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Lawmakers unite to combat Far-Right Project 2025 initiative

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-California) has announced the formation of the Stop Project 2025 Task Force, a new working group aimed at halting the controversial Project 2025. Described by critics as a far-right roadmap designed to grant former President Donald Trump "supreme" powers, Project 2025 would radically undermine reproductive rights, LGBTQ equality, racial justice, free speech, and other democratic institutions and freedoms.

The newly formed task force will serve as a central hub for pro-democracy members of Congress, civil society, and affected communities to coordinate efforts in examining, highlighting, preempting, and counteracting the initiative.

"Project 2025 is more than an idea; it's a dystopian plot that's already in motion to dismantle our democratic institutions, abolish checks and balances, chip away at church-state separation, and impose a far-right agenda that infringes on basic liberties and violates public will," Huffman said. "We need a coordinated strategy to save America and stop this coup before it's too late."

The Heritage Foundation, a



The newly formed task force will serve as a central hub for pro-democracy members of Congress, civil society, and affected communities to coordinate efforts in examining, highlighting, preempting, and counteracting the initiative. (Photo via NNPA)

prominent right-wing think tank, is leading Project 2025 with support from over 100 conservative groups and funding from entities like DonorsTrust. This coalition, which includes the Center for Renewing America and the Alliance Defending Freedom, seeks to dismantle democratic institutions and enforce radical policies against the majority's will. Critics argue that the coalition, composed of election deniers and conspiracy theorists, aims to strip away rights ranging from voting to reproductive freedoms.

Further, with Trump falsely claiming that America has become racist toward whites, the convicted felon and former president is pri-

marily responsible for a U.S. Supreme Court that has decimated policies that were put in place to help level the playing field for African Americans.

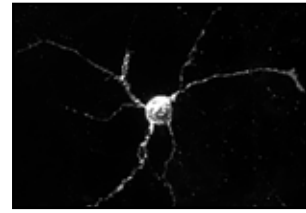
The Stop Project 2025 Task Force includes a diverse group of Democratic leaders who are at the forefront of many issues currently under attack. Founding members alongside Huffman are Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Ted Lieu of California, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Nanette Barragán of California, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Judy Chu of California, Equality

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Regulations and sustainable development

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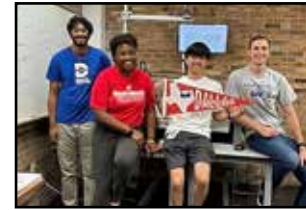
Cancer drug may help with Parkinsons

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'Inside Out 2' has all the right feels

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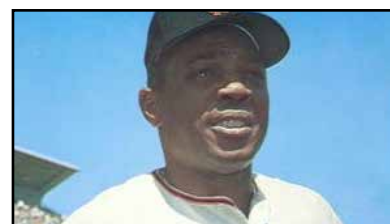


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People In The News ...



Willie Mays



Christian Cooper

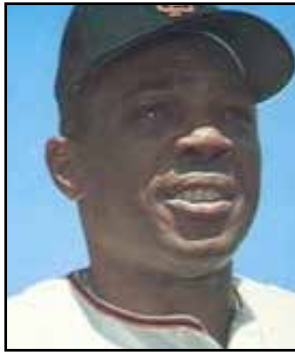
NDG Quote of the Week: "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."

- Booker T. Washington

Willie Mays

Willie Mays, the iconic Hall of Famer often hailed as the greatest player in baseball history, has died at 93. The news broke during a Mets and Rangers game in Arlington, evoking emotional tributes from the baseball community.

“He was the greatest I had ever seen on the field,” said Keith Hernandez, a New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals legend, tearfully during the broadcast. Hernandez, who now serves as a color commentator for the Mets, reflected on Mays’ remarkable skills.



“Willie would play a shallow centerfield, making it all the more amazing how he’d catch fly balls against the wall,” added Mets broadcaster Gary Cohen. “He was the greatest ever

to play.” Just a day prior, it was announced that Mays would not attend a special game honoring him and the Negro Leagues. Scheduled for Thursday, June 20, at Rickwood Field, the game features the San Francisco Giants and the St. Louis Cardinals. Mays, who began his career with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues, had shared his plans to enjoy the event from home. “I’m not able to get to Birmingham this year but will follow the game back here in the Bay Area,” he told the San Francisco Chronicle

earlier in the week. “My heart will be with all of you who are honoring the Negro League ballplayers, who should always be remembered, including all my teammates on the Black Barons.”

Mays’ career spanned from 1951 to 1972 with the Giants, where he won a World Series in 1954, was a 24-time All-Star, and was a two-time National League MVP. Among many other accomplishments, his 660 home runs and 12 Gold Gloves highlight his legendary status.

The home run total came despite having taken a two-

year hiatus from baseball to serve in the military and having played in the three toughest stadiums to hit home runs — The Polo Grounds, Candlestick Park, and Shea Stadium.

Major League Baseball, the city of Birmingham, and the Friends of Rickwood nonprofit group have collaborated to renovate Rickwood Field, the oldest professional ballpark in the United States, to honor Mays and the Negro Leagues. Despite his absence, Mays will be celebrated throughout the week’s festivities.

“My father has passed

away peacefully and among loved ones,” Mays’ son, Michael Mays, announced. “I want to thank you all from the bottom of my broken heart for the unwavering love you have shown him over the years. You have been his life’s blood.”

Mays was not only a baseball legend but also a cherished figure in San Francisco. His 9-foot bronze statue stands proudly at Oracle Park’s 24 Willie Mays Plaza. He was eager to see MLB’s tribute at Rickwood Field, where he

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Christian Cooper

Four years after a racist encounter with a so-called “Karen,” Christian Cooper has earned the ultimate payback: a Daytime Emmy Award for his passionate love of birdwatching. The racially charged incident, which took place in 2020, not only spotlighted systemic racial issues but also paved the way for Cooper’s extraordinary success.



he noticed a dog running off-leash, violating park rules designed to protect his beloved birds. Concerned, Cooper approached the dog’s owner, Amy Cooper (no relation), requesting that she leash her dog.

What followed was a

disturbing display of racial bias. Amy threatened to call the police and make a false claim that “an African American man” was threatening her life. Christian captured the incident on video, which quickly went viral and brought attention to the racial tensions that ignited during the time of George Floyd’s murder in Minnesota.

“I knew something like this could happen to me, as a birder who is Black,” stated Christian Cooper, a Harvard alumnus and accomplished writer and editor.

In a twist of fate, the viral incident caught the attention of National Geographic, leading to the creation of

his show, “Extraordinary Birder,” which premiered in 2023. The show has since garnered critical acclaim, culminating in Cooper winning the Daytime Emmy Award this week for Outstanding Daytime Personality.

“No matter what anybody says or does, we are not go-

ing back,” Cooper stated during his Emmy Award acceptance speech. “We will only move forward together.”

Cooper’s run-in with Amy, who has since been dubbed “Central Park Karen,” exemplifies the challenges he faced. The altercation not only led to Amy

losing her job but also highlighted the dangerous misuse of racial stereotypes and the potentially life-threatening consequences for Black individuals.

Beyond his television success, Cooper has also made his mark as an author. He penned the mem-

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Charletta Compton

Outgoing Dallas College board member Charletta Compton was reelected multiple times and served on the Dallas College Board of Trustees for 24 years, with five different chancellors. She was the first Black woman to serve as chair of the board, from 2014 to 2018. She served as vice chair for two years, 2010-2012, and is a past chair of the Audit Committee. Compton most recently served on the board’s Finance and Audit committees and previously sat on the Education and Workforce and Planning and Budget committees.



board, she helped shape innovative policies and steer the college through historic times:

- In 2004, the Dallas College board approved a \$450 million bond package. Closed in 2010, the bond resulted in 28 new buildings and five new community campuses.

- Dallas County Promise launched in 2018.

- In 2019, a \$1.1 billion Dallas College bond package passed with 71% of the Dallas County vote.

- The board helped Dallas College staff and students to quickly and efficiently adopt a 100% online format at the start of the pandemic in 2020.

- The board guided the transformation of Dallas College from seven individual colleges to one accredited institution, receiving Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approval for the change in June 2020.

- Over the years, Comp-

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Will EPA's new regulations enhance sustainable development?

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association

By responding to concerns the African American community has expressed about proposed regulatory and administrative policies, the Biden-Harris Administration has proven to be a responsive champion of minority voices and interests.

Take for example the administration's recent reversal of its proposal to ban menthol cigarettes, which are disproportionately used by Black and Hispanic adult smokers, following concerns about unjust racial profiling and targeting.

Through the Affordable Connectivity Program, the Biden-Harris Administration connected over 5 million Black households to affordable, high-speed Internet, bridging the digital divide for millions of African American families across the nation.

As the Biden-Harris 2024 presidential campaign continues to gain momentum among African Americans and other communities of color, I encourage the campaign to remain responsive to the issues and needs of those communities that will provide a solid base for the Democratic Party in the 2024 national elections. Recent national polls continue to indicate that the Biden-Harris campaign still has some work to do to match the Democratic voter turnout that was achieved in 2016 and 2020, so responding to these concerns can pay significant dividends in this respect.

One area where Biden-Harris can energize African American voter turnout is addressing their frustration over the rising cost of living, which is often driven by higher energy prices. According to the Bureau of

Labor Statistics, this kind of economic pain has fallen more on Black Americans than White Americans.

I applaud my dear friend and colleague Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan who has been a strong advocate for environmental justice and equality for all Americans, and in particular for minority communities.

In a recent speech at my Alma mater, Howard University, one of the nation's most prominent Historically

Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Administrator Regan announced that the EPA would like to eventually shut down existing coal plants and ban new natural gas plants unless they implement carbon capture technologies that are now emerging in the energy sector.

tion can without question find a solution on this issue that pleases all its voter bases. That process can begin by creating a Biden-Harris Sustainable Development Council. President Bill Clinton established the President's Council on Sustainable Development back in 1993. The successful purpose of that council was to bring together leaders of environmental and climate justice with the leaders of energy, commerce, and oth-

"The administration needs to ensure that new well-intentioned mandates will not have the unintended consequences of making electricity more expensive, especially for underserved communities."

ers in corporate America, including leaders from the coal and gas industries, to jointly explore ways to strengthen America's economy and protect the environment and climate at the same time.

Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown chaired the President's Council on Sustainable Development, and I was very pleased to represent the interests of the Environmental Justice Movement as an active member of the council. What we discovered was that the interests of corporate America and the energy sector were not mutually exclusive to the interests of environmental and climate justice.

In other words, a strong economy can and should contribute to sustaining environmental and climate matters — and environmentalists and climate change advocates can and should also work to ensure the growth and sustainability of the national economy. I am convinced that Pres-

ident Biden, Vice President Harris, and Administrator Regan re-establishing the President's Council on Sustainable Development — which will work directly with the Congressional Black Caucus Energy Braintrust, major urban mayors, elected officials, energy industry leaders, and with the advocates of climate change and the leaders of the Environmental Justice Movement — will allow them to find a way to implement an all-of-the-above energy approach that works for everyone. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), where I serve as the president and CEO, welcomes the opportunity to participate in such an ongoing effort and council.

More clean energy initiatives are needed and proposing them should remain a priority for the administration. That said, the new EPA policy rule on existing coal and natural gas plants should be done in a manner that protects the environment and climate while also enhancing the economy. The administration needs to ensure that new well-intentioned mandates will not have the unintended consequences of making electricity more expensive, especially for underserved communities.

I am confident that the energy-impacting proposals now under review by EPA Administrator Regan and the Biden-Harris Administration will consider the issues I am raising with the ultimate goal of sustainability for the environment, climate, and the economy.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and a lifelong civil rights and environmental justice leader who can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

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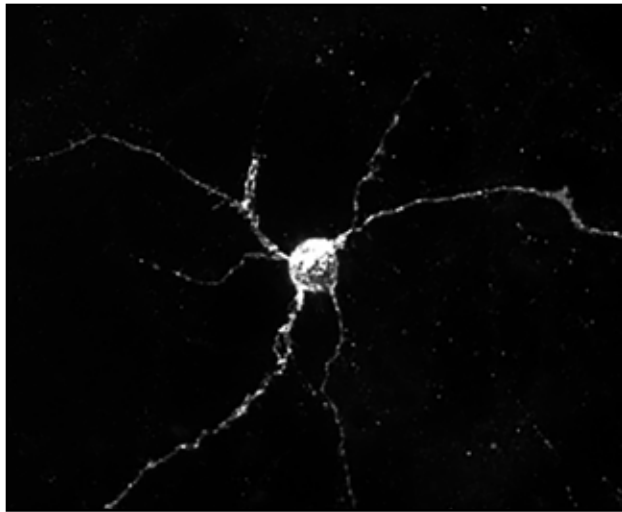
New study suggests cancer drug could be used to target protein connection that spurs Parkinson's Disease

(Newswise) — In studies with genetically engineered mice, Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers say they have identified a potentially new biological target involving Aplp1, a cell surface protein that drives the spread of Parkinson's disease-causing alpha-synuclein.

The findings, published May 31 in *Nature Communications*, reveal how Aplp1 connects with Lag3, another cell surface receptor, in a key part of a process that helps spread harmful alpha-synuclein proteins to brain cells. Those protein buildups are hallmarks of Parkinson's disease.

Notably, the researchers say, Lag3 is already the target of a combination cancer drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that uses antibodies to “teach” the human immune system what to seek and destroy.

“Now that we know how Aplp1 and Lag3 interact, we have a new way of understanding how alpha-synuclein contributes to the disease progression of Parkinson's disease,” says Xiaobo Mao, Ph.D., associate professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a member of the Institute for Cell Engineering. “Our findings also suggest



Neurons express Aplp1 (in white), a key protein that allows brain cells to absorb Parkinson's-disease causing alpha-synuclein. (Yasuyoshi Kimura, Ph.D./Newswise)

that targeting this interaction with drugs could significantly slow the progression of Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.”

Mao co-led the research along with Ted Dawson, M.D., Ph.D., Leonard and Madlyn Abramson Professor in Neurodegenerative Diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Cell Engineering, Valina Dawson, Ph.D. and Hanseok Ko, Ph.D., professors of neurology at the school of medicine and members of the Institute for Cell Engineering.

Long-standing studies have shown that by clumping together and forming protein deposits, misfolded

alpha-synuclein proteins journey from brain cell to brain cell, killing those responsible for producing a neurotransmitter called dopamine, and causing Parkinson's disease to progress through a type of “programmed” cell death that Johns Hopkins researchers have identified. The process, parthanatos (from the Greek word for “death”), leads to impairments in movement, emotional regulation and thinking.

Aplp1's bond with Lag3 on the cell's surface enables healthy brain cells to absorb traveling clumps of alpha-synuclein, leading to cell death, the researchers say.

In mouse studies published in 2016 and 2021, Mao and Dawson's team

identified Lag3's role in binding with alpha-synuclein proteins, causing Parkinson's disease to spread. However, those studies indicated that another protein was partially responsible for the cell's absorption of misfolded alpha-synuclein.

“Our work previously demonstrated that Lag3 wasn't the only cell surface protein that helped neurons absorb alpha-synuclein, so we turned to Aplp1 in our most recent experiments,” says Valina Dawson.

To determine whether Aplp1 indeed contributed to the spread of harmful alpha-synuclein proteins, researchers used a line of genetically engineered mice lacking either Aplp1 or Lag3 or both Aplp1 and Lag3. In mice without Aplp1 and Lag3, cell absorption of the harmful alpha-synuclein protein dropped by 90%. After injecting mice with the Lag3 antibody, they found that this drug also blocks the interaction of Aplp1 and Lag3, meaning healthy brain cells could no longer absorb disease-causing alpha-synuclein clumps.

The researchers say the Lag3 antibody nivolumab/relatlimab, a drug FDA approved in 2022 for cancer treatment, could play a role in preventing cells from absorbing alpha-synuclein.

“The anti-Lag3 antibody was successful in preventing further spread of alpha-synuclein seeds in the mouse models and exhibited better efficacy than Lag3-depletion because of Aplp1's close association with Lag3,” Ted Dawson says.

This research has potential applications in treating other neurodegenerative conditions that have no cures, Mao says. In Alzheimer's disease, which is associated with symptoms of memory loss, mood instability and muscle problems, tau proteins become misfolded and clump together in neurons at high levels, worsening the condition. In Alzheimer's research, Mao says scientists could try to target Lag3 — which also binds with the dementia-related tau protein — with the same antibody.

With the success of using the Lag3 antibody in mice, Ted Dawson says the next steps would be to conduct anti-Lag3 antibody trials in mice with Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. The Johns Hopkins researchers are also looking into how they could prevent unhealthy cells from releasing disease-causing alpha-synuclein in the first place.

Other researchers on this study are Hao Gu,

Donghoon Kim, Yasuyoshi Kimura, Ning Wang, Enquan Xu, Ramhari Kumbhar, Xiaotian Ming, Haibo Wang, Chan Chen, Shengnan Zhang, Chunyu Jia, Yuqing Liu, Hetao Bian, Senthilkumar Karuppounder, Fatih Akkentli, Qi Chen, Longgang Jia, Heehong Hwang, Su Hyun Lee, Xiyu Ke, Michael Chang, Amanda Li, Jun Yang, Cyrus Rastegar, Manjari Sriparna, Preston Ge, Saurov Brahmachari, Sangjune Kim, Shu Zhang, Haiqing Liu, Sin Ho Kweon, Mingyao Ying and Han Seok Ko from Johns Hopkins; Yasushi Shimoda from the Nagaoka University of Technology; Martina Saar and Ulrike Muller from Heidelberg University; Creg Workman and Dario Vignali of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Cong Liu of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

This work was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Parkinson's Foundation, the Maryland Stem Cell Research Foundation, the American Parkinson Disease Association, the Uehara Memorial Foundation, the JPB Foundation, the Adrienne Helis Malvin Medical Research Foundation, and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

Accessibility issues can have a big impact in cancer care

(Newswise) — Researchers at the University of Michigan are finding that many patients may be encountering significant barriers to cancer care, even from their first phone call to a clinic.

Patients attempting to access cancer care must go through several different levels of communication, both before their initial appointment with a physician and throughout their treatment.

Making those first calls to learn more about avail-

able cancer care services or to schedule an appointment at a clinic is an important step toward beginning their treatment journey.

“Racial and ethnic disparities have been observed in the outpatient visit rates for specialist care, including cancer care. However, we know very little about patients' experiences at the critical step of attempting to access new clinic appointments for cancer care,” said Debbie Chen, M.D.

Researchers set up simulated patient calls and stud-

ied whether each caller was able to access cancer care — that meant whether the caller was provided with a clinic appointment date or scheduling information.

Using standardized scripts, the simulated patients spoke in one of three languages — English, Spanish, or Mandarin — and inquired about a new clinic appointment for colon, lung, or thyroid cancer care.

The simulated patients called 479 clinic phone numbers, which were provided by the hospital gen-

eral information staff at 143 hospitals in 12 states.

Researchers found that access to new patient appointments for cancer care was poor for all simulated patient callers in the study — only 41.5% of the 985 total calls were successful.

Even the simulated English-speaking patient caller encountered challenges and were successful in accessing cancer care in only 61% of calls.

About one-quarter of the 985 calls ended early due to workflow barriers, which

included calls going to a voicemail that did not provide adequate information, or being on hold for over half an hour.

In addition, researchers found that access to new patient appointments for cancer care was worse for non-English speaking patients.

The simulated Spanish- and Mandarin-speaking patient callers accessed cancer care in only 36% and 19% of the calls, respectively, far less than their English-speaking

counterpart.

Nearly 50% of the calls made in Spanish or Mandarin ended due to language barriers when simulated patient callers were hung up on in response to asking “Speak Spanish?” or “Speak Chinese?”, or disconnected when the automated message did not provide language-specific instructions but required input to continue.

Even after getting connected to interpreter ser-

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Black Americans report systemic barriers and institutional harm in new Pew survey

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A recent study by the Pew Research Center reveals deep-seated mistrust among Black Americans toward U.S. institutions, highlighting concerns that these institutions intentionally or negligently harm Black people. Conducted from September 12 to 24, 2023, the survey of 4,736 Black adults sheds light on the extent of these beliefs and their roots in personal experiences of racial discrimination.

The findings are striking: 76% of Black adults believe Black public officials are discredited more frequently than their white counterparts. Similarly, 76% feel that the police do little to stop guns and drugs from flooding Black communities, and 74% think Black people are more likely to be incarcerated because prisons profit from their imprisonment. Additionally, 67% say businesses target Black people with luxury product marketing to push them into debt.

Health care and government policies are also viewed with deep suspicion. About 55% of Black adults believe that non-consensual medical ex-



Conducted from September 12 to 24, 2023, the survey of 4,736 Black adults sheds light on the extent of these beliefs and their roots in personal experiences of racial discrimination. (Photo via NNPA)

periments, similar to the infamous Tuskegee study, are happening today. Another 55% think the government encourages single motherhood to eliminate Black men from families. Moreover, 51% suspect the government promotes birth control and abortion to reduce the Black population.

Personal experiences of racial discrimination significantly influence these beliefs. A substantial 75% of Black adults report experiencing racial discrimination, with 13% facing it regularly and 62% from time to time. These experiences reinforce the perception that the system is designed to thwart their success, making Black people feel they must work harder to achieve their goals.

The survey shows that the belief in institutional harm is pervasive across different demographics within the Black community. For instance, 74% of Black adults see the prison system as designed to hold them back, a sentiment echoed by 70% regarding the judicial process and 68% about policing. Those who have faced racial discrimination are particularly likely to hold these views.

Ethnicity within the Black community also affects perceptions. While 75% of non-Hispanic and 72% of multiracial Black adults see the prison system as oppressive, only 60% of Hispanic Black adults agree. Additionally, 67% of Black Americans believe the political system is designed to hold them back,

with higher agreement among those who have experienced discrimination.

Economic perceptions are similarly grim, with 65% saying the U.S. financial system is designed to hold Black people back, either significantly or somewhat. Media representation also draws criticism; 88% of Black Americans frequently encounter inaccurate news about Black people, prompting many to fact-check information themselves.

The survey's findings are mirrored in focus group discussions, where participants voiced their frustrations and fears. One participant in her early 50s stated, "I believe there are strategic works behind the scenes that are being done to sabotage a Black person's effort. You could be

on the road to success with nothing stopping you. But then, all it takes is one incident that was planned and plotted against you to destroy your life." Another young adult in her late 20s said, "As Black people, we are always fighting some type of fight. We always get to some height of success. And then there's always something that takes us down."

Participants also highlighted the subtle yet pervasive nature of institutionalized barriers. A high-income group participant in his late 30s remarked, "There's institutionalized stuff that is invisible. There are things like that which I think are purposely built into society or industries to keep certain numbers down because of access to financial gain."

Reflecting on the systemic nature of these barriers, a Republican group participant in his late 30s said, "This is a capitalistic society. And I feel as though Black men just have to be the ones at the bottom in order for this system to succeed. We can even go back to Black Wall Street, where we were starting to have a little bit of success, and then that was taken down by the powers that be."

The Pew study underscores the pervasive mistrust Black Americans have toward U.S. institutions, a mistrust rooted in both historical and ongoing experiences of racial discrimination. One participant poignantly summarized, "We always get to some height of success, and then there's always something that takes us down."

← COOPER, from Page 2

oir "Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World," which delves into his life experiences and passion for birdwatching. Additionally, he drew inspiration from the Central Park incident for his graphic novel "It's A Bird," featured in DC Comics' digital series "Represent!"

Cooper said he aims to address the structural barriers that prevent Black and brown communities from engaging with nature. "Black and brown people

go to the national parks far less than our proportion in the population," Cooper stated during a 2023 interview.

"I think there's a lot of structural reasons for that... I think some of them are in terms of legacy problems that affect our communities and built-in barriers. For example, if you are working two or three jobs to keep a roof over your head, you're not necessarily going to have the money to be able to send your kids to a sum-

mer camp where they can develop an appreciation for nature.

"They're not going to have that connection to nature to want to go out to the great outdoors. So, we've got a lot of things to overcome, and that's one of the things I'm hoping the show will do — get a lot of Black and brown kids thinking, 'Oh, he's looking at birds. He's outdoors. Maybe I can do that.' Because it's so much easier to picture yourself doing it if you can see somebody who looks like you already doing it."

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Black voters strongly support quality early childhood education

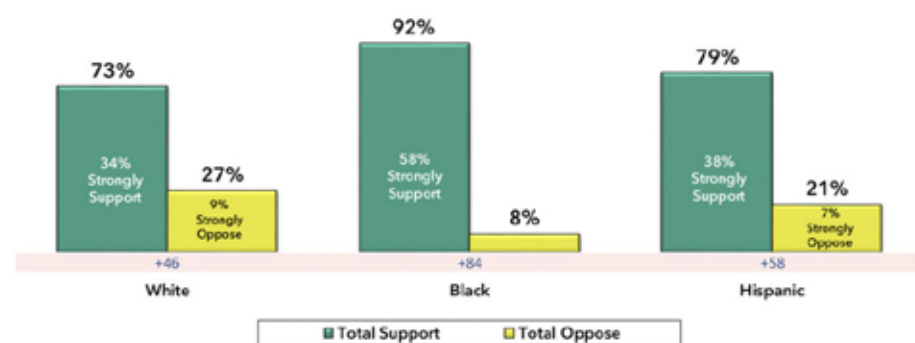
A new poll conducted on behalf of First Five Years Fund by the bipartisan research team of New Bridge Strategies (R) and Hart Research (D) found that, in this election year, voters by overwhelming margins want candidates to have a plan to address child care challenges in the United States. The poll finds that 89% agree; 80% of Republicans, 88% of Independents, and 99% of Democrats feel this way.

There's dedicated support from Black voters for funding to make it happen:

- They were asked, "Do you think that federal funding for quality early education from birth to age five—including childcare and preschool—should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same as it is today?" A majority (71%) of Black voters support an increase; this is the highest percentage of all groups surveyed. Overall, 56% of all voters support an increase.

- They also were asked, "There is also a federal tax

Black and Hispanic voters are more likely to support increasing the federal tax credit that helps families cover child care costs.



As you may know, there is also a federal tax credit to help families cover child care costs. If this tax credit were increased from an average of \$400 to an average of \$4,000 per child to help more working middle class families afford quality child care and early learning programs, would you support or oppose this proposal?

credit to help families cover childcare costs. If this tax credit were increased from an average of \$600 to an average of \$4,000 per child to help more working middle-class families afford quality childcare and early learning programs, would you support or oppose this proposal?" The poll found 92% of Black voters said "yes." Overall, a large majority of voters (76%) support increasing the federal childcare tax credit.

- Ninety-six percent of Black voters support expanding federal support for

childcare. They were asked if they support the following: "Congress would provide more funding to states to expand their existing childcare programs so that lower-income and middle-income families who work or go to school could affordably send their child to a quality childcare, early learning or pre-kindergarten program of their choice. The amount that parents would pay would be based on their household income, with the lowest-income families paying low or no cost."

The poll, which sur-

veyed 1,000 registered voters nationwide and 530 registered voters in Senate swing states (Arizona, Maryland, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Nevada), finds voters make a strong connection between expanding access to quality childcare and a strong economy. Across all demographics, voters express dedicated support for solutions including increasing funding going to states to expand childcare options and modernizing the tax system to support childcare and early learning. In addition, voters are

just as likely now as they were during the height of the pandemic to say Congress and the White House should make expanding access to quality childcare a top or high priority. In September 2020, 51% of voters felt this way and in April 2024, 54% of voters felt this way.

Voters across the political spectrum make a strong connection between childcare and a strong economy, with 68% saying access to high-quality, affordable childcare is "essential" or "very important" to strengthening the economy. There's also dedicated support (84%) for expanding federal tax credits to employers to encourage them to provide childcare benefits; this percentage is the same nationally as it is for the swing states.

FFYF says voters are concerned about the impacts a lack of access to affordable, quality childcare can have on children's education and development as well as families' economic prospects. Top messages in

support of increasing federal funding for childcare and early learning include giving children a solid foundation, reducing financial strain on families paying for childcare, addressing low wages for childcare workers, and overcoming the limits placed on parents in the workplace when they cannot find quality, affordable care.

Sarah Rittling, FFYF's executive director, says, "This poll clearly demonstrates that not only do voters want Congress to do more to address childcare challenges today, but they also want future lawmakers to have a plan for addressing childcare challenges tomorrow. Actions like improving childcare credits and increasing federal childcare funding for states are incredibly popular. Current lawmakers and candidates on the campaign trail have the opportunity now to leverage this clear bipartisan support to bring much-needed assistance to working families with young children."

Dallas College students use engineering skills to solve real-world problems

(Dallas College) — "This is an engineering professor's dream come true," said LaTasha Starr, after one of her teams of students was selected as a Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC) finalist. They will join 12 other teams from around the country in presenting their project at an Innovation Boot Camp in Washington, D.C. Starr is a professor for the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy at Dallas College.

The competition, led by the American Association of Community Colleges, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, required students to use science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to find solutions to real-world problems.



Four students who are participants in the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy at Dallas College will present an engineering project at an Innovation Boot Camp in Washington, D.C. (Dallas College photo)

The challenge matched what students were already learning in class, said Starr. "My instructional method is industry-based learning, designed to bring together technology, business and entrepreneurship."

The Dallas College team of Sebastien Vongkaseum, Peter Hansen, Anish Yak-

kanti and David Navarro will present AMBER (Autonomous Monitoring for Blaze Emergency Response) at the boot camp. Motivated by the devastating Texas Panhandle fire in late February, the team developed a fire monitoring and response system.

"We have infrared tech-

nology that detects abnormal heat signatures and smoke. Drones fly out to the location, pick out the heat sources and send exact coordinates as well as photographs to first responders," said Hansen.

Vongkaseum credits the team members' diverseness for its success. "All of us came from different backgrounds with different skill sets to contribute to the group," he said. "Through our engineering course, we were equipped with valuable skills — from identifying the problem to the engineering design phase and every step in between."

Three Dallas College teams entered the competition, but only one finalist could be selected from each institution.

A team of Leslie Mar-

tinez, Owen Weis, Shoaib Ali and Jordan Lawson designed a system that uses cameras, sensors and biometrics to combat distracted driving. Martinez said their project was widely applicable to the public. "It's accessible to anyone — truck drivers but also parents of first-time drivers," she said.

Most important, all of the students entering the CCIC competition gained critical experience in presenting their ideas. "There's nothing more important than that because you know nothing will happen with these ideas unless you're able to present them," said Weis.

Students in the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy are co-enrolled at Dallas College

and Texas A&M University College of Engineering. After one or two years of taking core classes at Dallas College Brookhaven Campus, students move to Texas A&M to complete their degrees in one of more than 20 engineering majors.

As students prepare to transition to the Texas A&M campus in the fall, they pointed out some advantages of the program.

• Peter Hansen was drawn to the versatility of an engineering degree. "The program at Dallas College offered smaller classes, more one-on-one with the professors, especially in introductory courses. I am grateful I took this opportunity because I feel very confident in what I've learned," he

See COLLEGE, Page 16



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Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program joins forces with NTT DATA for Community Service Day at North Texas Food Bank

The Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program (PMSIP) is excited to announce a special Community Service Day sponsored by NTT DATA at the North Texas Food Bank.

Bank (NTFB) on Friday, June 14, 2024. Alongside NTT DATA team members, PMSIP interns will volunteer their time to support NTFB's mission to combat hunger in the community.

The event underscores the commitment of local leaders and businesses to foster community engagement and instill a sense of civic duty in the younger generation. It also provides the interns a unique opportunity to develop valuable teamwork and leadership skills.

"We are thrilled to have the Plano Mayor's Summer



Courtesy photo

Internship Program participating in a day of service at the North Texas Food Bank," said Trisha Cunningham, president & CEO of NTFB.

"Their enthusiasm and

hard work will help us make a significant impact in our fight against hunger, and we deeply appreciate their support."

Plano Mayor John B. Muns expressed his excitement

about the event stating, "Civic leadership is a cornerstone of our internship program. It's inspiring to see these young leaders actively contributing to the well-being of our commu-

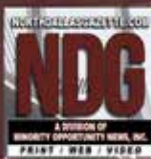
nity. Our partnership with NTT DATA and the North Texas Food Bank exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and service that makes Plano a great place to live and work."

NTT DATA is dedicated to supporting initiatives that create a positive social impact. Alex Steele, Community Relations and Outreach Manager at NTT DATA commented, "We are proud to sponsor this Community Service Day and support the North Texas Food Bank's critical work."

Engaging with the community through service is integral to our company values, and we are delighted to see the next generation of leaders from the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program making a difference."

For more information about the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program, visit PlanoMayorsInterns.org or contact Amber Zuckerman at azuckerman@plano.gov.

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The Dynamites

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NNPA annual convention ignites with powerful civil rights exhibit at Baltimore City Hall

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In a stirring commencement to its annual convention, officials from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) were feted during the unveiling of the “Marylanders Cry Freedom, Civil Rights at Home and Abroad” exhibit at Baltimore City Hall.

This unveiling of the touching exhibit included remarks by Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, Democratic Maryland Rep. Kweisi Mfume, NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., National Chairman Bobby Henry, AFRO Publisher Dr. Toni Draper, and other dignitaries. The exhibit marked the 40th anniversary of Maryland’s groundbreaking divestment from South Africa’s apartheid regime in 1984, a pioneering act of defiance that set a powerful precedent for other states.

The NNPA, representing



Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., NNPA Senior National Correspondent Stacy M. Brown, and NNPA Chair Bobby Henry attend the unveiling of the exhibit, “Marylanders Cry Freedom, Civil Rights at Home and Abroad.” The event served as a quasi kick-off to the NNPA’s 2024 annual convention in Charm City/Mark Mahoney, Dream In Color. (Photo via NNPA)

over 250 African American-owned newspapers and media companies, embodies the 197-year-old legacy of the Black Press of America while the exhibit stands as a testament to the Black Press’s unwavering activism and heroic efforts in championing civil rights both domestically and internationally.

Visitors to the exhibit were visibly moved as it evoked profound reflec-

tions on the struggle and progress of civil rights. Scott poignantly captured the sentiment, stating, “Because of their perseverance and unwillingness to back down, we’re here today. I am here today, and you are here today, able to hold power in these halls that used to serve lawsuits to prevent those who look like us from achieving our excellence.” His words underscored the transfor-

mation from historical injustice to current empowerment within the same walls of City Hall.

Highlighting Baltimore’s critical role in the anti-apartheid movement, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, who fought alongside Nelson Mandela, asserted, “Don’t think that Baltimore did not play a role. All those many years of people showing up and forcing the issue caused other cities to force the issue.”

His declaration affirmed the city’s significant contributions to global civil rights advancements.

The exhibit not only covers the struggle against apartheid but also delves into the eras of Jim Crow and other monumental civil rights movements in America. It vividly narrates the Black Press’s instrumental role in advocating for justice, showcasing the adversities and victories African Americans face.

“Marylanders Cry Freedom serves as a profound tribute to this pivotal moment in our state’s history, celebrating the unwavering determination of the people of Maryland to fight discrimination and injustice,” said Dr. Jean Bailey, project director and Chair of the Maryland/KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) Sister State Committee. “It truly is a testament to the long-stand-

See NNPA, Page 12

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Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith, Lewis Black, Tony Hale and Liza Lapira provide voices for *Inside Out 2*. (Image via NNPA)

'Inside Out 2' is an ingenious film exploring feelings

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) We try to control our emotions, and don't always do a great job. What if they were outsourced to five dingy spirits who were afraid to give up their power? Disney/Pixar puts that notion in play.

It's an amusing premise. One that turns into a delightful screening for 96 entertaining minutes of manic animation, adventure and comedy. An experience that's even more engaging if movie fans view the film in the world's largest multi-dimensional 4DX theater at the Regal Times Square. Tricks and wizardry pull you into the action. The seats move up, down, and sideways. They shake, rattle and roll. Gusts of air, spurts of moisture and other gimmicks heighten and shock your senses. Kids will love the amusement park atmosphere. Just put a lid on your sodas and prepare to have fun.

Writer David Holstein (TV's *Weeds*) and Meg LeFauve (the original *Inside Out*) get inside the head of Riley (Kensington Tallman) a 13-year-old girl on the brink of high school. She's tight with her two buddies Grace (Grace

Lu) and Bree (Sumayyah Nuriddin-Green), but is being pulled away from them, too. That schism becomes exacerbated when the girls go away for a three-day ice hockey skill camp, run by Coach Roberts (Yvette Nicole Brown, TV's *Community*). Grace and Bree beckon, but Riley is being drawn into an older group, led by the hockey prodigy Valentina (Lilimar).

Navigating puberty, teen years and the fears of impending high school is a trauma universally experienced by all kids. Lucky or unlucky for Riley, her emotions run rampant, and she has little control. Hers are managed like a corporation governed by a board of directors: Joy (Amy Poehler), Fear (Tony Hale), Anger (Lewis Black), Sadness (Phyllis Smith) and Disgust (Liza Lapira). Those five wacky general managers were used to running Riley's life from their command center. Like air traffic controllers. But, as growing will have it, regular emotions become passé and mixed emotions emerge. The kind that drives teens crazy.

Enter Anxiety (Maya Hawke), Envy (Ayo Edebiri, Emmy winner *The Bear*), the blasé and bore-

dom-loving Ennui (Adele Exarchopoulos) and the large Embarrassment (Paul Walter Hauser). As a team, they trample the rights and powers the first five had. Stable feelings go out the door. Inner turmoil, doubt, jealousy, mood swings, debilitating anguish and pandemonium rule Riley. The nonsensical battles between the old emotions and new mayhem-inducing feelings—aka mind games—drive the girl nuts. They are manifested in the indecision, shame and nervousness Riley, like other young teens, must navigate. Joy warns Anxiety: "If you want Riley to be happy, stop hurting her." Anxiety: "I don't know if I can stop." Kids, tweens and teens will relate. Adults who can sense memory back to their younger selves will be delighted that the filmmakers and actors are portraying the hell known as the "teen angst."

Director Kelsey Mann, a former storyboard artist and story supervisor turned first-time filmmaker, has a nice feel for the genre and how to tell a simple story about a girl going through a part of the human development cycle that is a real trip.

See FILM, Page 11

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Local middle school rapper releases age-appropriate song on his record label

William Green III, a 13-year-old rapper whose stage name is DubG3, spits lyrics that compel his fans to dance while energizing their souls.

But his fans will never have to choose between an explicit and a radio version to listen to his music. DubG3 wants his mom to vibe on every word without blushing.

Ever.

DubG3, an eighth-grader at John Tidwell Middle School in suburban Dallas, believes age-appropriate music can be popular without every other sentence containing a cuss word - and he's determined to prove it.

He accomplished that on his first single, "King," featuring legendary Houston rapper Mike Jones last year, and he anticipates doing it again.

DubG3 just released his second single, "Go Crazy,"



on his record label, Young KountryBoy Records.

The song was released on Friday, June 14. It will be available on Apple, Spotify, and all major music platforms.

"It sends a message that everyone can listen to. It's the truth. It's kid-friendly," DubG3 said. "My message

is about doing your thing and staying true to yourself. It's music for everybody. It's not a specific audience. Anybody can listen to it.

"I'm a kid, but the American music is getting a little boring. There's nobody people my age can relate to."

DubG3's father, William

Green II, said it was important for his son to have his own record company so he could learn all aspects of the music business. Bill Campbell, the former Senior Vice President of Global Digital Business at Universal Music Group and Senior Vice President of Global Digital Business at Sony Music Entertainment, is president of Young KountryBoy Records.

Tony Draper, who has owned Suave House Records since 1991, advises DubG3. Suave House signed rapper Rick Ross early in his career.

"The powers that be are creating a narrative that is feeding our Black children negatively, and that's the

message they are pushing," Draper said. "Where are the groups like Kris Kross and ABC and artists like Bow Wow, especially early Bow Wow?"

"Trust me, you should get behind this movement. Just because the lyrics are clean doesn't mean they're not good. Kids need to be exposed to more suitable music for their age."

In the early 90s, DUBG3's father, Green II, starred in football and track at Arlington Sam Houston. In 1997, he signed with Death Row Records, the record company known for Tupac and Snoop Dogg.

DubG3 began rapping a few years ago when his dad returned to the studio to

work on an album. DubG3 wanted to drop a few bars, so his father handed him a mic. DubG3's father wanted to ensure he wasn't biased, so he asked Draper to listen.

Draper called with an offer to sign the youngster. Now, they want to change the game with age-appropriate music.

DubG3 enjoys listening to Big X, The Plug, Drake, and Lil Baby, but he likes collaborating and creating upbeat music for kids his age.

"His partners and I are working to build a young king who is spiritually grounded," said Draper, "and has a plan for his future."

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Ebonie Jackson named among the 2024 Most Powerful Women in Accounting

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and CPA Practice Advisor honor influential leaders shaping the accounting profession

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is proud to announce that Ebonie Jackson, DBDT board member, has been named among the 2024 “Most Powerful Women in Accounting” by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and CPA Practice Advisor. An annual recognition, the award honors 25 influential leaders who have made a positive impact and significant contributions to the accounting profession.



Ebonie Jackson (Courtesy photo)

Jackson is a senior vice president in the Chief Financial Officer Group at Bank of America where she serves as the finance business partner supporting Small Business. She is also a member of the company’s Regional Banking Finance Leadership Team, the Black Executive Leadership Council, and is the senior finance leader in the North Texas market.

“I am truly honored to be celebrated amongst this group of trailblazing executive women who are breaking glass ceilings, shaping our industry, and creating new opportunities for current and aspiring accounting professionals,”

said Ebonie Jackson, senior vice president in the Chief Financial Officer Group at Bank of America. “My hope is that this award will show women all over the world what is possible and inspire them to confidently reach their full potential and accounting success.”

Now in its 13th year, the 2024 “Most Powerful Women in Accounting” awards event was recently hosted at AICPA ENGAGE, one of the largest accounting and finance conferences in North America. This year’s honorees represent top business leaders who have been a driving force for creating a culture of excellence, innovation, and inclusion within their

companies. Nominated by their peers and selected by a group of independent judges, these women personify leadership, inclusivity, and go above and beyond for the accounting profession. Among the 25 award recipients joining Jackson in this coveted recognition are Lara Abrash, chair and chief executive officer of Deloitte & Touche, LLP US and Julie Bolland, EY Americas Area managing partner and EY US chair and managing partner; along with AICPA & CIMA’s current board chair Carla McCall, vice chair Lexy Kessler, and past chair Kimberly Ellison-Taylor.

“Amplifying the many

diverse voices of the profession is critical,” said Crystal Cooke, the AICPA’s diversity and inclusion director. “Not only does this award provide visibility into the amazing things that women are doing in our profession, it also shows what is possible with hard work and determination. In order for women to believe there is space at the top for them, they need to see it!”

A full circle moment, Jackson’s journey with AICPA dates back over twenty years. She was one of the organization’s college scholarship recipients and later became a member of the inaugural class of AICPA’s Leadership Academy. Most recently, she served a three-year term on the AICPA & CIMA Board of Directors in which she served on the Audit and Finance Committee and as the board representative

for the Africa Regional Engagement Group.

With a strong passion for accounting and finance, Jackson has a proven history of transforming financial, IT, and business processes on behalf of organizations with aggregate revenues up to \$5 Billion. Her extensive financial reporting and leadership experience has helped transform quasi-governmental agencies, manufacturing companies, colleges, universities, and not-for-profit organizations. Highly respected in the industry, she has a powerful reputation for successfully forging strategic partnerships, FP&A, audit & treasury competencies, and strategic finance. Prior roles include serving as the chief financial officer and director of administrative services at Lucas County Children Services and chief financial

officer of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Jackson received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Master of Business Administration from Florida A&M University. A Certified Public Accountant, she is committed to making a lasting impact in the profession and community. In addition to AICPA, Jackson serves on the board for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and previously held board positions with the Ohio Society of CPAs, Ohio CPA Foundation, LISC Toledo and the Toledo Zoo. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, The Links, Incorporated and Jack & Jill of America.

To learn more about the AICPA and CPA Practice Advisor “2024 Most Powerful Women in Accounting”, please visit www.cpa-practiceadvisor.com.

FILM, from Page 9

One that blindsides her with reactions she can’t corral. Aided by editor Maurissa Horwitz’s precision timing, and art directors that specialize in lighting, graphics character, sets and color and shading, the visuals are a smorgasbord for the eyes. Add in Jason Deamer’s deft touch as production designer, Adam Habib and Jonathan Pytko’s captivating cinematography and there is no reason to take your eyes of the screen—ever.

Mann guides the actors’ voices and inflections quite well. The characters are fun to watch because the sync between direction, cast and dialogue is so seamless. It’s easy to feel sorry for Riley

because Tallman’s interpretation of the central character is so sensitive to her needs, environments and interactions. The true emotions crew, led by the over-positive, endearing Poehler as Joy, makes the good guys lively. The tempest-in-teapots reign of volatile spirits, led by Hawke’s perfectly grating interpretation of Anxiety, is the total opposite. Blundering idiots. Frenetic, upset, ambivalent, misdirected and all the odd senses kids face that drive them berserk.

It’s amazing that young viewers will get tips on mastering inner turmoil by seeing the havoc manifested on screen, knowing

the names of emotions and learn how to face that clash. Kids may not understand the magnitude of what they’re learning, but child psychologists will be happy that an animated movie is giving them a major assist as they teach children how to handle their “stuff.”

There something very ingenious about a film that explores the feelings we have in a way that is tangible, profound and educational. Almost like a public service message telling us there are reasons and solutions for our emotional interactions. Or as Joy puts it: “There is a lid for every pot!”

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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New American Funding announces NAF Black Impact to increase lending among Black communities

(Black PR Wire) New American Funding, a national mortgage lender, proudly announces the launch of NAF Black Impact, formerly known as NAF Dream. NAF Black Impact empowers and supports the Black community in their pursuit of homeownership.

NAF Dream launched in 2016, focusing on loan officer recruitment, education, and efforts to expand Black homeownership.

Acknowledging the ongoing success of the program, NAF is renaming the program NAF Black Impact to signify the company's commitment to taking direct, action-oriented



steps to address credit accessibility and promote sustainable and equitable homeownership for Black individuals and communities.

Additionally, this name change reflects the company's growing dedication to assisting Black borrowers in overcoming systemic barriers that have perpetuated disparities in homeownership for many

years, as highlighted in NAF's recently released white paper, Empowering Homeownership in Diverse Communities.

"Increasing homeownership rates in the Black community is a critical step toward closing the racial homeownership gap," said Patty Arvielo, New American Funding Co-Founder and CEO.

"For us, this is much

more than a rebrand of the initiative. This was a necessary step to demonstrate our responsibility to the Black community. NAF Black Impact means that we commit to providing access to mortgages and financial resources to help more Black families achieve homeownership. By providing the necessary support, we believe that we can make a difference and create a more equitable society for all."

Through NAF Black Impact, NAF will help to foster opportunities for Black families and break down barriers to homeownership. To this end, NAF has committed to extending \$20

billion in new mortgages to Black homebuyers by the year 2028.

"We are thrilled to continue the legacy of NAF Dream and extend our support to more Black families," said Mosi Gatling, NAF Senior Vice President of Strategic Growth and Expansion. "We are firm in our belief that homeownership should be within everyone's reach, and we are dedicated to transforming this vision into a reality.

"We want NAF to become the place where all Black families feel comfortable and supported in their homeownership journey. We want them to know that NAF is here for them."

NAF Black Impact is partnering with real estate agents, lenders, and community organizations to ensure that Black homebuyers have access to fair and affordable housing options.

NAF is also providing the Black community with access to educational resources, products, services, partnerships, and in-market support to drive sustainable homebuying and investment purchase goals.

By offering resources and advocacy, NAF Black Impact will help individuals and families achieve their dreams of homeownership, and work towards creating a brighter future for generations to come.

NNPA, from Page 8

ing legacy of Marylanders as advocates for civil rights and social change."

Chavis, a former political prisoner as part of the Wilmington Ten in the 1970s, delivered a pas-

sionate commentary on the state of Black America and Africa. Drawing from his personal experiences, he underscored the importance of continued support for the Black Press and po-

litical engagement, making a direct appeal for backing President Joe Biden.

His words, rooted in his own journey, resonated with the audience, emphasizing the crucial nature of unity in the upcoming elections.

Henry, the NNPA chair, also inspired attendees, emphasizing the strength found in collective action.

"Together, each accomplishes much more," he stated, reminding all the power of solidarity in the ongoing fight for civil

rights.

The "Marylanders Cry Freedom" exhibit will be open to the public at Baltimore City Hall until August 31st. As the NNPA convention continues, this exhibit stands as a potent educational tool and a profound

reminder of the Black Press's enduring legacy. It serves to inspire future generations to continue the fight for justice and equality, as embodied in Henry's exhortation: "Together, each accomplishes much more."

COMPTON, from Page 2

ton was instrumental in supplier development programs to ensure diverse suppliers have equal access to business opportunities at Dallas College.

Compton is president of Rogers & Associates Creative Productions. She currently serves as an advisory committee member for the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Tourism; president of Kim-

ball United Neighborhood Association; parliamentarian of Southwest Dallas Neighborhood Association; on the board of the Dallas County Heritage Society; and on the Diversity Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees. She has served on several additional boards throughout North Texas.

Compton has been honored with the Minor-

ity Business News Women Who Mean Business Award (2000), D/FW Minority Business Development Council & Minority Business News 1997 Helping Hands Award and Dallas County Heritage Society Heritage Award.

"I must first acknowledge trustee Compton on her over two-decade commitment to serving the Dallas College community. The ultimate student success champion, her advo-

cacy for our institution and its mission has served as a guiding force for countless generations of learners. While she will be missed, her impact remains," said Dr. Justin Lonon, Dallas

College chancellor. "With the reelection of trustee Garcia and election of Dr. O'Reilly, we usher in a new chapter of possibilities for the students and communities we serve. My congratu-

lations to both leaders; I'm confident their expertise and shared dedication to student achievement will only amplify our 'barrier-busting' spirit of excellence."

MAYS, from Page 2

began his career.

Known for his exceptional five-tool abilities—hitting, power hitting, fielding, throwing, and baserunning—Mays also possessed an unmatched strategic acumen. In 2015, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama, who acknowledged Mays' impact on sports and society. "It's

because of giants like Willie that someone like me could even think about running for president," Obama remarked.

Mays was dedicated to helping others throughout his life, notably through his Say Hey Foundation, which supports underprivileged youth. "I do what I can for people, man," Mays said in a 2021 interview.

"When the kids ask me for something, I give it to them. Let them have it because they're going to be here after I'm gone, and I want the kids to enjoy what they can enjoy."

A career batting average of .302, 3,283 hits, and numerous honors define Mays' legacy. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1979, cementing his place as one of the sport's all-time greats.

NDG is looking for a Journalism Intern for a 6 month assignment to cover community events on site in the Irving area.

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Congressional Black Caucus Foundation welcomes Summer 2024 Intern Cohort

(Black PR Wire) Washington, D.C. — The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) is excited to announce the arrival of the Summer 2024 cohort of Congressional and C-Suite interns, a dynamic group of young leaders from colleges and universities across the country poised to begin a transformative public policy and professional development journey this week.



Photo via Black PR Wire

This highly competitive internship program offers a unique opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience in the legislative process, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the mission of advancing the global Black community.

Throughout the summer, the selected interns will be

placed in Congressional offices and work closely with members of the Congressional Black Caucus. They will engage in policy research, constituent services, legislative writing, and attend professional development workshops as part of the CBCF program. This immersive experience

is designed to empower interns with the skills and networks needed to effect change and pursue careers in public service, and includes accommodations in the heart of Washington, D.C., a stipend, professional development training, and exclusive networking events to expand their pro-

fessional networks.

“As we welcome our Summer 2024 interns, we are reminded of our commitment to nurture leaders whose talents and aspirations will shape the future,” said Dr. Ryan Tucker, Sr. Director of the CBCF Leadership Institute. “Through their work on Capitol Hill and in corporate spaces, and the guidance they receive in the program, we are confident they will not only contribute significantly during their time with us but will also go on to be changemakers in their respective fields.”

Caption: As a feature of the program, CBCF Summer 2024 Congressional and C-Suite Internship cohort are photographed inside the Rotunda of the

Cannon House Office Building before a professional headshots photo shoot.

The Congressional Internship program is one of a full range of experiential opportunities offered by the CBCF Leadership Institute, whose goal is to increase the pool of Black leaders in public service careers and public policy positions through providing fellowships, internships, and scholarships. In 2023, CBCF hosted 110 interns across the Spring, Summer, and Fall from 24 states and representing 80 schools. The program also awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to 380 students that same year.

A cornerstone of the Foundation’s commitment

to developing future leaders who are dedicated to advancing the interests of the Black community, the CBCF internship program selects students based on academic achievement, leadership potential, and a demonstrated commitment to public service.

In addition to assignments in Congressional Member office, C-Suite sponsors also host interns in their government affairs offices in Washington, D.C. This summer’s C-Suite sponsors are Aflac, CTIA, Home Depot, and Viatrix.

For more information about the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and its internship programs, please visit cbcfc.org.

CANCER, from Page 4

vices, some callers were unable to receive further assistance.

“Our study highlights existing barriers that patients may encounter when attempting to access a new clinic appointment for cancer care and illustrates how this access point functions as a gatekeeper to cancer care services, with many patient populations, including patients with limited English proficiency, unable to even get in the door to see a physician for their cancer care” Chen said.

“Thus, interventions fo-

cused on mitigating these barriers are necessary to increase access to cancer care for all patients.”

This study was supported by the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center (Discovery Award to Dr Chen), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (grant No. T32DK007245 to Dr Chen), and National Cancer Institute (grant No. K08CA273047 to Dr Chen).

The funders had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection,

management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or ap-

proval of the manuscript; and decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

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I'll Tell You When I've Had Enough

Dr. James L. Snyder

It was evening, and the day was just about over. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were chilling in the living room, watching TV.

It is always lovely when the day ends, and you can relax. Doing nothing can become a habit.

I'm not sure what we were watching on TV; it really doesn't matter. What matters is that we were relaxing and enjoying the evening together. No appointments, no plans, just an evening of doing nothing. It's that kind of relaxing that I can't get enough of. It's too late to do anything, and it's too early to go to bed. What a wonderful scenario.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went out into the kitchen and then called me and said, "Do you think you've had enough ice cream for the day?"

I didn't know if it was a rhetorical question or she was setting me up for a trap. I've been set up before, and I'll never know when the next one will be. Anything with ice cream is



worth the chance.

I cheerfully responded, "I'll tell you when I've had enough ice cream and I haven't had enough for today."

A soft voice from the kitchen area said, "Would you like me to bring you another bowl of ice cream?"

I responded, "That would be wonderful, and I sure would appreciate that."

I can never think of a time when I had too much ice cream. My mother often told me I had too much ice cream. But you know how mothers are? They don't always tell the truth.

When it comes to vegetables, I can have too much of that. I can have too much when it comes to other things as well. But who in their right mind could ever

say they've had too much ice cream?

My mother once told me, "You should be eating more fruits instead of ice cream."

I responded, "Well then, get me some peach ice cream."

As I was growing up, all my mother wanted to do was feed me vegetables. It's not that I don't like vegetables, but there comes a time when I've had enough.

When I was young, my favorite Saturday morning cartoon was, Popeye the Sailor Man. As you know, Popeye is famous for eating spinach, which gave him all the energy and strength he needed.

One Saturday, as I was watching Popeye, my mother came in and said, "Oh, I see your watching

Popeye the Sailor Man. Do you know he loves spinach? I think maybe you should start eating spinach like Popeye."

I looked at my mother seriously and said, "You do know that Popeye smoked a pipe. So if I eat his spinach do I also smoke his pipe?"

That was the last time my mother ever brought that subject up.

As a youngster, I mowed the grass for our neighbor next door, who had a tiny grocery shop. When I mowed the grass, I went into her little shop, and she gave me soda pop and my favorite ice cream cone.

She could've paid me money to mow the grass, but what value can you put on your favorite ice cream cone?

So when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked me if I'd had enough ice cream, I cheerfully told her, "absolutely not". There is no way under the sun that I could ever have enough ice cream in one day.

If there ever comes a time when I answer my wife's question by saying,

"Yes, my dear, I think I've had enough ice cream for today," you know I've lost my mind.

I've often wondered who invented ice cream. They sure have my approval. I think they did a wonderful thing to the human race by creating something as delicious as ice cream. Even to this day, I can't name all of the different flavors of ice cream.

My goal in life is to find all the different flavors of ice cream and sample each one for the world's record.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me a very nice bowl of ice cream. "Here you are, I hope this is enough ice cream for tonight."

I just smiled at her because I never think beyond the ice cream I'm eating at the time. I refuse to compromise that marvelous experience of eating ice cream by thinking of other things.

Then my wife said something rather strange. "Do you know," she said rather seriously, "that there is no ice cream in heaven?"

I chuckled as I ate another

er spoonful of ice cream. I looked at her and said, "That's why I'm trying to eat as much ice cream as I can now. I want to get my share of ice cream while I still have the opportunity."

While eating that ice cream I remembered a verse in the Bible. It caused me to think about some of my habits.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8).

Sometimes I want what I want when I want it. Usually, I don't give much thought to consequences.

I need to sharpen my focus on my spiritual life and trust God to lead me everyday.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

Plano church celebrates 67 years with special service

Ave. F Church of Christ, a congregation in Plano, will be hosting its 67th Homecoming Service on Sunday July 28th.

"Join us as we celebrate

67 Years!" said Secretary Shun Anderson, inviting guests to the special service on Sunday July 28th at 10 a.m.

The special guest and Se-

nior Minister, James Glenn will be speaking. Contact the church at avefsecretary@gmail.com or 972-423-8833 for more information.

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Worthless Idols



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

– **Jonah 2:8**

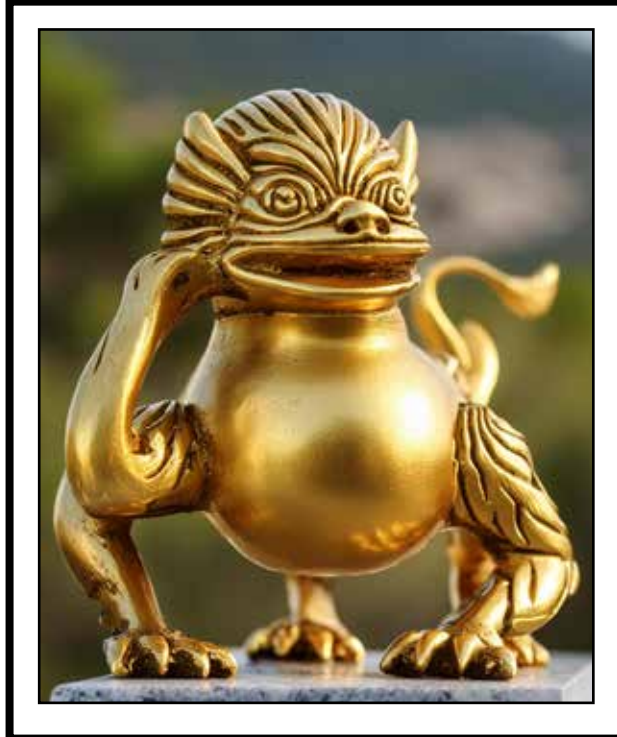
Have you ever exercised your will over the will of God? Have you ever been so willful that you were going to go your own way no matter what God said?

If so, you have been at the same place as the prophet Jonah. God called Jonah to deliver a message to God’s people as a warning.

Jonah flatly refused. It was Jonah’s will over God’s. Guess who won? Talk about willpower; Jonah had it!

In fact, he was so rebellious toward God’s will that he got on a ship to go the opposite direction.

But he couldn’t go far enough. The omnipotence of God caught up with Jonah, and he was hurled



overboard when the seas became rough and the ship’s crew figured Jonah was the source of their problems.

Overboard he went and into the belly of that big fish. God has a way of getting us to rethink our decisions, to reconsider our position.

In fact, we see the extent of Jonah’s willfulness by the amount of time he was

willing to hang out in the belly of that fish - three full days.

Then, Jonah decides enough is enough! Obedience is better than this fish belly and seaweed.

From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord, and He answered me.

From the depths of the grave I called for help, and

You listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all Your waves and breakers swept over me.

I said, ‘I have been banished from Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’

The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But You brought my life up from the pit, O Lord my God.

When my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, Lord, and my prayer rose to You, to Your holy temple.

Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice

to You. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord.” And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh (Jonah 2:2-3:3a).

In the midst of realizing his own calamity, Jonah made a seemingly out-of-context statement:

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.” Jonah was thinking of the sailors who threw him overboard and how they prayed to worthless idols.

In the Christian world, we rub shoulders with those who cling to worthless idols every day. How tragic.

But this story’s primary message is for every believer. And I can identify with Jonah.

There’s been many a man placed in the “belly of the

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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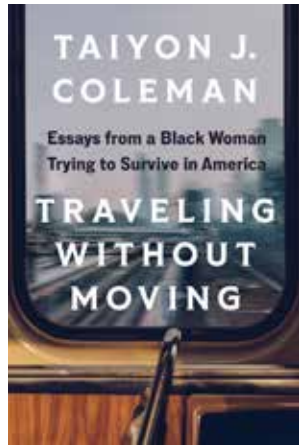
NDG Book Review: 'Traveling Without Moving' is a surprisingly quick read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

One step forward, two steps back.

That's how it goes: every time you think you're getting a little ahead, something – or someone – yanks you back. You see a little light at the end of the tunnel, and it's a train. It feels like you can't win, but what're you gonna do? You can't quit. As in the new book "Traveling without Moving" by Taiyon J. Coleman, you just have to keep going.

Like most Black children born after Martin Luther King was assassinated, Taiyon Coleman was "expect-



ed to be the fulfillment of... generations of struggle..." She hoped, at age 8, that being a writer would do it ("I just knew that I had a lot... to write") but it didn't work out: she ran out of

patience and candy after her first try. Living on the South Side of Chicago, the second oldest of five with a single mother, Coleman understood then that writing would be a struggle but she never let go of that dream.

When she was a child, during the school year, Coleman cared for her younger siblings and helped keep house for her mother, who barely held things together and died too young. Every summertime, Coleman and her eldest sister were sent to stay with grandparents in Illinois, near St. Louis; it was hot there but she could run and play with cousins and oth-

ers she "was kin to." Those annual trips, she says, became a sort of ancestor-fuel map for her growth. Her mother added to the many inroads, especially once Coleman understood her mother's hard life and sacrifices.

When it came time to choose a graduate program, Coleman visited a college in Alabama and saw Confederate flags everywhere, which went on the map, too. So did the racism she endured in college in Minnesota again and again, the unfortunate miscarriage due to more racism, being the only Black family on the block in their Minneso-

ta neighborhood, and being told that her use of Black vernacular would keep her from being published...

That last one. You almost want to say, "HA!" now, don't you? And you will, for more reasons than one, while reading "Traveling without Moving."

Because here's the thing: author Taiyon J. Coleman is funny, taking readers from her grandma's living room and Coleman's feisty, foul-mouthed eight-year-old self; to being a teacher, writer, and mother of three; with laughing at Rush Limbaugh in between. And yet, the humor is only icing on the cake: the better parts

of this collection of autobiographical essays are the knife-sharp comments and observations of life as a professional Black American when white America won't give up the 1930s. This is told with proudly-embraced irony and sarcasm, which turns out to both coat the anger a little and to delight readers, even its most seething moments.

You'll also particularly enjoy Coleman's style: it's conversational with plenty of asides, like talking with a friend – but it's also pay-attention serious and you'll like that, too. "Traveling without Moving" is a quick and forward read.

COLLEGE, from Page 6

said. "One thing I didn't expect was to have such a good community at Dallas College. I made some great friendships. I think that's not something I would find so easily at such a big university. Since we're all moving down to A&M, we'll have each other." Hansen will major in aerospace engineering and is interested in aircraft design, especially experimental aircrafts.

• Sebastien Vongkaseum said he's always liked taking things apart to see how they worked, and he knew engineering was for him after taking a 3D modeling class in high school. While he's wanted to at-

tend Texas A&M for his whole life, he had to explore other options when he didn't get accepted into the A&M engineering program. Then, he discovered the Engineering Academy at Dallas College. "I'm really happy with the decision I made," he said. "It's an excellent program with a direct path into [Texas] A&M engineering majors, without having to come in as a transfer." Vongkaseum plans to pursue either mechanical or aerospace engineering and hopes to one day work in the airline industry.

• Leslie Martinez has always been good at creating things from scratch

and decided she wanted to be an engineer at age 4. A native of College Station, she came to Dallas College to play soccer and found out about the Engineering Academy. "It worked out perfectly because it gave me the opportunity to get a little bit ahead of people transferring to Texas A&M," she said. The program helped confirm her interest in engineering. She said her classmates have been very supportive. "We've grown really tight, and we all study together and look forward to doing that when we move to College Station." Her focus will be data engineering, and she hopes to one day enter the banking industry.

• Owen Weis started at Dallas College unsure of what field he wanted to pursue. "I knew I wanted to shoot a little higher and challenge my mind. I found the idea of mixing creativity and STEM fields together was perfect for me," he said. "If you want to be successful in engineering, it's extremely important to ask questions and communicate with your teachers. The student to teacher ratio at Dallas College is amazing." He has enjoyed connecting with the other engineering students at the academy. "I'm going to have so many connections in a million different fields," he said. Weis would like to be an artificial intelligence

and machine learning engineer and is interested in human/robot engineering and the autonomous vehicle industry.

Dallas College's AMBER team will travel to Washington, D.C., for the Innovation Boot Camp, June 10-14. The boot camp will provide professional development, mentoring and coaching designed to build strategic communication and entrepreneurial skills. Students will also attend an engagement opportunity with STEM leaders and Congressional stakeholders on Capitol Hill, and a pitch session in front of a panel of industry and entrepreneurial professionals to determine the winning teams.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

fish" to encourage him to fulfill the purposes of God for which He called him.

Jonah's situation changed immediately upon his obedience. Obedience is a mysterious thing. Jesus had to learn it through the things He suffered (see Hebrews 5:8). If Jesus had to learn obedience through suffering, what does that mean for you and me? Sometimes willing obedience requires encouragement.

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

2025, from Page 1

Caucus and Labor Caucus Chair Mark Pocan of Wisconsin, Pro-Choice Caucus Co-Chair Diana DeGette of Colorado, Co-Chair of the Congressional Freethought Caucus and Ranking Member of Oversight Jamie Raskin of Maryland, and Progressive Caucus Chair Pramila Jayapal of Washington.

"Project 25 is a radical, extreme, pro-authoritarianism plan pushed by conservatives who are desperate to take our country backwards," Lieu insisted. "It attacks our nation's founding principles, such as our sys-

tem of checks and balances, freedom of speech and of the press, and separation of church and state."

Project 2025 includes a comprehensive strategy with several components, such as a list of radical policy changes across the federal government, a blueprint for increasing presidential authority to implement right-wing policies, a database of right-wing ideologues ready to enforce these policies, and training programs to prepare staff for enacting the agenda. The initiative would purge civil servants who are not

aligned with the agenda, centralize power in the presidency, and enact harsh immigration policies.

"Project 2025 is the product of a coordinated effort by extremists who want to strip away protections for minority communities, including LGBTQI+ people, and undermine the foundations of our democracy," Rep. Pocan stated. "I look forward to working with members of this task force to thwart Project 2025's extreme vision for the country."

Patrick Gaspard, President of the Center for American Progress, called Project 2025 "an authoritar-

ian playbook that threatens the system of checks and balances that has fortified American democracy for nearly 250 years."

Project 2025 is "Donald Trump's blueprint for destroying our democracy," Jayapal declared. "It attacks the very foundations that this country was built on and seeks to limit Americans' rights to embolden MAGA extremists further. We can and must stand up to ensure that Project 2025 never sees the light of day and instead ensure that our proposition agenda, bold, progressive, and popular policies, are at the forefront."

MoveOn Political Action Executive Director Rahna Epting added, "Project 2025 is the MAGA authoritarian playbook to take away our rights and fundamental freedoms and destroy our democracy. Donald Trump and his MAGA enablers are planning to use power to monitor pregnancies, further restrict reproductive freedom, unlawfully use local law enforcement to detain migrants, and gut policies designed to fight climate change. We have to get to work right now to stop them in their tracks."

With Election Day approaching, the task force will emphasize the impor-

tance of voter education and engagement to counteract the project's potential impact.

"Education and awareness are crucial in the battle against Project 2025," said Abeni Bloodworth, CEO of chromatic black. "It is our duty to inform others about the detrimental effects it could have on our communities and rally for change. On Election Day, we hold the ultimate power to fight back against this tyranny and defend our fragile democracy. Let us honor the legacy of those who fought tirelessly for equality by standing up against Project 2025."