



North Dallas Gazette

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Nearly 90 percent of Black homicide victims killed with guns, study finds

(Black PR Wire) Washington, DC — Guns are by far the most common weapon used to kill Black homicide victims in America according to Black Homicide Victimization in the United States: An Analysis of 2022 Homicide Data, a new study from the Violence Policy Center (VPC). The study shows that in 2022 there were 13,466 Black homicide victims in the United States and that 87.4 percent of these victims were killed with guns. Black Americans represented 13.6 percent of the U.S. population that year yet accounted for 54.1 percent of all homicide victims.



In 2022, Black Americans represented 13.6 percent of the U.S. population, yet accounted for 54.1 percent of all homicide victims. (Eliezer Muller / Unsplash)

"The toll gun homicide exacts on Black men, women, boys, and girls is a national shame that demands action. The resulting devastation ravages families, friends, and communities. The purpose of this report is to help support advocates and organizations working to stop this lethal violence while continuing to educate and engage the public and policymakers on the need to address this ongoing crisis," states VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann.

The report is based on 2022 WISQARS mortality data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and

Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The study details homicide rates for 2022, the most recent year for which comprehensive national data is available. This is the 18th year the Violence Policy Center has released the study. To see past editions of the study, click here.

In addition to national data, the annual study also ranks the states according to their Black homicide victimization rates and offers additional information for each of the 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates.

In 2022, the 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates were: Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Oregon, Louisiana, Kentucky, Indiana, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi.

This is the 16th year in a row that Missouri has ranked either first or second in the nation for Black homicide victimization. Despite already having the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the country, in the last decade CDC data reveal that the Black homicide victimization rate in Missouri more

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People In The News ...



Karine Jean-Pierre



Sandie Okoro

NDG Quote of the Week: "When I dare to be powerful to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

- Audre Lorde

Karine Jean-Pierre

In an era where critical issues often are overlooked, the mainstream media's priorities remain deeply troubling at best, or at worst, very partisan. While the nation faces urgent matters like the implementation of Project 2025, significant Supreme Court rulings, and the global rise of right-wing movements, the media remains fixated on baseless health rumors about President Joe Biden. Meanwhile, it conveniently ignores Donald Trump's incoherent speeches, convictions for 34 felonies,



sexual assault, and massive business fraud, along with his clear authoritarian aspirations and lack of White House transparency during his term.

The media's treatment

of White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre recently reached new lows, reflecting a broader problem of disrespect and hostility in the press corps. Following an onslaught of combative questioning regarding President Biden's health, Jean-Pierre made a powerful statement addressing reporters' unfair accusations and lack of respect.

"I want to take a step back for a second. I do take offense," Jean-Pierre asserted. "I come out here every day. We do our best to give you the information we have at the time.

We understand the freedom of the press. I appreciate the back-and-forth we have. I try to respect you and hope you respect me. My team does everything we can to get the answers to you. Sometimes, we're not in agreement, but you know what? That's democracy. That's important to have that healthy back and forth. To say that I'm holding information or allude to anything else is really unfair. I think people who are watching or have been watching can say we are doing our best. I will admit that sometimes I get it wrong. Sometimes I don't

have the information. I will admit that. But I do take offense to what's happened in this briefing. It's not okay."

The backlash from the press towards Jean-Pierre's earnest efforts has drawn condemnation from various quarters. Mississippi Democratic Congressman Bennie Thompson called the disrespect "absolutely despicable." Writer Charlotte Clymer praised Jean-Pierre's grace and competence while denouncing the unacceptable treatment she endured. "I have the utmost respect for Karine Jean-Pierre," Clymer noted. "Her unyielding grace and

superlative record of communications competence have made her one of the most effective messaging professionals of this era. The disrespect she experienced today is unacceptable and pathetic."

Actress and activist Heather Thomas criticized the New York Times for its "lazy reporting" and the press corps for their "piggish treatment" of Jean-Pierre. "The NYT should change their name to Enquirer. That neurologist treats over 1,000 service members with neurological

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Sandie Okoro

(Black PR Wire) The University of Birmingham is delighted to announce the appointment of one of the country's preeminent lawyers and equality rights champion as its new Chancellor. Sandie Okoro OBE brings a remarkable record of accolades recognising her contribution to diversity, equality and female rights, and is currently Group General Counsel of Standard Chartered where she leads the Bank's Legal, Group Corporate Secretariat and Shared Investigative Services functions.



University's eighth Chancellor since it was established in 1900. She succeeds Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea CBE, who will step down as Chancellor in July after 10 years in the role; and follows in the footsteps of the

Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain and the Right Honourable Anthony Eden, the Earl of Avon.

Sandie is a proud University of Birmingham alumna, graduating with a degree in Law and Politics from Birmingham before qualifying as a barrister at City, University of London. After switching roles to solicitor, she held posts including Head of Legal for Corporate Services at Schroders, Global General Counsel at Barings and General Counsel for HSBC Global Asset Management. Sandie was also Senior Vice-President and General Counsel, and Vice-President for Compli-

ance, for the World Bank Group.

Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, said: "We are excited to welcome Sandie as our new Chancellor. She is a highly respected trailblazer in the corporate legal sector and is of course a proud University of Bir-

mingham graduate. To hear her talk about breaking glass ceilings and aiming high is inspirational and reflects the attitude and passion of our university and our commitment to championing equality, diversity and inclusion."

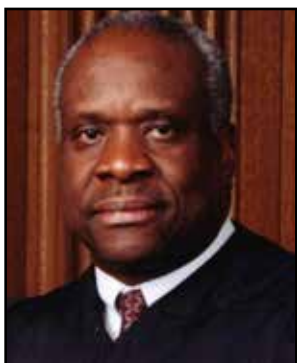
The Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the University. They preside

at degree ceremonies, celebrating with and inspiring students on their graduation day. They also perform an important role in engaging with the community and stakeholders and working as an advocate to raise the University's profile and pro-

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Judge Clarence Thomas

In an unprecedented attempt to uphold judicial integrity, Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) have urged Attorney General Merrick Garland to appoint a Special Counsel to investigate Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas for potential violations of ethics, false statements, and tax laws. The request follows recent revelations by the Justice and his wealthy benefactors of undisclosed gifts and financial omissions.



Finance Committee, respectively, pointed to solid evidence of wrongdoing. "The evidence assembled thus far plainly suggests that Justice Thomas has committed numerous willful violations of federal ethics and false-statement laws and raises significant questions about whether he and his wealthy

benefactors have complied with their federal tax obligations," the senators wrote. They stressed the need for a thorough investigation into Thomas's financial disclosures and his relationship with his benefactors, emphasizing that "no government official should be above the law."

The senators' letter specifically calls for an investigation into Thomas's failure to disclose more than \$267,000 in forgiven debt used to purchase a luxury motorcoach. Wyden's Senate Finance Committee discovered the omission, which raises concerns about whether Thomas declared the forgiven debt as income

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With gratitude to Biden, it's time to rally around Kamala Harris

By Dr. Ron Daniels

I sincerely believe Joe Biden is a decent, caring human being who has been an outstanding President. However, I am also convinced that it is time to express our gratitude to Biden for his exemplary service and respectfully ask him to step aside. It's time to rally around Vice-President Kamala Harris to lead the Democratic Party and this nation to victory over Donald Trump and the MAGA Movement.

With the race between Biden and Trump essentially deadlocked for months (which is scary) with large numbers of American voters expressing consistent concern over the age of both candidates, Biden's political advisors and strategists made a bold decision to "shake-up" the race by calling for the earliest presidential debate in the history of presidential debates. Their gambit was that Biden would put the "age" issue to rest by winning the debate as he did against Trump in the first debate in the 2020 campaign.

It was a bold move that backfired badly. Within the first few minutes of the debate the optics of Biden's appearance and slurred, mumbling speech confirmed the worst fears of vast numbers of voters that he was too old to serve another term as President. Though an "old" candidate himself, whose incoherent utterings at rally's have not been sufficiently highlighted in the media, Trump proceeded to vigorously pummel Biden with a line of outrageous lies that were not challenged by the Moderators or more importantly, not countered consistently and effectively by a tired, weary looking and all too often incoherent President:

a disturbing scene that led political commentator Dr. Julianne Malveaux to describe as a debate between the "Mumbler-in Chief and Liar-in-Chief."

Trump was pathetic, but Biden was a disaster, not only because he looked old, but his performance also revealed some serious slippage in his cognitive capacities which solidified the perception in the minds of large numbers of voters that he should not be re-elected President. No matter what Biden's supporters may think, "perception is reality." Therefore, the path forward out of this painful predicament must be based on that reality!

Democrats are not only in danger of losing the White House, but there is also a legitimate concern that if Biden hangs on, the negative impact on down ballot races for the Senate and House of Representatives could be devastating. Under these dire circumstances, it's time for bold, decisive action. I believe Biden must be persuaded to graciously and enthusiastically step aside and pass the torch to the person he selected to be the first Black Woman Vice-President of the United States, Kamala Harris.

Biden deserves praise for the extraordinary accomplishments of the Biden-Harris administration in the face of one of the most severe crises in the history of the nation, the global COVID-19 Pandemic which precipitated an economic collapse with "Great Depression" levels of unemployment, business and home foreclosures, homelessness, hunger and poverty. Lest we forget, it was Joe Biden who outlined a bold agenda to "Build Back Better" and skillfully navigated a rigid, seemingly

unshakable partisan divide to successfully pass the most impressive and impactful series of social and economic legislation bills since Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ).

And, because of an inexplicable reluctance to tell the story or ineffective messaging, it is easy to forget the fact that Joe Biden not only selected a Black woman to be his running mate, he selected the first Black woman to the Supreme Court and proceeded to advance a "Lift Every Voice" Black Agenda which translated into issuing an Executive Order on Equity; vigorously supported the George Floyd criminal justice reform act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act; massive increases in funding for Pell Grants and Historically Black Colleges and Universities; billions of dollars in the Department of Transportation to rebuild Black communities decimated by urban renewal and more recently by gentrification; and 5 billion to address gun violence in Black communities based on the Live-Free Model that only failed to be enacted due to reductions in the size of the bill demanded by conservative Democrats as a concession for their vote to ensure passage. Biden has yet to enact the HR-40 Commission by Executive Order but has signaled support for a "study bill."

You can make the case that Joe Biden has the most significant civil rights record since John F. Kennedy (JFK) and LBJ. Plaudits are in order for Biden's extraordinary record of accomplishments, but all that he has achieved is definitively endangered by the prospect of victory by Trump and MAGAISM. Democracy is in danger and Black America is in danger

if the Democrats fail to win the White House. And, that prospect looms large in face of the troubling revelations about a decent human being and exemplary public servant that the nation and the world witnessed during the debacle of July 27th and its aftermath.

We respect, appreciate and admire you President Biden, but the perilous historical moment we face demands that we rally around Vice-President Kamala Harris to lead the Democratic Party joined by independents, disaffected Republicans and people of conscious and good will to a resounding victory over Trump and MAGAISM!

President Biden, I predict that an enthusiastic statement from you announcing that you are passing the baton to Vice-President Kamala Harris will be an electrifying moment; a historical moment that will break the current stalemate in the campaign for president. Kamala Harris is an extraordinary leader who will brilliantly present and defend the milestone legislative record of the Biden-Harris administration and articulate the urgency and vision for "finishing the job" in this moment of grave threat to democracy.

As a Black woman with Caribbean and Asian South Pacific Island roots, I predict that Black women, women of color and women of all backgrounds will rise-up and rally around Kamala Harris as she leads the charge to protect women's reproductive rights and fulfills Biden's pledge to pass federal legislation restoring the rights enshrined in Roe v. Wade.

Polls have consistently indicated "lukewarm" support among Black voters

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Kids from disadvantaged communities may die sooner from brain tumors

Researchers say socioeconomic factors may affect a person's ability to be diagnosed and treated

By Noah Fromson

(Newswise) — Children with inoperable brain tumors may die sooner if they live in areas with lower average income and education levels, a Michigan Medicine-led study finds.

The study covered nearly 100 patients seen for diffuse midline glioma and diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, known respectively as DMG and DIPG, between 2000 and 2022.

The two tumors are incurable and can only be treated with radiation therapy as a palliative measure.

Patients from higher income census tracts, meaning over half of families have an annual household income over \$50,000, had



DWG Studio

a median survival time of nearly 16 months — more than twice as long as patients from lower income tracts.

Families of children from higher income areas,

as well as those from census tracts with higher levels of education, also traveled further to receive treatment.

The results are published in the Journal of Neurosurgery, an official journal of

the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

“Children with these inoperable gliomas require access to specialized centers of care and clinical trials in the hopes of extending their lives, yet we are seeing that socioeconomic factors are linked to worsening survival,” said first author John H. Lee, M.D., incoming neurosurgery resident at University of Michigan Health.

“It’s critical that we understand the reasons for this disparity, so that we can ensure all patients have opportunities for life-prolonging care.”

The findings are in line with other studies suggesting that factors linked to socioeconomic status are

associated with health outcomes, particularly in brain tumors.

Income and educational attainment, the researchers suggest, may affect the landscape of diagnosis and treatment of brain tumors.

Families with fewer financial resources may be less equipped to travel to specialized centers where they could receive second opinions, different treatment options or be enrolled in clinical trials, Lee says.

“Additionally, patients whose families have lower levels of education may have less knowledge about the signs and symptoms of a condition, early screening programs and treatment options,” said Karin M. Muraszko, M.D., senior author

and professor of neurosurgery at University of Michigan Medical School.

“However, our research uncovered disparities in survival despite no significant differences in rates of clinical trial enrollment or time until initiation of treatment between patients from different census tracts. Future studies should aim to understand the exact mechanism through which this gap is created.”

Additional authors include, Katherine G. Holste, M.D., Andrea T. Franson, M.D., Hugh J. L. Garton, M.D., all of University of Michigan, Momodou G. Bah, M.P.H., of Michigan State University, and Cormac O. Maher, M.D., of Stanford University.

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than doubled, increasing from 30.7 per 100,000 in 2013 to 65.7 in 2022.

For the entire United States, the study finds that in 2022:

- There were 13,446 Black homicide victims in the United States. Black Americans represented 13.6 percent of the U.S. population, yet accounted for 54.1 percent of all homicide victims.

- The majority of Black homicide victims in the United States were shot and killed with guns (87.4 percent or 11,750 out of 13,446). There were 696 victims killed with knives or other sharp instruments.

- On average, more than 36 Black Americans died each day from homicide, of these, 32 were known to have died from gun homicides.

- The Black homicide victimization rate in the United States was nearly four times the overall national victimization rate and nearly seven times the white homicide victimization rate. In 2022, the black homicide victimization rate was 29.0 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall national homicide victimization rate was 7.7 per

100,000. For whites, the national homicide victimization rate was 4.2 per 100,000.

- Of the 13,446 Black homicide victims, 11,528 (85.7 percent) were male and 1,918 (14.3 percent) were female.

- The Black male homicide victimization rate in the United States was more than four times the overall male victimization rate and more than eight times the white male homicide victimization rate. In 2022, the homicide victimization rate for Black male victims was 50.5 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for male homicide victims was 12.3 per 100,000 and the rate for white male homicide victims was 6.2 per 100,000.

- The Black female homicide victimization rate in the United States was nearly three times the overall female victimization rate and nearly four times the white female homicide victimization rate. In 2022, the homicide victimization rate for Black female victims was 8.2 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for female homicide victims was 3.0 per 100,000 and the rate for

white female homicide victims was 2.2 per 100,000.

- For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 76.5 percent of Black victims (3,202 out of 4,184) were killed by someone they knew. The number of victims killed by strangers was 982.

- For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 80.9 percent (4,028 out of 4,977) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 53.9 percent (2,172 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

The age-adjusted rates published in this report were calculated by the National Center for Health Statistics. The rates are calculated by dividing the number of Black homicide victims by the Black population and multiplying the result by 100,000. This result is then weighted according to the U.S. standard population. More information about how rates are calculated can be found at: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/ucd-expanded.html#Age-Adjusted%20Rates>.

The full study is available at <https://vpc.org/studies/blackhomicide24.pdf>.

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Government excludes and discriminates against Black-owned media despite federal advertising spending reaching \$15 billion

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



Image via NNPA

A new report released this month has revealed that the federal government spent \$14.9 billion on advertising contracts over the last ten fiscal years to inform the public about various programs and services. However, despite the government's mandate to provide contract opportunities to businesses owned by minorities, women, and other socially or economically disadvantaged groups, significant disparities persist.

The report found that contracts with those businesses represented about 14% of total federal advertising spending, amounting to \$2.1 billion from fiscal

years 2014 to 2023. Additionally, federal agencies allocated about \$1.1 billion for COVID-related advertising contracts, with only 3.5%, or about \$37 million, awarded to these disadvantaged businesses.

Additionally, the report does not specify the amount allocated to Black-owned media. Several previous reports suggest that Black-owned media received no more than \$10 million of

the total \$14.9 billion spent.

"Of the \$14.9 billion spent, a disproportionately small fraction has gone to Black-owned media," National Newspaper Publishers Association Chair Chairman Biden Henry stated. The NNPA is the trade association representing the Black Press of America. "This underrepresentation, neglect, and disrespect not only undermines the economic

stability of Black-owned businesses, but also limits the diversity of voices and perspectives essential to a vibrant democracy. The NNPA calls for immediate and substantial reforms to ensure fair and equitable distribution of federal advertising dollars."

In 2023, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) introduced a bill called the Federal Government Advertising Equity Accountability Act requiring federal agencies to detail their advertising spending with small, disadvantaged businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities in their annual budget justifications. Norton, along with Reps. Hank Johnson (D-GA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Val Dem-

ings (D-FL), co-led a letter to President Biden seeking answers about the inequity in federal advertising contracts awarded to minority- and women-owned media and advertising agencies compared to the rest of the industry.

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) study revealed that the federal government spent more than \$5 billion on advertising over five years, with Black-owned businesses receiving only \$51 million, or 1.02 percent of those funds. Black-owned newspapers and media companies received a small portion of the \$51 million.

Jessica Lucas-Judy, Director of Strategic Issues for GAO, clarified in an email to the Black Press, "Black

American-owned businesses were awarded \$256 million (21 percent) of the \$1.2 billion in federal advertising contracts obligated to minority-owned businesses from FYs 2014 through 2023. When looking at the number of businesses, 148 Black-owned businesses were awarded advertising contracts during that time period." Lucas-Judy added, "I double-checked with my team; the data from FPDS identified Black-owned businesses generally, rather than Black-owned newspapers/media outlets specifically. I think the only way to find the information you're looking for would be to review each individual contract."

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as the most reliable base of the Democratic Party. Well, that's about to change. The Black base will be fired-up as Kamala Harris clearly and articulately shares the substantial record of accomplishments on racial justice issues by the Biden-Harris administration, and continues to fight for the Floyd and Lewis Acts and

openly embraces HR-40 (polls commissioned by the organization Reparations United indicate that pledging to enact the HR-40 Commission by Executive Order will motivate unlikely voters, especially younger Black voters, to come off the sidelines and engage).

As the esteemed, legend-

ary, elder statesman Rev. Jesse L. Jackson might say, rallying around Kamala Harris will "Keep Hope Alive," that victory over the retrograde, reactionary forces of Trump and MAGAISM is not only possible but certain. So let us not equivocate or hesitate; we need an urgent and immediate groundswell positively urging and encouraging President Joe

Biden to endorse his loyal, dedicated running mate, Vice-President Kamala Harris as his replacement as the Democratic Party's candidate for President of the United States. That historic announcement will mark the beginning not of a Blue Wave, but a tsunami, a massive wave of Rainbow voters marching on ballot boxes to defeat Trump and MAGAISM and rescue

democracy; a momentous victory that will pave the way to resume the essential complex task of creating a "more perfect union."

Dr. Ron Daniels is President of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, Founder of the Haiti Support Project and Distinguished Lecturer Emeritus, York College City University of New York. His articles and essays

appear on the IBW website www.ibw21.org. His weekly radio show *Vantage Point* can be heard Mondays 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST, USA on WBAI, 99.5 FM, Pacifica in New York, streaming live via www.ibw21.org. To send a message, arrange media interviews or speaking engagements, Dr. Daniels can be reached via email at info@ibw21.org.

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2480	\$20,000,000 Ca\$h Spectacular! Overall Odds are 1 in 4.10	\$5	8/21/24	2/17/25
2537	Lucky X10 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	8/21/24	2/17/25
2527	Pink Diamonds Overall Odds are 1 in 3.63	\$10	8/21/24	2/17/25
2367	Cash Spectacular Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48	\$20	8/21/24	2/17/25

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Dallas College welcomes new presidents at Brookhaven and Mountain View

(Dallas College) Two highly accomplished education leaders have joined the ranks of Dallas College as the school's newest presidents of its Brookhaven and Mountain View campuses.

Dr. Macario Hernandez, an education administrator for 25 years, will lead Mountain View Campus in southwestern Dallas County, and Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins will lead Brookhaven Campus in Farmers Branch.

Both appointments were made by Dr. Justin Lonon, Dallas College chancellor.

Dr. Hernandez, who was raised in Oak Cliff, has a long history with Dallas College, where he received an associate degree in 1996. He was also honored

with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019.

Dr. Hernandez was a Dallas ISD principal for 23 years, including at Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School on the Mountain View Campus. Under his leadership, the school earned recognition as a National Title I Distinguished School in 2018 and received a National Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education in 2021.

Known as a public education advocate, Dr. Hernandez will lead Mountain View's campus culture and local business community engagement and advancement. Among his other duties, he will work with industry partners and business leaders to develop and



Dr. Macario Hernandez

expand workforce opportunities in Dallas' southern sector.

He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and holds a master's degree from Texas Woman's University and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Hernandez comes to Dallas College from the University of North Texas at Dallas, where he served as chief of staff.

"Given his background,



Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins

connection to the community and affinity for Mountain View, I am excited for the future and look forward to supporting Dr. Hernandez in his new role," Dr. Lonon said.

Dr. Burillo-Hopkins comes to Dallas College from Houston Community College, where she served as vice chancellor for workforce instruction and was instrumental in securing federal and state workforce grants. She led efforts

in credit and continuing education and developed workforce partnerships as well as prior learning assessment.

She is noted for her efforts to raise private sector funds for student support and instructional programs.

In 2021, Dr. Burillo-Hopkins earned the Hispanic Women in Leadership Award for outstanding service in education. Two years later, Houston Community College honored her with the Chancellor's Medallion for Outstanding Service. In 2010, she was an HCC (Houston Community College) Eagle Award recipient for Administrative Leadership. D'Mars Magazine selected her as one of Houston's Top 30 Influential Women.

In addition to being a champion for Brookhaven's campus culture, Dr. Burillo-Hopkins will oversee and help improve workforce training pathways to meet the demands of employers and students. She has degrees from Sam Houston State, University of California at Berkeley and the University of Puerto Rico. She received a doctorate in education from Sam Houston State.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Burillo-Hopkins join Dallas College. Her extensive experience working with community colleges will undoubtedly serve us well as we navigate the evolving landscape of higher education in Texas and beyond," Dr. Lonon said.

Collegiate Prep Rising fourth grader to be featured in Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

(CEDAR HILL, TEXAS) Michael Thompson is a 9-year-old rising fourth grader at Collegiate Prep Elementary. The Cedar Hill citizen already owns a business and this Saturday night, he will be honored during the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards.

Thompson and his younger brothers, Jordan, 7, a Collegiate Prep rising third grader and Jalen, 4, a Collegiate Prep rising Pre-K scholar, started "Black Boys Meditate" a few months ago.

Michael will be recognized with a bronze Jefferson Award and featured on

the Nickelodeon awards at 7 p.m. Central Standard Time on Saturday.

"This national spotlight highlights Michael's significant impact at such a young age, proving that kids have the power to change the world," said Helsa Thompson, Michael's mother. "This prestigious accolade celebrates young change makers who inspire others through service, and Michael's extraordinary contributions are a shining example of this mission."

The business grew out of Aura House, a Cedar Hill-based meditation and yoga center that Helsa started in

February 2023.

"The impact of 'Black Boys Meditate' is already substantial," Helsa said. "'The Affirmation Alphabet' is utilized in various elementary school classrooms, the 'Color and Calm' coloring books are sold on Amazon and the 'Family and Flow' yoga classes are a community favorite. This project is dedicated to uplifting underserved communities through mindfulness."

Through Michael's leadership, Black Boys Meditate has been part of an expo for Black-owned businesses at the Shops at Redbird in

Dallas as well as a student business expo at Collegiate Prep.

Michael discovered the Nickelodeon opportunity through the Southwest Suburban Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc.

Michael is business-minded, while Jordan leads the creative efforts. Michael even has a succession plan to let Jordan and Jalen lead the businesses in the next couple of years, while Michael pursues his next venture. Sparkjoy.

"I want to sell clothes that make people feel good about themselves," Michael said.



Michael Thompson (Courtesy photo)

JEAN-PIERRE, from Page 2

issues at the White House. He was there for them. Shame on the NYT for lazy conspiracy reporting and shame on the press corps' piggish treatment of Karine Jean-Pierre today," Thomas stated.

However, the White House Correspondents' Association has done little to

address this troubling behavior. The association's silence is particularly glaring in light of the White House's transparency about visitor logs, a practice that starkly contrasts the secrecy of the Trump administration. President Biden's doctor, Kevin O'Connor, had to release a letter ex-

plaining that the Parkinson's expert who visited the White House was there for other patients, not the President. This clarification did little to deter reporters from their relentless and unfounded speculation.

Historian Heather Cox Richardson reminded the public of the stark difference in transparency between the Biden and

Trump administrations: "A reminder that when this administration took over, it reinstated daily press briefings after Trump killed them. Remember Trump had a press secretary who held not a single briefing, appearing only on right-wing media."

MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell also criticized the White House press

corps for their behavior, describing it as a circus. "The White House press corps, many at their absolute worst in the way they approached Karine Jean-Pierre, who was trying to be responsive to medical questions where there are limitations in what she could say," O'Donnell noted. "The New York Times' reporting that she dodged

the question is untrue. She responded to the questions; she didn't give the answer the New York Times or other reporters wanted, but she did answer every single question, and the New York Times and other reporters kept banging on. Out-of-control behavior by most of the White House press corps was as bad a circus as it looked."



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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. Copies of reports can be forwarded to the City of Irving Office of Emergency Management via email at 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.

- Go online to disasterassistance.gov/.

assistance.gov/.

- Download the FEMA App for mobile devices.

- Call the FEMA helpline at (800) 621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages.

- If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

- Deadline to Apply: Aug. 15

FEMA Individual Assistance for Other Needs (ONA)

Website: <https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/fema-assistance-other-needs>

For costs related to loss of transportation or personal property, applicants must first apply for an SBA low-interest disaster loan.

For costs related to necessary expenses and serious needs, such as loss of food (up to \$750) due to power outage. Applicants do NOT need to apply for an SBA

loan first.

If you have already applied for FEMA Housing Assistance, you don't need to apply separately for ONA.

Apply:

- Go online to disasterassistance.gov/.

• Download the FEMA App for mobile devices.

- Call the FEMA helpline at (800) 621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages.

- If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

- Deadline to Apply: Aug. 15

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

Website: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/unemployment-benefits/disaster-unemployment-assistance>

Provides benefits dur-

ing the disaster assistance period for temporary or permanent loss of job or self-employment or the loss of the ability to work as a direct result of the disaster and who applied but are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.

• Contracted and telecommuting employees are eligible if they were unable to work due to power outages.

Individuals should apply for regular benefits. If ineligible, applicant can apply for DUA.

- Online at TWC.Texas.gov

- Call (800) 939-6631
- Deadline to Apply: Initial applications, Aug. 4, 2024 (60 days from federal disaster declaration date)

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Home Loans

Website: <https://lending.sba.gov/search-disaster/?disaster=TX-20010>

See IRVING, Page 12

FEMA urges residents to take precautions from heat and use generators safely as Texans begin cleanup from Hurricane Beryl

Residents of Texas recovering from Hurricane Beryl should take precautions as they assess their damage and begin to clean up. With millions of people still without power, residents should be aware of the dangers of extreme heat. As the storm continues to move northeast across the Midwest, those in Beryl's path should remain vigilant and listen to their local officials.

If you are in Texas and your home does not have power or air conditioning, cooling options are being set up across the state. Visit www.211texas.org and search under "Extreme Heat Cooling Centers" to find community cooling options near you.

Beryl remains a strong storm with the potential for flooding -- it is important to not underestimate the storm as it heads northeast. Residents in the states along its path should have a plan, check on family members and be aware of potential risks, including flash floods, river flooding and tornadoes.

FEMA, our federal partners and non-profit organizations are on the ground, ready to help the state of Texas and other states in Beryl's path with emergency needs that may arise.

Millions of Texans remain without power, which may add additional stress to an already difficult situation. Residents should follow these tips to stay safe during a power outage and extreme heat temperatures:

Residents Should Take Heat Safety Precautions

- Understand the risk of extreme heat. Extreme heat is present across many parts of the U.S. right now, including Texas. With power outages continuing after the storm and high temperatures forecasted, residents should take steps to stay safe:

- Check on family members and neighbors.
- Drink fluids regularly to avoid getting dehydrated and overheated.
- Watch for heat illness.
- Avoid high-energy activities or work outdoors during mid-day heat, if possible.

Residents Should Know

How to Use Generators Safely

- Use generators safely. Generators can be helpful when the power goes out.

Residents Should Know

- Use generators safely. Generators can be helpful when the power goes out.

See BERYL, Page 11

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 Meeting ID: 99871315576

Mr. Ricky C. McNeal, NAACP President
 Dr. Chester B. Johnson, Legal Redress Chair

July 23, 2024
 7:00PM

Broadway Dallas and patrons support CitySquare, community by collecting hundreds of pounds of hygiene products

The nonprofit Broadway Dallas is best known for presenting the most popular and critically acclaimed touring Broadway shows to North Texas audiences, including the most recent national tours of Hamilton and Hairspray. Broadway Dallas also takes very seriously its mission to support and uplift underserved members of the Dallas community.

To that end, during the five-week engagement of



Courtesy photo

Hamilton, Broadway Dallas asked theatergoers to donate dental hygiene

products to support its partner CitySquare, the Dallas-based nonprofit that aims to

fight the causes and effects of poverty through service, advocacy and friendship. The result was an astounding 232 pounds of donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouth wash and more.

CitySquare's mission resonates deeply with Broadway Dallas, which is committed to not only entertaining but also giving back to the community it serves. In 2024, Broadway Dallas proudly supports CitySquare by organizing

donation drives at each of its performances throughout the season. This ongoing collaboration underscores Broadway Dallas's dedication to making a positive impact beyond the stage curtains.

Additionally, during the engagement of the national Broadway tour of Hairspray, Broadway Dallas hosted a donation drive to collect hair care items for CitySquare. Patrons donated more than 350 bottles of

shampoo and conditioner plus hundreds of brushes, ribbons, hair ties and of course, cans of hairspray. HAIRSPRAY, known for its infectious energy and message of inclusivity, was the perfect performance for Broadway Dallas to channel its community-focused initiatives. By collecting hair care products during the show's run, Broadway Dallas aims to make a meaningful contribution to CitySquare's mission.

MEDIA, from Page 5

The trend of underrepresentation in federal advertising contracts has been around for a while. In March 2016, Holmes Norton joined with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) to call for a report on federal advertising contracts with minority-owned newspapers and media companies. The NNPA is the trade association of more than 250 African American-owned newspapers and media

companies. The conglomerate comprises the 197-year-old Black Press of America.

"The federal government is the largest advertiser in the United States, and it has an obligation to ensure equitable access to its contracts for SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women," Norton stated. "The GAO's findings demonstrate that there is still much progress to be made."

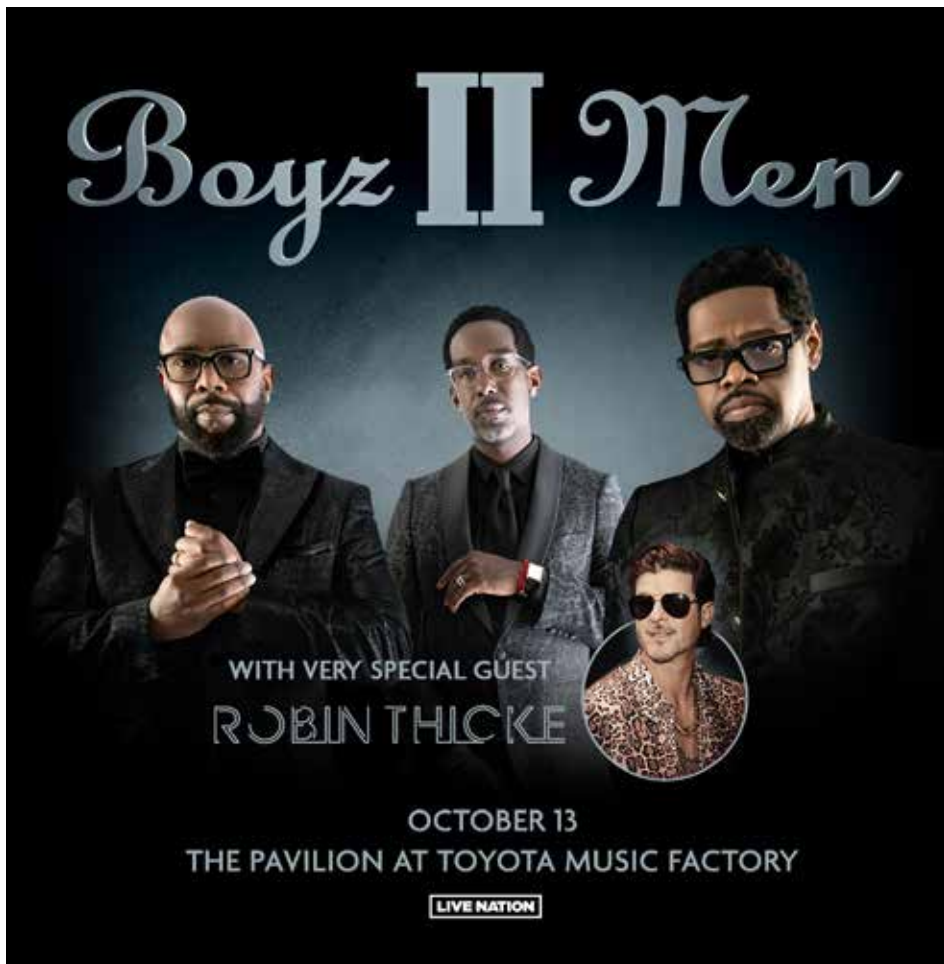
In 2007, GAO had already investigated advertising spending by five agencies—the Departments of Defense, Treasury, Health and Human Services, the Interior, and NASA—and found that only five percent of the \$4.3 billion available for advertising campaigns went to minority-owned businesses. Thirty-one members of Congress joined the call for accountability in the federal government's advertising practices.

The latest GAO report,

released June 27, 2024, highlighted those three agencies—the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Homeland Security—were responsible for more than half of advertising contract obligations to specified businesses from FYs 2014 through 2023, totaling about \$1.3

billion. While these agencies obligated the most dollars to selected companies, other agencies had higher percentages of their obligations directed to these businesses. For instance, NASA allocated 99 percent of its advertising contract dollars to specified businesses, albeit a lower total dollar amount.

"The NNPA notes, as we have raised over the past decade, the issues of equity, inclusion, and accountability with respect to federal advertising dollars spending with Black owned newspapers and other media companies," NNPA President & CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. stated.





Colman Domingo stars in *Sing Sing* (photo courtesy of Toronto International Film Festival)

Film Review: 'Sing Sing' is an inspiring film to see

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(****) It's refreshing when a film poses answers to the most confounding social issues.

Countless feature films and documentaries exam the plight of systems and institutions that treat Black folks unfairly. Too few offer solutions. That's the reason this drama, which is based-on-fact and real people, is so illuminating. It offers results.

Prison reform is a hot topic, and this production depicts it in a way that makes the rehabilitation of the incarcerated an inspiring journey. An allegory worth retelling and spreading. The setting is Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison in Ossining, New York.

Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) is a small group of convicts who've become actors, and its members put on shows every six months. One of the founders, John "Divine G" Whitfield (Colman Domingo, Rustin), writes many of their plays. He recruits a temperamental prison yard bully, Divine Eye (Clarence Maclin), into the group. Then the troupe, their director (Paul Raci, *Sound of Metal*) and key players (Sean San Jose, John Divine G. Whitfield) prepare to stage a time travel the-

ater piece.

Writer/director Greg Kwedar, with co-writers Clint Bentley (Jockey) and Brent Buell, weaves reality, a play-within-a-play scenario, rivalries, jealousies, failures and hope into an extremely emotional and uplifting film. You have to love the characters; the ones society deems incorrigible. All the prisoners are interesting, but Divine Eye is intensely compelling because his character arc puts the ultimate dreams and goals of the theater group on display. Healing and redemption. Also, the real Clarence "Divine Eye" Maclin plays himself!

The push and pull, between Divine G and Divine Eye, is so tense and real because Domingo and Maclin convey the rawest emotions. Arguments, accusations, fear, anxiety and finally love and understanding. It's a process the actors go through with a keen sense of duty to their characters. A mentoring that brings the most unlikely prison actor to his zenith. They and others are given the words and feelings they need to show that growth and redemption is possible. Says one con: "We're here to become human again. And enjoy the things that are not in our reality." All the depictions and interpretations of prison life resonate. All.

Kwedar (Jockey) directs the ebbs and flows and ups and downs with a real focus on primal feelings, authentic performances and a rhythm that makes 105 minutes (editor Parker Laramie) of jail time a vibrant experience. It's a vision to behold (Pat Scola, cinematographer; Ruta Kiskyte, production design; Desira Pesta, costumes; Jacob Harbeck, art direction). In between scenes, the camera focusses on exterior and interior shots that are perfectly lit and composed. Like those in an art film.

By film's end, passion and optimism rush over you. And knowing that some of the formerly incarcerated men from the real RTA group are in the main cast brings the film's theme full circle. The real-life director of RTA made an astonishing claim: "67% of inmates will return to prison after being released. The recidivism rate for RTA members is 3%." That's because their arts therapy group rebuilds prisoners from the inside out.

Ever heard of an empowering jailhouse movie that posed even a tiny solution for breaking the cycle of mass incarceration? That's the magic of the stirring film *Sing Sing*—it has answers.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

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DSO joins Project Unity and artists to deliver electrifying performances to honor Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock

Just a couple of weeks ago national leaders, recording artists and elected officials from across the country united for the fourth annual Together We Sing, a production of Dallas-based non-profit Project Unity and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO).

Together We Sing, held at The Morton H. Meyerson Center, home of DSO, showcased top talent that seamlessly blended gospel and classical music for a soul-stirring evening to a sold out crowd. The annual benefit kicked off the experience with their Together We Awards, as U.S. Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock was honored with the Trailblazer Award, among other business leaders, corporations and organizations who work tirelessly to champion diversity, equity



Kevin Bowman / Courtesy

and inclusion.

The evening, dubbed as The Ultimate Sunday Celebration, was designed to inspire unity through multi-faith musical moments. In keeping with this theme, Rev. Warnock, who is also

senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, was recognized for his work to unify multi-faith leaders across the country to leverage the power of love and empathy for diversity, equity, and inclusion through

his non-profit work, Multi-Faith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration.

“People of faith need to rise up once again, as we did during the abolitionist movement, as we did during the Civil Rights Move-

ment,” Rev. Warnock told attendees when he hit the stage to accept this prestigious award. “So this is the moral work that we must do together. We must push hard against those who are trying to make us give into the politics of fear and division.”

Performances included an appearance from 2024 American Idol contestant Odell Bunton, Jr.; the world-renowned Dallas Black Dance Theatre to music composed by DSO’s Vice President of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Impact Glyne A. Griffith II, and Melvin Wellington Lightford. There was even a surprise performance from Project Unity’s founder and Chief Visionary Officer Richie Butler, who led a choir of 200 people from more than 20 religious and

faith-based organizations in performing the gospel classic, “Walk in the Light.” Renowned multi-Platinum Stellar Award-winning gospel artist Marvin Sapp ended the show with a medley of hit songs, including “Praise Him in Advance” and “Never Would Have Made It.”

Fresh off the NBA Championship game, Dallas Mavericks CEO Cynt Marshall, was also in attendance to present an award after being a recipient last year.

All proceeds from Together We Sing benefit Project Unity’s collaborative effort of programming and events hosted in partnership with segments of the Dallas community including faith, business, civic, philanthropic, grassroots, and government entities.

THOMAS, from Page 2

on his tax returns. Despite repeated opportunities to clarify this, the senators asserted that Thomas’s counsel had not provided satisfactory explanations.

The letter also outlined numerous undisclosed gifts from billionaire benefactors, including private jet travel, yacht trips, country club memberships, sports tickets, and significant financial support for Thomas’s family. According to Whitehouse and Wyden, these gifts, which Thomas should have reported under the Ethics in Government Act, suggest a pattern of omission that warrants further investigation.

In addition to these worries, a January letter written by Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.) and other lawmakers highlighted potential conflicts of interest involving Ginni Thomas, the wife of Justice Thomas. The letter urged Justice Thomas to recuse himself from cases involving the 2020 election due to Ginni Thomas’s

public support for Trump’s attempts to overturn the election results and her participation in the “Stop the Steal” rally before the Capitol attack. The lawmakers argued that her actions and financial interests align with Trump’s, potentially compromising Justice Thomas’s impartiality.

The January letter also highlighted the fluctuating value of Ginni Thomas’s consulting firm, Liberty Consulting, which saw significant increases during Trump’s presidency. “The value of Ms. Thomas’s consulting firm skyrocketed from only ‘up to \$15,000’ before Mr. Trump was elected to ‘between \$100,000 and \$250,000’ during his presidency, and then fell again to ‘between \$15,001 and \$50,000’ the year Mr. Trump lost the White House,” the letter stated, suggesting a direct financial benefit tied to Trump’s political success.

Whitehouse and Wyden said their letter underscores

the importance of transparency and accountability. They urge appointing a special counsel to investigate potential criminal violations by Justice Thomas and his benefactors. They cited previous Department of Justice prosecutions of other officials for less serious disclosure violations, emphasizing the need for consistent enforcement of ethics laws.

“We, therefore, request that you appoint a Special Counsel authorized to investigate potential criminal violations by Justice Thomas under the disclosure, false statement, and tax laws; pursue leads of related criminal violations by donors, lenders, and intermediate corporate entities; and determine whether any such loans and gifts were provided pursuant to a coordinated enterprise or plan,” the senators concluded.

“Presented with opportunities to resolve questions about his conduct, Justice Thomas has maintained a suspicious silence,” the senators added.

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June jobs report reflects Biden's steady economic leadership, record job creation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A recurring theme from supporters of President Joe Biden since the debate debacle has remained: "Look at my record." Biden himself said, "I know how to do this job." The latest jobs report has shown that the Biden-Harris administration has been as effective as any other in American history.

According to the Labor Department's report on Friday, the American labor market produced another solid month of employment gains in June. The economy added 206,000 jobs, while the unemployment rate edged up to 4.1 percent from 4 percent the previous month.

This marks the 42nd consecutive month of job growth, with teen employment also reaching new heights. In June, 37.3



The latest jobs report has shown that the Biden-Harris administration has been as effective as any other in American history. (Phot via NNPA)

percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were employed, the highest rate for that month since 2007.

Addressing the latest figures, President Biden emphasized the administration's track record. "With today's report that 206,000 jobs were created last month, a record 15.7 million jobs have been created during my administration," Biden said in a

statement. "We have more work to do, but wages are growing faster than prices and more Americans are joining the workforce, with the highest share of working-age Americans in the workforce in over 20 years."

Though the unemployment rate slightly increased, economists suggest this may not indicate a downturn. Tom Simons,

gloves and sturdy thick-soled shoes. Do not try to remove heavy debris by yourself.

- Avoid downed power or utility lines. Consider all downed lines live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.

Residents in Texas who sustained damage caused by the tropical weather are encouraged to report damage through the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT).

Visit Ready.gov and Listo.gov for additional tips on staying safe before, during and after a storm.

a U.S. economist at Jefferies, noted to reporters, "Rather than indicating a big decline in labor market demand, we view this data as a sign that workers themselves have better opportunities for full-time employment such that they do not have to go to a temp agency."

The broader unemployment rate, which includes discouraged workers and those working part-time for economic reasons, held steady at 7.4 percent. Household employment, used to calculate the unemployment rate, rose by 116,000. However, the household survey also showed a decrease of 28,000 full-time workers and an increase of 50,000 part-time workers.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 206,000 for the month, surpassing the Dow Jones forecast of 200,000, though it was below the revised gain of 218,000 in May. David Russell, global head of market strategy at TradeStation, commented on the data to CNBC, saying, "The job market is bending without yet breaking, which boosts the argument for rate cuts. Things are not too hot and not too cold. Goldilocks is here, and September is in play" for a Fed rate cut.

Government employment has nearly returned to its pre-pandemic level and trend, adding to the overall positive outlook.

Despite these gains, President Biden acknowledged ongoing challenges.

"Too many Americans are still feeling squeezed by the cost of living," he said. "I'm fighting to lower costs by taking on corporate price gouging, capping the cost of insulin and prescription drugs, and calling on Congress to lower rent by building 2 million new homes."

Biden contrasted his administration's efforts with those of Congressional Republicans, asserting that their policies would "supercharge inflation" and impose high tariffs, costing middle-class families thousands of dollars annually. "While they fight for Park Avenue, I'll keep fighting for working families like the ones I grew up with in Scranton," Biden concluded.

BERYL, from Page 7

It is important to know how to use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and other hazards. Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.

Residents Should Continue to Take Other Precautions

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. A refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours and a full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.

- Disconnect appliances and electronics. Turn off or disconnect appliances,

equipment or electronics. Power may return with momentary surges or spikes that can cause damage.

- Stay off the roads. Emergency workers may be assisting people in flooded areas or cleaning up debris. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.

- Stay away from floodwaters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. It may also include dangerous wildlife. If your basement flooded, never attempt to turn off power or operate circuit breakers while standing in water. Wear



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July 1, 2024

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

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- Dozer Operator (Earthwork)
- Laborer (Paving, Earthwork)
- Loader Operator (Earthwork)
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Dallas Cowboys pro football hall of famer and three-time Super Bowl champion Michael Irvin announces official grand opening of Playmakers88

New upscale sports bar and restaurant reflects his legacy and love of the game

Dallas Cowboys Pro Football Hall of Famer and three-time Super Bowl Champion, Michael Irvin, is expanding his legacy and love of the game with the opening of Playmakers88, an upscale sports bar and restaurant located in The Colony, Texas. Known for making big plays on the field, Irvin aspires to use that same focus and commitment with this new endeavor to unite people from all backgrounds through great sports, food, and entertainment. A two-day grand opening celebration will kick-off on Friday, July 12, 2024, at 5 p.m. The events are open to the public.

Playmakers88 is a lively sports bar and restaurant where Dallas Cowboys fans can watch and enjoy football games in a vibrant atmosphere that pays homage to the team's legendary players. Upon entering the contemporary-style establishment, guests are greeted



DWG Studio

by a large replica of the famous Ring of Honor which artistically displays images of Michael Irvin, Emmitt Smith, and Troy Aikman, famously known as "The Triplets." Elevated and showcased around the sleek bar area are the additional 21 Dallas Cowboys Ring of Honor members whose significant contributions led to the organization becoming known as "America's

Team." In addition, Dallas Cowboys' art and memorabilia adorn the walls and are highlighted throughout Playmakers88, capturing the amazing essence and history of Micheal Irvin and the team.

"I am truly honored to create an upscale sports bar and restaurant where sports fans can cheer on their favorite teams and athletes, while enjoying great food,

cocktails, and company," said Irvin. "My hope is that each person who visits Playmakers88 feels the excitement, energy and love that I have for the entire sports community and the overall DFW area."

Playmakers88 is a perfect place for families and sports enthusiasts. The 7,000 square-foot space features bar top, lounge, and booth-style seating for over 250 ppl, 50 flat screen TVs, surround sound, upbeat music and a pool table. Whether a date night or a happy hour with friends, the sports bar and restaurant is a welcoming destination to enjoy a great dining and entertainment experience.

More than your average sports bar, Playmakers88 is a restaurant where guests can savor the homemade cuisines of Chef Rassuan "RJ" Johnson who adds his unique flair while creatively combining traditional family recipes with modern-day

delicacies. Flavorful dishes range from tantalizing crab cakes, chicken wings and burgers to delectable pastas, southern cuisines and seafood entrees. Additionally, a special cocktail menu has been curated to combine signature favorites and contemporary inspirations for every desire and taste. Guests can also select from over 20 domestic and imported beers on tap.

"Truly a full circle moment, I have been enjoying the cuisines of Chef RJ for years, so to have him at the helm of our menu offering is truly an honor and a great treat for our guests," said Irvin.

In observance of its grand opening, Playmakers88 will host two celebratory events. On Friday, July 12, 2024, from 5 p.m. to midnight, the community is invited to attend a swanky evening of live music and stand-up comedy by actor and comedian, Tommy Davidson.

This is the perfect opportunity to get dressed up and to walk down the Playmakers88 blue carpet. On Saturday, July 13, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the community is invited to come out and enjoy a family-friendly afternoon featuring entertainment, giveaways, autographs, and photo opportunities. Attendees of the Saturday event are encouraged to come dressed representing their favorite sports team. A percentage of proceeds made throughout the weekend celebration will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association Greater Dallas, a cause close to Irvin's heart and family.

Playmakers88 is located at 5005 State Highway 121, The Colony, Texas 75056 and will be serving the community Monday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to midnight. Learn more by visiting www.playmakers88.com or by calling 214-994-8888.

Career Institute South students recognized for ongoing community service

By Carol Paiz
Dallas ISD HUB

For the students at Career Institute South, community service has long been more than just a concept—it is part of their ethos.

"We are not just teaching them career skills. We're teaching them the importance of citizenship," said Adrienne Thomas Jones, director of CIS.

"Their dedication to giving back to their community, whether it's cleaning up around our campus or elsewhere, truly embodies the spirit of CIS."

In recognition of their efforts, the City of Dallas recently installed an "Adopt-A-Spot" marker at CIS campus. An official token of the students' commitment to keeping Dallas beautiful, it showcases the students' long-term commitment to maintaining

campus grounds.

"It's satisfying knowing that I did something for the community and got something in return," said Gabriel H., an 11th-grader CIS.

Sharon Veal, a computer science teacher at CIS, reflected on the journey that had led to this momentous occasion.

"I've always believed in the power of service," she said. "Seeing the students' initial skepticism turn into

pride and fulfillment as they embraced community cleanup efforts has been truly inspiring."

Through their ongoing efforts, students of CIS students are not only learn-

ing valuable skills for their future careers, but also cultivating a sense of pride, responsibility, and service that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

As the Adopt-A-Spot

sign now stands proudly in place, it serves as a tangible reminder of the students' ongoing commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

IRVING, from Page 7

SBA regulations limit home loans to \$500,000 for the repair or replacement of real estate, and \$100,000 to repair or replace personal property. Subject to these maximums, loan amounts cannot exceed the verified uninsured disaster loss. Loans terms can run to a maximum of 30 years.

• Homeowners may be el-

igible for the refinancing of existing liens or mortgages on homes, up to the amount of the loan for real estate repair or replacement.

Apply Online:

• Register and apply at the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov>.

• SBA Disaster Reference: TX-20010

• Deadline to Apply: Aug.

15

For assistance, contact SBA's Customer Service Center

• Email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

• Call (800) 659-2955

• For telecommunications relay services, dial 7-1-1.

Note: This list may not be comprehensive, and residents should verify services and schedules with the listed providers.

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

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- Hours are 12 to 15 hours per week.

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Famous Amos begins national search to award three early-stage entrepreneurs with \$150,000 for fourth-year initiative

(Black PR Wire) Recently, Ferrero North America, in partnership with the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., announced its 2024 Famous Amos Ingredients for Success Entrepreneurs Initiative, an annual national program in its fourth year that provides a capital award, resources and mentorship services to Black early-stage businesses. The program invites eligible start-up businesses to apply for the opportunity to receive a \$50,000 award on the website FamousA-

mosIngredientsForSuccess.com through August 4, 2024.

Eligible businesses must be at minimum 90% Black-owned, in business for five years or less, and headquartered in the United States. The businesses must be owned by individuals 21 years or older. To be considered, applicants must submit a 90-120 second pitch video that explains why they should receive the \$50,000 award for their business. This year's winners and finalists will join

an established network of entrepreneurs who have grown their businesses with the help of the program.

The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. will serve as the community partner of Famous Amos in the fourth year of the Ingredients for Success Entrepreneurs Initiative. The partner's support for the program includes a range of services designed to assist entrepreneurs, including workshops, mentor pairing, educational resources and more.

"The U.S. Black Chambers is proud to bring our vast experience in supporting and uplifting Black business – from advocacy to mentorship – to the Famous Amos Ingredients for Success network," said Ron Busby Sr., President and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. "Ingredients for Success has impacted nearly 10,000 entrepreneurs so far with its mission to reach and empower start-up Black businesses. As the National Voice of Black Business,

we are committed to providing even more Black business owners with the benefits of the program and access to additional resources and support so that this strong community of leaders has everything they need to reach their potential."

At the close of this fourth program cycle, three grand-prize winners will be selected by a panel of renowned Black entrepreneurs including Steve Canal, Grant Warner, and Kendra Bracken-Ferguson

to receive an award of \$50,000 in capital business funds, wrap-around business resources and services, as well as publicity.

There have been three previous program cycles since 2021, so far awarding \$450,000 to a total of nine winners. Each year, the program receives more than 2,000 applications for review and consideration.

For more information, please visit FamousAmos-IngredientsForSuccess.com.

OKORO, from Page 2

mote its reputation regionally, nationally and globally.

On accepting the post, Sandie Okoro said: "The wonderful University of Birmingham is the alma mater to three generations of the Okoros, my mum, me and my son. So my connection to it is very special indeed. I have followed the University's outstanding progress very closely since my days there as a student on a full grant back in the 1980s – its dedication to impactful research, its focus on creating an inclusive environment for talented, minority students and educational excellence are themes very close to my heart.

"I am truly honoured and delighted to be appointed Chancellor. It's a fantastic opportunity for me to give a

little something back to the amazing University that has given so very much to me and my family."

Sandie was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2024 New Year Honours for her services to Diversity in International Finance. She has also received a lifetime achievement award from the UK Black Solicitors Network and was named one of the Power 100 Women by City A.M. and 100 Women to Watch by Female FTSE Board. She received the Howard University 2019 Vanguard Women Award for her accomplishments as a woman of colour who has blazed the trail and her commitment to mentoring young women and advancing the rights of women and

girls globally. She is also the recipient of the Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award presented by the Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys (2019), the Chambers 100 Outstanding Global General Counsel (2019). Sandie is an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple in the United Kingdom.

Sandie was appointed inaugural Chair of the UK-based charity Women of the World Foundation in June 2021, she received an honorary lifetime Emeritus membership of the Law Societies' Compact and Forum for Sustainable Development Goal 16 in June 2022 and is a Governor of the

Royal Shakespeare Company. Sandie has previously been a council member of the human rights organization JUSTICE, Ambassador

for the Law Society's Diversity Access Scheme and sat on the Equality Standards Panel of the Premier League.

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Having a Brain Can Be a Problem

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I have been showing people a picture of my brain for almost a month now. I've been having a lot of fun doing it and teasing people by saying, "I have proof that I have a brain."

In the beginning, I just believed that having a brain would be a wonderful experience for me. Little did I know that having a brain can create certain problems—problems that my brain not only cannot help but has produced.

I don't think a day has passed, but I have reminded The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I have a brain and proof of it. So far, she has gone along with me.

You would think a person with a brain would be able to solve every problem

that comes his way. I was to learn that that was not necessarily true, and I have the scars to prove it.

It was Thursday morning, and I was looking for my Bible I used the night before at a prayer meeting. I looked everywhere, but couldn't find it.

Finally, I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "Have you seen my Bible? I can't seem to find it."

Looking at me with one of "those looks of hers," she said, "You have a brain, so you find it."

I wasn't expecting that and didn't know where it came from. She just stared at me, so I turned around and went back into my office. Later that day, I found it in my truck.

Whether I left it there the

night before or somebody in our residence put it there to trap me, I don't know. I will keep a secret about which one I thought happened.

I returned to work, and it was a very good day.

I needed to go to Wal-Mart to pick something up. I looked around for my wallet, but I could not find it anywhere. I usually put it on the counter in the kitchen so I don't lose it.

Looking at the counter, I couldn't see it.

Just then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked into the kitchen. I looked at her and said, "Have you seen my wallet? I thought I put it here on the counter, but I can't find it."

There was, again, that look of hers, and then she responded, "You have a brain, so why don't you use

it and find it?"

I was not sure how to respond, so I went on looking for my wallet, and I eventually found it. I was not sure if I had left it where I found it or if somebody put it there to try to trick me.

At this point, I started thinking about all the time I spent boasting and bragging about having a brain and evidence to show that I actually did have a brain. I must say I had a good time during that time. But now, it seems to have backfired on me.

I hate it when something backfires on me in a very negative fashion.

Going to my easy chair with a cup of coffee, I sat down and began looking at the picture of my brain. That was the evidence I needed to prove I actually did have

a brain. As I looked at it for a few moments, I began to wonder, why is my brain not working right now?

As I looked at the picture, I thought maybe I had gone too far boasting about my brain. Maybe I should've let it go from the beginning. At the time I just thought I was having fun.

After finishing my coffee, I went into my office and began working on a project.

I needed to make copies of my project, but when I tried, the copy machine was not working. I looked at it for a little bit and didn't quite know what to do. The only one who knows how to make this copy machine work is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

What do I do now? I need to finish this project, and

there is no way I can fix this and get it working.

My only solution was to ask my wife if she could fix the copy machine for me. I didn't know how to ask her. I knew her attitude all day, and I'm unsure how I could turn it into a very positive position.

Just then, my wife came to my office door and said, "I have some papers I need to copy. Would you mind if I used the copy machine right now?"

My day could not get any better.

"Oh my dear, yes of course, come and use it as long as you want to. I need to go to the bathroom for a few moments, so take your time."

I knew when I got back,

See SNYDER, Page 15

The countdown is on for the Charismatic Episcopal Church of North America (CEC-NA) National Convocation

(Black PR Wire) The Charismatic Episcopal Church of North America (CEC-NA) National Convocation is just around the corner! This significant event will be held from July 10 – 12 at the Avanti Palms Resort and Conference Center, located at 6515 International Drive in Orlando, Florida.

"We look forward to welcoming our spiritual family next week," said Archbishop Craig Bates, patriarch of the Charismatic Episcopal Church. "This Convocation is a time of spiritual renewal and transformation. We encourage everyone to come with expectancy and with an open heart, ready to take full advantage of the enriching workshops and sessions that will deepen our spiritual lives."

The 2024 Convocation, themed "A Church in Revival," is set to gather members from around the nation for a transformative experience of worship, prayer, learning and fellowship. It features inspiring plenary sessions, dynamic work-



DWG Studio

shops, and engaging post-service events designed to revitalize the spiritual lives of attendees.

Workshops of the CEC-NA National Convocation Include:

- CEC for Life – Father Terry Gensemer
- Creating a Community Outreach and Partnership Program – Bishop Chris Moran
- Discovering Encouragement – Deacon Rick Zepernick
- Got Questions? The Catechism Has Answers – Deacon Drew Bradfield
- Imagining the Human God – Father Kenneth Tanner
- Military Chaplaincy – Bishop David Epps
- Recovery Ministry – Deacon Eddie Pirro

• Spiritual Warfare and Exorcism – Bishop Rob Northwood

• The Holy Eucharist – Father Mark Finley

• This Field is White to Harvest – Reaching your Community by Comforting the Grieving – Father Joe and Melanie Ciccarello

• Union with Christ – Archbishop Charles Jones

• Worship as Intercession – Father Scott Melanson

For more information and to register for the CEC-NA National Convocation, please visit www.cec-na.org

The mission of the Charismatic Episcopal Church of North America is to reach the Least, the Lost, and the Lonely with the Gospel. It is a Church That Shares the Good News: (1) CEC-NA

believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that it contains all that is necessary for salvation, (2) that the Bible is the ultimate authority in all matters of

faith and practice, (3) that the Bible is a living word and that it speaks to us today, and (4) that the Bible is a source of hope, comfort, and guidance for all people.

For more information and to register for the Charismatic Episcopal Church of North America's CEC Convocation, please visit www.cec-na.org.

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Decision-Making



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

- Proverbs 3:5

This is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible related to gaining wisdom and direction from God.

Yet, I have never heard one teaching on this passage that teaches what I believe the psalmist is really saying.

The first part is pretty easy; we are to trust with all our heart. But the next part is not so clear. We are not to lean on our own understanding.

If we are not to lean on our own understanding, on



whose understanding are we to lean? That's easy, Lean on God's understanding by asking Him!

Throughout the Old Testament we find that God set up structures by which those in authority made decisions.

God has always set a principle whereby we are to seek Him in all our decisions, that He might truly make our decisions.

In the Old Testament, the priest made decisions based on which way the Urim and Thummim (breast plate of Judgment, Exodus 28:30) fell inside his breastplate. The casting of lots was another means of allowing a decision to be left with God.

Proverbs says, *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord"* (Proverbs 16:33).

men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

I need to treat others as I would want to be treated.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone

Another means of making a decision was through the agreement of two or three. No one could be guilty of any crime without the witness of two or three.

This was a biblical way of confirming a matter. Still another means of making a decision is through a multitude of counselors.

Given all these scenarios, what are we to gain from these examples? We are told in Jeremiah 17:9a, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure."

So what really protects each of us from the deceit of our own heart? I believe it is the combination of all the above.

When we get to a place with God that our decisions are accountable to others, and not just our self; it can be a spouse, a board, or a

few close friends who are committed to the same godly ideals.

This is when we are protected from the deceit of our own heart. This is one of the hardest things to yield to God is the right to make our own decisions.

Yet, it is the most elementary principle God requires of us to receive His blessing in our lives.

This principle takes a long time for some people to appreciate. However, today this can tell you that some people would never make a major decision without the counsel of others who are close to them.

Relational accountability has become lost in our culture due to our hunger for independence.

I have experienced too often the hardship that results from making decisions that God isn't behind.

Walking in obedience is the only real freedom in Christ. Ask God to show you how He want you to use the skills, spiritual gifts, resources He has given you and the relationships He has allowed you to have to prepare you for the great harvest You desire to have.

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

SNYDER, from Page 14

the copy machine would be running.

Walking back into my office, my wife picked up the papers she had copied and was leaving.


"Everything okay?" I asked.


"Oh yes," she said, "no problems whatsoever."

I like it when a day ends on the positive.

In my reflection, a verse from the Bible came to mind. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that

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NDG Book Review: 'Treating Violence' is a timely, motivating read

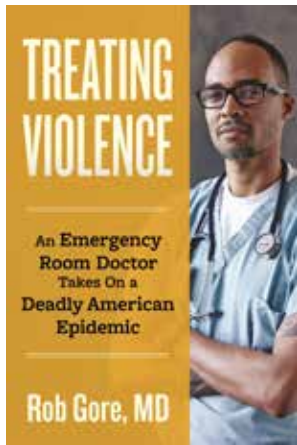
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Well, thank you so much to your co-worker.

That's where you got this ick, this scratchy-throat, achy-body, upset-stomach, can't-sleep virus. He sneezed and that's all it took. Now you've got what he had and you're trying not to spread it anymore. As you know, and as in the new book "Treating Violence" by Rob Gore, MD, an epidemic affects everybody.

Once upon a time, Rob Gore had a brother.

Angel wasn't biologically related but within a short time after Gore's parents fostered the young boy, Gore considered Angel as a sibling. They tussled and played together. Gore



watched over his "brother" and when Angel got older, he did the same for Gore. But Angel was anything but an angel and slowly, he turned to hustling drugs.

Gore says he wishes he'd done more to stop him. Eventually, Angel went to prison.

Growing up in Brooklyn, Gore knew that the streets

were not kind to people who looked like him, people with Brown or Black skin, and he understood early how privileged he was. He was granted – and sometimes squandered – the best education. In high school, after he was given a chance to "shadow" sports medicine practitioners and after he noticed a lack of Black people in medical careers, he saw his own future. Gore attended Morehouse College, with an eye toward helping Black and Brown people in crisis.

According to the CDC, he says, "homicide... is the number-two cause of death for Black males ages one to nine..." but there are ways to identify issues before they become dangerous, out-of-control prob-

lems. The process moves through examination of a person's childhood traumas and what happened to them as adults, followed by listening, validating, and asking for calm. Gore understood this as a young doctor, and he decided to do something about it.

"Lack of funding was a roadblock" for it, he says, "but the seed was planted and my conviction continued to grow."

You're tired of attending funerals, and tired of reading about another dead child somewhere. You're ready to act. You're ready

to read "Treating Violence."

Indeed, this book might light a fire under you: author Rob Gore, MD first explains what street violence does to Black communities and families, which is shocking and upsetting. This begins his biography, which is a brief (too-brief!) set-up for how and why Gore ultimately founded KAVI, an organization that uses trained volunteers to lower the anger level and any desires for revenge when someone is the victim of violence. The story is a rousing one,

but readers may feel a bit cheated by the rushed transition from Gore's life and his work as an ED doctor, to KAVI. Information on KAVI and similar organizations may spur you to take action. An abrupt stoppage of Gore's personal stories may disappoint you.

Still, with the Surgeon General's recent warning on gun use in mind, "Treating Violence" couldn't be more timely or necessary. Find it, read it for the excellent biography and the ideas, statistics, and urgency – and get to work.

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