



# North Dallas Gazette

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## The changing role of the national conventions and morphing party platforms

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

The national conventions are happening in the midst of a roller coaster of an election season, the Republican Convention in the shadow of a violent act and Monday's Democratic Convention following turmoil in the party and a redrawn ticket.

While platforms have changed in recent years, at the conventions, each party will attempt to energize its base, given the current political tensions and the differences in their platforms.

What was formerly the party of Ronald Reagan has become the party of Archie Bunker, or of the blue collar worker, said former CNN Senior Political Analyst Bill Schneider. We've had a huge realignment, which changed the Republican base from the country club elite to the the white working class. For about 20 years, one of the biggest dividing lines in American politics has been education--The diploma divide, meaning those with a college degree, are more likely to vote democrat, especially among Whites, said Schneider.

In the suburbs, wealthy whites



*National conventions were historically momentous events when the parties got together and decided who would lead them to victory, yet over the last few decades, the conventions have become less a decision-making mechanism and more a celebration of candidates and differences in policy, she said. (Colin Lloyd / Unsplash)*

are now trending more democratic due to values, said Schneider, and a new lack of concern with debt means the Republican Party is no longer conservative, not only economically, but socially and culturally. Trump's suggestion of withdrawing from NATO also makes it isolationist, said Schneider.

Though at times dramatic, today's conventions don't compare to the contested conventions of the 50s since the candidates are now chosen prior to the conventions,

added Schneider. National conventions were historically momentous events when the parties got together and decided who would lead them to victory, explains Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, retired professor at the Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Yet over the last few decades, the conventions have become less a decision-making mechanism and more a celebration of candidates and dif-

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### People In The News ...



Tyishia S. N. Goldsberry



Gabrielle Gambrell

NDG Quote of the Week: "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

- Nelson Mandela



## Tyishia S. N. Goldsberry

(PVAMU) Prairie View A&M University is on the cusp of a historic moment as it prepares to celebrate the largest graduating class of doctoral students in the University's nearly 150-year existence. Sixteen students will walk across the stage at PVAMU's 113th Summer Commencement on Aug. 10, earning their doctorates. Almost 300 other candidates will receive their bachelor's and master's degrees.

This milestone is particularly significant as it includes the inaugural cohort of the Doctor of Business



Administration program, which is the first of its kind offered by a public university in Texas and accredited by AACSB International.

Among these trailblazing graduates is Tyishia S. N.

Goldsberry, a dynamic individual whose journey epitomizes the spirit of PVAMU. Hailing from Portsmouth, VA, Tyishia has a rich academic background with a BA in Fashion Design from Marymount University and an MBA with a concentration in Social Media Marketing from Southern New Hampshire University. As she stands on the brink of receiving her DBA, she reflects on her transformative experience at PVAMU.

### A Journey of Leadership and Inspiration

Tyishia's time at PVAMU has been marked by active involvement in prestigious

organizations such as Beta Gamma Sigma and the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. These affiliations not only provided unparalleled networking opportunities and scholarships but also fostered her leadership skills and academic credentials. "Being a member of these organizations offered me the chance to connect with like-minded peers and professionals who guided and inspired my academic and career path," she shared.

As part of the largest graduating class of doctoral students, Tyishia feels a profound sense of pride

and responsibility. "Being part of PVAMU's largest-ever graduating class of doctoral students, especially as the initial cohort of the program, is an incredibly exhilarating experience. It feels as though we are not merely obtaining degrees but actively crafting history and laying down pathways for future students."

### Honoring a Legacy and Embracing the Future

For Tyishia, attending PVAMU was more than an academic choice; it was a fulfillment of her mother's dream and a commitment to her community. "My mom, may she rest in heaven, al-

ways envisioned me receiving my education from an HBCU, and honoring her wish was incredibly important to me. Additionally, as a parent, I aim to show my daughters the significance of getting their education from an HBCU," she said.

The DBA program at PVAMU stood out to Tyishia for its flexibility and professional development opportunities. The ability to maintain her full-time job while advancing her education was crucial for her career continuity. She also valued the chance to attend

See GOLDSBERRY, Page 12

## Gabrielle Gambrell

(Black PR Wire) NEW YORK – Hachette Book Group (HBG) announced today that Gabrielle Gambrell has been named Senior Vice President, Chief Communications Officer. The appointment was made by David Shelley, Hachette Book Group Chief Executive Officer, to whom Gambrell will report.



trade fairs; HBG's philanthropic activities and environmental program; and will work closely with Hachette UK. Her role replaces that of HBG's current SVP Communications, Sophie Cottrell, who is leaving the company at the

end of August.

Shelley said: "I'm really excited to be working with Gabrielle. Her creativity, flair and experience across a range of disciplines and industries will help us hugely in getting the message out there about the new worlds of ideas, entertainment, learning and opportunity which books offer. An industry in growth mode, I believe there's never been a more dynamic or interesting time for book publishing, and Gabrielle will be instrumental in communicating the possibilities to the widest audience."

Gambrell comes to HBG from Amazon, where she

served as Head of Communications for Inclusive Experiences and Technology, Employee Experience. Prior to that, she made history at Barnard College of Columbia University as Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, becoming the first Black woman to lead marketing and com-

munications, as well as the youngest since the College's founding in 1889. She has managed teams across the globe as Worldwide Director of Communications and Public Relations at FCB Global, an award-winning advertising agency network. Before FCB, Gambrell was Direc-

tor of Communications for NBCUniversal and responsible for all global diversity communications. A champion for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, as Manager of Communications for CBS Corporation, she was a charter member

See GAMBRELL, Page 13

## Hon. Ketanji Brown Jackson

(Black PR Wire) The Apollo is proud to host an exciting evening with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, as she unveils her deeply personal memoir, "Lovely One," on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7:30PM EDT. In Conversation: Ketanji Brown Jackson promises to celebrate courage, resilience, and achievement, offering attendees a unique opportunity to witness history in the making.



ing in Washington, D.C., and Miami, Florida, to her historic appointment to the highest court in the land. Named after the Yoruba phrase for "Lovely One," inspired by her aunt's Peace Corps experience in West Africa, Justice Jackson's memoir transcends mere biography, offering a poi-

gnant reflection on identity, justice, and the pursuit of excellence in the face of adversity.

Attendees will have the opportunity to secure signed copies of Lovely One alongside their tickets, available through the Book + Ticket package. In Conversation: Ketanji Brown Jackson is part of The Apollo's Fall/Winter 2024 season, continuing its legacy of hosting impactful cultural conversations and performances.

With "Lovely One," Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson invites readers into her life and world, tracing her family's ascent from segregation to her confirmation on America's highest court within the span of one generation.†



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# The Black press, the Black vote and media dollars



**Dr. John E. Warren**  
Publisher,  
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Voice &  
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This November, in addition to the Presidential election, there are thousands of political campaigns in motion. Those running for office will vary from local school boards and city council races to county, state and national offices such as Congressional seats and the U.S. Senate. This is a time when the nation is being told that every vote counts. Billions of dollars will be spent to get out the vote. Most of that will go to radio, tele-

vision, and social media platforms. Already there is much radio and television emphasis on the Latino vote and concern about the Arabic vote sitting out the election because of their anger over the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Already, the Black vote is being taken for granted because the Presidential candidate is Black and Black people have demonstrated commitment in dollars and volunteers.

All this being said, the usual trend has been for political campaigns, with a few exceptions, to put their dollars into other markets assuming the Black vote is "in the bag". SPOILER ALERT! Black support

does not excuse the need to spend dollars in the Black political marketplace. While we know the Vice President has always been a supporter of the Black Press in all her political campaigns, the Democratic National Committee has not. However, in all fairness, there was a 1.5 million dollar commitment made to the Black Press by the Biden/ Harris Campaign before Vice President Harris replaced President Biden on the ticket.

For all those running for office that are not a part of that commitment, this is a reminder that wherever Black votes are, it is a "Battleground" location for the Black vote. The

Black Press as the trusted messenger for over 197 years, remains the key to that vote. The Black Press is no longer "Your Grandpa's newspaper". We are digital, we are social media, we are print, we are podcast as well as radio and television. We must be included in the billions of dollars about to be spent.

The real measure of respect for our vote can be found in the paraphrased statement, "where the heart is, the dollars are also". The Black vote requires the Black Press and the Black Press, with all love and respect, requires inclusion on campaign dollar expenditures in support of the Black vote.

## Calling on JD Vance to immediately apologize for un-American comments made towards Black farmers

By John Boyd  
National Black Farmers Association

Concerns continue to mount regarding recent racist and un-American comments made by Republican Vice President (VP) Candidate Senator JD Vance (R-OH) on CBS "Face the Nation" following the payout of \$2.2 Billion Discrimination Financial Assistance Program - as part of the larger bill "Inflation Reduction Act of 2022" - to provide financial assistance to any farmer who had been discriminated against in a farm lending program at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) is historic in nature. I am proud to have led the fight for over thirty years that led to this \$2.2 Billion assistance for

Black and other farmers of color. This is long overdue Financial Assistance for Black and any other farmer who was discriminated at USDA prior to 2021. This was not a farm benefit based on skin color given to Black farmers".

On August 7, 2022, following the vote-a-rama, an unlimited marathon voting session on amendments, that lasted nearly 16 hours, the Senate passed the bill (as amended) on a 51-50 vote, with all Democrats voting in favor, all Republicans voting against, and Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie. It was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022, creating the \$2.2 Billion DFAP to help Black, Native American and other Farmers in this country who have been discriminated against at USDA. Generations of discriminatory behavior by

the USDA has contributed to significant economic differences between white farmers and farmers of color that directly impact their access to credit.

I have reached out to the CBS Executive Producer, Face the Nation, to appear on the next segment to address Vance's racist, untruthful comments regarding Black Farmers.

The following is a transcript of an interview with Sen. JD Vance, Republican of Ohio, on "Face the Nation," airing Aug. 11, 2024

SEN. JD VANCE: - when people attack your family, and certainly attack your family for something that no person can control. And I do think that there's been this thing in America where we've said that we should judge people based on their skin color, based on their immutable characteristics, based on things that they can't control. I

frankly think that unfortunately, a lot of people on the left have leaned into this by trying to categorize people by skin color and then give special benefits or special amounts of discrimination. The Harris Administration, for example, handed out farm benefits to people based on skin color. I think that's disgraceful. I don't- I don't think we should say, you get farm benefits if you're a Black farmer, you don't get farm benefits if you're a white farmer. All farmers, we want to thrive, and that's certainly the President Trump and JD Vance view of the situation. But I do think unfortunately, when our leaders divide us by race, you're going to have hate on the left side of the political spectrum. You're going to have hate on the right side of the po-

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## HEAL Collaborative hosts free lung cancer program in West Dallas on Sept. 7

HEAL Collaborative—a non-profit faith-based organization dedicated to the well-being of communities of color.

Lung cancer disproportionately affects communities of color. Though smoking is commonly linked to cigarettes, it's linked to all forms of smoking (vape, hookah, e-cigs). HEAL's free educational program is a conversation and presentation from medical experts on nicotine addiction, lung cancer, and lung cancer survivors or care-



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givers. HEAL is also providing a special segment for its military veterans that have been affected by lung cancer from serving their country. The goal is

to bring this program to young adults and seniors alike.

HEAL has partnered with West Dallas Multipurpose Center to host a

free lung cancer program on Saturday Sept. 7, 2024 at 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free lunch will be provided.

Attendees can hear directly from a courageous lung cancer survivor as they candidly share their personal journey of diagnosis, treatment, and living with the disease. They can also gain valuable insights into the challenges, triumphs, and lessons learned along the way.

The crucial role of patient navigation in the lung

cancer journey will also be discussed, along with how patient navigators help individuals and families navigate the complex healthcare system, access resources, and make informed decisions throughout their treatment.

Organizers will delve into the risk factors and the importance of early detection through screening and explore the latest advancements in screening techniques and how they contribute to improved outcomes for at risk indi-

viduals.

Clinical trials and tobacco cessation, as well as health advocacy are all on the agenda.

This event is open to anyone interested in learning more about lung cancer, including patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and community members passionate about advocating for better health outcomes.

More information can be found on the Events page at [healcollaborative.org](http://healcollaborative.org).

## Around 160,000 joint replacement surgeries lost by COVID-19 pandemic, study finds

(Newsweek) — Nearly nine months of joint replacement surgery has been lost - around 160,000 fewer operations - since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a new study led by the University of Bristol has found. The research suggests returning to pre-pandemic levels will not tackle the backlog, and even with rapid expansion, it will take many years, if not decades, to fix this joint replacement crisis.

The study, published in *The Bone & Joint Journal* today [1 August], looked in detail at the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the numbers of joint (hip, knee, shoulder, elbow, and ankle) replacement surgery carried out in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The researchers analysed National Joint Registry (NJR) data between January 2019 and December 2022 inclusive, which includes all NHS and privately funded hip, knee, shoulder, elbow, and ankle



Olga Guryanova / Unsplash

replacement operations.

The study compared the period including and after the pandemic (2020 to 2022 inclusive) to how many operations would have been performed had surgery continued at the same level as 2019.

The research team found by the end of 2022 almost three quarters of a year of planned operations - 71.6 per cent of 2019 activity and 158,994 joint replacements - had been lost. This gap continues to increase and therefore the recovery from this deficit does not appear to have started. Knee, shoulder, and ankle surgery have been affected

more severely than hip and elbow surgery.

The NHS has been more impacted than the private sector. By 2022, NHS activity was still only 73.2 per cent of 2019 levels, whereas operations in the private sector had increased to 126.8 per cent of 2019 levels. The private sector is now the main provider of joint replacements (53 per cent in 2022) in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Wales and Northern Ireland have been worse affected than England. Both countries recorded a backlog of more than a year's worth of operations be-

tween 2020-2022; 136 per cent of 2019 for Wales and 121.3 per cent for Northern Ireland, whereas the deficit in England was 66.7 per cent.

Jonathan French, Clinical Research Fellow in the Bristol Medical School: Translational Health Science (THS), and corresponding author, said: "Patients awaiting different types of joint replacement surgery in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland have been affected disproportionately, and recovery to pre-pandemic levels will be challenging. This will inevitably lead to many patients enduring unnecessary pain, disability and wider decline in mental and physical wellbeing."

Michael Whitehouse, Professor of Trauma and Orthopaedics in the Bristol Medical School: THS, and senior clinical lead for the paper, explained: "If capacity was immediately expanded by five per cent on top of 2019 levels it would take until 2040 to

address the backlog. An immediate ten per cent expansion, if possible, would still take until 2031 to catch up. This represents a severe challenge that is currently underestimated in planning and provision that requires prioritisation to mitigate the impact of debilitating joint related conditions on patients."

Tim Wilton, Medical Director of the NJR, added: "The value of the volume data held by the NJR is that we can glean an accurate insight into the longer-term impact of COVID on the supply and demand and provision of surgical orthopaedic services. There is a clear need to plan and adjust service volumes based on this insight and research, so that patient waiting list numbers start to reduce across the different joints. These data, being based against the volume of cases done in 2019, are likely to be an underestimate of the catching-up required as the volume of cases was growing every year before 2019

rather than being static."

Joint replacement surgery is a common and very effective surgical procedure used to treat a variety of musculoskeletal problems including osteoarthritis and acute trauma. Joint replacements are long-lasting, with over half of hip and knee replacements lasting over 25 years, and 90 per cent of shoulder replacements lasting over ten years.

The research team would like to thank the patients and staff of all the hospitals in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland who have contributed data to the NJR, along with the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, the NJR Research Committee, and staff at the NJR for facilitating the research.

The study was supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research Bristol Biomedical Research Centre (NIHR Bristol BRC), Orthopaedic Research UK (ORUK) and the British Hip Society (BHS).

## Accuracy of diagnostic blood tests for Alzheimer's disease varies

(Newsweek) — Neurologists diagnose cognitive impairment with a clinical exam of memory and thinking skills. To determine whether Alzheimer's dis-

ease is the cause of the cognitive impairment, evidence of the specific brain changes that characterize Alzheimer's must be obtained, typically via a brain scan or spi-

nal tap. Identifying people whose cognitive symptoms are due to Alzheimer's disease is critical now that new Alzheimer's therapies are available that could change

the course of the illness.

To make diagnosis more convenient for patients, many companies have begun selling Alzheimer's blood tests to consumers,

and at least five companies are now offering these tests to doctors for clinical use. Doctors have no way of knowing which tests are most accurate because, until

now, the tests have not been evaluated in a head-to-head comparison using the same population, methods and

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# Leak cover-up exposes mainstream media's cozy relationship with Trump campaign

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In a revealing and disturbing revelation, it appears that the mainstream media—once seen as the last line of defense against political corruption—may be bending to the will of Donald Trump. Multiple prominent news outlets, including Politico, The New York Times, and The Washington Post, have reportedly been handed confidential material from within the Trump campaign, including a detailed vetting report on JD Vance, Trump's vice-presidential pick. Yet, instead of reporting on the contents, these outlets have chosen to keep the information under wraps.

The Associated Press noted that the decision is even more startling given the media's aggressive coverage of the 2016 election, where hacked emails



Image via NNPA

from Hillary Clinton's campaign were relentlessly published and scrutinized. "Back then, there was no hesitation to dive into the details of the leaked communications, despite the clear involvement of Russian operatives," the Associated Press noted. But in 2024, when the Trump campaign's internal documents land in their laps, the same outlets are suddenly squeamish, raising serious questions about their integrity and motivations.

Politico acknowledged receiving emails from a mysterious figure named "Robert" that included a 271-page campaign docu-

ment on JD Vance and a partial vetting report on Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who was also considered for the vice presidential slot. Both Politico and The Washington Post confirmed the authenticity of the documents but have chosen to focus on the potential origins of the leak rather than the damning content within.

The Trump campaign, predictably, has spun this to its advantage, claiming—without evidence—that Iranian operatives hacked the campaign. The timing of this claim, coming on the heels of a Microsoft report detailing an Iranian

attempt to breach the email of a former senior advisor to a presidential campaign, raises more questions than it answers. Yet, the mainstream media seems content to take this claim at face value, echoing the Trump campaign's narrative rather than challenging it.

These outlets' reluctance to publish the leaked material is in stark contrast to their behavior in 2016, when the media was all too eager to publish every salacious detail from the Clinton campaign's hacked emails. The Times, which has refused to discuss why it chose not to publish the Trump campaign's internal documents, is now being criticized for what appears to be a double standard.

Critics argue that this newfound restraint is nothing more than the media protecting Trump or, at the very least, avoiding the kind of backlash that might come from publishing un-

flattering material about him. Jesse Eisinger, senior reporter at ProPublica, slammed the outlets' decision, telling the Associated Press, "Once the material is verified as authentic, the public has a right to know what's inside. It's not the media's job to shield a political campaign from embarrassment—especially when that campaign has been less than transparent." Eisinger's sentiment echoes the frustration of many who see the media's reluctance as a betrayal of its duty to inform the public. "The media is supposed to be a watchdog, not a lapdog," said one social media commentator, capturing the growing disillusionment with mainstream news outlets.

The FBI has confirmed that it is investigating the matter, but the Trump campaign and the media have not been transparent, leaving the public in the dark.

While it's possible that foreign interference is at play, it's equally plausible that this is just another example of the Trump campaign's mastery of manipulation and the media's complicity in it.

As the 2024 election nears, most argue that the stakes could not be higher and that the media's role in shaping public perception is more critical than ever. By choosing not to publish these documents, The New York Times, Politico, and The Washington Post have not only abdicated their responsibility but also set a dangerous precedent. In an era where misinformation reigns supreme, their silence speaks volumes.

"If the media starts picking and choosing what truths the public is allowed to see, then we're no longer living in a democracy—we're living in something much darker," a veteran journalist stated.

## White House Initiative celebrates 10th anniversary with 2024 HBCU Cohort

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) has announced the 2024 cohort of HBCU Scholars, marking the 10th anniversary of this transformative program. This year, 110 students from 77 HBCUs across the nation and around the world have been selected for their exceptional academic achievements, leadership potential, and dedication to their communities.

"For 10 years, the HBCU Scholars program has celebrated the exceptional academic talent and achievements of students at our Historically Black Colleges and Universities

— a recognition that reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's determination to fight for our nation's HBCUs and their immense contributions to excellence and diversity in higher education," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "This year's 110 outstanding students exemplify Black excellence — and fill us with hope for the promise of tomorrow. We couldn't be prouder to support them on their journey."

Among the selected scholars are two students from Texas; Carlos Mendoza (Texas Southern University), and Maria Gonzalez (Prairie View A&M University).

Officials said their inclusion highlights the remarkable talent fostered within HBCUs and reflects strong educational foundations and community spirit. Officials added that these

students "exemplify the academic excellence and leadership potential the HBCU Scholars program seeks to recognize and support."

"For ten years, the HBCU Scholars program has celebrated the exceptional academic talent and achievements of students at our historically Black colleges and universities— a recognition that reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's determination to fight for our nation's HBCUs and their immense contributions to excellence and diversity in higher education," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "This year's 110 outstanding students exemplify Black excellence — and fill us with hope for the promise of tomorrow. We couldn't be prouder to support them on their journey."

Since its inception in

2014, the HBCU Scholars program has helped over 500 students, providing them invaluable opportunities for personal and

professional growth, mentorship, and networking. Representing 23 states and 11 countries, this year's cohort includes students from

diverse disciplines, including science, technology, engineering, math, humanities, social sciences, and the arts.

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# Tips for teachers as they prepare for the 2024-25 school year

(Newswise) — Teacher mindfulness doesn't begin on the first day of classes in the late summer or early fall. It is an invaluable skill that can be practiced and perfected all throughout the year, especially when teachers are on summer break.

Her work particularly focuses on how teachers' emotions impact their instructional practices, and the role that early-career teachers' emotions play as they transition into the career. She holds expertise in quantitative, mixed-methods, and longitudinal study design and implementation, multileveled data analysis, and classroom observation.

Below she gives a few tips on how teachers can begin preparing themselves — and by extension their future students — for all the ups and downs of the upcoming school year.

## Engage in restorative



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## rest this summer.

One of the ways to prepare for the upcoming school year is to get restorative rest. It's important to let your brain disengage for a short time, but it's also beneficial to set aside time, before the school year begins, to think about the past school year. What went well? What could be done

better? What techniques are you hoping to improve in the coming school year?

As we as a society still reel from the COVID-19 pandemic, meaningfully reflect on the past four years and ask yourself what you've seen with your students. What do they need to succeed this upcoming year? How can you facili-

tate an environment where students are getting the unique support that the pandemic created?

## Incorporate mindfulness into your daily habit.

You cannot expect to dive into mindfulness on day one of a new school year, it takes practice. Pay attention to your emotions and work on emotional aware-

ness. Shift into thinking "My emotions are signals that I have to pay attention to." This is impossible to do for the first time in the heat of teaching. Summer and the weeks leading up to the school year are great times to practice these techniques.

As educators, teachers experience the full range of human emotions every day, and they are usually the only adults in the room.

Dr. Jon Cooper, Director of Behavioral Health for the Colonial School District in New Castle, Delaware noted: "We want teachers to be the emotional thermostat, not the thermometer."

During the summer, think about how to set classroom norms and expectations to be responsive to your emotions and those of your students in a way that will create a more mindful classroom all around.

All emotions are ok, even the bad one. Not all behaviors that come from those emotions are ok.

## Take yourself through a school day and anticipate the needs of your students.

One major mindfulness practice is taking yourself through a typical school day and identifying parts where students are most likely to have difficulties. Do students have challenging moments during small groups? Is there math anxiety? Restructure these so even the things that don't go well, can go well.

## Utilize mindfulness websites and apps.

There are websites and apps teachers can use to further incorporate mindfulness into their daily lives, including:

*The Center for Healthy Minds*

*UCLA's Free Mindfulness App*

## TESTS, from Page 4

criteria.

Suzanne Schindler, MD, PhD, and her team at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis led a data analysis comparing the accuracy of six commercial blood tests, four of which are clinically available, in detecting signs of Alzheimer's disease, particularly the presence of the characteristic amyloid plaques in the brain. The analysis showed that some of the tests are accurate enough to replace spinal taps and brain scans in many patients with cognitive impairment. The head-to-head comparison was part of a project developed and launched by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health Biomarkers Consortium, a public-private partnership of which Washington University is a member. The results are being presented today, July 30, in an oral session at the Alzheimer's

Association International Conference in Philadelphia.

"Some of the blood tests are accurate and some are not, and doctors don't know which tests to use," said Schindler, an associate professor of neurology at Washington University and the lead author of the study. "With this head-to-head comparison, doctors now have more reliable information about which tests will best help them provide an accurate diagnosis to their patients."

Confirming that cognitive impairment is due to Alzheimer's disease — early in the course of the illness — is crucial for ensuring access to the newest generation of Alzheimer's therapies. In the past two years, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved two drugs that slow the trajectory of disease, with more in the pipeline. Both FDA-approved drugs tar-

get amyloid, so doctors must confirm that a patient has amyloid buildup in the brain before they can prescribe the treatment. In addition, the diagnosis must be confirmed as early in the disease course as possible, because the drugs are only approved for people with very mild to mild symptoms.

The team evaluated the ability of six commercially available blood tests to detect proteins in the blood that correlated with key features of Alzheimer's disease: amyloid plaques and tangles of the protein tau in the brain, reduced brain volumes and cognitive impairment. The six tests were developed by ALZpath, C2N Diagnostics, Fujirebio Diagnostics, Janssen, Quanterix and Roche Diagnostics. C2N Diagnostics is a Washington University startup, and its Alzheimer's tests are based on technology licensed to C2N by the university.

Blood samples and participant data were obtained from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), a long-running, multisite collaboration designed to identify Alzheimer's biomarkers and to advance biomarker development by sharing data and resources within the research community. The study included 392 people who had provided blood samples within six months of undergoing brain scans. The participants had a median age of 78.1 years, and just under half (49%) exhibited cognitive impairment.

Each of the six tests measured the blood levels of one or more biomarkers linked to Alzheimer's disease. Across the six tests, five distinct biomarkers were measured using various techniques. One biomarker, used in four of the tests, proved exceptionally accurate at identifying signs of Alzheimer's disease: a form of tau known as phosphory-

lated tau 217 (p-tau217).

"Some people thought that we might need to measure multiple biomarkers to get at the different features of Alzheimer's disease," said Kellen Petersen, PhD, an instructor in neurology at the School of Medicine. Petersen co-lead data analysis for the study and will give the oral presentation at the international Alzheimer's conference. "That's not what we found. P-tau217 alone can do it all. It accurately predicted levels of amyloid and tau in the brain, brain volumes and cognitive symptoms. It was more accurate than any other biomarker, or even any combination of biomarkers, across the board."

The four tests that incorporate measures of p-tau217 all performed well, regardless of the approach they took to measuring the protein. The top two performers across all measures were C2N Diag-

nostics' PrecivityAD2 and Fujirebio's Lumipulse.

In June, the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease published a paper in *Nature Reviews Neurology* laying out a framework for using blood tests in Alzheimer's clinical care and recommending minimum criteria for acceptable performance. Schindler is the lead author on that paper.

"We concluded that, to be used without a second test, blood tests need to be as accurate as FDA-approved cerebrospinal fluid tests, which are approximately 90% sensitive and specific at identifying Alzheimer's disease in cognitive impaired individuals," Schindler said. "In this current study, the p-tau217 tests met that standard, but the others did not."

The data and algorithms used in this study are available via ADNI to investigators interested in further studying the performance of these tests.



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# The Paris Olympics is a winner for providing child care

(First Five Years Fund) There have been many memorable moments from the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Steve, the Pommel Horse guy. Snoop Dogg and Flavor Flav are bringing fun as ambassadors. Simone Biles, the GOAT. The chocolate chip muffins in the Olympic Village. But there's one truly game-changing moment you may not have heard about: Child-care in the Olympic Village! Female athletes have long struggled with childcare and the support they need as mothers at events like the



Photo via NNPA

Olympic games. Nursing mothers who could bring their children were banished to small, dark rooms to feed their infants; many more were forced to leave their little ones at home.

Olympic Gold medalist Allyson Felix saw the challenges firsthand after having her child. "It was just kind of an eye-opening experience," she told the Los Angeles Times. "I

took her everywhere that I was competing, and I kind of was surprised at how hard it was and how much you really had to shoulder on your own." This changed in 2024. Enter the Olympic Village Nursery. CNN reported: "The Village Nursery, which opened last week, was launched by the International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission in partnership with the IOC and Paris 2024 Organizing Committee. Allyson Felix, a U.S. track star and member of the IOC Athletes' Commission, was

a strong voice in the project."

"Athletes can book private or shared appointments at the facility, in the heart of the Village Plaza, which accommodates up to six family members. Here, they have access to private spaces for breastfeeding, a family lounge for playtime, and a changing station."

Soccer star Christie Pearce (formerly Rampone) underscored how important this was, both as a mother and a competitor. "This space allows parents to interact in a stress-free

environment. This will allow athletes to focus on their performances rather than worrying about how to find quality time to provide for their children." This is something we hear from all working parents, not just Olympic superstars. When families can find and afford quality childcare, parents have the peace of mind they need to focus on work. Employers and coworkers can rely on a more stable workforce. And little ones have safe, nurturing environments where they can grow, learn, and develop.

## PLATFORMS, from Page 1

ferences in policy, she said.

As Jeffe explains, the conventions changed dramatically in '72 after the mess that was made of the '68 Democratic Convention in Chicago, when party bosses chose Hubert Humphrey as the Democratic nominee.

Having not run in the primary, Humphrey walked into the Convention Hall with a thousand delegates already in his pocket, said Jeffe, delegates that had committed to a candidate that had been chosen for them.

After that, a commission turned nominee choice over to primary voters, expressed through the voices of pledged delegates allocated to certain territories. This put a lot more power in the hands of the voters and handed over responsibility of screening candidates to the press, she said.

The process of allocating delegates has continued to change, including the addition of super delegates in 2016--typically senior members, charged with formalizing the vote, said Johnathan Diaz, an election attorney who fights the manipulation of U.S. elections. These delegates, though not bound by the results of any state primary, would not have a vote unless a clear majority failed

to form after the first round of voting, assured Diaz.

U.S. elections rules remains true to the electoral college system, where the candidate who receives the most votes isn't necessarily the winner. Though many have questioned its relevance and fought it, none of the efforts have gotten them anywhere, said Schneider.

Since many Republican states are rural, with smaller populations, Republican continue to support the system, under which George H.W. Bush and Donald Trump were elected despite having lost the popular vote.

As long as Republicans continue to resist changing the system, nothing will ever happen, he said, because to change it requires a constitutional amendment, involving Congress, and state legislatures, now dominated by Republicans, he said.

The electoral college rules were part of a deal cut between the most populous states and those with smaller populations at the very start of the nation, explained Jeffe. The system formed a balance between the slave states, added Schneider, which insisted on equal representation.

As Jeffe said, if there had been a simple popular

vote, the most populous states would have decided every election. This is the same reason each state gets only two Senators, weighing states like Wyoming equally to states like California with twenty times the people.

It may be difficult, for voters mired in election rules, as some of us are, to look at a system where the person who gets the most votes may not win. While these rules may contribute to dissatisfaction and a sense that democracy is not working, the rules are baked into the country's fabric and the very structure of the Constitution, said Diaz, and they will likely not change.

However, the voters do have a role in the system, and certainly the media has a role in helping voters to know what they need to know, he added.

Just as social media shapes political ideas, arguably, for the first time, it will also shape the conventions, said Jeffe. The nature of the conventions have been changed by technology throughout history--the telegraph, the telephone, and the TV, which opened up political conversations increasingly over time.

Though the Obama campaign used social media for fundraising, social media is much more involved in pol-

itics now, with every platform used to shape ideas and opinions.

The shift really happened in 2020, added Diaz, accelerated by the pandemic, which prevented candidates from campaigning in the traditional ways.

Social media was a useful tool during this time, but in social media, there are no editors, no standards, and no fact checking, Schneider added. Anyone with an opinion can now put it in front of thousands through social media, and the added rhetoric further supports polarization.

The current environment of misinformation facilitates political violence, added Diaz. After all, it's been a number of years since we've seen an attempted assassination of a Presidential candidate. This comes not long after January 6 and a 2020 campaign marked by voter intimidation and election worker harassment.

Yet there is a long history of voter intimidation in this country targeting communities of color, added Diaz. This goes back to the

Klu Klux Klan and armed bands of self-appointed militias intimidating segments of the population to keep them from voting.

On the other hand, intimidation may help motivate people to turn out more than usual, Diaz added. In the midst of an already threatening pandemic, very heated rhetoric, and voter intimidation in 2020, U.S. elections saw record turnout.

Even so, if you say voter fraud enough times, people will start to believe it, said Diaz, and there is a lot of messaging by allies of the former president to reduce trust in the elections. They have already filed a number of frivolous lawsuits in swing states, challenging voter registration rolls, said Diaz. Unless Trump wins, they've already declared the general election illegitimate, he said.

Yet, following January 6th of 2021, Congress enacted the bipartisan Electoral Count Act to update procedures for counting electoral votes. Under the act, the Vice President has no discretion or authority

to reject a State's electoral votes. Prior to this, all that was needed was one member of the House and one of the Senate to file an objection, then going to a vote of both houses on whether to reject a state's electoral votes. The 2021 act prevents a legislature from coming into special session after election day and submitting an alternate slate of electors, Diaz explained, as Donald Trump and his allies tried in 2020.

Though these reforms help strengthen us, like in 2020, we are faced again with a party willing to tear down the whole system in order to win, warned Diaz. We have seen contested elections, but never have we seen a candidate so willing to dismantle the entire system of American Democracy, he said.

Yet the growing public concern that we have seen over the health of our elections gives me hope, he added. When I talk to regular people who are concerned about the direction democracy is heading, it gives me hope that the fight's not over yet, he said.





# LDF launches voter empowerment project 'Black Voters on the Rise' as the country commemorates the signing of the Voting Rights Act

(Black PR Wire) Recently, the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) announced Black Voters on the Rise – an interdisciplinary initiative that works to defend and advance the rights of Black voters and the promise of a free and fair democracy throughout the full life cycle of the democratic process. The launch comes as the country recognizes the anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act and just ahead of an election that will have a profound impact on our democracy.

Black Voters on the Rise serves to combine and re-brand LDF's prior complementary projects, Prepared to Vote (PTV) and Voting Rights Defender (VRD). This renewed initiative will use a year-round, multi-tactical approach to build Black political power, working collaboratively across LDF departments and with strategic partners at the national, state, and local levels.

"It is crucial that our younger voters understand their vote has the power not



Unseen Histories / Unsplash

only to select the president, but also to determine who sets national policies and laws addressing key issues – like reproductive rights, criminal justice, student loans, housing, and health care – and who will serve their interests at the state and local levels. Black Voters on the Rise is a recognition of that power and of the full potential of the Black

vote," said Janai Nelson, LDF's President and Director-Counsel.

Black Voters on the Rise is a cross-generational initiative that builds on the legacy of Black voters organizing for our democracy to leverage the potential of the rising generation of Black voters. Young people will make up nearly half of voters in the 2024 election.

And, since 2020, one in five new eligible voters in the South are Black and members of Gen Z.

As part of this initiative, LDF staff in southern communities work together with trusted organizations, including local non-profit organizations, HBCUs, churches, and others, to engage with community members and empower them to participate in the political process. By monitoring and responding to voter suppression tactics on the ground, proactively correcting and – when needed

– challenging anti-voter activities, LDF's Black Voters on the Rise project is helping Black communities defend themselves against the coordinated attacks on their rights.

"The work of defending democracy and voting rights is a year-round effort, especially as deceptive practices like misinformation and disinformation collide with racial polarization," said Amir Badat, Manager, Black Voters on the Rise. "The aggressive efforts to suppress the vote are using increasingly novel

tactics, and we must meet those efforts with creativity and innovation. Black Voters on the Rise represents the resilience, strength, and dedication of the Black community's pursuit to retain hard-fought wins and advance the rights they are entitled to."

In the months ahead, the efforts of Black Voters on the Rise will involve combating discriminatory election administration practices and advocating for election officials to expand

**See VOTE, Page 10**





Daughters photo courtesy of Netflix

# Film Review: 'Daughters' is a masterpiece in filmmaking

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*\*) When you start with a humanizing premise, there's nowhere to go but up.

Documentaries that present solutions, not just observations, should be lauded and rewarded. That's why praise has been bestowed on this heartwarming film and its mission to reunite daughters and their incarcerated dads. Bring a tissue when you see it. Maybe a whole box.

"My dad can't come to the father/daughter dance because he's in jail," said one disappointed young girl at the Girls for Change Leadership Academy in Virginia. But she had a suggestion, "What if we had the dance in the jail." And so, it began. A sheriff was asked to let a daughter/dad dance take place in his prison. He approved, it happened and that auspicious event in 2013 blossomed into the "Date with Dad" prison rehabilitation program.

First-time doc director Angela Patton, CEO of Girls for Change, teamed with video music director Natalie Rae (Leon Bridges: Bad Bad News) and they documented the journey of four young girls looking forward to attending a prom in a Washington D.C. prison. Aubrey, Santana, Raziah, and Ja'Ana are anxious as they prepare

for the event. Their dads, Keith, Mark, Alonzo and Frank, are twice as nervous.

The men attend educational and consciousness-raising therapy sessions for 10 weeks to prepare for the big reunion. They confess their apprehensions, hopes and ambitions as they study fatherhood and look back on their own lives. One laments that he isn't present in his tween daughter's life. As a 16-year-old, he'd impregnated her 14-year-old mother whose own dad was not around. He thinks if her father had been home policing her potential boyfriends, they might not have become teen parents. The dangers that lurk when fathers are absent are real to him. Another wishes he could witness his daughter's growth: "Everything I wanted to do she's doing. Everything I wanted to be, she is." Another confesses, he doesn't know how to dance.

The girls express, anger, fear, envy and sadness as they yearn for their dads' presence. Despair pushes

one youngster into wanting to jump off a roof. The parents and children all need understanding, forgiveness and healing. Fortunately, they have a guardian angel, an auntie. The shaman-like Angela Patton encourages the children, counsels the weary mothers and assures the men that they're needed: "Our daddies are our mirrors that we reflect back on when we decide about what type of man we deserve."

Cinematographer Michael "Cambio" Fernandez's invisible camerawork puts you in the center of the men's discussion groups, on the collect calls from prison and in homes where kids reveal their deepest secrets. A group shot of the fathers in orange jumpsuits is sobering. A group shot of them in suits and ties, like they're at an HBC fraternity reunion, is humanizing. You're watching their rehabilitation in real time. These precious moments are judiciously assembled

See DAUGHTERS, Page 14



Daughters photo courtesy of Netflix

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# NDG Book Review: Two tomes for college-bound (or not) readers

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

There are about to be a lot of lasts in your household in the coming months.

The last first day of school. The last homecoming, the last Christmas program or sports event you'll have to attend. The last spring break, the final prom, and the last day of school, they'll all be bittersweet, but you'll manage. As in these new books about college, you've got big decisions to make first.

College or not? It's a big question for every high school senior. And the answer is...

In her new book **"Make College Your Super-**



**power"** (Rowman & Littlefield, \$30.00), author Anna Esaki-Smith says "It's a great time to be a student" because, though life has been "weird" with the pandemic, shut-downs, and such, "Technology has changed everything."

Today's students know

a lot about technology, for one thing – possibly more than do their professors, giving students "an edge." Facial recognition on a variety of campuses have recently shown more "happy" faces than ever before.

To be one of those satisfied students, she says, don't go by magazine rankings. Learn the smart ways to apply to the right college for you. Play up what you do best, not what you love most. Take the quizzes and the workbook-like questionnaires in this book and know yourself. Be savvy about finances and the lack thereof.

And get out and meet people! That's part of what

college is for.

Then again, college is not for everyone.

In the new book **"Rethinking College"** by **Karin Klein** (Harper Horizon, \$29.99), you'll learn that despite what you've been told for most of your high school career, you can thrive and succeed without a four-year degree.

Volunteer work is a valid way to gain experience that could open doors in environmental groups, food pantries, and service groups that offer some paid positions within the organization. An apprenticeship may be a way to learn a trade through on-the-job instruction while also re-

ceiving a wage; an internship could accomplish the same.

Exploring how one's talents can be turned into a job is always possible, especially if what you love doing is in high demand. Or you could take your visionary skills and start your own business with surprisingly less money than you may have thought possible.

This is the kind of book you want to give the high schooler who's not so-called college material, or who chafes against what college has to offer. It also opens a whole world of possibility for anyone who's older, with high

school long behind them.

If these books aren't exactly what you or your high-school senior needs for the next few months and beyond, then ask your local librarian or bookseller for help.

They'll have books for you on surviving Freshman year, on knowing what to expect at college, on homesickness and missing your teenager, and on how to land a great apprenticeship, non-profit position, or how to start your own business. Your librarian or bookseller will have something for your Year of Lasts, and the first book you'll want for success.

## VOTE, from Page 8

access to the ballot box. Black Voters on the Rise will also educate voters on election laws and their voting rights and mobilize communities to exercise their right to vote. Through Black Voters on the Rise, LDF has committed to reaching millions of voters through direct mail, SMS, and other forms of targeted communication this year.

With partners, Black Vot-

ers on the Rise will monitor the November 2024 election and future elections to identify voter suppression and protect Black voters through rapid response advocacy. This mobilization work will extend to include a concerted effort to encourage communities to leave no power on the table by participating in public meetings and learning about their local elected

officials and their roles in shaping community policies and initiatives.

Protecting the voting rights of Black people has been a critical piece of LDF's work since its founding in 1940 when Justice Thurgood Marshall filed *Smith v. Allwright*, which led to the defeat of all-white primaries. Justice Marshall called it his most consequential case. Today, LDF carries on that work in communities where a history of

racist and discriminatory anti-voter, anti-democracy practices continue. Congress's inaction on passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act has also guided LDF to work in states across the country to pass

state Voting Rights Acts and advance other proactive election administration policies.

LDF offers resources to voters on how to participate in the democratic process, including providing infor-

mation on how to vote in person, secure an absentee ballot, research candidates and ballot initiatives, and become a volunteer. This information is available on LDF's election resource website, [www.ldf.vote](http://www.ldf.vote).

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## Ruled by Robots: Research reveals people prefer AI to make decisions

(Newswise) — A new study has revealed that people prefer Artificial Intelligence (AI) over humans when it comes to redistributive decisions.

As technology continues to integrate into various aspects of public and private decision-making, understanding public perception and satisfaction and ensuring the transparency and accountability of algorithms will be key to their acceptance and effectiveness.

The study, conducted by researchers from the University of Portsmouth and the Max Planck In-

stitute for Innovation and Competition, looked into public attitudes towards algorithmic versus human decision-making and examined the impact of potential discrimination on these preferences.

An online decision experiment was used to study the preference for human or AI decision makers, where the earnings of two people could be redistributed between them after a series of tasks were performed. Over 200 participants from the UK and Germany were asked to vote on whether they wanted a human or an al-

gorithm (AI) to make the decision that would determine how much money they earned.

Contrary to previous findings, over 60 per cent of participants chose AI over a human to decide how the earnings were redistributed. Participants favoured the algorithm, irrespective of potential discrimination. This preference challenges the conventional notion that human decision-makers are favoured in decisions involving a 'moral' component such as fairness.

However, despite the preference for algorithms,

when rating the decisions taken participants were less satisfied with the decision of the AI and found it less 'fair' than the one taken by humans.

Subjective ratings of the decisions are mainly driven by participants' own material interests and fairness ideals. Participants could tolerate any reasonable deviation between the actual decision and their ideals but reacted very strongly and negatively to redistribution decisions that were not consistent with any of the established fairness principles.

Dr Wolfgang Luhan, As-

sociate Professor of Behavioural Economics in the School for Accounting, Economics and Finance at the University of Portsmouth and corresponding author of the study, said: "Our research suggests that while people are open to the idea of algorithmic decision-makers, especially due to their potential for unbiased decisions, the actual performance and the ability to explain how they decide play crucial roles in acceptance. Especially in moral decision-making contexts, the transparency and accountability of algorithms are vital.

"Many companies are already using AI for hiring decisions and compensation planning, and public bodies are employing AI in policing and parole strategies. Our findings suggest that, with improvements in algorithm consistency, the public may increasingly support algorithmic decision makers even in morally significant areas.

"If the right AI approach is taken, this could actually improve the acceptance of policies and managerial choices such as pay rises or bonus payments."

The study is published in the journal *Public Choice*.

## Amazon Prime Day expected to be biggest yet, despite economic concerns

(Newswise) — Amazon's highly anticipated 48-hour Prime Day kicks off Tuesday, July 16. Last year, Amazon reported its biggest Prime Day ever, with shoppers purchasing more than 375 million items. That's up from 300 million in 2022. Experts believe this year will be no different, but with high demand comes an influx in shipment that puts pressure on transportation systems and the environment.



"We're expecting to see record sales which highlights the disconnect between consumer confidence metrics and actual spending patterns," says Virginia Tech economist Jadrian Wooten. "Consumer sentiment surveys consistently show apprehension about the current state of the economy. In fact, it's among the top political concerns for the 2024 Presidential race."

Wooten says a big Prime Day would typically be seen as an indicator of a healthy economy. "It's hard to justify this expectation as just pent-up demand. Instead, it suggests that the economy is doing a lot better than people want to admit."

More buying also means an influx of packages shipped and delivered in the following days. Experts suggest that while saving

those dollars, you might also consider checking the "ship everything in one box" option. This saves on the greenhouse gas emissions from drivers dropping off multiple shipments at one household and can even earn buyers Amazon credits for future purchases.

Md Sami Hasine is an expert in transportation systems and infrastructure engineering at Virginia Tech and has worked with Amazon on several research projects. Through that work, he developed simulation-based e-commerce demand models and found an increase in shipping demands ultimately impacts the environment and greenhouse gas emissions.

"Medium and heavy-duty freight vehicles are responsible for nearly 7 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.," says Hasine. "With the increase of on-demand delivery in recent years, vehicle emissions and congestion have

increased exponentially on urban and rural roads in the U.S. It's also created an increase in the number of trucks parked for long hours on the side of interstates and busy urban roads, leading to severe safety and health issues for residents."

Hasine suggests that companies like Amazon work with consumers to reduce emissions and road congestion in a pre-scheduled clustered approach. "Take groceries for example. Instead of numerous deliveries per month, machine-learning models can predict each household's monthly grocery demand and send them recommendations at the beginning of each month. So, instead of multiple deliveries, you're only getting one or two."

Jadrian Wooten is a collegiate associate professor with the Virginia Tech Department of Economics, part of the Virginia Tech College of Science, and is the author of "Parks and

Recreation and Economics." Wooten has been featured in a number of publications and broadcast programs including *USA Today* and *NBC News*. Read more about him here and his thoughts in his weekly newsletter, *Monday*

*Morning Economist*.

Md Sami Hasine is an assistant professor in the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. Hasine's research is at the intersection of transportation engineer-

ing, econometrics, data science, and psychology – how human behavior is connected to transportation decision-making. He builds mathematical models to develop smart, sustainable cities to reduce emissions and energy consumption.



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# HUD announces significant policy changes to aid homeless veterans

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced significant policy changes to help veterans experiencing homelessness. The new regulations ensure that veterans receiving service-connected disability benefits are not ineligible for supportive housing projects supported by project-based rental assistance through the HUD-Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

Previously, VA benefits, provided for injuries or illnesses acquired or worsened during military service, were considered income when determining eligibility for housing assistance. The agency said this caused some veterans to exceed the income threshold for these programs. The updated policy will now exclude these benefits from income calculations, allowing more vet-

erans to qualify for housing assistance. Alongside this change, HUD awarded \$20 million to public housing agencies to further improve the HUD-VASH program.

“No veteran should ever have to experience homelessness, but when they do, they should not face barriers to getting help they deserve,” said Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman. “This policy change will ensure that veterans who are receiving the disability benefits they earned through service and sacrifice can access the housing assistance and supportive services they need to resolve their homelessness.”

The HUD-VASH program is a vital resource for housing veterans experiencing homelessness. It pairs rental assistance through housing vouchers from HUD with case management and other supportive services provided by the VA. The homeless program staff at local VA medical centers identify veterans experiencing homelessness

and refer them to public housing agencies, which issue vouchers to eligible veterans and their families. Officials said VA staff provide case management and other supportive services to help veterans find and maintain housing, and connect them to healthcare, employment, and other support services.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough emphasized the importance of the new policy, stating, “The days of a veteran having to choose between getting the VA benefits they deserve and the housing support they need are finally over. This is a critical step forward that will help veterans nationwide – and bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal of putting an end to veteran homelessness for good.”

To expand access to HUD-VASH for veterans, HUD is:

- Requiring public housing agencies (PHAs) that administer HUD-VASH to set the initial income eligibility for veterans at 80% of Area Median Income,

rather than 50%. This higher initial income eligibility threshold was previously optional but is now mandatory.

- Adopting an alternative definition of annual income for applicants and participants of the HUD-VASH program that excludes veterans’ service-connected disability benefits when determining eligibility.

According to HUD officials, the agency has been collaborating with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assess the impact of the alternative income definition for HUD-VASH participants looking to receive Low Income Housing Credits-subsidized housing. Treasury officials said that agency expects to issue guidance on this issue soon. HUD will also encourage state and local governments to make corresponding changes in their subsidy programs to ensure that all veterans experiencing homelessness have access to supportive housing.

“Every veteran deserves

a roof over their head, and the Biden-Harris Administration is doing everything we possibly can to end veteran homelessness,” said White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden. “Today’s actions reflect President Biden and Vice President Harris’s commitment to breaking down barriers to housing so that every veteran gets the benefits they have earned.”

The revised HUD-VASH operating requirements also include additional policy changes that will improve the administration of the HUD-VASH program. This will allow PHAs to:

- Make non-competitive awards of project-based HUD-VASH contracts to housing projects or units on VA facilities that serve HUD-VASH families.

- Approve Exception Payment Standards as Reasonable Accommodations up to 140% of the Fair Market Rent.

- Set a separate minimum rent policy (including a zero minimum rent) for

HUD-VASH participants.

Additionally, HUD awarded \$20 million for additional administrative fee funding to 245 public housing agencies in 43 states currently administering HUD-VASH. With this funding, officials said they’re encouraging PHAs to expand their housing search assistance to support veterans, expand landlord recruitment for the program, offer incentives and retention payments, help veterans with security deposits, and provide landlord-tenant mediation activities.

Since the program’s inception, HUD-VASH has assisted more than 200,000 veterans in exiting homelessness and obtaining permanent, affordable housing. The HUD-VASH program has been crucial in reducing the number of veterans experiencing homelessness by more than 50% since 2010.

For more details on the revised HUD-VASH operating requirements, visit HUD’s website.

## GOLDSBERRY, from Page 2

conferences, which enriched her learning experience and expanded her professional network.

### Leading with Purpose

Post-graduation, Tyishia plans to focus on expanding her entrepreneurial ventures among her businesses, including driving positive change and innovation in multiple industries. Currently, she owns:

- T Shanee Collection, a specialized clothing and footwear brand for taller women and those with larger shoe sizes;

- Breath, a non-profit organization aimed at improving care for veterans with asthma and women’s health;

- a real estate investment company focused on property investments;

- a social media marketing company providing tailored marketing solutions; and

- a cosmetics line that offers beauty products for diverse consumer needs.

“Each of my businesses allows me to address unique challenges and meet specific needs, whether it’s offering better-fitting clothes and shoes, improving healthcare, or enhancing online presence for brands,” she said. “I’m excited to grow these businesses, lead my teams towards achieving our missions, and continue learning and adapting in the fast-paced world of entrepreneurship. This journey not only fuels my professional growth but also aligns deeply with my personal values and vision.”

### PVAMU’s Commitment to Excellence

The success of the DBA program and its inaugural cohort is a testament to PVAMU’s commitment to academic excellence and leadership development. Dr. Munir Quddus, dean of the College of Business, expresses his pride in the first

cohort of DBA grads: “By being the first, they are role models for other cohorts – we already have two other cohorts and a third one starting in this fall. A number of them have already published their research with their professors and dissertation committee chairs; others have presented their research at academic conferences. We expect them to make an impact in their respective workplace with the skills they have learned, especially in dealing with big data and analytics.”

Tyishia says PVAMU has been instrumental in helping her achieve her career goals. “The University’s focus on leadership, community involvement, and innovative thinking has directly contributed to my success as an entrepreneur. “Through courses, conferences, and networking opportunities, PVAMU equipped me with the critical skills needed to navigate and excel in the business world. Moreover,

the emphasis on HBCU values instilled a strong sense of responsibility to give back and uplift others, a core aspect of all my entrepreneurial endeavors,” she said.

“My advice to anyone

considering further education, such as the DBA program at PVAMU or any other academic endeavor, is to embrace the opportunity regardless of your age, career stage, or personal circumstances,” said Tyishia.

“Education is a powerful tool that can open doors, provide new perspectives, and fuel personal and professional growth. If you have the desire to expand your knowledge and skills, go for it.”

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# In The Black Network: Your one-stop streaming platform for Black culture announces new fast channels

Hollywood, CA – August 5, 2024 — In The Black Network (ITBN), a premier, free streaming service that highlights Black voices and original stories that are culturally significant and relatable for all audiences, announces new partnerships with Black Enterprise, African Diaspora Network TV, REVOLT Mixtape, HomesteadPlus, Shades of Black, World One TV, One Culture, as well as

the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and BlackPressUSA News Service; adding new FAST (Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television) channels to their growing library of content from Black creators. The new partnerships enrich the ITBN platform with a diverse array of multi-genre programming from Black creators. Viewers can look forward to an expanded selection of titles,

from action-packed adventures and laugh-out-loud comedies to culturally significant content like faith-based storytelling and compelling documentaries.

ITBN is also enhancing its global offerings with selections from Nollywood and other Black independent films from Africa, further connecting an already established global viewership of over 25 countries. This vibrant mix not only broadens the platform's ap-

peal but also reinforces ITBN's mission to celebrate and amplify Black voices, bringing the best of Black culture to a centralized, subscription-free place.

ITBN continues to draw the attention of familiar favorites in celebrity Black culture, and recently added an exciting new dating reality series, Finding My Romeo, aligning with the growing trend among streaming platforms. Hosted by charismatic Hip Hop

royalty, Romeo Miller, the show features a bachelor on a quest for true love among a group of lucky singles. Dr. Holly Carter's brainchild series arrives on ITBN through MergeTV, her family, faith, and lifestyle network.

Finding My Romeo joins a lineup of captivating original programming featuring celebrities, including Food for Thought with the inspirational DeVon Franklin, showcasing

the exceptional talent and compelling content that ITBN offers. The introduction of new FAST channels on ITBN coincides with National Black Business Month this August, a time to celebrate Black-owned businesses and their vital contributions.

In The Black Network is available for download on iOS and Android devices, Apple TV, YouTube, Roku, LG, and Samsung media players.

## GAMBRELL, from Page 2

of the company's first diversity council. Gambrell was a member of the CBS Network Sales Planning team and also served as a broadcast associate for CBS Sports. She began her mass media communications career as a Production and Talent Assistant on Disney and ABC's Daytime Emmy award-winning morning show "Live with Regis and Kelly."

As a professor, Gambrell shares her marketing and communications experience with students at Columbia University and New York University. Gambrell teaches graduate courses in integrated marketing, digital and social media, advanced public relations, media relations, corporate communications, and event planning.

She is a current board

member of her alma mater, Iona University (M.A., Sports & Entertainment Public Relations, and B.A., Broadcast Journalism, Television, Video Production and Film), who awarded Gambrell their Rising Star Award in 2018 for her early-career achievements. She is also an Iona entrepreneurship career mentor and advisory board member of the Communications, Sports, Entertainment and Media department.

"Joining a prestigious industry leader during a great time of transformation is just one of many reasons why I'm excited to become part of the executive management team at HBG. If you're a story lover like me, then you've likely read many of Hachette's acclaimed books.

As a storyteller at heart, I

look forward to elevating this world-renowned brand and showcasing all that HBG offers," said Gambrell. "Publishing impacts the entire world, our understanding of information, thoughts, curiosity and imagination. With David's vision for the company's future, the sky's the limit for what new heights that HBG will reach."

Gambrell has been named to PR Net's "Marcomms' Most Influential List," celebrating top brand marketers and communicators for their leadership, innovation and achievement in the field; Color Magazine's POWER 40 Under 40, a roster of exceptional young professionals of color who are reshaping industries, igniting change,

and inspiring a new era of leadership; Advertising Week's AWNewYork Future is Female Shortlist, presented by Warner Bros. Discovery; PRNEWS' list of Top Women in PR; and

PRWeek's Hall of Femme. She is originally from Los Angeles, California, and currently resides in Westchester County, New York, with her husband, son and daughter.



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## And That's the Way it Was

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I've lived long enough to realize that things usually go their own way. I may want something to go one way, but eventually, it all boils down to going the other way.

That is no more true than when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I travel somewhere. We usually use her Sissy Van, so I give her the honor of driving. After all, I sure don't want to drive a Sissy Van.

This month, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly will celebrate our 53rd year of marital bliss. I can't believe we've been married that long, but that's exactly what The Gracious

Mistress of the Parsonage told me. And she is never wrong—or at least, I never tell her when she is wrong.

Being married for 53 years is an accomplishment in today's world. Most people aren't married for 53 months. I can't believe all of the divorce and remarriage that I see in the world today.

If you're going to be a successful Hollywood movie star, you have to be married and divorced at least five times. My wife and I could never qualify as Hollywood celebrities, and that's just the way it is.

During our 53 years of marriage I can't remember any time we had a fight. We may have had one but I can't remember it. I don't

believe in anger and fighting and stomping around mad. Some people get a thrill out of that, but I'm not some people.

The only difficulties we've had have been with broccoli and Apple Fritters. She loves broccoli, and I love Apple Fritters, and the two shall never sit at the same dinner table.

Just before we married, I told her how much I loved Apple Fritters. So I asked her rather bluntly, "When we get married will I be able to eat Apple Fritters?"

Looking at me with a smile, she said, "Oh, my dear. You can have an Apple Fritter every single day."

It wasn't until a couple of months ago that I re-

mind her of this.

"Don't you remember," I said, "that you said I could have an Apple Fritter every single day?"

Laughing, she looked at me and thoughtfully said, "How many single days have you had since you were married?"

It took me a little while to understand what she was saying. That's just the way it was, so get used to it, I said to myself.

After being married as long as I have, I understand you don't always get everything you want. That's just not the way life works.

As a teenager, I thought I could get everything I wanted. After all, the commercial said, "You deserve a break today." You can

always believe a commercial.

Last month, I celebrated my 73rd birthday, and as I look back on my life, the one thing I'm grateful for is that I didn't get everything I thought I deserved. Oh boy, what would my life be like today if that really happened?

I had just graduated high school at 18 and thought I could have anything and everything I wanted. Thinking about it, if I had everything today that I always wanted when I was 18, I would be in bad shape right now. I sure am glad I'm not 18. In fact, I'm really glad I am as old as I am.

Today, I wouldn't have the energy to do what I was

doing 50 years ago. I'm just glad I can do what I am doing now at this age.

The other night, while relaxing in the living room watching TV, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were reminiscing about our family. We started 53 years ago, when all we had was each other.

Now, after 53 years of being together, we have three children, nine grandchildren, and this year, we acquired three great-grandchildren.

Both of us sat back in our chairs, sighed deeply, and smiled. In reality, we had everything that we need.

I was sitting in my office

See SNYDER, Page 15

### BOYD, from Page 3

litical spectrum. We should just judge people based on individual characteristics and based on merit, and that's certainly what President Trump and I want to do.

MARGARET BRENAN: But that wasn't born in the last four years, I mean, one of the--

SEN. JD VANCE: No, no not at all, but I think that President Biden and Harris have certainly accelerated it. I don't think you've seen any- anything like what we've seen from Kamala Harris when it comes to handing out gov-

ernment benefits based on people's immutable characteristics. The actual legal enshrinement of discrimination in this country, we haven't seen anything like in the last 30 or 40 years.

Certainly back in the 60s and 50s, we all look at that as a period that we wanted to get away from, and in some ways, the Harris Administration has re-implemented it. I think it's pretty disgraceful.

As the Founder and President of the NBFA, I called for Senator JD Vance (R-OH) to issue an apology to Black Farmers

for his racist, anti-black comment on CBS Face The Nation.

The NBFA is deeply offended by Vance's comments regarding the history of racial discrimination in the United States.

Now we comments from Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) reacting to the \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief package signed by President Biden that includes specific monies for farmers of color.

"The Harris Administration, for example, handed out farm benefits to people based on skin color. I think that's disgraceful. I don't-I don't think we should say, you get farm benefits if

you're a Black farmer, you don't get farm benefits if you're a white farmer." he said. "...there's been this thing in America where we've said that we should judge people based on their skin color, based on their immutable characteristics, based on things that they can't control. I frankly think that unfortunately,

a lot of people on the left have leaned into this by trying to categorize people by skin color and then give special benefits or special amounts of discrimination."

The long history of USDA discrimination against Black farmers and other farmers of color is not in dispute. For de-

cadec, USDA delayed or denied Black farmers the same loans and payments provided to white farmers.

We are continuing to work to ensure every eligible Black, Native American and other Farmer of Color receives debt relief, technical assistance and those farmers facing foreclosures are resolved.

### DAUGHTERS, from Page 9

and clipped together by the filmmakers and editor Troy Josiah Lewis. Their only questionable creative decision is not cutting more of the post event footage.

During sensitive moments, sweet cello music (composer Kelsey Lu) plays. During reflective scenes, songs like "Happen," by British singer/songwriter Sampha, fill the air with their deeply felt lyrics. In a haunting tenor voice, he croons: "You're too scared to show me love.

'Cause you're too fresh with the scars... I can't let this happen again. I found my love and I don't wanna lose it again."

Audiences will love all the girls, especially the extremely bright Aubrey who was around five years old during the filming. All the dads become leading men in their own movies and their metamorphoses are on view. That big day, when the daughters and fathers meet, hug, dance and exchange feelings is

when viewers who'd previously dabbed their eyes with a few tissues will grab a bunch.

Daughters puts a face on those affected by incarceration. Children, parents and families all trying to find their way back to the center of life. People learning lessons and gaining wisdom. When one father says, "The streets don't love us. Our kids love us," you know that they're all headed in the right direction.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

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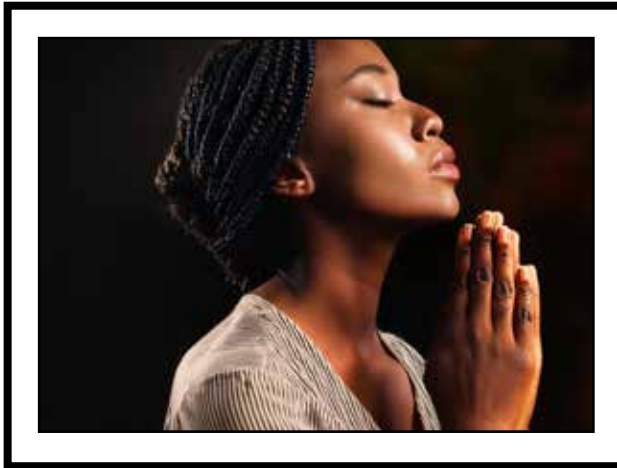
# Saved From Such Men



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

“O Lord, by Your hand save me from such men, from men of this world whose reward is in this life...” - Psalm 17:14

When I traveled over the ocean, I was reminded of the seemingly insignificant time we have on this earth. I imagined dropping a glass of water out the window into the huge body of water below.



The Lord then reminded me that this is how my life is compared to eternity - a mere drop in the ocean.

Yet, every day millions of people will go about

their daily routine seeking to gain that elusive thing called success.

The rewards of this life continue to provide the incentive for 60-hour weeks

or the extra weekend away from the family. Sometimes we get entrenched in the message of the world.

This message is an appealing, seductive call to sell out eternity for the temporal.

As a Christian person, I fell for this for many years until the Lord allowed me to wake up.

It took some severe wake-up calls, but they did their job. I'm so grateful the Lord cares enough to give us these wake-up calls.

He knows what real life is about. We think we know what it is, only to

learn once again that real life is only in what is built on eternity.

How does this verse line up with where you are today? Are you building around a world whose reward is in this lifetime, or an eternal one?

Do those with whom you associate live in such a way that they demonstrate their reward is not concerning this life? Jesus said to seek first His Kingdom and all these things will be added.

God knows the importance of commitment. He has witnessed the devastating effect of broken commitments through the ages.

Ask Him to help you to be a person who keeps your comments seriously.

Ask God to help you to never commit a sin that passes down to generations that comes after you, but help you to live a godly life that pleases Him; a Christian heritage pass down to future generations.

Ask God to protect you from all hurt and harm and to protect your family and friends from the evil one. And, as for me and my house, to serve the Lord forever, in the precious name of Jesus who paid the price with His precious blood.

## SNYDER, from Page 14

the other day and looking around at all of my books. I must confess that I am a bookaholic. When I retired, we added an office to our house so I could accommodate all of my books.

So, with 15 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and around 8,500 books in my library, what else is there to enjoy in life?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a craft

room at the other end of the house. Her craft room and my study are not very compatible except when she's in her room, and I'm in mine. Oh, the wonderful sounds of silence.

As I get older, I'm beginning to appreciate what I have. I have some friends who are always bemoaning what they don't have. I feel sorry for them, but I can't relate to them.

I see what I have in front

of me and I am one happy geezer.

While thinking about this, a verse of scripture came to mind. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11).

Reflecting on my life there is nothing I can change. I'm not sure what I would change if I could. What I can do is focus on the present. I can change

going forward by acting like an adult.

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

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# Omega Helps to save lives...



The men of Omega Psi Phi - Alpha Iota Iota Chapter, in partnership with the American Red Cross, exceeded expectations at the recent blood drive. Their remarkable contribution of 28 units, surpassing the goal of 23, highlights their dedication to this crucial cause. Last year, a total of 29 units were donated. The Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive is one of many community uplift programs that the North Dallas chapter of Omega Psi Phi is involved in.

Dr. Charles R. Drew, a pioneer in developing methods for processing and storing blood plasma, played a key role in lifesaving transfusion operations and led two of the largest blood banks during World War II. Donating blood is the ultimate act of kindness and generosity, directly impacting lives in profound ways. It's wonderful to see organizations like Omega Psi Phi and the American Red Cross coming together for such an important cause. (Courtesy photo)

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Isaiah Montague Harris in the National Tour of FUNNY GIRL. Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade.