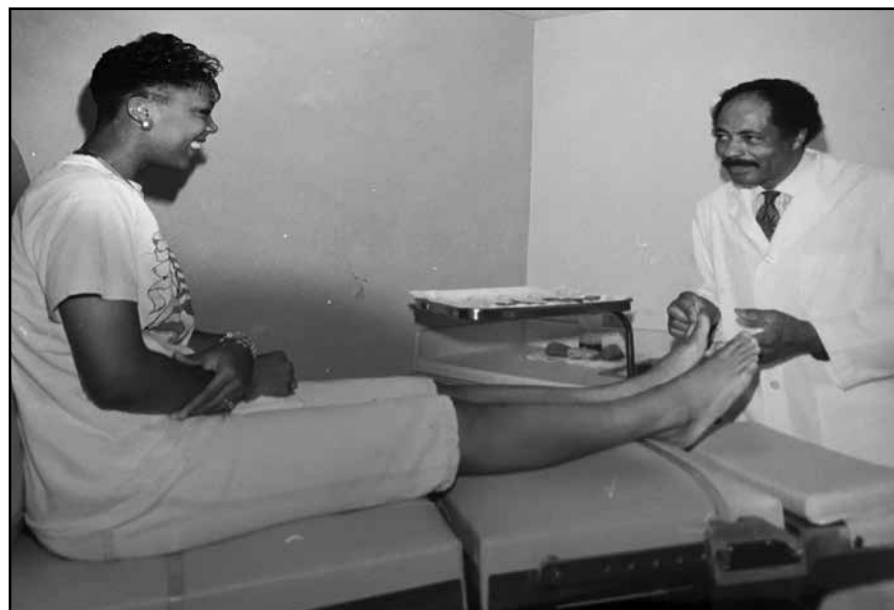
- Everson Walls

ed, mentored, and trained young podiatrists."

Dr. Ben Clark met Dr. Lundy when he was a student at Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleve-

ric Medical Association for minority podiatrists. "We had too many black feet and too few black hands," Dr. Clark said.

"Dr. Lundy was nice and



Friends and family of Dr. W. Larry Lundy remember him for his reliability and caring both in his work and private life. (Courtesy photos)

## Lundy's Lifenotes...

1. Dr. W. Larry Lundy, 95, was an acclaimed podiatrist, businessman, community servant, husband, father, and grandfather. He was born in Selma, Alabama on January 4, 1929, and went home to be with the Lord in Dallas, Texas on Friday, February 23, 2024.
2. At a young age, Dr. Lundy accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at First Baptist Church in Selma. Following graduation from Selma's A.G Parrish High School in 1947, he went on to attend Knoxville College in Tennessee where he held several jobs to help pay for his education. While Dr. Lundy stayed busy working and studying, he also managed to play football, run track, and pledge the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1950.
3. After graduating from Knoxville College in 1952, he was accepted to the Illinois college of Podiatric Medicine where he received a degree in podiatric medicine in 1956. Dr. Lundy was excited about working as a podiatrist in Chicago where he also met his wife, Mary Lundy (Houchins). The young couple later moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1960 where Dr. Lundy set up his podiatry practice and where their son Larry and daughter Andrea were born. Dr. Lundy was a clinical instructor at the Ohio School of Podiatric medicine teaching podiatry students.
4. In 1969, Dr. Lundy was recruited to be the first African American ambulatory foot surgeon in Dallas, Texas. He purchased a home in Hamilton Park and joined the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church. He was an active member for over 55 years serving in various leadership roles.
5. During his time in Dallas, Dr. Lundy set up his own practice on Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard where he served the community for over 50 years. He later opened a second foot clinic in Hamilton Park in North Dallas until the city acquired the surrounding area to open the now Robert E Price Post Office™. Dr. Lundy also treated patients at several hospitals including Forest Avenue Hospital, which was among the first Black-owned hospitals in Dallas that closed in 1984, St. Paul Medical Center, and Methodist Hospital in Oak Cliff. Dr. Lundy was known to make house calls, and visit Nursing homes to see his senior patients.
6. The Lundy home (in Cleveland and Dallas) was a place where family members could stay as they started their careers. Dr. Lundy was also involved in the Dallas community where he supported organizations including Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Lifetime member), Martin Luther King Community Center, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Cotton Bowl Kiwanis Club, Knights of Pythias Credit Union, Park South Family YMCA, Moreland YMCA, and the NAACP (Lifetime Member).
7. Throughout the years, Dr. Lundy received numerous awards and recognition for his business accomplishments and community service. Some of his accolades included the Podiatrist of the Year from the Dallas County Podiatric Medical Association, Dallas Black Chamber Quest for Success Award honoring entrepreneurs, NAACP Juanita Craft Award, and Honorary Grand Marshall of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade. He also helped start several businesses including one of the first Black banks in Dallas (Sunbelt National Bank) and Lim's Cafeteria.
8. He loved to work out and believed in staying fit and healthy. He joined the Cooper Aerobics Center and ran in several marathons. He also worked out well into his 90s. He was a Renaissance man and lifelong learner. He took Calligraphy and Spanish classes and learned how to snow ski.
9. One of Dr. Lundy's favorite mantras was "You have to keep on moving!"



# From Borderlands to Megalopolis: A sneak peek at 2024's biggest films

By Sofia Voss  
The Cincinnati Herald

It's safe to say that 2023 was a revolutionary year for film, reflected by the historic Writers Guild of America and Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists strikes. With the two strikes overlapping, Hollywood effectively shut down for roughly half the year, delaying or otherwise impacting dozens of film and television projects. As of November, both strikes have ended, and many of the affected productions are on track to hit theaters in 2024.

Marvel, which originally planned for a record-breaking six new films to come out in 2024, is now expecting only four. Among those 2024 releases are "Madame Web," the first-ever female-led "Spider-Man" spinoff film, and the third installment of the "Venom" franchise. Renowned production company A24 has a full 2024 slate, including Mia Goth's return to horror in "MaXXXine," Ti West's follow-up to "X"



iStockphoto / NNPA

and "Pearl." New offerings from renowned directors like Luca Guadagnino and George Miller are also forthcoming.

The pressure is on for the 2024 box office to restore Hollywood to financial stability after the combined challenges of the pandemic and the fight to give its workers fair wages. The first four months of 2024 are fairly sparse on new releases, in large part because prolonged labor negotiations set timelines back for films scheduled in the early part of the year. There are, however, a few prospective big hits in those months, including high-profile films like "Argylle" and "Dune: Part Two." The "Mean Girls" musical,

which premiered in January 2024, lived up to its anticipation—garnering a \$28M box office debut and the number one spot after just three days.

Suffice it to say, 2024 is not only an incredibly important year for the future of the film industry but also quite an exciting one in terms of its cinematic offerings. To give audiences more insight into what to expect, Casino Bonus CA looked ahead at movies coming out in 2024 and highlighted the most buzzed-about titles.

**Blitz**  
– Director: Steve McQueen  
"Blitz" takes its name from the World War II German aerial bombing cam-

paigned known as the "blitzkrieg," and follows a group of civilians in London during the years 1940 and 1941. The film is written and directed by Steve McQueen, the British filmmaker best known for his Academy Award-winning drama "12 Years a Slave." "Blitz" marks McQueen's first narrative feature film since 2018's "Widows," and stars acting talents like Saoirse Ronan, Stephen Graham, and Harris Dickinson.

**Borderlands**  
– Director: Eli Roth  
"Borderlands" is based on the popular video game

of the same name, which follows a team of hunters as they travel to the dystopian planet Pandora in search of mysterious alien vaults. The feature film adaptation has horror filmmaker Eli Roth at its helm, and follows up his 2023 slasher "Thanksgiving." While many plot details are still hidden, Roth has said that the film will loosely adhere to the Borderlands game, but isn't precious about the specifics.

**Challengers**  
– Director: Luca Guadagnino  
Originally slated to pre-

miere on the opening night of the prestigious Venice Film Festival in 2023, Luca Guadagnino's "Challengers" is now set for theatrical release on April 26, 2024. "Challengers" is a romantic drama that follows three young tennis stars as they contend with the price of winning and continued relevance. The film stars Zendaya, Mike Faist, and Josh O'Connor in a convoluted love triangle that caused an internet meltdown after the release of the trailer.

**Civil War**

See FILMS, Page 10

# NDG Book Review: Great reads for Women's History Month

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can do it. All your life, you've been told that you can do anything you set your mind to do. Try new things, get better at old things, dream big and act bigger. You can be soft and tough at the same time. And if you need any inspiration, well, look to these great picture books...

Shortly after her birth in India, Minda Dentler got terribly sick with a disease called polio, and doctors said she would never walk. Alas, her birth mother was very poor and couldn't afford to care for Minda, so she put Minda up for adoption. In "The Girl Who Figured It Out" by Minda Dentler, illustrations by Stephanie Dehen-



nin (Sourcebooks Kids, \$18.99), that's just the beginning of a story that started in Mumbai, came to America, and continues at the Ironman World Cham-

pionship. Kids who say, "I can't," will learn from someone who could; for that, it's great for 5-to-7-year-olds.

For a similar story, look

for "The Fabulous Fannie Farmer: Kitchen Scientist and America's Cook" by Emma Bland Smith, pictures by Susan Reagan (Calkins Creek, \$18.99). Yes, Fannie Farmer was a real girl once, a girl who learned to cook from her mother. Back then, recipes weren't written down but after Fannie recovered from polio as a teenager, her "passion" for cooking simply boiled over. Young cooks ages 7-to-10 will love this delicious tale even more because the book contains recipes!

Growing up with four sisters in a poor New York City neighborhood didn't stop Sarah Brenner, either, even though girls then were treated differently than were boys. In "One of a Kind: The Life of Sydney

Taylor" by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Sarah Green (Calkins Creek, \$18.99), Sarah grew up looking for ways to make the world a fair place for everyone. She gave herself a new name, got an education, and wrote a book about her life and Jewish children like she was once. Six-to-10-year-olds will love this story, especially if they've ever read Green's iconic children's book.

And finally, for the 7-to-10-year-old who's rarely far away from their bicycle, "Pedal, Balance, Steer: Annie Londonderry, the First Woman to Cycle Around the World" by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Alison Jay (Calkins Creek, \$18.99) will be a favorite read. It's the story of Annie Londonderry, who

was a very hard worker. When she learned of a challenge – \$10,000 for the first person to bicycle around the world in fifteen months or less (which was a lot of money in the 1890s) – well, how could anyone resist something that fun?

Fun – but also lots of work!

Could she do it? Be sure to check out the biography at the back of the book because your 5-to-9-year-old will want to know.

If your child needs more women-powered inspiration, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for ideas, They've got plenty of great stories you, or for kids of any age. Take a look through the shelves and see what you can find. Go ahead. You can do it.

## REMATCH, from Page 5

ally assaulting a writer and a New York judge found guilty of massive business fraud. "This is a big one," continued Trump, who was ordered to pay nearly \$500 million for his New York crimes and \$90 million for the sexual assault guilty finding. "And they tell me, the pundits and otherwise, that there's never been one like this."

Despite facing challenging headlines and low approval ratings, Biden main-

tained his dominance on Super Tuesday, securing approximately 80% of the vote, while Trump struggled to reach that threshold. Although Haley posed a more formidable challenge, Biden retained solid support from his party's rank-and-file.

Looking ahead to the general election in November, Trump faces potential headwinds like those he encounters now, including four criminal trials that

could potentially land him an 800-year prison sentence. Conversely, Biden has room to win over intra-party detractors, especially those critical of his handling of Israel's conflict in Gaza, where the administration has increased its call for a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, in California, the battle for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant after Dianne Feinstein's death intensified. Rep. Adam Schiff will face former baseball star Steve Garvey, a Republican and Trump supporter.

Garvey secured a spot in the top two alongside Democrat Schiff, outpacing

Democratic Reps. Barbara Lee and Katie Porter. Sen. Laphonza Butler, appointed

after Feinstein's demise, had earlier pledged not to run for the seat in 2024.

## CRISIS, from Page 6

More than 60% of the students reported using drugs or alcohol less than once a month or not at all. Roughly 18% reported daily or near-daily substance use, and another 10% reported weekly use.

Overall, the students said they were most likely to seek help from a friend or intimate partner for mental health problems and suicidal thoughts. They indicated that if they ever were to call 988, it would be for help with depression, anxiety or emotional distress. Only 15% said they'd use it for help with substance use

problems. Fewer than 20% of the heaviest substance users indicated they would use the Lifeline for help.

The researchers cautioned that their study relied on self-reports — which can't account for participants' biases or lies — and involved mostly heterosexual, cis-gender students at a single university. They called for more research involving a wider range of settings and cultural identities.

However, the findings signal the need for colleges and universities to guide students in making informed decisions about

their substance use, they wrote. In addition, state governments can make sure students and other individuals in crisis know about the new crisis number. College counselors may consider developing resource guides for students that include suicide risk factors and crisis resources, including the 988 Lifeline, they added.

Shaikh's collaborators on the study were her Georgia State colleagues Alec Prince and Mark Burgan; San Diego professional counselor Lauren Flynn; Virginia Tech doctoral student Alexis Isaac; and Jamian Coleman, PhD, of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

# National Urban League unveils 2024 State of Black America Report

The National Urban League has unveiled its highly anticipated 2024 State of Black America Report, a comprehensive benchmark and thought leadership document offering profound insights into racial equality in the United States.

Established in 1976 under the visionary leadership of the late Mr. Vernon E. Jordan Jr., the organization's fifth president, the report remains a cornerstone for understanding the multifaceted challenges faced by Black Americans across



crucial domains such as economics, employment, education, health, housing, criminal justice, and civic participation.

This year's edition continues the tradition of featuring insightful commen-

tary from influential figures in various sectors, providing a comprehensive view of the complexities of the current landscape. Economic empowerment is central to the National Urban League's mission, and the

Equality Index is a powerful tool to measure progress for Black Americans relative to whites.

Attributing the mission's core to economic empowerment, National Urban League President Marc Morial emphasized the nuanced progress revealed by the Equality Index. "Civic engagement and health show improvement among African Americans; however, significant work remains in the areas of economics and social justice," Morial stated.

The Equality Index visu-

ally represents how Black Americans fare in economic status, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement compared to their white counterparts, utilizing whites as the benchmark due to historical advantages. The 2024 Equality Index for Black America stands at 75.7%, indicating that despite notable strides, African Americans still miss approximately 24% of the pie that symbolizes full equality.

Breaking down the Equality Index, categories include economics, health,

education, social justice, and civic engagement. Each category is carefully weighted based on its significance, and nationally representative statistics are employed to calculate sub-indices that capture the relative well-being of African Americans compared to whites. "Civic engagement and health are areas in which African Americans are doing much better," Morial noted. "However, economics and social justice still need plenty of work."

See STATE, Page 13

## DOJ, from Page 5

emphasizing that individuals cannot be incarcerated solely due to their inability to pay fines or fees.

Todd W. Gee, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, expressed grave concern over the police conduct. "One-third of Lexington's residents live below the poverty line. The burden of unjust fines and fees undermines the goals of rehabili-

tation and erodes the community's trust in the justice system," Gee remarked.

Kristen Clarke, the Department of Justice's assistant attorney general for civil rights, urged an end to a "two-tiered system of justice" based on income. She emphasized the urgency of addressing the issues uncovered in Mississippi and expressed readiness to collaborate with officials to

end harmful practices.

Prosecutors argued that Lexington's police violated the constitutional prohibition on wealth-based detention by requiring arrested individuals to pay outstanding fines before release and by issuing and executing warrants for unpaid fines. Lexington, with an 86% Black population and a poverty rate nearing 30%, has a storied place in civil rights history, having elected the first Black man

to the Mississippi Legislature in 1967.

The broader investigation into the Lexington Police Department encompasses allegations of excessive force, discriminatory policing, and First Amendment violations. Sam Dobbins, the city's former police chief, was terminated after an audio recording surfaced, revealing his use

of racial slurs, and boasting about on-duty killings. Justice Department officials met with city leaders last week, and local officials pledged to collaborate with the Justice Department to reform procedures.

"As our investigation proceeds, we ask the City and LPD promptly to assess the serious concerns we identify in this letter

and advise us how they intend to remedy them expeditiously," Justice Department officials concluded in the letter. "We will continue to examine whether there is a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives people of their rights related to the collection and enforcement of fines and fees in violation of federal law."

## VICTIMS, from Page 3

man trafficking being a social poison that must be addressed immediately. Beware of skilled office-bearers whose simple solution to human trafficking is to look at our border crossings and conclude, "Blame it on the Mexicans."

If you suspect that you or

someone you know may be a victim of Human Trafficking take action.

Contact:

- Federal law enforcement directly: U.S. Department of Homeland Security at 1-866-347-2423 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year, or submit a

tip online at [www.ice.gov/tips](http://www.ice.gov/tips).

- Contact 911 or your local police department or emergency access number.
- Call toll-free (24/7) National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-8888 (1-888-373-7888).
- Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

## BATTLE, from Page 2

the beginning of a prolific career spanning two decades.

The late actor's unparalleled talent earned him three Tony Awards for Best Featured Actor in a Musical, a record in the category. His noteworthy roles in Miss Saigon (1991), The Tap Dance Kid (1984), and Sophisticated Ladies (1981) showcased his versatility and left an indelible mark on Broadway.

Among his many Broad-

way credits, Battle's performances included memorable roles in Chicago (1996 Revival), Miss Saigon (1991), The Tap Dance Kid (1983), Dreamgirls (1981), Sophisticated Ladies (1981), Dancin' (1978), and The Wiz (1975). His touring credits extended the reach of his artistry, featuring shows like Ragtime (Chicago, 1998), The Tap Dance Kid (1985), Sophisticated Ladies (Los Angeles, 1982),

and Dancin' (1979).

As Broadway prepares to dim its lights in a collective moment of remembrance, the theater community and fans alike will reflect on Battle's enduring contributions to the world of performing arts, Laks said. He added that Battle's impact on Broadway remains an integral part of its history, and the dimmed lights ceremony serves as a much warranted tribute to a "legendary figure who forever changed the landscape of theater."



## Ed Bell Construction Company

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March 1, 2024  
Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

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## FILMS, from Page 9

– Director: Alex Garland  
“Civil War” marks Alex Garland’s third directorial collaboration with A24, following 2022’s “Men” and 2014’s “Ex Machina.” The film depicts a desolate and divided near-future United States, caught in the midst of a civil war after 19 states secede from the Union. Kirsten Dunst stars as a journalist trying to survive alongside her family. “Civil War” also features rising star Cailee Spaeny, whose performance in Sofia Coppola’s 2023 film “Priscilla” won the Volpi Cup for Best Actress at the Venice Film Festival.

### Deadpool & Wolverine

– Director: Shawn Levy  
One of the Marvel films impacted by the Hollywood strikes, “Deadpool & Wolverine” will hit theaters on July 26 after getting pushed back from its original May 2024 release. With filming happening as recently as November 2023, Ryan Reynolds will reprise his role as Deadpool. This installment will also include Hugh Jackman as Wolverine, Emma Corrin as the new lead villain, and “Succession” star Matthew Macfadyen in a still-unknown role.

### Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga

– Director: George Miller

Charlize Theron originated the character Furiosa in 2015’s critically acclaimed “Mad Max: Fury Road,” a spinoff film of the classic “Mad Max” series starring Mel Gibson. In “Furiosa,” Anya Taylor-Joy will play the titular role in the “Fury Road” prequel, following a younger version of the character on an odyssey to get back home after being kidnapped by Warlord Dementus (Chris Hemsworth). With George Miller once again at the helm, “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga” has an expected release of May 24.

### Here

– Director: Robert Zemeckis  
Robert Zemeckis is the director behind blockbuster hits including 1985’s “Back to the Future,” 1994’s “Forrest Gump,” 2000’s “Cast Away,” and 2012’s “Flight,” so it is safe to say there’s buzz surrounding his upcoming film “Here.” Starring frequent collaborator Tom Hanks, reuniting with his “Forrest Gump” co-star Robin Wright, “Here” follows the lives of people who occupied the same room at various points over the course of centuries. The film harnesses Metaphysics Live, an AI tool, to de-age actors on set in real time without the need for postproduction digital ef-

fects. The film is based on a graphic novel of the same name written by Richard McGuire.

### Horizon: An American Saga

– Director: Kevin Costner  
Kevin Costner is no stranger to Westerns—he’s the star of the hit television show “Yellowstone,” as well as 1990’s “Dances with Wolves,” 1994’s “Wyatt Earp,” and the 2003 film “Open Range,” among other films. Now, the actor is writing and directing his own series of Western films titled “Horizon: An American Saga.” This two-part film project is said to explore the topic of Westward expansion, centered around the years before and after the Civil War.

### Inside Out 2

– Director: Kelsey Mann  
In 2015, Disney and Pixar’s animated film “Inside Out” was released to great critical and commercial acclaim, snagging the Best Animated Feature Oscar in 2016. Where the first film explores the mind of 11-year-old Riley, the sequel promises to explore her teenage emotions, which includes the addition of Anxiety, voiced by Maya Hawke. While Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith, and Lewis Black will return as Joy, Sadness, and Anger, respectively, Bill Hader’s

Fear and Mindy Kaling’s Disgust have been replaced.

### Joker: Folie à Deux

– Director: Todd Phillips  
While Batman adaptations abound, “Joker: Folie à Deux” promises an entirely new look into the world of Gotham. Following the box office success of 2019’s “Joker,” which starred Joaquin Phoenix as the titular character, joined by Zazie Beetz and Robert De Niro, the sequel introduces Lady Gaga as notorious Batman villain Harley Quinn. Gaga’s portrayal will no doubt differ significantly from previous depictions of the character, such as Margot Robbie’s, particularly because “Joker: Folie à Deux” will be a musical.

### Maria

– Director: Pablo Larraín  
Pablo Larraín has established himself as director of some of the most high-profile biopics of the last decade, including 2016’s “Neruda” and “Jackie,” as well as 2021’s “Spencer,” which featured Kristen Stewart as Princess Diana. His next film, “Maria,” will follow legendary Greek American opera singer Maria Callas, played by Angelina Jolie, in the last few days of her life. Even though the production signed an interim SAG agreement in order to begin filming during the strike, there is no set release date.

“Maria” is reportedly still in postproduction.

### Megalopolis

– Director: Francis Ford Coppola  
As the title indicates, “Megalopolis” features an impressive roster of megastars including Adam Driver, Forest Whitaker, Laurence Fishburne, Shia LaBeouf, and Aubrey Plaza, just to name a few. Not much information about the film’s plot and characters is publicly available, but it is rumored to explore a destroyed New York City and an architect determined to rebuild it. “Megalopolis” is apparently a passion project for Coppola—so much so that he self-financed most of the nearly \$100 million production—and he’s taking his time to get it right, pushing the film back from its initially expected 2023 release date.

### Mufasa: The Lion King

– Director: Barry Jenkins  
Barry Jenkins is best known for his Best Picture Oscar-winning drama “Moonlight” and “If Beale Street Could Talk.” Now he’s lending his talents to Disney for the upcoming film “Mufasa: The Lion King,” which will serve as a prequel to Jon Favreau’s 2019 remake of “The Lion King.” The 2019 movie broke ground with its photorealistic animation style, an aesthetic “Mufasa” will

also adopt. In the aftermath of the Hollywood strikes, the release date was pushed from July to Dec. 20.

### Nosferatu

– Director: Robert Eggers  
The first-ever “Nosferatu” came out all the way back in 1922 as a silent film directed by F.W. Murnau. The film centers around the evil vampire Count Orlok as he terrorizes an unsuspecting young couple. The new “Nosferatu” is written and directed by Robert Eggers, whose past films—including 2015’s “The Witch” and 2019’s “The Lighthouse”—showcase the director’s aptitude for eerie horror. Starring Bill Skarsgård and Lily-Rose Depp, Eggers’ “Nosferatu” is slated for a Christmas release.

### They Follow

– Director: David Robert Mitchell  
David Robert Mitchell’s 2014 film “It Follows” was the low-budget indie horror hit that no one saw coming, garnering over \$20 million at the global box office. Nearly a decade later, the sequel, “They Follow,” was announced, with lead actress Maika Monroe committed to return. While there are no plot details available, it’s likely that the sexually transmitted monster capable of shifting its appearance at any time will return as an antagonist.

## WILLIAMS, from Page 2

television, film, music, and sports. Williams and the show have been recognized with Daytime Emmy nominations for “Best Talk Show Host” and “Best Entertainment Talk Show.”

Before conquering daytime television, Williams spent 23 years building a devoted fan base on the radio with “The Wendy Williams Experience,” a top-rated daily radio show. Syndicated nationally, it aired on WBLS in New York, captivating an audience of more than 12 million people. In recognition of her contributions, Williams was inducted into

the National Radio Hall of Fame in November 2009, a prestigious honor held by only a handful of women.

Her versatility as a performer extends beyond the airwaves, with TV, Broadway, and film credits to her name. She has graced the screen in various roles, from playing herself on NBC’s 30 Rock to competing on Season 12 of ABC’s Dancing with the Stars. Her hosting stint on Game Show Network’s original series Love Triangle, along with featured guest appearances on ABC’s One Life to Live and Lifetime’s “Drop Dead Diva,” showcased her

diverse talent. Additionally, Williams took on significant roles in the major motion pictures “Think Like a Man” and “Think Like a Man, Too,” as well as a memorable turn as “Mama Morton” in the Tony-winning revival of the musical “Chicago.”

In 2014 Harper Collins published “Hold Me in Contempt,” Williams’ seventh book and debut romance novel. The book skyrocketed to New York Times Best-Seller status on its first day of release, solidifying her influence across various forms of media.

Adding another feather to her cap, Williams ventured

into the world of fashion design, achieving the status of a #1 selling brand with HSN through her Wendy Williams collection.

The announcement about her health arrives just days ahead of the premiere of the two-part documentary, “Where Is Wendy Williams?” airing on Lifetime

on February 24 and 25. Williams herself produced the documentary, which candidly examines her experience with Graves’ disease and other topics. Contrary to the portrayal in the film, Wendy’s sister, Wanda Finnie, reassured the public that Williams is now in a much better place emotion-

ally and is in greater shape.

“I spoke with her yesterday, and she is, from what I understand, in a wellness, healing environment,” Finnie stated. “We cannot reach out to her, but she can reach out to us. And she is in a healing place emotionally. She’s not the person that you see in this film.”

# Let us hear from YOU!!!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:  
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## STATE, from Page 11

The report delves into the persistent racial income gap, which has remained virtually unchanged for over two decades. Black Americans earn, on average, 64% of the income of their white counterparts. “The Civil Rights Act of ‘64, the Voting Rights Act of ‘65, and the Great Society programs in the middle 1960s probably cut the American pov-

erty rate in half in 15 years,” Morial remarked.

Civic participation among Black Americans presents a mixed picture, with increased voter registration (69% in 2020) but a decline in actual voter turnout (42.3% in 2022). Assessing President Joe Biden’s performance, the report acknowledges achievements such as a

record-low Black unemployment rate and efforts to expand healthcare access and affordable housing for Black Americans. However, it points to political opposition hindering the enactment of key policies, including voting rights and policing reform.

“We are in a world of deep attack by an ideological extreme that wants to erase so much of the civil-rights movement,” said

Maya Wiley, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and co-author of the study. Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Justice Department, assured, “We’ve been working across the country to reach underserved communities so that we understand the problems that communities face.”

Despite those challenges, the National Urban League

said it remains steadfast in its commitment to closing the racial gap. Morial urged accelerated action, emphasizing unrestricted voting access, economic reforms to address poverty and wealth disparities, and crucial support for children, such as the expired child tax credit that significantly reduced child poverty rates.

He asserted that the 2024 State of Black America Report serves as a comprehen-

sive call to action, urging the nation to confront systemic challenges hindering Black Americans’ journey toward genuine equality.

“What’s dramatic is that the Civil Rights Act of ‘64, the Voting Rights Act of ‘65, the Great Society programs in the middle 1960s, probably cut the American poverty rate in half in a 15-year period,” Morial said. “So can we? Yes, there are ways.”

## ATTACK, from Page 5

or impeding officers to entering or remaining in a restricted federal building or grounds. Notably, approximately 140 police officers were assaulted during the attack, including officers from the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

The breakdown of criminal charges includes:

- Approximately 486 defendants were charged with assaulting officers or employees.
- Eleven individuals were arrested for attacking members of the media.
- More than 350 defendants have been charged with obstructing official proceedings.

Regarding pleas, approximately 769 individuals have pleaded guilty to

various federal charges, the DOJ noted in a news release. Of these, 238 have pleaded guilty to felonies, including federal charges of assaulting law enforcement officers and felonious obstruction during a civil disorder. A total of 95 individuals have pleaded guilty to assaulting law enforcement officers, with 130 sentenced to prison terms of up to 151 months.

Trials have resulted in 152 individuals being found guilty, with 81 convicted of assaulting, resisting, or impeding officers and/or obstructing officers during a civil disorder.

Sentencing is ongoing, with approximately 497 federal defendants sentenced to periods of incarceration and 164 sentenced

to home detention. Notably, one individual has been sentenced to more than 14 years in prison for assaulting officers.

The twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president has continued to force delays in the prosecution of the 91 felony charges he faces, many of which stem from his alleged role in the Capitol attack.

Despite his alleged crimes, which also include sexual assault, business fraud, and trading favors with foreign enemies,

Trump emerged victorious on Super Tuesday, catapulting him ever closer to a rematch with Biden in the November general election.

Meanwhile, the FBI said it continues to seek public assistance in identifying individuals involved in the January 6 attack, with citizens from around the country already providing invaluable help. The FBI currently has ten videos of suspects wanted for violent assaults on federal officers, including those who assaulted members of the me-

dia on January 6.

Among the individuals the FBI is seeking public tips to identify or locate are Evan Neumann, Adam Villarreal, and Paul Belosic, who allegedly were involved in violent altercations with law enforcement officers during the attack. The FBI encourages the public to visit [fbi.gov/capitol-violence](https://fbi.gov/capitol-violence) to view photos

and videos and provide any information that may aid these ongoing investigations.

“We have deployed our full investigative resources and are working closely with our federal, state, and local partners to aggressively pursue those involved in these criminal activities,” the DOJ said in the news release.

## HAMILTON, from Page 2

the book in a review for the Library Journal, wrote, “Probing Powell’s rise and fall, Hamilton moves from the 1930s, when Powell became a New York City councilman, to his service starting in 1945 as a U.S. Representative, and then to his chairing of the House Education and Labor Committee, his expulsion from the House in 1967, and his defeat at the polls in 1970.”

Davis noted that Hamilton’s “able analysis of the unapologetic, openly arrogant champion of civil rights reflects the race issues of the day within a prism of political theory focused on the conflict of basic American values like

majority rule and minority rights.” He concluded that the book was “essential for any serious collection on Black biography, civil rights, or political analysis. Highly recommended.”

Hamilton’s legacy extended beyond academia and his writings; his ideas continue to influence discussions on racial equality and justice. “Doc loved not only teaching, but he inspired me and all of his students to become activists of history in our respective fields of profession,” Cooper remarked. “I considered him to be not only my lifelong teacher, but also a mentor and friend. I will miss him.”



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# Trailblazer for women set to retire

One of Dallas' high-profile clergywomen, Rev. Sheron C. Patterson, has announced her retirement after 35 years of service to the United Methodist Church. Dr. Patterson is the first African American woman ordained in the North Texas region of the United Methodist Church. In this role she has the distinction of serving as senior pastor to numerous historic pulpits including St. Paul UMC downtown and now Hamilton Park UMC. During her tenure at Hamilton Park, she re-energized the congregation, rebranded their name, developed a social media presence, and increased the membership. Dr. Patterson also shepherded them through COVID and turned the campus into first a COVID testing site and later a COVID vaccine site. She also oversaw



theparkumc.org

a 1.5 million renovation of the campus.

Dr. Patterson invested decades of service to the community as a Trustee at Southern Methodist University and a member of the Board of Directors for Methodist Health System. Also former mayor Mike Rawlings invited her to serve on his Homeless Task Force.

Media is also one of her ministry gifts, and for seven years Dr. Patterson led Communications Department of the regional United Methodist Church. A prolific author of nine books, and countless articles, Dr. Patterson is a relationship contributor on WFAA's "Good Moring Texas." Many Dallasites know her voice from her

years on KRNB radio and the Gospel Music Sunday morning Drive Time. In the 1990's, she and her co-host spun gospel music for three hours and then she hurried to her church to preach the Sunday sermon.

Dr. Patterson is a 17-year survivor of breast cancer. She turned her diagnosis into a Dallas-wide health education event. She wrote weekly columns for The Dallas Morning News during her breast cancer journey. In partnership with Methodist Health systems, she created "The Patterson Pledge" that encouraged women to take responsibility of their health. She raised thousands of dollars to provide free mammograms for low-income women by gathering other breast cancer survivors and building Habitat for Humanity homes.

Dr. Patterson's 35-year ministry is built on innovation and change. She is best known for her revolutionary work in love and healthy relationships. In the 1980s when pastors did not dare touch the taboo topics of dating, marriage and divorce, Dr. Patterson and her congregation at Jubilee UMC launched an innovative relationship ministry called, The Love Clinic. People from across the metroplex flocked to the church on Friday nights to hear a pastor preach and teach on love. The Friday night seminars grew into summer camps for kids, retreats across the nation and an Essence Magazine best-selling book, The Love Clinic: How to Heal Relationships in a Christian Spirit.

She holds degrees from Spelman College in Atlan-

ta, GA, and Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, TX. Dr. Patterson and her husband, Robert, have been married 40 years in June 2024, and are the parents of two adult children.

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church will celebrate their pastors' retirement on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 10:00 am with a message from long time friend, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price.

KRNB radio music director/on-air personality Keith Solis will serve as Master of Ceremonies. The church is located at 11881 Schroeder Road, Dallas, Texas 75243.

For more information, please contact Sheron Patterson at 214 356-7975 or s.patterson@theparkumc.org.

## Dancing The Critter/Bug Shuffle

Dr. James L. Snyder

I must confess that I do have a liking for critters of all kinds. I enjoy feeding them out on the back porch, and boy, do they come hungry for their treats.

Unlike me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not very fond of critters of any nature. The only critter she likes is Yours Truly. I guess I'm enough of a critter to satisfy any longings like that. I hope she doesn't try to scratch my head.

We have about five cats, four raccoons, two possums, and lately, our newest critters are chickens from our neighbor next door.

If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees these chickens, she immediately opens the door and chases them away. She will often throw water at them to keep them from returning.

Obviously, they're not that frightened of her and return on a regular schedule. To them it's Treats over Fear.

Out on the porch, we also have a bunch of birds, and

at times hummingbirds. We have a lot of wasps and bees flying around. Then we have ants galore. Somehow, they found the bowl of kitty food and try to come as often as they can.

And then we have lizards. For some reason, they came to our back porch and moved in. They act like they own the place and do all kinds of lizardly things.

One morning, I was in the bathroom getting ready for the day when I noticed in the shower a little lizard. He climbed halfway up the wall and just stared at me. I think he thought I was the intruder.

I stared back, talked to him a little bit, and told him to be careful of the other person in the house. He just stared at me and blinked his eyes.

I had forgotten that incident, and later in the day, as we were drinking coffee together, I happened to remember it. I looked at my wife and said, "I had a special visitor in the bathroom this morning."

She stared at me and said, "Who was that special

visitor?" I laughed very heartily and said, "That visitor was Henry."

Looking rather strange and confused, she said, "Who is Henry?"

"Ah, my dear, it was a lizard. I just call him Henry because we're friends."

"In your bathroom?" She gasped.

With that, she jumped up and ran to the bathroom looking for Henry. I could hear her frantically calling his name for well over an hour. Finally, it grew silent, and she came out from the bathroom and sat down.

"Well," I said with a smile, "did you meet my friend Henry?"

Scowling at me, she said, "I flushed your friend down the toilet."

With that in mind, I thought of an important Bible verse. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creep-

eth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

From God's perspective, we who have been created in His image and likeness, have a responsibility to

care for the animals God has created. He has authorized us to care for them in obedience to His Word.

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.

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# Remembering a pioneer during Women's History Month



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor



*Dorothy Johnson Vaughan*

NASA's pioneers rarely mention the name Dorothy Johnson Vaughan but as the head of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' (NACA's) segregated West Area Computing Unit from 1949 until 1958, Vaughan was both a respected mathematician and NASA's first Black manager.

She came to the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in 1943, during the height of World War II, leaving her position as the math teacher at Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, VA to take what she believed would be a temporary war job.

Two years after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 into law, prohibiting racial, religious and ethnic discrimination in the country's defense industry; the Laboratory began hiring Black women to meet the skyrocketing demand for processing aeronautical research data.

However, even with the executive order, state and local laws required "colored" mathematicians to work separately from their white female counterparts. Dorothy Johnson Vaughan was assigned to the segregated "West Area Computing" unit where she was required to use separate dining and restroom facilities.

Over time, both individually and as a group, the West Computers distinguished themselves with contributions to virtually every area of research at Langley.

In 1949, Vaughan was promoted to lead the group, making her the NACA's first Black supervisor, and one of the NACA's few female supervisors.

The Section Head title gave Vaughan rare Laboratory-wide visibility, and she collaborated with other

well-known (white) computers on projects such as compiling a handbook for algebraic methods for calculating machines.

Engineers valued her recommendations as to the best "girls" for a particular project, and for challenging assignments they often requested that she personally handle the work.

In 1958, when the NACA made the transition to NASA, segregated facilities, including the West Computing office, were abolished. Vaughan joined the new Analysis and Computation Division (ACD), a racially and gender-integrated group on the frontier of electronic computing.

Vaughan became an expert FORTRAN programmer, and she also contributed to the Scout Launch Vehicle Program that launched America's first satellites into space.

After the U.S. defense industry desegregated, Vaughan worked with leading computer operators and engineers, becoming an expert in the FORTRAN programming coding language at NASA. She worked on the SCOUT Launch Vehicle Program that shot satellites into space.

At NACA, she was responsible for calculating mathematical computations for engineers conducting aeronautical experiments in wind tunnels on the variables effecting drag and lift of aircraft.

In 1949, she became the first Black supervisor at NACA when she was promoted manager of the West Area Computers. This work group was composed entirely of Black female mathematicians. The title gave her rare visibility and she collaborated with other well-known computer operators on various projects.

Vaughan led the West Area Computing program for a decade. Then in 1958, as NACA was transitioning into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the agency abolished the segregated working environment.

Vaughan joined the new Analysis and Computation Division becoming an expert FORTRAN programmer and worked on the

SCOUT (Solid Controlled Orbital Utility Test) Launch Vehicle Program, one of the nation's most successful and reliable launch vehicles, used for launching a 385-pound satellite into a 500-mile orbit.

She retired in 1971. During the final decade of her career, Vaughan worked closely with fellow NASA mathematicians Katherine G. Johnson and Mary Jackson on the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, which brought confidence back to America's space program. Vaughan died on November 10, 2008.

"Most Americans have

no idea that from the 1940s through the 1960s, a cadre of Black women formed part of the country's space work force and helped provide NASA with the raw computing power it needed to dominate the heavens."

Vaughan was born in 1910 in Kansas City, Missouri, she graduated at 19-years-old from Wilberforce University — a college founded in 1865 as "one of the destination points of [the] railroad" when the Ohio Underground Railroad was established.

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

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## Notice

### Virtual Public Meetings with In-Person Option

#### INTERSTATE 345 (I-345) CONNECTS PROJECT From I-30 to Woodall Rodgers Freeway (Spur 366) CSJ: 0092-14-094 Dallas County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to reconstruct I-345 from I-30 to Woodall Rodgers Freeway (Spur 366) in Dallas County, a distance of 2.8 miles. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public meeting on the proposed project with two in-person options. **The same information will be available at the in-person and virtual meetings.**

#### In-Person Meeting 1

Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Open House)  
Presentation at 6 p.m.  
St. Philip's School and Community  
Center Gymnasium  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
Served by DART bus route 13 or the  
South Dallas GoLink

#### In-Person Meeting 2

Thursday, March 21, 2024  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Open House)  
Presentation at 6 p.m.  
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church  
Gymnasium (Third Floor)  
1819 N. Washington Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75204  
Served by DART bus routes 003, 023,  
105, 207

#### Virtual Meeting\*

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at  
5:30 p.m. through Friday, April 5,  
2024, at 11:59 p.m.  
[www.345connects.com](http://www.345connects.com)  
*\*This is not a live event. The  
presentation provided at in-person  
meetings will be posted online.*

The in-person meetings will be held in an open house format with one formal presentation at 6 p.m. Representatives from TxDOT and project consultants will be available to answer questions about the project. The virtual meeting can be viewed Tuesday, March 19, 2024, starting at 5:30 p.m. through the end of the comment deadline on Friday, April 5, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Materials will be posted to the project website at [www.345connects.com](http://www.345connects.com) and will include the pre-recorded presentation provided at the in-person meetings with audio and video components, along with exhibits and other information. **Please note, the virtual public meeting is not a live event. The materials can be viewed at your convenience.** If you do not have internet access, you may call (214) 320-6100 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials. **Please note meeting materials will not be available until Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

The existing I-345 facility is an elevated, urban highway that consists of six 12-foot-wide mainlanes (three in each direction) with 10-foot-wide shoulders on each side. The existing facility is an elevated steel structure over all cross streets south of Woodall Rodgers Freeway (Spur 366). Existing frontage road lanes are 12-foot-wide with two and three lanes in each direction. Discontinuous sidewalks are located within the project limits.

The project proposes the reconstruction of I-345 according to the recommended alternative determined during the feasibility study in 2022. The proposed project includes the reconstruction of I-345 to include three 12-foot-wide mainlanes in each direction that would be below ground with city street connections over the top. Discontinuous frontage roads would be constructed along the highway between Bryan Street and Hall Street to I-30. The project would include 10-foot-wide

sidewalks at cross streets (both sides) and 6-foot-wide sidewalks along frontage roads, where reasonable and feasible. The design maintains the South, Southern, and North Dallas roadway connections. Additional cross/side streets would be realigned and reconstructed to accommodate the reconstruction of I-345 and its interchanges with Woodall Rodgers Freeway (Spur 366) and I-30.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve multimodal mobility, meet current design standards, and reduce highway maintenance cost. The proposed project is needed because the existing I-345 from I-30 to Woodall Rodgers Freeway (Spur 366) (a) provides limited direct pedestrian and bicyclist amenities (or accommodation) to connect communities to achieve multimodal mobility (b) does not meet current design standards, and (c) is reaching its useful design life resulting in an increase in maintenance cost.

All improvements would occur within existing right of way (ROW) which varies in width from approximately 280 to 635 feet. No additional ROW is anticipated to be required.

Preliminary environmental constraints information, maps showing the project location as well as design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for public inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150. These materials will also be available for review electronically at the virtual public meeting and in hard copy form at the in-person meetings.

The virtual public meeting and in-person options will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or docu-

ment translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting or in-person option, please contact TxDOT Dallas District Public Information Office at (214) 320-4480 no later than 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

Comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to the TxDOT Dallas District Office, Attention: Grace Lo, P.E., 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, TX 75150; by email to [345connects@txdot.gov](mailto:345connects@txdot.gov); or by calling (903) 329-9307 to record a verbal comment. **All comments must be received on or before Friday, April 5, 2024**, to be included in the official public meeting record. Responses to comments received will be available online at [www.345connects.com](http://www.345connects.com) once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project please contact Grace Lo, P.E., TxDOT Project Manager, by phone at (214) 320-6100, or by email at [345connects@txdot.gov](mailto:345connects@txdot.gov).

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.*