



# North Dallas Gazette

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## 60th anniversary of Civil Rights Act: Reflecting on progress and persistent challenges

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

As the United States commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nation reflects on a transformative law that reshaped American society by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The landmark legislation emerged from a period of intense struggle and demand for the fulfillment of the 14th Amendment's promise of "equal protection of the laws."

Due to widespread opposition to desegregation and the assassination of civil rights activist Medgar Evers, President John F. Kennedy urged Congress to pass a comprehensive civil rights bill in June 1963. After Kennedy's death, President Lyndon B. Johnson, with crucial support from civil rights leaders Roy Wilkins and Clarence Mitchell, championed the bill's passage.

On July 2, 1964, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The law prohibited discrimination in hiring, promoting, and firing, extending these protections to pub-



The landmark legislation emerged from a period of intense struggle and demand for the fulfillment of the 14th Amendment's promise of "equal protection of the laws." (Photo via NNPA)

lic accommodations and federally funded programs. It also strengthened the enforcement of voting rights and mandated the desegregation of schools.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the nation's benchmark civil rights legislation, and it continues to resonate in America," said Melanie Campbell, president of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. The Act dismantled "Jim Crow" laws upheld by the 1896 Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson, which had deemed racial segregation con-

stitutional under the "separate but equal" doctrine.

The Act's impact has been profound and far-reaching. "It propelled a movement that was able to make major civil rights gains," stated Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League. "It has not only changed the arc for Black people. It has changed the arc for women and for other people of color in a profound way."

Maya Wiley, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on

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### People In The News ...



Vashti Murphy McKenzie



Cathy Hughes

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings."

- Franklin Thomas

## Vashti Murphy McKenzie

By Deborah Bailey  
AFRO Contributing Editor

Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the retired and first female bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, used the pulpit of The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., to render a searing sermon calling the faithful to “put feet to our prayers” as she set the stage for America’s celebration of Juneteenth on June 19.

McKenzie, president of the National Churches of Christ, delivered the morning message at the Cathed-



ral on June 16, and went straight into dissecting the rationale behind America’s cultural wars in the form of book banning, and laws passed restricting how history is taught in schools

across the U.S.

According to the Black Education Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University, 18 states have imposed restrictions and bans on teaching race and gender since 2021. At least 32 states have jurisdictions that have passed some form of book ban.

“If we are a truly great nation, the truth cannot destroy us,” McKenzie said, quoting from Nicole Hannah Jones’ Pulitzer Prize winning 1619 Project. She then asked the congregation: “If you could change the narrative to your liking, what would your truth look

like?”

McKenzie led the audience on a whirlwind historical “roll call” of efforts to revise the narrative of cultural events around the globe, including in Hungary, China, and the United States. She reminded the audience of efforts to ban books and restrict the rights of Jews.

“Are you breathing?” she stopped and asked the congregation before reeling off a second roll call of U.S. riots, rebellions and mass shootings from 1863 to today, designed to restrict and destroy Black American institutions and communities.

“Here in the home of the brave and the land of the free, the New York City Massacre, the Memphis Massacre, the Camila Massacre, the Opelousas Massacre, the Danville Riot, Springfield Massacre, Tulsa Black Wall Street Massacre, the Orangeburg Massacre, Charleston South Carolina Mother Bethel Massacre, Massacre at Tops Market, the Jacksonville Dollar Store Massacre...,” McKenzie said in the space of two minutes.

“That’s here,” she added as the audience became silent.

“Are you breathing?”

Are you still in the room?” McKenzie asked as she moved on quickly to share more.

“Remembering Juneteenth serves as a historical reminder of what did happen,” she said before taking the audience through a vivid tour of brutal historical events characterizing slavery and the disenfranchisement of Black people.

Reflections from the audience were varied.

Longtime parishioner Jim Fulton thought McKenzie’s sermon was needed at the National Cathedral.

**See McKenzie, Page 14**

## Cathy Hughes

(Black PR Wire) The Little Black Dress and Pearls Luncheon hosted by the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, Women’s Business Council will feature media guru and Founder of TV One, Cathy Hughes and will recognize Representative Ashley Gantt. The stellar event will take place on Saturday, July 13th at the Hilton Miami Airport. For tickets or a table or more information, visit the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce website LBDP — Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce (m-dcc.org)

Cathy Hughes is a dynam-



ic, media pioneer who demonstrates the power of one – one woman, one vision, one company - Urban One. Her unprecedented career has spawned a multi-media conglomerate that generates original content across the

spectrum of radio, television and digital media. Urban One, Inc., formerly known as Radio One, is the largest African American owned, diversified media corporation in the nation. It reaches more than 80-percent of the African-American market through its subsidiaries: Radio One, an urban market leader with over 55 broadcast radio stations; TV One and CLEO-TV, two cable television networks; Reach Media, Inc., a syndication company that produces the “D.L. Hughley Show” among others; iOne Digital, a digital platform that offers social content, news, information and entertainment;

and One Solution, a cross platform marketing company. Hughes’ humble beginnings in Omaha, Nebraska, were not a deterrent to her success but rather part of the catalyst that fueled her ambition to empower African Americans with information and to tell stories from their perspective.

Ashley V. Gantt, Esq. is Florida State Representative of District 109. She is the founder and managing partner of Gantt Legacy Law, P.A. In 2007 Ashley graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and became a Teach for America Mississippi Delta

Corps (TFA) member. She dedicated two years to national community service, with a mission to close the achievement gap in the Greater Delta region. Ashley returned home to teach in Miami-Dade County Public Schools for seven years before beginning law school.

## Charise A. Morgan

(Black PR Wire) Miami, FL – Charise A. Morgan was sworn in as the first Black woman president of the Miami-Dade County Bar Association at the organization’s annual gala held at The Mana Wynwood Convention Center on Saturday, June 15.

“Shirley Chisholm once said, ‘Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth,’ and it certainly is a privilege to live and work in the Miami legal community,” said Morgan. “However, it’s obviously not perfect. We who labor here owe that service and giving back should be our commitment to making this city, this Bar, and this



practice better.”  
“The Miami-Dade County Bar has a rich history of providing assistance to greater community, but there are more areas and industries where our lawyers are needed. Lawyers should be the conduit of progress; I want to facilitate that via the Bar,” Morgan added.

Morgan, a graduate of Mercer University School of Law, brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to her new role. An accomplished trial attorney, she currently serves as Staff Legal Counsel for Zurich North America and previously served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Georgia Department of Labor.

Her roles as liaison on the Florida Bar Board of Governors, Vice Chair of the Florida Bar Rules of Civil Procedure Committee, and Vice Chair of the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism highlight her commitment to legal ethics and professionalism.

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# The tragedy of mainstream media coverage



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

First, let it be said that the Black Press of America believes in our democratic process, and believes that the record of President Joe Biden is greater than a bad debate night with Donald Trump.

Second, the bigger tragedy was the mainstream media's effort to make their coverage of last Thursday's

debate a matter of who did the better "sound bites" and not the substance of the issues put before the American people watching the debate.

As the Black Press of America, let it be said that we are appalled at the Editorial and News Broadcasts calling for the President to step down. It's the media's job to report the news and not initiate an orchestrated campaign to remove the President.

Where is the media discussion about the issues, and who said what about

them? Where was the major fact checking of all the lies Trump told? The burden didn't shift to Biden just because he chose not to respond to the issues the media had decided he should have addressed.

It was not the job of the media to take the issue of the President's age or push the issue of whether or not he should withdraw from the November 2024 election.

But time and time again, on Fox News and Face The Nation, as well as the Editorial positions of the

New York Times and Atlanta Constitution, just to name a few, there was the pushing of the idea that the President was too old and should step down. Then there was the generating of polling questions to support the withdrawal of the President, which was not the job of the media.

Once again, it is the Black Press that emerges as the true "Trusted Messenger" not manipulating the news for ratings. "We the People" must not allow our silence to give consent to such media coverage.

# The Good News In 2024: Poor people are the new swing vote

By William J. Barber, II

If you're an ordinary American who goes to work to pay the bills or takes care of a loved one most days, it's easy to feel down when you see the headlines about the 2024 election. Donald J. Trump has been convicted of 34 felonies for falsifying business records to cover up hush money he paid to bury an alleged affair with a porn star during the 2016 campaign, and the Republican Party continues to think he's their best candidate. At the same time, President Biden is struggling to hold together his Democratic base as images of devastation in Gaza continue to dominate the news. Stories of good news in politics seem few and far between.

But as a preacher, I learned a long time ago that you don't get to the good news by looking away from problems; the good news is most often found right amid trouble. Yes, politics is a mess in 2024. But, at the

same time, several popular movements of everyday people struggling for economic justice have emerged that have the potential to reshape our politics. Against the backdrop of decades of rising inequality, low-wage worker movements have made huge strides since the pandemic, insisting that living wages are a moral issue for "essential workers" and seeing the largest increase in real wages in decades. Young people who've watched education and healthcare costs soar have come together to form effective coalitions for debt relief and won billions in loan forgiveness. Leveraging worker power, unions have waged effective strikes and negotiated new contracts while expanding to include new workers, especially in the South. Though they're rarely in the headlines, these movements made up of millions of low-income workers have the potential to re-frame political debates for people who

are weary of the status quo. The good news in 2024 is that poor and working people are the new swing vote in US politics.

A report from Lake Research Partners demonstrates just how powerful this untapped coalition of low-income voters could be. Looking back at the past three Presidential elections, they found that in the seven states that will likely decide the 2024 election—Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada, and Pennsylvania—low-income voter participation was an average of 12 percentage points lower than that of their higher-income voters. Using past averages to project 2024 turnout, this study measured the difference between the margin of victory in the last Trump/Biden matchup and the number of eligible low-income voters who are likely not to vote. In Georgia, for example, Biden won by almost 12,000 votes in 2020. In North Carolina, he

lost by 74,000. But in both states, more than a million eligible low-income voters will likely not vote in 2024 if past trends continue. That's a huge potential swing vote, and the proportions are similar across the seven swing states in the study.

Since the 2024 Presidential race will likely be a rematch of 2020, this study used exit poll data from 2020 to ask who unlikely low-income voters would vote for if they did turn out in 2024. Of the 1.3 million likely nonvoters in Georgia, 746,000 would likely be Biden voters. Of the 1.1 million in North Carolina, some 594,000 would likely go for Biden. In short, Biden and other Democrats have a huge advantage among this demographic when they are able and willing to vote. The overwhelming takeaway of this study is that a relatively small increase in low-income voter turnout

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# Cannabis use tied to increased risk of severe COVID-19

(Newsweek) — As the deadly disease that came to be known as COVID-19 started spreading in late 2019, scientists rushed to answer a critical question: Who is most at risk?

They quickly recognized that a handful of characteristics — including age, smoking history, high body mass index (BMI) and the presence of other diseases such as diabetes — made people infected with the virus much more likely to become seriously ill and even die. But one suggested risk factor remains unconfirmed more than four years later: cannabis use. Evidence has emerged over time indicating both protective and harmful effects.

Now, a new study by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis points decisively to the latter: Cannabis is linked to an increased risk of serious illness for those with COVID-19.

The study, published June 21 in JAMA Network Open, analyzed the health records of 72,501 people seen for COVID-19 at health centers in a major Midwestern health-care system during the first two years of the pandemic. The



*Nurse Megan Roberts cares for a COVID-19 patient in an intensive care unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in 2020. A study by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis shows that people with COVID-19 who used cannabis were more likely to be hospitalized and require intensive care than those who did not use the drug. (Matt Miller/Washington University)*

researchers found that people who reported using any form of cannabis at least once in the year before developing COVID-19 were significantly more likely to need hospitalization and intensive care than were people with no such history. This elevated risk of severe illness was on par with that from smoking.

“There’s this sense among the public that cannabis is safe to use, that it’s not as bad for your health as smoking or drinking, that it may even be good for you,” said senior author Li-Shiun Chen, MD, DSc, a professor of psychiatry. “I think that’s because there hasn’t been as much research on

the health effects of cannabis as compared to tobacco or alcohol. What we found is that cannabis use is not harmless in the context of COVID-19. People who reported yes to current cannabis use, at any frequency, were more likely to require hospitalization and intensive care than those who did not use cannabis.”

Cannabis use was different than tobacco smoking in one key outcome measure: survival. While smokers were significantly more likely to die of COVID-19 than nonsmokers — a finding that fits with numerous other studies — the same was not true of cannabis users, the study showed.

“The independent effect of cannabis is similar to the independent effect of tobacco regarding the risk of hospitalization and intensive care,” Chen said. “For the risk of death, tobacco risk is clear but more evidence is needed for cannabis.”

The study analyzed deidentified electronic health records of people who were seen for COVID-19 at BJC HealthCare hospitals and clinics in Missouri and Illinois between Feb. 1, 2020, and Jan. 31, 2022. The records contained data on demographic characteristics such as sex, age and race; other medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease; use of substances including tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and vaping; and outcomes of the illness — specifically, hospitalization, intensive-care unit (ICU) admittance and survival.

COVID-19 patients who reported that they had used cannabis in the previous year were 80% more likely to be hospitalized and 27% more likely to be admitted to the ICU than patients who had not used cannabis, after taking into account tobacco smoking, vaccination, other health condi-

tions, date of diagnosis, and demographic factors. For comparison, tobacco smokers with COVID-19 were 72% more likely to be hospitalized and 22% more likely to require intensive care than were nonsmokers, after adjusting for other factors.

These results contradict some other research suggesting that cannabis may help the body fight off viral diseases such as COVID-19.

“Most of the evidence suggesting that cannabis is good for you comes from studies in cells or animals,” Chen said. “The advantage of our study is that it is in people and uses real-world health-care data collected across multiple sites over an extended time period. All the outcomes were verified: hospitalization, ICU stay, death. Using this data set, we were able to confirm the well-established effects of smoking, which suggests that the data are reliable.”

The study was not designed to answer the question of why cannabis use might make COVID-19 worse. One possibility is that inhaling marijuana smoke injures delicate lung tissue and makes it more vulnerable to infection, in

much the same way that tobacco smoke causes lung damage that puts people at risk of pneumonia, the researchers said. That isn’t to say that taking edibles would be safer than smoking joints. It is also possible that cannabis, which is known to suppress the immune system, undermines the body’s ability to fight off viral infections no matter how it is consumed, the researchers noted.

“We just don’t know whether edibles are safer,” said first author Nicholas Griffith, MD, a medical resident at Washington University. Griffith was a medical student at Washington University when he led the study. “People were asked a yes-or-no question: ‘Have you used cannabis in the past year?’ That gave us enough information to establish that if you use cannabis, your health-care journey will be different, but we can’t know how much cannabis you have to use, or whether it makes a difference whether you smoke it or eat edibles. Those are questions we’d really like the answers to. I hope this study opens the door to more research on the health effects of cannabis.”

## Common prostate drugs tied to lower risk of dementia with Lewy bodies

(Newsweek) — MINNEAPOLIS — Certain drugs used to treat urinary symptoms due to an enlarged prostate may be associated with a reduced risk of dementia with Lewy bodies, according to a study published in the June 19, 2024, online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Dementia with Lewy bodies is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that can cause memory and thinking issues, movement problems and issues such as hallucinations.

The results do not prove that these drugs reduce the risk of dementia with Lewy bodies; they only show an association.

“These results are exciting because right now there are no drugs to prevent or treat dementia with Lewy bodies, which is the second most common neurodegenerative type of dementia after Alzheimer’s disease,” said study author Jacob E. Simmering, PhD, of the University of Iowa in Iowa City. “If we can determine that an existing drug can offer protection against this debilitating disease, that has the potential to greatly reduce its effects.”

The study looked at male participants taking different types of drugs to treat urinary problems caused by an enlarged prostate, a common problem for older men. The drugs terazosin, doxa-

zolin and alfuzosin could block brain cell death by activating an enzyme important for energy production in brain cells. Previous studies have shown an association between these drugs and Parkinson’s disease, which is similar to dementia with Lewy bodies.

For the study, researchers looked at a health information database for male participants who had started taking one of those three drugs. They were compared to people who took two other types of prostate drugs that do not activate the same enzyme—tamsulosin and the 5 $\alpha$ -reductase inhibitors finasteride and dutasteride, called 5ARIs.

Overall, there were

126,313 people taking terazosin, doxazosin or alfuzosin, 437,045 people taking tamsulosin and 80,158 people taking a 5ARI. Researchers followed the participants for an average of three years to see who developed dementia with Lewy bodies.

There were 195 people who developed the disease among those taking terazosin, doxazosin or alfuzosin, for a rate of 5.21 cases per 10,000 people per year. Among those taking tamsulosin, there were 1,286 cases, for a rate of 10.76 per 10,000 people per year. Among those taking 5ARIs, there were 193 cases, for a rate of 7.78 per 10,000 people per year.

Once researchers matched the groups by age, other health conditions and other factors that could explain the differences between groups, they found that people taking terazosin, doxazosin or alfuzosin were 40% less likely to develop dementia with Lewy bodies than people taking tamsulosin and 37% less likely than people taking the 5ARIs. The risk of developing the disease was similar among those taking tamsulosin and the 5ARIs.

“More research is needed to follow people over time and determine whether there is a cause-and-effect relationship here, but it is promising to think that these drugs could have a

protective effect on this disease that will likely affect a larger number of people as the population ages,” Simmering said.

Since only male participants were included in the study, the results may not apply to female participants. Another limitation of the study is that dementia with Lewy bodies can be difficult to diagnose, so it’s possible that not all people with dementia with Lewy bodies were correctly diagnosed.

Learn more about dementia with Lewy bodies at [BrainandLife.org](http://BrainandLife.org), home of the American Academy of Neurology’s free patient

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# U.S. Supreme Court gives immunity to Trump's alleged criminal acts

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent



Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson further warned of the broader implications of the ruling, suggesting that even a hypothetical president who commits grave crimes, such as ordering assassinations of political rivals or instigating a coup, could potentially claim immunity under the new model. (Supremecourt.gov)

On Monday, July 1, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that former President Donald Trump has immunity for some of his conduct during his presidency in his federal election interference case. However, other actions may not be protected. This decision adds another layer of complexity to the potential trial proceedings.

In a closely watched case exploring the boundaries of presidential power, the justices voted 6-3 along ideological lines to reject Trump's sweeping immunity claim. The ruling means that charges related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results will not be dismissed outright. However, the court indicated that

actions closely tied to his presidential duties are off-limits to prosecutors.

Trump has already been convicted on 34 felony charges related to a hush-money scheme to conceal an extramarital affair with an adult film star while Melania Trump was pregnant.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the major-

ity, emphasized the need for lower courts to examine further which actions Trump can be prosecuted for. Specifically, the court determined that Trump's interactions with Justice Department officials and Vice President Mike Pence in the lead-up to the January 6 Capitol attack by his supporters are considered

core presidential powers and thus immune from prosecution.

"The president is not above the law," Roberts wrote. "But Congress may not criminalize the president's conduct in carrying out the responsibilities of the executive branch under the Constitution."

The ruling leaves the future of the case uncertain, requiring further proceedings before U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan. Judge Chutkan will now review other alleged conduct by Trump, including his communications with state election officials, private parties, and members of the public, to determine if they qualify as official acts.

The court's liberal justices dissented, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor arguing that the ruling undermines a

fundamental constitutional principle that no individual is above the law. "Trump will now be insulated from criminal prosecution. In every use of official power, the President is now a king, above the law," said Sotomayor.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, in a strongly worded dissent, accused the conservative majority of creating a dangerous precedent by establishing a new model of presidential accountability that grants undue immunity to the highest office.

"With that understanding of how our system of accountability for criminal acts ordinarily functions, it becomes much easier to see that the majority's ruling in this case breaks new and dangerous ground," Jackson wrote.

"Departing from the traditional model of individual accountability, the majority has concocted something entirely different: A Presidential accountability model that creates immunity — an exemption from criminal law — applicable only to the most powerful official in our Government," she added.

Justice Jackson further warned of the broader implications of the ruling, suggesting that even a hypothetical president who commits grave crimes, such as ordering assassinations of political rivals or instigating a coup, could potentially claim immunity under the new model.

Trump, who faces about 50 other charges related to the 2020 election, has openly discussed executing his rivals.

## Project 2025 leader declares 'Second American Revolution,' warns of violence

Kevin Roberts, president of the Heritage Foundation, issued an eerie warning on Tuesday. He asserted that the United States is amid a "second American Revolution," which he claimed would remain bloodless only if the left refrains from resistance. The statement has intensified concerns over the potential for political violence and the future

of America under a second Donald Trump regime.

"We are in the process of the second American Revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be," Roberts said in an interview. He criticized the left's influence on American institutions, stating, "The reason that they are apoplectic right now—the reason that so many

anchors on MSNBC, for example, are losing their minds daily is because our side is winning."

Roberts' comments are of little surprise considering the Heritage Foundation's plan for a Trump return that includes Project 2025, a detailed agenda that threatens reproductive freedoms nationwide, banning abortion with or without Congress-

sional approval, slashing Social Security, conducting mass deportations, building migrant detention camps, weaponizing the Department of Justice to retaliate against Trump's political opponents, and providing substantial benefits to the ultra-wealthy at the expense of working families. The Heritage Foundation is the primary organizer of

this initiative.

A second term for Trump could dramatically reshape the political landscape, especially following a recent Supreme Court decision that grants the president significant immunity from prosecution of the most heinous crimes. The high court's decision would allow Trump to exercise power more freely than

during his first term, raising alarms among critics about his authoritarian tendencies.

Trump's return to office would also occur against a global shift towards right-wing politics, with similar trends in countries like France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. The inter-

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As we mark America's Independence Day, I'm reflecting on the role education played in my family's journey to this incredible country and the educators who helped make it happen. I was born in Antigua in the Caribbean, where my father's family had lived for many generations. They coped with extreme poverty and many challenges — my grandmother was blind, for instance. Yet, from a very early age, teachers pushed my father to fulfill his potential. Their encouragement led him to attend university in Barbados and eventually earn his doctorate at the University of Sussex in England. Later, we settled in the United States, where my dad is a professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Each step of the way, a mentor encouraged him to keep growing and expanding his mind. Their support



Davis (left) met with education leaders and supporters who helped students complete their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential coursework through the Professional Development Institute at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. (Photo via NNPA)



Andrew Davis, Chief Operating Officer, Council for Professional Recognition, spoke to about 150 students at Florida International University in Miami who completed their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential coursework. (Photo via NNPA)

not only changed his life but also paved the way for future generations of our family. I was so excited to spend time recently with about 150 students at Flor-

ida International University in Miami who completed their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential coursework through the Professional Development Institute at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. Through articulation agreements with higher education institutions in Florida, these students can receive college credits toward an associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

The CDA Credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education and it's a key steppingstone on the path of career advancement in the sector. The CDA is based on a core set of competency standards that guide early childhood professionals toward becoming qualified educators of young children. Our nonprofit, the Council for Professional Recognition, works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of

professional development. CDA educators know how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and have an understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, CDA educators know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

It was an honor to recognize and celebrate these scholars, who participated in 120 hours of instruction and at least 480 hours of on-the-job training. They also compiled a professional portfolio and created a center-based capstone project. At the graduation ceremony, I told these students that they should feel proud of their achievements and be empowered to become advocates for early childhood education. I emphasized the importance of cultivating resilience in the face of challenges and embracing lifelong learning. That lifelong learning can include earning additional degrees

as well as serving as CDA Professional Development Specialists, who use their expertise to assess CDA candidates' competencies and facilitate reflective conversations with candidates for the credential.

Most importantly, the CDA scholars I met in Miami and other ceremonies this year are now serving as early childhood educators in communities across the U.S. They're professionals who support safe and healthy learning environments, provide positive guidance, successfully engage, and interact with families and contribute to ensuring an early learning program is well run. I know their work will pay off. Years ago, my dad's teachers had no way of imagining where their influence would lead. Indeed, when I look up to the sky on the Fourth to watch the fireworks, I'll keep in mind the educators who help their students reach higher and higher for spectacular results and the bright futures they create.

## PROGRESS, from Page 1

Civil and Human Rights, highlighted the tangible benefits of the Act, particularly in healthcare and education.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 added years, literally about three to four years, onto the life expectancy of Black people when healthcare had to open its once-segregated doors," Wiley explained. The Act also significantly reduced segregation in Southern schools, benefiting both Black and white students.

Despite these advancements, the 60th anniversary

comes amid concerns over recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings perceived as eroding civil rights protections, including affirmative action, legalized abortion, and diversity initiatives. Critics argue that the Court's favorable ruling in former President Donald Trump's immunity case further threatens American democracy. The ruling, which rejected Trump's sweeping immunity claim but maintained protections for actions tied to presidential duties, has sparked intense debate about the

boundaries of presidential power and accountability.

"Securing our civil rights remains the unfinished fight of our time," President Joe Biden said in a proclamation commemorating the anniversary. "Our country is still facing attacks on some of our most fundamental civil liberties and rights, including the right to vote and have that vote counted and the right to live free from the threat of violence, hate, and discrimination. That is why my administration is remaining vigilant—fighting actively to protect the rights of every American."

Biden emphasized his commitment to reversing the legacy of segregation and creating new opportunities for all Americans. "My administration is investing more money than ever in Black families and Black communities," Biden asserted. "We are reconnecting historic business districts and neighborhoods cut off by old highways, redlining, and decades of discrimination and disinvestment. We have invested over \$16 billion in historically Black colleges and universities, which will help raise the next generation of Black leaders. At the

same time, we are creating good-paying jobs on which people can raise a family; making capital and loans for starting small businesses and buying homes more accessible; and making health insurance and prescription drugs more affordable."

In popular memory, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was seen as a legislative response to the demands of the March on Washington. "Sixty years later, we must be honest: the federal minimum wage, indexed for inflation, is lower than it was in 1964," said Rev. William Barber, president of Repair-

ers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. "What's more, because the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in its 2013 Shelby decision and Congress has failed to remedy it, we have less voting rights protections today than we did on August 6, 1965."

Barber continued, "The celebration of historic wins alongside this egregious decay is a source of discontent among everyday Americans. But we have no time for despair. We are determined to channel discontent for a resurrection rather than an insurrection."



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# Carrollton Marketing Services wins three state communications awards

The City of Carrollton Marketing Services Department was honored to be recognized with three state marketing and communications awards, including two first-place awards, at the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) conference in early June for its extensive communication and promotional work.

The awards recognize outstanding municipal government communication on projects in a variety of categories:

- First Place, Publications Report: 2022 Popular

- Annual Financial Report
- First Place, Video - Marketing PSA: 2023 Festival at the Switchyard
- Third Place, Award of Honor: Video - Best Use of Humor: Meet the Goat Squad 2023

Carrollton's work continues to be recognized for exemplary municipal marketing and communications outreach efforts. From public service and education to amenities and events, City of Carrollton staff work hard to provide programs benefiting Carrollton residents, businesses, and visitors, and Carrollton's

Marketing Services team is proud to be honored for the work to inform citizens and visitors of City initiatives.

"Carrollton strives to be the community that families and businesses want to call home, and our hardworking staff prioritize communication and engagement as part of those efforts. I'm extremely proud to see the City's work recognized among approximately 700 contenders from such a talented group of industry professionals," said Marketing Director Kelli Lewis.

This year's awards were presented at the annual TA-

MIO conference held June 5-7 in San Antonio. The TAMIO Awards program serves as a professional highpoint for municipal communications work in Texas.

In addition to the peer recognition fostered by the TAMIO Awards, the process allows all participating members to learn more about best practices and innovative communication tools being used across the state.

For a complete list of City accolades, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/awards-accolades](http://cityofcarrollton.com/awards-accolades).



City of Carrollton



## Irving's 2024 Supplies for Success drive runs through July 12

The City of Irving, Irving Fire Department, Irving Schools Foundation and several other organizations are teaming up for the annual "Supplies for Success Drive," running June 3 through July 12.

For the past 18 years, the drive has collected and distributed school supplies to Irving Independent School District

students from low-income families.

New supplies needed include:

- Washable Markers (eight-count)
- Crayons (24-count)
- Small Scissors
- Backpacks (no wheels)
- Pencil Boxes
- Notebook Paper
- Composition Books
- Headphones

• Glue Sticks  
Visit [CityofIrving.org/Supplies](http://CityofIrving.org/Supplies) for a full list of school supplies. Organizers say backpacks are the most requested item, but students need an array of supplies from folders to colored pencils.

Donations can be

dropped off at any Irving fire station. Visit [CityofIrving.org/Fire](http://CityofIrving.org/Fire) to find a station.

Financial donations are also accepted. Checks can be made payable to Irving Schools Foundation and mailed to the foundation at P.O. Box 152637, Irving,

TX 75015. Donations also can be made online at [IrvingSchoolsFoundation.org/Donation](http://IrvingSchoolsFoundation.org/Donation).

Families in need of supplies should contact their school directly.

For more information about Supplies for Success, call (972) 721-4909.

## Disaster recovery assistance for Irving residents and businesses

Federal and state assistance is available for Dallas County residents and businesses impacted by the recent severe weather in North Texas.

Assistance ranges from home repairs and temporary needs (food, diapers, prescriptions, etc.) to temporary housing, unemployment assistance and more.

Residents and businesses can apply for assistance online; check application deadline dates. Eligibility and application status are determined by the issuing agencies (FEMA, SBA, etc.) and not the City of Irving.

Because Dallas County was declared a federal disaster area, all residents and businesses may be eligible.

If you have insurance,

file a claim with your insurance company immediately. FEMA and state assistance cannot help with losses covered by insurance.

### Report Storm Damage to State of Texas

Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) asks Irving home and business owners who suffered property damage from the severe storms on May 28 to submit a report online at [Damage.TDEM.Texas.gov](http://Damage.TDEM.Texas.gov).

Copies of reports can be forwarded to the City of Irving Office of Emergency Management via email at [oem@cityofirving.org](mailto:oem@cityofirving.org).

This will help officials identify resource needs and determine eligibility for disaster assistance. In

addition, home and business owners should contact their insurance companies as soon as possible if they have experienced significant damage.

Assistance is available to homeowners and renters.

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance

For costs related to emergency home repairs; temporary housing; uninsured and underinsured personal property losses; disaster legal services; and medical, dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster but not covered by insurance.

For detailed instructions on how to file for assistance, go to the City of Irving website at [www.cityofirving.or](http://www.cityofirving.or)

## Check us out on Youtube!



### The Dynamites

Ashia Collins, Leah Lewis, and Kynnedi Moryaé Porter

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# As inflation weighs on American minds, so too should climate change

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

The increasing frequency and intensity of storms over recent years has meant higher costs for insurance companies. As rates increase, a growing number of Americans are finding themselves without coverage, some finding it difficult to even find companies that will insure them. The growing crisis means people who have put a lifetime of work into their homes will lose them, never able to rebuild.

The Consumer Federation of America recently estimated 6.1 million American homeowners lack insurance, a number that is expected to spike as the climate crisis intensifies. And added costs will fall on the backs of homeowners and renters alike, as landlords pass these costs onto tenants.

To gauge how Americans are managing their insurance needs, nonprofit Insurance Research Council (IRC), considered average amount spent on insurance divided by median income



and saw insurance spending has outpaced income over recent years, IRC's assistant vice president Victoria Kilgore explained.

In the process of their research, IRC discovered the data varied widely, with Utah homeowners spending less than 1% of household income compared to 4 percent of income in Florida.

Seeking to understand what was driving the variations, researchers examined claim frequency and average cost, finding catastrophic claims have been weighing heavily on the shoulders of insurance companies. Natural hazards, like hurricanes, hail, windstorms, and wildfires,

were particularly costly, as events that affect high numbers of homes, Kilgore said.

The data demonstrates that regions prone to flooding and wildfires, like Florida and California, tend to have higher insurance rates than those with less severe weather. Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas also showed rate increases, she said.

As climate financial strategist Jordan Haedtler and former congressional aide on the House Financial Services Committee explained, climate is emerging as a threat to financial stability.

Haedtler, who helped oversee development of

a climate risk supervision framework for federal banking, said the phenomenon surrounding the climate threat echoes the financial crisis of 2008. Much like the mortgage backed securities that sparked the crisis then, insurance costs can be a major channel for spreading risk throughout the financial system, with major implications for the entire economy. Citing exaggerated financial health of emerging small insurers in Florida, Haedtler warns the public could end up on the hook for mortgages that will be underwater in the near term.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently noted a protection gap, meaning more and more people lack enough insurance to meet the rising cost of claims. This means homeowners, businesses and renters will face rebuilding costs they

can't afford, said Haedtler, and with no choice but to walk away from their mortgages, costs will spill over into the banking sector, affecting the overall economy.

Earlier this year, Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell confirmed insurance rates, which are driving up housing costs, is a major reason inflation remains above the Fed's target.

And last year, the Federal Insurance Office reported gaps in regulation across states that are preventing the gauging of capacity for companies to pay claims. As payouts have increased, said Haedtler, big insurance companies have reacted with higher rates, underpayment of claims, and the withdrawing from climate vulnerable regions altogether.

Housing and mortgage markets are hurting, he said, and the system is in

need of reform. Insurance risk formulas need to be updated to consider climate risk, and the national flood program needs reform.

Associate Vice President for Economics and Policy at Environmental Defense Fund, Carolyn Kousky points out, when an insurance system is healthy, communities able to maintain insurance have positive economic spillovers. They can rebuild more quickly, and studies show these communities receive more visits to businesses after a storm.

When disaster insurance fails, communities suffer, especially where affordability is a problem. High rates and limits on coverage create barriers, making costs especially painful in these communities.

The increasing rainfall and temperatures associ-

See CLIMATE, Page 16

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



Lupita Nyong'o in *A Quiet Place: Day One* (Photo via NNPA)

## Film Review: 'A Quiet Place: Day One' is more than just a great horror film

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*/2) “You need to stop following me,” says a woman who is as terrified of the beasts as anyone else. “I’m really scared, I don’t know what to do,” confesses a man as he trembles and follows her like a scared toddler.

There was a certain magic in *A Quiet Place* (2018) and *A Quiet Place Part II* (2021), the first two films in this franchise (box office total \$640M). Writer/director/producer/actor John Krasinski built an engaging storyline around a believable and bewildered family being hounded by deadly weird alien invaders. Beasts who were ultrasensitive to sound, and had destroyed many, leaving only a few survivors in certain outposts. How do you follow that up? With a compelling prequel by writer/director Michael Sarnoski (*Pig*), who’s making only his second feature film. It’s a gamble. A smart gamble. Sarnoski brings his own voice and vision to the trilogy.

The final stages of cancer have put Samira (Lupita Nyong'o, *12 Years A Slave*), aka Sam, in a hospice care home. She’s the feisty one in her therapy group, often butting heads with the group’s leader, a nurse named Ruben (Alex

Wolff). It’s a great surprise the day Ruben suggests they all go into New York City to see a show. He only gets Samira to comply after promising her she can get real pizza, her heart’s desire. Not the dreck they serve at the home. Of courses, as always, she brings her ever present support cat Frodo on the excursion.

They board a yellow bus, go into Gotham and the show at a theater is less than Sam had imagined. As Ruben herds the group onto the bus to head home, Samira brings up his pizza promise. Before the two can go to war over a slice with peperoni and cheese, objects start to drop from the sky. They rain down on the streets like cluster bombs during a war invasion. People are swept away by alien creatures, who track their victims by sound. The city is in total bedlam. Buildings fall, cars crash, ashes are everywhere. People run for cover. Like a war zone. Like 9/11. Samira, Ruben and others hide. A man named Henri (Djimon Hounsou, *A Quiet Place Part II*) shepherds the dazed and weary who huddle together. Soon Samira is on her own. Followed by a desperate stranger, a law student named Eric (Joseph Quinn, *Stranger Things*). He’s in a greater state of shock than

she. What a way to start a movie. The tense script, with less and less dialogue, lets the visuals and audio track do the heavy lifting. Viewers will learn about Samira’s health concerns, the aliens’ vulnerabilities, escape plans, acts of generosity and sacrifices but not just because the three-dimensional characters say what they’re thinking and feeling. More because the audience sees what they’re doing, experiencing and trying to escape. Perceptive viewers will deduce what comes next and why. This kind of thoughtful screenwriting respects viewers’ intelligence and ability to discern and feel. No lengthy scenes burdened with exposition. No long-winded conversations.

After a cursory introduction to the lead characters, the film starts with a bang. Much like the horror/scifi classic *28 Days Later*. Throw the protagonists into the deep end, force them to swim on their own and survive. Scenes with creatures falling from the sky are fascinating (cinematographer Pat Scola, *Pig*). Those visions spawn an initial amazement that escalates into abject fear, terror and a dread that doesn’t subside. Disaster and death are around every

See **FILM**, Page 13

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# Filmmaker Phill Branch scores first Emmy award for documentary 'Hampton University: One Of The Wonders Of The World'

The Artistic Voice Speakers Agency congratulates, speaker, filmmaker, and storyteller Phill Branch of Phill Good Productions, for winning his first Emmy Award during the 66th National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (Capital Cheapeake Bay Chapter) in the category of Education/Schools - Long Form Content for the documentary "Hampton University: One of the Wonders of the World," currently airing on PBS, he was the sole recipient of an Emmy in its category.



Phill Branch shows off the hardware after receiving his first Emmy for a documentary about Hampton University. (Courtesy photo)

Phill Branch's Emmy Award-winning film shines a spotlight on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and celebrates the 40-year legacy of Dr. William

R. Harvey, former president of Hampton University, who has been recognized by President Barack Obama, Civil Rights leader Andrew Young and Gov. Douglass Wilder, among others. The film highlights the rich history and cultural significance of HBCUs, capturing the essence of one of the nation's most revered educational institutions.

This accolade serves as a testament to his ability to weave powerful narratives that resonate with audiences and spotlight the impor-

tant aspects of our heritage.

"We are incredibly proud of Phill Branch and his remarkable achievement," said Evette Ferguson, CEO of The Artistic Voice Speakers Agency. "Phill's dedication to his craft and his unique storytelling perspective have rightfully earned him this prestigious honor. We are excited to see his continued success and the profound impact his work will have on future generations."

An alumnus of the American Film Institute, Phill Branch directed and pro-

duced the award-winning documentary "Hampton University: One of The Wonders of The World." The film was an official selection of the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, a finalist at the Charlotte Black Film Festival, and won Best Documentary at the inaugural HBCU Power Film and TV Festival. It aired on Maryland Public Television (MPT) as part of its annual HBCU Week programming in September 2023 and is currently streaming on PBS.

## Essence Festival offers a celebration of culture and music

(Black PR Wire) Ready to experience the essence of love? It's one of our favorite times of the year – time for the renowned and much anticipated 30th Essence Festival of Culture! Held over Fourth of July weekend at the Caesars Superdome and throughout downtown New Orleans, the Essence Festival has evolved into the nation's

premier showcase for contemporary African American music and culture. The three-day party combines high-octane music performances with inspirational speakers and provocative conversations about gender, race, culture and art. The 2024 Essence Evening Concert Series features: Birdman & Friends, Janet Jackson, Charlie Wilson,

SWV, Tank and the Bangas, The Roots, Big Boi, Donell Jones, D-Nice, Ha Sizzle, Lloyd, Teedra Moses, T-Pain and Usher.

This year marks the 30th birthday of the Essence Festival of Culture! Although the party with a purpose" always includes a stacked lineup of music's biggest names in hip-hop, R&B, soul, funk, and gos-

pel, it doesn't end there. There are a bevy of free daily activities and panels held throughout the weekend which includes expert panels, workshops and shopping focused on beauty, health and wellness, en-

trepreneurship and more. Essence Festival was started in 1994 as a one-time event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Essence, a magazine aimed towards African American women. The festival was so

well-received, organizers decided to make it an annual event. There are many ticket options from single-day tickets to weekend packages to VIP options. Some events are free with advance registration.

## VIOLENCE, from Page 5

national alignment could bolster Trump's controversial stances on immigration, Russia, and democratic governance.

The fragmented media landscape further complicates efforts to hold Trump accountable. Traditional media outlets have seen their audiences diminish, and initiatives to combat misinformation on social media have weakened, potentially allowing Trump to evade scrutiny more effectively. The 34-times convicted felon, whom separate juries found responsible for sexually assaulting a woman and a judge found liable for nearly \$500 million in massive fraud, has also called for a dictatorship-like state-run media.

Trump recently intensified his threats against political opponents, pro-

moting posts on his social media platform, Truth Social, that called for the prosecution of several high-profile politicians, including President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Senators Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer, and former Vice President Mike Pence. One post accused former Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of "treason" and advocated for "televised military tribunals," a type of military court typically reserved for enemy combatants and war criminals.

In response, Biden-Harris 2024 spokesperson James Singer condemned Trump's rhetoric, stating, "248 years ago, America declared independence from a tyrannical king, and now Donald Trump and his allies want to make him one at our expense. On January

6, they proudly stormed our Capitol to overturn an election Donald Trump lost fair and square—something not even the Confederacy was able to accomplish."

Singer continued, "Americans do not want Donald Trump, a liar, fraud, and convicted criminal who has said he wants to be a dictator on 'day one,' 'terminate' our Constitution, rip away our rights, and is only out for himself as President of the United States. Joe Biden rejects Donald Trump's revenge, resentment, and retribution."

He added, "Like the rest of America, Joe Biden embraces freedom and democracy, our shared values of honesty, decency, dignity, and equality. Respect for one another, giving everyone a fair shot, and giving hate no safe harbor is what unites us in the future we will build together."

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# Latina influencer branches out into a flavorful venture

Kat Stickler is an American TikTok star who quickly gained international popularity after a series of comedic and heart warming videos went viral on her account @katstickler. Having experienced many of life's unexpected challenges including being a young mom and going through a public divorce, Kat built a highly engaged and loyal following based that now surpasses 13 million viewers.



*Kat Stickler, who has made a name for herself through her TikTok channel, is moving into merchandising with a line of water flavoring products. (Courtesy photo)*

Stur, a leading natural water enhancer brand in the United States, recently announced the release of its limited edition Passionfruit Guava flavor, developed by Stickler, the company's in-

vestor and owner. "Passionfruit Guava is inspired by my Venezuelan roots and what I feel like summer should be all about: incredible flavors, healthy living, and

of course, lots and lots of hydration," said Stickler. "It tastes like home to me and evokes memories of my family trips to Venezuela when I was younger. My mom has influenced so

much of my life, from business to motherhood, so it's incredibly exciting to be able to launch my first Stur product that pays homage to her culture and my heritage."

Passionfruit Guava marks Stickler's inaugural launch with Stur, with many more on the horizon. The new flavor joins Stur's Electrolytes line, which includes additional hydrating ingredients such as 190mg of electrolytes, trace ocean minerals, and B vitamins. As with all Stur water enhancers, it is made with real fruit, has zero sugar, zero calories, no synthetic dyes, and is fortified with high antioxidant Vitamin C.

"Having Kat join our Stur team over the past year has been invaluable," said Neel Premkumar, CEO & Founder of Dyla Brands, makers of Stur. "From being a devoted fan of Stur to becoming a key contributor to the brand, she has truly infused her passion into creating a product that will pay homage to her roots and resonate with millions. We are delighted to introduce Passionfruit Guava and look forward to further innovations alongside her!"

"As a mom and digital content creator, it is incredibly exciting to be at a point in my life where I am now adding businesswoman to

my resume," said Stickler. "I love being a part of this team and creating products that truly change people's lives. I've been a Stur fan for years but it really sealed the deal for me when I learned the company was started by a father for his wife when she was pregnant with their twin daughters. I have so many fans who reach out sharing stories of how Stur has helped them stay hydrated while pregnant, undergoing health issues, or simply to get through the day and I'm excited to share Passionfruit Guava with them – and the other flavors to come!"

## Tulsa to secure U.S. position as global tech leader with approximately \$51 million award from Economic Development Administration

(Black PR Wire) TULSA, Okla.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Today, the Biden-Harris administration and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded approximately \$51 million to the Tulsa Hub for Equitable and Trustworthy Autonomy (THETA) – a consortium led by Tulsa Innovation Labs – to strengthen the region's capacity in autonomous systems through advanced manufacturing and deployment of technologies critical to the future of national and economic security. Tulsa is one of 12 Tech Hubs awarded funding out of the 31 regions to receive "Tech Hub" designations last fall.

Tulsa's legacy of innovation, extensive assets and federal investment, including the Greater Tulsa Region's 2022 EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge award, enables the region to advance U.S. global leadership in trustworthy and equitable autonomous systems – such as uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) and autonomous vehicles, drones and robotics – with use cases ranging from agriculture and pipeline inspections to regional

transportation. "Tulsa Innovation Labs has long believed there is no city in the country as well-equipped to lead this next era of industrial innovation as Tulsa," said Jennifer Hankins, managing director of Tulsa Innovation Labs, an initiative of the George Kaiser Family Foundation. "With a legacy shaped by aerospace and manufacturing, Tulsa is pioneering the future of innovation. In partnership with Osage Nation, Cherokee Nation, Black Tech Street among others, our community is ready to lead the way developing these technologies with a commitment to security and trustworthiness, ensuring the benefits and jobs are widely accessible."

With the EDA's Tech Hubs funding, the Greater Tulsa Region is set to stake a claim on the \$1.36 trillion global autonomous systems market and create up to 56,000 equitable new jobs in the next decade. Innovations in this industry – whether protecting Americans on the battlefield or delivering medicine to rural communities – are critical to the future of U.S. economic competitive-

ness and national security. This funding ensures these technological marvels are "Tested and Made in Tulsa, USA."

Innovations in autonomous technologies across commercial and defense use cases are critical to the future of U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. Tulsa will leverage this award to support six projects that are:

- Increasing coordination on commercialization strategies among universities and the startups they support;
- Building a state-of-the-art testing and simulation environment—with a focus on cyber and data management—for companies, researchers and regulatory entities to address barriers to commercial adoption;
- Developing programs to identify opportunities for manufacturers in trustworthy and equitable autonomous systems supply chains and building out a manufacturing demonstration center where small companies can scale their capabilities;
- Creating an AI Center of Excellence to expand opportunities and increase exposure to technology for

underserved communities;

- Expanding workforce programs to align training with industry needs, provide upskilling and offer

on-the-job training opportunities; and

- Establishing governance structures to execute projects, pursue additional

funding and drive the Tech Hub's strategy.

The final grant amount

**See TULSA, Page 12**



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- Loader Operator (Earthwork)
- Excavator Operator (Earthwork)
- Concrete Paving Operator (Paving)
- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
- CDL Drivers (Water Truck, Haul Truck)
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# Digital Promise releases new report for supporting Black learners and workers in tech

(Black PR Wire) Washington, D.C. - Global education nonprofit, Digital Promise has released a new report, Lift Every Voice in Tech: Co-Designed Recommendations to Support Black Workers and Learners Seeking to Enter and Advance in Technology Industry Career Pathways, which examines the factors, skills, and supports most likely to sustain motivation and persistence for Black learners and work-

ers pursuing non-four-year-degree credentials in technology careers and increase representation across the technology industry.

This report focuses on elevating the voices and lived experiences of Black workers and learners seeking to enter and/or advance in the technology industry, and builds awareness of the varied challenges, barriers, support, and services that can be part of this journey. To

better promote successful navigation and persistence within technology career pathways, the report shares recommendations that were collaboratively designed and developed through interviews, focus groups, and inclusive design sessions with Black workers, learners, and industry leaders across the country.

Alongside the report, Digital Promise has released a video, Lift Every Voice

in Tech: Inspiring Change Through the Experiences of Black Learners and Workers, showcasing the successes and challenges faced by two Black learners and workers based in Detroit, Michigan, in their pursuit of technology careers—in their own words. By recognizing and addressing the needs of Black learners and workers, partners such as training providers, employers and hiring managers, funders,

and educational institutions can strengthen equitable and sustainable pathways in technology.

This report follows Digital Promise's landscape report, Understanding the Supports and Skills that Enable Successful Pathways for Black Learners and Workers into Non-Four-Year Degree Technology Careers: A Landscape Scan, which provides historical perspectives on the Black

experience in the U.S. technology industry.

By centering and elevating the experiences of these learners and workers in this research, Digital Promise aims to positively impact the recruitment and retention of Black representation and access to technology-driven fields and increase the number of Black learners and workers who succeed in life-sustaining careers in technology.

## TULSA, from Page 11

will be finalized in the coming months.

THETA was co-led by a steering committee including Black Tech Street (BTS), Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB), L3Harris Aeromet, Madison Strategies Group (MSG), NOR-DAM, Oklahoma State University (OSU), Osage LLC, PartnerTulsa, Radius Capital, The University of Tulsa (TU), Tulsa Community College (TCC) and Tulsa Economic Development Corporation (TEDC).

"We're always excited to see a project such as THE-

TA that improves the regional economy and has the potential to help Cherokee Nation Businesses expand into the autonomous systems and component manufacturing industry, support growing defense and commercial needs and shore up critical supply chains," said Chuck Garrett, chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Businesses, LLC (CNB). "This project coincides with Cherokee Nation's approach to improve the lives of its citizens and strengthen the regional economy of northeastern

Oklahoma."

"The Greenwood AI/AS Center of Excellence (G-ACE) opens the door for Black Tulsans to secure good jobs in tech," said Tyrance Billingsley II, founder and executive director of Black Tech Street. "The Black Tech Street vision is to rebirth Black Wall Street into the world's premier Black innovation economy. Putting G-ACE in the Historic Greenwood District honors the legacy of this neighborhood, and with Microsoft's partnership we are delivering on the BTS mission to catalyze Black wealth creation

in the Greater Tulsa Region and beyond."

"Osage LLC's commitment to the growth and success of the region is evident through our track record of successful collaboration with several THETA partners and our development at Skyway 36," said Russell Goff, chief executive officer of Osage LLC, an economic development engine of the Osage Nation. "We're thrilled to continue this important work through THETA's SAFE-T project, which will create additional research and development opportunities, further increasing the at-

tractiveness of our region to drone and autonomous systems companies."

Tulsa's award is part of the EDA Tech Hubs program, a historic \$500 million investment in technologies critical to national security and U.S. economic competitiveness. The program challenged regions to bring together a diverse coalition of partners. The consortium that participated in the Tulsa Hub for Equitable and Trustworthy Autonomy (THETA) proposal includes more than 75 partners across public and private sectors.

"A diverse, resilient and

inclusive industry base that harnesses the talents of many ensures that benefits are shared widely," said Ken Levit, executive director of the George Kaiser Family Foundation. "Thanks to the leadership of Tulsa Innovation Labs and to visionary partners such as the EDA, this investment in Tulsa's regional economy will amplify our local efforts to ensure Tulsa is a thriving community that affords opportunities to all."

Learn more about THETA and see a full list of partners at TechHubTulsa.com.

## MORGAN, from Page 2

Morgan's accolades include the Miami-Dade Bar Circle of Excellence for Insurance Litigation, Miami-Dade Bar Top 40 Under 40 Award, Broward County Women Lawyers Community "Trial-Blazers" Award, and the Black Professionals Network Women of Excellence Award. Her leadership was recognized with

the 2022 President's Award from the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division.

Beyond her legal practice, Morgan is deeply involved in community initiatives. She serves as an Ambassador for Black Art at the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) and is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel. In

2018, she became the President of the Caribbean Bar Association.

"Charise Morgan embodies the spirit of resilience and integrity. Her presidency marks a new era of innovation, advocacy, and progress for the Miami-Dade Bar and the broader legal community," said Miami-Dade County Bar Association Executive Director, Bret Berlin.

Founded in the early 1900s, the Miami-Dade Bar is one of the largest lawyer

networks in Florida, serving more than 19,000 attorneys in the county, and continues

its mission to support and inform the county's lawyers and the community at large.

## DRUGS, from Page 4

and caregiver magazine focused on the intersection of neurologic disease and brain health. Follow Brain & Life® on Facebook, X and Instagram.

When posting to social media channels about this research, we encourage you to use the hashtags #Neurology and #AANscience.

The American Academy of Neurology is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN's mission is to enhance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor with special-

ized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache and migraine.

For more information about the American Academy of Neurology, visit AAN.com

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# Irving city hiring incentive program runs through July 31

Attracting the best and brightest candidates to the City of Irving is a top priority. Now, new full-time employees can earn an additional \$3,000 - more for mission-critical positions - hired by July 31. Incentive payments are made as long as there are no attendance or disciplinary issues.

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## FILM, from Page 9

corner. Hostile, deadly extraterrestrials scanning and lurking. Don't talk. Don't make a noise—or else.

What the visual effects can't convey in terms of danger (the aliens are ugly, but not the worst you've ever seen) the sound effects deliver in abundance. In fact, thunderous noises, eerie vibrations and screams wear on your nerves.

So effectively, there's no point in closing your eyes. You can't escape the carnage unless you cover your ears too. For 100 hundred minutes solid you're caught up in this drama/horror/sci-fi nightmare with no way out. There isn't wall-to-wall violence. There's wall-to-wall expectations of it, and that's even more chilling.

Credit Sarnoski's intuitive direction for keeping the mayhem at a fever pitch and the editing team of Andrew Mondshein and Gregory Plotkin for the precision cuts. There are

only a few lapses where the pace breaks a bit longer than it should. One is a scene in an apartment that is too long of an escape from the hell outside. Astute moviegoers can tell some scenes were shot on a real street, and others on a back lot.

Interiors of office buildings, living rooms in homes, bombed out street scenes with debris, small Harlem stores (production designer Simon Bowles) catch the eye. You may detect the difference of what's real and what's fake, but you're too caught up in the story to care. This ordeal feels real, so the emotions it builds overshadow any seams.

Nyong'o pulls you into Sam's plight and being. Her feisty nature, vulnerability, persistence and courageousness. You hope for the best, expect the worse and are attached to her as she becomes as threadbare as the mustard-colored car-

digan sweater she wears (costume designer Bex Crofton-Atkins). That's because Nyong'o never overacts. Instead, her Samira touches your soul in the most subtle but deep ways. Sam isn't a super hero, more a normal person thrown in into a hero's shoes. The camera loves her eyes, nose, mouth, skin color and shape of her head. She's extremely photogenic.

Quinn gets thrown into the same deep water. Play-

ing a man in need of assistance is not easy to achieve. But he masters this complexity. Wolf and Hounsou are equally supportive to the lead character. The most astonishing member of the remaining cast is the cat who displays a loyalty usually reserved for dogs in movies. Not sure how handlers got this feline to do what it does. Don't ask. Don't tell. It works.

Horror film fans just in it for the thrills, get what they want. Adults wanting

more than a shallow genre movie will be satiated too. The directing and acting do justice to the script and consequently to the third edition of what will likely be an enduring storyline.

The terror on view is enough to make grown men, who're looking for an escape, follow a woman

whose survival instincts are stronger than theirs. Lupita Nyong's Samira is that savior. Haunting images of her face in the film's final moments display a spirit sent to save wretches. She's the one...

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrown-Ink.com](http://DwightBrown-Ink.com).

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# Some Things Do Have a Purpose

Dr. James L. Snyder

One thing I have learned in life is that some things do have a purpose no matter how bad they seem at the time. They don't seem to have any purpose when they happen, but you later discover a significant purpose behind it.

I try to prepare for everything in life, but there are many things that I just can't prepare for. I learned this after I got married.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has often teased me about not having a brain.

When I flub up something, she looks at me, puts both hands on her hips, and says, "Don't you have a brain?"

With all the evidence on

the table, I cannot verify that I actually do have a brain. According to her assessment, if I had a brain, a lot of the stuff I flub up wouldn't get flubbed up. But, as The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says, "It is what it is."

When I'm in trouble and can't figure something out, she usually says, "Don't you have a working brain to help you here?"

The way things turned out, I could not answer in the affirmative.

I like to think I have a brain, but the evidence along that line is not very strong.

Lately, things have begun to turn around to my benefit.

I had a health issue; I think it was some kind

of flu bug, which hit me pretty hard. During one of my Sunday services, while preaching, I almost passed out. Because we were in a nursing home facility, a nurse came in and took my blood pressure. At the time, it didn't read very well.

It was then that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told him that I had to be taken to the hospital. I didn't quite understand what was happening at the time, so I just went along with where they took me. What choice did I have?

I spent a day in the hospital and finally got out and was able to schedule a visit with my physician. He checked me over and said he thought I needed to have one of those MRIs.

At the time, I did not

know what they were. But according to what I understood, it was some brain scan to see if I had a mini-stroke or something.

Given my state of health, I agreed with the doctor, who set up an appointment for me to have an MRI.

I never had one before, but I was to learn what the MRI stood for: Make Room for Intrusion. And boy, was my head ever intruded.

I went to have the MRI, and they set me up and did all the preparatory things. They took me to the room where the MRI took place, prepared me, and then put earplugs in my ears. At the time, I had no idea what that was for. I would soon learn.

According to the technician who was with me, I

was to spend 25 minutes under that machine, and there would be noise.

Boy, was that understated. As soon as I got under, the noise hit me like thunder from out of nowhere. I never heard noise quite like that before. It almost sounded like old rock 'n' roll music. Although, not quite as stupid. No, I did not start singing.

When it was over, they pulled me out, I sat up, and I couldn't hear a thing. I looked at the nurse serving me and said, "I can't hear anything."

Looking at me and smiling, she said, "Well, if you took your earplugs out you might be able to hear."

It was an adventure I hope I don't have to repeat anytime soon. But I had a

brain scan and I went to the office and ordered copies of my brain scan, which they gave to me.

When I went home, I took the disk with the pictures of my brain and printed off. I looked at it again and said to myself, "Self, you do have a brain after all."

I then took a copy of that picture of my brain out and showed it to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"See here, my dear, I do have a brain after all."

I can't explain how happy I was to prove to my wife that after all of the nonsense I created throughout the years, I actually did have a brain.

I showed it to her, chuckled, and smiled.

See SNYDER, Page 15

## MCKENZIE, from Page 2

"This is the kind of message I want to hear, and I want other people to hear," he said.

Others added that the sermon was so packed with information, they needed to

do a second take.

"For some of our audience, people may be hearing the historical references for the first time. But this is an audience that will listen carefully to the sermon, go

back, study the transcript, and ask questions," said the Rev. Jo Owens, pastor for digital ministry.

Owens said National Cathedral is considering an online community for people who want to ask follow-up questions and reflect more

deeply after messages like McKenzie's.

Grace Matthews was one of those parishioners who was ready to ask the deeper questions right away. Matthews admits she has political positions on most issues and wants to ensure her

views are consistent with her faith and values.

As she listened to McKenzie's description of the often bloody and brutal history leading up to June-teenth and continuing today, she has questions about how America moves forward

with its troubling past and present divisions.

"Where is the line between forgiving and forgetting when you've turned the cheek so many times that you've run out of cheeks?" Matthews reflected after the sermon.

## POOR, from Page 3

out in any of these seven states would dramatically increase Biden's chances of winning a second term in the White House. The millions of low-income people who've risen as leaders in movements for economic justice over the past few years have the power to decide the outcome of the 2024 election.

Celinda Lake and her research partners are consultants for the Biden campaign, and there is a focus on the potential for his candidacy in 2024, but the potential power of this swing vote is much larger than one election or even one

political party. Both Democrats and Republicans have ignored low-income voters for decades precisely because they are unlikely voters. But when the non-partisan Poor People's Campaign, which I serve as a co-chair, surveyed poor people to ask why they don't vote, the number one reason they gave was, "No one speaks to us."

This is why our campaign has committed to holding a Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Worker's Assembly in Washington, DC, on June 29th. We are bringing the everyday people who've demanded better

wages from their bosses to Washington and insist that Republicans, Democrats, and Independents make clear what they will do to address the needs of 135 million Americans who are living on the edge in the richest nation in the history of the world. And we are committing to go home to our communities and reach 15 million of the unlikely low-income voters with the message that they have power in 2024. If they show up, especially in seven key states, their votes will decide the outcome in 2024. When they do, they will be able to help shape the reconstruction of an American democracy that works

for all of us.

*William J. Barber, II is President of Repairers of*

*the Breach and author of the new White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About*

*Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy.*

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# Unexplainable Power



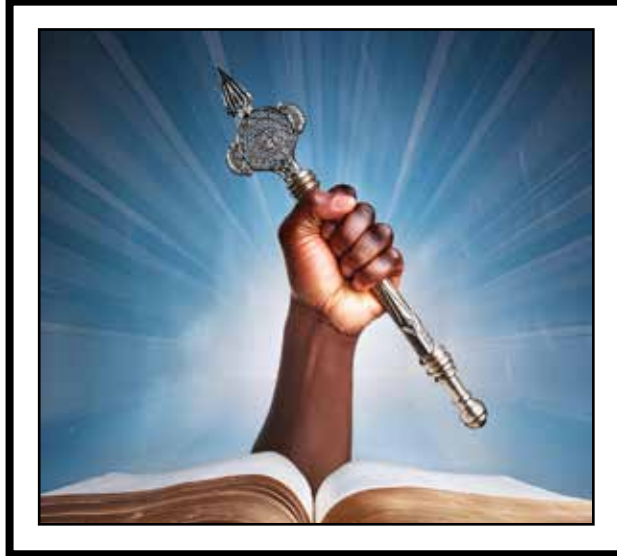
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NDG  
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Editor

*"I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony."*

- John 3:11

When is the last time God did something in your life that can only be explained as God? Was it yesterday? Was it just last week? Perhaps it was a month ago? Maybe it was a year ago?

The answer to this question may mean several things. If it has been some time since you saw God's activity in such a way that



you know it was His hand, you may not be trusting to a level that requires faith.

You may not be risking enough for God to show Himself. You must have faith in God.

The converts in the early

Church changed the world they lived in because of what they saw, heard and did.

It was the power of the gospel that changed lives, not what they learned from mere teaching. This power

drew people to Christ it was the only way to draw them.

Things happened that could not be explained as anything other than the activity of God. Is that the kind of faith you are experiencing in your life? If not, why not?

Many of us live a wholesome, moral life, but those we associate with do not see this activity as anything that cannot also be achieved by themselves.

That is why many are not drawn to our lives. God's power is not evident. The Lord has been challenging me to trust Him at levels I have never trusted before, will you let Him challenge you?

This level of trust has placed me in a vulnerable position. However, the

blessing of this relationship is that I see the activity of God as never before, and those close to me see it as well.

It builds their faith and draws others to investigate. Sometimes the activity of God comes in unusual ways.

God often sets up scenes that appear to be negative on the front end, but God has orchestrated these events for His glory.

-Without Pharaoh's pursuit of Israel at the Red Sea, there is no miraculous deliverance for Christians to read about now..

-Without Lazarus's death,

there is no rising to life. -Without Goliath, there is no underdog story. Praise God.

-Without Peter stepping out of the boat, there is no miracle on the water.

-Without Judas' betrayal, there is no resurrection. All glory and praise to God. God wants to show Himself in ways you and I cannot imagine.

Let God demonstrate His power in your community and workplace today. Then, you will see "all men drawn unto Me."

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

## SNYDER, from Page 14

She studied the picture for a few moments, looked back at me, and said, "Well, this proves you do have a brain but it doesn't prove that you use your brain."

Even though I have a brain, I didn't see that coming.

I keep that picture with

me all the time so that I can show people that I do have a brain. If I hadn't had that incident, I would not have gone in for an MRI, and I would not have proof in my hand that I have a brain.

While looking at the picture of my brain I thought of a scripture in Jeremiah

29:11,

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

No matter what I think, God has a purpose for my life. Each day is an opportunity to trust Him for that purpose.

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.james-snyderministries.com.

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# NDG Book Review: Great kids' books for summertime reading

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've played every game in the house – twice – and made up a few, too.

You've ridden your bike all over, gone to the pool just about every day, and you've finished all your chores ahead of time. So now what do you do?

How about a great new book to spend time with this summer?

Why not dream? In **"Willis Watson Is a Wannabe"** by Carmen Bogan, illustrated by Charyl "Ras" Thuesday (\$18.99 Simon & Schuster), Willis wants to be a superhero because his grandpa says he can be whatever he wants to be. When the neighborhood boys tell Willis that



Terri Schlichenmeyer

there's no such thing as a superhero, well, isn't that a challenge? Your four-to-six-year-old will find it to be so, with inspiration inside this book.

Why not fall in love with a new pet? In **"Not My Cat"** by Stacey Patton, illustrated by Acamy

Schleikorn (\$18.99, Simon & Schuster), Stacey pants finds something she'd rather not have: a cat. Cats are messy and they scratch things. Stacey pants does not like cats one bit. You might ask, but this cat is not hers. Or is it? Based on a true story, kids

ages five-to-seven will love finding out – especially if they're cat lovers.

Why not pick up a new hobby? In **"All the Rocks We Love"** by Lisa Varchol Perron and Taylor Scheirer (\$18.99, Penguin Workshop, out 7/16), you'll read about something you probably barely notice: rocks! "Rocks are everywhere we look," say the authors, and they're all very different. Some are cool and smooth. Some sparkle and some even float! Bring some home with you on vacation this year and, if you're ages four-to-ten-years-old, you can decorate your room.

Why not learn about a new heroine? In **"Go**

**Wilma, Go!"** by Amira Rose Davis and Michael G. Long, illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow (\$18.99, Bloomsbury, out 7/16), you'll read about Wilma Rudolph, who was an athlete in the 1960 Olympics. It's a great honor, until she learns that her hometown has planned a Wilma Rudolph Day and she's shocked. Wilma is Black and the celebration isn't open to people with Black skin. What happens when she "digs in" is a great story kids ages six-to-ten will love.

And finally, for the older (12-and-up) reader why not check out **"Stamped from the Beginning"** by Ibram X. Kendi, adapted and illustrated by Joel

Christian Gill (\$24.99, Penguin Random House)? It's a long, detailed look at racism in America that takes young readers from the 1600s to modern-day racism, with full stops for important historical events and heroism along the way. This is the kind of book you give your teen, but don't be embarrassed to borrow it back for yourself this summer.

And if these books aren't enough to keep your young reader occupied and happy, be sure to check with your favorite bookstore or librarian for more. They've got lots of summertime books for kids of any age, and adults, too. They might even have games to play, once or twice.

# CNN's Shameful Spectacle: The first presidential debate of 2024 was a complete disaster

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The first presidential debate was nothing short of a shameful display of unhinged and unchecked behavior. CNN, which declined to provide Black-owned media with any of the more than 800 credentials it passed out, enabled a boatload of misinformation and flat-out lies to pass through their airwaves like bad wind.

"Absolutely disgraceful that the CNN moderators refuse to fact-check Trump on anything," said human rights activist and attorney Qasim Rashid. "This is journalistic malpractice, and it is decimating our democracy."

Writer and attorney Olayemi Olurin tweeted,



CNN, which declined to provide Black-owned media with any of the more than 800 credentials it passed out, enabled a boatload of misinformation and flat-out lies to pass through their airwaves like bad wind. (Photo via NNPA)

"It is a failure on CNN not to fact-check Trump's lies, but the thing is... if Joe Biden were performing the way he's supposed to in a debate, his answers would be the fact check. So, three things are true: Trump is lying his [butt] off, the mediator isn't doing their job, and neither is Biden."

Biden, whose campaign said he suffered from a cold during the debate, took

some of his biggest shots at Trump after the former president refused to accept the results this fall regardless of who won. Trump said he would only accept the results "if it's fair, legal, and good."

"You're a whiner," Biden said. "When you lost the first time... you appealed and appealed to courts all across the country. Not one single court in America said

any of your claims had any merit, state or local, none. But you continue to promote this lie about somehow, there's all this misrepresentation, all this stealing. There's no evidence of that at all. And I tell you what, I doubt whether you'll accept it, because you're such a whiner. The idea if you lose again, you accepting anything? You can't stand the loss. Something snapped in you when you lost last time."

Without any rebuttal, Trump also incredulously asserted that former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was primarily to blame for the violent uprising on January 6.

The moderators then cut to a commercial. And that was just a tiny part of CNN's massive failure. Meanwhile, at the People

for American Way reception and debate watch party at the Wharf in D.C., attendees sighed and expressed anger at their television sets as Trump told lie after lie. Despite having two anchors and a mute button, the host network failed to challenge him. "The debate turned into a 90-minute Trump rally," said Alice Wilkes of Northeast. "I waited and waited for the moderators to say something, or, at least, cut him off," Wilkes said.

Several Black voters expressed disappointment in the way both candidates talked about Black people. "It's like they forgot about Black people," Byron Cooper of Southeast stated.

"Trump commuted some sentences and pardoned some drug dealers. That's supposedly what he did

for the Black community," Cooper remarked.

Neither Biden nor CNN failed to mention Trump calling for the execution of five Black and Brown teenagers who were innocent of sexually assaulting a white woman in Central Park.

Biden did mention how Trump has called skinheads and white nationalists "good people."

For his close, Biden noted, "We have made significant progress from the debacle President Trump left in his last term."

Biden then summarized some of his signature policies. In terms of the economy, he vowed not to raise taxes on anyone making under \$400,000 a year and to continue his work to reduce health care and child-care costs and give families financial breathing room.

## CLIMATE, from Page 8

ated with climate change are making it impossible for companies to offer coverage that people can afford, said Kousky. This is breaking down markets with high climate risk and

leading to the bankruptcy of insurance companies.

Risks can only be stabilized through transformative investments to adapt to a changing climate, Kousky explains. This

means wise building and land construction of stronger homes to withstand wind and wildfires. Individuals can upgrade roofs to a fortified standard and use fire resistant materials to create defensible space, she said.

Cities should be adapting land use to a changing climate, while revising codes to reduce increased risks of fire and flood, added California insurance commissioner Ricardo Lara. Rules written in the age of paper and pay phones

don't account for the situation we're now living in, he said. Considering sea level rise, Lara asked, why are we still building on the coast?

We need to strengthen our defenses against natural forces, including public

wetlands and urban forests. This may mean communities have to come together to insure wetlands so they can restore them quickly after a disaster. It is much less expensive to prevent damage than to rebuild, Lara said.