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Harris warns against exploitation as Hurricane Milton approaches and Helene's lingering impact

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

As Hurricane Milton bears down on Florida with devastating force and recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene stagnate, Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, issued a stern warning to those seeking to profit off Americans in crisis. "Americans impacted by a crisis should never be ripped off," Harris said, condemning price gouging and fraud.

"Those evacuating before Hurricane Milton or recovering from Hurricane Helene should not be subject to illegal price gouging or fraud – at the pump, airport, or hotel counter," Harris demanded.

Hurricane Milton, now a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 155 mph, is expected to land between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Thursday. The Na-



Workers are still in the midst of recovery and clean-up following Helene's massive impact across several states, only to put many efforts to a pause as an even more potentially devastating storm prepares to make landfall. (Photo via NNPA)

tional Hurricane Center has urged Floridians to complete all protective measures immediately, as storm surge warnings are in effect along nearly the entire western coast. Tampa to Fort Myers could face storm

surges of up to 15 feet, while the Orlando area is bracing for up to 15 inches of rain and a severe flooding threat.

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People In The News ...



Ashley Norwood



Emily "Cissy" Houston

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

Ashley Norwood

(Black PR Wire) JACKSON, Miss. – Jackson State University (JSU) is excited to welcome award-winning journalist and multimedia expert Ashley F.G. Norwood to the Division of University Communications as the Associate Director of Digital Storytelling. Norwood will use digital storytelling to enhance student recruitment, strengthen alumni relations, and amplify JSU's brand visibility across digital platforms while highlighting the university's commitment to innovative, forward-thinking communication strategies.



Norwood is no stranger to the impact of storytelling and its role in elevating voices and narratives. She brings nearly a decade of experience in print, radio, television, film and podcasting, with an impressive track record in creating art

that drives social change.

“As a former reporter and multimedia journalist, I understand the significance of storytelling. It has the power to inform, propel people into action and effect change. As a proud alumna and second-generation legacy, I couldn't imagine offering my gifts anywhere else,” Norwood stated. “I look forward to creating stories that convey JSU's complex history in a relatable and memorable way that will inspire our students and resonate with audiences beyond our campus.”

Norwood is a proud alumna of Jackson State University and the Univer-

sity of Mississippi, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and attained a Master of Arts in journalism and media studies, respectively.

Now, Norwood continues a dream and passion she has held since a youth.

“As a little girl, I would write scripts, design sets, and imagine plots with my Barbie dolls and teddy bears. I come from a lineage of storytellers, media entrepreneurs, and educators, so this moment feels as if it were made just for me.”

She has honed her talents at Mississippi Public Broadcasting and Mississippi Today, where she

contributed as a senior radio news reporter, multimedia journalist and executive producer. Norwood is also an adjunct professor of multimedia journalism at JSU, where she educates, mentors, and provides students with valuable hands-on experience in multimedia storytelling.

In her new role, Norwood will lead the creation of oral histories, documentaries, and multimedia projects ranging from student successes to institutional milestones. It will also involve deep dives into university archives and history, interviews, and data to craft compelling narratives. She will

collaborate closely with the creative services, digital media, marketing and public relations teams in the Division of University Communications to amplify opportunities for impactful storytelling.

Norwood is an active member of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, National Association of Black Journalists, Investigative Reporters & Editors, the Ida B. Wells Society, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is also the founder of FG Media Productions, LLC., and serves as executive producer at Red Squared Communication Design Company.

Emily ‘Cissy’ Houston

On October 7, the music industry lost another icon with the passing of Emily “Cissy” Houston.

Houston was born on September 30, 1933 in Newark New Jersey. She was 91 years old.

She didn't take long to get to the stage, as she began singing with her siblings in 1938.

Houston was one of the founding members of the R&B group “The Sweet Inspirations.” She was also credited for backing vocals with many top acts in the music industry such as Roy Hamilton, Dionne Warwick, Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, and Chaka Khan.

She went on to a successful solo career that resulted in two Grammys in the Traditional Gospel Album category.

Talent ran in the family, as she was the mother of Whitney Houston, one of the most recognizable voices in the history of the recording industry. She was also the aunt of



Dionne Warwick and Dee Dee Warwick, and is also a cousin of opera singer Leontyne Price.

The following statement was released on behalf of her family:

In our time of deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Emily “Cissy” Houston, who transitioned today, Monday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m. ET, at her home in Newark, New Jersey, while under hospice care for Alzheimer's disease. Houston, who recently turned 91 years old on September 30, 2024, was surrounded by her family.

“Our hearts are filled with pain and sadness. We

loss the matriarch of our family,” says Pat Houston, the daughter-in-law of Cissy Houston. “Mother Cissy has been a strong and towering figure in our lives. A woman of deep faith and conviction, who cared greatly about family, ministry, and community. Her more than seven-decade career in music and entertainment will remain at the forefront of our hearts. Her contributions to popular music and culture are unparalleled. We are blessed and grateful that God allowed her to spend so many years with us and we are thankful for all the many valuable life lessons that she taught us. May she rest in peace, alongside her daughter, Whitney and granddaughter Bobbi Kristina and other cherished family members.”

On behalf of The Houston Family, we are touched by your generous support, and your outpouring of love during our profound time of grief. We respectfully request our privacy during this difficult time.

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Trump wants Black males to vote for him

What do they have to lose? A hell of a lot.

By Michael A. Grant

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Looking historically at demographics, Black men in America have for centuries been singled out for the most vicious and dehumanizing attacks on their personhood and their manhood.

Without delving too deeply into America's dark past, one need only to read the Autobiography of Frederick Douglass to capture a glimpse of the atrocious acts perpetrated against Black men that began during slavery and continued unabated with the murders of George Floyd, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and others to understand that the institutional animosity, the stereotyping and the marginalizing is an everyday phenomenon that still defines the day-to-day existence of many Black men struggling to survive in America.

Donald Trump continues to perpetuate a "Guilty until proven innocent" mentality that too many in authority still perpetuate. His record of racist and derogatory behavior toward

Black men is well-documented. To begin, he and his father discriminated against African-Americans who wanted to rent Trump apartments in New York.

To add to this record of racial discrimination, Trump – without hard evidence – asserted that the "Central Park Five" (four young Black males and one Latino) were guilty of the brutal rape of a young White woman and asserted that they deserved the death penalty. Even after the accused were exonerated, Trump has consistently refused to apologize. He doubled down on this false accusation during his recent debate with Vice President Kamala Harris.

When Colin Kaepernick, an NFL free agent, encouraged other players to "Take a knee" in protest of unfair treatment within the NFL franchise, Trump's answer to their grievance was to call the players "Sons of Bitches."

Recently, Trump ranted that police officers should become even more aggressive, more abusive, when making arrests. Guess who would bear the brunt of

this Jim Crow – era policing? You guessed it: Black males.

Donald Trump is a politician who knows how to tamp down his racist rhetoric when he stands to gain from creating an illusion of civility but someone has wisely stated: "Lipstick on a pig is still a pig".

Trump's insulting remarks about Black men identifying with him because he now has a "mugshot" represents a new low for this incorrigible con man. And marketing gold sneakers is not identifying, it is exploiting.

Benefitting from Black Republicans organizing "Barbershop Meet-ups" and alluring Black men to MAGA rallies is nothing but cheap ploys designed to manipulate the uninformed.

To be fair, Trump does not limit his selling of snake oil to receptive Black men only. His demagoguery has convinced millions of uneducated, poor White Americans that he is a populist advocating on their behalf. What a joke! The only voters who seem to enjoy Trump's

concern are those who he has called: "Rich as hell".

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz have track records worthy of all American voters – including Black males. They are the real "Champions of the People". Compare their economic agenda with Trump and Vance's Project 2025 blueprint for more "Trickle-down economics".

The stakes in the election are too high to allow showmanship to prevail. The more American voters – of all stripes – study the priorities of these candidates, it will become crystal clear that most White and Black voters share more in common than they might realize. The public record, if thoroughly studied, should cause the overwhelming majority of the electorate to stifle Trump's pursuit of power and force him to face his day of reckoning.

Michael A Grant, J.D., president emeritus of the National Bankers Association and former assistant professor of political science at Morgan State University, is a columnist with the Trice Edney News Wire.

A much-needed investigation into Tulsa massacre

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Justice on Monday announced that it would review and evaluate the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, marking the federal government's first inquiry into the destruction of Greenwood in 103 years.

U.S. Congressman Al Green (D-TX) lauded the Biden administration for the move, and added that

further action in Congress could be on the table as well.

Following President Biden's meeting with victims of the Tulsa Race Massacre in 2021, Congressman Green joined the growing number of people across the country, including the family of Emmett Till, in calling for an investigation into the 1921

tragedy. The call reflects growing concern that the two remaining survivors of the Massacre, 109-year-old Lessie Benningfield Randle and 110-year-old Viola Fletcher, will not live to see justice.

The thriving African American community of Greenwood, popularly known as Black Wall Street, was criminally lev-

eled by a white mob during the Massacre, and hundreds of Black people were murdered. The heinous attack resulted in nearly 40 square blocks being destroyed and thousands of Black American victims left homeless, penniless, and remediless.

"The Survivors experienced one of the most hor-

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Keep up with the news

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Groundbreaking study links whole-genome duplications in Black cancer patients to worse outcomes and environmental carcinogen exposure

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A comprehensive new study published in *Nature Communications* has revealed a significant link between whole-genome duplications (WGDs) in cancer and the higher mortality rates observed among Black patients in the United States.

The research, which analyzed cancer samples from over 1,800 self-reported Black patients, found that tumors from these individuals were significantly more likely to exhibit WGDs—an aggressive genomic alteration—than those from white patients.

The study's findings highlight the critical role of both genetic and environmental factors in driving racial disparities in cancer outcomes.

“We observed that cancers from self-reported Black patients had a significantly higher incidence of WGDs across multiple cancer types,” the study authors stated. The increased prevalence of WGDs in Black patients, ranging from 11% to 35% higher depending on the dataset, was most prominent in breast, endometrial, and lung cancers. That genetic alteration, which leads to increased metastasis and disease progression, was also associated with shorter



Image via NNPA

survival times, suggesting a potential mechanism for the well-documented racial disparities in cancer mortality.

WGDs are large-scale chromosomal events in which a cell duplicates its entire set of chromosomes. The process creates genomic instability, promoting more aggressive cancer behavior, metastasis, and drug resistance. Tumors with WGDs tend to be harder to treat due to their adaptability. “These duplications allow cancers to ‘sample a wider range of karyotypes,’ making them more capable of resisting treatment and spreading throughout the body,” the study noted.

The findings are particularly concerning given the existing disparities in cancer outcomes between Black and white Americans. Black women, for instance, have a 41% higher mortality rate from breast cancer and a 21% higher mortality rate from endome-

trial cancer than their white counterparts, even when diagnosed at similar stages of the disease. The study's authors suggested that the higher frequency of WGDs in Black patients' tumors may contribute to these disparities. “The increased incidence of WGDs in Black patients may be contributing to racial disparities in cancer outcomes,” the study concluded.

Environmental Exposure and Its Role in WGD Frequency

In addition to genetic factors, the study pointed to environmental exposures as a significant contributor to the higher WGD rates observed in Black cancer patients. The researchers discovered that combustion byproducts, such as those resulting from the burning of fossil fuels, can cause WGD events in cell cultures. “We further demonstrate that combustion byproducts are capable of inducing WGDs in cell

culture, and cancers from self-reported Black patients exhibit mutational signatures consistent with exposure to these carcinogens,” the authors said. The study tied the increased frequency of WGDs to carcinogens like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pollutants that are prevalent in urban environments where many Black Americans live.

Due to historical redlining practices and continued economic inequality, Black communities are disproportionately located near industrial areas and high-traffic zones, exposing residents to higher levels of environmental pollutants. “Black individuals are more likely to live in areas with elevated levels of air pollution, including diesel exhaust and other combustion-related pollutants,” the researchers explained, suggesting that these environmental factors may be driving the increased frequency of WGDs in Black patients.

The Genetic Component: TP53 Mutations

The study also explored the genetic factors that might contribute to the higher frequency of WGDs in Black patients, focusing on the tumor suppressor gene TP53. Mutations in this gene, which is inactivated more often in Black patients, were strongly associated with the

presence of WGDs. “TP53 mutations have consistently been linked with poor prognosis and aggressive cancer behavior,” the study noted. This gene plays a crucial role in regulating cell division, and its inactivation can lead to uncontrolled cell growth and the spread of cancer.

The presence of TP53 mutations in combination with WGDs creates a hazardous situation for patients, as these tumors are more likely to metastasize and resist treatment. However, the study pointed out that while TP53 mutations were more common in Black patients, they were not the only factor driving the increased frequency of WGDs. Environmental factors, particularly exposure to carcinogens, were likely contributing as well.

Whole-Genome Duplications and Survival Rates

While WGDs were associated with worse outcomes across the board, the study found that Black and white patients with WGD-positive tumors had similar survival rates. “Among patients with WGD-positive tumors, there was no significant difference in survival time between self-reported Black and white patients,” the study reported. However, among patients with-

out WGD-positive tumors, Black patients had significantly shorter survival times than their white counterparts. This suggests that while WGDs play a critical role in cancer progression, other factors—such as socioeconomic status, access to healthcare, and broader environmental exposures—are likely influencing overall survival.

“What this paper hints at is that we’re seeing something which looks like a genetic difference, but the source of that might actually not be genetic—it’s more environmental,” Kanika Arora, a computational biologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering, who was not involved with the study, told STAT, a health, medicine, and life sciences journal. Arora’s observation underscored the complex interplay between genetic predispositions and environmental exposures in determining cancer outcomes.

Underrepresentation of Black Patients in Genomic Studies

The underrepresentation of Black people in genomic research is one significant limitation that the study highlights. Black people made up just 7% of the patients in the datasets analyzed despite comprising

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President Joe Biden, who called the storm potentially “one of the worst storms in 100 years in Florida,” urged residents in its path to evacuate immediately, stressing, “It’s a matter of life and death, and that’s not hyperbole,” the president stated. He assured Floridians of

the federal government’s full support, offering direct assistance to state officials, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Tampa Mayor Jane Castor.

In a blunt message to those sticking around Tampa, Castor has told residents that they have two choices:

flee or die.

Biden also tackled misinformation circulating about federal disaster aid, cautioning that false information can exacerbate fears. “It puts people in circumstances where they panic, where they really, really worry. They think, ‘Now we’re not being taken care of,’” he said. FEMA

has mobilized 1,200 search and rescue personnel across the Southeast, while tornado watches cover much of southern Florida, with sightings already reported.

Drawing on her background as California’s Attorney General and a U.S. Senator, Harris spoke fiercely of her resolve to combat exploitation during emer-

gencies.

“I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of price gouging during an emergency,” she noted. “As Attorney General of California during devastating wildfires that displaced thousands of residents, I took on those attempting to take advantage of the situation by raising hotel prices. As Senator, I

worked to stop price gouging during the pandemic.”

She concluded: “Any company or individual that tries to exploit Americans in an emergency should know that the Administration is monitoring for allegations of fraud and price gouging and will hold those taking advantage of the situation accountable.”

Carrollton announces full lineup for 14th annual Festival at the Switchyard

Carrollton, Texas – The City of Carrollton is excited to announce the full entertainment lineup for the free 14th annual Festival at the Switchyard. This year’s event promises to be another year of fun for the whole family, with free concerts from headlining entertainment, performances by community talent, and free rides and games on Saturday, November 2 in Downtown Carrollton (1106 S. Broadway Street).

Previously released mainstage entertainment includes music from School of Rock, Jason Kyle Wickens, Havana NRG, Pearl Gem (A Pearl Jam Tribute), Mock Lobster (A B-52’s Tribute), and Downtown Fever, all leading up to alt rock band Deep Blue Something opening for Grammy-award winning rock band the Wallflowers.

Throughout the day, between mainstage band performances, local talent will entertain the crowd in front of the stage. The Newman Smith High School Troy Singers will open the Festival just after 11 a.m. with a performance of the Nation-



al Anthem. Following the National Anthem, students from the Perry Middle School Dance Ensemble will trip the light fantastic for the Festival’s opening performance. Premier Martial Arts will get the adrenaline pumping with high-flying demonstrations of skill and coordination before the local students of Danzarte Academy dazzle with award-winning dance routines.

Sidekicks Martial Arts will return to the Festival for an athletic spectacle of skills from karate and Brazilian jujitsu. In the afternoon, the lovely ladies of

the Class Act Tap Company will provide sparkling entertainment with their terrific tap-dancing talent, and the Blalack Middle School Dance Department will showcase a variety of dance styles with spectacular student performers. To round out the front of stage performances at 4 p.m., AEON will return with a K-pop dance show that will turn anyone into a fan with their unforgettable dance moves set to the latest K-pop hits.

During the Festival, visit the Plaza Arts Center located next to the main stage. There will be free arcade games and pinball ma-

chines for all ages to enjoy. Relive fond memories with an exciting game of pinball, chase dreams of rock stardom with Guitar Hero, or enjoy classics such as Pac-Man, Galaga, and Asteroids. These games and more will be available in the Plaza until 5 p.m.

While enjoying all the performances and vendor booths the Festival has to offer, attendees can be on the lookout for strolling entertainment on the Square throughout the day.

Cosplay group Cause to Play will be out and about for photo opportunities. Cast members from Downtown Carrollton’s very own Pocket Sandwich Theatre will be in costume from the theatre’s show Sweeney Todd. The talented husband and wife duo of David and Amanda Slick will entertain and amaze with their top-notch juggling, jump roping, and hula-hooping antics. Get into the Festival spirit with cheers and routines from the Long Middle School Cheer Team. Lastly, festivalgoers might just believe in magic while enjoying mystifying close-up magic and sleight of hand tricks from magician Robert John.

The Festival at the Switchyard is the perfect opportunity to have fun with the whole family, with a variety of free rides, games, and other activities. Young attendees can enjoy the zipline or the bungee trampolines, and the

young at heart can enjoy the 25-foot-tall fun slide and state-of-the art video game truck, along with many other attractions. There will also be free face painting, balloon twisting, arts and crafts, carnival games, spin art, and caricature art available. Rides and games close at 7 p.m., and the face painting, balloon twisting, caricature artist, and spin art booths close at 6 p.m.

In addition to enjoying the free entertainment, families can grab a bite to eat from the variety of food vendors lining the streets or from one of the many Downtown restaurants. Attendees can also find the perfect holiday gift by shopping from an exciting variety of craft vendors and businesses on the Square.

Stay connected to all Festival entertainment news at carrolltonfestival.com and on social media at facebook.com/CarrolltonFestival and twitter.com/CarrolltonFest.

TULSA, from Page 3

rific acts of violence perpetrated against Black people in American history; yet, over a century later, they have received no compensation for the material and mental damages incurred or the opportunities they lost,” Rep. Green wrote in letters to President Joe Biden and Attorney General Merrick Garland. “They, after more than a century, have not received the justice we pledge allegiance to.”

In July, the survivors issued a plea for help from

the Biden administration following the Oklahoma Supreme Court’s dismissal of their historic lawsuit against the City of Tulsa for its role in the Massacre. In 103 years since the destruction of Black Wall Street, no court has held a trial addressing the Massacre, and no perpetrator has been held accountable for it. Had this criminal abomination been perpetrated on White Americans, the courts would have awarded the White victims com-

pensatory as well as punitive monetary justice. The Black American victims should receive no less.

“Mr. President, I humbly request that you do whatever is in your power to ensure that the Survivors of the Massacre may receive justice,” Rep. Green continued. “The history of racist lynchings that occurred in America demands accountability. By investigating the brutalities of the Tulsa Race Massacre, we can continue to work toward repairing past harms and achieving a more just America for all.”

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Dallas ISD
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New safety protocol at athletic events: To enhance safety at athletic events, Dallas ISD now requires all students attending district-hosted games without a parent, guardian, or other adult

responsible for the student to present a current student badge for entry. The badge must be for the Dallas ISD school that is competing in the athletic event. This requirement also applies to visiting non-Dallas ISD schools.

Students without a school-issued ID, and Dallas ISD students from other high schools, will not be permitted to enter the event unless accompanied by an

adult. Middle and elementary school students must be accompanied by an adult to enter any athletic event.

Stadium safety and security personnel will be on-site to assist students who need to contact a parent or guardian for a ride home. The new protocol does not apply to students participating in the athletic event as competitors.

Dallas ISD Enrollment

Grows: Dallas ISD enrollment is growing for the first time in over a decade. We have bucked a statewide trend of decreasing enrollment and welcomed more than 139,000+ students this year. We've already exceeded last year's enrollment and are continuing to climb. Incredible credit goes to the Dallas ISD teachers and staff for their hard work. Dallas ISD's continuing commit-

ment to innovation—with investments in early learning, school choice, quality teachers and leadership, and amazing new workforce programs—is paying off.

Dallas ISD seeks community input on the district's five-year priorities: Dallas ISD is resetting its five-year priorities, which serve as a guide for student achievement goals and the overall direction of the dis-

trict. To ensure the community's voice is heard, the Board of Trustees will hold Community Listening events across the city of Dallas. Parents, students, staff, and community members are encouraged to participate and play an active role in shaping the future of the district.

Visit the district's website to find a meeting near you and take the online survey.

NEA Big Read Series returns to Irving with free books

The 2024 NEA Big Read – Irving launches Oct. 17, offering a month of events that inspire creativity, introspection and a deeper connection to the community. This year's featured work, "The Bear" by Andrew Krivak, invites at-

tendees to explore themes of survival and heritage—offering a reflective journey into humanity's role in the natural world. Free copies of "The Bear" will be available at Irving Public Library and partner locations beginning Oct. 19,

while supplies last.

Please include the following if sharing this release: "NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest."

Featured Events

Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the NEA Big Read kicks off at the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center with historical tours, a birds of prey exhibition, puppet shows, crafts and more. Through Nov. 16, Irving Library lo-

cations and NEA Big Read partners will host a variety of storytelling and self-sufficiency programs, genealogy workshops, crafting events and book clubs. Check out these featured

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Andrew Krivak will deliver the Big Read keynote at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16. (Sharon Jacobs / Courtesy)

Why more families are choosing online learning: The rise of virtual Pre-K

By Niyoka McCoy, Ed.D.

If you catch a glimpse of 4- and 5-year-olds in attendance of a virtual pre-k classroom, you may witness a chorus of enthusiastic voices singing "The Wheels on the Bus," with hands energetically following the motions of their teacher. These young learners represent a rapidly growing trend of parents opting out of the traditional classroom setting in favor of online learning environments, where engaging teachers, family involvement, and interactive resources create a captivating learning experience.

While both online and



Photo via NNPA

traditional pre-k programs share similarities—such as state-certified teachers leading classes and opportunities for peer interaction—virtual learning offers unique advantages. Teachers are specially trained for online instruction and excel in "edutain-

ment," a high-energy, engaging teaching approach that captures the young students' attention through the screen. Moreover, students benefit from frequent one-to-one instruction, including dedicated sessions focused on key literacy skills such as letter recognition

and learning to form specific sounds through mouth movements.

Virtual programs also strike a balance between desk time and hands-on activities away from the screen. For example, a science lesson involves a project where students and their families build birdhouses to create an ecosystem that protects birds. This activity, used as part of a K12-powered pre-k program often draws in older siblings, and families share that their children love watching the birds visit their creations, making it a true family favorite. We frequently hear that these hands-on activities bring entire families

together, transforming learning into a shared experience at home.

During classroom sessions, teachers take frequent brain breaks—a strategy that incorporates interactive tools to help keep 4- and 5-year-olds focused and engaged. Take "Doggyland" for instance—this lively animated series gets kids moving through song and dance, with music that covers various educational topics like sharing, diversity, letter and number recognition, and self-confidence.

While pre-k is not mandatory in any state, studies show that children who attend a structured learn-

ing environment before kindergarten gain a significant academic advantage. Researchers point out that pre-k attendance builds foundational knowledge in subjects such as math and reading, as well as fine motor skills, which enhance long-term academic performance, including higher assessment scores and stronger math abilities, providing benefits that extend into adulthood.

Virtual pre-k programs offer a lifeline to families who want their children to experience the benefits of a structured pre-k program but face barriers to tradi-

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Dallas CASA Classic raises \$1.9 million benefiting children

AT&T, Goldman Sachs and Pioneer Natural Resources Partner for Invitational Charity Golf Tournament

The Dallas CASA Classic raised \$1.9 million for Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and the child victims of abuse and neglect served by the

agency's volunteers.

The tournament, created 26 years ago, was jointly hosted by AT&T, Goldman Sachs and Pioneer Natural Resources. Since its inception in 1998, the tournament has netted more than \$28 million.

Dallas CASA's volunteers are community members trained and supervised by the agency's program staff. They advocate on behalf of child victims of abuse or neglect who are living in foster care. Frequently, a child's Dallas CASA volunteer is the only constant in the life of a child during a frightening and uncertain time.

Thanks to the support of the tournament, Dallas CASA is able to serve all of the children in need in Dallas County. For more than five years running, Dallas CASA has accepted 100% of court appointments by the 10 local judges who preside over Dallas County child welfare cases.

Over that time, Dallas CASA has served more than 7,000 children with 2,700 volunteer advocates, making it the largest of more than 900 CASA programs nationwide.

"Dallas CASA began in 1980 with just ten volunteers who dreamed of better outcomes for child victims of abuse or severe neglect," said Kathleen M. LaValle,



Kathleen LaValle celebrates a successful fundraising effort, with \$1.9 million raised for Dallas CASA. (Courtesy photo)

president and CEO of Dallas CASA. "That dream has been transformed into reality for all Dallas children through the support of the Dallas CASA Classic. The tournament hosts have encouraged us, supported us, nudged us and ultimately inspired us to serve all children in foster care so they can have the positive, loving futures they deserve."

Each year, the tournament, held at The Ritz Carlton-Dallas, Las Colinas and Cowboys Golf Club, draws around 500 golfers from across the country who play to support the mission of Dallas CASA. Many golfers have been coming since the earliest days of the tournament. All funds raised at the tournament support the children served by Dallas CASA.

"Dallas CASA gives local community members a way to step up and advocate for the future of our city, making Dallas a better place to live and do business" said Paige Richey, vice president and chief of staff at Goldman Sachs

and a Dallas CASA board member. "Goldman Sachs is proud to have played a part in growing Dallas CASA's capacity to serve and impact children in our city."

Dallas CASA's volunteers work with judges, attorneys, educators, therapists, doctors, children's families and many others to promote healing, safety and, ultimately, permanency for children. The goal is for children to be able to achieve their full potential and grow into strong and capable adults.

"Every year at the tournament, we hear powerful stories of impact about the volunteers who serve the children," said Mark S. Berg, Pioneer's former executive vice president, a Dallas CASA board member and former board chair. "We all believe in the quality and personalized advocacy that has transformed thousands of lives. Pioneer is proud to have been part of that effort."

See CASA, Page 11

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Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund brings new capital into underserved communities left behind in the energy transition

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

As part of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last month granted \$27 billion to 68 American communities. The funds are part of the massive Inflation Reduction Act, the largest ever investment in clean energy systems and greenhouse gas reduction.

Because they were found to bear the greatest



Nik Shuliatin / Unsplash

pollution burdens and the highest per capita energy costs, the lion's share of the \$27 billion investment

is reserved for underserved communities, explained EPA's Director of the fund David Widawsky in a Sep-

tember Ethnic Media Services briefing. The money means economic revitalization to communities that have historically been left behind and overburdened by pollution. Energy costs can be three to ten times higher in proportion to the incomes of people in these communities.

The legacy of redlining lives on, added University of Michigan Vice Provost Shalanda Baker at the briefing. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is de-

signed to bring new capital into markets that are falling behind in the transition to renewable energy. The fund is creating opportunities for community ownership of energy assets, new jobs, and new American businesses.

The program was set up to meet the urgent needs of our country, said Widawsky. Among other main goals of the program are increasing the country's energy independence and competitiveness and

lowering energy costs for consumers.

To help as many communities as possible, the GGRF is spreading the funds by mobilizing private capital through local banks under the Storage Investment Accelerator Grant program. Grantees use the money to finance solar facilities to amend buildings and to substitute antiquated appliances and transportation systems

See FUND, Page 12



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Jubilee Theatre Presents Samm Art Williams' Powerful Drama HOME



Fort Worth, TX – Jubilee Theatre is excited to launch its 44th season with HOME, a moving play by Samm Art Williams, running from September 27 to October 27, 2024. As part of a season titled “Rooted,” HOME kicks off a series of productions that celebrate the resilience, culture, and experiences of the African American community.

HOME takes audiences on an emotional journey through the life of Cephus Miles, a young Black man navigating love, loss, and self-discovery in the rural South during the civil

rights era. Through his story, we explore universal themes of identity, belonging, and perseverance that will resonate deeply with theatergoers.

Directed by Kris Black Jasper, HOME promises

to be a powerful experience that combines deeply personal storytelling with broader cultural reflection. Jubilee Theatre invites the DFW community to be part of this immersive theatrical experience.

Jubilee Theatre’s production of HOME by Samm Art Williams runs from Sept. 27 through Oct. 27, 2024 at the Jubilee Theatre (506 Main Street in Fort Worth).

See HOME, Page 12

DOING THE RIGHT THING

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Dallas Cowboys steal victory in the Steel City

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

There are certain things in life you can count on—the sun rising, time never stopping, and the Dak Prescott-led Dallas Cowboys leaving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with a walk off victory.

Reminiscent of their 2016 matchup, the Dallas Cowboys edged out a scrappy Pittsburgh Steelers team 20-17 as Prescott found third year wide receiver Jalen Tolbert for a four-yard touchdown pass with 20 seconds remaining in the game.

Originally scheduled to begin at 7:20 p.m. CST,



NDG Composite

the Sunday night prime-time showdown kicked off around 8:45 p.m. CST due to a lightning delay. Maintaining focus and staying physically ready was a valid concern for both teams during the unprecedented waiting period. Prescott spent

the extra down time motivating teammates, eating a protein waffle, stretching and doing drills.

“I was saying it before the game started, like we’re not going to forget this one regardless. With the delays, with everything that

happened, it’s one of those games I don’t care how long you play, you’ll never forget it. I just kept saying, ‘Let’s make it one to remember.’ I think we did that in all the ups, the downs, the ebbs and flows,” Prescott said.

The Dallas Cowboys entered Sunday’s game without key starters such as Micah Parsons, DeMarcus Lawrence and Brandin Cooks. Although the offense still struggled at times to find its rhythm, the defense rose to the occasion and limited the Pittsburgh Steeler offense to just 226 total yards.

Star cornerback Trevon

Diggs has clearly put the ACL tear he suffered last season behind him—allowing only one reception, six yards, and a 33 percent completion percentage.

Other names worth mentioning in this collective defensive effort include sideline to sideline playmaking linebacker DeMarvion Overshown and feisty slot cornerback Jourdan Lewis. Overshown flew around the field with his hair on fire recording seven total tackles and a pass breakup while Lewis frustrated Pittsburgh’s number one receiving threat in George Pickens

all night.

“A hard-fought win, you know that’s an NFL football game right there. I’ve been told by so many people and just watching the Steelers, they always gone play you till the last play, the last possession. It’s one of those games that you like under your belt knowing that you had to comeback and fight hard,” stated Overshown.

There had been an APB out for the rushing attack of the Cowboys, and the organization can now take solace in the fact they have

See COWBOYS, Page 14

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Consumers caught in illegal junk fee traps to receive \$48 million

FTC action ends nation's largest single-family home renter's widespread abuse

By Charlene Crowell

The nation's largest corporate landlord for single-family home rentals (last month/recently?) was fined \$48 million by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for years-long financial abuses of tenants. The firm, Invitation Homes, also will be required to change its practices, and agree to long-term monitoring of its rental activity.

According to the September 24 settlement, renters who resided in one of Invitation Homes' over 33,000 properties between 2018 and 2023 will be the beneficiaries. Its rental properties across the nation are located in both cities and suburbs including – but not limited to: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles,

Miami, Minneapolis, and Seattle.

“Invitation Homes, the nation's largest single-family home landlord, preyed on tenants through a variety of unfair and deceptive tactics, from saddling people with hidden fees and unjustly withholding security deposits to misleading people about eviction policies during the pandemic and even pursuing eviction proceedings after people had moved out,” said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan in a September 24 announcement. “No American should pay more for rent or be kicked out of their home because of illegal tactics by corporate landlords. The FTC will continue to use all our tools to protect renters from unlawful business practices.”

Founded in 2012, Invitation

Homes' initial public offering (IPO) raised approximately \$1.77 billion, making it and is the second-largest real estate investment trust (REIT) IPO in history, according to its website.

- Deceiving renters about lease costs including \$500 'reservation fees' in addition to application fees. Since 2019, Invitation Homes has collected more than \$18 million in application fees alone for deceptively priced houses;

- Charging undisclosed junk fees – costing consumers up to \$1,700 per year;

- Failing to inspect homes before residents moved in;

- Unfairly withholding tenants' security deposits when they moved out; and

- Other misrepresenta-

tions including total monthly leasing price, property condition, and availability of emergency maintenance,

In a related consumer alert posted on FTC's website, Larissa Bungo, a senior attorney, shared more details documenting why the enforcement action is warranted.

“Landlords must truthfully advertise the prices and services they're offering, said Bungo. “The FTC says Invitation Homes advertised an overall “worry-free leasing lifestyle” and promised pre-inspected

homes before move-in and “24/7 emergency maintenance” for any issues, but failed to deliver.”

“Instead, new residents faced major issues like sewage backup, broken appliances, and visible rodent feces,” continued Bungo. “The promises didn't live up to the hype and, to add insult to injury, according to the FTC, Invitation Homes wrongly withheld some or all of renters' security deposits for things like normal wear and tear or damage that was already there before renters moved

in. Which is also illegal.”

The fall settlement also marks a milestone victory for consumer advocates that in recent years have urged federal regulatory agencies to adopt and enforce rules to better protect consumers from an array of junk fees.

For example, in 2022, four national consumer advocates – Americans for Financial Reform, the Consumer Federation of America, the National Consumer Law Center, and the Center

See JUNK, Page 12

CASA, from Page 7

The tournament was founded in 1998 by Archon Group, which was later merged into Goldman Sachs. Pioneer Natural Resources joined in 2012, followed a year later by AT&T. By joining forces, the three corporations have amplified and diversified their impact on Dallas CASA, providing a foundation for the agency's tremendous growth.

“Dallas CASA's volunteers are examples of what happens when people stand up for our community to make it a better place,” said Corey Anthony, AT&T senior vice president, network engineering and operations, a Dallas CASA board member, past board chair

and Dallas CASA volunteer advocate. “Thanks to Dallas CASA, our city and our children are stronger.”

Last year, 1,088 Dallas CASA volunteers advocated on behalf of 2,151 children living in the protective care of the state.

Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) seeks to protect children, restore childhood and help child victims of abuse or neglect achieve their full potential. The agency's trained and supervised community volunteers are assigned by judges to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are living in the protective care of the state. For many

children in foster care, their Dallas CASA volunteer is the only consistent, caring adult in their lives during a frightening, uncertain time. Dallas CASA envisions a day when all children experience safe childhoods and grow into resourceful, healthy adults. Now in its 44th year, Dallas CASA serves more children than any of the more than 900 CASA programs nationwide. In 2023, 1,088 Dallas CASA volunteers were assigned to advocate for 2,151 children in protective care. For the past five years, the agency has been able to provide an advocate for every Dallas child in need, but each year more advocates are needed. To learn more, visit dallascasa.org.



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FUND, from Page 8

with more efficient ones, said Widawsky. Their work will improve health and provide opportunities for wealth creation for individuals and businesses in American communities.

The Clean Communities Investment Accelerator and Solar for All programs are each 100% dedicated to overburdened communities, explained Widawsky.

To determine which communities should qualify as disadvantaged, the White House Council on Environmental Quality put together a climate justice screening tool, which uses census tract data, demographic information, the presence of low-income housing and other metrics to map out disadvantaged communities. Tribal com-

munities are also considered eligible for the funding.

When the Inflation Reduction Act was passed by Congress in 2022, the government was given a legislative deadline of September 30, 2024 to obligate the \$27 billion. The EPA then went through an extensive evaluation process to identify and sign up the grantees, said Widawsky, finishing their work a month and a half early.

Two years earlier, on day one of his presidency, Joe Biden signed an executive order advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities, Dr. Baker explained. Seven days later, the President would sign the landmark climate order, which

included the Justice 40 Initiative, pledging 40% of benefits to disadvantaged communities. The order required every single federal agency to consider the barriers communities face in accessing federal resources.

When over 6% of household income goes to energy needs, it is considered an energy burden, said Baker, while one out of three Americans are energy insecure, according to Energy Information Administration data. This means people are facing decisions about whether to eat or heat and cool their homes every day. When Americans start making unsafe decisions about heating their homes or living in unhealthy summer temperatures, household fires and death can be the

result.

Over 52% of African American and 47% of Latino households are energy insecure, while many native American households lack access to electricity altogether. These Americans are more likely to have some of the health impacts related to living around fossil fuel generation.

The program is designed to substitute equipment that runs on fossil fuels with electric-powered machines, bringing overburdened communities access to clean energy and more clean energy to the grid overall, said Baker. It is designed to clean up communities that are experiencing disproportionate impacts related to the current reliance on fossil fuels, which is especially true for low

income communities of color, and in particular, Black communities, which hold higher concentrations of fossil generation in their neighborhoods. White American homeowners are more likely to have access to rooftop solar than Black American homeowners at the same income level, added Baker.

Stacy Abrams is involved in an organization made possible by the GGRF. After presenting Rewiring America's agenda to the community of DeSoto, Georgia at a recent town hall meeting, residents were given an opportunity to sign up.

"Words cannot express how we appreciate Stacy Abrams and Rewiring America in bringing this program to a small town like this," said local proj-

ect manager for Revitalizing DeSoto, Rosemary Jones. DeSoto, "Georgia is a town where everyone there knows each other . . . They're providing no upfront costs to rural families to replace broken equipment in their homes, and I'm just proud to be a part of this team. I can truly say that because of this project, everyone walks away a winner."

Other grantees are putting tax dollars to good use by working to develop and finance green products under the program. These include the Coalition for Green Capital, Clement United Fund, and Power Forward Communities. Find contact information for all 68 grantees under the GGRF by visiting EPA.gov/GGRF.

JUNK, from Page 11

for Responsible Lending (CRL), jointly urged the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), to enact junk fee rules.

"Hidden fees and costs strip wealth from the most vulnerable consumers who are struggling to make ends meet," wrote the advocates. "The most impacted consumers often come from communities of color already burdened by other

predatory practices, further exacerbating racial inequities... Disclosure is intended to give consumers an opportunity "know before they owe." But that knowledge is worthless if charges are imposed under circumstances that most consumers would not expect even if, with hindsight, the fees were disclosed."

By early February 2023, junk fee advocacy grew to

involve more than 40 national and state consumer advocates who together appealed to the FTC for its own agency rules and actions.

Created in 1915, the FTC has two primary missions: protecting competition and protecting consumers. It is empowered to investigate as well as prevent unfair methods of competition, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices affecting commerce.

First produced in 1979, Samm Art Williams' HOME was nominated for a Tony Award and remains a significant work in African American theater. Its focus on Cephus' struggle to find his place in a changing world is both timely and timeless, making it a perfect start to Jubilee Theatre's "Rooted" season.

Consumers who suspect a company may be engaging in fraud, scams or bad business practices

can share their concerns at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow at the Cen-

ter for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

HOME, from Page 9

Tickets are available at www.JubileeTheatre.org or by calling the box office at 817.338.4411. Season 44 Flex Passes & Group rates are available.

Founded in 1981, Jubilee Theatre is Fort Worth's longest-running African American theater, com-

mitted to producing works that reflect the rich culture and history of the African American experience. As we enter our 44th season, Jubilee Theatre continues to tell the stories that matter, honoring the past while building a future rooted in creativity and community.

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

- Must be an aspiring writer looking to gain some experience or a school credit in Journalism.
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- Hours are 12 to 15 hours per week.

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READ, from Page 6

events:

- Envisioning Future Worlds Workshop – 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26 | Irving Archives & Museum

Author Samantha Mabry will conduct a workshop centered on envisioning a future Irving. The event will also feature a museum tour.

- Homegrown & Handmade – 6:30 p.m., Monday,

Oct. 28 | South Irving Library

Explore cheaper, greener and healthier living with author Deborah Niemann.

- Upcycled Art Workshop – 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 1 | Jack D. Huffman Building

Creativity meets sustainability in this adults-only art workshop.

- Night Hike & Star Par-

ty – 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8 | Campion Trail

Explore the nighttime world with a North Texas Master Naturalist and enjoy a star party featuring professional stargazing equipment. Registration is required.

- Personal Storytelling – 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9 | West Irving Library

Learn from personal essay coach Nicole Stewart. Create archived recordings

from 3 to 5 p.m.

- Big Read Keynote with Andrew Krivak – 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 16 | Irving Arts Center

Author Andrew Krivak will present a keynote address and participate in a Q&A session. Local artists will showcase pieces inspired by “The Bear.”

This monthlong program series is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the

Arts (NEA). Irving’s program partners include the Friends of the Irving Public Library. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. This national program encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to explore new ideas through literature. For a complete schedule of events and more information, visit CityofIrving.org/3712.

The City of Irving is home to 9 Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, over 8,500 businesses, four 18-hole championship golf courses and the DFW International Airport. Centrally located in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Irving has a population of 256,000+ residents and is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the state and nation.

PRE-K, from Page 6

tional programs. These obstacles can include lengthy waitlists, lottery systems, high tuition and fees, or long commutes. Moreover, families must navigate challenges like potty training requirements, lack of facilities designed for small children, and crippling separation anxiety that can

make the daily drop-off traumatic and upsetting for the child and parent.

No child should miss out on the benefits of pre-k due to lack of access. Virtual pre-k presents a modern solution to families, ensuring equitable access to a high-quality curriculum for all, regardless of location

or income. The flexibility and accessibility of virtual pre-k allow all children the opportunity to thrive in a structured learning environment. I expect more families will continue to embrace virtual school op-

tions that prioritize their child’s development and growth.

Niyoka McCoy is the Chief Learning Officer at Stride. She leads the development and implementation of the company’s

learning strategy, curriculum, and instruction, with an Ed.D. in Curriculum

and Instruction and over 16 years of experience in the education sector.

GENOME, from Page 4

13% of the U.S. population. The underrepresentation limits researchers’ ability to fully understand how genetic and environmental factors influence cancer in Black patients. The lack of data makes it more challenging to draw definitive conclu-

sions about the impact of environmental exposures, such as specific pollutants, on cancer subtypes in Black patients. Nevertheless, the study’s findings highlight the need for more inclusive research and targeted public health interventions.



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Where Do All My Nasal Fluids Come From?

Dr. James L. Snyder

I am finally, in what I think is the last phase of my recent health confusion. My nose is dripping, and I think I use at least one box of tissues daily.

I did not know I had so much of this in my body, and I am not exactly sure where it came from.

When I was young, I remember having a bad case of this kind of thing, and I asked my mother, "Mom, where does all my snot come from?"

I had never seen my mother as angry as she was then. She looked at me and growled, "Son, I never want to hear you say that word again. We do not use the word 'snot' in our house. We use the phrase, 'nasal fluids'. If you ever say the word 'snot', you will be in more trouble than you have ever been in your life. Do you understand me?"

Well, to be honest, I didn't quite understand what she was talking about, but you always listen to your mother, right?

Several weeks later, I was having the same situation,

and I said, "Mom, where does all my sn... whoops, I mean my nasal fluids come from?"

She was quite generous, forgave me, and was happy I remembered what she said. I will never know where she came up with the phrase "nasal fluids."

I haven't thought of that for a long time, but it came back to my memory just this week. I'm unsure how the word snot compares with the phrase nasal fluids. I sort of think my mother came up with that phrase because I don't know anybody else who has ever used it.

But as I was thinking about this, I had yet to find out where my nasal fluids came from. This past week, my nose was running like Niagara Falls. With all that nasal fluid coming out of me, I must try to figure out where it comes from. If it comes from me, why isn't there a limit?

If nasal fluids were gold, I would be very wealthy by now. Unfortunately, they are not gold, and I am not wealthy.

This phenomenon makes it very difficult to go out in

public. I'm sneezing, and my nose is running all the time. To go out, I have to take a half-dozen boxes of tissues. Even then, I have to be quick on the draw.

Everybody has this kind of problem, but I don't care; it's what I'm facing that matters to me. I have to take care of my own nose, and that's a fact with my hands up.

When I think I've mastered my nose and nasal fluids, I take a deep breath, and before I'm done, that fluid is running out of my nostril faster than ever before. What does it take to satisfy my nose?

It's too bad my mother isn't around. She's in a nursing home and suffers from dementia, so I couldn't ask her anyway. She would not remember. But if I can get back to my mother when I was a teenager, maybe I could find out from her what this nasal fluid is all about.

I have reached the point where I don't feel the fluid flowing out of my nostril. Because of that, I don't know if it's running down my face and dripping off my chin. What an embarrassing

situation that is.

As always, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has somewhat of a solution for my dilemma.

One morning, she looked at me and said, "Why don't you wear a mask? Nobody will see anything about that because everybody is familiar with masks these days."

This is the most brilliant thing she's ever told me. I never thought of wearing a mask, which would prevent people from seeing what's going on behind the mask.

Nobody would notice me because many people still wear masks, and I would fit right in.

One day, I tried it, and it seemed to work, except when I got home and took off the mask, it was filled to overflowing with my nasal fluid. How all of that

stayed in my mast without overflowing is something I'll never know. But at least nobody could see I was wrestling with this kind of problem.

Recently, I have been taking about a half-dozen masks when I go anywhere. I try to change my mask every hour, at least. That way, my nasal fluids do not overflow my mask, and nobody sees my problem.

Being able to cover up a problem, especially my problem is a challenge.

I must confess that I'm not very good at covering up any of my problems. No matter how much I try, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can always see through my endeavors.

My biggest challenge is dealing with the world. There is one verse that gives

me comfort and encouragement. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5).

My faith in Jesus Christ is what enables me to overcome the world around me. When I try to do this by my own cleverness, guess what? I always fail. My great challenge is to trust God when any problem comes my way.

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.

COWBOYS, from Page 10

potentially found their bell cow. Rico Dowdle rushed for 87 hard fought yards and caught a touchdown pass against a formidable defense. The Pittsburgh Steelers forced Prescott to commit three turnovers, one of which caused Ceedee Lamb to exchange words with his quarterback on the sideline. For the professional lip readers out there, Lamb appeared to tell Prescott, "Jump ball 4. Jump ball then I got you." Contrary to national media pundits spin-

ning a narrative that tension is rising between the two stars, it was simply a case of a quarterback and wide receiver trying to take their special connection on the field to new heights.

"Me and Dak are good. Me and Dak are good. We had how many incompletions, two, three, I don't know. But just getting on the same page obviously and we'll be fine," Lamb said with a smile.

In search of their first home win of the year, the

Cowboys will welcome the Detroit Lions to AT&T Stadium Sunday, Oct. 13 at 3:25 p.m. CST.

The Cowboys' defense will have its work cut out as Detroit deploys one of the best offensive line units in the league, explosive running backs and playmaking pass catchers. Prescott and Lamb will both have big days shredding the Lions' vulnerable pass defense with Jake Ferguson also being a big contributor. The Dallas Cowboys will survive yet another barnburner beating the Detroit Lions 27-24.

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How God Makes Fishermen



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

“‘Come, follow Me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’”

Matthew 4:19

Our calling has three distinct stages, which we can see in the lives of many called before us, to become mature fishers of men who greatly impact God’s Kingdom.

First, there is the gestation period. This is the development stage of our lives. It may involve years of normal work experiences.

You may be a Christian during this time, or you may be following after worldly



success as a non-Christian.

Paul spent years in religious and political training, persecuting believers most of his early life. Moses spent years in the court of Pharaoh and 40 years tending flocks in the desert.

Jesus spent 30 years living at home and working in His father’s carpentry business. However, all these years were part of their preparation.

Next is the crisis stage. Sooner or later, God calls you into relationship with Him. For many, like Paul, it comes through dramatic encounters like being knocked off a horse, blinded and spoken to personally by God.

Some people are more difficult than others to reach and so require this level of crisis. This is a time when God requires major change-

es so that you follow Him fully.

It can be a time in which God harnesses years of experience for a new life purpose.

Paul’s earthly experiences would be used in his calling to the religious and political leaders of his day.

For Moses, the burning bush experience would begin his journey in which he would discover his ultimate calling after years of preparation.

For Peter, it was his denial of Jesus three times that allowed him to face his shallow commitment to Christ.

For Jesus, it was the garden of Gethsemane. These were the benchmark turning points for men who made an impact on their world.

Last is the fruit-bearing stage. In it, God’s power is

manifested in your life like never before.

God takes all your experiences and uses them to build His Kingdom in and through your life.

Your obedience to this final call results in fruitfulness you could never imagine without the long preparation process.

For Abraham, it resulted in becoming the father of many nations. For Paul, it resulted in bringing the gos-

pel to the Gentiles.

And for Peter, it meant becoming the leader of the Church. For Jesus, it was salvation for the entire world.

What does God want to achieve through your life? God has a plan that is so incredible you cannot comprehend it.

It requires only that you love Him and follow Him. Then you will become fish-

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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NDG Book Review: 'John Lewis: A Life' is a story to remember

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You give, and you give, and you give.

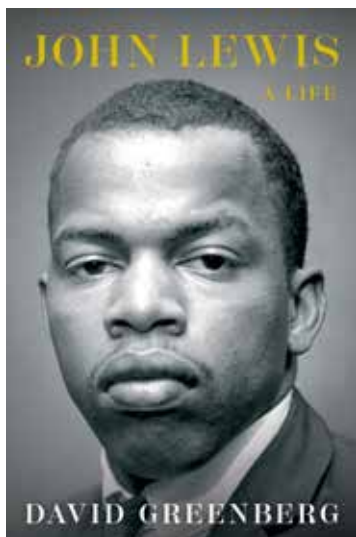
No problem. If you can be of service to your community, then that's what you'll do. You've dedicated your life to public service because, as in the new biography, "John Lewis: A Life" by David Greenberg, you've got it to give.

Born into a large but poor family in 1940, John Lewis grew up dodging chores in his father's fields, in favor of time spent reading anything he could get his hands on.

Though he was already a victim of Jim Crow laws, and racism kept him from the books and education he craved, He avidly follow the radio broadcasts of Martin Luther King, Jr., who became a beacon for him.

When it was time to choose a college, Lewis attended the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, but he "began... to 'drift away'" from the church because it frowned on his interest in the NAACP. He chose another church and eventually made a name for himself there as a gentle, level thinker and a leader.

By 1960, Lewis had become more active in the effort for equality; in 1961, he met Dr. King, who "had a high opinion of Lewis..." King, in fact, offered Lewis a job but Lewis "felt committed to SNCC," and turned the great man down.



Still, Lewis kept in contact with King after he went to work with Robert Kennedy in 1968. He was organizing on behalf of Kennedy in Indianapolis when Dr. King was assassinated; he was in New York when Kennedy was shot...

Using archives and other, newer sources, Greenberg dives into Lewis as a whole, taking us back even before he was born. Readers who've spent considerable time studying the politician will be pleasantly surprised to find new information here; those who are familiar with Lewis's Civil Rights work or his politics will devour the until-now unfamiliar parts, making each page a pleasantly dramatic new discovery, like a treasure hunt with an old friend.

Find it for yourself. Consider it for gift-giving.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

ers of men like the world has never known.

Ask God if there are any areas of your life that has not come under the lordship of Jesus Christ or there is any lack of obedience that will prevent you from being used fully by Him?

Ask God to search you, and

show you your heart; to try you, and know your anxieties; and see if there are any wicked way in you.

Ask Him to lead you in the way everlasting (based on **Psalm 139:23-34**). And, don't forget to praise Him and lift Him up, because He is God Almighty.

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