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Project FREEDOM unveiled to combat controversial Project 2025

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

A group of well-known Black Democratic leaders unveiled Project FREEDOM, a fresh strategy to combat Project 2025, a contentious 922-page plan to reform the federal government put forth by a conservative Washington think tank and other political allies.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have repeatedly warned in campaign speeches that if Donald Trump wins a second term, he plans to use the conservative blueprint to exert unprecedented presidential power, eliminate the Department of Education and federal housing assistance, and significantly cut or restrict food stamps and other social welfare programs.

Trump has tried to distance himself from Project 2025, calling some of the proposals "seriously extreme," but its architects helped shape his Republican Party platform. Project FREEDOM, the organizers said in a virtual news conference, is designed to engage Black voters in four key battleground areas.



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have repeatedly warned in campaign speeches that if Donald Trump wins a second term, he plans to use the conservative blueprint to exert unprecedented presidential power, eliminate the Department of Education and federal housing assistance, and significantly cut or restrict food stamps and other social welfare programs. (Image via NNPA)

In the plan, the group says it aims to mobilize voters of color through town halls, community events, digital campaigns, and phone banks in Michigan, North Carolina, Las Vegas, and the Pennsylvania/Tri-State area.

Project FREEDOM aims to provide voters with a substantial policy agenda for Democrats ahead of the November election, offering a clear and precise contrast to Project 2025. Organizers say Project FREEDOM is based on four pil-

lars: Freedom to Live, Freedom to Learn, Freedom to Vote, and Freedom to Thrive.

"When people show you who they really are, you have a responsibility to speak your Truth. Project FREEDOM is our opportunity to speak in one collective voice and say, 'This will not stand,'" said Rev. Michael McBride, co-founder of Black Church PAC and the National Black Brown Gun Violence

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Slapping down SLAPP lawsuits

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How puberty intensifies racial bias

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DFW lawyer killed in Mexico

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Omega Psi Phi breaks out the tech for STEM

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Paul Quinn College gifted \$20 million

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Latest in the Deadpool series sags

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People In The News ...



Simone Biles



Jay Z

NDG Quote of the Week: "Our nation is a rainbow - red, yellow, brown, black, and white - and we're all precious in God's sight."

- Jesse Jackson

Simone Biles

With celebrities including Snoop Dogg, Flavor Flav, Lady Gaga, and John Legend watching, Simone Biles made a spectacularly successful return to the Olympics by dominating the qualifying round despite a calf injury that would have sidelined most athletes.

Team USA finished Sunday's qualification session with an impressive score of 172.296, putting the group of athletes — including returning Olympians Jade Carey and Jordan Chiles — at the front of the pack



heading into the all-around final on Thursday.

Biles, now 27, is the most decorated gymnast in history and considered the G.O.A.T of her sport — meaning Greatest of All

Time. She debuted in this year's competition in Paris after a widely publicized break, which began with her premature exit from the Tokyo Olympics to prioritize her mental health. The seven-time Olympic medalist has since spoken candidly about suffering from the "twisties," a dangerous phenomenon where gymnasts lose their spatial awareness in the air.

Despite injuring her calf while warming up for the second round of qualifying events in the Bercy Arena, Biles delivered stunning and technically near-flawless performances on the

balance beam, vault, floor, and uneven bars.

Video of the warm-ups showed Biles crawling back from the vault and then hopping on her right leg toward the edge of the mat. There, she told a teammate, "I'm gonna need a wheelchair." CBS News noted that the gymnast was later seen using a foam roller off the floor's side.

But the injury did not seem to limit Biles come game time. She performed an impressive vault routine that featured her trademark Yurchenko double pike, all with her ankle heavily taped. The routine earned

her a spectacular score of 15.8.

Women's gymnastics coach Cecille Landi, an Olympian who competed for France in 1996, told reporters that Biles had tweaked her calf several weeks ago and was on the mend during the training that led up to the games. "She felt a little something in her calf. That's all," Landi said after the qualifying session, according to the Olympics. The coach noted that Biles had no intention to leave the competition, saying, "Never in her mind."

Landi added that Biles'

calf had improved by the end of Sunday's session. Heading into the final this week, Biles and Sunisa Lee will make history regardless of where they place in the event, as two former all-around champions competing in the same event for the same country. Landi acknowledged Biles' stunning comeback and said that, knowing her track record, there could be even more room to grow.

"It was pretty amazing. 59.5, and four-for-four," Landi said of Biles' qualifying performance. "Not perfect. She still can improve ... just really good."

Jay Z

(Black PR Wire) NEW YORK — Global watch marketplace Wristcheck is proud to announce a significant investment from music icon, business mogul, and watch aficionado Shawn "JAY-Z" Carter — marking a major milestone for Wristcheck in cementing itself as the pioneering, go-to platform for the next generation of watch enthusiasts worldwide.

With a profound passion for watches and an unrivaled influence in multiple industries spanning decades, JAY-Z stands as a visionary who played a crucial role in shaping



modern watch culture as the world knows it today. JAY-Z's support as an investor is a testament to Wristcheck's credibility and commitment to revolutionizing the USD \$100 billion watch space.

JAY-Z joins Alibaba

Entrepreneurs Fund, Gobi Partners GBA, and K3 Ventures in Wristcheck's pre-series A funding.

"We're thrilled to welcome JAY-Z as an investor and partner at Wristcheck. As the most influential celebrity watch collector of the 21st century, his endorsement carries immense weight both personally and professionally.

"JAY-Z has always been an inspiration to me. I remember growing up to his music — his lyrics not only introduced me to watch brands like Audemars Piguet, but also fueled my love for watches even further. His own journey of entrepreneurship resonated

deeply with me — greatly influencing my own path in building Wristcheck." — Austen Chu, founder & CEO of Wristcheck.

Wristcheck has facilitated transactions with the world's leading watch collectors, including JAY-Z himself, with numerous transactions surpassing USD \$1 million involving

some of the world's rarest timepieces. Its highest recorded transaction exceeds USD \$5 million.

The platform provides watch enthusiasts with unparalleled access to thousands of guaranteed authentic timepieces, catering to a wide range of preferences and budgets from the rarest and most

coveted models to watches at every price point.

"The incredible ecosystem JAY-Z has built at Roc Nation perfectly aligns with what we are building here at Wristcheck — the watch world of tomorrow. I am beyond excited for the future that lies ahead." — Austen Chu

Dr. Jeffery R. Gardere

In recognition of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, Black PR Wire's Thrivin' in Color podcast has released a powerful episode with Dr. Jeffrey Gardere, who joins the podcast to share his incredible insights on cultural beliefs and their impact on mental health in marginalized communities.

During this insightful episode, Dr. Gardere shares his expertise on common mental health struggles he has observed in Black communities and emphasizes the importance of representation in the mental health field.

Additionally, he provides a unique perspective on



mental health and its impact on the lives of celebrities.

"This impactful interview is a major step in raising awareness and promoting understanding of minority mental health issues," said podcast host Camry Brown. "I hope listeners feel inspired to

engage open conversations about mental health and spark positive change in our communities."

Dr. Jeffrey Gardere, also known as Dr. Jeff, is one of the most widely sought-after experts in the field of mental health and an ordained Interfaith Minister. In addition to having a private practice in Manhattan, he is an Associate Professor and Course Director of Behavioral Medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City. Dr. Jeff Gardere, better known as "America's Psychologist," is also a prolific author of four books and a contributing author of a half-dozen books including the brand-new text, "The Causes of Autism."

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Courts need to slap down SLAPP suits like the one targeting Greenpeace

By Ben Jealous

A group of Texas cattle ranchers sued Oprah Winfrey for more than \$12 million in 1996. They claimed that one of her shows, called "Dangerous Food," that featured experts on mad cow disease and in which she said she would not eat another hamburger, was an attack on their business.

The ranchers did not really have a legal leg to stand on. But at the time, Texas did not have an anti-SLAPP law on the books so Winfrey had to fight the frivolous lawsuit in court for six weeks before a jury ruled in her favor.

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, known as SLAPP suits for short, are a type of lawsuit intended to silence or punish people who speak out on matters of public

interest. They often attack protected free speech and have mostly been used by powerful and wealthy interests to harass. The suits are usually not built to win in court, but rather to leverage the deep pockets of those filing the suits to bully less wealthy groups and individuals and force them to divert their time and resources to defending themselves in court. This is a tactic increasingly used by the fossil fuel industry and other corporate polluters to suffocate environmental activism and advocacy.

Oprah obviously had the resources to fight back in that 1996 suit. Many targets of SLAPP suits are not so lucky.

Right now, Energy Transfer, the corporate behemoth behind the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), is suing the organization Greenpeace for more than \$300

million in damages in a SLAPP suit. Energy Transfer alleges Greenpeace orchestrated the massive protest movement against the pipeline, defamed the company, and cost them hundreds of millions of dollars.

In doing so, Energy Transfer fails to acknowledge that the movement to stop this pipeline was led by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who simply wanted to protect their water supply, sacred sites, and cultural resources. Tribal leaders attracted the support of hundreds of organizations and thousands of activists, who promoted their efforts, joined the Tribe in North Dakota to protest, and signed letters in solidarity with their opposition to the pipeline.

Energy Transfer's suit is built on the assumption that Indigenous peoples did not have the authority, agency,

or wherewithal to organize the anti-DAPL movement. In that way, the SLAPP suit is a slap in the face to those Indigenous activist leaders.

Greenpeace's role in the protests was fairly limited. They joined sign-on letters, had a small handful of organizers in North Dakota who joined the effort, and shared information from allies and the news on social media.

That is according to Greenpeace's Chief Program Officer Tefere Gebre. Tefere and I go back a long way as brothers in the movement for working people. He says, "At the end of the day, it's not just Greenpeace we worry about. We believe this is going to be a blueprint for corporate America to go after whoever they want and scare their opposition out of existence."

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Vice President Harris and the rest of the agenda



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

The decision of President Biden to step down and pass the torch to Vice President Harris and the outpouring of support in over 2 million dollars in donations in forty-eight hours, along with more than 2500 pledged delegates, commitments from members of the Congress as well as Governors of several states and the support of grassroots people from all walks of life, gives new meaning to the statement: There is nothing like an idea whose time has come. Clearly America has an opportunity for a truly historic period. Now that Vice President Harris is making good on her promise "to earn the

nomination", it's up to the rest of us to carry out the agenda that will go with that Presidency.

The agenda includes not only getting Vice President Harris elected, not because she is a woman or because she is Black, but because she is qualified and equipped to do the job. Our "Project 2025" is to give her a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate so that she will have in place lawmakers that can pass the needed legislation to overcome the agendas of the MAGA Republicans committed to blocking her efforts. We can make the difference by voting into office Democrats in each and every state that has a Congressional race. We must be in control of the House of Representatives when the Electoral College votes are counted in Janu-

ary. A failure to regain the House of Representatives will allow the Republican control under Mike Johnson to block or delay the certification necessary for the transition of power to Harris as President.

Every opportunity to elect a Democrat in all 50 states is crucial. Only "we the people" getting out the vote, can overcome the planned destruction of democracy as we know it.

We must monitor the selection of Electoral College Delegates. We must monitor state efforts to reduce voting opportunities by changing polling sites and removing or reducing ballot boxes. We must ensure we have Voter Registration Officials to carry out the elections. If for some reason we can't vote, then we must work to register those who can. We must encourage the use of absentee

ballots, contact friends and relatives in other states and ensure that they both register and vote. We must make it unacceptable for those around us to tell us they are not going to vote or that their vote won't count when we know people died to ensure that we have the right to vote.

In Conclusion, our agenda is to not only support the election of Kamala Harris as President of the United States, but to prepare the way for her to have a successful Presidency, and to remove those in office who have already demonstrated a commitment to trampling on the oath of Office they took "to Defend the Constitution of the United States, so Help Them God."

The rest of the agenda is up to us both now, and all campaign challenges that stand to block our President To Be.

Keep up with the news
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Puberty's role in intensifying racial bias against Black children

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A new report from Psychology Today has revealed how puberty exacerbates racial bias against Black children, with the study's author highlighting the need for immediate educational and societal reforms.

Dr. Rona Carter, an associate professor at the University of Michigan and the report's author, explained that Black children are often perceived as older and less innocent than their white peers, leading to increased stress, anxiety, and identity struggles. "The psychological toll of being perceived as older can be profound for Black children," Carter wrote for Psychology Today, the world's largest mental health and behavioral science destination online, which includes free access to hundreds of thousands of professionals.



The issue of adultification is deeply rooted in societal biases and stereotypes, manifesting in harsher disciplinary actions in schools and more severe judgments in the criminal justice system. (Image via NNPA)

"Educational reforms are necessary to create an environment where Black children can thrive, including curricula that reflect the diverse histories and experiences of Black communities," Carter wrote.

The issue of adultification is deeply rooted in societal biases and stereotypes, manifesting in

harsher disciplinary actions in schools and more severe judgments in the criminal justice system. A 2022 study by researchers Gadsen and Lewis examined the experiences of Black adolescent girls, revealing that when these girls counter stereotypical images, they often face gendered racial microaggressions.

They determined this could lead to feelings of invisibility or hypervisibility in classrooms, contributing to over-discipline and a lack

of protection within the school system.

Historically, Black children have been perceived and treated as less innocent and more adult-like than their white counterparts, a bias amplified with puberty. Research indicates that Black girls often enter puberty earlier than children of other races, sometimes as young as 7 or 8 years old. This early development can make them appear older, exacerbating the adultification bias.

When Black children enter puberty early, societal misperceptions of their age and maturity intensify. For instance, a 10-year-old Black girl who looks physically mature might be expected to behave with a

level of responsibility and emotional control unrealistic for her actual age. This misperception often leads to disproportionately harsh disciplinary actions. Black girls are six times more likely to be suspended from school than white girls for similar behaviors, reflecting a bias that punishes them more severely.

Carter asserted that the consequences of adultification extend beyond the classroom. "Black boys who mature early are more likely to be seen as older and as threats, significantly increasing their interactions with law enforcement and the likelihood of being treated as adults in the

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SLAPP, from Page 3

That is 100% correct. This SLAPP suit is not just about tying up Greenpeace in court to hamper the organization's work. Energy Transfer and their legal team are trying to sue Greenpeace out of existence, with a ruling that could destroy this important organization. No organization like Greenpeace can afford a \$300 million (or more) judgment.

Energy Transfer had their initial lawsuit against Greenpeace thrown out of the federal court where they had first filed it. Just a week later they filed a new suit with similar allegations in North Dakota. North Dakota is one of the few states that does not have an anti-SLAPP law.

Right now, 34 states and the District of Columbia have anti-SLAPP statutes. Greenpeace actually was the target of another baseless SLAPP suit a few years ago by a Canadian logging company. That suit, how-

ever, was filed in California – a state with a strong anti-SLAPP law, so even before it was fully thrown out, Greenpeace was able to invoke that law to have certain claims in the suit dismissed.

This suit by Energy Transfer could mark the evolution of SLAPPs from merely a form of harassment to a tool to actually eliminate corporations' opponents. The rights of tribes, workers, consumers, and other everyday Americans are all at risk. This SLAPP suit against Greenpeace aims to crush people-powered movements before they can get off the ground.

Grassroots organizations should stand unified against Energy Transfer's tactics and others who may seek to replicate them. And Congress should pass a federal anti-SLAPP law to establish a uniform definition of what a SLAPP suit is across the country. Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland

introduced such a bill in the last Congress.

A crucial first step, though, is raising awareness. As Tefere Gebre points out, "The public understands that if corporations get to buy their own law it's the same as getting to buy their own elected officials... then what is left of our democracy?"

Gebre says, "We don't want people to just say 'poor Greenpeace,' we want people to speak up and actually stop this from happening. We're not asking for sympathy, we're asking for solidarity."

Hear, hear. We should all stand in solidarity against abusive SLAPP suits aimed at shutting down the people-powered movements for freedom and justice that have always held our nation accountable to its ideals and helped reshape society for the better.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

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DFW attorney Julio Paredes killed by vehicular homicide in Mexico

Julio Paredes, beloved father and immigration lawyer, was killed in his hometown of Durango, Mexico on July 24, 2024. An investigation is underway by local Mexican authorities.

On the night of July 24 2024, DFW attorney Julio Paredes was struck by a vehicle after attending a fair in his hometown of Durango, Mexico. He later passed away due to complications from the incident on July 27. A suspect, local resident



Jahaziel Adonay, was taken and beloved immigration lawyer by the Dallas-Fort Worth community for his

Paredes was a known Worth community for his

impactful work helping families throughout the metroplex.

After immigrating to Texas, Julio received his accounting degree from the University of Texas at Arlington which he used to start his own tax business in DFW. Paredes then went on to receive his law degree from the University of North Texas, kick-starting his own legal practice representing and advocating for immigrant families

across the metroplex.

According to family members, Paredes dedicated his life to fulfilling his American dream. He leaves behind five children and a wife.

Local Mexican authorities currently have images of the incident and are investigating the case as a homicide. A court date was set for today (July 31) and the results of this hearing were not available at press time..

The family is urging for

support across the DFW community and all social media platforms to ensure the suspect is prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

“Help us bring justice for this DFW father, husband, son and active community member by creating digital awareness through sharing, commenting, and liking the following Facebook post, and Instagram post using the hashtag #JusticiaPara-Julio,” the family wrote in a statement.

NNPA demands NABJ rescind invitation to Donald Trump

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has forcefully condemned the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) for including former President Donald Trump in a panel during its annual convention. The stunning invitation has sparked widespread outrage within the journalism community.

“I strongly oppose Trump’s participation in the NABJ annual convention and career fair,” declared NNPA National Chair Bobby Henry. The NNPA represents over 250 African American-owned newspapers and media



companies and has been a pillar of the Black Press of America for 197 years. “His divisive rhetoric and actions have harmed marginalized communities, particularly the Black community,” Henry continued. “Allowing him a platform at this event undermines

the NABJ’s values of inclusion and solidarity and risks normalizing his damaging behavior.”

Henry emphasized the necessity of Black journalists to foster dialogues that uplift and empower marginalized voices, not those who have historically op-

posed minority interests.

Founded in 1975, the NABJ is a prominent organization for journalists of color in America. The decision to invite the controversial, twice-impeached, and 34-times convicted felon and former president has

triggered a significant backlash from its members. “I have decided to step down as co-chair from this year’s #NABJ24 convention in Chicago,” tweeted NABJ convention co-chair Karen Attiah to her 234,000 followers. “To the journalists interviewing Trump, I wish them the best of luck. For everyone else, I’m looking forward to meeting and reconnecting with all of you in the Windy City.” Attiah noted that NABJ leadership did not consult her in the decision to provide Trump with a platform.

Journalist Kathia Woods, who will host a panel during the event, voiced her disappointment but affirmed her commitment to attending the convention due to her

responsibilities. “I’m here for my young journalists to support and will continue to advocate for you,” Woods stated. “Also, Brandon is a friend, and he and his team worked really hard.”

Prominent journalists April Ryan and Yamiche Alcindor, both of whom Trump has previously targeted, also condemned the NABJ’s decision. However, Jemele Hill and Simone Sanders argued that the criticism might be premature. “We interviewed the President of the Heritage Foundation on @TheWeekend-MSNBC,” Sanders wrote. “Some people thought it was a bad idea, but we asked real questions and

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2547	Year of the Dragon Overall Odds are 1 in 4.10	\$5	9/18/24	3/17/25
2521	\$500,000 Winnings Overall Odds are 1 in 4.07	\$10	9/18/24	3/17/25
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2423	\$1,000,000 Diamond Riches Overall Odds are 1 in 3.49	\$50	9/18/24	3/17/25

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Omega Psi Phi breaks out the tech to inspire area students in STEM

The brothers of the Alpha Iota Iota Graduate chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated partnered with Suffolk Construction and held a demonstration of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) construction technologies at the Boys and Girls Club in Plano.

The highlight of the demonstration was Spot the Agile Mobile Robot. Special thanks to Kennedy Bruce, a fraternity member and Sr Quality Control Manager at Suffolk for spearheading the effort, and Josh Weyand, Director Emerging Technology at Suffolk for helping lead the demonstration.

The students at the Boy and Girls Club were really excited and engaged with the activities. The students were able to give the robotic dog commands, ex-

perience virtual reality and see how building plans are constructed.

Alpha Iota Iota Graduate Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated provides programs and services for the North Dallas community. This is achieved by its members and affiliates for the purpose of (1) Advancing Literacy and Scholarship, (2) Uplifting the Character of our community's youth, and (3) Promoting Social and Political Empowerment. This is accomplished by the fulfillment and execution of the Internationally Mandated Programs of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., including but not limited to the following: Achievement Week, Black Male Project, Talent Hunt, UNCF, Essay Contest, Mentor Program, and the Senior Citizen Project.



Courtesy photos

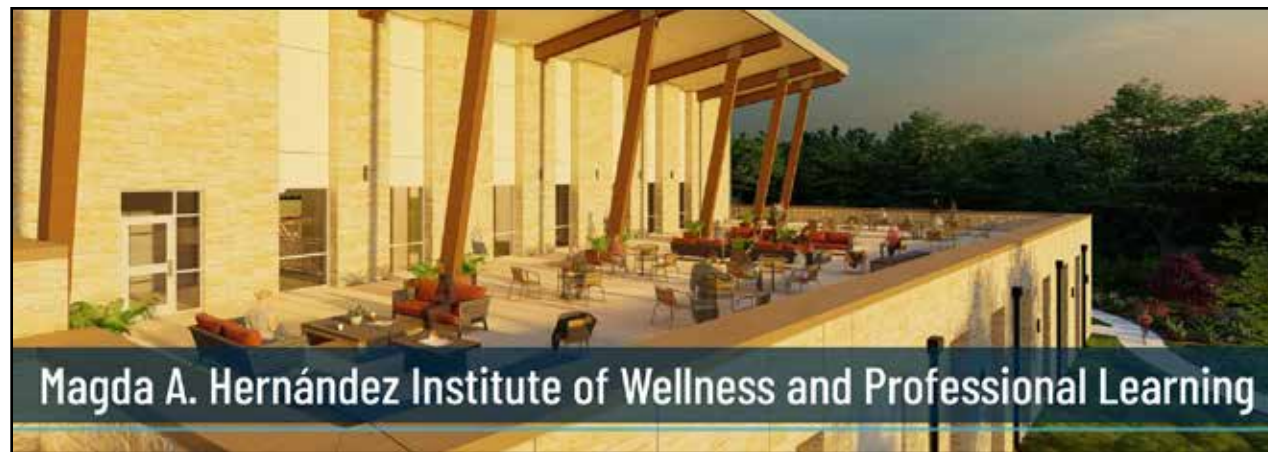
Irving ISD opens one-of-a-kind facility focused on employee wellness, learning

Employee wellness has been a focal point of the superintendency of Irving ISD's leader, Magda A. Hernández.

Long before self-care became a trending buzzword, Superintendent Hernández was already pushing for it. Her "Self-Care isn't Selfish. It's Necessary." initiative played a crucial role in empowering Irving ISD staff to overcome the challenges that came with COVID.

She has also been intentional about growing the district's Employee Wellness Department, exponentially increasing the support and resources made available to staff.

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Magda A. Hernández Institute of Wellness and Professional Learning

limiting its use, Superintendent Hernández maximized the opportunity to create something truly unique for the district and her community. Her vision wasn't just about constructing a building.

It was about creating a space that supports and uplifts all Irving stakeholders. At its February 26, 2024,

meeting, the Irving ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the Irving ISD Professional Learning and Wellness Center in her honor.

The Magda A. Hernández Institute of Wellness and Professional Learning is a direct result of her innovative thinking and commitment to making a differ-

ence.

On July 24, Irving ISD hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the one-of-a-kind facility. Attendees heard from Superintendent Hernández, as well as representatives from WRA Architects Inc. and Lee Lewis Construction Inc. In addition, guests had the opportunity to experience some

of the many services that will be offered to all staff beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, including chair massages and a yoga class.

Sharing a site with Singley Academy and the Elise Walker Outdoor Learning Center, the two-story building features a flexible layout that emphasizes the nature preserve area north

of the facility and a unique biophilic design.

The spaces consist of a professional learning spaces, a wellness room (equipped treadmills, free weights, medicine balls, etc.), a meditation room, flexible office spaces, meeting spaces for special events, an outdoor patio open to events and classes and reservation-based complimentary wellness offerings (yoga, fitness, nutrition, financial literacy classes and more), all aimed at enhancing the well-being and professional growth of the Irving ISD family and incorporating wellness into everyday life and the district culture.

For more information about MAHI, visit IrvingISD.net/MAHI.

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Biden's plan for Supreme Court reform: Term limits to restore democratic legitimacy

By Kevin J. McMahon
Trinity College
via Minnesota
Spokesman-Recorder



To emphasize the importance of an election, presidential candidates often predict that the next president will have an opportunity to fill one or two vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, this may not be true in the case of a hypothetical President Kamala Harris. Even if Harris were to win in November 2024 and then win reelection in 2028, she may not have a chance to reshape the court by filling the seat of a departing justice, especially a conservative one.

Jimmy Carter was the only one-term president who didn't fill a Supreme Court vacancy. No president who won reelection has been denied this opportunity. In contrast, President Donald Trump was able to appoint three justices in a single term.

This inconsistency is one of the reasons why President Joe Biden's call for Supreme Court reform, which Vice President Harris supports, should be considered a meaningful attempt to address a relatively new development that has diminished the people's ability—through their elected representatives in the

White House and the Senate—to shape an unelected Supreme Court.

Biden's reform plan, outlined in an op-ed and a speech at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, includes two major legislative elements: 18-year term limits for justices and a "binding code of conduct" for the court's members. The former proposal is particularly relevant for the future makeup of the court and the presidential election in November.

The Supreme Court's place in American democracy

While every child in America learns in school about the Supreme Court's independence, historically, the justices have not been walled off from the larger world, issuing decisions while wearing political blinders.

Instead, they have been aligned with the enduring political regimes that dominated much of American history. Consider, for ex-

ample, Thomas Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party and Abraham Lincoln's Republican Party. Each party won six presidential elections in a row. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Democratic Party won five straight presidential elections. From 1968-1992, Republicans won five of six presidential elections.

The court's alignment with a dominant regime mattered greatly for American democracy. It was the primary reason political scientist Robert McCloskey concluded in his widely read book, "The American Supreme Court," first published in 1960, that the justices rarely "lagged far behind nor forged far ahead of America." Instead, McCloskey concluded, the court had typically stayed in line "with the mainstreams of American life and seldom overestimated its own power resources."

A great deal has changed in the six-plus decades since McCloskey wrote those

words. As I argue in my recently published book, "A Supreme Court Unlike Any Other: The Deepening Divide Between the Justices and the People," those changes have undermined the court's democratic legitimacy because the electoral link that once existed doesn't anymore. Democratic candidates have won the popular vote in seven of the past eight presidential elections. Yet, six of the nine current justices have been appointed by Republican presidents.

One of the key changes has been the length of time justices serve today. Consider that when Chief Justice John Marshall died in 1835, he set a record for service – at 34 years and five months – that would only be surpassed by one justice over the next 140 years. Indeed, from 1789 to 1971, justices served just over 16 years on average.

Today, however, presidents of both parties choose young nominees – generally around 50 – with the expectation that they will serve several decades. As I write in my book, "if the justices of today stay on their current course, Marshall's mark will become commonplace. Assuming all stay on the Court until their eighty-fifth birthday – a few months older than the mean age of the last five

justices to depart – they will have served thirty-three years on average."

No change for another decade?

Consider that soon after he won his brutal confirmation fight in 1991 at the young age of 43, Clarence Thomas pledged to serve until he was 86. While those words were spoken long ago and may not be fulfilled, they highlight a central concern about the court's place in American democracy today.

To help explain, let's take Thomas at his word and assume for a moment that he's able and, indeed, does fulfill that promise he made long ago.

That would mean that at 76, Thomas—currently the oldest justice—would stay on the court for another decade. As noted above, this is not a wild assumption, as justices routinely stay on the court well into their 80s. Recall that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was 87 when she died in 2020, and John Paul Stevens was 90 when he retired in 2010.

Let's further assume that none of the other eight younger justices die or retire before Thomas. That would mean there would not be another Supreme Court vacancy until 2034 when Thomas departs after 43 years – nearly seven years longer than the cur-

rent record held by William O. Douglas.

It would also mean that if Harris were elected to the presidency in November and reelected in 2028, she would not have an opportunity to alter the court.

The court and political change

Enabling change is a centerpiece of democracy. However, in choosing like-minded youthful nominees intended to serve for decades, presidents hope to insulate policy from the ballot box.

Presidents admit as much by often saying that one of the most significant decisions they make in the Oval Office is their selections for the Supreme Court.

Why? It's because those presidents understand that the justices will continue to affect American law and politics long after their presidencies have come to an end and long after the elections they won have faded from our collective memories.

For much of American history, justices served an average of approximately ten and a half decades. However, only one justice appointed in the last fifty years—David Souter—has served less than two decades.

So, while the rules of life-

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LEE, from Page 2

Prevention Consortium, which work to center Black and brown gun violence prevention practitioners and scale up life-saving interventions related to urban and communal violence.

They said Freedom to Live is born from the idea that the Black community should be able to "live freely and without fear." Organizers are calling for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing

Act, which Republicans in the U.S. Senate have stalled. "The way to really engage voters to go to the polls is to make sure they know we're not just going for a celebratory vote. Instead, we're going to the polls with our bag of demands with us," said Tamika Mallory, co-founder of Until Freedom, an intersectional social justice organization.

Mallory emphasized the

need to address income inequality, educational challenges, and police violence. She referenced the case of Sonya Massey, an unarmed 36-year-old Black woman and mother of two, who was fatally shot by former deputy Sean Grayson in her Illinois home. Grayson's troubled history in law enforcement, including prior disciplinary issues, highlights systemic problems in policing that Project FREEDOM aims to address.

Meanwhile, Freedom to

Thrive calls for expanding the Child Tax Credit, increasing the federal minimum wage to match inflation, and a pilot program for Universal Basic Income in low-income communities nationwide. Additionally, Freedom to Learn focuses on education, including canceling student debt and protecting Black American history in public schools. Freedom to Vote aims to strengthen voting rights, advocate for the John Lewis Voting Rights

Advancement Act's passage, and reshape the U.S. Supreme Court.

Michael Blake, founder of Project FREEDOM and CEO of KAIROS Democracy Project, emphasized the urgency of the initiative. "Our democracy is under siege by a man and political machine that put themselves above all those in whom they detect 'otherness,'" said Blake a former vice chair of the Democratic Party.

"We cannot afford to for-

get the pain inflicted on our people throughout Donald Trump's administration, and we certainly cannot afford the destructiveness a second term would normalize," Blake stated.

Project FREEDOM officials said, "Make no mistake: Communities of color are the frontline communities targeted by the poison that is Project 2025's Christian Nationalist vision for the future, and Project FREEDOM is the antidote."

Dallas Amateur Championship highlights the talents of local golfers

The seventh annual Dallas Amateur Championship (DAC), held at Trinity Forest Golf Club July 26-28, 2024, showcased the impressive talents of 117 golfers from the Dallas Fort-Worth Metroplex. Over the course of the three-day championship, there were five Divisions that competed for the title of "Champion". The event had a great crowd turnout with members of the community coming out to support their local athletes.

With an impressive score of 69 for Round One, 66 for Round Two and 70 For Round Three, Ryan Burgess won the Men's Open Division for a total of -11. Trent Groth was the winner of the Men's Net Division. He claimed the victory with a score of 71 for Round One



and 67 for Round Two for a total of -6. Another victor who was crowned was the Men's Senior Open Division winner, John Donahue. With a total score of -7 Donahue shot 67 in Round One and 70 in Round Two, earning his title of "Cham-

pion." The fourth athlete to take home the trophy at the 2024 Dallas Amateur Championship was Anna Schultz. The Women's Senior Open Division winner finished with a score of 82 for Round One and 75 for Round Two



Courtesy photos

totaling to +13. Finally, the Women's Open Division champion was Elisabeth Rau. She won her division with a score of 74 for Round One and a 73 for Round Two for a total of +3. "This is my second year playing [in the DAC]," Rau said. "It has been such an honor to be here supporting a wonderful cause and

playing on such a fantastic course." Interns from the I AM a Golfer Foundation (IAMGF) play an essential role in the Dallas Amateur Qualifiers and Championship. This year the foundation had 20 interns supporting the event by helping with the setup and breakdown of the tournament, player scoring, golfer regis-

tration prior to tee off, tournament coordination, marketing and managing social media pages providing live highlights of the event. Omni Hotels & Resorts, based in Dallas, once again signed on as the Presenting Sponsor of this prestigious event. In addition to Omni Hotels & Resorts, SMU Cox School of Business, Align Capital Partners, The Louis L. Borick Foundation, Charles Schwab Bank, H-E-B, and others have also signed on in support of the Championship which benefits the I AM a Golfer Foundation and its mission to be a catalyst for community renewal and transformation in Southern Dallas through the Programming, Preservation and Promotion of the historic Cedar Crest Golf Course.

Paul Quinn College receives largest gift in school's history

\$20 million donation will increase opportunity for students, further advancing its mission of eradicating intergenerational poverty

Dallas' only HBCU had quite a welcomed surprise last week, one that will have a lasting impact on future students and, in turn, the greater community. Paul Quinn College, the creator of the Urban Work College model and only minority-serving, federally recognized Work College in America, has received a \$20 million gift from an anonymous donor.

This transformative grant, the largest in the institution's 152-year history, ushers in a new era of opportunity for the students of the Quinnite Nation. "The impact of this gift on our institution and our students, staff, faculty, and alumni cannot be overstated. This moment belongs to every Quinnite who toiled in the vineyard hoping and praying that a moment like this one would come,"

said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College. "We will be eternally grateful to the donors who made this possible. We will never forget them or their faith in our work." Among the investments that this gift will allow are:

- Expand PQC's ability to provide scholarship support for students.
- Significantly increase the College's endowment.
- Establish an endowed

Faculty Chair for the Banking & Finance Program.

- Bolster the Fundraising & Philanthropy Program.
- Expand the Office of Development.

- Support the Every Quin- nite is an Entrepreneur Pro- gram.
- Endow the upkeep and maintenance of the Col- lege's physical plant.

- Enhance the school's outdoor collaborative learning spaces.

To invest or partner with Paul Quinn College, please visit www.pqc.edu/invest.



Paul Quinn proudly educates students of all races and socio-economic classes under the banner of its institutional ethos, WE over Me. It is the first Urban Work College and only minority-serving, federally recognized work college in America. Paul Quinn is viewed as one of the most innovative colleges in America, one that continuously expands the boundaries of higher education and community advocacy in its quest to eradicate intergenerational poverty. (David Wilfong / NDG)

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Hugh Jackman and Ryan Reynolds in *Deadpool & Wolverine*. (Image via NNPA)

Film Review: 'Deadpool & Wolverine' just doesn't quite carry the weight

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) In the great pantheon of superhero movies, the original *Deadpool* (2016) took its rightful place among *The Dark Knight*, *Black Panther*, *Wonder Woman*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, *Avengers: Endgame*... It's R-rated niche, visual splendor, graphic violence and potty mouth humor distinguished it. The generic *Deadpool 2* was a dump. Can *Deadpool & Wolverine* replicate the first one's sleazy luster? Certainly, its rampant, filthy, graphic, gross, profane, overwritten dialogue is up to snuff. But curiously the action scenes in this action/comedy/sci-fi movie aren't as good.

Actor/writer/producer Ryan Reynolds drolly spreads his warped sexual fantasies, traumatic childhood abuse disorder, pansexual-wishful thinking, violent tendencies, wet dreams, pop culture jabs and social observations all over the dialogue. E.g., at one point, as he threatens to complain to a higher source, he deadpans: "I have a black belt in Karen!" His very creative garbage pit of tongue-in-cheek words, thoughts, phrases, sentences and projections provides the real

fuel for this sequel. Reynolds' Wade Wilson/Deadpool character spews that offensive BS non-stop, for 2h 7m (editors Dean Zimmerman, Shane Reid). So, for *Avengers/X-men* fans looking for fun, keep your ears open, the real party is in the constant chatter.

Those looking for a storyline that's even more genius than that of previous Marvel sagas, beware. That kind of innovation is not evident anywhere in this script's long-winded narrative. Reynolds brilliant, demented mind, along with the dodgy brains of the scriptwriting team of Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick gets spread too thin. Too much time sarcastically breaking the 4th wall and bitching about Disney buying 20th Century Fox and merging two separate Marvel worlds. Too little time on inventive storytelling.

Deadpool (Reynolds) is adrift and licking the emotional wounds he suffers due to *Avengers* envy. As he looks for the remains of his old friend Logan/Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), armed forces sent by the Time Variance Authority (TVA), at the behest of TVA's agent Mr. Paradox (Matthew Macfadyen), try to bring him in to their home office. After auditioning many Wolverine-

type clones, *Deadpool* hooks up with one drunkard (Jackman). Eventually the two reconstituted anti-superheroes learn that the TVA's fiendish plot involves severing timelines using a Time Ripper device that could end the universe as they know it. The duo winds up in "The Void," a chasm land run by the very devious and deadly Cassandra Nova (Emma Corrin, *The Crown*). They have 72 hours to find a solution, or everything goes kaput.

The stale script leads all the characters towards a cataclysmic, world-be-gone, do-or-die ending. Marvel universe fans and the Comicon crowd will watch with bated breath. Action fans looking for next level originality in the genre won't be impressed. Newbies may be mildly entertained. The throngs of *Deadpool* and *Wolverine* replicas and wannabes in the footage become an overused device. Adding supporting roles that border on character cameos—Elektra (Jennifer Garner), Blade (Wesley Snipes), Gambit (Tatum Channing) and others—seasons the soup. But not enough. Proving quantity is not a substitute for quality.

Tim Miller, a former commercial director, gave

See FILM, Page 11

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Grammy, ACM and CMA award winning Gary Morris brings his signature hits to Arlington Music Hall

On August 8, Broadway and Country legend Gary Morris is performing in his home state at Arlington Music Hall. Known worldwide for his vocal mastery, Gary mesmerizes audiences by the pure beauty and inspiration of his voice via hits like the award-winning *Wind Beneath My Wings* and breakout songs from *“Les Misérables”* and *“La Bohème.”*

The show will take place on Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in

the Arlington Music Hall (224 N. Center Street in Arlington). Ticket prices start at \$43.

Throughout his career, Gary Morris has captivated audiences with his distinctive voice and heartfelt performances. His impressive repertoire includes chart-topping hits such as *“Why Lady Why,”* *“The Love She Found in Me”* and *“Baby Bye Bye.”* Morris’ original rendition of the classic *“Wind Beneath*

My Wings” won both the Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music *“Song of the Year”* awards. Morris was also named Billboard’s *“Male Artist of the Year”* in 1982.

Morris’ versatility as an artist spans across music, theater, and television, cementing his legacy as a multifaceted talent. The Texas-bred tenor was tapped to play the lead role of Jean Valjean in Broadway’s epic hit *“Les*

Misérables,” to critical acclaim. This role led to a Drama Desk Award nomination. His famous rendition of *“Bring Him Home”* on the platinum-selling, Grammy Award-winning international cast album resulted in a Command Performance by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Additional Broadway roles include Rodolfo in the production of Puccini’s opera *“La Bohème”* with Linda Ronstadt.



Gary Morris / Facebook

Lifetime announces biopic ‘Miss Cleo: Her Rise and Fall’ starring Robin ‘The Lady of Rage’ Allen premiering Aug. 10

(Black PR Wire) LOS ANGELES, CA – Lifetime expands the network’s summer movie slate with all-new biopic about beloved television personality and cult icon, Miss Cleo: Her Rise and Fall, premiering on Lifetime Saturday, August 10 at 8/7c, followed by the documentary Call Me Miss Cleo at 10/9c. Starring Robin “The Lady of Rage” Allen (On Ten,

Tha Dogg Pound & Snoop Dogg: Who da Hardest) along with Shane Johnson (Power) and Ian Bochen (Yellowstone) and directed by Tim Reid (Sister, Sister) the epic journey picks up in the late 90s’ when, single mom Youree Dell Harris finds herself desperate to take care of her family and takes a job at the Psychic Readers Network — only to become one of the net-

works most beloved personalities, Miss Cleo. But her challenges don’t end there and when the network faces allegations of fraud and deception, they turn their sights on Miss Cleo. For the first time ever, Miss Cleo’s side of the story will finally be told.

Known for her work during the late 1990’s and early 2000’s with the Psy-

chic Readers Network, this professional telephone and television psychic Youree Dell Harris (Allen) was launched into the pop culture zeitgeist when the network’s infomercials took off, making her a cult icon

as the TV persona Miss Cleo. Fondly remembered for donning a colorful turban in a candlelit room, Miss Cleo dutifully listened to callers detailing the most intimate details of their

lives. Miss Cleo ultimately became the face of the Psychic Readers Network, earning the trust and loyal-

See ALLEN, Page 13

Historic Victory for Black Farmers: \$2 Billion in relief payments announced

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

This week marks a monumental victory for Black farmers as they begin receiving payments from the \$2.2 billion Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP). After decades of advocacy and struggle, John Boyd, President of the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA), declared the day “a huge win.”

Nearly two years ago, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Section 22007, authorizing compensation for farmers who faced racial discrimination in the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) farm lending practices before 2021. This week, around 43,000 farmers will receive payments of up to



Photo via NNPA

\$500,000, with the average award being \$82,000.

Reflecting on this long-awaited achievement, Boyd recounted his journey, which began almost 40 years ago when he first experienced these injustices. “No matter how it is sliced, the \$2.2 billion in payouts is historic,” he said. This follows previous settlements, including a \$1 billion payout in 1999 and

a \$1.25 billion settlement in 2013.

The NBFA’s relentless efforts have also paved the way for similar settlements with Hispanic and women farmers (\$1.3 billion), Native American farmers (\$800 million), and the Cobell case settlement (\$3.4 billion).

Boyd’s dedication to justice has been challenging. He faced hateful phone

calls, mail, and even death threats. Despite these obstacles, he remained steadfast in his fight. “Total restoration is impossible, but for me, the fight was about justice,” Boyd emphasized.

Midtown Group, an unbiased third-party administrator, oversaw the DFAP’s administration to ensure a fair adjudication procedure for each farmer’s case. Although the 40-page applica-

tion process and long wait times added to the farmers’ pain, the payments represent a bittersweet victory. Boyd acknowledged that issues such as banks denying operating funds or farm ownership loans persist, as do recent allegations of racial discrimination against companies like John Deere.

For those denied assistance through the DFAP, there is no appeal or review process, a reality Boyd profoundly regrets. Many Black farmers have died waiting for justice, but today’s announcement brings some closure. Boyd reflected on his tireless efforts, from lobbying Congress to protesting with his mules “Struggle” and “Forty Acres,” and riding his tractor, “Justice,” to Washington. Listening to Senior White House Advisor Stephen Benjamin detail

the award notifications and check disbursement made it all worthwhile. “Today is a huge win for the NBFA,” he declared.

In October 2022, civil rights attorney Ben Crump announced a class action suit against the United States government on behalf of the NBFA. The lawsuit came after findings that Black farmers lost approximately \$326 billion of land due to discrimination during the 20th century. Crump and the farmers argued that the federal government breached its contract with socially disadvantaged farmers under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Despite these challenges, President Biden reaffirmed his commitment to addressing inequities in farming.

See FARMERS, Page 12

FILM, from Page 9

an arresting style to the first Deadpool. Director David Leitch’s work on Deadpool 2 looked like a hack job. Shawn Levy’s (Night at the Museum) direction of this chapter is somewhere in-between the two. He isn’t an auteur, like Miller. Yet he isn’t completely style-less like Leitch. This footage is kinetic. Lots of high-energy and mind-numbing fights that almost wear out their welcome. Slow motion and freeze frame are used accordingly. Blood spurts, limbs are lost, heads decapitated, hearts speared... It’s the cavalcade of midnight-movie violence fans expect. Not more.

Fight sequences between Deadpool and Wolverine aren’t that compelling because their bodies regenerate so fast, and you know neither will die during these skirmishes. So why bother? There isn’t one action scene that’s as memorable or mind blowing as the upstairs-downstairs-upstairs passage in the gorgeously photographed and stunt-choreographed John

Wick: Chapter 4. That’s the new high-bar standard. Levy doesn’t come close. And oddly the most repulsive and humorous scenes are not the violent ones with the tricky stunts. It’s the ones in which a mangy little dog (Peggy, once dubbed “Britain’s Ugliest Dog”), with a tongue longer than Route 66, slobbers all over Deadpool’s face. Ugh. You’ll need PTSD therapy.

Visually all looks OK. Just OK. The netherworld called The Void posed a great chance for the production designer (Ray Chan), art directors (Victoria Allwood, Tim Blake), set decorator (Naomie Moore) and costume designers (Graham Churchyard, Mayes C. Rubeo) to set a time and place that would be wondrous and indelible. Instead, the colors look parched, the sets are bland and costumes too. Also, either the computer-generated images are way too soft, or the cinematography (George Richmond) failed to make these visions clear, vivid and color satu-

rated. In George Miller’s recent Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga, the director and his amazing tech crew created worlds within worlds that were stunning and unforgettable. No setting, scenery or location in this film reaches that level.

The very impish Reynolds can deliver a biting remark, sexual innuendo, inflammatory dialogue and the most morose thoughts better than any other actor living today. He’s funny as f--- and will always be, no matter how good or bad the movie. Jackman is his perfect foil and partner in complete debauchery. They have an undeniable chemistry. They’re the kind of guys who drink up all the liquor in a bar, close the place down and are still looking for a brawl after everyone else has gone home. Macfadyen, Jon Favreau and Morena Baccarin provide great backup support. Leslie Uggams as Blind Al, Deadpool’s roommate, throws lots of shade and funny barbs his way. The cast’s comradery is never in question.

The only way this sequel will ever prove its worthi-

ness to the OG Deadpool, and the other high-realm superhero movies, is if it

makes a killing at the box office. Profits may redeem what it’s lacking in quality.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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Registration now open for CBCF's 53rd annual Legislative Conference

(Black PR Wire) Washington, D.C. – The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) is excited to announce that registration for the 53rd Annual Legislative Conference is now open. This seminal convening will be held from September 11 – 15, 2024, in Washington, D.C., under the theme, “From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices,” reflecting CBCF’s commitment to unity, progress, and advocacy for economic prosperity and social justice for the global Black community.

“This year’s Annual Legislative Conference theme, ‘From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices,’

is an intentional call to action. It embodies our ongoing march toward progress and our dedication to fostering innovation, advocacy, and collaboration. With equality and opportunity as our pillars, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation is proud to host this annual convening that advances prosperity, ignites passion for change, and amplifies voices that will shape the future for us all,” proclaims Nicole Austin-Hillery, President and CEO of the CBCF.

As the nation’s leading Black public policy conference, CBCF’s Annual Legislative Conference offers over one hundred free in-person issue forums and es-

tablished brain trusts, with select virtual programming. The conference will focus on the following thematic programming tracks, which are key to progressing from vision to victory:

- Path to Progress and Prosperity: Charting a clear course for economic growth and social advancement.
- Fostering Opportunities: Amplifying Black voices to create opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.
- Advancing Social and Economic Justice: Advocating for policies and practices that promote fairness, equity, and opportunity for all.

“The collective power of Black voices guides our journey from vision to victory. Together, we champion progress, prosperity, and justice for all,” said Representative Terri A. Sewell (D-AL7), Chair of the CBCF Board of Directors. “Given all that is at stake, this year’s conference will be a pivotal moment for current leaders and future changemakers to come together, collaborate, inspire, and drive the change needed in our communities and our country.

Trailblazers and influential congressional leaders Representative Troy Carter (D-LA2) and Rep-

See CBCF, Page 13

FARMERS, from Page 11

“Farmers and ranchers work around the clock to put food on our tables and steward our Nation’s land. But for too long, many farmers and ranchers experienced discrimination in farm loan programs

and have not had the same access to federal resources and support. I promised to address this inequity when I became President. Today that promise has become a reality,” Biden stated.

Enertech Resources, LLC proposes to build a 218-foot Self-Support Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of Davis Road, Grand Prairie, Ellis County, Texas 76065. Lat: [32-31-10.408] Long: [-97-4-27.869]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp. Cate Wiggins, c.wiggins@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704. 512.519.9388.*

NABJ, from Page 5

got him on the record on key issues. Folks shouldn’t assume that all the journalists interviewing Trump at NABJ aren’t going to ask real questions or hold him accountable.”

Roland Martin, another prominent NABJ member, added that he found it troubling that no Black male journalists were invited to question Trump. Like so many others, Martin vehemently objected to includ-

ing Fox News personality and Trump apologist Harris Faulkner, who will serve as moderator.

As the backlash grows, NABJ President Ken Lemon faces increasing calls for his resignation. “The NNPA is resolutely opposed to Donald Trump being scheduled to speak at the 2024 NABJ National Convention in Chicago,” stated NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F.

Chavis Jr. “For 197 years, the Black Press of America has been on the frontline of Black America’s struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. It is a tragic affront to Black America for NABJ to permit Trump to spew racist lies, hatred, and fascism at an NABJ national convention. The NNPA urgently calls upon NABJ leadership to immediately rescind the invitation. The eyes of Black America and the world are watching with shame and disgust.”

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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After8toEducate offers an umbrella solution to allow unsheltered high school students to develop academically, emotionally, and socially to ultimately live healthy and productive lives. In collaboration with the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) and local organizations, After8 provides a three-pillar program that addresses the unsheltered youth that are currently enrolled in DISD high schools and support immediate needs of other homeless young adults ages 14-21

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City of Irving offers new hires an incentive to Choose Irving

Attracting the best and brightest job candidates to the City of Irving is a top priority, according to a recent memo released by city staff.

New full-time employees hired by Sept. 30 can earn an additional \$3,000 - and more for mission-critical positions.

Incentive payments are made as long as there are no attendance or disciplin-



ary issues.

Eligible new hires will receive:

- \$1,000 after the first 30 days.
- \$1,000 after the first six

months.

- \$1,000 after the first year.

Mission-Critical Positions Available:

- Animal Services – Vet, Vet Tech, Animal Care Tech and Animal Control Officers

- Fleet – Mechanics
- Fire – Firefighters
- Information Technology – IT Support Specialist
- Parks and Recreation –

Groundskeeper (full-time) year.

- Police – Dispatchers, Detention Officers
- Water Utilities Utility – Pumping Operator and Tech I/II

Eligible new hires in this special category will receive:

- \$1,666 after the first 30 days.
- \$1,667 after the first six months.
- \$1,667 after the first

Police Officers
Eligible new Police Officers will receive:

- \$2,666 after the first 30 days.
- \$2,667 after the orientation period.
- \$2,667 after two years employment.

To view available positions, visit CityofIrving.org/Jobs.

ALLEN, from Page 10

ty for those that called her.

Years later, Harris' world was turned upside down with complaints that the Psychic Readers Network was fraudulent and spread false advertising.

Facing angry fans, Harris was forced to defend her reputation to clear her name and escape financial

devastation.

Miss Cleo: Her Rise and Fall also stars Daphne Maxwell Reid, Cocoa Brown, Dwayne Boyd, Towanda Braxton, Jaida Standberry, Marley Taylor, Amelia Young, Stevie Baggs Jr., and Leslie Black. Miss Cleo: Her Rise and Fall is produced by Hil-

lionaire Productions for Lifetime and produced by Jami McCoy-Lankford and Samone Norsworthy, Anthony Standberry, Ahmed Hussain and Jami McCoy-Lankford serve as executive producers and William J. Cone serves as consulting producer. Tim Reid directs a screenplay by Ca-

mara Davis.

Call Me Miss Cleo the documentary chronicles the icons rise, fall, and reinvention of the '90s TV psychic Miss Cleo. Known for her larger-than-life persona and memorable accent, Miss Cleo, born Youree Dell Harris, garnered a nationwide cult following on the

Psychic Readers Network, a popular telephone hotline that later came under fire for its alleged deceptive practices.

Featuring interviews with celebrities and those closest to the self-proclaimed voodoo priestess, the film explores the many layers behind a complicated and

charismatic figure. Call Me Miss Cleo was produced by Gunpowder & Sky for HBO Max. Van Toffler, Floris Bauer, Barry Barclay, Anne Loder, Jennifer O'Connell, and Lizzie Fox serve as executive producers. The documentary is directed by Celia Aniskovich and Jennifer Brea.

CBCF, from Page 12

representative Lucy McBath (D-GA7) will serve as this year's Annual Legislative Conference Honorary Co-chairs. Their unwavering leadership and dedication to justice and equality will ensure that conference participants are inspired to collaborate, amplify and act to create a better future.

The CBCF 53rd Annual Legislative Conference also welcomes the return of its signature events – the National Town Hall, A Day of Healing (formerly the Prayer Breakfast), the

Gospel Extravaganza, the Black Party, and the Phoenix Awards Dinner – designed to empower and celebrate Black leaders.

By registering for the CBCF 53rd Annual Legislative Conference, participants join a community dedicated to amplifying Black voices and driving transformative change. Do not miss this opportunity to be part of the movement from vision to victory.

For more information and to register, visit cbc-finc.org/ALC.

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Who Is Shadowing Me?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I've been bouncing back after a health hiatus and thought I was doing well. I still have some coughs and sneezes, but they are slowly diminishing. It's good to get back on schedule again.

The other day, I had to get some gas for my vehicle. It's been a long time since I put gas in that vehicle, and it was about time to get filled up. When I got to the gas station, I didn't know if

I needed to go to the bank and get a loan for my gas. Prices are ridiculous. When I first got my license, gas was \$0.29 a gallon.

When I left that morning, I noticed a shadow on my left side as I was driving. I looked to the left, and saw nothing. I was sure there was something there because of the shadow.

Throughout the day, there was a scary shadow on my left side that I couldn't identify.

I didn't know if somebody was following me and if they were, why?

Of course, thinking the way I do, it could be an angel following me to make



DWG Studio

sure I got back home safe.

When I got home, I told The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I believed an angel was shadowing me to make sure I didn't get hurt.

She just looked at me, laughed and said, "What angel would waste his time with you?"

Without thinking, I responded, "Well, you did."

She looked at me with one of "those stares" and I realized I had said that phrase out loud. That's my problem. I cannot keep such phrases in my head.

Throughout the rest of the day, I had this shadow to the left of me. No matter

where I went, there was this shadow. I could never make it out, I could never see it, and I didn't know what it was.

After a while, something like this can work on your nerves. I don't know what's wrong. Maybe I'm losing it.

Throughout the day, I went about very carefully, not knowing who was shadowing me. I got very frustrated with this, not realizing what in the world was going on.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage suggested that maybe it was old age catching up with me. Then, she laughed as she walked

away.

I had a lot of places to go and was quite frustrated with this thing shadowing me.

Then, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked if I could go to Publix and pick up some groceries she needed for the day. Of course, I agreed and got ready to go.

Shadowing me as I walked to my vehicle was this "thing" that had been shadowing me all day. I was trying to think of how to eliminate this nonsense.

Maybe, just maybe, if I sneaked over to Publix and got an Apple Fritter, I would be able to solve this problem I was having. At least it's an excuse to get an Apple Fritter.

I got my Apple Fritter and sat on a bench outside to eat it. That lousy shadow was with me while I was eating. I was very cautious because I did not want that shadow to get a bite of my Apple Fritter. That would have spelled tragedy in the worst sense of the word.

As I took the last bite of the Apple Fritter, I turned to my left to find that person

shadowing me, and there was nobody there. I was getting frustrated. Something had to be done.

On my way home, that shadow was still on my left side. I don't know how that shadow could be there and not be seen. Something's going on.

I had one final stop before I went home. I was going to get a haircut because it was that time of the month.

I went in and was seated. My barber got everything ready and then looked at me and said, "How did you get that little bit of peanut butter on your glasses?"

What? I removed my glasses, and sure enough, there was a little peanut butter spot on my left lens. I was a little excited because I had found my shadower.

He laughed, and I joined in the laughter, but underneath, I was as frustrated as I've ever been. All day long, this little bit of peanut butter had been shadowing me, and I had not noticed it until now.

When I got home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage greeted me and asked me a simple ques-

tion. "Have you been shadowed this afternoon?"

I had to tell her, so I revealed that I had a little speck of peanut butter on my left lens.

She laughed and said, "I saw that this morning and wondered how soon it would be for you to realize what it really was."

While I was pondering my blunder for the day and shadows, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1).

To be associated with this shadow is the most important thing in the world. To know that I'm under the care of God gives me the courage to walk in faith. If I am under that shadow I am where God wants me to be and where God can use me for His purpose.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

BIAS, from Page 4

criminal justice system," she noted. The cases of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old Black boy shot by police while playing with a toy gun, and Kalief Browder, who was held in solitary confinement for three years without trial as a teenager, highlight the fatal consequences of adultification and racial bias.

Addressing adultification requires a multifaceted approach, Carter concluded. Policy changes are essential to mitigate bias in educational and judicial systems. Schools should implement bias training for

educators to help them recognize and counteract their prejudices. Law enforcement agencies need similar training to prevent tragic misunderstandings arising from adultification biases.

Community and parental involvement are also crucial. Community programs supporting and advocating for Black children can help them navigate these challenges. Carter suggested that parents could play a pivotal role by engaging in open discussions with their children about their experiences and teaching them to assert their rights and iden-

titles.

"Imagine an 11-year-old Black girl standing in her school hallway," Carter said. "She has just entered puberty, and her body is beginning to change in ways that make her look older than her years. Despite her tender age, she is often treated by teachers and peers as if she is much older, expected to possess a maturity beyond her years. This phenomenon—known as adultification—strips Black children of their innocence and childhood, placing burdens on them that their white peers rarely experience."

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Prior to 09-11-2001 there were people happily going back and forth to work drawing their top salaries; they felt safe and secure

Then the enemy infiltrated by flying into the twin towers in New York. But after that it was a time when unity prevailed; people came together from all walks of life, it didn't matter their race, creed, color, or their nationality.

There was an urgency of the hour; they came together in unity. I believe that's what the church is about, being a unified body.

And, then about August 13, 1993 in North America all of the power failed; people were trying to find places of security and rest.

Other people were helping them along the streets and highway, bring them into their homes and places and even though they didn't have lights they were



giving them a place of security.

It's something about a national tragedy or when trouble is looming on the horizon that we don't look at the color of a person's skin or their status in life.

But we look at the situation as a need and we can do something about it, we help them. Again, unity prevails and we work together until all is resolved.

How many households are destroyed because visions are not the same, when unity doesn't prevail?

Many times we don't see things the same. We are individuals, each of us has our own personalities, our own attitudes and decisions.

But there comes a time to communication, to share, to talk, to feel things out so that we will know what the other person is thinking and they in turn will know what we are thinking.

And, somehow as believers, as humans, as people who are concerned about the life and welfare of others we can come together

and work things out, we resolve our differences and God is blessed in that.

Prior to the 35th verse in St. John, Jesus had ministered to a woman who had been living a sinful life; whoever she could "company with or share with" that's who she would call her husband.

But, then she met Jesus! That says to me that when a person meets Jesus and cry out that, "I am saved, sanctified and full of the Holy Ghost," that there should be an air of unity between God's people.

There should be a direction when we are all going the same way; because we know that our ultimate goal is to one day be in the Heavenly Kingdom.

I don't believe that any of us want to think that there is a "gray area" and none of us want to go to the alternative to Heaven.

God is a unified God, isn't He? He is the Fa-

ther, the Son and the Holy Ghost; none reacts or move without the other's knowledge.

God is saying to us, ". . . look on the fields; they are already white to harvest . . ." But we need laborers.

We, the body of Christ believers, trust that we must work together to accomplish a certain goal or to reach the area that God would have us to reach.

Jeremiah and the people that worked with him built a wall because there was trouble ensuring all around them.

The children were being

carted into slavery and their women were being preyed on by the enemy who had free access in and out to them because the wall had broken down.

God spoke to Nehemiah and told him to get up from being the King's cup bearer; I want you to go and refurbish the wall. Nehemiah didn't know how long his journey would be, and he didn't question God, he was willing to go because of the necessity of the work.

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

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NDG Book Review: 'The Outsider Advantage is an inspiring read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Some say that you march to a different drummer.

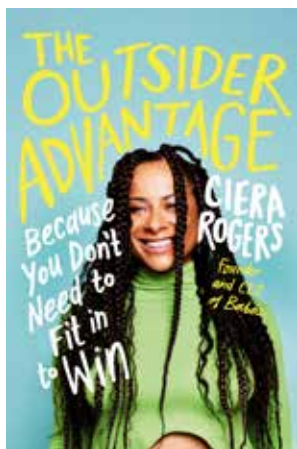
You follow the music you hear in your soul, blazing your own path while the rest of the world can watch. You're the best companion you know for yourself. You know who you are, and that's all that matters. And in "The Outsider Advantage" by Ciera Rogers, founder and CEO of Babes, you'll see what you can do with your you-niqueness.

There was once a time when Ciera Rogers lived in her mother's Jeep.

She was a teenager then, and though her mother tried to keep a roof over their heads, a handful of low-paying jobs just didn't cut it. They were constantly moving and Rogers switched schools often, which forced her to learn how to fit in quickly, and get by.

That resourcefulness was key to her survival later in life. As the first in her family to attend college, Rogers got a degree but she was unable to take an unpaid intern position, which were all that were available back a decade or so ago. This hurt her job chances, but she know she'd survive. She was bold and smart.

One afternoon, broke and unemployed, she



thought about her mother's small boutique in Houston, launched with few resources and less money. Rogers knew how to thrift. She could make videos. She could sell clothing online, eventually creating one-of-a-kind outfits, mixing and matching, catching the attention of celebrities and movie-makers with a million-dollar business started literally on scraps.

"Remember," she says, "most big things start with a tiny idea."

You don't have to have piles of cash or big inheritances to start a business. Look for free help or free platforms that can move your enterprise along. Make do with what you have, at first. Stop procrastinating and don't miss any opportunities. Know what you stand for. Know that you are not alone, either

in your uniqueness or your situation.

"There's a box where everyone else is," says Rogers. "Get out of it. Be different."

So you don't have any money. You don't even have bootstraps to pull yourself up. But if you can read, so you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur. Says author Ciera Rogers in "The Outsider Advantage," you only need to take that first confident step.

As you start this book, though, you may wonder why anyone would think it's for entrepreneurs. What Rogers has to offer is, indeed, more memoir than advice, though there are nuggets to capture on nearly every page and end-of-chapter takeaways embedded in a lively, fun sort of treasure hunt that feels friendly and approachable. Rogers' entire life on the edge shows readers that being a little bit (or a whole lot) unique isn't a hurdle. Unconventionality is not a deal-breaker; in fact, it can help you break into success.

This book is an inspiration – especially for readers whose dreams are burning with ideas but not a lot of coin. "The Outsider Advantage" is for when the drum beat of entrepreneurship is just too irresistible.

SCOTUS, from Page 7

time service have always been in place, the justices of today have altered the terms of the arrangement. It used to be rare for a justice to serve for three decades. Now, it's expected.

Biden's reform

Biden's call for an 18-year term limit for the justices seeks to rectify this development, putting the court back in its historical routine.

With two vacancies every two years, voters will understand the potential impact of their presidential vote on the makeup of the

court. They would know the forthcoming departures and should be informed of the types of high court appointees the presidential candidates have promised to choose.

Finally, voters will no longer have to morbidly sit back and wonder if an aging justice will live past the next election, as liberal voters did with Ginsburg in 2020. The result will be a court more in line with the democratic traditions of the nation.

Given the lame-duck status of the president and

Republican control of the House, the term-limit proposal will not pass this year. Nevertheless, it offers voters something serious to consider as they make their decisions about the candidates.

And, as a scholar who studies the American presidency and the Supreme Court, I believe it offers an opportunity to provide the court with a greater sense of democratic legitimacy.

Kevin J. McMahon is a professor of political science at Trinity College. This article has been republished with permission from The Conversation.