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Recent surge in registration among voters of color holds potential to transform election

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

The number of registered voters of color has grown to reach about a third of those eligible to vote. This growing block, expected to be pivotal in swing states this November, means more power for minority communities.

Since Kamala Harris became the Democratic nominee, one can sense a growing excitement among these communities. If elected, Harris will not only be the first female president, but also the first president with Asian roots, and only the second African American to occupy the high office.

Though the past four years had shown only moderate growth in Black adult registrations, reaching 14% of the electorate, after Harris became the nominee, Black registrations suddenly shot up by 85% in battleground states. The increase



Since Kamala Harris became the Democratic nominee, there has been a notable surge in voter registrations, particularly among Black women and young voters. Despite this growth, voters of color are still underrepresented at the polls. (Unseen Histories / Unsplash)

was even more pronounced among Black women, at 98%, and young Black females, reaching 175%. This, according to the *Independent*, citing data from Target Smart.

Voter enthusiasm has shifted, especially among women, young voters, and voters of color, who are

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People In The News ...



John Amos



Dikembe Mutombo

NDG Quote of the Week: "Greatness can be captured in one word: lifestyle. Life is God's gift to you, style is what you make of it."

- Mae Jemison

John Amos

John Amos, the Emmy-nominated actor and pioneering television star who brought to life some of the most beloved characters in entertainment history, has died. He was 84. His son, K.C. Amos, confirmed in a statement that Amos passed away more than a month ago, on August 21, in Los Angeles of natural causes. The younger Amos didn't say why he kept his father's death under wraps for more than a month.

"It is with heartfelt sadness that I share with you that my father has transitioned," K.C. said. "He was a man with the kindest



Wikipedia

heart and a heart of gold... and he was loved the world over. Many fans consider him their TV father. He lived a good life. His legacy will live on in his outstanding works in television and film as an actor."

Amos' acting career

spanned over five decades, with his most iconic role being that of James Evans Sr., the no-nonsense, hard-working father on the groundbreaking CBS sitcom *Good Times* (1974–1979). The show, which was the first sitcom to center on an African American family, became a cultural touchstone, and Amos' portrayal of James Evans Sr. made him a symbol of strength and dignity for countless viewers.

However, his time on the series was cut short after three seasons due to creative differences with the show's producers. Amos famously clashed with the show's direction, objecting

to what he saw as the stereotypical portrayal of his on-screen son, J.J., played by Jimmie Walker.

"We had a number of differences," Amos recalled in later interviews, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. "I felt too much emphasis was being put on J.J. in his chicken hat, saying 'Dy-no-mite!' every third page." Amos' insistence on portraying a more balanced, positive image of the Black family on television led to his departure from the show in 1976, when his character was written out in a dramatic two-part episode.

Born John Allen Amos Jr. on December 27, 1939,

in Newark, New Jersey, Amos began his professional life with dreams of playing football. He played the sport at Colorado State University and had brief stints with teams like the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs. But after a series of injuries and cutbacks, Amos transitioned to entertainment, beginning his career as a writer and performer.

Amos got his first major acting break as Gordy Howard, the good-natured weatherman on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, appearing on the iconic series from 1970 to 1973. He would go on to write and perform sketches on *The*

Leslie Uggams Show and later landed roles in various television series and films.

In 1977, Amos received an Emmy nomination for his powerful portrayal of the adult Kunta Kinte in the landmark ABC miniseries *Roots*, a role that solidified his status as one of television's most respected actors. Amos' performance in *Roots*, one of the most watched and culturally significant TV events of all time, remains one of his most enduring achievements.

In addition to his success on television, Amos

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Dikembe Mutombo

Dikembe Mutombo, the towering 7-foot-2 center who starred at Georgetown University before becoming one of the NBA's greatest shot blockers, died of brain cancer, the league announced on Monday. He was 57.

Mutombo first made his mark at Georgetown, where his shot-blocking abilities and imposing presence on the court quickly earned him national recognition. Legendary coach John Thompson, who also helped the Hoyas' defense become one of the best in the game, recruited Mutombo and fellow star Alonzo Mourning. During his time with the Hoyas, he was named the Big East Defensive Player of the Year twice and famously blocked 12 shots in a single game, prompting Georgetown fans to create the "Rejection Row" cheering section.

After graduating with degrees in linguistics and diplomacy in 1991, Mu-



tombo entered the NBA, where his defensive dominance became the hallmark of his nearly two-decade career. Over stints with six teams—including Denver, Atlanta, Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, and Houston—Mutombo swatted 3,289 shots, the second most in NBA history. His signature finger wag warned opponents not to challenge him at the rim after each block.

He was named NBA Defensive Player of the Year four times, cementing his reputation as one of the league's most feared defenders. Yet, for younger fans, Mutombo's legacy ex-

tended beyond his playing days through his appearance in Geico commercials, where his signature blocks and finger wags were humorously showcased.

But Mutombo's impact reached far beyond basketball. After retiring from the game, he dedicated himself to humanitarian work, particularly in his home country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2007, he founded the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital in Kinshasa, providing much-needed medical care to thousands of people. The hospital, named in honor of his mother, includes an emergency room, an intensive care unit, and 150 beds.

"My thing is about fighting the mortality rate so we can allow the people to live longer," Mutombo said in a 2016 interview with NBC News. "That has been my cause, my drive."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver described Mutombo as "simply larger

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the Publisher**

Clinique Hill

Assistant Office Coordinator

Belda Ibarra

Contributing Writers

Jamal Baker
Allen Gray
Jackie Hardy
Lori Lee
Terri Schlichenmeyer

Religious Editor Emeritus

Shirley Demus Tarpley
("Sister Tarpley")
1941-2024

Account Executive

Teryck Edwards

Production

David Wilfong



Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

marketing@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com



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P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

For those who still can't decide whether to vote



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

With the November 5th General Election just a few days away, it appears that some people are still trying to decide if they should even bother to vote. This message is for Black people, in particular, who are experiencing that particular indecisiveness. Let's remember that other Black people before you, in too many cases, died that you might have the right to vote. Let's remember that it took the passage of the Voting Rights

Act of 1965, guaranteeing and protecting our right to vote; that people were beaten and killed to stop us from voting; that in this century the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; that since 2020, we have seen a number of states try to institute Voter I.D. requirements when many of our older citizens who value the privilege of voting can not produce copies of birth certificates which often were not provided for them; let us not forget that ballot drop boxes have been removed in some states making it harder to return a ballot and that in some places the hours for

voting at polling sites have been reduced to create and inconvenience voting times for working people.

Some of us might be homeless or unsheltered and say that because you don't have a physical street address, you don't want to vote and that your vote won't count. Not so. Every vote counts and you can vote without a street address. Your right to vote is not attached to where you live.

In addition to our national elections, we do have local elections which will affect all of us directly. We have three seats on the County Board of Supervisors on the ballot and a City Attor-

ney position for the City of San Diego. I am retracting our support for Brian Maenschein for that position and switching our support to Heather Ferbert, who currently serves as a City Attorney. Just as we are supporting LaShae Sharp-Collins for the 79th Assembly District seat, it's time to look at each position and make your vote count.

If you have not registered to vote, there is still a small window. Remember, although we can't know who you vote for, we can know whether or not you bothered to vote. Make a decision and stay in the game. Your very existence depends on it.

Black women must never back down

On Sept. 30, a Fulton County, GA Superior Court Judge issued a ruling saying the state can no longer enforce its 6-week abortion ban. In response, Dr. Regina Davis Moss, President and CEO of In Our Own Voice, released the following statement:

"This ruling is a significant development for Reproductive Justice—and especially for Black people in the state of Georgia and nationwide who are disproportionately impacted by extreme measures to control our reproductive health.

The six-week abortion ban was ineffective, short-sighted, and lethal

for Black women in Georgia. Six weeks is sooner than most even realize they are pregnant. A six-week ban robs pregnant people of their ability to make thoughtful decisions about their reproductive future. Bans expose pregnant people and their doctors to criminalization over routine health care, and in cases like that of Amber Nicole Thurman and Candi Miller, these bans increase the likelihood that women will die preventable deaths.

We know this is likely not the end of Georgia's ongoing legal abortion battle to restore and expand protections. Legal wins matter in this fight, but what also

matters is the power of our voices at the ballot box. We're determined to protect our rights from every angle, and we know that our voices are stronger than the sound of any judge's gavel.

This moment is a reminder that we must never back down from confronting attacks on our rights. Our laws and our judicial system should never interfere with our health care decisions or getting the medical care we need. In Our Own Voice is committed to building up a world where we all have the freedom to make decisions about our lives, families and futures, and we won't stop until we

achieve Reproductive Justice."

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda is a national-state partnership focused on lifting up the voices of Black women leaders at the national and regional levels in our fight to secure Reproductive Justice for all women, girls, and gender-expansive individuals. Our eight strategic partners are Black Women for Wellness, Black Women's Health Imperative, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, SisterLove, Inc. SisterReach, SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, The Afiya Center and Women With A Vision.

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Pregnant women who sleep less than 7 hours a night may have children with developmental delays

(Newswise) — WASHINGTON—Pregnant women who do not get enough sleep may be at higher risk of having children with neurodevelopmental delays, according to new research published in the Endocrine Society's Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

Short sleep duration (SSD) is defined as sleeping less than seven hours per night. Pregnant women may have trouble sleeping due to hormonal changes, pregnancy discomfort, frequent urination, and other factors.

It's been reported that almost 40% of pregnant women have SSD. These women may have a higher risk of impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance and gestational diabetes, and their children may be at higher risk of experiencing neurodevelopmental delays. These children are



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slower to develop their social, emotional, behavioral, motor, cognitive, or speech skills.

"This study highlights the necessity of managing sleep health during pregnancy. By shedding light on the connection between maternal sleep during pregnancy and children's neurodevelopment, our study empowers families with knowledge that can shape healthier pregnancy hab-

its and contribute to the well-being of the next generation," said lead study author Peng Zhu, M.D., of Anhui Medical University and the MOE Key Laboratory of Population Health Across Life Cycle in Hefei, China. "Improving sleep habits during pregnancy may prevent or reduce the risk of neurodevelopmental issues in children."

The researchers analyzed sleep data from 7,059

mother-child pairs from 3 different hospitals in China. They screened the children for developmental delays from 6 months to 3 years old and analyzed the link between maternal sleep duration and neurodevelopmental delay risk. They also evaluated the role of cord blood serum C-peptide levels, which are a stable indicator of fetal insulin secretion.

The study found:

- Insufficient sleep during pregnancy may be associated with an increased risk of neurodevelopmental issues in children, affecting their cognitive abilities, behavioral development and learning capabilities.

- Boys appear to be at a higher risk of neurodevelopmental delays when their mothers experience SSD during pregnancy, suggesting that gender plays a crucial role in offspring response to prenatal environ-

mental factors.

- SSD during pregnancy might affect the mother's glucose metabolism, thereby influencing the fetal development environment.

- There may be a positive correlation between C-peptide levels in umbilical cord blood and neurodevelopmental delays in offspring, indicating that a mother's glucose metabolism during pregnancy may impact the insulin secretion of the fetus and, consequently, their neurodevelopment.

"Prenatal health is important not only for the expectant mother but also for the long-term health of the unborn child," said Zhu.

Other study authors include: Lei Zhang, Hai-Xia Wang, Yuan-Yuan Zhu, Rui-Rui Ma, and Yu-Hong Wang of Anhui Medical University and the MOE Key Laboratory of Population Health Across Life Cycle; Wen-Xiang Li of Anhui

Medical University; and Yu Zhang and Dao-Min Zhu of the Affiliated Psychological Hospital of Anhui Medical University, the Hefei Fourth People's Hospital and Anhui Mental Health Center in Hefei, China.

This research received financial support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Innovative Research Group Project of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the National Key R&D Program of China, the Research Funds of Center for Big Data and Population Health of IHM, and the Foundation for Scientific Research Improvement of Anhui Medical University.

The manuscript, "Association of Maternal Short Sleep Duration with Neurodevelopmental Delay in Offspring: a Prospective Cohort Study," was published online, ahead print.

Disparities narrowing among patients undergoing blood stem cell transplant

(Newswise) BUFFALO, N.Y. — Every year, more than 22,000 patients in the U.S. undergo a potentially lifesaving blood stem cell transplant — often called a "bone marrow transplant" — for the treatment of hematologic diseases. But historically, some patients with blood cancers have been less likely than others to receive the treatment. Theresa Hahn, PhD, of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is lead author of a new study in the journal JAMA Network Open showing that while progress has been made in reduc-

ing those disparities, older adults and Black patients are much less likely than people from other groups to receive a blood stem cell transplant.

The research team analyzed data provided by the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) for 136,280 patients who underwent hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) in the U.S. between 2009 and 2018, comparing those numbers with the incidence of six blood cancers (acute myeloid and lymphoblastic leukemia, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin

lymphoma and myelodysplastic syndrome) in various age, race and ethnic groups the U.S. as reported by the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program.

The team found that during that period, the use of HCT increased for the treatment of most blood cancers — and rose among all age, race and ethnic groups.

The researchers also discovered that in the most recent years analyzed, from 2017-2018:

- The rate of HCT utilization for blood cancers rose

among Hispanic and younger patients to equal the rate of non-Hispanic white patients.

- Non-Hispanic Black patients had a lower rate of HCT for all six diseases studied.

- Pediatric, adolescent and young adult patients had a higher rate than adult patients of allogeneic HCT,

which involves receiving cells from a healthy donor.

"This study shows that while progress has been made to reduce disparities among racial and ethnic groups, there's a need to improve hematopoietic cell transplant utilization rates in older adults and in Black patients of all ages," says Dr. Hahn, Professor of On-

cology in the Department of Cancer Prevention and Control at Roswell Park and the study's first author.

The research team also include Dr. Hahn's Roswell Park colleague Megan Herr, PhD, and collaborators from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; the CIBMTR; and the Mayo Clinic.



New York City Mayor Eric Adams criminally indicted

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has been criminally indicted, becoming the first sitting mayor in the city's history to face such charges. Federal prosecutors announced the indictment late Wednesday, September 26. NBC News reported that the charges mark a pivotal moment in Adams's tumultuous tenure, which high-level resignations and a series of federal investigations have plagued.

Adams allegedly sought and accepted illegal "nominee" or "straw" contributions. By "smuggling their contributions" to Adams' campaign through the straw donors and actors from overseas, Adams "defeated federal laws that serve to prevent foreign influence on U.S. elections," according to the indictment.



Photo via NNPA

In 2018, when Adams had announced his plans to run for New York City mayor, he allegedly accepted and sought illegal campaign contributions to his upcoming mayoral campaign, the indictment says.

Businesses also circumvented the city's ban on corporate contributions "by funneling their donations through multiple employees," according to the in-

dictment.

In a video statement posted online, Adams fiercely denied the allegations, calling the charges "entirely false" and "based on lies." He asserted that federal authorities had targeted him because of his commitment to standing up for New Yorkers. Adams vowed to fight the charges in court. He made it clear he had no plans to resign.

The indictment follows months of escalating federal scrutiny. Earlier this month, federal agents searched the homes of several of Adams's top officials and seized phones, including that of Police Commissioner Edward Caban, who resigned on September 12. Authorities also confiscated the phone of Caban's twin brother, James Caban, a former police officer who now runs a nightclub security business. Investigators reportedly are looking into whether bars and clubs in Manhattan and Queens paid James Caban to act as a police liaison and if those establishments received special treatment from local precincts.

The indictment adds to a series of ongoing federal probes into Adams's administration, which has already seen numerous high-ranking officials come under investigation. These probes began last year when

federal agents seized the mayor's electronic devices after searching the home of his chief fundraiser.

Calls for Adams to step down have intensified after the charges. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander and New York State Senator Zellnor Myrie, who have launched campaigns for next year's mayoral race, have publicly called for the mayor to resign. "The hardworking people of New York City deserve a government and leadership they can trust. Right now, they don't have it," Lander posted on X.

The New York Working Families Party, a major progressive group, also demanded Adams's resignation, stating that "he has lost the trust of the everyday New Yorkers he was elected to serve."

Adams, a former NYPD captain, was elected in 2021 on promises to restore public safety and

reinvigorate the city post-COVID-19. His administration, however, has been criticized for handling issues like the migrant crisis and subway safety, as well as for his late-night socializing and disputes over city spending, particularly on education. Despite these challenges, Adams has maintained a defiant stance, denying all wrongdoing.

Several news outlets reported that Adams is expected to have several days to turn himself in, and is not expected to appear in court on Thursday. Prosecutors have informed his attorneys that he will be summoned to surrender later.

In his video statement, Adams remained resolute: "I always knew that if I stood my ground for New Yorkers, I would be a target—and a target I became. If I am charged, I am innocent, and I will fight this with every ounce of my strength and spirit."

Vance and Walz begin cordially but end in heated clashes over Trump, Jan. 6, and national policy issues

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Republican Senator JD Vance of Ohio and Democratic Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota, faced off in the only vice presidential debate of the 2024 election on Tuesday night, which began with a measured tone but eventually escalated into a combative exchange. The debate, which CBS News hosted at their Broadcast Center in New York and Norah O'Donnell



Senator JD Vance of Ohio (Photo: United States Congress, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons) and Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota. (Photo: Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan)

and Margaret Brennan moderated, covered a range of important national issues, with Vance's connections to former President

Donald Trump and the January 6 uprising emerging as key flashpoints.

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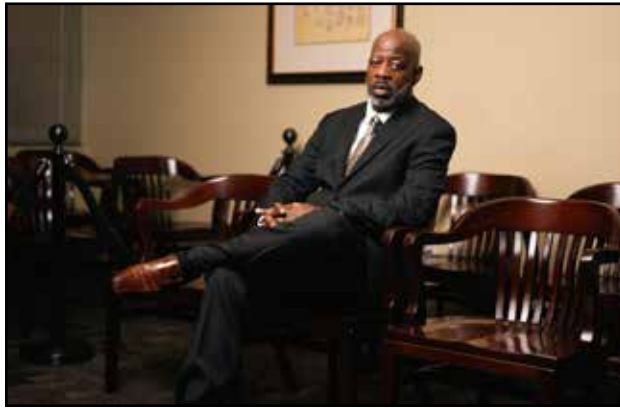
PVAMU's new dean of College of Juvenile Justice aims to expand impact across Texas

By Christine Won
PVAMU

For Dr. Kareem Jordan, the newly named Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice (COJJ) at Prairie View A&M University, his interest in juvenile justice began as a child fortunate enough to attend a “better” school.

Growing up in an underserved area of Philadelphia, he observed notable differences between the schools in his neighborhood and the one he attended in an area with “stronger schools,” thanks to his wise mother’s insistence.

“I noticed the kids in that school had better resources than the schools in my neighborhood, which I thought was unfair and wrong,” he said, adding he often saw kids in his neighborhood getting into trouble with authorities, unlike his school peers. “Over time, I started asking myself why some kids



Nicholas Hunt / PVAMU

got in trouble while others did not and who was at fault. Were the kids in my neighborhood actually getting in more trouble, or was the ‘system’ built in a way that made it seem like kids in my neighborhood were getting in more trouble? That question sparked an interest in me and led to my interest in juvenile justice.”

It paved the way for his career trajectory to a PhD in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where his doctoral dissertation focused on the practice of prosecuting ju-

veniles in the adult criminal justice system.

“As I researched more issues in juvenile justice, my love for this area grew,” he said. “I love the area of juvenile justice because our work directly impacts the lives of youth, which can change their lives and ultimately change the world.”

With that vision, he became PVAMU’s COJJ Dean this summer.

A point of pride for Jordan in his new position is that the College of Juvenile Justice had the first doctoral program in juvenile

justice in the United States. “I want our college to be one of the strongest and healthiest colleges not only at PV but in the nation,” he added.

Jordan has already set objectives for his administration at the college, from increasing enrollment to expanding programs. He also envisions maximizing the college’s impact, especially the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, in the state of Texas.

“Our college is uniquely positioned to help address the challenges facing the juvenile justice field,” said Jordan, who also serves as executive director of the TJPC. “Some challenges faced by the system include creating and evaluating intervention programs, Black and Latino youth being disproportionately represented in the system, and the lack of mental health resources for justice-involved youth.”

Previously, Jordan

served as director of Diversity & Inclusion in the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, DC. Prior to that, he served as a graduate director in the Department of Justice, Law, and Criminology at AU, where he directed multiple programs, including the PhD program and two master’s programs (i.e., criminology and terrorism/homeland security policy).

With over 20 years of teaching experience, Jordan has taught across the spectrum of criminal/juvenile justice courses, including corrections, theory, methods, systems, and policy. He has also served as graduate director at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, the University of Central Florida, and the University of North Florida.

Through these key leadership positions, Jordan has honed his knowledge,

skills, and experience in focus areas such as faculty/staff/student recruitment and retention, student-centered pedagogical practices, academic assessment, curricula revisions, and strategic planning.

Jordan, whose research focuses on juvenile justice and race/justice issues within the criminal justice system, has published dozens of articles in the field’s top journals, including *Race & Justice*, *Journal of Crime and Justice*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, as well as in multiple scholarly books. He also serves on the editorial boards for leading journals: *The Prison Journal*, *Journal of Crime and Justice*, and *Criminal Justice Policy Review*.

Across his achievements, his driving motivation has remained the same since

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made his mark in films. He appeared in Melvin Van Peebles’ groundbreaking blaxploitation film *Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song* (1971) and *The World’s Greatest Athlete* (1973). He was widely recognized for his role in *Coming to America* (1988), where he played Cleo McDowell, the owner of McDowell’s, a fast-food restaurant parody of Mc-

Donald’s. Amos reprised the role over three decades later in *Coming to America 2* (2021).

His filmography also includes the Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby classic *Let’s Do It Again* (1975), *The Beastmaster* (1982), *Die Hard 2* (1990), *Ricochet* (1991), *Mac* (1992), *For Better or Worse* (1995), *The Players Club* (1998), *Night Trap* (1993), and *Be-*

cause of Charley (2021).

Amos was also a familiar face on television throughout the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, with recurring roles in shows like *The West Wing* as Admiral Percy Fitzwallace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* as Will Smith’s stepfather. He appeared in *The District*, *Men in Trees*, *All About the Andersons* (as Anthony Anderson’s father), and the Netflix series

The Ranch.

Beyond acting, Amos had a passion for writing and performing in theater. In the 1990s, when he found it challenging to secure roles in Hollywood, he wrote and starred in the one-person play *Halley’s Comet*, about an 87-year-old man waiting in the woods for the comet’s arrival. He toured with the production for over 20 years, performing in cities across the United States

and abroad.

In addition to his on-screen and stage accomplishments, Amos co-produced the documentary *America’s Dad*, which explored his life and career. He was also involved in Broadway, appearing in Carl Reiner’s *Tough to Get Help* production in 1972.

John Amos’ life and career were not without personal challenges. In recent years, he was embroiled in a public legal battle be-

tween his children, K.C. and Shannon, over accusations of elder abuse. This unfortunate chapter cast a shadow over his later years. However, his legacy as a beloved television father and one of Hollywood’s pioneering Black actors remains untarnished.

Both K.C. and Shannon, children from his first marriage to artist Noel “Noni” Mickelson and his ex-wife, actress Lillian Lehman, survive Amos.



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Allred provides stark contrast to Cruz in close Senate race

By Joe Farkus
NDG Contributing Writer

When Congressman Colin Allred took the stage at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia on August 22, he struck a distinctly different tone from that of his rival Senator Ted Cruz at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee just 5 weeks earlier. In contrast to Cruz's criticisms of the Biden administration allegedly allowing a "literal invasion" on the southern border, Allred focused his brief message on his own personal story.

"I was raised by a single mom...who often worked two jobs to make ends meet," Allred told the as-



sembled Democrats in Philadelphia. "So when we talk about lowering costs, I think about the times we went to the grocery store when I was growing up and swiped the debit card and said a little prayer."

It is more than just a different approach in messaging that separates the two contenders for this Senate

seat; there are genuine differences in policy as well. With Texans still grappling with the cost of living, Cruz blames inflation on the Biden administration's major spending initiatives in the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act and calls for deregulating industries so businesses can create more

jobs. Allred has focused his efforts on supporting gender pay equity, increasing the minimum wage and federally funding job training programs.

"Every time Ted Cruz has the chance to lower costs for Texas families, he votes against it," Allred told the *North Dallas Gazette*. "I'll hold corporations accountable for jacking up prices and work to bring down the cost of health care and housing..."

Cruz and Allred have also taken opposing positions on childcare and school safety. Allred supports an extension of the Child Tax Credit to help families cover expenses, while Cruz has consistently opposed it. Allred and Republican

Senator John Cornyn supported the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to expand background checks and fund mental health services, while Cruz opposed it and proposed an alternative bill focusing on more law enforcement and physical security at schools.

"Nothing short of a massive victory for life" was how Cruz responded to the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Allred opposed the Dobbs decision and disagrees with Cruz on providing federal protections for abortion. They also disagree on voting rights. While Cruz defends voter ID laws, Allred has led the fight to rewrite the Voting Rights Act and has pledged to combat vot-

er suppression laws.

With the presidential race tightening and Cruz maintaining a lead of 49% to Allred's 45% in a recent Emerson College poll, his campaign is focusing its attention to the issue it believes will resonate most statewide: immigration.

"11.5 million people have crossed our border illegally under Joe Biden," Cruz said at the Republican National Convention, "every day Americans are dying. Murdered, assaulted, raped by illegal immigrants that the Democrats have released."

Cruz backs up his fiery rhetoric with policy proposals like finishing the

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DEBATE, from Page 5

The debate's early moments were largely civil, as both candidates laid out their platforms and shared their visions on topics such as foreign policy and the economy. However, tensions flared when Vance was asked about Trump's recent comment that childcare was "not very expensive" compared to the money the country would gain from his policies. Vance explained that Trump was referring to the nation's ability to raise funds by "penalizing companies shipping jobs overseas" and those using "slave laborers." But Vance sidestepped when pressed on whether Trump was committed to the child tax credit, redirecting the discussion to economic penalties for outsourcing, prompting frustration from

Walz.

The debate took a sharper turn when Vance was questioned about the 2020 election and Trump's role in the January 6 insurrection. Rather than directly answering whether Trump lost the 2020 election, Vance defended the former president's actions that day, stating, "Remember, [Trump] said that on January the 6th, the protesters ought to protest peacefully, and on January the 20th, what happened? Joe Biden became the president. Donald Trump left the White House."

Walz responded forcefully, calling Vance's failure to answer directly "a damning non-answer." He continued, "To deny what happened on January 6, the first time an American president or anyone tried

to overturn an election, is unacceptable. This has got to stop. It's tearing our country apart."

Walz also drew attention to the broader implications of Vance's remarks, reminding voters of the violence on January 6, including a march on the governor's mansion in Minnesota. "What I'm concerned about is, where is the firewall with Donald Trump? Where is the firewall if he knows he could do anything, including taking an election, and his vice president's not going to stand up to it? That's what we're asking you, America," Walz said, clarifying that accountability for democracy was at stake in the 2024 election.

Vance avoided direct answers on election integrity and instead pivoted to discussions of censorship, blaming tech companies

for "censoring their fellow citizens" and touting Trump's endorsements by former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. He continued to defend Trump's policies, including tax cuts and immigration, while steering clear of addressing the core issue of Trump's role in questioning the election results.

The debate further escalated as the two candidates clashed over climate change, healthcare, and gun violence. On climate change, Walz highlighted the Biden-Harris administration's investments in clean energy and infrastructure, citing the Inflation Reduction Act as a crucial step in addressing the crisis. "We've made massive investments in electric vehicles, solar technology, and job creation because we know cli-

mate change is real," Walz said.

Vance countered by downplaying the urgency, arguing that Democrats were not serious about the issue. "If they really believed climate change was serious, they'd be doing more manufacturing and energy production here in America. That's not what they're doing," he said, accusing Democrats of using climate change as a political slogan rather than implementing real solutions.

Gun violence also sparked a heated back-and-forth. Vance proposed increased school security measures, suggesting, "We need to make sure the doors lock better, strengthen windows, and add school resource officers." Walz quickly criticized the proposal, asking, "Do you want your schools hardened to look like a fort?"

He pressed for more comprehensive gun control measures, emphasizing the need to address the root causes of violence.

Ultimately, Walz positioned himself as a champion of middle-class families, touting healthcare and affordable housing policies. At the same time, Vance remained firmly aligned with Trump, repeatedly defending the former president's record and platform.

Walz appealed to voters to choose leaders who will protect democratic institutions, saying, "When Mike Pence made that decision to certify the election, that's why Mike Pence isn't on this stage." Vance, meanwhile, reflected on his loyalty to Trump, asserting that "Donald Trump delivered for the American people."

Irving's Music on Main returns for a new fall series

Spend perfect fall evenings with live music, food and family fun as the City of Irving presents Music on Main at Heritage Park, 217 S. Main Street.

The concert series kicks off its fall return with a special Car Show & Concert on Oct. 5, beginning with the Irving Police and Fire Departments' Blue Christmas Car Show & Toy Drive from 1 to 6 p.m., followed by a live performance from the Selena Forever Tribute Band at 7 p.m.

Following the series kickoff, Music on Main continues at Heritage Park Friday nights at 7 p.m. for a variety of live music entertainment.

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CONCERT SCHEDULE:

- Sat. Oct. 5 | 7 p.m.: Selena Forever Tribute Band
 - o A Dallas-based national touring act paying tribute to the legacy of Selena, the Queen of Tejano music.
- Fri. Oct. 11 | 7 p.m.: Barefoot Nation – Tribute to Kenny Chesney
 - o A tribute to country singer Kenny Chesney bringing fun, classic songs and good times.
- Fri. Oct. 18 | 7 p.m.: All

- Funk Radio Show
 - o From Old School R&B, Motown, and Soul to the infectious rhythms of Funk, this diverse set list promises to awaken the inner groove of any audience.
- Fri. Oct. 25 | 7 p.m.: Chicago Tribute Authority Texas
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For more information visit, <https://www.CityofIrving.org/Music-on-Main>.

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Pras Michel files lawsuit against Lauryn Hill alleging fraud and breach of contract over Fugees reunion tour

Prakazrel “Pras” Michel, a founding member of the iconic hip-hop group The Fugees, has filed a lawsuit against his former bandmate Lauryn Hill and MLH Touring, Inc. in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (Case 1:24-cv-07403). The complaint, filed this morning, alleges fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of contract concerning The Fugees’ 2023 reunion tour.

The lawsuit claims that Hill exploited Michel’s “vulnerable legal situation,” manipulating him into an unfair agreement regarding the tour’s financial arrangements. According to the complaint, Hill allegedly made off with a significant share of the tour’s proceeds, leaving Michel with a small portion that wasn’t in line with previous Fugees tours.

In an email to the Black Press’ Let It Be Known News, Michel’s legal team, Robert S. Meloni of Meloni & McCaffrey, accuses Hill of concealing her intention to control the tour’s profits and misrepresenting crucial financial information. “We assert that Ms. Hill misrepresented critical financial information and concealed her intent to take an exces-



Photo via NNPA

sive 60% share of the tour’s proceeds, leaving Mr. Michel with only 20% instead of the group’s customary one-third split,” Meloni stated.

Michel’s legal complaint also highlighted Hill’s reported chronic tardiness during the tour, with concerts frequently starting two or more hours late. The lawsuit further alleges that Hill canceled the second half of the tour, financially penalizing and defrauding Michel in the process.

Michel is no stranger to legal controversy. He was found guilty in 2023 of conspiring with fugitive Malaysian financier Jho Low in three lobbying schemes to influence U.S. presidential administrations. While he remained free pending sentencing, Michel’s primary defense lawyer allegedly inappropriately relied on an experimental generative AI tool to create his closing

argument in the star’s high-profile criminal trial.

Michel’s new defense attorneys filed a motion late last year seeking a retrial. Michel’s new lawyer from the firm, ArentFox Schiff, stated that the Fugees’ member’s previous lawyer, David Kenner, made a poor closing argument, saying that it was frivolous, misunderstood the necessary points, mixed up different schemes, and overlooked important weaknesses in the government’s case.

The attorneys also asserted the conduct of U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly of Washington, D.C. as a factor. In a separate legal action, Michel wants Hill held accountable for allegedly sabotaging the Fugees’ tour.

“This legal action aims to hold Ms. Hill accountable and secure justice for Mr. Michel,” Meloni stated in the complaint.

DEAN, from Page 6

childhood: to break the cyclical nature of the justice system.

“Many times, the most underserved communities in Texas and elsewhere are more likely to experience those factors that increase delinquency, such as lack

of resources, lower-paying jobs, and a lack of investment in public education,” he said. That cycle continues when those living “in those communities are also likely to be viewed negatively by those who work in those formal systems, such

as education, law enforcement, social services, etc.”

Jordan continued: “The mission of the Center allows us to work with these communities, help target those factors, and decrease the likelihood of these youth becoming system involved. It’s rewarding work.”

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Colorado stars Shedeur Sanders and Travis Hunter shine bright

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

Rarely does a college football program house potentially the top two overall picks in an NFL draft. The University of Alabama most recently nearly accomplished this feat during the 2023 NFL draft with Bryce Young and Will Anderson Jr. being selected first and third overall respectively. The Colorado Buffaloes feature a two-way superstar who possesses the traits of a football unicorn in Travis Hunter and a smooth operating quarterback that has a special combination of arm



NDG Composite on photos by 2C2K Photography (CC BY 2.0)

talent and athleticism in Shedeur Sanders. If an NFL organization finds them-

selves in need of an all-around playmaker or franchise quarterback, it might

just be as Sanders stated on his hit rap single "Perfect Timing."

The Buffaloes are coming off an impressive victory as they defeated the University of Central Florida 48-21. Heisman hopeful and soon to be favorite for the award Travis Hunter made plays on both sides of the ball. Hunter stuffed the stat sheet tallying nine catches for 89 yards and a touchdown to go along with an acrobatic interception that would make Olympic gold medal gymnast Simone Biles proud.

"This is who he is man, it's who he is. The guy works his butt off in practice," Colorado head coach Deion Sanders reiterates

postgame.

Similar to how Kevin Durant has 'quiet' 30-point games, Shedeur Sanders threw for 290 yards and three touchdowns while completing 80 percent of his passes. Sanders makes playing the quarterback position look easy with premier ball placement and quality decision making. Arguably the top quarterback prospect in this year's class, Shedeur Sanders credits his doubters and humble beginnings as a college athlete for his current focus and determination.

See BUFFALOES, Page 13

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VOTE, from Page 1

expected to vote at dramatically increased rates compared to 2020, the *Independent* reported.

Growth among registered Asian American, Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities is even higher and the fastest growing voting block, according to Pew Research. This segment alone could constitute the margin of victory in some battleground states if they can manage to get out their vote.

Yet despite this growth, voters of color remain less likely than Whites to vote. According to a recent study by the Center for Inclusive Democracy at the University of Southern California, despite 35% population growth for Asian Americans, 23% for Latinos, and 6% for Blacks, these groups continue to be underrepresented at the polls. Though they combine to form 30% of those eligible to participate, voters of color as a group cast only 22% of all votes in 2020, according to the study. This, compared to White Americans, who voted 43% of the time in recent elections, according to Pew Research Center.

If the goal is to have all segments of society represented equally, voters of color should be voicing their opinions more often.

With over half of Black adults living in the south, Texas is followed by Georgia and Florida as having the largest number of Black eligible voters, Pew Research reported. This may be one reason Senate Democrats recently shifted millions in funding to Texas for Rep. Colin Allred's senate campaign, after polls showed him in a dead heat with Senator Ted Cruz, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

Other states with high proportions of Black voters include Mississippi at a mighty 37%, Maryland at 33%, and Louisiana at 32%.

The growth of registered voters of color proves that American politics can evolve very quickly. After Georgia was able to turn out their Black vote in 2020, the formerly red state has now grown a vivid shade of purple, voting narrowly for Biden and after two runoffs, handing the Senate majority to Democrats in the last general election.

Following Stacy Abrams' struggle against voter suppression in Georgia during her 2018 gubernatorial race, several grassroots organizations worked together to help register over a million new voters in Georgia, raising active registered voters to 98% in 2020 from 78% of those eligible in 2016, PBS reported. The state now issues automatic registration when eligible voters get their driver's license.

Black eligible adults now make up a big piece of the voting population in Georgia, at 33%, while AAPI and Hispanic voters also saw bold increases to around 10% in 2020.

Early polling suggests Harris' presence on the ticket has reduced the recent trend of Hispanic voters drifting to the Republican ticket, the *National Catholic Register* reported, Harris resonating with 55% of Hispanics, an improvement over Biden's recent numbers among this group.

There is an excitement generated when a person is nominated who has roots in India or Southern Asia, Founder and Chairman of AAPI Victory Shekar Narasimhan said in a September

9 Ethnic Media Services briefing. This excitement has meant more participation in political meetings and more volunteers getting involved.

Narasimhan's organization seeks out newly eligible voters and talks to them about civic engagement. Though the AAPI community is among the most active on social media and remain open to engaging with politicians, the audience is not being targeted, said Narasimhan.

Yet, a number of organizations are working to mobilize the AAPI vote. After doubling the Asian American vote in Pennsylvania, Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance (APA) has plans to knock on 500,000 doors, make five million phone calls, and send a million pieces of mail in 22 languages, said Mohan Seshadri, its executive director.

"We're gonna be on the doors and on the phones and in people's mailboxes about the election until the election is done," said Seshadri.

AAPI voters represent the margin of victory in Pennsylvania, a state that has been described as the battleground of battlegrounds, added Narasimhan. Seven states will be likely to determine the outcome of the presidential race, these including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Candidates would be wise to find inroads in places like Michigan, which has been seeing AAPI relocations due to AI and the transformation of the auto industry to electric.

AAPI voters will also be critical in suburban Atlanta, Las Vegas and the Research Triangle in North Carolina, added Philippines Associ-

ate Professor of History, James Zasadias.

According to Pew Research Center data, about 75% of AAPI voters born in the U.S. vote or lean Democrat, compared to 56% of foreign-born Asian registered voters. There was a turning point in the 90s, when Al Gore received the majority of Asian American votes after increasing outreach and his policies on immigration, explained Zasadias. The community also noticed when Bill Clinton appointed more Asian Americans to his administration and to the courts, he said.

Recent focus groups even show young Viet-

namese American voters, a group that is typically more conservative, now strongly favor Harris, though some are holding back due to the situation in Gaza, explained Dr. Tung Nguyen, President of the Progressive Vietnamese American Organization (PIVOT). The Vietnamese, who historically associated Republicans with anti-communism, have grown less enthusiastic about the Republican Party following the insurrection, said Nguyen. These voters are now seeking out candidates who will truly look out for their interests, he said.

If some Asian Republicans are not thrilled with their Presidential options,

added Zasadias, they may decide to vote for Harris and Walz in the top races, but that doesn't mean they will ditch other Republican candidates down-ballot. Historically, these voters have split their tickets, a trend that is expected to continue.

The deadline to register to vote in Dallas County is Oct. 7, 2024. Texas residents can register by mail by printing a voter registration form, filling it out and mailing it to their local election office. The form can be found at <https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp>. They can also register to vote in person if they prefer.



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Nordstrom partners with Harlem's Fashion Row with three capsule collections

(Black PR Wire) We are thrilled to announce our latest partnership with Harlem's Fashion Row. Nordstrom by Harlem's Fashion Row reimagines the Nordstrom brand through the lens of three incredible designers represented by Harlem's Fashion Row: Megan Renee, House of Aama, and Harbison. Discover three unique capsule collections, each offering a distinct design perspective and must-have items available online and in select Nordstrom stores since September 12.

Harlem's Fashion Row is the premier agency bridging the gap between brands and designers of color through brand strategy, collaborations, new media, experiential marketing, recruiting, and pipeline programs with prominent brands and retailers like Nordstrom. Nordstrom is proud to collaborate with Harlem's Fashion Row and bring these designer collections to life.

"We're excited to introduce these three capsule collections that reimagine our

Nordstrom brand in partnership with Harlem's Fashion Row, Megan Renee, House of Aama, and Harbison," says Nina Barjesteh, president of Nordstrom Product Group, Nordstrom. "With our Nordstrom brand, we always aim to bring our customers an assortment of well-designed, high-quality styles, and we've worked hand in hand with each designer to bring their visions to life through our name-sake brand, offering beautiful, distinct collections at a great price point."

No matter what you are shopping for this fall, Nordstrom by Harlem's Fashion Row has the best pieces for women's and men's fashion featuring vibrant colors, bold prints and tailored silhouettes.

Megan Renee's brand embodies strong femininity with an unmistakable boldness. You'll find eye-catching prints in wearable staples with exaggerated shapes and fresh new proportions. From off-the-shoulder bodysuits and faux

leather tiered skirts to silky button-ups and an abstract puff sleeve dress, these pieces blend femininity and boldness.

House of Aama's capsule collection dives into its unique tailoring roots inspired by African Diaspora Dandy Culture. Fabrications and jewelry pieces feature etching-type motifs from antiquity pottery or sculpture design. The collection features various prints like pinstripes, tonal stripes, checks, and more. For women, you'll find asymmetrical pieces with tanks, skirts and cardigans. For men, you'll find tonal striped pants, chore jackets, graphic button-downs and more.

Harbison's collection is an ode to his mom, who navigated the world elegantly as a working-class, utilitarian woman. Pulling that inspiration from women's day-to-day life, you'll find color, texture and patterns that will exude joy throughout. Red poppy prints fill the collection,

featured on a pleated maxi dress, a romantic textured blouse, lounge pants and satin scarves. Other styles include matching sets, transitional trench coats, and dresses of different textures, lengths, and colors.

Each collection is filled with ready-to-wear and accessories and while each designer draws from their own inspiration, the pieces are perfect for mixing and matching. Nordstrom by Harlem's Fashion Row is available in sizes XXS – 2XL and 00-18 for women and sizes S-2XL for men.

"Partnering with Nordstrom is not just an opportunity to showcase the remarkable versatility and creativity of designers like Megan Renee, Harbison, and House of Aama—it's a celebration of Black consumers' cultural and economic power. Collaborations like this are a powerful way to align with diverse brands, allowing us

to bring their distinct visions to a broader audience. With Black consumers expected to drive significant growth in apparel and footwear spending, and a strong preference for brands that resonate with their culture, this collaboration is deeply personal to us. We're presenting a collection that not only redefines fall fashion with bold prints and tailored silhouettes but also honors the importance of supporting diverse talent in our industry," says Brandice Daniel, CEO & Founder of Harlem's Fashion Row. "At Harlem's Fashion Row, we are committed to creating fashion experiences that speak to and empower a community that has long influenced the fashion landscape. We're thrilled to bring this unique experience to Nordstrom's customers across the country, offering them the chance to engage with and support these incredible de-

signers."

Nordstrom by Harlem's Fashion Row designer capsule collections are available in 20 doors and online at Nordstrom.com with prices ranging from \$45 for a baby tee to \$299 for a coat.

Nordstrom and Harlem's Fashion Row have a longstanding partnership, supporting key events and initiatives throughout the year including HFR's annual Fashion Show and Style Awards, Black Business Month at Nordstrom, and more. Nordstrom also supports ICON360—HFR's nonprofit arm through events including its annual HBCU Professor Retreat as well as the 360 Fashion Scholarship for HBCU students. Together, we are committed to creating lasting change and opportunities for rising talent and designers from diverse backgrounds in the fashion and retail industry.

← BUFFALOES, from Page 7

"Remembering that you was just an HBCU kid that couldn't do it on the power 5 level. That's really what it was. I don't forget anything. I don't forget what anybody ever said and personally I'm not one to you know make friends or feel like just cause success is going on now I'mma forgive everybody. Like nah, whatever you said at any point in time, I'm not really a forgiving type," Shedeur Sanders claims.

The superstar duo of Travis Hunter and Shedeur Sanders have built a rapport

that grows stronger as each game passes. This type of connection can be compared to the likes of current NFL stars Joe Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase during their days at LSU. Sanders consistently displays the cool under pressure aura that Burrow showcases in the pocket, while Hunter is the same type of home run threat that Chase is with the football in his hands.

Following their bye week this weekend, Colorado will prepare to face a gauntlet of BIG 12 teams—starting with the No. 20 Kansas

State Wildcats making the trip to Boulder Saturday, Oct. 12. The Kansas State defense is adept at forcing turnovers yet extremely susceptible to big plays. Shedeur Sanders must maintain his poise and look to feed number 12 every time the opportunity presents itself, and good things will happen. Travis Hunter and the Colorado defense will look to slow down an explosive Kansas State offense that features a dynamic rushing attack. This chess match will be won in the trenches where the Colorado Buffaloes will be tasked to rise to the occasion.

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

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Turning former mine lands into sites for economic development

(Newswise) Just as Zillow helps home buyers find houses for sale, commercial real estate developers will soon be able to find the ideal property in West Virginia's southern coalfields using a similar land search system developed at West Virginia University.

Researchers have designed the platform to encourage development

opportunities, like clean energy and recreation, on former mine lands.

To repurpose these lands and create new jobs, WVU will collaborate with Coalfield Development Corporation and The Nature Conservancy. The system is part of a comprehensive project called "Appalachian Climate Technology Now," which received funding

from the U.S. Economic Development Administration as part of the Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant.

WVU is leading the Former Mine Lands to Sustainable Lands component of the project.

Almost 4,500 former mine lands exist in West Virginia's 21 southern coalfield counties. To facilitate invest-

mentors' and developers' searches, properties are organized in an interactive database similar to Zillow, Airbnb and VRBO. The web-based mapping tool analyzes sites based on their locational and other developable attributes. Users, including local and state governments, economic development authorities and private developers, can search for spatial crite-

ria specific to certain types of development, including renewable energy options.

During the project's second year, the WVU team aims to refine the search tool to provide users with a timeframe for sustainable development. At present, 16 sites have been identified.

The researchers intend for the tool to be used by private developers and industry, the

West Virginia Economic Development Authority, regional economic development groups, and county organizations and stakeholder groups.

The researchers said they believe the shift to sustainable energy will be a gradual one rather than a "light switch moment," but that West Virginia's rugged terrain offers a unique opportunity.

SENATE, from Page 7

border wall and supporting ICE agents in deporting undocumented immigrants. In contrast, Allred proposes comprehensive immigration reform that protects DACA recipients and provides a pathway to citizenship to those currently here undocumented.

"We had a bipartisan plan to take these strides forward and Ted Cruz killed it, not because of the policy but because of the politics," Allred told NDG. "I will roll up my sleeves and work with folks in both parties to get this done."

Despite voters seeking clarity from candidates on specific areas of policy, heated rhetoric and personal attacks have only escalat-

ed the closer Texas and the nation have gotten to Election Day. During remarks at the opening of his DFW campaign headquarters in August, while Cruz deemed Allred and his Democratic opponents "crazy" and "nuts" for their positions on criminal justice reform, a crowd member interrupted and claimed Vice President Kamala Harris is a "deliver worshipper."

"Well," Cruz paused, "not only are they that crazy, but Kamala Harris repeatedly, along with Joe Biden, nominated some of the leading advocates in the country in abolishing the police to senior positions in the U.S. Department of Justice."

"Ted Cruz thinks Texans are small, scared and divided," Allred told NDG, "but if that were true I would not be where I am today with the chance to become Texas' first Black U.S. Senator."

With just over a month to go until Texans must choose their new Senator, Allred and Cruz provide two clear and distinct visions and sets of priorities for whoever serves the next 6-year term as US Senator.

In a year of political twists and surprises, it is far to say this race is far too early to call.

Both the Allred and Cruz campaigns were contacted for comment, the Cruz campaign did not respond.



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How Can I Get My Sneeze Back?

Dr. James L. Snyder

I've had a lot of health issues during this past year, and now that I seem to be over them, something else has taken their place.

I have had a sneezing fit for the past two weeks that I've never experienced before. Every time I sneeze, it is in triplets. I don't know why I have to sneeze three times, and I have tried to keep myself from sneezing three times, but so far, I lost that battle.

Once, when I started to sneeze, I closed my mouth, which was a mistake because everything came out of my nose. That was not a very pretty sight.

Sneezing may become more of an issue as you age. I know it's a big issue for me, and I'm confused about how to deal with it.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says I must have some allergy. I confided in her that the only allergy I have is broccoli. I tell her that I have one of my sneezing fits every time she eats broccoli.

Whether it's true or not is immaterial. It's just something I can use against her

when she complains about my sneezing fits.

I've been trying to figure out how to make something good out of these sneezing fits, and so far, I have failed. When I get close to a solution, I have one of my sneezing fits and forget what I was thinking about.

Just thinking about my sneezing fits makes me sneeze.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told me, "Be careful, you might sneeze your brains out." Then she laughed.

I responded, "Oh, my dear you're too late for that. I've already sneezed my brains out."

Obviously, brains aren't as important as I thought they were.

I have been sneezing for about two weeks, and it seems to be getting worse. Not only do I sneeze, but with the sneeze comes some disgusting phlegm. Several times, the whole front of my shirt was soaked in that disgusting phlegm. Unfortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is the first to see it, and she always responds in the negative.

I have to be careful where I'm standing when a sneeze hits. There are no warnings about the sneeze, and if I'm facing somebody when I sneeze, well, you know the rest of the story.

I'll get through it as long as I don't sneeze in the direction of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

This past week, we were at a restaurant to celebrate something. I'm unsure what we were celebrating, but it doesn't matter. We were having a great time, but I was still in that sneezing fit—sneezing all the time.

I try to be very careful when sneezing because I don't want to sneeze on someone, particularly The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. But when a sneeze comes, it surprises me and those around me.

We were at a restaurant, ordered our meal, and were in the middle of eating our meal, and it was a wonderful time together. I forget what I ordered, but whatever it was, it was delicious, and I enjoyed it.

Right in the middle of eating my meal, I had a sneezing fit. I've had some practice with these sneezing

fits, and I knew I needed to be careful which direction I was looking. Because I was seated across the table from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, when I started sneezing, it would've been in her direction.

Knowing that would not be a very good thing to do, I immediately turned my head to the right and sneezed three times. At the time, my mouth was full of what I was eating, and it all came spewing out.

The worst thing about that sneezing fit was I was facing our waitress and I got my sneezing fit all over the front of her. Oh boy! Was I in trouble. At least I didn't sneeze it in my wife's direction or that might've been the end of my sneezing fits for the rest of my life.

At the time, I didn't know what to do because the front

of that waitress was full of yucky, sneezing phlegm. What do you do in a situation like that?

I apologized and asked her if there was anything I could do to help. She looked at me and said, "No, you've done enough already." Then she walked away to the back of the restaurant.

I don't know when I was more humiliated than at that time. But when I sat back and regained some control of myself, I realized that there were customers all around, and all of them saw exactly what I did. I just felt like everybody in that restaurant was staring at me.

It's not that I don't like attention; I'm just not too fond of this kind of attention.

I leaned across the table

and asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "Do you know how I can take back that sneeze?" She just looked at me and then looked down at her plate. That's the first time I remember that she couldn't figure out a solution to a problem.

I then thought about a Bible verse, Romans 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

No matter my problem, if I trust God I can get through it.

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.

MUTOMBO, from Page 2

than life" and "a humanitarian at his core."

"On the court, he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of the NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others," Silver said in a statement.

Mutombo's international interests were evident from his early days at Georgetown, where he initially

intended to pursue a medical career. His academic achievements—earning degrees in linguistics and diplomacy—reflected his passion for global issues. He even interned with the U.S. Congress and the World Bank during his summers, showing a commitment to improving lives long before his NBA stardom.

Dikembe Mutombo

leaves behind a towering legacy as a basketball icon and a champion for healthcare and humanitarian efforts in developing countries. His determination to lift others off the court rivaled his shot-blocking prowess.

Reflecting on his life's mission, Mutombo once said: "My thing is about fighting the mortality rate so we can allow the people to live longer. That has been my cause, my drive."

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Sister Tarpley
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“So the Lord sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel died.” - 1 Chronicles 21:14

When was the last time your overconfidence cost the lives of 70,000 men? That is exactly what happened to David. David made what might appear to be an innocent request of his general, Joab.

But the minute Joab heard the request he cringed. He knew David was in big trouble for this one. You see to number the troops was a great sin in Israel because it was against the law.



Why? Because it demonstrated that you were placing more trust in numbers than in the living God.

David displayed enough pride to cost the lives of 70,000 fighting men. God gave him three choices of punishment for his sin.

A plague was the one he chose, and it resulted in the loss of 70,000 men.

Throughout Israel’s his-

tory, God set the stage for battles to be won, miracles to take place, and people to exercise faith.

The stage was always set so that man could not take credit for what God did. Consider Gideon who was only allowed 300 men to fight an army of 100,000.

Consider Jehoshaphat, who had to lead his army with his singers. God de-

feated the enemy.

Consider Joshua, who was told simply to walk around Jericho seven times, and they would get victory. God did things in some very unconventional ways!

How does this relate to you and me as Christian believers? Well, the minute you and I place more trust in our abilities than in God, we are guilty of numbering the troops.

How does He punish us? Sometimes it’s through letting a deal go sour. Sometimes it’s through problems with another Christian, client or vendor. Sometimes situations just blow up in our face.

Other times, He lets us go on for a long time doing our own thing, but eventually He deals with it.

The lesson here is to learn daily and complete

dependence on God. Use your gifts and abilities through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask God daily for direction and His wisdom. His ways won’t always line up with conventional wisdom.

When we begin depending on our abilities only, God has a responsibility to make known to us who is the giver of the blessings.


Ask God to show you the right paths you


would have follow. Remember, sometimes Christians are not sure of the direction they should go. There are times they stumble and run into roadblocks.

There may be times that they don’t understand why things are not going the way they think they should.

Ask God for help you to see how these roadblocks and detours are being used to redirect your life.

See **TARPLEY, Page 16**

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NDG Book Review: Books on Farms, Food, and Farming History by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

If there are animals on your farm, you already know that they have feelings, make friends, and have definite opinions. In **“The Wisdom of Sheep: Observations from a Family Farm”** by Rosamund Young (Penguin Press), you’ll read about life on Kite’s Nest Farm, where crops are organically grown and the animals are loved.

You almost can’t raise livestock without watching them closely and here, Young writes about her sheep and her cows (she’s also the author of **“The Secret Life of Cows”**), how they interact with one another, and how they otherwise behave. Farmers will identify with Young’s quiet reverence for the land she loves; anyone who appreciates domestic animals of any kind will truly enjoy this collection of short essays and observations.

For any farmer, it comes as no surprise that what we eat has become politicized. The surprise is that it didn’t happen this century. In **“Ruin Their Crops on the Ground”** by Andrea Freeman (Metropolitan Books), you’ll learn the long, but nearly hidden history.

It started just after America officially became a country. George Washington told his troops to ruin the Indigenous people’s crops and land. Later, a lack of access to food was one way slave owners kept control over the enslaved; today, feeding children at school is contentious and sometimes, growing crops and grow-



ing votes are tied together.

And finally, what you know about the history of farming in America depends on which side of the field you’re on. In **“Rooted: The American Legacy of Land Theft and the Modern Movement for Black Land Ownership”** by Brea Baker (One World Books), you’ll read about Baker’s search for her ancestry, and what she learned about disenfranchisement, wealth, and the legacy of Black farms.

Yes, this is a book about Black history, but it’s also one of American history. It asks a lot of questions and offers much to think about. Most of all, it’ll make you wonder: what do we do now with the knowledge we have about the farms that were stolen?

If these aren’t enough and you want more books about farms, food, and farm history, be sure to check with your favorite bookseller or librarian. For the person who knows and loves the land, animals, and history, these are books you’ll plow through quick.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

Tell God you love and trust Him and that you want to follow Him. And, don’t forget to thank Him for His promise that “all things work together

for good to those who love the Lord.”

(Editor’s Note - This column was originally published in September 2017.)

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