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New report exposes tax system's role in widening racial wealth gap

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Today, Color of Change, the nation's largest online racial justice organization, and Americans for Tax Fairness released a damning report exposing the deep racial inequities entrenched in the U.S. tax system. The issue brief "How Tax Fairness Can Promote Racial Equity," written by Color of Change Managing Director Portia Allen-Kyle and Americans for Tax Fairness Executive Director David Kass, exposes the systemic flaws in tax policy that have widened the racial wealth gap and prevented economic mobility for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities.

The report urgently calls for sweeping reforms to stop the flow of tax benefits to the wealthiest Ameri-



Two noted organizations have taken a deep dive into the U.S. tax system and determined it is deeply riddled with what amounts to deep racial inequities. (Photo via NNPA)

cans—who are overwhelmingly white—while offering concrete solutions to make the tax code work for everyone, not just the top 1%.

"An equitable tax system does

two things," Allen-Kyle asserts. "It narrows the racial wealth gap from the bottom up and spurs economic

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People In The News ...



James Earl Jones



Sybil Haydel Morial

NDG Quote of the Week: "One thing is clear to me: We, as human beings, must be willing to accept people who are different from ourselves."

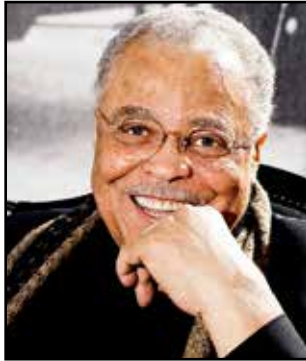
- Barbara Jordan

James Earl Jones

James Earl Jones, the legendary actor whose deep, resonant voice became synonymous with some of the most iconic characters in film history, passed away on Monday at his home in Dutchess County, New York. He was 93.

His representatives at Independent Artist Group first confirmed the actor's death to Deadline. Over a remarkable career that spanned six decades, Jones earned an indelible place in both Hollywood and Broadway.

He became one of only a few entertainers to achieve the prestigious EGOT, winning an Emmy, Grammy,



Oscar, and Tony.

Best known to many as the commanding voice behind Darth Vader in Star Wars, Jones brought depth and gravitas to the villainous character, making him one of cinema's most unforgettable antagonists.

He reprised the role in Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) and Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (2016), further cementing his legacy in the galaxy far, far away.

Born on January 17, 1931, in Arkabutla, Mississippi, he ironically overcame a stutter which gave one of America's most iconic voices a challenge to overcome in his formative years. Jones took an early interest in poetry and acting to help him overcome this. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war.

Jones's contributions to the arts extended far beyond Star Wars.

He voiced the beloved

character Mufasa in Disney's animated classic The Lion King (1994) and again in the 2019 live-action remake. His unmistakable voice was also a signature of CNN's "This is CNN" campaign.

Jones's acting career began on the stage and in film with his breakout role in Stanley Kubrick's Dr. Strangelove (1964). His powerful on-screen presence led to roles in a variety of acclaimed films including Conan the Barbarian (1982), Coming to America (1988), The Hunt for Red October

(1990), and The Sandlot (1990).

He earned an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Jack Jefferson in The Great White Hope (1970), a role that also won him his first Tony Award.

On Broadway, Jones was a force to be reckoned with. He earned four Tony nominations and took home two wins for The Great White Hope in 1969 and August Wilson's Fences in 1987. His contribution to the stage was celebrated with a Special Tony Award in 2017.

Jones's talents were equal-

ly recognized on television, where he won two Primetime Emmys in 1991 for Gabriel's Fire and Heat Wave.

His voice and presence on-screen were magnetic, a testament to his versatility as an actor who could excel in drama, comedy, and everything in between.

A recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2002, Jones's lifetime of achievements earned him accolades from SAG-AFTRA and the National Board of Review and a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Recording in 1977.

Sybil Haydel Morial

The Morial family has announced the passing of their mother and grandmother, Sybil Haydel Morial, 91, who was the widow of New Orleans' first Black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial. The family has issued the following statement:

"Words cannot express our sorrow at the loss of our beloved matriarch and guiding star. Our grief is tempered by our overwhelming gratitude for her life, her wisdom, and her love.

"Like many women of the Civil Rights Era, she was the steel in the movement's spine. From the moment she met our late father, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, they were joined in the fight for justice and equality. She confronted the hard realities of Jim Crow with unwavering courage and faith, which she instilled not only in her own children but in every life she touched.

"As a teacher and university administrator, she imparted a reverence for education



not only upon her own children but upon her students and the many colleagues who had the good fortune to fall under her brilliant men-



National Urban League President/CEO Marc Morial and his mother, Mrs. Sybil Haydel Morial. (Courtesy photo)

torship.

"She remains the 'First Lady' to generations of New Orleanians, who join her children - Dr. Julie Morial, Hon. Marc H. Morial, Mr. Jacques E. Morial, Ms. Cheri Morial Ausberry, Hon. Monique Morial; her seven grandchildren, her great-granddaughter, and a host of friends, family, and associates - in our grief. We ask for the continued prayers of all who knew and loved her and that our privacy be respected as we mourn our loss...A celebration of life will be announced soon."

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The figures who helped shape Vice President Harris

By Ben Jealous

When Kamala Harris was sworn in as vice president in 2021, she swore her oath of office on two Bibles.

One belonged to our nation's first Black Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Marshall, the civil rights giant who founded the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, inspired a generation that included Harris to embrace the law as a means to advancing equality and justice. Harris chose to attend Howard University, Marshall's alma mater.

The other Bible on which Harris was sworn in was the family Bible of Regina Shelton. Shelton was a neighbor, trusted caretaker, and mentor to Vice President Harris and her little sister Maya as children after school when her mom was working. Harris refers to Shelton as her "second mother." It was Harris's actual mother Shyamala Gopalan who guided and encouraged that relationship.

A civil rights activist herself, Gopalan was keenly aware that the world would see and treat her biracial daughters as Black women and of what that meant in America. She knew it was important for the girls to bond with other Black girls and women. Regina Shelton was from Louisiana, part of the migration of African Americans from Jim Crow

South. Shelton shared her perspective on Black culture and identity, took the Harris girls to church, taught them to cook soul food, and inspired them with stories of important Black female leaders. She was one of the people who exemplified and passed on to both Harris girls "a responsibility to give and serve," according to the vice president.

That responsibility to give and serve was also influenced by Vice President Harris's sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. Founded at Howard, AKA has been on the front lines of fights for social justice for more than a century. AKA members organized to stop lynchings, advocate for women's rights, staff health clinics in rural Black communities, offer job training programs, and more. AKA charted the path for other Black sororities and fraternities to become more active in the civil rights movement when it became a permanent member of the NAACP in 1939. As AKA international president and CEO Danette Anthony Reed puts it: "Whether it's social activism, advocacy for civil rights, building economic wealth, impacting our communities, we make a positive change."

Vice President Harris's dedication to service was not only inspired by her personal relationships and affiliations.

Her chosen path as a lawyer was shaped by important icons who embodied a commitment to freedom, justice, and equity. Justice Marshall was one of them. Another one was Judge Thelton E. Henderson.

Before becoming a legendary judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern California District, Henderson was the first African American lawyer to serve in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. He was a field investigator, working alongside Dr. King and other movement leaders. He was famously fired for loaning Dr. King his government rental car in Alabama because Dr. King's car had a problem with a tire and Henderson feared for King's safety if he got stranded. From the bench, Judge Henderson understood the importance of protecting human dignity for all people, and that the Constitution guaranteed fundamental rights even to those who much of our society shunned and did not accept. His judicial philosophy was shaped by wisdom, experience and an understanding of the law's role in protecting people that naturally allowed room for empathy.

Judge Henderson defended the rights of prisoners who were being abused and denied adequate health care. He made the Oakland Police

Department more accountable to federal monitoring over police brutality. He was the first judge in the country to recognize the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection and due process rights for gay people – decades before the Supreme Court recognized same-sex couples' right to marry. Judge Henderson is widely celebrated by conservationists for saving dolphins from drowning in tuna nets. And he wrote a decision that in effect made the San Francisco Bay Area meet federal air quality requirements.

A fierce defender of civil rights, a champion of the law's role in protecting the vulnerable and marginalized, who understands the importance of laws and regulations that protect our environment and health. That description applies to both Thelton Henderson and Vice President Harris – and that is no coincidence.

Over our 20-year friendship, I have witnessed firsthand how the powerful lessons from these mentors continue to guide Vice President Harris in her commitment to justice and service. And I am grateful to all the influences who helped shape and instill that commitment.

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

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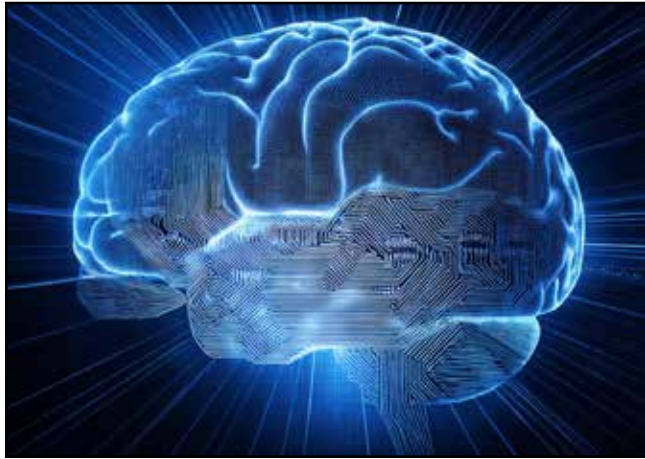
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Personalized brain stimulation significantly decreases depression symptoms

(Newswise) — Our brains are full of electricity, billions of signals being sent each day whether we're exercising, eating, singing, reading, working, sleeping, or just relaxing.

And when we're sitting with our thoughts — awake with our eyes closed — particular electrical patterns at 8-12 Hz dominate our brains. They are called alpha oscillations. In people who battle major depressive disorder, these alpha waves in the left and right sides of the



DWG Studio

prefrontal cortex are often out of balance; the left side is often overactive.

What if that overactivity could be brought back into balance? Would it help alle-

viate depressive symptoms? Flavio Frohlich, PhD, professor of psychiatry at the UNC School of Medicine, has pioneered methods for investigating this question, finding fascinating answers while helping patients relieve their depression symptoms.

Now, for the first time, Frohlich and colleagues — including longtime collaborator David Rubinow, MD, former chair of the UNC Department of Psychiatry — have developed and success-

fully tested a closed-loop system that can measure a person's individual alpha frequencies and stimulate the brain with a low-level alternating electrical current to bring balance to alpha oscillations.

In each hour-long session — for five consecutive days — this closed-loop system allowed the researchers to continually measure alpha waves and mete out low levels of electricity to help the brain bring its alpha oscillations back into synchronic-

ity.

In a paper published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, data show that 80 percent of 15 patients experienced marked improvement in their depression symptoms immediately and throughout the following two weeks, according to standard clinical tests and self-reporting.

There was no placebo group in this pilot study, which was sponsored by Pul-

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mobility for Black, Brown, and Indigenous individuals and families. Our current tax code fails on both accounts. It's a prime example of how so-called 'colorblind' systems actively prevent Black families from building generational wealth and economic security."

Tax Code Deepens Racial Disparities, Experts Say

The brief pulls no punches in describing how current tax policies disproportionately benefit wealthy white families, further deepening racial inequalities. By giving preferential treatment to wealth over work, the system locks in economic advantages for white households while leaving communities of color to bear the brunt of these inequities.

"Our tax system is not only failing to address racial wealth inequality, it's exacerbating it," Kass warns. "We privilege wealth over work, fail to adequately tax our richest households and corporations, and allow inherited fortunes to compound unchecked by

taxation. This perpetuates a legacy of racial inequality."

The racial wealth gap has exploded in recent years, with the median wealth gap between Black and white households jumping from \$172,000 in 2019 to over \$214,000 in 2022. Economic crises such as the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic further entrenched these divides, benefiting the already wealthy while leaving Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities further behind.

The Racial Wealth Gap and Homeownership

Homeownership, long touted as a primary means of building wealth in America, has failed to deliver for Black families. The report points to factors such as biased home appraisals and a regressive property tax system as key reasons why Black homeowners have been unable to accumulate wealth at the same rate as their white counterparts.

As the brief notes, with critical provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)

set to expire, now is a pivotal moment for tax reform. "We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform our tax system to address racial inequality," the report states, comparing recent monumental legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Three Key Reforms to Tackle Racial Inequity

The report lays out three central reforms aimed at curbing the wealth concentration among the ultra-rich and dismantling the racial inequities baked into the tax code:

- **Taxing Wealth Fairly:** The report calls for equalizing the tax rates on wealth and work. Currently, capital gains—profits from investments—are taxed at a far lower rate than wages earned by working people, a disparity that overwhelmingly benefits white households. The vast majority of capital gains income flows to white families, who comprise only two-thirds of taxpayers but receive 92% of the benefits from lower tax rates on investment income.

- **Strengthening the Es-**

tate Tax: The estate tax, which is supposed to curb the accumulation of dynastic wealth, has been weakened over time, allowing large fortunes—primarily held by white families—to grow even larger across generations. The report calls for stronger enforcement of the estate tax to prevent the further entrenchment of wealth and power within a small, overwhelmingly white elite.

- **Targeting Tax Deductions to Benefit Lower-Income Households:** Deductions for mortgage interest, college savings, and retirement accounts disproportionately benefit wealthier, predominantly white households. In order to prevent lower-income and minority households from falling behind due to policies that are currently biased in favor of the wealthy, the brief advocates for restructuring these deductions.

Biden-Harris Administration and Senate Proposals for Change

Both the Biden-Harris administration and Senate Finance Committee Chairman

Ron Wyden have proposed addressing the racial wealth gap. The Billionaire Minimum Income Tax (BMIT) and the Billionaire Income Tax (BIT) would ensure that the wealthiest Americans—who often go years without paying taxes—contribute their fair share. These proposals would raise over \$500 billion in revenue over the next decade, which could be reinvested in healthcare, education, and housing for communities of color.

As the report points out, our current tax system is skewed in favor of the ultrawealthy. It allows the rich to avoid paying taxes on the increased value of their investments unless they sell them. They often borrow against these growing fortunes, further delaying taxation, which allows white billionaires to accumulate vast wealth while paying a fraction of what working families pay in taxes.

Defending IRS Funding to Hold the Wealthy Accountable

The report also highlights the critical need to defend IRS funding, restored under

the Inflation Reduction Act, which is essential for cracking down on wealthy tax cheats. Contrary to Republican claims, this funding will not increase tax enforcement on households earning less than \$400,000. Instead, it will improve customer service and expand the Direct File program, saving taxpayers significant time and money.

The Biden administration's restored IRS funding is expected to raise an additional \$100 billion over the next decade by ensuring the wealthiest Americans and corporations pay what they legally owe.

A Call for Urgent Action

The message from Color of Change and Americans for Tax Fairness is clear: America's tax system is broken, and without immediate reforms, the racial wealth gap will continue to widen. "Addressing the insidious racial preferences in our tax code is one of the most direct ways we can not only help Black communities grow here and now but for generations to come," Allen-Kyle concludes.

Jury selection begins in trial of Memphis officers charged in Tyre Nichols' death

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Senior National
 Correspondent



Jury selection began Monday, Sept. 9, in the federal trial of three former Memphis police officers charged with violating the civil rights of Tyre Nichols, the 29-year-old Black man who died following a brutal beating by police in January 2023. The incident, captured on police cameras, ignited protests and calls for police reform nationwide.

Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, and Justin Smith face charges of using excessive force, failing to intervene, and obstructing justice through witness tampering. All three have pleaded not guilty.

On January 7, 2023, the police allegedly pulled over Nichols for alleged reckless driving. After being re-

moved from his car, Nichols attempted to flee on foot. Officers caught up with him and violently assaulted him, as shown in police body camera footage. Nichols died in the hospital three days later from his injuries. The autopsy revealed that he died from blunt force trauma

to the head, and his death was ruled a homicide.

The three officers on trial and two other officers—Emmitt Martin III and Desmond Mills Jr.—were members of the Memphis Police Department's now-disbanded SCORPION Unit, a specialized crime suppression

team. All five officers were fired after the incident and were later charged with second-degree murder in state court. Mills and Martin have pleaded guilty to federal charges and may testify during the trial.

While the trial is expected to last three to four weeks, the incident has also triggered a broader civil rights investigation into the Memphis Police Department.

In September 2023, Assistant U.S. Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney Kevin G. Ritz for the Western District of Tennessee announced the launch of an investigation into potential patterns of unconstitutional conduct within the Memphis Police Department. The investigation, which Nichols' death sparked, is looking into

whether the department used excessive force and racially discriminatory practices, particularly during traffic stops involving Black people.

"The tragic death of Tyre Nichols created enormous pain in the Memphis community and across the country," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The Justice Department is launching this investigation to examine serious allegations that the City of Memphis and the Memphis Police Department engage in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional conduct and discriminatory policing based on race."

Clarke emphasized that while Nichols' death was a catalyst, reports of officers escalating encounters and using excessive force over an extended period prompted the investigation.

"There are also indications that officers may use force punitively when faced with behavior they perceive to be insolent," Clarke stated.

The investigation will examine whether Memphis police violated constitutional rights through unlawful stops, excessive force, or racially discriminatory policing practices.

In addition to the federal trial and civil rights probe, Nichols' family has filed a \$550 million lawsuit against the City of Memphis, Police Chief Cerelyn "C.J." Davis, the five officers involved in Nichols' death, and other officials. The lawsuit alleges negligence in hiring practices and creating a culture of aggressive policing within the SCORPION Unit.

The trial has drawn national attention, with Nichols' family expected to attend as the officers' trial.

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2546	Bonus 7 Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29	\$2	10/23/24	4/21/25
2550	Show Me 100X Overall Odds are 1 in 4.35	\$5	10/23/24	4/21/25
2553	Winning 7s Overall Odds are 1 in 4.01	\$5	10/23/24	4/21/25
2554	50X the Win Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	10/23/24	4/21/25
2386	Break the Bank Super Ticket™ Overall Odds are 1 in 3.80	\$10	10/23/24	4/21/25
2560	\$50, \$100 or \$500! Overall Odds are 1 in 9.43	\$10	10/23/24	4/21/25

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Recalling my message to students about September 11

By Lew Blackburn, Ph.D.

Clara Oliver Elementary School Memorial Service, Sept. 21, 2001...

Good afternoon students and staff. I am Lew Blackburn, Trustee for District 5 of the Dallas Independent School District. I represent parts of West Dallas and South Oak Cliff; I represent this neighborhood and this school. I am proud of you for taking time to remember the victims of the tragedy from last week. Thank you for inviting me.

ATTACK

America was attacked Tuesday, September 11. Terrorist flew two airline jets into the two World Trade Center towers. Another jet was flown into the Pentagon. Yet another jet in route to another target, crashed in Pennsylvania. Although the attacks happened many miles away, we all feel like we have been attacked.

America watched in disbelief. We were alarmed, frightened, and angry. Who could do such a horrible thing? While fingers are pointing to blame, Americans are grieving for the victims. The world has joined in our grief.

Many adults are doing many things to help with the tragedy. Most of them have never experienced this type of tragedy. But they want to do something to help, even though they may be thou-



Jesse Mills / Unsplash

sands of miles away. What can children do to help? How can the students of Clara Oliver help with a tragedy so many miles away?

CHILDREN

Children can send letters to other children in the New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania areas. Find a school that you want to adopt as pen pals. Tell them that you are concerned for them. Tell them that you are praying for them. Tell them that they have a new friend in you.

Send letters to the firemen, policemen, and other emergency workers who are still working hard to find possible survivors. Let them know that you are proud of them. Let them know that they are positive role models.

What else can you do?

Children who have lost their parents in the New York and Washington DC areas need help. Raise money for the Red Cross Relief Fund. Ask that the money be used for the children who lost their parents in the tragedy.

FLAG & PLEDGE

Lately, you have seen many flags around our city. The flag symbolizes our freedom, and our unity. The red and white stripes represent the original 13 states of our nation. The blue background represents new constellations for our nation to explore. The white stars represent our 50 united states.

You have learned the pledge of allegiance. It states our commitment to our nation, and our commitment to each other. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,

the greatest country in the world . . . and to the Republic for which it stands, a democracy that is envied by many people around the world. One nation, with 50 states, under God, the almighty provider, indivisible, we will not fall under adversity, with liberty and justice for all. We are 50 states, but one nation that practices and promotes freedom for everyone.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

All across the nation, people are praying. They are praying for the victims, the mourners, the emergency workers, and others who are helping. And they are praying for America. Long ago, a prayer was made into a song:

*God bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and
guide her*

Through the night with a light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam.

God bless America, my home sweet home; our home sweet home.

REMEMBER

No matter what you do, remember. Don't forget what has happened.

Remember New York. Remember Washington DC. Remember Pennsylvania.

We shall not forget the World Trade Center Towers. We shall not forget the Pentagon. We shall not forget Shanksville Pennsylvania.

We have been wounded, but we are stronger.

We are still united, indivisible under God.

POEM

I want to close my remarks with a poem I received from

a friend. I think it symbolizes our emotions.

One....

As the soot and dirt and ash rained down,

We became one color.

As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building

We became one class.

As we lit candles of waiting and hope

We became one generation.

As the firefighters and police officers fought their way into the inferno

We became one gender.

As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength,

We became one faith.

As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement,

We spoke one language.

As we gave our blood in lines a mile long,

We became one body.

As we mourned together the great loss,

We became one family.

As we cried tears of grief and loss,

We became one soul.

As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes,

We become one people.

We are: One color; One class; One generation; One gender

One faith; One language; One body; One family; One soul; We are One people

We are The Power of One.

We are United.

We are America

WE ARE THE USA!

*STILL In Remembrance,
Lew Blackburn, Ph.D.*



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Harris dominates first presidential debate as Trump struggles to defend record

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris during their first presidential debate Philadelphia on Tuesday night. (Photo: Screen capture from ABC News feed of the debate, via NNPA)

Vice President Kamala Harris decisively took control of the first presidential debate against former President Donald Trump in Philadelphia on Tuesday night, delivering a performance that put Trump on the defensive for much of the evening. Moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis of ABC News kept a tight handle on the debate, significantly improving from CNN's June handling of Trump and President Joe Biden.

The debate began with a surprise as Harris ap-

proached Trump to shake his hand and introduced herself as "Kamala Harris," an unusual move that set the

tone for the night. Trump's trademark scowl stayed in place throughout the debate, as Harris pressed him on his

legal woes and diminished his record. Displaying her prosecutorial skills, Harris consistently turned the con-

versation toward Trump's convictions, his business fraud case, and his role in the January 6 insurrection.

Harris positioned herself as a problem-solver, taking on issues like housing, childcare, and the economy. In her opening statement, she outlined her "opportunity economy" plan, which focuses on bolstering the middle class.

"I was raised as a middle-class kid, and I am actually the only person on this stage who has a plan that is about lifting up the middle class and working people of America," Harris said. She detailed a \$6,000 child tax credit as part of her plan to

support young families.

Trump, by contrast, criticized the Biden-Harris economy, calling it "the worst period of time" he had seen. He defended his tariff policies and took aim at Harris, labeling her a "Marxist" while also accusing her of copying his economic policies. "I was going to send her a MAGA hat," Trump quipped.

Abortion rights were another major focus of the night. Trump, when asked if he would veto a federal abortion ban, declined to answer directly, stating, "I won't have to," and arguing that

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Haiti – Blinken on visit announces US support for peace keeping force

By New York Carib News

Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Haiti to demonstrate American backing for an international initiative aimed at reducing gang-related violence in the Caribbean country.

On September 5, 2024, Blinken landed in Port-au-Prince, where he presented a fresh round of assistance to refugees and met with interim prime minister Garry Conille.

Blinken informed reporters, "At this critical moment, we do need more funding, we do need more personnel to sustain and carry out the objectives of this mission."

Since President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in July 2021, gangs have taken control of large areas of Haiti. Eighty percent of Port-au-Prince, the capital, is includ-

ed in this estimate.

Amidst its crisis of legitimacy, the Haitian government has found it difficult to retake power and preserve calm.

The violence in Haiti has spread to ten departments, and the interim administration there widened the country's state of emergency just one day before Blinken's arrival.

Before, the Ouest department—which includes Port-au-Prince—was the only territory covered by the state of emergency.

However, a spokesman for Prime Minister Conille claimed that the enlarged emergency designation is a reflection of gang conflicts occurring in departments such as Artibonite, which is a sizable area that grows rice.

The United Nations estimates that in 2024, the

violence will have pushed a record 578,074 people from their homes, making it the world's greatest internal displacement disaster due to crime.

An estimated 2,500 people lost their lives or were injured in the ongoing conflict in only the first quarter of 2024.

However, to support Haiti's law enforcement, the Kenyan government dispatched 200 police personnel in June. Out of an anticipated 1,000 Kenyan policemen, a second wave of 200 came the next month.

Nevertheless, Blinken cautioned that the Kenyan military might not be sufficient to stem the flow of gang-related violence on their own.

He has publicly asked whether a UN peacekeeping

See HAITI, Page 12

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And the award for most treasonous act goes to...

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Assault on a Police Officer”—goes to...

In an event that reads like a parody but was all too real, the so-called “J6 Awards Gala,” meant to honor convicted criminals from the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, has been postponed. Just days before the planned ceremony, organizers from the group Stand in the Gap announced that the

event, originally scheduled for Thursday at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in New Jersey, would not go ahead as planned.

The awards ceremony was set to pay tribute to 20 MAGA loyalists, many of whom are currently behind bars. These individuals were part of the violent mob that stormed the Capitol and later recorded a song from

jail titled “Justice for All.” The evening was described by organizers as an “unforgettable night,” dedicated to honoring those whom they have labeled as heroes in the aftermath of the insurrection.

Though the event was advertised with Donald Trump listed as an “invited guest,”

See TREASON, Page 11



Photo via NNPA

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OWN's 'First-Time Buyer's Club' returns with new episodes Friday, Sept. 13

(Black PR Wire) LOS ANGELES – OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network announced recently “First-Time Buyer’s Club,” a half hour series spotlighting the house hunting journeys of first-time home buyers, is set to return with all-new episodes beginning Friday, September 13 at 8pm ET/PT. “First-Time Buyer’s Club” is an authentic and in-depth look at the exciting but complex journey of becoming a homeowner for the very first time, no matter the stage in life. Amina Stevens, a former teacher-turned-realtor believes there is a path for everyone to become a homeowner.

Filmed across the Tampa Bay area, each episode follows Amina as she creates a custom plan for new clients, navigating the many pros and cons of various homes and locales. Amina goes out of her way to educate and inspire clients who may be intimidated by the overwhelming housing market. By investigating each client’s unique situation, Amina takes pride in helping her clients break through the myths about home ownership so they can one day realize their dreams.

The season kicks off with two



back-to-back half hour episodes on Friday, September 13 at 8pm ET/PT. In the first episode, viewers meet Dwayne and Lynnis, a military family who’s lived in Guam for the last three years and have only a few days in Tampa to find a home. The next episode will feature Kasha and Brent, a young couple who are financially ready and on the hunt for their perfect home in a real estate bubble. But with a wish list that includes a two-car garage and a nice

backyard, finding the right location at the right price proves to be a challenge for Amina.

In other episodes throughout the season, Angela, a single mother, is featured who is in search of a multi-generational home she can share with her adult son, and Tina, a medical professional who’s looking to buy a home on her own for the first time at age 40.

“First-Time Buyer’s Club” is produced by Red Arrow Industries.

DEBATE, from Page 7

the end of Roe v. Wade had satisfied everyone. Harris, in turn, vowed to restore Roe’s protections through federal legislation if elected.

“I pledge to you: when Congress passes a bill to put back in place the protections of Roe v. Wade as President of the United States, I will proudly sign it into law,” she said.

As the debate went on, Trump repeated several conspiracy theories, including a claim that migrants were eating pets in U.S. cities, which Muir quickly fact-checked. Trump doubled down, citing “people on television” as his source. Harris largely let Trump’s more outlandish

statements pass, opting to stay on policy while allowing the moderators to address his factually inaccurate remarks.

In one of the most heated moments, Harris invited viewers to attend a Trump rally for themselves, commenting, “He talks about fictional characters like Hannibal Lecter and windmills causing cancer. You’ll notice people start leaving his rallies early—out of exhaustion and boredom.”

Trump, visibly irritated, retorted that he holds “the most incredible rallies in the history of politics,” but the debate soon returned to more

substantive issues like crime and inflation.

The night clearly contrasted Biden’s earlier debate with Trump, as Harris managed to keep Trump on the defensive. Trump continued to fixate on conspiracy theories and past grievances, while Harris stayed focused on presenting her vision for the future.

With fewer than 60 days until the election, the debate sets the tone for what will likely be a hard-fought campaign. As the debate ended, Harris closed with a message to the American people: “This is about who we are as a country. The choice is clear—between chaos and leadership, fear and hope.”

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Houston Hip-Hop bike tour is making good noise with tourists

(Black PR Wire) Houston, we have a problem! A good problem that is! With the growing rate of tourists coming to Houston for VIBES, one of the go-to tourist attractions has been the nation's only Hip-Hop pedal bike that celebrates Houston Culture and all things Hip-Hop!

Trill On Wheels is a one-of-a kind 2-hour experience that rides through the city of Houston, stops at several black owned establishments, and is a turn up with cocktails and hookah.

Trill On Wheels is the nation's first hip-hop bike tour, based in Houston, and has made nothing but a huge splash in the tourist industry for Texas.



When tourists visit Houston, Trill On Wheels is at the top of their lists to experience the true nature of Houston and to learn more about Houston legends like Beating, Slim Thug, Lil Keke

and more. With Trill On Wheels' newest brunch experience, an EADO Hip-Hop Brunch Tour featuring staple brunch stops in Houston, everyone is wanting to indulge in ev-

erything Trill On Wheels.

This experience is becoming one of Houston's highest tourist attractions and patrons say it's only getting better and better each year. Trill On Wheels always keeps it trill and brings all the energy patrons need to enjoy this unmatched and one-of-a-kind experience.

Trill On Wheels is based in the historic Third Ward neighborhood, EADO, and expansion plans to Fourth Ward. The tour experience blends the artistry of Hous-

ton-born & bred entertainers with light fitness. While pedaling the 13-15 seater motorized party bikes throughout the tour routes, riders can fully immerse themselves in Houston culture while learning more about the communities that make our city shine.

The success of Trill On Wheels is not just a business triumph but a beacon of hope for the broader community. As the business flourishes

See TRILL, Page 13

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DOJ and state attorneys general file joint consumer lawsuit

By Charlene Crowell



istockphoto / NNPA

In August, the Department of Justice and eight state Attorneys Generals filed a lawsuit charging RealPage Inc., a commercial revenue management software firm providing apartment managers with illegal price fixing software data that violates antitrust law and artificially increases costs for millions of renters across the nation.

After a nearly two-year investigation, the agencies found an estimated 80 percent of renters are forced to pay falsely inflated rates while also denying honest landlords an opportunity to compete for these same customers.

The lawsuit claims RealPage's practices are federal interstate commerce violations provided by the long-standing Sherman Act enacted in 1890.

"When the Sherman Act

was passed, an anticompetitive scheme might have looked like robber barons shaking hands at a secret meeting," stated. "Today, it looks like landlords using mathematical algorithms to align their rents. But antitrust law does not become obsolete simply because competitors find new ways to unlawfully act in concert. And Americans should not have to pay more in rent simply because a com-

pany has found a new way to scheme with landlords to break the law."

Joining the civil lawsuit are the Attorneys General of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington.

Falsely-inflated rental costs worsen the already disproportionate financial strain felt by people of color. Tight living spaces that come at sky-high costs especially

harm disproportionate numbers of Black and Latino renters. As Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies 2024 State of the Nation's Housing noted:

"More than half of Black (57 percent), Hispanic (54 percent), and multiracial (50 percent) renter households were cost burdened at last measure in 2022... While racial income inequality explains some of the difference, burden rates remain disproportionately high for lower-income renters of color, at 85 and 87 percent for

Black and Hispanic renters, respectively, as compared to 80 percent of their white counterparts."

The complaint alleges that RealPage contracts with competing landlords who agree to share with the firm nonpublic, competitively sensitive information about their apartment rental rates and other lease terms. This data is then used with RealPage's algorithmic pricing software to generate recommendations, including apartment rental pricing and other terms, for participat-

ing landlords. The use of rivals' data trove of competitively sensitive information violates interstate commerce law aimed at preventing monopolies.

The complaint further alleges that in a free market, these landlords otherwise would be competing independently to attract renters based on pricing, discounts, concessions, lease terms, and other dimensions of apartment leasing.

"Healthy competition in

See DOJ, Page 13

TREASON, from Page 8

it was reported by *The New York Times* that the former president was not expected to attend. Instead, Trump's former attorney, Rudy Giuliani, was promoted as a featured guest, along with several right-wing influencers and the families of the imprisoned insurrectionists, referred to by their supporters as "America's Heroes."

The gala wasn't cheap, either. General admission tickets cost \$1,500, while VIP tickets, which offered attendees closer proximity to the controversial gathering, cost \$2,500. The funds raised were intended to support the January 6 defendants, who continue to face significant legal and financial challeng-

es, according to the event's organizers.

However, the gala's postponement came as a surprise to many. In late August, Fox Business, part of the Fox News family that had amplified the electoral disinformation that fueled the attack, reported that the event was being delayed due to "scheduling conflicts" with invited guest speakers. Despite that report, which claimed Trump might be in attendance, the gala received little attention from major news outlets.

While the fundraiser has been postponed, Stand in the Gap expressed hope that it would occur after November 5—Election Day.

The twice impeached and

34 times convicted felon and former president, who has long expressed support for the individuals convicted in connection with the insurrection, has publicly called for their release, referring to them as "hostages." Prominent MAGA figures such as Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene have even visited some of these incarcerated individuals, further cementing their status as martyrs within far-right circles.

Meanwhile, Trump's legal troubles continue to escalate. The 78-year-old faces sentencing on September 18 for 34 felony counts related to falsifying business records to conceal an alleged affair with adult film actress Stormy Daniels.



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Fearless Fund to continue supporting women of color after settling AAER lawsuit

The Fearless Fund, a venture capital firm committed to supporting women of color entrepreneurs, has settled a lawsuit brought by the American Alliance for Equal Rights (AAER), leading to the permanent closure of its Strivers Grant Contest. Despite the end of the grant, Arian Simone, CEO and Founding Partner of the Fearless Fund, said she remains resolute in her mission to uplift historically under-

served communities.

On August 2, 2023, AAER filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the legality of the Strivers Grant Contest, which only supported Black women entrepreneurs. AAER argued that the program violated a federal law ensuring all Americans the right to make and enforce contracts without regard to race. In June 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruled that

the contest likely breached this statute, prompting Fearless to make the difficult decision to close it permanently.

Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), noted that the lawsuit was part of a broader effort by right-wing legal activists to dismantle Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Despite the legal setback, the Fearless Fund and its sis-

ter organization, the Fearless Foundation, remain committed to their core mission. The foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides capital, mentorship, and education to women of color entrepreneurs, who they describe as “the unrecognized economic powerhouses of our world.”

Although the Strivers Grant Contest will not return, the broader debate over DEI initiatives in business and other sectors continues

to intensify. Sharpton emphasized that while the lawsuit’s immediate threat has subsided, the fight to defend DEI programs is far from over.

“With the dismissal of this case, the immediate threat to DEI, workplace diversity, and free speech has been subdued for now,” Sharpton said. “But the fight to defend and promote workplace diversity will continue in boardrooms, state legisla-

tures, universities, the White House, and beyond. We will not allow the radical right to dismantle the progress we’ve made.”

For Simone, the closure of the contest is not the end, but a moment to reaffirm her commitment to empowering women of color. “The Fearless Fund and Fearless Foundation will continue to be a vital resource to ensure everyone has a fair shot at the American Dream,” she said.

HAITI, from Page 7

force is necessary, as have other US officials.

However, it is a contentious idea in Haiti, where on their most recent deployment, UN forces caused a fatal cholera outbreak.

Between 2010 and 2019, the illness claimed the lives of around 10,000 individuals.

Many in the country view international troops with caution due to the lengthy history of foreign intervention.

The priority, according to Blinken during his visit, was to make sure the international community was ready to help the Kenyan soldiers going forward, who had arrived as part of a mission known as the Multinational Security Help Mission.

Last October, the operation was authorized for a one-year duration. The UN should get together again and decide on an extension, according to

Blinken.

“The mission itself needs to be renewed,” he noted. “That’s what we’re working on right now. But we also want something that’s reliable, that’s sustainable, and we’ll look at every option to do that. A UN peacekeeping mission is one option.”

The US has provided the most financial assistance for the project, with a \$360 million pledge from President Joe Biden’s administration.

Recent news of an extra

\$45 million in humanitarian relief for Haiti was released.

During his visit, Blinken

again emphasized the need to have a stable, democratically elected administration. He

urged Haitian authorities to organize fresh general elections for the next year.

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DOJ, from Page 10

the rental housing market requires two key ingredients,” added Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco. “The market must be dictated by open and honest competition among landlords. And, renters must be able to negotiate prices with landlords — without the specter of collusion.... But RealPage has shut away those ingredients, changed the locks, and thrown away the keys. That’s collusion — and that’s against the law.”

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, whose office filed the joint lawsuit on August 23 in the Middle District of North Carolina, also weighed in on the lawsuit’s importance.

“Few things are as important as our homes — but too many North Carolin-

ians struggle to afford their apartment,” said Attorney General Josh Stein. “Rents are already too high. I will not tolerate any company scheming to block healthy competition among landlords. It raises rent, and it’s illegal.”

For one North Carolina local official, the lawsuit is an opportunity to right a grievous wrong.

“Between 2010 and 2020 the median rent in Wake County jumped up 40 percent,” said Shinica Thomas, Wake County Board of Commissioners Chair. “That costs families an extra \$4,200 a year. For a household that’s struggling to make ends meet, that can be the difference between stability and eviction.”

A growing metro market,

Wake County is home to the state’s capitol, Raleigh. But according to multiple independent housing research reports, high rental rate increases have occurred throughout the nation, in communities of varying sizes and locales.

For example, monthly rents in Knoxville, TN reached \$1,818 in February 2024, a 59.1 percent increase from 2019, according to this spring, SmartAsset.com.

More recently, Apartments.com found posted national rental rate averages by state and city. Nationally, the average national monthly

cost of a one-bedroom apartment with 699 square feet is \$1,563.

On a statewide basis, average rental costs in California, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York all surpass \$2,000 for dwellings with as low as 631 square feet to no more than 727 square feet. Conversely, Oklahoma is one of the states with the lowest average rent of \$880 for a 687 square foot unit.

Comparing costs and square footage by city, Apartments.com additionally found New York City had the highest monthly

rental cost of \$3,865, and the smallest square footage at 598 square feet. The only other city, Boston (\$3,450), was the only other city with more than had over \$3,000 in average rental costs. All of the following cities average rental costs exceeding \$2,000 for less than 700 square feet in Los Angeles, Miami, Oakland, San Diego and Seattle.

“Access to affordable housing options is becoming

increasingly difficult,” said Monica Burks, Policy Counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending. “Anti-competitive practices that inflate already high housing costs disadvantage individuals and families working hard to secure this basic need.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

TRILL, from Page 10

and attracts more visitors, it creates economic opportunities for local vendors and employment opportunities for residents.

The team, now over 20 strong, is a testament to

this. The 30,000 tourists who have experienced this unique tour have contributed over \$700,000 to neighboring businesses in just under 3 years, revitalizing the local economy.

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What Happened To My Little Piggy Bank?

Dr. James L. Snyder

This week, I had to do something I hadn't done before: go to the bank and deal with fraud in my checking account. Someone tried to write a check for \$1800 from my account. Fortunately, I didn't have that much money in my account, and I was a little provoked by this incident. How dare they!

I sat with the bank advisor dealing with this issue and getting my account back to normal. They had to issue me a new card because they were closing my checking account.

As I waited for all of this to process, I felt a little thought dance in my head. Whatever happened to my little piggy bank? It never gave me trouble like this.

When I was young, I didn't have an official bank account. I actually did not need a bank account at that time. My grandmother gave me a little blue piggy bank. When she gave it to me, she said, "Now, make sure you put money into this piggy bank every week." Then she handed me my first two quarters for my piggy bank.

I was so excited because I really needed the money; the

only problem was that my grandmother had not told me anything about where the money was going to come from.

It took me a while to realize I had to put money in myself. That little piggy bank was not a magic money machine.

I hid my little piggy bank in my bedroom so nobody could find it. Every time I got some money, I made sure I put some of it in the piggy bank. Over time, the money grew in that little piggy bank.

For as long as I had that piggy bank, I do not know any time when somebody took money out of it without my permission. I would have thought that every bank had that kind of precaution.

The times I used that little piggy bank were wonderful memories.

Next door to where we lived was a little country store. It sold mostly food, like soda, ice cream, cookies and the like. Whenever my little piggy bank had enough money in it, I would take some out and go to the little country store and get myself a well-deserved treat.

I usually did it when nobody was watching because

I did not want to use my own money to buy someone else a treat. You know how that is!

For many years, that little piggy bank served me quite well. It was always there when I needed it, and as far as I knew, nobody else knew it was there. Unfortunately, nobody contributed to my piggy bank.

Then, I went to a Bible school in New York and left my piggybank behind. I did not think about it for quite a few years.

Now, sitting in the bank trying to get my account back in order, I happen to think of my little piggy bank. I have no idea what happened to it. I would love to see it again and there might be a few coins in that little bank.

My parents sold the house while I was away at the time, and I never found out what happened to my little piggy bank.

It has been over 60 years since I last saw that piggy bank, but I still relish fond memories of it.

Just before Christmas, when we were doing our Christmas shopping, I was able to delve into my little piggy bank to get some money for Christmas presents. I

remember that first Christmas, I was very surprised at how much money was in that little piggy bank.

Whenever I got any money, I put some of it in the piggy bank, and I can never remember counting it. I just knew it was there. I thought about all of the presents I bought my parents and siblings with the money in my little piggy bank.

The bank finally fixed my account, and I was ready to leave. My piggy bank had never given me this much trouble.

Driving home, I could not help but think of how much that little piggy bank was a blessing. If I had not had that piggy bank that my grandmother gave me, I

never would have saved any money. I would have spent it as soon as I got it.

Every time I got alone with my grandmother, which wasn't often, she would whisper, "How's your little piggy bank doing?" and then she would hand me two quarters to put into my piggy bank.

She was the only one who knew about that piggy bank. I guess that's what grandmothers are for.

Would it be appropriate for me to buy all of my grandchildren little piggy banks? Would they use them the way I used mine?

I thought of a Bible verse that is usually misquoted. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while

some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10).

Money isn't our problem, but the "love of money." Money is important to my daily life. If I allow money to become an obsession, it takes my mind off what is important. I need to use what little money I have to live a life pleasing unto the Lord.

Money can be a blessing or a curse.

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.

← BRAIN, from Page 4 →

vinar Neuro/Electromedical Products International. But the Frohlich lab has secured funding from the National Institute of Mental Health to do a randomized double-blinded control study of Frohlich's new closed-loop system.

"Today's stimulation paradigms mostly focus on

specific neuronal networks across brain regions and are not designed to target the structure of large-scale electrical brain activity, which can be measured as rhythmic patterns we refer to as network oscillations," said Frohlich, who directs the Carolina Center for Neurostimulation.

"We already knew, through our research and others', that brain stimulation can improve depression symptoms, but current paradigms use six weeks of treatments. We showed dramatic improvement after five days. Our work shows that low-energy electric brain stimulation has potential for safe, rapid relief without medication."

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Failure That Leads to Godliness



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor



"All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader . . ."

1 Samuel 22:2.

God uses broken things to accomplish His greatest work. When David was anointed to be the next king, he was just a boy, the youngest among all his brothers.

Little did he know that the next several years would be years of fleeing from Saul whose successes turned into obsessions as a leader who had fallen from God's anointing.

Perhaps David thought, "Why am I living a life as a fugitive?" I am the next king of Israel.

Yet, his life was filled with adversity after adversity before he ever fulfilled the ultimate calling God had for him.

Others began to hear of David's successes and identify with his plight. But, it wasn't the successful and polished hero who came to join him.

It was "those who were in

distress or in debt or discontented" who would be part of his army -- and an army it was!

His army would become known throughout the world as the greatest ever assembled, not because of their skill, but because of the God behind the army.

God turned David's men into "mighty men of valor" (see 1 Chronicle 11:10).

God often uses failure to

make us useful. When Jesus called the disciples, He did not go out and find the most qualified and successful people.

He found the most willing, and He found them in the workplace.

He found a fisherman, a tax collector, and a farmer. The Hebrews knew that failure was a part of maturing in God.

The Greeks used failure as a reason for disqualification. Sadly, in the Church, we often treat one another in this way.

This is not God's way. We need to understand that failing does not make us failures.

It makes us experienced.

It makes us more prepared to be useful in God's Kingdom -- if we have learned from it.

And that is the most important ingredient for what God wants in His children.

Thank God for all of the special people that He has placed in your life to complete you.

Thank Him for your friends who are truly friends and for your Christian brothers and sisters.

Inspiring Body of Christ IBOC
Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.572.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCCHURCH.org

Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

I AM A PARKLAND
INFLUENCER

DON'T LET THE FLU GO VIRAL

Remind your friends and family to get a flu shot!

BE AN INFLUENCER

Find a clinic near you by visiting parklandhealth.org/flu

DOING THE RIGHT THING

"The time is always right to do what is right." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve our community's abused and neglected children living in foster care.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

Thursday, Aug 29 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept 12 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Friday, Aug 6 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Friday, Oct 4 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for this event, please visit dallascasa.org

NDG Book Review: 'Life and Death of the American Worker'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Whatever pays the bills.

That's what you do, day in and day out, looking ahead for the weekend or even just your 15-minute break. Most days, you like your job. Most days, you don't mind getting out of bed and going to work for that paycheck, the benefits and yes, the time off at days' end. Though, as in the new book "Life and Death of the American Worker" by Alice Driver, you do expect to get it all safely.

For many years, Angelina Pacheco cut chicken in her sleep.

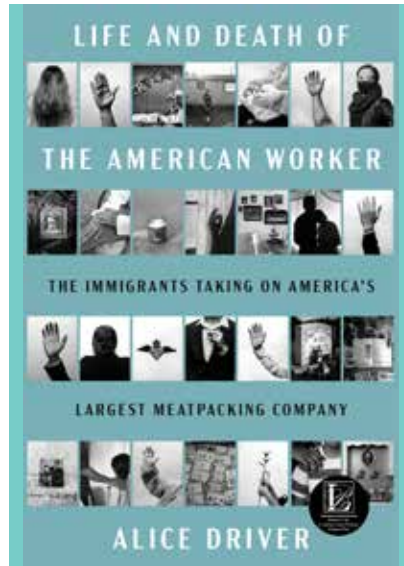
She and her husband, Plácido, worked at Tyson Foods, the country's largest meatpacking company at Tyson's facility in Springdale, Arkansas, where Angelina was assigned to remove wings from chicken carcasses. Because of the violence of her work and the repetitiveness of it, her hands "moved against her will, gnarled as they were."

Still, she was lucky. Angelina was working somewhere else when there was a chemical leak at the Tyson plant in 2011. Her husband, however, was a victim.

Alice Driver knew of the accident, and it lingered in her mind.

Over some years, Driver met many Tyson workers and gained their trust in order to investigate allegations of workplace accidents, unreported safety issues, and ignored worker health matters. Employees – nearly 30 percent Hispanic, nearly 27 percent Black – told Driver that physical injury was very common inside the plant, but employees were forbidden to seek outside medical care. Bathroom breaks were often denied. Driver was told that speaking to the media about anything was strictly forbidden. Tyson jobs were generally the only above-minimum-wage employment an illiterate or non-English-speaker could find, and nobody could afford to be fired: many workers were supporting family in other countries.

Still, Driver knew that some Tyson



workers were getting mighty fed up and some had broken company rules to explore legal and governmental help.

And then Covid hit...

No doubt, you've heard the stories. You might even remember the scant news coverage of the chemical spill in 2011. "Life and Death of the American Worker" fills in a lot of blanks and lets readers in on the status of immigrant workers today.

Take a guess about it, though, and you'd probably be right.

There's really no better time than now to read this book, although you might imagine that in this political climate we live in, it could be controversial. And yet, it's hard to ignore what author Alice Driver learned in years spent gaining the trust of immigrants who worked at Tyson while she investigating their working conditions. It's equally hard to overlook what Driver says about the valid American need for these workers and the jobs they do.

Readers who enjoy the conveniences of store-bought food will gain a new appreciation of the people who process it, but also beware that this book is unsettling and could make your blood boil. If you're looking for argument or answers, you might find them here. If you're ready for activism, "Life and Death of the American Worker" offers a good payoff.

