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Inflation hits lowest level since pandemic as prices stabilize

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

According to the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation in the United States has slowed to its lowest level since the early months of the pandemic. The CPI for All Urban Consumers rose by 2.4% over the past year, a substantial easing from the higher inflation rates seen over the last two years. September's monthly increase of 0.2% matches the growth recorded in August and July, indicating a steady, moderate rise in consumer prices.

The most significant contributors to the monthly increase in CPI, a vital indicator of inflation that measures the price change for goods and services affecting consumers' daily lives, were shelter and food, which comprised over 75% of the overall rise. Food prices alone increased by 0.4% in September, with the cost of meats, poultry, fish, and eggs rising



With inflation now easing to pre-pandemic levels, the latest data suggests that while some price pressures remain, particularly in essential areas like housing and food, overall price growth is moderating. (Photo via NNPA)

sharply by 8.4%. Fruits and vegetables also saw a notable increase of 0.9%. These rises reflect ongoing pressures on household budgets as essential goods continue to grow more expensive.

The nonprofit Prosperity Now said the index showed housing prices

increased by 0.2%, remaining a major stumbling block for American families seeking security and economic stability. The organization noted that housing costs remain a significant hurdle for families

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The right to vote is protective

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Potential spike in pregnancy emergencies

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Honoring Sha'Carri Richardson

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People In The News ...



Dr. Vidhya Rangaraju



Morgan Janay

NDG Quote of the Week: "Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."

- Oprah Winfrey

Dr. Vidhya Rangaraju

(PR.com) -- Dr. Vidhya Rangaraju, a Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience (MPFI), has been awarded the prestigious NIH Director's New Innovator Award for her research on how the brain generates and regulates energy. The award will provide Dr. Rangaraju with \$2.895 million over five years.

This highly competitive award was established in 2007 to recognize outstanding researchers tackling bold and high-impact scientific challenges. Only 10% of researchers who



apply for the award are selected. Dr. Rangaraju is the third scientist from MPFI to earn this coveted honor, highlighting the institute's leadership in cutting-edge neuroscience.

"Dr. Rangaraju's innovative research is a testament

to the groundbreaking work happening at Max Planck Florida and is critical for understanding the many neuronal diseases that are based on energy deficiencies such as neurodegenerative diseases and mitochondrial disorders," said Dr. David Fitzpatrick, CEO and Scientific Director of MPFI.

Understanding How the Brain is Powered

Dr. Rangaraju's research focuses on neuroenergetics, the complex regulation of energy supply and demand in the brain. Her work has broad implications for understanding how neurons sustain energy to support essential functions

like learning, memory, and brain development. One key discovery by Dr. Rangaraju's team is the role of the ALS-linked protein VAP in stabilizing mitochondria within neuronal dendrites, helping neurons locally fuel the synaptic plasticity that underlies learning and memory.

"My lab is dedicated to unraveling the core mechanisms that fuel cognitive function and how they are broken in neurodegenerative diseases like ALS, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's. Being named an NIH Director's New Innovator is an incredible honor, and I am thrilled that our work on brain energy dynamics

is receiving this recognition and support," said Dr. Rangaraju.

A Track Record of Accomplishment

Dr. Vidhya Rangaraju started her Research Group Leader position at the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience in January 2020. Prior to this appointment, Rangaraju was an EMBO and Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow in the group of Dr. Erin Schuman at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Germany. During her postdoc, she uncovered the presence of local mitochondrial compartments of energy that fuel synaptic protein synthesis during plasticity.

Rangaraju completed her Ph.D. in the lab of Dr. Timothy Ryan at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. During her graduate work, she developed a novel optical reporter of synaptic ATP to measure dynamic changes in ATP concentrations and elucidated the link between neuronal activity and ATP synthesis.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Vincent du Vigneaud Award of Excellence, Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Award, the MPI-BR Scientific Discovery of the Year Award, the SfN Peter and Patricia Gru-

See RANGARAJU, Page 10

Morgan Janay

(PR.com) -- Rising R&B artist Morgan Janay is getting noticed in the music industry with her hit single, "Cutest," which is now being considered for Best R&B Song and Best R&B Performance at the upcoming Grammy Awards. Produced by Mr. Hanky, "Cutest" has caught the attention of R&B fans with its smooth sound, catchy beat, and heartfelt lyrics, making it a favorite in the R&B world.

Released earlier this year, "Cutest" shows off Morgan Janay's strong voice, songwriting skills, and a blend of old and new R&B styles. Her unique sound, along with her great performance, has earned praise and positioned her for these Grammy categories.

"I'm so honored to be considered for these Grammy awards," says Morgan Janay. "Making 'Cutest' was a lot of fun, and seeing people enjoy the song means a lot to me. I'm thankful for all the sup-



port."

The song "Cutest" stands out for its lyrics, while Morgan Janay's vocals and artistry shine in her performance. The music video for "Cutest" is fun and upbeat, showing Morgan's personality and matching the good vibe of the song.

Morgan's career has been growing fast, and her fanbase is strong on social media. You can learn more about her music and upcoming projects on her website, www.morganjanay.com. "With God, all things are possible," says Morgan as she reflects on her journey, showing gratitude for her fans and com-

mitment to her music.

Stay up to date with Morgan Janay's latest releases by following her on Instagram @morganjanayofficial and visiting her website at www.morganjanay.com.

Morgan Janay's "Cutest" is more than just a song; it's a key moment in her growing career as she reaches for Grammy recognition.

Born and raised between the vibrant cities of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Atlanta, Georgia, Morgan's journey with music began at a young age. Diagnosed with autism at the tender age of 3, music became more than just a passion - it became her voice.

Despite the challenges she faced, Morgan's determination and innate talent propelled her forward. With the unwavering support of her family, she embarked on her musical journey, starting artist development with her parents company Rare Studios Publishing, at the age of 8.

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The right to vote is protective of all other rights

By Colin Allred
U.S. Representative (D-TX)

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights. It's not just about having a say in the future of our country—it's about honoring the legacy of those who fought and sacrificed so that we could have a voice. As a voting rights lawyer, I've seen the impacts of voter suppression firsthand, and how deeply un-American it is when folks cannot vote because of arbitrary barriers put in place to make it harder.

I became a voting rights attorney because I believe the right to vote is preservative of all other rights. That's why we cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. In Congress, I've been working to reinstate and modernize the Voting Rights Act to stop harmful voter suppression laws here in Texas and

across the country. To give more Texans a chance to participate in our democracy, we must expand early voting, make Election Day a federal holiday and take steps like same day voter registration that make voting more accessible, not create barriers that are harmful to our democracy. I've introduced legislation that would ensure integrity in our elections and protect our election workers. I stand by the words of my hero, Congressman John Lewis who said "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."

Despite these efforts, laws like S.B. 1 in Texas make it harder for Texans to vote by mail, limit the hours of early voting and have burdensome voter registration and voter ID provisions. This isn't who we

are as Texans. The Voting Rights Act, championed by the civil rights movement, was signed into law by a great Texan, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

I think about other Texas icons like the late, great Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who fought fearlessly for our democracy. She never shied away from challenging those who wanted to silence our communities and take away folks' voices in our democracy. She said it best: "What the people want is very simple—they want an America as good as its promise."

To live up to that promise, we must do better.

Ted Cruz wants to take our democracy backward, as we all saw on January 6 when he tried to overturn a free and fair election and disregard the will of the American people. Ted Cruz supports restrictive laws

based on fear tactics about widespread voter fraud. He doesn't understand and doesn't care that voting is a cornerstone of our democracy, and he is trying to strip away our hard-won rights.

History has shown us that elections can be decided by just a handful of votes.

Yet in Texas, only 42 percent of eligible voters turned out in 2022 and Texas sadly consistently ranks towards the bottom in the country in turnout numbers.

We have less than a month to turn out our family and friends and ensure every eligible Texan casts their ballot. It's time to make a plan to vote, especially at a moment where folks like Ted Cruz want to threaten the principles our country was founded on.

I often say if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. Voting is our power and our voice. Let's use it.

How Head Start shaped my life

By Duchesne Drew

Head Start alumnus Duchesne Drew is senior vice president of American Public Media Group and president of Minnesota Public Radio. Duchesne's career has been punctuated with several accolades: In 2021, he was inducted into the Hall of Achievement at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism; he received the 2022 Spurgeon Award for Outstanding Community Lead-

ers; and in 2022, he was named to *The Root 100*, an annual list of the most influential Black Americans in the fields of arts, community, business, entertainment, media, and politics. He shared how *Head Start* played a role in his life.

I'm incredibly proud to lead Minnesota Public Radio (MPR). I'm energized by expanding the circle of people who depend on our news, information, and music programming. Our 'going deeper' approach

helps the public to bridge gaps and form connections through meaningful community engagement and listening experiences. My professional and learning journeys started with *Head Start*.

I remember attending the *Head Start* program on Pitkin Avenue in East New York, a section of Brooklyn. I have vivid memories of my mother walking me there. My *Head Start* classroom was a warm environment that affirmed me as a

learner. That affirmation has influenced my journey from *Head Start* to public media president.

After *Head Start*, I attended Public School #159 for the first grade, and near the end of that school year, my mother and I moved to Freeport, New York, on Long Island. My mom always seemed to be a step ahead, and to ensure I didn't experience learning loss; she bought the first-grade

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Keep up with the news

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Study finds spike in emergency visits for life-threatening pregnancy complication

(Newswise) — Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, the second leading cause of maternal deaths worldwide, may be sending a significantly higher number of pregnant people to the emergency department.

Between 2006 and 2020, researchers found a surge in emergency visits and admissions for the condition that causes serious maternal and neonatal complications and accounts for 6.3% of all pregnancy-related deaths in the United States.

The study, which appears in JAMA Network Open, also suggests greater emergency utilization for the dis-



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ease among underrepresented racial and ethnic groups.

“Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy often develop suddenly, even in healthy women, and symptoms may appear without warning and progress rapidly,” said

senior author Erica Marsh, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Michigan Medical School and chief of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at U-M Health Von Voigt-

lander Women’s Hospital, of Michigan Medicine.

“Ideally, this risk would be detected during prenatal care and lead to early intervention. Our study indicates more people turning to the emergency department, which may reflect a higher prevalence of the condition or an increased awareness for prompt assessment and treatment.”

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, which could include preeclampsia, gestational hypertension, and eclampsia, are serious complications that involve elevated blood pressure.

The American College

of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends management of severe blood pressure in pregnancy within 30 to 60 minutes of diagnosis to prevent complications such as stroke, myocardial ischemia, seizure, placental abruption, and maternal and neonatal mortality.

Disparities in ED reliance, disease severity

Researchers analyzed nationally representative data, finding a 76% increase in emergency encounters related to the condition over the 14-year span, up from 31,623 to 55,893, and nearly 1.5 times as many

ED admissions – up from 17,338 to 43,563.

Concerns about costs, time constraints, misconceptions about the necessity of early care or barriers to accessing prenatal care may be possible factors for the increase, authors say.

“The disparities in reliance on emergency rooms for this disease may imply limited access to timely outpatient care or other health system barriers,” said lead author Courtney Townsel, M.D., M.Sc., who was at Michigan Medicine at the time of the study and is now at the University of Maryland.

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striving to build wealth and achieve long-term financial security through homeownership.

“Homeownership has long been one of the most reliable ways to build wealth in this country, but for far too many families, it remains out of reach,” said Marisa Calderon, President and CEO of Prosperity Now. “While it’s encouraging to see inflation slow, we must ensure that economic gains translate into real opportunities for families to build a more secure financial future.”

A cooling of inflation could bode well for African Americans. Research in 2022 revealed that, at a time when households across the U.S. widely reported experiencing serious problems from inflation, Black Americans were disproportionately affected by rising costs. According to a poll conducted by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Pub-

lic Health, 55% of Black Americans report facing serious financial difficulties, compared to 38% of white Americans. The survey also showed that Black Americans are more likely to lack emergency savings, with 58% unable to cover even a month of expenses, compared to 36% of white respondents. Food insecurity also presented a more pressing issue, as 32% of Black Americans report struggling to afford food, compared to 21% of white Americans.

Meanwhile, the latest CPI Index revealed that energy costs declined 1.9% over the past month. Gasoline prices dropped by 4.1%, continuing their downward trend and offering some relief to consumers. Over the past 12 months, the energy index has decreased by 6.8%, primarily due to a significant 15.3% drop in gasoline prices and a steep 22.4% decline in fuel oil costs. Meanwhile, electricity and natural gas costs have seen

smaller increases of 3.7% and 2.0%, respectively.

Excluding the more volatile food and energy sectors, the CPI rose by 0.3% in September. This broader measure of inflation, which includes categories such as healthcare, motor vehicle insurance, and apparel, reflects more sustained price increases across various goods and services. Medical care costs, which had previously declined, increased by 0.4% this month, while motor vehicle insurance and airline fares both saw notable jumps, rising by 1.2% and 3.2%, respectively.

Shelter costs have increased over the past year by 4.9%, forming a significant part of the overall inflation picture. Motor vehicle insurance costs have surged by 16.3% annually, reflecting heightened expenses in this sector. In contrast, other categories, such as recreation and communication, saw slight decreases of 0.4% and 0.6% this month, respectively.

With inflation now easing to pre-pandemic levels,

the latest data suggests that while some price pressures remain, particularly in essential areas like housing and food, overall price growth is moderating. “We keep making progress, with inflation returning to pre-pandemic levels, 16 million jobs created, lower interest rates, and low unemployment,” said White House National Economic

Advisor Lael Brainard. “Our economy has grown 3.2 % per year under the Biden-Harris Administration—stronger than during the previous administration,” Brainard continued.

“Incomes are up almost \$4,000 after adjusting for inflation. President Biden and Vice President Harris will keep fighting to lower costs—by building

new homes to lower rents, capping prescription drug costs and reducing health insurance premiums, and lowering taxes for middle-class families—as Congressional Republicans keep pushing trickle-down economics that would raise costs by nearly \$4,000 per family while cutting taxes for billionaires and big corporations.”

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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Kamala Harris unveils extensive agenda for Black men, promises wealth-building and opportunity as election nears

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Vice President Kamala Harris has unveiled an extensive agenda designed to dismantle systemic barriers and foster new opportunities for Black men across America. The agenda, announced on October 14, spotlights wealth-building, health equity, criminal justice reform, and expanded education and job training access. Her plan follows recent controversial remarks by former President Barack Obama, who addressed concerns about voter turnout among Black men and stressed the importance of participating in the election.

Obama's comments in Pittsburgh were roundly criticized as scapegoating Black men, though he emphasized the high stakes of the 2024 election, noting that some African American males might hesitate to vote. He suggested that part of the reluctance could stem from discomfort with the idea of a woman president. Harris's plan aims to address the specific needs of Black men, with initiatives focused on financial empowerment, healthcare, and education.

Forgivable Loans and Wealth Creation

Harris's economic plan centers on wealth-building and supporting Black entrepreneurship. Her administration would provide one million forgivable loans, each up to \$20,000, to help Black men and others who have faced significant barriers to starting a business. By partnering with community banks and mission-driven lenders, Harris aims



Harris's detailed plan appears to offer Black men a vision of leadership, opportunity, and economic empowerment, which she argues is essential for the future of Black communities. She believes investing in education, health, and wealth-building would help address systemic inequities and build a path to prosperity for Black men nationwide. (Photo via NNPA)

to make capital accessible to Black entrepreneurs looking to launch or expand businesses in fields ranging from technology to landscaping and beyond.

Additionally, Harris has proposed a significant expansion of the Small Business Startup Tax Deduction, increasing it from \$5,000 to \$50,000, which would allow Black entrepreneurs to offset startup costs. She also plans to boost access to venture capital, low-interest loans, and incubators specifically for Black-owned businesses. Recognizing that Black entrepreneurs are frequently denied credit, Harris's plan includes reforms to expand affordable banking services and crack down on hidden fees that inhibit wealth accumulation in Black communities.

Pathways to High-Demand Jobs and Expanded Education Access

Harris's agenda promotes education, training, and mentorship programs to equip Black men with the skills needed to succeed in high-demand fields. Her plan emphasizes registered apprenticeships and credentialing programs, which would provide hands-on

training for jobs in sectors like cybersecurity, renewable energy, and healthcare. She also seeks to eliminate unnecessary college degree requirements for 500,000 federal jobs, making these roles more accessible to Black men who may not have pursued higher education.

To increase the representation of Black male teachers—a crucial role model for young Black students—Harris said she plans to invest in teacher training programs through the Department of Education. By collaborating with HBCUs and MSIs, the Democratic presidential nominee hopes to build a pipeline for Black male educators, addressing the severe underrepresentation in this profession, where only 1% of teachers are Black men. Research has shown that Black students benefit academically and socially when they have Black male teachers, yet structural barriers have prevented many from entering the field. Harris also supports the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to attract and retain Black male teachers, ensuring they have a pathway to long-term careers in education.

Financial Protections in the Digital Economy

Harris's plan includes protections for Black men who invest in cryptocurrency and other digital assets, acknowledging that over 20% of Black Americans have owned these assets. Among her goals is establishing a regulatory framework to safeguard digital investments, ensuring that Black men are protected as they participate in the burgeoning digital economy. The framework would set standards to protect investors from fraud and provide educational resources on digital asset management.

Health Equity and Addressing Medical Debt

Health equity remains a cornerstone of Harris's agenda. She has introduced a National Health Equity Initiative focused on Black men, which would address high rates of chronic diseases like diabetes, prostate cancer, and sickle cell disease. Harris proposes

capping insulin costs at \$35 per month and limiting out-of-pocket expenses on prescription drugs to \$2,000 annually. Additionally, she said she would expand funding for sickle cell research and build a national database to improve prevention and treatment.

To tackle the burden of medical debt, which disproportionately affects Black

men, Harris proposes removing medical debt from credit reports and working with states to relieve outstanding medical debt. The effort would help Black men access better credit, opening doors for homeownership and business financing.

(Find out more: Read the extended story online at northdallasgazette.com.)

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John Kincaide Stadium honors Sha'Carri Richardson



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Recently, track signage at John Kincaide Stadium was renamed to recognize our very own Dallas ISD alum, and Olympic champion, Sha'Carri Richardson. Thank you, Sha'Carri, for all you've done for your Dallas ISD family. We are

excited to cheer you on in whatever the future holds.

Dallas ISD is still seeking 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 district. To ensure the community's voice is heard, the Board of Trustees is hosting Community Listening events across the city of Dallas.

These meetings will run through November, and parents, students, staff, and community members are encouraged to participate and play an active role in shaping the future of the district.

I will be hosting a Community Listening Session at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4, at David W. Carter High School. I invite each and every one of you to attend and share your input. For more information, email

me at joyceforeman@dallasisd.org.

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

Discover Dallas ISD: The community is invited to Discover Dallas ISD! The district offers the very best in innovation, tradition, and excellence – from specialty schools and programs to legacy schools, we make it happen for every child to succeed. Come

and explore all our district has to offer on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Automobile Building at Fair Park. Students will even have the opportunity to apply to schools onsite.

For more information, visit dallasisd.org/discover.

Schools will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 5 for Election Day: Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. As a reminder, all Dallas ISD schools will be closed, as

many serve as polling locations. Early voting will run from Monday, Oct. 21 to Friday, Nov. 1. Registered and eligible voters may cast their ballot at any early voting location in their county of registration.

To find a polling location, visit dallascountytvotes.org. Celebrate exercising your right to vote by showcasing your "I Voted" sticker on social media using the hashtag #DallasISDVotes.

Southwest Airlines sponsors Paul Quinn College's participation in WBENC's Women of Color Incubator Program

Paul Quinn College, the creator of the Urban Work College model and the only minority-serving, federally recognized work college in America, today announced Southwest Airlines(R) as its sponsor and participation in the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) for the fall 2024 semester. This initiative empowers women of color from participating Histori-

cally Black Colleges and Universities with the tools, resources, and networks needed to thrive in the business world.

"As the College's official airline, Southwest Airlines is proud to sponsor Paul Quinn College in the WBENC Women of Color Incubator program," said Laura Nieto, Managing Director Corporate Responsibility, Southwest Airlines.

"This inaugural partnership and groundbreaking program reflect our commitment to investing in the next generation of female entrepreneurs, bringing future leaders together while empowering them with the skills they need to achieve their dreams and create a lasting impact that stretches far beyond the classroom."

The WBENC Women of Color Incubator is a pre-

mier program designed for aspiring entrepreneurs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This incubator provides the next generation of entrepreneurs with the resources, community and support they need to strengthen their ideas and grow their early-stage ventures. Through a series of workshops, mentorship sessions, and networking opportunities, current Paul

Quinn students and recent alumni will gain invaluable insights into the business landscape and develop strategies to succeed as entrepreneurs. The Incubator will culminate with a Pitch Competition October 29 on Paul Quinn's campus. Participants will compete for a chance to win up to \$9,000 in seed capital and the opportunity to receive an all-expenses paid trip to attend

the 2025 WBENC National Conference in New Orleans, LA. Upon program completion, graduates will continue their engagement with WBENC via development programs including the Collegiate Accelerator, NextGen and Women of Color.

"We are honored to be selected for the WBENC

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reading and math books from the school before we moved and the second-grade books. I spent the rest of the school year and summer completing the lessons in those books. When I began second grade in my new school, those same books were the texts for the year, meaning I was well ahead!

I was a top performer for the remainder of my primary and secondary school years. I graduated from Freeport

High School in the top 10% of my class and was accepted into three Ivy League schools. I decided to attend Columbia University to take advantage of being in New York City and remain close to home. While there, I volunteered with and worked for Upward Bound, one of the federal TRiO programs. TRiO programs identify and support high school students from historically marginalized communities as they

progress through school and prepare for college. As part of my time with Upward Bound, I saw firsthand the difference that the wrap-around approach makes in the lives of students and their families. When I reminisce about the program's impact on our students, I also think of Head Start and how it offers wrap-around services to children and families to provide the support they need while on the journey to self-sufficiency.

After completing my

undergraduate studies, I worked at Columbia University as a development officer for Upward Bound and its sister program, Talent Search, for a few years, successfully securing program funding. I then earned a master's degree at Northwestern University, focusing on journalism. While I was in graduate school, I got an internship with the Minneapolis Star Tribune, one of the nation's largest newspapers. From that internship, I landed a per-

manent reporting role and ultimately rose to managing editor of operations with oversight for the copy and design desks, IT, recruitment, training, and more. This experience was an excellent foundation for my future path. After a five-year stint as a vice president of a local foundation, I was hired to lead MPR in early 2020, and I've been here ever since.

I'm incredibly proud to be a part of MPR. I'm energized by expanding the

circle of people who depend on our news, information, and music programming. Our 'going deeper' approach helps the public to bridge gaps and form connections through meaningful community engagement and listening experiences.

When I look for the common thread throughout my life's journey, it's been a collection of intentional investments in my potential that have shaped me into who I am today. Head Start is one of those investments.



Check us out on Facebook!

Like our page to stay current with all the news and events in DFW!



Global nonprofit DSNDP volunteers participate in storm drain marking

On October 13th, volunteers of the DSNDP organization gathered Sunday morning to participate in a storm drain marking event in collaboration with the City of Richardson. The group consists of 8 volunteers that worked together, and they spent all the morning marking 46 storm



Courtesy photo

drains. Earlier in Texas, the organization also carried out 26 cleanliness activities that includes Adopt-a-Road, Adopt-a-Highway, Storm

Drain marking across 7 cities involving a total of 351 volunteers who worked for around 595 volunteer hours, collected 214 bags of waste resulting in approx. 3210 pounds of trash.

Within the North America continent, DSNDP continues to collaborate with 18 states and 74 cities across

the United States for nationwide cleanliness drives including 24 different programs such as Adopt-Highway/Park/Beach/Street/River etc. During these cleanliness drives, DSNDP has successfully engaged 2537 volunteers, actively collecting 40590 pounds of trash, resulting in significant

cost savings for the government. The organization has received accolades from various state and county governments in the form of 63 certificates and 84 signboards within the nation.

To learn more about our initiatives and get involved, visit <https://www.dsndp.com>.

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Women of Color Incubator program and grateful to Southwest Airlines for their generous support. This opportunity aligns perfectly with our goal to provide our students with transfor-

mative educational experiences that support them becoming entrepreneurial in both their thoughts and their actions. Our students are excited, and we know that they will greatly ben-

efit from the resources and mentorship provided by this program," said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, President, Paul Quinn College.

Following a historic and anonymous \$20 million donation, Paul Quinn College is using funds to support stu-

dent entrepreneur programs and business-centric majors at the College including its Every Quinnite is an Entrepreneur Program, its Banking and Finance Program, and its Fundraising & Phi-

lanthropy Program. The collaboration between Southwest Airlines, WBENC, and Paul Quinn College underscores a shared commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and

inclusion in the business community. By empowering women of color through education and entrepreneurship, this initiative is paving the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

WRITTEN BY **SAMM ART WILLIAMS**
DIRECTED BY **KRIS BLACK JASPER**

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Information Session Presenters and Speakers

 MR. RICKY NWAGWU Garland NAACP Unit President	 MR. JAMES ODEH WilNorth Texas Health System Associate Director of Operations	 DR. THERESA DANIEL Dallas County Commissioner District 1	 MR. SCOTT LEMAY City of Garland Mayor
 KRYSTLE RABEUR North Texas Health Care System Deputy Associate Director Patient Care Services	 DR. LATONIA HARRIS DHP, RN, PHA, CIA Texas Veterans Network/ Combat Arms North Texas Regional Coordinator	 MAJ GEN L. WILLIAMS USMC (Retired)	 MS. CATHERINE SMITH Texas Veterans Commissioner

"Several other specialists not pictured will also be on the forum"

Information to be discussed:

- Land purchasing
- Home Health Care
- Assistance with filing benefit claims
- Checking status of claims already filed
- Depression
- PACT-Act Register
- Camp Lejeune Justice Act
- Veterans Benefits (medical, disability, and others)
- Agent Orange Register
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Veterans Housing Assistance
- Burial and Memorial Service Information
- Question and Answer Session

For more information, please visit the Garland NAACP Unit Website.

The era of the Black quarterback is now in full swing

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

Once considered the exception, Black quarterbacks are now the standard. The start of the 2024-2025 NFL regular season saw Black quarterbacks make up a record 15 of the 32 starters in the league. The young crop of talent at the position was on display during week six as Lamar Jackson, CJ Stroud, Justin Fields, Jordan Love, Jalen Hurts, and Caleb Williams led their respective teams to victory.

Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens met another member of the Black Quarterback renaissance with rookie sensation Jayden Daniels and the Washington Commanders making the short trip to M&T Bank Stadium. Daniels more than held his own against the two-time and reigning league MVP—posting a career-high 269 yards and two touchdowns. However, Jackson showed there are levels to this game while completing 77 percent of his passes and throwing for 323 yards to go along with a touchdown. Jackson also had high praise for the rookie quarterback.



DWG Studio

“He played a tremendous game out there. They just came up short. He’s been proving it. His rookie season, first six games he’s been playing amazing,” Jackson stated.

The Houston Texans cruised to a win over the New England Patriots as Stroud threw for three touchdowns. Stroud’s leadership and arm talent has led the Texans to a 5-1 start on the season. His poise and comfortability to play in clutch situations are assets that set him apart from most quarterbacks in the league. Houston will look to build on what is shaping up to be a special season.

Love and the Green Bay

Packers showed no love for a hapless Arizona Cardinals squad. Throwing for 258 yards and four touchdowns, Love has clearly taken ownership of the Matt LaFleur led offense. He plays the position with fluidity and has a live arm he utilizes to make throws from any platform or angle. He is preparing to take on his fellow California native as the Packers will host Stroud and the Texans this Sunday.

Sometimes all you need is a change of scenery as Fields has continued to find success in his new home with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Head coach Mike Tomlin has empowered and allowed Fields to play a game

better suited for his skill set. Fields is a dynamic runner who throws a beautiful deep ball. In a well-balanced effort, he produced a stat line of 59 rushing yards and two touchdowns while passing for 145 yards in a 32-13 win over the Las Vegas Raiders.

“Me being in two different places now, I realize that you don’t get this culture everywhere,” Fields said.

The Philadelphia Eagles avoided an upset versus the Cleveland Browns thanks to Hurts shouldering the load. Amassing 264 yards and two touchdowns, Hurts led a huge 4th quarter drive that ended with a 45-yard touchdown pass to Devonta Smith. Hurts is a powerful runner and has no problem spreading the wealth to the playmakers around him.

Williams is starting to showcase the generational traits NFL scouts knew he possessed. Across the pond in London, he threw for 226 yards and four touchdowns while completing 79 percent of his passes in a lopsided 35-16 victory over the Jacksonville Jag-

uars. Williams displayed traits of the current face of the Black quarterback movement in Patrick Mahomes. Not to put the expectations of one of the greatest quarterbacks the game has ever seen on the kid, but the ceiling of Williams is approaching that of the Willis tower in Chicago.

The beauty and excellence of the Black quarterback is the diversity in which each athlete gets the job done. Black men thriving at the most important position in sports by deploying unique skill sets prove that the “traditional” quarterback is a thing of the past. The reign of the Black Quarterback is just beginning as the path continues to be trail blazed by the current stars who carry the honor.

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Pedro Pascal, Lupita Nyong'o and Catherine O'Hara in *The Wild Robot* (Image via NNPA)

'The Wild Robot' heaps praise on dedicated single parents

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***/2) All hail single moms raising kids they didn't birth. Dedicated parents who shepherd children into adulthood. They're saints.

It's almost as if this family film's theme was ripped from the headlines in this twisted era of demeaning mothers who raise youngsters that didn't come from their bodies. Or people who pour their love and nurturing into cats, dogs and other alternatives. Call novelist Peter Brown prescient for writing his bestseller *The Wild Robot*. Call writer/director Chris Sanders (*How to Train Your Dragon*) right on time for his very touching adaptation and eclectic casting that pulls the world together. Kudos to the diverse group of actors that help tell this story that preaches the gospel of love and community in the face of adversaries and naysayers. They should all take a

bow.

Somewhere out there a spaceship crash lands on an uninhabited island, that's if you don't count animals. The lone survivor is a robot, Rozzum unit 7134 (Lupita Nyong'o). Roz is programmed to assist others—to a fault. As she tries to befriend the animals on the isle, they're either afraid of her or pushing her around. Fate has it that she stumbles across a nest and an egg. Providence hatches the egg and it's a gosling. A baby goose. Slowly as Roz parents the bird it grows into a young goose named Brightbill (Kit Connor, *Rocketman*). She teaches him the importance of eating, swimming and flying. But is perplexed by her bond with the animal. Can't put a name on it. But Pinktail the possum (Catherine O'Hara, *Schitt's Creek*) clues her in: "As far as he's concerned, you're his mother!"

As time goes by the hodge podge of animals

center their lives around Roz and Brightbill. They're no longer afraid and forming a community. An extended family. Chief among the furry and featured creatures are Fink the fox (Pedro Pascal), who eyes the others as potential prey when his instincts get the better of him. Pinktail and her tiny brood. The big bear Thorn (Mark Hamill) and busy beaver Paddler (Matt Berry). The day comes when the boy goose must become a young adult goose, and his surrogate mom must let go. The day comes when hostile forces will threaten the animals. They will be tested.

Only the hardest heart couldn't be touched by this story and its vulnerable characters all trying to survive, learn, grow and adapt as a family. The novel was written with middle grade children in mind, and that's how the movie plays. Perfect for kids and

See **ROBOT**, Page 10

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RANGARAJU, from Page 2

ber International Research Award, the CZI Ben Barres Early Career Acceleration Award, and the SfN Janett Rosenberg Trubatch Career Development Award.

The NIH Director's New Innovator Award supports exceptionally creative early-career investigators who propose highly innovative research projects. Established as part of the NIH Common Fund's High-Risk, High-Reward research program, the award is designed to provide long-term funding for individuals who demonstrate groundbreaking potential in addressing major scientific

challenges.

The Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience (MPFI) is a not-for-profit research organization and part of the world-renowned Max Planck Society, Germany's most successful research organization with over 84 institutes worldwide. Since its establishment in 1948, 31 Nobel laureates have emerged from the ranks of its scientists. As its only North American institution, MPFI provides exceptional neuroscientists with the resources and technology to answer fundamental brain development and function questions.

ROBOT, from Page 9

tweens. The kind of film parents can take their kids to see and then teach them lessons about what family, parenting and children learning to be independent is all about.

From Roz's first harrowing days on the strange island the script and Sander's direction pulls you into her plight. She needs to be less subservient and more assertive. It's a tricky balance, but it's fun to watch her awkward giant steps forward. Also depicting the tech and AI age, with its advances but dehumanizing and menacing ways is also engaging.

Nyong'o brings a sweetness and naiveté to Roz that remains fresh throughout. All done with her voice. With inflection, phrasing, tone and a mix of joy and concern. As the robot becomes more empathetic and shows a wider range of emotions audiences feel the change. Pascal's devilish turn as Fink is funny and biting. And the innocence and bravery displayed by Connor become more absorbing as he and his loved ones come under attack by the steely, cold hearted robot Vondra (Stephanie Hsu,

Everything Everywhere All at Once).

Kids won't squirm through this fantasy because editor Mary Blee knows how to keep a beat. The scenery looks fresh and colors vibrant because production designer Raymond Zibach and art director Ritchie Sacilioc are on the job. Cinematographer Chris Stover's sense of lighting and composition are right on the mark and Kris Bowers' music intensifies the ups and downs that make this film a roller coaster.

Sanders masterfully turns a book into a compelling family film. A

modern, animated parable audiences will relish from beginning to end. If there is an imperfection it is not in the production but more in the timing. There are sequences of Brightbill and the flock he's joined, led by Longneck (Bill Nighy), that feel too similar to the recent animated movie Migration. That's a note, not a dealbreaker.

Otherwise, all hail this single mom and bird lady movie that proves once and for all that families and parents come in all sizes, shapes, species and robots.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrown-Ink.com.

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Techno-nationalism trend fuels global disorder

By Michael R. Malone

(Newswise) For the past 70 years, the global economy has been governed by open trade and multilateral governance, an order established by the United States and its allies after World War II and based on principles of openness, rules, and multilateral cooperation.

But we are entering a new era of fragmented globalization, caused by the rise of geopolitical fractures, nationalistic unilateralism, and trade protectionism, and moving away from multilateral governance toward nationalistic interventionism, asserts Yadong Luo, the Emery M. Findley Jr. Distinguished Chair in the University of Miami Patti and Allan Herbert Business School.

Luo contrasted previous protectionist policies with today's protectionism. Historically, policies focused primarily on economic protectionism to shield industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and textiles from foreign competition. Tariffs and quotas were often used to protect domestic markets and jobs.

Policies in the new paradigm are increasingly tied to national security and technological sovereignty, particularly in sectors like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, telecommunication, and energy. Governments today view control over key technologies and supply chains as central to their geopolitical power, noted Luo.

Additionally, earlier protectionism often occurred during periods of economic distress, such as the Great Depression, when governments imposed tariffs to protect domestic jobs and industries.

Today's economic na-

tionalism arises in response to a globalization backlash, Luo said. Growing discontent with the unequal distribution of globalization's benefits, concerns about job displacement due to trade, and rising populism have fueled new protectionist policies. This is seen in movements like Brexit and the rise of populist governments, which advocate for reclaiming sovereignty over economic decisions from international institutions and agreements.

In the emerging fractured globalization paradigm, the regionalization of economic ties tends to fragment global supply chains. Protectionist policies now reflect a strate-

gic need to adapt to the competing geopolitical blocs and regional powers, and countries align with specific allies and regions while erect-

ing barriers against others, leading to a more multipolar global economic structure.

See GLOBAL, Page 15

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- **Concrete Finishers (Paving, Structures)**
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NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dallas, Texas has called a special election to be held within the City of Dallas, Texas on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

- FOR** **PROPOSITION A**
 AGAINST Shall Chapter 40A of the Dallas City Code, known as the employees' retirement fund of the City of Dallas, be amended in accordance with Ordinance No. 32801 to: add, revise, and delete various definitions; provide amended terms and term limits of the board; modify the retirement fund board's powers and duties; specify the date the board shall adopt the actuarially determined contribution rate, the current total adjusted total obligation rate, the current total obligation rate, and the pension obligation bond credit rate for each fiscal year; provide amended contribution amounts for the city and employees; provide a contribution maximum for Tier A and Tier B employees; provide that the city may contribute additional monies to the retirement fund in its sole discretion; amend the modifications of contribution rates; provide guardrails with respect to the calculation of the actuarially determined contribution and incorporating the guardrails into actuarial assumptions; and amend the procedure to amend Chapter 40A?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION B**
 AGAINST Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a preamble that declares the city to be an equitable democracy, comprised of representatives that act to make the city fair, equitable, just, and safe for all residents?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION C**
 AGAINST Increasing Salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers
 Shall Chapter III, Section 4(a) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to increase the annual salary for the mayor to \$110,000 and the annual salaries for councilmembers to \$90,000 with salaries subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index, effective January 1, 2025?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION D**
 AGAINST Removing Election Date from the Charter
 Shall Chapter IV, Section 3 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that elections for members of the city council be held in May and instead be held according to state law and as designated by city resolution or ordinance?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION E**
 AGAINST Eliminating the Ability for Councilmembers and Mayor to Run Again After Serving the Limit of Terms
 Shall Chapter III, Section 3A of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the ability for members of the city council to run for city council again after serving the maximum four two-year terms and to eliminate the ability for the mayor to run for mayor again after serving the maximum two four-year terms?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION F**
 AGAINST Providing the City Secretary and City Auditor with Employees
 Shall Chapter IIIA, Section 2 and Chapter IX, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter, which requires the city council to provide assistants to the city secretary and city auditor, be amended to also require the city council to provide employees to the city secretary and city auditor?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION G**
 AGAINST Adding Eligibility Criteria for Serving on the Redistricting Commission
 Shall Chapter IV, Section 5(b)(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes the redistricting commission, be amended by adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission?

- FOR** **PROPOSITION H**
 AGAINST Eliminating the Requirement that Members of Boards and Commissions Created by Charter be Registered to Vote, Qualified Voters, or Qualified Taxpaying Citizens
 Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XVI, Section 1; and Chapter XVII, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by eliminating the requirement that members of the redistricting commission, city plan commission, civil service board, and park and recreation board be registered to vote, qualified voters, or qualified taxpaying citizens?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION I**
 AGAINST Amending Initiative and Referendum Petition Procedure by Extending Deadline for Petition Signature Collection from 60 Days to 120 Days and Reducing Number of Signatures Required on a Petition to Initiate a Referendum
 Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11 of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect required signatures from 60 days to 120 days and reduce the number of signatures required on a petition from 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas to five percent?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION J**
 AGAINST Allowing City Council to Replace City Board and Commission Members Before Completion of Board and Commission Terms
 Shall Chapter XXIV, Section 17(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow city council's appointments to city boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to completion of a member's two-year term?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION L**
 AGAINST Adding the Office of the Inspector General to the Charter
 Shall Chapter XI, Section 2 be amended and a new chapter be added to the Dallas City Charter that establishes the Office of the Inspector General with the Inspector General being appointed by city council and lists the duties of the Inspector General?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION O**
 AGAINST Amending the Appointment Procedure and Qualifications of Associate Municipal Judges
 Shall Chapter VIII, Section 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify the terms of associate municipal judges and state that associate municipal judges are appointed by city council, receive assignments from the administrative judge or the administrative judge's designee, and must be residents of Dallas within four months of the date of appointment and practicing attorneys in good standing?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION P**
 AGAINST Deleting the Requirement to Pay One-Half the Costs of Administrative Law Judge
 Shall Chapter XVI, Section 12.1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that a city employee who appeals his or her discharge or reduction in grade to an administrative law judge pay one-half of the costs attributed to having the administrative law judge conduct the appeal hearing?
- FOR** **PROPOSITION Q**
 AGAINST Technical Amendments to Conform to State Law, City Code, and Actual Practices; to Correct Terms; and to Clarify Language
 Shall Chapter III, Section 3; Chapter III, Section 4; Chapter III, Chapter 8(b); Chapter III, Section 13(a); Chapter III, Section 19; Chapter IV, Section 6(a); Chapter IV, Section 6(c)(2); Chapter IV, Section 13; Chapter XI, Section 1; Chapter XI, Section 3; Chapter XII, Section 4; Chapter XIII, Section 2(2); Chapter XIII, Section 9; Chapter XIV, Section 8; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XV, Section 4; Chapter XVI, Section 3(b)(1); Chapter XVI, Section 7; Chapter XVI, Section 10(a); Chapter XVI, Section 11(b); Chapter XVIII, Section 7; Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1); Chapter XVIII, Section 15; Chapter XIX, Section 7; Chapter XXII, Section 2; Chapter XXII, Section 3; Chapter XXII, Section 4(1); Chapter XXII, Section 10; and Chapter XXIV of the Dallas City Charter be amended to conform to state law, conform to the city code, match actual practices, correct terms, clarify language, and other technical amendments?

- FOR
 AGAINST

PROPOSITION RReform Marijuana Enforcement

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section in Chapter XXIV that reforms marijuana possession enforcement by prohibiting the Dallas Police Department from making arrests or issuing citations for marijuana possession or considering the odor of marijuana as probable cause for search or seizure, except as part of a violent felony or high priority narcotics felony investigation; making enforcement of Class A (currently, two to four ounces) and Class B (currently, up to two ounces) misdemeanor marijuana possession the Dallas Police Department's lowest enforcement priority; and prohibiting city funds or personnel from being used to test cannabis-related substances to determine whether a substance meets the legal definition of marijuana, except in limited circumstances?

- FOR
 AGAINST

PROPOSITION SGranting Standing to Residents and Waiving Governmental Immunity

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new chapter that grants standing to any resident of Dallas to bring a lawsuit against the city to require the city to comply with provisions of the city charter, city ordinances, and state law; entitles claimants to seek declaratory and injunctive relief against the city and recover costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and waives the city's governmental immunity from suit and liability in claims brought under this amendment?

- FOR
 AGAINST

PROPOSITION TAnnual Community Survey

Shall Chapter VI of the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section compelling the city to conduct the city-commissioned Community Survey on an annual basis, to be completed by a minimum of 1,400 Dallas residents on their satisfaction on quality of life issues, the results of which will result in the city manager earning additional performance compensation (between 0 percent and 100 percent of the city manager's annual base salary) or the termination of the city manager?

- FOR
 AGAINST

PROPOSITION UPolice and Fire Funding Appropriation

Shall Chapter XI of the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section compelling city council to appropriate no less than 50 percent of annual revenue that exceeds the total annual revenue of the previous year to fund the Dallas Police and Fire Pension, with any monies remaining of that 50% to be appropriated to increasing the starting compensation of officers of the Dallas Police Department and to increase the number of police officers to a minimum of 4,000, and to maintain that ratio of officers to the City of Dallas population as of the date of passage of this amendment?

Note: Propositions K, M, and N were removed per Ordinance Number 32849, approved on September 11, 2024, by the Dallas City Council.

Dates	Day of the Week	Hours
October 21-25, 2024	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 5 PM
October 26, 2024	Saturday	7 AM - 7 PM
October 27, 2024	Sunday	12 PM - 6 PM
October 28 - November 1, 2024	Monday-Friday	7 AM - 7 PM

Dallas County Early voting and Election Day locations:

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voters/election/11052024-2/>

Collin County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:

<https://www.collincountytx.gov/Elections/polling-locations>

Denton County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:

https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/1124_EV_Locations.pdf

<https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/1124-Unconsolidated-ED-Locations.pdf>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:
 Bilierae Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809**

God's Economy



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor



“So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant” (Josh 24:13).

In the world of business we are taught to do whatever it takes to produce a desired outcome.

Competitive forces can

drive companies to go beyond the limits of ethics and integrity to achieve a desired outcome.

Men and women can become work-a-holics as the need for competitive ad-

vantage is passed down the various management levels in order to meet sales and marketing goals.

This sweat and toil mentality contradicts God's Kingdom Economy.

The Kingdom Economy is found in the above verse in Joshua. When the people of Israel were coming out of Egypt, a place of sweat and toil and slavery, God was trying to teach them a new economy of receiving.

Instead of sweat and toil, He wanted them to learn obedience. Now their income would be based on their obedience, not their skill or their sweat and toil.

This new Kingdom Economy meant that there would be times when what you receive from your efforts might be less than

the commensurate time invested.

Yet, there would also be times when you would receive more compared to your time invested.

God says we are to determine if He wants us to meet with that person or be involved with an endeavor

based on His leading alone, not based on the perceived outcome.

It is His responsibility to bring fruit from the activity. This will result in a new freedom in your work life.

Stay vertical with God and let Him determine your next activity.

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GLOBAL, from Page 11

The U.S.-China trade war in 2018 is one of the most significant markers of the new interventionism, according to Luo. The U.S. imposition of tariffs on hun-

dreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods, in response to perceived unfair trade practices, was a major departure from the previously cooperative U.S.-China

economic relationship.

This trade war highlighted a shift toward strategic competition between global powers, with national security concerns overtaking the earlier emphasis on free trade. The rivalry between

the U.S. and China sparked a broader trend of economic decoupling.



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Friday, Oct 18 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Friday, Nov 1 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

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



NDG Book Review: Kids books on voting, by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

So, who will you vote for?

That's easy: nobody yet, because you're still a kid – but you have your opinions. Learn more by reading these three great books on voting...

It was a cold and rainy early November day when Mama said they had to go out. They had a job to do “that, by definition, no one can do for us...” In **“Show Up and Vote”** by Anni Di Franco, illustrations by



Rachelle Baker (Penguin Workshop), the job is done in a big, official building that's staffed by friendly people. Mama knew a lot

of folks there because a lot of people come to vote, and “no matter the weather we do this together...”

Step by step, this book takes little readers from beginning to end of the voting process, showing them how important the “job” is and the many people involved.

Once was a time when the right to vote was shaky, at best. If your child needs to know that history, then **“The Day Madear Voted”** by Wade Hudson, illustrated by Don Tate (Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin) is

the book to find.

It's 1969, and Charlie and Ralph's Madear has been looking forward to this day for most of her life. Up until then, Black people had been turned away from the voting booth, but on this day, the boys' mom dresses up and heads out, taking them along.

It was “just like being at church” because people were dressed nicely and they were very excited! Most of them never thought they'd see the day they'd be allowed to vote. When it

was over, Madear came out of the booth with the biggest smile on her face! Ralph and Charlie asked her what it felt like, and her words peek into the future.

This look at a chapter in American history is perfect for kids who are trying to grasp the realities and processes of voting, and the act's importance. Your five-to-seven-year-old will love it.

Here's another story of a big milestone: **“Leo's First Vote!”** by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Isa-

bel Roxas (Knopf).

Leo's Dad just became an American citizen and this fall, he'll be able to cast a vote for the President! Leo knows how great this is, and he's very excited – but there are a lot of things he doesn't understand. His teacher holds a mock election, which helps. Leo's father helps, too, as he tries to learn all about the issues. Leo listens as the adults debate politics and oops! his dad almost didn't get registered!

In this election year, these books should get your vote!

Lowering costs, protecting our democracy and your freedom to vote.

That's Colin Allred, and in November he will become the first Black Senator in Texas history with your help.

Early Voting:
October 21 - November 1

Election Day: November 5

Head to MyTexasVotes.com for more info!

COLIN ALLRED
FOR SENATE

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