



North Dallas Gazette

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Legal arsenal being forged amid fears of Trump election sabotage

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

In the shadow of a contentious political landscape, President Joe Biden and his close circle have reportedly embarked on a strategic campaign to fortify their defenses against potential electoral sabotage. With a wary eye on the twice-impeached and four-times indicted Donald Trump's lingering ambitions and a Republican Party fueled by the specter of the "Big Lie," Biden's team is meticulously crafting legal strategies to navigate a potential showdown in the 2024 presidential election.

According to a detailed report in Rolling Stone, years before Trump's formal announcement for the 2024 race, clandestine maneuvers, and overt machinations were underway within the ex-president's camp to tilt the electoral scale in his favor. This extensive groundwork, conducted covertly and publicly, has set the stage for a potentially volatile showdown in November. Democratic Party elites, grappling not only with Biden's dwindling poll numbers but also with the looming threat of electoral subversion, are intensifying their efforts to thwart any attempts at a coup.

Citing sources familiar with Biden's concerns, Rolling Stone



Insiders from the Trump and Biden camps anticipate a nail-biting finish in November, with the outcome hinging on a mere sliver of votes. Advisers to both candidates told Rolling Stone that they foresee a contentious battle unfolding, with Trump's team primed for an electoral "knife fight to the death." Biden's preparations for such a scenario date back to his candidacy's infancy, with a dedicated cadre of legal experts brainstorming strategies to counter every conceivable threat to the democratic process.
(iStockphoto / NNPA)

reported that officials have revealed an ongoing apprehension that Trump may resort to nefarious means to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, particularly in a closely contested election. With memories of the tumultuous aftermath of the 2020 race still fresh, Biden's inner circle is bracing for a potential reprise of Trump's scorched-earth tactics, buoyed by a relentless assault on truth and democratic norms.

"President Biden has been worried, for a while now, that Donald Trump is going to try to steal the

election, if it's very close on Election Day," a source familiar with Biden's thinking told Rolling Stone. "If that ends up being the case, we are... also expecting the Republican Party to go into overdrive to help him steal it. We are continuing to build out the infrastructure to ensure that doesn't happen — again — if President Biden wins and Trump and MAGA Republicans try to confuse [everyone] and sow chaos."

Following Biden's victory in

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People In The News ...



Ben Crump



Chief Chris Biggerstaff

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

- Thurgood Marshall

Ben Crump

(Black PR Wire) NEW YORK, N.Y. — Nationally renowned civil rights attorney Ben Crump has been named by Forbes as one of America's Top 200 Lawyers for 2024.

The inaugural list of America's Top 200 Lawyers highlights the finest practitioners in the profession—lawyers with stellar track records in their specialties, those who have broken barriers to emerge as leaders in their fields, and attorneys most respected by peers and clients.

"It is a great honor to be



included on the Forbes list of America's Top 200 Lawyers for 2024, among so many incredible attorneys," said Crump. "While, as a profession and as a society we have come a long way,

there is much more work to be done and progress to be made. We must not take our feet off the brakes until there is equal justice and opportunity for all Americans."

Crump has handled high-profile civil rights cases, including George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tyre Nichols. In addition to civil rights cases, Ben Crump Law handles everything from class actions and mass torts to personal injury and environmental lawsuits.

Crump receives hundreds of requests a day for representation, but the civil

rights cases he's become famous for constitute only a small fraction of his practice. Crump is leveraging his legal brand to build a thriving nationwide business by partnering with firms in other jurisdictions on a variety of cases.

In 2021, The Benjamin L. Crump Center for Social Justice at the St. Thomas University College of Law was created. The center, housed within one of the most diverse law schools in the country, will train the next generation of lawyers and social justice engineers.

Through his work, na-

tionally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump has spearheaded a legal movement to better protect the rights of marginalized citizens.

Most recently, Crump has represented the family of Dexter Wade, who was buried by authorities in a pauper's field in Jackson, Miss. while his mother was actively searching for her missing son. Earlier this month the Department of Justice announced they will be stepping in to provide technical assistance in nest-of-kin notifications.

"The families impacted

by local government officials' shortcomings are grateful that the federal government heard their cries for change and will be intervening," Crump said. "It is our hope that this federal intervention will reestablish trust within the Jackson community and their local agencies."

He has led landscape-changing civil rights cases and represented clients in a wide range of areas including civil rights, personal injury, labor and employment, class actions, and more. Ben Crump Law is dedicated to holding the powerful accountable.

Chief Chris Biggerstaff

Fire Chief Chris Biggerstaff has successfully completed the process that awards the professional designation of "Chief Fire Officer" (CFO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing® (CPC®) met on April 15 to confer the designation. Fire Chief Biggerstaff becomes one of only 1,892 CFOs worldwide.

The Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including experience, education, professional development,



professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

The CFO designation pro-

gram uses a comprehensive peer review model to evaluate candidates seeking the credential. The Commission on Professional Credentialing awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all the organization's stringent criteria.

Achieving this designation signifies Chief Biggerstaff's career commitment to the fire and emergency services.

This professional designation is valid for three years. Maintaining the designation requires recipients to show continued growth in the areas of professional development, professional contributions, active association membership, and

community involvement as well as adhere to a strict code of professional conduct.

The Commission on Professional Credentialing, an entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence®, Inc., (CPSE®) administers the Designation Program. The CPC consists of indi-

viduals from academia, federal and local government, and the fire and emergency medical services profession. To learn more about CPC, visit CPSE.org/Credentialing.

Since 2001, Plano Fire-Rescue has been accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation, Interna-

tional. Plano is one of only 15 fire departments in the State of Texas to become accredited. There are just over 300 accredited agencies worldwide. Since 1998, Plano Fire-Rescue has held Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.

O.J. Simpson

O.J. Simpson, a towering figure in both the sports world and the annals of American legal history, has lost his battle with cancer at the age of 76. His family confirmed his death in a statement issued early on Thursday, April 11.

"On April 10, our father, Orenthal James Simpson, succumbed to his battle with cancer," read the statement shared by Simpson's family. "He was surrounded by his children and grandchildren."

Simpson's life story, a blend of unparalleled athletic achievement and enduring controversy, began in San Francisco, California, on July 9, 1947. His



rise to prominence began at the University of Southern California (USC), where his prowess as a college football star catapulted him into the national spotlight. His remarkable talent on the field, including a legendary game-winning touchdown against rival UCLA, solidified his status

as one of the most electrifying athletes of his era.

Simpson's professional career initially experienced difficulties after the Buffalo Bills selected him with the first overall pick in the 1969 NFL draft. However, under the guidance of coach Lou Saban, he flourished, achieving feats that would etch his name in football history.

Notably, Simpson's record-breaking 1973 season, during which he became the first player to rush for 2,000 yards in a single NFL campaign, remains an indelible mark of his athletic prowess.

Off the field, Simpson's magnetic personality and

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Have a wonderful day!
Thurman R. Jones, Publisher
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Voting Issues 2024: Word is Bond

By Allen R. Gray

The line of demarcation that lies between those who get and those who get not was once defined as by the Trinity River. Now, the line has shifted to anything south of Illinois Avenue thanks to gentrification. The avenue is the political difference between the haves and have nots... which is to say the difference between struggling Blacks and Latinos and more affluent whites.

The new \$1.25 billion package that was recently approved by the Dallas City Council is an issue that deserves to be looked into deeply and what the process entails before stepping into the ballot box this coming May, especially if your domicile lies south of Illinois Avenue.

From its inception to its dollars spent, bond programs are a legislative process that is in no way a casual undertaking.

A bond program is an ensuing debt that is issued by voters; and that debt service must be paid back by the City over time and funded by taxpayer dollars. Bonds funding is an instrument accessible to Texas counties, and even a state bond is possible.

A bond is essentially an exceedingly expensive Christmas wishlist that is drafted by city officials.

The life of bonds are not decided by a single vote that will determine the passing of the entire program. Instead, a bond program is a series of desired propositions aimed at funding a city's improvement needs. The Texas Legislature recently passed a law requiring that all local government propositions be lettered, and state propositions be numbered. The 2024 bond program has a total of 10 individual propositions, which voters will be asked to consider each independently during the May 2024 election. The final funding of a bond

Propositions approved by City Council on 02/14/2024

Propositions	Proposition Allocation - Revised
Streets & Transportation	\$521,200,000
Parks & Recreation	\$345,270,000
Flood Protection & Storm Drainage	\$52,100,000
Libraries	\$43,530,000
Cultural Arts Facilities	\$75,200,000
Public Safety	\$90,000,000
Economic Development	\$72,300,000
Housing	\$26,400,000
Homelessness	\$19,000,000
Information Technology	\$5,000,000
2024 Bond Total:	1,250,000,000

Caveat emptor: Specific projects and the amounts allocated to those projects can be added or deleted by the City Council for some compelling cause or for no explicable cause.

program is paid by we the taxpayers.

There are two components to the City's tax rate: the general fund supports the Maintenance and Operations tax rate; and bonds repayments are paid by the debt service rate. During the analysis of the 2017 bond program, for every \$100 valuation the debt service rate was \$22.24.

Well over a year ago, Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson announced his appointments for the Community Bond Task Force (CBTF) subcommittees. Each CBTF subcommittee is comprised of 15 members charged with determining the City's needs for capital improvement projects. Each subcommittee is overseen by one of five appointed chairs.

The five subcommittee chairs appointed by Mayor Johnson include:

- Lind Koop, Streets Subcommittee
- Jennifer Staubach Gates, Critical Facilities Subcommittee
- Garrett Boone, Parks & Trails Subcommittee
- Anita Childress, Flood Protection & Storm Drainage Subcommittee
- Tony Shidid, Economic Development & Housing Subcommittee

Bond in and of itself is not a four letter word. There is good to be had when the vehicle in question is operated in the manner in which it was sold.

But before looking ahead to what this recent bond

proposal might offer it will serve us well to view how a bond packages of the recent past served the city and its residents.

The 2017 bond program also had 10 individual propositions that were lettered A-J; and had a bond total of \$1.050 billion. Voters unanimously passed all 10 propositions. The biggest vote-getter was Proposition A: Streets and Transportation with 78.71% of the votes. The least desired was Proposition I: Economic Development, but it still carried 60.97% of the vote.

The flagship proposal of the 2017 bond package was Proposition A: Streets and Transportation. The first question that begged to be answered was: Were the preponderance of those street repairs done above or below Illinois Avenue?

It is a wise precaution is to view a map of exactly where the street work was done—to determine if the repairs were done disproportionately either above or below that Illinois Avenue line of demarcation.

So the links that leads one to a map of those street repairs were followed...

There was no map available for viewing.

The next move is to find some map (any map) that was available.

The available map was the one that depicted the Bikeway System: Overall Network. That depiction inspired a question posed to some residents residing

to the south of Illinois Avenue.

That led to the next essential question: Do you need or even want a bike path?

An informal survey was conducted. The respondents were a small sample size of Black and Hispanic men, who retorted with a predictable and nearly unanimous "Hell naw!"

The map showed that a moderate number of bike paths were added below Illinois Avenue—but starting from that dividing line going north, the number of bike paths coursed out and through like varicose veins.

The most important question that begged to be answered was: Into whose bag did the 2017 bond dollars land?

A report of executed contracts provided by the Department of Public Works showed that for pavement maintenance and road resurfacing fees for a 36-month period the sum of \$288,906,900 was paid out. One company, Texas materials, Inc., put \$53,686,607 into its bank account. The remaining \$208,551,849 went straight into the bag of heritage materials, LLC.

Despite the critiques of past bond packages, the 2024 Bond Program will more than likely pass (affected no doubt by low voter turnout), but it did not pass unanimously with the Dallas City Council vote.

Every City Council member voted in favor of the 2024 Bond Program... save one: Council Member Adam Bazaldua, who wanted them to allocate funds to repair the neglected structure known as City Hall. Bazaldua offered up his own set of bond allocations for the May ballot. The other council members cut him off at the knees.

The biggest battle centered around the 2024 Bond Program is going to be how do minority companies and business owners have themselves included in the procurement process.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Analysis Group researchers identify racial disparities in treatment of metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer

(Newswise) — BOSTON, April 16, 2024 / PRNewswire/ — Researchers from Analysis Group, a global leader in health economics and outcomes research (HEOR), have coauthored the first large-scale study that revealed racial disparities in treatment, survival, and access to care among patients with metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC) since the first novel hormonal therapy was approved in 2018. The study, published in the journal Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases, found that Black patients were significantly less likely to receive novel treatments for – and were at a higher risk of death from – mCSPC than white patients.

The study evaluated treatment intensification (TI) and overall survival (OS) among 18,297 Medicare and 3,384 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) mCSPC patients to understand access to care and health outcomes by



Richard Catabay / Unsplash

race and socioeconomic status. Following medical guidelines for treating mCSPC, the study defined TI as patients receiving docetaxel; novel hormonal therapy (abiraterone, apalutamide, or enzalutamide); or both, in addition to androgen deprivation therapy (ADT).

The findings show that:

- Black patients were far less likely to receive TI than white patients (32% less likely in Medicare; 25% less likely in VHA).

- Black patients had a 20% higher risk of death than white patients within the Medicare population. There was no significant difference in OS between Black and white patients in the VHA population.

- Overall TI rates for all patients were modest (10.3% in Medicare; 19.9% in VHA), despite being recommended by treatment guidelines.

- Within the Medicare population, patients dually enrolled in Medicaid were

33% less likely to receive TI and had a 50% higher risk of death than those without Medicaid.

“Understanding the care of patients is critical to ensuring that treatments are made available to those who need them, regardless of race or socioeconomic status,” said study investigator Hongbo Yang, a Managing Principal at Analysis Group. “This study highlights a concerning disparity in emerging care for mCSPC, despite the avail-

ability of life-prolonging treatments.”

The study, “Emerging racial disparities among Medicare beneficiaries and Veterans with metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer,” was published in April by Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases and summarized in a video by lead investigator, Dr. Daniel J. George of the Duke Cancer Institute.

In addition to Dr. Yang and Dr. George, investigators included Vice President Wei Gao and Manager Wei Song of Analysis Group; Dr. Rhonda L. Bitting of the Duke Cancer Institute and the Durham VA Medical Center; Dr. Stephen J. Freedland of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the Durham VA Medical Center; Dr. Neeraj Agarwal of the Huntsman Cancer Institute; Dr. Zachary Klaassen of the Georgia Cancer Center; Krishnan Ramaswamy, David Russell, Birol Emir, Rickard Sandin, and Agnes Hong of Pfizer; and Yilu Lin of Tulane University.

Funding for this study was provided by Pfizer and Astellas Pharma.

To learn more about Analysis Group’s HEOR capabilities, visit www.analysisgroup.com/healthoutcomes.

Founded in 1981, Analysis Group is one of the largest international economics consulting firms, with more than 1,200 professionals across 14 offices. Analysis Group’s health care experts apply analytical expertise to health economics and outcomes research (HEOR), clinical research, market access and commercial strategy, and health care policy engagements, as well as drug safety-related engagements in epidemiology. Analysis Group’s internal experts, together with our network of affiliated experts from academia, industry, and government, provide our clients with exceptional breadth and depth of expertise and end-to-end consulting services globally.

Commissioners Court to host ‘Reflections on Health Equity’

Dr. Dayna Bowen Matthew JD, PhD, who is a Dean and Professor of the George Washington University Law School is a leader in public health and civil rights law, focusing on disparities in health, health care and social determinants of health. She is an author and intellectual who is called upon frequently to comment on law from the lower courts to the United States Supreme Court.

Dr. Bowen Matthew will offer her professional insights into the state of public health care in America and how it affects Dallas County and the North Texas Region.

As Chair of Dallas County’s Public Health Committee, Commissioner John

Wiley Price is inviting the public and especially practitioners to attend this admission free event. As an advocate of greater access to health care for our indigent and senior population Price welcomes guests to attend.

Additionally, she is the author of bestsellers Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care and the newly released Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America.

This event can be accessed virtually in person at: Dallas County Commissioners Court (500 Elm St. 2nd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202) Free parking validation for the underground parking lot is available.



REFLECTIONS ON HEALTH EQUITY

from Dr. Dayna Bowen Matthew

10 - 11 a.m.
Friday, April 26

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Dayna Bowen Matthew, JD, PhD, is the Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School. Dr. Matthew is a leader in public health and civil rights law who focuses on disparities in health, health care, and the social determinants of health. Additionally, she is author of bestsellers Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care and the newly released Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America.



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Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes resigns from new presidency of Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

Renowned Pastor Just officially assumed the reins from Rev. Jesse Jackson in February

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Less than a year after the fanfare announcement that he will succeed the Rev. Jesse Jackson as leader of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III announced his resignation this week amid what insiders described as a painful financial situation.

Few details were available at Trice Edney News Wire deadline, but accord-

ing to Dr. Haynes' April 16 statement titled, "Public Resignation Statement," he said the following as he resigned from the organization that announced him as Jackson's successor last July and formally installed him Feb. 1.

"After continued prayer and deliberation, I have decided to step down from the position of Chief Executive Officer and President of Rainbow Push Coalition

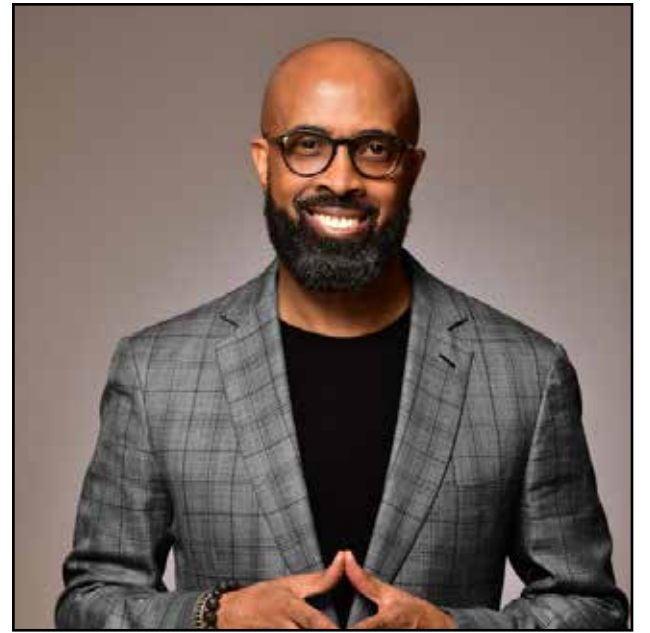
(RPC), effective immediately.

"I remain committed to honoring the rich history of RPC and the legacy of its esteemed leader, the incomparable Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., and, most significantly, to the calling and pursuit of social justice. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have expressed their support since my appointment in July of last year. Rest as-

sured that my work in the fight for liberation and freedom continues. Yours in the struggle, Frederick D. Haynes III"

Neither Rev. Haynes nor Rev. Jackson, who has been ill with Parkinson's disease, could be reached for comment by deadline. Sources close to RPC said the organization has been stricken with insurmount-

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Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes (Photo via TriceEdneyWire)

Federal government providing nearly \$80 million to combat violent crime in U.S.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has announced a multifaceted strategy to bolster law enforcement and community-based initiatives to combat violent crime in America. Speaking at a conference for federal grantees in Chicago, Garland highlighted the need to double down on recent progress and stem the tide of violence gripping many American cities.

Garland noted the recent significant drop in homicides, hailing it as the largest one-year drop in half a century. He pointed to

Chicago's 13% decrease in violent crime as a tangible example of the positive impact of targeted interventions. The Attorney General credited much of the progress to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which empowered federal prosecutors to crack down on gun trafficking and straw purchasing while allocating \$250 million in grants for community-based violence prevention initiatives.

Of the funding, Garland announced the immediate availability of \$78 million to be distributed to organizations actively engaged in reducing violent crime and fostering community trust. He emphasized that these

funds would directly support grassroots efforts to address the root causes of violence and promote safer neighborhoods nationwide.

In November, the DOJ announced nearly \$217 million in funding to hire 1,730 entry-level officers at 394 agencies in 48 states through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services hiring program.

Meanwhile, officials said violent crime decreased across some of the nation's biggest cities last year. According to federal numbers, Philadelphia, and Baltimore each saw 20% reductions in homicides between 2022 and 2023. In his recent State of the Union ad-

dress, President Joe Biden highlighted that the nation reported historically low murder rates in 2023, with violent crime dropping to one of the lowest levels in 50 years.

According to a Forbes magazine study, South Carolina ranks eighth among the most dangerous states in America, with a crime rate of 4.91 violent crimes per 1,000 residents. However, an annual report by the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division found that overall violent crime dropped by 2.6% from 2021 to 2022, including a 12% decrease in homicides.

Crime in New York City's transit system has increased by roughly 7% in 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. The rise includes a series of recent violent attacks and shootings, leading New York Governor Kathy Hochul to deploy the National Guard to the subway system this month.

For Black Americans nationwide, particularly young men, the risk of becoming victims of violent crime remains disproportionately high. While Blacks make up 14% of the U.S. population, they account for 60% of those killed by firearm homicides annually, according to an

analysis published by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Hate crimes are also on the rise across the country, according to a report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. The report, titled "Faith Under Fire" and published in January, found that hate crimes increased by 11% in 2023 from 2022, with antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes soaring following the Israel-Hamas war.

The FBI's quarterly uniform crime report indicates

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PVAMU receives new grant to help train students in computing to address social issues affecting rural communities

PRAIRIE VIEW – Prairie View A&M University has received a Responsible Computing Challenge award from the Mozilla Foundation, aimed at developing “curricula that empowers students to think about the social and political context of computing.”

Mozilla, most widely known for developing the Firefox browser, has made making the internet a force for good its mission. Through its Responsible Computing Challenge, Mozilla and its partners are educating a new wave of graduating technologists who will bring holistic thinking to the design of new technologies, fueling an industry-wide culture



Christina@wocintechat.com / Unsplash

shift.

Dr. Marco Robinson, associate professor of history and assistant director of PVAMU’s Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice, along with Dr. Sherri Frizell, professor of computer science, and Dr. Farrah Cambrice, associate

professor of sociology, are bringing together computer science and social science/humanities students for interdisciplinary training in methodologies centered in computing to address social issues affecting rural communities, such as food insecurity and access to im-

mediate healthcare.

Robinson explained, “Students are expected to consider ethics in computing, developing innovative ways to use computing in solving social problems, and ways to center community welfare in their approach. At the heart of this work, students will collect survey data, hold small focus groups with community members, and facilitate county-wide townhall meetings.” The course is partnering with rural communities and organizations in Waller County, where residents have limited access to resources, including fresh food, medical care, and WiFi.

“We aren’t deciding what

the communities’ needs are,” said Robinson. “We’re asking what they need. We had an idea to develop an app to help connect people with food and healthcare, but if they don’t have internet access, how will that help? We’re in data collection right now. It’s exciting to see computer science students out in the field, meeting the people their work will support, and to see social sciences students explore technology in their work.”

PVAMU joins a cohort of 15 institutions across the U.S. that has received a total of more than \$2.2 million. The courses and projects they’re undertaking blend traditional com-

puting education with the Humanities, Library and Information Science, and Social Sciences to reimagine how computer science is taught. Awardees will explore topics like biased data sets, AI ethics, accessible computing, and more.

Dr. Ziyaad Bhorat, an RCC Fellow who will work alongside this cohort, said, “AI and other computing technologies have an outsized impact on our lives, powering everything from banking to public services to law enforcement. As a result, we desperately need trustworthy AI systems—and responsible technologists who build them. These new awardees will help make this a reality.”

Dallas College highlights community connections during Dallas Arts Month

Dallas College is a major player in the local arts scene as it collaborates with the arts community to celebrate Dallas Arts Month in April. Dallas College School of Creative Arts, Entertainment and Design is holding a variety of visual and performing arts events and a Design Week, culminating with its Future of Fashion Showcase.

Dallas College feeds the Dallas arts industry with a steady supply of creative artists who excel at their professions. Opportunities for alumni abound as Dallas becomes a known destination for the arts. The industry has a \$853 million impact on the local economy and provides 13,953 jobs. Dallas Arts District, the largest contiguous urban arts district in the country, was recently voted the nation’s best by USA Today.

Programs offered by Dallas College continue to grow, along with its ties to the vibrant Dallas arts community. “We offer niche



Dallas College

programs that develop high-quality artists. The opportunities for professional experience and exposure for our students in Dallas are abundant,” said Ahava Silkey-Jones, vice provost of the School of Creative Arts, Entertainment and Design.

Helping to launch this year’s Arts Month, Dallas College partnered with the Downtown Dallas Arts

Festival, held April 6-7, to feature student and faculty pop-ups.

Beginning last fall, Dallas College art students and alumni have had the opportunity to exhibit at Adolphus Tower Gallery, in the heart of downtown. This long-term partnership with Hoque Global and Downtown Dallas Inc., in collaboration with FGIII Fine Art Productions, which man-

ages the space, displays student works alongside those of established artists. In addition, Dallas College runs 11 galleries of its own, spread across all seven main campuses.

Dallas College’s Design Week, April 22-25, includes:

- Monday, April 22: Digital Art and Design Showcase, Brookhaven Campus, Building B, Atrium Gal-

lery, 6-8 p.m., free.

- “Crafting Digital Worlds Beyond Boundaries” will unveil student masterpieces of cutting-edge digital design that leave viewers in awe.

- Tuesday, April 23: Fashion Marketing Showcase, El Centro Campus, Building B, Student Center, 6-8 p.m., VIP reception with students 8-8:30 p.m., free.

- Dive into the world where style meets strategy as students showcase captivating marketing campaigns that redefine the fashion landscape.

- Wednesday, April 24: Architecture and Interior Design Showcase, El Centro Campus, Building C, Third Floor, 6-8 p.m., free.

- “Your Future. By Design” unveils student architectural and interior design visions that redefine the art of living.

- Thursday, April 25: Future of Fashion Design Showcase, On the Levee, 7 p.m. general admission

(6:30 p.m. VIP reception), \$150 VIP Plus, \$100 VIP, \$65 premier, \$30 general, and \$20 student admission. Tickets for Future of Fashion can be purchased online.

Get a front-row seat to see how fashion students push the boundaries of style with the stunning garments they create. This year’s show honors Dallas premiere fashion event producer Jan Strimple.

“The fashion show is the culminating showcase for students in the Fashion Design program. It mirrors a New York Fashion Week vibe with a professional, sleek space in the Design District and an elevated experience for attendees. It is a one-of-a-kind experience for our community,” said Silkey-Jones.

For more information about programs offered by Dallas College School of Creative Arts, Entertainment and Design, visit DallasCollege.edu/CreativeArts.



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President Biden unveils sweeping student loan relief plans, targeting racial disparities

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Joe Biden has announced comprehensive plans to provide substantial relief to borrowers, particularly those from marginalized communities disproportionately burdened by debt. The proposed measures, announced on Monday, April 8, would represent a significant step towards making higher education more accessible and equitable for millions of Americans.

Despite Republican opposition and a previous rejection by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Biden-Harris administration is implementing yet another round of student loan forgiveness measures.

Since taking office, the



Under the new plans, the administration wants to extend relief to borrowers facing various financial challenges, including those who owe more than their initial loan amount due to accrued interest, individuals eligible for loan forgiveness who have yet to apply, and borrowers experiencing hardship in repayment. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

Biden-Harris Administration has prioritized reforming the federal student loan program, focusing on easing borrowers' financial burdens. The administration has already approved debt cancellation for 4 million borrowers, offering them much-needed breathing room and economic mobility.

White House officials

say that the newly unveiled plans build upon these efforts and are expected to provide relief to over 30 million borrowers, combined with previous actions taken by the administration. One of the central aims of the proposals is to address the disproportionate debt burden borne by communities of color, mainly Black and Latino borrowers.

Statistics reveal stark racial disparities within the student loan system. Black and Latino borrowers, who are more likely to take on student loans to afford a college education, often find themselves saddled with higher levels of debt compared to their white counterparts. According to a White House Fact Sheet, 20 years after enrolling in college, the typical Black borrower from the 1995-96 school year still owed a staggering

95% of their original debt.

Under the new plans, the administration wants to extend relief to borrowers facing various financial challenges, including those who owe more than their initial loan amount due to accrued interest, individuals eligible for loan forgiveness who have yet to apply, and borrowers experiencing hardship in repayment. Additionally, the proposals would offer debt cancellation for borrowers who

entered repayment decades ago and assist those enrolled in low-financial-value programs.

Community college borrowers, who represent a significant portion of the student population, would also benefit from the administration's initiatives. The Biden-Harris administration's SAVE Plan, which aims to make community college more affordable, projects

See DEBT, Page 13

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A NEW WAY TO PAY YOUR WATER BILLS

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

DallasGo has replaced ePay to offer customers a more convenient bill paying experience.

For more information on **DallasGo**, visit dallas.gov/DallasGo. Customers who have additional questions or need assistance may send an email to dallasgo@dallas.gov or call DWU Customer Service at 214-651-1441, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.




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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program


Your Health Plan • Your Choice


Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

Go to DART.org/TapForHalf for more information.

 *let's go.*

Grassroots advocates invited to step into the world of child tax policymaking

The Drum Newspaper

The Middleburg Institute's Policy Simulation and Grassroots Soiree is a day-long event of live role-playing that trains participants on policy, organizing, and advocacy. And, organizers are inviting Louisiana advocates, residents, and policy makers to Baton Rouge for the April 12 event.

The simulation is an immersive in-person training on the most effective ways of being advocates, and how best to communicate top economic priorities to elected officials. Participants will learn about the economic impact and benefits families receive through the Child Tax Credit legislative policy.

This in-depth and exciting policy simulation is designed for advocates, policymakers, and residents interested in participating in a movement to remove barriers to economic security.

Elisabeth Gerber, Ph.D., founder of The ViewPoint simulation software, will



Christina@wocintechat.com / Unsplash

facilitate the interactive live model simulation which examines Louisiana's tax policies.

"In this role-playing simulation, participants adopt the personas of fictitious decision-makers and stakeholders whose perspectives might be very different from their own. The ultimate goal is to help each group of participants better understand the viewpoints of the others, to learn from one another, and to think creatively about

opportunities for positive change," said Joyce James, founder of the Middleburg Institute.

For two years, the organization has championed the people's desire for maintaining the child tax credit in Louisiana. The Middleburg Institute was one of ten organization across the nation selected to collaborate with Share Our Strength, Code for America, and GET CTC to help promote the outreach and

"In this role-playing simulation, participants adopt the personas of fictitious decision-makers and stakeholders whose perspectives might be very different from their own. The ultimate goal is to help each group of participants better understand the viewpoints of the others, to learn from one another, and to think creatively about opportunities for positive change,"

**- Joyce James
Founder, Middleburg Institute**

engagement in low-income communities to receive this credit. As a result, residents across southern Louisiana have been engaged in small group trainings and awareness campaigns hosted by the Middleburg Institute.

The Middleburg focuses on influencing policies and behaviors that build lifelong

economic security for moderate and low-income people. Every day, thousands of Louisianans are impacted by financial insecurities. This crisis significantly affects every communities' health, education, and safety. Strong federal, state, and local policy solutions are essential, including cam-

aigns around state-level credit programs, said James.

With this focus, the simulation will also explore and explain the challenges and opportunities legislators face, strategies for passing a child tax credit bill, and solutions to helping families begin savings and banking relationships.

Panels of advocates, elected officials, and community leaders will discuss an overall strategy for advocating. Following the simulator, participants will join in a grassroots soiree and celebrate progress in establishing a network of residents who actively advocate for themselves. To participate, register at www.themiddleburg.org or call (225) 241-0984. The Middleburg Institute is a non-partisan IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organization.

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Dev Patel stars in *Monkey Man* (Image via NNPA)

Film Review: 'Monkey Man' is a vengeful tale well told

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) "Every day, I've prayed for a way to protect the weak."

Hanuman, the Monkey God, is an ancient Hindu deity whose mythology includes heroism, strength, intelligence, love and compassion for the less fortunate. Sometimes his spirit is represented in a semidivine monkey-like form. It's an essence that drives actor turned writer/director Dev Patel's (*Slumdog Millionaire*) very impressive and kinetic first film. A riveting tale of revenge.

Opening scenes in a city in India depict a rowdy underground fight club. Patel, who collaborated with cinematographer Sharone Meir, slides the camera around the bottom of the boxing ring pulling you into the grunge. Quick edits (Joe Galdo, Dávid Jancsó, Tim Murrell) catch short glimpses of riled up spectators. A driving musical score (Jed Kurzel) and a wicked playlist hype the proceedings as a dark mustard colored hue permeates the room (art director Ahmad Zulkarnaen). What goes on here shouldn't go on.

Inside the ring, mixed martial arts pugilists of the lowest order, kick, punch and body slam. Tiger

(Sharlto Copley), the white ring announcer, bellows out the fighters' names to all the brown faces. Most won't remember the first combatant. But they can't miss the second one. He's wearing a gorilla mask, getting walloped and crushed. The crowd is in a frenzy as he face-plants in the mat. Behind closed doors, it's a sham. The broken fighter goes by the moniker Monkey Man, but his real name is Kid (Patel). He's paid to be beaten to a pulp. Paid to lose.

This intriguing setup shows the gutter life the protagonist lives. But it's a façade. Kid is on a mission, and for the longest time the deft script, by Patel, Paul Angunawela and John Collee (*Hotel Mumbai*), doesn't reveal why. He cons his way into working at the exclusive Kings Club, a swank nightclub/whorehouse run by the ruthless Queenie (Ashwini Kalsekar). She warns the young interloper, her new dishwasher: "Anyone who talks outside this place—it doesn't work out well for them." Cleaning plates isn't Kid's goal, as he befriends the short lanky Alphonso (Pitobash) and flirts with Sita (Sobhita Dhulipala), a sought-after escort. He's focused on a patron. The corrupt police chief Rana (Sikandar Kher), who sup-

ports Baba Shakti (Makarand Deshpande), a nationalist party candidate who victimizes the poor. Why? Why is Kid in the hunt?

As a director, greatly aided by fight choreographer Brahim Chab, Patel exhibits a style similar to director extraordinaire Chad Stahelski (*John Wick: Chapter 4*). The fight scenes are hectic, balletic and monstrously violent. But this director's theme of righteous revenge against those who wronged many sets this film apart. Add in the deeply emotional backstory of Kid being tormented and traumatized by his mother's (Adithi Kalkunte) death, and the depth of the main character is well beyond that of the average action hero. Toss in a subplot about unlikely saviors, the mystical third-gender tribe known as the hijra, run by Alpha (Vipin Sharma), and the innovative plotting makes your head spin. The pious Alpha tries to help Kid lighten his burden: "Voices inside your head?" Kid: "Just one. It's been screaming my whole life!"

Lots of things to marvel at. Fights, otherworldly elements, romance, eclectic characters. Crazy chase scenes with Kid and Alphonso as they're pursued

See **MONKEY**, Page 11

GIRL
 FROM THE
 NORTH
 COUNTRY
 DULUTH, MINN. 1934
 WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
 CONOR
 MCPHERSON
 MUSIC & LYRICS BY
 BOB
 DYLAN
 APRIL 9 - 21
 MUSIC HALL AT FAIR PARK
 BROADWAYDALLAS.ORG
 Germana
 BROADWAY SERIES
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Study reveals soaring successes and lingering struggles for women, especially women of color, in music

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Senior National
 Correspondent

The music world has finally begun to recognize female artists' vast contributions.

The latest report from the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative reflected on the strides forward and the persistent obstacles women professionals in the music industry face.

The USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative and Associate Professor of Communication Stacy L. Smith conducted the study, which included 1,200 songs from the Billboard Hot 100 Year-End Charts and provided a detailed analysis spanning 12 years. Its scope encompasses the roles of artists, songwriters, and producers while delving into Grammy Award nominations across six major categories.

The study's findings



The study's key findings center on the crucial role that women of color have played in advancing change within the sector. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

Painted a nuanced picture of progress and disparities within the industry. Notably, there has been a marked increase in the representation of women artists, reaching a 12-year high of 35%. Researchers said this surge, particularly evident in the rise of individual female artists claiming over 40% of spots on

the Billboard Hot 100 Year-End Chart in 2023, signaled a positive shift. However, despite the gains, the study authors noted that it's crucial to recognize that women still occupy less than a quarter of artist roles overall, underscoring the need for sustained efforts toward greater inclusivity.

Behind the scenes, there

have also been advancements. The study revealed a significant rise in the percentage of female songwriters, climbing from 14.1% to 19.5% in 2023. The increase is largely attributed to the contributions of women of color. Similarly, while the number of women

producers reached a modest high, significant challenges remain in achieving equitable representation in these roles.

The study's key findings center on the crucial role that women of color have played in advancing change within the sector. Accounting for a staggering 65% of female artists on the charts in 2023 and making significant gains in songwriting roles, women of color have been instrumental in shaping the industry's trajectory. Jay-Z's Grammy speech, in which he questioned why his wife, Beyonce, hadn't won Album of the Year honors despite being arguably the most successful female music star in history, underscored the lack of recognition for women, particularly in prestigious award nominations.

The study authors wrote

that efforts such as "She Is The Music," "Spotify Equal," and "Girls Make Beats" have been crucial in fostering inclusivity and providing platforms for women, including women of color, to showcase their talent. However, they said there remains a need for collective action to dismantle systemic barriers and biases that hinder women's progress, particularly those from marginalized communities.

"As the industry continues to evolve, it must strive to amplify women's voices, focusing on women of color and ensuring that diversity and representation remain at the forefront of its agenda," the authors concluded. "Only then can the industry truly reflect the richness and diversity of talent within its ranks and pave the way for a more inclusive future."

DOING THE RIGHT THING

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

Friday, April 19 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 3 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 Thursday, April 25 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 17 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

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

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Vote YES! On Bonds. Together, For Dallas.

This May, Dallas voters can approve a \$1.25 billion investment in Dallas with no new taxes. To improve Dallas today, and build a bright Dallas future, vote "YES" on all ten bond propositions.

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PROP B: Strengthen Parks & Trails.	PROP G: Attract Jobs & Growth.
PROP C: Protect Neighborhoods From Flooding.	PROP H: Expand Affordable Housing.
PROP D: Upgrade Our Libraries.	PROP I: Solutions on Homelessness.
PROP E: Invest in Arts & Culture.	PROP J: Upgrade Information Technology

HON. TENNELL ATKINS	FORMER MAYOR RON KIRK	CONGRESSWOMAN JASMINE CROCKETT	PASTOR BRYAN CARTER

Vote Yes! Together, for Dallas.

VOTE EARLY Monday, April 22 until Tuesday, April 30.
ELECTION DAY is Saturday, May 4.
FOR MORE INFO visit TogetherForDallas.com.

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY 2024 DALLAS BOND CAMPAIGN.

DOJ prepares to challenge Live Nation's dominance in live event ticketing

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is preparing to file an antitrust lawsuit against Live Nation Entertainment over concerns about the company's dominant position in the live event ticketing market. The move comes after years of controversy surrounding Live Nation and its subsidiary, Ticketmaster, which have faced criticism for their market practices and handling of major events.

The public's discontent with Ticketmaster's handling of Taylor Swift's 'Eras' tour was a tipping point. The lack of transparency, exorbitant fees, and inability to curb bot purchases sparked a public out-

cry. During a congressional hearing in January 2023, U.S. senators lambasted Live Nation for these issues, leading to an apology from Joe Berchtold, Live Nation's president and CFO. Ticketmaster, however, has consistently shifted blame to scalpers using bots, deflecting criticism from its own practices.

The DOJ lawsuit echoes longstanding concerns about Live Nation's mar-

ket power. In 2010, federal regulators permitted Live Nation to merge with Ticketmaster despite reservations from regulators and concertgoers. Subsequent investigations in 2019 revealed that Live Nation had allegedly pressured ticket venues to use Ticketmaster's services. As a result, the DOJ imposed additional restrictions on the company, which will expire in 2025.

Despite Ticketmaster's control over a significant portion of the primary ticket market, the company denies allegations of monopolistic behavior, citing increased competition in the industry.

Earlier this year, the American Economic Liberties Project released a policy brief advocat-

ing for the breakup of the merged entity known as 'The Case Against Live Nation-Ticketmaster.' The brief coincided with the one-year anniversary of the #BreakUpTicketmaster campaign, which has gained significant support from fans, artists, and independent venue owners. Katherine Van Dyck, Senior Counsel at the American Economic Liberties Project, stressed the urgency of the situation, stating that 'Live Nation-Ticketmaster's monopoly power has led to unfair practices that harm venues, artists, and fans. The DOJ must act swiftly and decisively to restore competition in the live events industry.'

Lee Hepner, Legal Counsel at the American Economic Liberties Proj-

ect, echoed this sentiment, calling for separating Live Nation's various business segments to ensure fair competition.

The policy brief outlines specific remedies the DOJ could pursue, including

the complete divestment of Ticketmaster and Live Nation's core businesses. It also suggests ending Ticketmaster's exclusive venue agreements and implementing stricter oversight measures.

CRIME, from Page 5

a widespread decrease in violent crime during 2023 compared to the previous year, as well as a 13% decline in homicides relative to 2022. The Major Cities Police Association's Violent Crime Survey found double-digit declines in homicides across nearly 70 of America's largest cities in

2023 compared to 2022.

However, while cities like New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia saw homicides decline by 12% to 21%, others experienced sharp increases in slayings in 2023. Homicides rose by 24% in Memphis, 27% in Washington, D.C., 15% in

Dallas, and 14% in Kansas City.

According to NYPD crime statistics, violent crime in New York City is continuing to fall in 2024. Through March 17, data show homicides are down by 19% from the same period in 2023.

In addition to the investments, Garland unveiled plans to deploy resources

to cities disproportionately affected by violent crime, including St. Louis, Missouri; Jackson, Mississippi; and Hartford, Connecticut.

MONKEY, from Page 9

by cops and bad guys. Careening down streets and back alleys in a motorized, turbo-charged rickshaw affectionately named Nicki (after Nicki Minaj. Big bumper. Nice headlights). This cheeky plot device is symbolic of the filmmakers' inventive nature. A steady forward momentum only abates in two scenes: 1.) When Kid's backstory is revealed. 2.) Kid's comeback match. Lots of smart decisions, are made, with only a few lapses. E.g., if Kid is being punched bloody unmercifully at night, why doesn't his face reflect the bruises and wounds the next day?

Every member of the cast is brilliant. The venomously evil Queen benefits from

Kalsekar's menacing sneer. Kher's approach to the antagonist, hunted down by a child who's become a man, is far more subtle and twice as deadly. Pitobash provides comic appeal. Vipin Sharma's reverent, fatherly interpretation of Alpha is touching beyond words. And Patel has miraculously blossomed from a natural, dramatic and comic actor into a daredevil. It's a performance so strong, cool and nimble Patel could be the next James Bond. Or maybe he'll follow in the footsteps of Takeshi "Beat" Kitano, a comedian/actor turned director who blazed a path with his yakuza crime films. All is possible, since Monkey Man is one hell of an audition tape.

Over-the-top violence is rarely this much fun. First time directors are rarely this skillful. The characters and themes that hold abusive leaders responsible for their misdeeds, make this Indian parable a standout—on all levels. The adrenaline energy is real. Passion compounds everything. Action fans will be thrilled and adult audiences too by the gobs of raw power.

A vengeful tale. Volatile and unpredictable. A lone soldier, joined by the most unlikely army of soul savers, is out for blood. Be warned. Those who do evil face Hanuman's wrath. A rage embodied in earthly forms. This time in a Kid wearing a monkey mask.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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Dallas-based entrepreneur is helping businesses raise revenue, boost efficiency and lower costs

Andrew Hillman is a distinguished business investor and co-founder with over three decades of industry experience. Over his 3 decades-long career, he has consistently garnered acclaim for his remarkable achievements in driving business growth and fostering a culture of excellence. With a versatile skill set encompassing coaching, budgeting, and leadership, Hillman has established

himself as a dynamic force in the business world, renowned for his ability to elevate revenue, enhance efficiency, and reduce costs across diverse holdings.

Andrew Jonathan Hillman's illustrious career is characterized by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a passion for empowering businesses to reach their full potential. Through his visionary leadership and strategic acumen, he has

consistently delivered tangible results, propelling his holdings to new heights of success. At the helm of his ventures, Andrew Hillman Dallas [https://andrew-hillman.com/] implemented a transformative four-part strategy focusing on service streamlining, sales training, outreach, and marketing, resulting in a remarkable 50% increase in clientele within a span of 20 months.

Moreover, Andrew Hill-

man's direct relationship campaign proved instrumental in driving a staggering 50% annual revenue growth, underscoring his unparalleled ability to leverage innovative approaches to achieve sustainable business outcomes. His keen eye for detail enables him to identify and rectify even the smallest errors, ensuring operational excellence and fostering a culture of continuous im-

provement.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized for my contributions to the business community," said Andrew Jonathan Hillman. "I firmly believe in the power of teamwork, innovation, and strategic thinking to drive success, and I am committed to continuing my journey of empowering businesses to thrive in today's competitive landscape."

Andrew Hillman's un-

wavering commitment to excellence, strong interpersonal skills, and ability to thrive under pressure have earned him the admiration and respect of colleagues and peers alike. His exemplary track record serves as a testament to his dedication to driving positive change and inspiring others to reach their full potential.

To learn more about Andrew Hillman (Dallas), visit: andrew-hillman.com.

Easterly Government Properties acquires 135,200 s.f. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement information technology facility near Dallas

WASHINGTON - (BUSINESS WIRE) - Easterly Government Properties, Inc. (NYSE: DEA) (the "Company" or "Easterly"), a fully integrated real estate investment trust focused primarily on the acquisition, development and management of Class A commercial properties leased to the U.S. Government and its adjacent partners, announced today that

it has acquired a 135,200 square foot facility primarily leased to the Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO") and Office of Human Capital of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), located near Dallas, Texas ("ICE - Dallas").

ICE - Dallas is a 95% leased facility that has been renovated to suit the ICE's OCIO and Office of Hu-

man Capital. The OCIO is responsible for delivering innovative information technology (IT) and business solutions that enable ICE to protect and secure the nation. The asset will help facilitate the OCIO's mission critical IT initiatives to modernize ICE's IT systems and adapt and conform to modern IT management disciplines. Two additional triple net (NNN)

private tenants occupy the remaining leased space and feature annual lease escalations. The weighted average initial lease term for all three tenancies is 16.2 years and still carries a weighted average remaining lease term of 13.3 years at the time of this release.

"This strategic acquisition positions us to further enhance Easterly's cash flows and provide accretive

growth for our shareholders," said Darrell Crate, Easterly's Chief Executive Officer. "With the addition of this asset and the excellent creditworthiness of our tenancy, we continue to fortify our balance sheet to enable continued growth across market cycles."

Easterly's acquisition value was predicated on the current leased square footage of the property, which

excludes unleased space to which we attribute no value as part of the purchase price. ICE - Dallas currently has an additional 6,154 square feet available for future leasing as a value-add opportunity.

With this acquisition, Easterly owns, directly or through the Company's joint venture, 91 properties totaling 8.9 million square feet.

ARSENAL, from Page 1

2020, Trump and his allies unleashed a barrage of legal challenges, conspiracy theories, and outright attempts to overturn the election results, culminating in the violent insurrection on January 6. While their efforts ultimately faltered, the specter of electoral subversion looms large, especially in the event of razor-thin margins in key battleground states.

Insiders from the Trump and Biden camps anticipate a nail-biting finish in November, with the outcome hinging on a mere sliver of votes. Advisers to both candidates told Rolling Stone that they foresee a contentious battle unfolding, with Trump's team primed for an electoral "knife fight to the death." Biden's preparations for such a scenario date back to his candidacy's

infancy, with a dedicated cadre of legal experts brainstorming strategies to counter every conceivable threat to the democratic process.

Biden's allies reportedly are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. Partnering with the Democratic National Committee and a vast network of legal experts, they erected a formidable bulwark against potential acts of subversion.

Draft pleadings and legal motions tailored to address various Trump-related emergencies are already in place, focusing on critical swing states like Georgia, Arizona, and Pennsylvania. Biden's team has maintained close communication with outside counsel and local law firms, ensuring they remain vigilant against any

attempts at electoral malfeasance.

Despite the exhaustive preparations, the spectacle of a Jan. 6-style power grab continues to haunt Biden's camp. With a laundry list of nightmare scenarios and a relentless commitment to defending democracy, Biden and his allies are steeling themselves for a protracted battle to ensure that the people's will prevails come Election Day.

A spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee told the publication that the national party is also setting aside "tens of millions of dollars in a robust voter protection program to safeguard the rights of voters to make their voices heard against relentless attacks from Donald Trump and the GOP."

"Meanwhile, the Trump campaign and the RNC have

invested in an army of conspiratorial, election-denying legal staff to undermine our elections and make it harder for Americans' ballots to be

counted," the DNC spokesperson said. "We won't let Republicans get away with these baseless attacks on our democracy, and we will

continue to use every tool at our disposal to strengthen our democracy as MAGA extremists attempt to tear it down."

Hemphill, LLC proposes to build a 150-foot Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 3100 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75211. Lat: [32-42-15.29] Long: [-96-57-2.76]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp. Cate Wiggins, c.wiggins@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704. 512.519.9388.*

Greif prepares for opening of new manufacturing facility in Dallas

(GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Greif, Inc. (NYSE: GEF, GEF.B), a world leader in industrial packaging products and services, is finalizing construction on their new bulk corrugated manufacturing facility in Dallas, Texas.

Scheduled to open later this spring, the new facility will significantly expand Greif's capacity in the bulk corrugated business and

create opportunities in the South and Southwest regions of the United States, as well as Mexico.

"We are delighted to establish this new facility in Dallas, Texas," said Chris Zimmerman, Vice President - Containerboard & Corrugated Sales. "We have formed an excellent team who have worked extremely hard to get this state-of-the-art facility up

and running. Equipped with highly automated machinery, this facility will enable us to respond swiftly to customer demands while maintaining superior lead times and product quality."

The Greif CorrChoice Dallas plant will primarily make triple wall sheets and jumbo boxes and will have capabilities that include in-line gluing and stitching. These products will serve

the industrial and agricultural industries. For more information about Greif corrugated solutions please visit www.greif.com/corrugated-sheets.

Greif is a global leader in industrial packaging products and services and is pursuing its vision: be the best performing customer service company in the world. The Company produces steel, plastic and

fibre drums, intermediate bulk containers, reconditioned containers, jerrycans and other small plastics, containerboard, corrugated sheets and products, uncoated recycled paperboard, coated recycled paperboard, tubes and cores and a diverse mix of specialty products. The Company also manufactures packaging accessories and provides filling, pack-

aging and other services for a wide range of industries. In addition, Greif manages timber properties in the southeastern United States. The Company has a workforce of over 14,000 colleagues spread across more than 250 facilities in 37 countries to serve global as well as regional customers. Additional information is on the Company's website at www.greif.com.

Dallas County property values surge over past decade

(EINPresswire) Between 2013 and 2022, Dallas County saw a significant increase in property values, as assessed by the Dallas Central Appraisal District. During this period, the total value of property in the county surged by 113%, soaring from \$215 billion to \$460 billion. This growth closely

mirrors the statewide increase of 135%. Across Texas, the total value of property appraised by appraisal districts skyrocketed from \$2.253 trillion in 2013 to \$5.296 trillion in 2022.

Dallas County demonstrates an impressive property value encompassing 909 square miles and

581,760 acres (equivalent to 640 acres per square mile), it is marginally smaller than the average Texas county, spanning 1,058 square miles. As reported by the Dallas Central Appraisal District in 2022, the total property value stands at a remarkable \$460 billion, translating to a substantial

value of \$673,817 per acre. This significant figure contrasts notably with the statewide average of \$30,808 per acre.

The Dallas Central Appraisal District's valuation of single-family residences constitutes 48% of Dallas County's total market worth. This proportion ex-

ceeds the statewide norm of approximately 46% for the year 2022. Over the period from 2014 to 2022, the portion of value attributed to homes has risen from 14% to 48%, outpacing the statewide percentages of 41% to 46% of value coming from residential property.

The Dallas Central Ap-

praisal District has released statistics for the property tax distribution in Dallas County for 2022. Their numbers indicate that single-family homes comprised 48%, apartments 12%, commercial buildings 33%, and industrial and other properties 6% of the total tax valuation.

DEBT, from Page 7

that 85% of community college borrowers could be debt-free within ten years. However, Latino students comprise a substantial proportion of community college enrollees and need help completing their degrees and repaying loans.

White House officials said, overall, the administration's plans signal a concerted effort to tackle the student loan crisis and address systemic inequalities

within the higher education system. They said the proposals aim to foster greater economic opportunity and advancement for all Americans by providing targeted relief to communities disproportionately affected by student debt.

"These historic steps reflect President Biden's determination that we cannot allow student debt to leave students worse off than before they went to college,"

U.S. Undersecretary of Education James Kvaal said in a statement.

Kvaal added that Biden

had directed the department "to complete these programs as quickly as possible, and we are going to do just that."

SIMPSON, from Page 2

commercial appeal transcended sports, propelling him to a cultural icon. His groundbreaking endorsement deals, such as the memorable Hertz rental car campaign, revolutionized celebrity advertising and broadened his appeal to a diverse audience.

However, Simpson's legacy became irrevocably entangled with controversy following the brutal murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, in 1994. The ensuing "Trial of the Century," characterized by its intense media scru-

tiny and stark racial divisions, captivated the nation, and resulted in Simpson's dramatic acquittal.

Despite winning the criminal case, Simpson's life continued to be filled with upheaval, including his subsequent civil liability for the murders and his 2008 conviction on robbery and kidnapping charges.

In the following years, Simpson's story remained a subject of fascination, inspiring numerous television adaptations and documentaries that sought to unravel the complexities of his life and legacy.



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And Then There Was Broccoli

Dr. James L. Snyder

Sometimes, bad days are a blessing in disguise, but you don't know it at the time.

I have learned that whenever I have a bad day, it is not a time to get discouraged or sad. A bad day is often a door that opens up something I never expected.

Last week, for example, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had plans to spend three days in St. Augustine with her daughter and granddaughter on a thrift store drive. They would visit all the thrift stores in the area and buy whatever they could at a good price.

"You don't mind if I and the girls go to St. Augustine for three days," the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked.

Asking me a question like that does two things for me.

First, it allows me to have lunch at nearby restaurants.

Second, it allows me to do things against The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's rules and guidelines without her knowing.



For three days, I will be left to my own rules and guidelines. What in the world more could I ask for?

As I was processing this, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "And by the way your meals are already prepared and in the refrigerator."

Well, that wasn't expected.

After all the preparation on both sides of the aisle, she was ready to take off with her daughter and granddaughter for a three-day thrift store extravaganza. She kissed me goodbye, and out the door she went, and my three-day celebration had just begun.

I went to the kitchen, got a fresh cup of coffee, took it to my easy chair, set back,

and just thought about what I was going to do during the next three days. I sat there thinking about all of the opportunities that were before me.

At lunchtime, I went to the refrigerator to see what lunch was waiting for me. When I opened the door, I was literally surprised. The refrigerator was jammed full of lunch, dinner, and breakfast food already for me. Every item was labeled either breakfast, lunch, or supper, so I knew which one to take and at what time.

Being the contrary person I am, instead of eating the lunch package, I ate the supper package. As I chomped on the delicious meal, I chuckled, knowing

that I was in charge of my life.

I didn't care about the tags on the food; I just grabbed what was handy, and that was what I was going to eat at the time.

At the beginning of the second day, I noticed something. The labels were not exactly correct. The breakfast label was on the supper package, the lunch label was on the breakfast package, and the supper label was on the lunch package. She made it very distinct and did an excellent job at it.

On the first day, I snuck out in the afternoon and got a cheeseburger, fries, and Diet Coke. I'm not sure if it was lunch or supper, but I enjoyed it.

By midmorning, when I was working at my desk on the second day, a thought fluttered into my head. That thought was about an Apple Fritter. This would be an excellent time for me to sneak over to Publix and get one. I could do that, and she would never know the difference.

I kept thinking about that and wondered how I could accomplish it. After all, ev-

erybody at Publix knows my wife and knows that she doesn't want me to eat any Apple Fritters. I tried it once before and got caught, and so I wasn't going to do it again.

It didn't stop me from thinking about those wonderful Apple Fritters. What harm would I do to sneak one into the house, but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wasn't home and wouldn't find me out?

I thought about going to the Publix across town, which would be worth the time and the gas.

I was eating the food from the refrigerator, and on the third morning I noticed a box in the back of the fridge. I pulled the box out, and on the top of the box was the word broccoli. I almost had a heart attack when I saw it and was afraid to open it.

Why did she put a box of broccoli in the refrigerator for me to find when she was away? Maybe she thought I would take that broccoli and throw it away. Or maybe she thought I would see it and do nothing with it.

I'm not that kind of person, so I pulled the box

out. I was going to throw the broccoli away and put something else in it just to be funny, but when I opened the lid, inside were Apple Fritters.

In the box was a note on which she wrote, "You deserve a break today, just don't break a leg."

I could not help but think of that Bible verse, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

As I munched on those Apple Fritters I thought about what it means to "be agreed." Certainly The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I "walk together." That has been true since our marriage. The important thing is that we agree sometimes to disagree.

Our difference is what makes us a great team. My weakness is her strength and her weakness is my strength.

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.

HAYNES, from Page 5

able financial problems.

Dr. Haynes still serves as the Senior Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas.

On its website, RPC describes itself by saying, "We protect, defend, and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields, and to promote peace and justice around the world."

According to its written history, The Chicago-based organization, founded in 1971, "is the product of a social justice movement that grew out of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) Operation Breadbasket. Founded by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Operation Breadbasket sought to combine theology and

social justice and to effect progressive economic, educational, and social policy in America. In 1966, Dr. King appointed Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. to serve as the first director of Operation Breadbasket in Chicago."

According to a news release, Haynes' sold-out installation event on Feb. 1 this year, "featured VIP program participants and attendees from all over the country, including Roland Martin, Rev. Al Sharpton (NAN), Shavonne Arline-Bradley (NCNW), Dr. Michael Sorrell, Dr. Amos Brown, and Dr. Ron Daniels."

Rev. Sharpton who was keynote at the event, said in his speech, "Look at the time we are in: everything that was gained in the '60s

is now under threat...They talk about affirmative action, women's rights, diversity, inclusion, voting rights, like somebody woke up and gave us that. Nobody donated anything to us.

"We fought for everything we got and we need to get back to fighting right now. And that's why I've come to celebrate Freddy, because we need fighters in the pulpit... We need a fighter like Freddy Haynes."

Vice President Kamala Harris, at the Rainbow/PUSH convention where Haynes was announced last July, said, "I am so confident in his leadership and his ability to carry on the greatest traditions of this organization and to meet the challenges of this moment."

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Obituary of Common Sense



Sister Tarpley
NDG
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No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense.

He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as, "To know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair."

Common Sense lived by simple and sound financial policies: Don't spend more than you earn. Reliable parenting strategies:

The adults are in charge, not the kids; and it's okay to come in second (or even



last, as long as your best efforts were given.)

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including body piercing, whole language and "new math."

But his health declined when he became infected with the "If-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus.

In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing regulations. He watched in pain as self-seeking lawyers ruled

good people.

His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of six-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate.

A teen was suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch and a teacher was fired for reprimanding an unruly student.

It declined even further when schools had to get parents consent to administer aspirin to a student but cannot inform the parent when the female student is pregnant or wants

an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports.

And, when a woman who was stupid enough not to realize that coffee is hot, and was awarded a huge payout for her stupidity, this really caused Common Sense to finally throw in the towel!

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

Two stepbrothers, My Rights and Ima Whiner, survive him. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized that he was

gone. --Author Unknown
Everyone can make a difference within their own surroundings. The world would all benefit from following these nine fundamental, "Native American Commandments:

- 1) Treat the Earth and all that dwell thereon with respect.
- 2) Remain close to the Great Spirit (God).
- 3) Show great respect for your fellow beings (all humans, regardless of race color and creed.)
- 4) Work together for the

benefit of all mankind. 5) Give assistant and kindness wherever needed.

5) Do what you know to be right (in God's eyesight!)

6) Look after the well-being of mind and body (especially your own.)

7. Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.

8) Be truthful and honest at all times.

9). Take full responsibility for your actions.

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

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NDG Book Review: 'The Black Box' is a thoughtful deep-dive

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

These days, everybody's got a label maker.

The color of your skin? Punch out a label. The texture of your hair? Punch out a label. The way you walk, talk, or the things you like? No, you know who you are, no labels necessary. Still, as you'll see in the new book "The Black Box" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., there was a time when the issue wasn't quite as clear.

Nearly ten years ago, when his granddaughter was born, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. asked his son-in-law about "the box." The child, Gates, Jr. says, is



"87.5 percent European" and looks white, but her parents checked a box on her birth certificate to indicate that she is "Black."

"Such is the absurdity of the history of race and racial designations in the

United States of America..." he says.

And it's been that way since the beginning.

Purchased by a Boston merchant upon her arrival in 1761, Phillis Wheatley was taught to read and later, she learned to write poetry. In 1772, her owners endeavored to publish a book of her words but most white people refused to believe that a Black person could write at all, let alone such moving poetry.

One of those white people was Thomas Jefferson, who believed that skin tone mattered in "character, intelligence, and culture."

Says Gates, Jr., "Black people fought back...by

creating their own genre of literature..." and more than a hundred of them wrote "book-length slave narratives." Some even went on to lecture about ending slavery. Later, "Black intellectuals" wrote about and discussed the ideas of colonization and emigration. Others wondered publicly what to "call the race" – Black, Afro-American, Negroes, "colored," or something else?

By the early 1900s, Gates, Jr. says, "art forms were classed" and Black culture had taken a turn toward "politics of disrespectability" that white people weren't supposed to hear or see. This later led

to hip-hop, and the works of Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, and "the pioneers of the Black women's literary movement..."

Sit down with "The Black Box," and you're going to be there awhile. This isn't, in other words, a meaningless novel that you're going to forget in two weeks; no, it's something that you'll need time to digest, that'll make you think, and that you'll want to discuss.

With a quick reminder of how the struggle to read and write began with the denial of both, author Henry Louis Gates, Jr. takes readers on a journey to show how the written word was

crucial in the resistance to slavery and the formation of culture. This leads to a fascinating discovery of how Black community historically diverged from white America, especially in the Victorian Age, and how identity figured into it. Readers will also delight in seeing how quietly-created (and quietly public) early-twentieth-century language and writing created today's various genres in literature and music.

"The Black Box" takes a deep dive into its subject, so be prepared to ponder. Casual truly doesn't describe it; in fact, involved would be a more proper label.



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