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## Presidential election on a knife's edge as early votes pour in

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

With the 2024 presidential election just two weeks away, early voting is surging nationwide as both parties make their final push to secure crucial ballots. Early voting data has begun to shed light on which states might see the most significant shifts—and, in some cases, repeat the razor-thin margins of 2020. While Independent and other voters are mostly excluded from the figures, pollsters warn that party affiliation doesn't necessarily determine who early voters are casting their ballots for.

### National Early Voting Trends: Key Battlegrounds in Focus

Across the nation, more than 15 million mail-in and early in-person votes have already been cast. Among these early votes, 46% come from registered Democrats, 36% from Republicans, and 18% from other parties. The early voting push comes as



Early voting data has begun to shed light on which states might see the most significant shifts—and, in some cases, repeat the razor-thin margins of 2020. (Image via NNPA)

Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign encourages Democratic voters to take advantage of mail-in and early voting to lock in ballots well before Election Day, countering the traditionally lower early voting rates among Democratic voters in past elections. Despite initially criticizing

early voting, the twice-impeached former President Donald Trump's campaign has urged Republicans to vote early, apparently recognizing its critical role in battleground states.

In Georgia, where Biden nar-

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### People In The News ...



Alonzo Mourning



Jordan Neely

*NDG Quote of the Week: "Non-cooperation is a measure of discipline and sacrifice, and it demands respect for the opposite views."*

- Mohandas Gandhi



## Alonzo Mourning

(Black PR Wire) Alonzo Mourning is a former professional basketball player who has served as vice president of player programs and development for the Miami Heat since June 2009. In his role, Mourning is responsible for ensuring the personal and professional development of HEAT players, while providing direct support and one-on-one mentoring. In addition, he represents the HEAT in various community and business endeavors.

Mourning played college basketball for John Thompson at Georgetown University. After an NBA



playing career that spanned 15 seasons and obtaining an NBA championship with the HEAT in 2006, seven All-Star berths and twice being named the NBA Defensive Player of the Year, Mourning earned his highest professional honor, be-

ing enshrined into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on August 8, 2014 in his first year of eligibility.

Mourning, who had his number 33 retired by the HEAT in a ceremony on March 30, 2009, is Miami's all-time leader in blocked shots (1,625). He also ranks among the HEAT's all-time leaders in points scored (2nd), free throws made (2nd) and attempted (2nd), total rebounds (2nd), offensive rebounds (2nd), double-doubles (2nd), double-figure scoring efforts (2nd), minutes played (3rd), field goals made (3rd) and attempted (3rd), defensive rebounds (3rd), games

played (3rd), starts (4th), field goal percentage (5th) and scoring average (12th). Mourning is also Miami's all-time postseason leader in blocked shots (171) and ranks among the franchise's postseason leaders in free throws made (4th) and attempted (4th), games played (5th), 20-point games (5th), dunks (5th), points scored (6th), double-figure scoring efforts (6th), field goals made (6th), total rebounds (6th), defensive rebounds (6th), offensive rebounds (7th), minutes played (8th), starts (8th), double-doubles (8th) and field goals attempted (8th).

Over the course of his career, Mourning, who also

captured a gold medal with the United States Senior National team at the 2000 Olympics, appeared in 838 games with the HEAT, Charlotte Hornets and New Jersey Nets and averaged 17.1 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.81 blocked shots, 1.1 assists and 31.0 minutes while shooting 52.7 percent from the floor. He finished his professional career with 14,311 points, 7,137 rebounds and 2,356 blocks (11th all-time in NBA history).

A perennial All-Star on the court, Mourning also works tirelessly for the children of South Florida through his charity, Mourning Family Foundation, to

educate and create the opportunity for youth to excel.

Mourning is truly a blessed and grateful individual. In 2003, he was fortunate to receive a kidney from his cousin after facing a life-threatening kidney disease. On June 4, 2024, Mourning told ESPN that he is cancer-free after his March prostatectomy following a February medical diagnosis of high-grade stage 3 cancer. Mourning will share his story and discuss the stigma around men's health at the Men's Health Summit presented by Baptist Health on November 16th from 9:30 AM – 12 PM at the Kaseya Center in Miami, Florida.

## Jordan Neely

A widely shared video showing a former Marine placing a man in a chokehold aboard a New York City subway train will be at the heart of the trial of Daniel Penny, who faces charges in the death of celebrated Michael Jackson performer Jordan Neely. The video, which has sparked nationwide debates on race and public safety, shows Penny restraining Neely in a chokehold until his death.

Penny, 26, is charged with manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide and has pleaded not guilty. He faces a maximum of 15 years in prison if convicted of the top charge. The trial began this week and is expected to last six weeks, with the defense and prosecution planning to rely heavily on the four-minute video to make their case. Penny's attorneys argue that he did not apply enough force for the chokehold to be fatal, while prosecutors contend that he used excessive and



unjustified force against Neely, a 30-year-old Black man who had been struggling with homelessness and mental health issues.

According to the New York City chief medical examiner, Neely died from compression to his neck, and the death has been ruled a homicide. The incident has become another flashpoint in discussions about racial justice, the treatment of homeless individuals, and the safety of New York's subway system. Following Neely's death, police initially questioned Penny and then released him without filing any charges—a move that

received harsh criticism from activists and elected officials.

Outside the Manhattan courthouse this week where the trial will take place, supporters of Neely continue to call for justice. In the wake of Neely's death, those who knew him personally have shared his life story with many people. One of those voices is Moses Harper, a professional dancer who wrote a tribute to Neely for The Marshall Project titled "My Friend Jordan Neely Was Homeless and in Mental Distress. But He Was Not Expendable."

"I first met Jordan in 2009, after Michael Jackson died," Harper wrote. "He was in Times Square performing with a couple of his friends, and I was coming out of a dance studio where I'd been teaching the 'Thriller' dance moves. Jordan, who was 16 at the time, was surrounded by tourists, engaging with all different types of peo-

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# The clock is ticking for the government to do what is right for this flooded historic Black community

By Ben Jealous

The state of Alabama destroyed their homes. Your federal tax dollars helped pay for it.

We are checking back in on the historic Black Shiloh community in Elba, Alabama.

Ever since 2018, when the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) expanded a highway running through the town, stormwater runoff floods the homes in this community whenever it rains. It is an ongoing crisis.

Members of this community have lost everything. Some of the families here have owned these homes for generations. Their generational wealth has been wiped out. They deserve justice. They deserve to be made whole. Now, the federal government could be running out of time to help.

Pastor Timothy Williams is a Shiloh community member who has been a leader in the fight to get justice for his neighbors and his own family. Back in March, when I spoke with Pastor Williams, he told me, "My house has already sunk two feet into the mud. I see my inheritance and my children's American Dream being washed away and stolen."

Since then, Pastor Williams says things have only gotten worse. He now says the frustration and hopelessness taking root in the

community has led to people using alcohol and drugs as an escape, whereas several years ago that would be unheard of in this community.

It speaks to the toll on this community being more than just economic. Watching your home and community be destroyed, and your generational wealth evaporate, has physical, mental, and emotional impacts just like any trauma does. People are watching their homes sink, and living with the danger all this physical upheaval of their land has caused with power lines and gas and sewage pipes. Pastor Williams himself has been warned his sinking house could eventually hit a natural gas pipeline causing a rupture or even an explosion. Think about the impact this must have not only on the entire community's mental health, but what it must do to the kids in the community and their ability to succeed in school.

Beyond that, there is the clear racial factor here. This is Alabama after all. The reckless disregard for this rural Black community in the state's highway project was not something unfamiliar to people who have lived there for decades. Nor were years of inaction and being left behind by the state (and now the federal government) since then. And there have been acts of intimidation by outsiders aimed at

community members like Pastor Williams who have spoken up – in March, Pastor Williams told me the restaurant he owns had been the target of a boycott by some local whites. And white people make up most of his clientele.

In a place where the shadow of Jim Crow still looms large, that justice for this Black community seems so elusive seems like no mere coincidence. It is understandable that some in the community believe the storm drainage pipes were aimed at their community intentionally.

In the months since I first spoke with Pastor Williams, I have visited Shiloh. And I have been working closely with Dr. Robert Bullard, known as Father of Environmental Justice and this country's preeminent voice exposing environmental racism, to build pressure on both the state and federal governments to act. Elba, Alabama is Dr. Bullard's hometown. It is an example of the pervasiveness of environmental racism, that such injustice could continue in the hometown of a prominent expert who sits on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Someone else who visited Shiloh the past few months is Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. And on October 4, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) an-

nounced a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) with ALDOT to address the ongoing flooding in Shiloh every time it storms. The VRA is one product of an investigation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Title VI prohibits racial discrimination – among other kinds of discrimination – in projects that receive federal financial assistance, like the Alabama highway project that destroyed the Shiloh community.

But the VRA is not a solution for the harm that has already been done to the people of this community. It is an insult to them. The agreement requires infrastructure improvements to mitigate flooding. But these people's homes are already ruined, their families are traumatized, and their property values are decimated.

Perhaps Army veteran Willie Horstead Jr., who has watched his home sink into the flood-soaked ground similarly to Pastor Williams, put it best when he told the visiting US Secretary of Transportation, "I'll tell you – I just want to be made whole."

In his 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail, Dr. King wrote, "justice too long delayed is justice denied," paraphrasing an old legal maxim.

Justice has been delayed for far too long for the resi-

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# Let Sleeping Babies Lie: Scientists highlight negative impacts of sleep disruption on early brain development

(Newswise) — Sleep deprivation in adults has long been proven to cause long-term mental and physical health issues, including, but not limited to, weakened immune systems, weight gain, depression, and increased risk of dementia.

But why does lack of sleep have such steep consequences?

Sleep actually plays a crucial role from the moment we are born. As babies, our brains are still forming the ends of neurons, called synapses, that are important in learning, attention, work-



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ing memory, and long-term memory. Sleep allows these neurons to develop and connect with one another, establishing brain functions for the remainder of life.

If this delicate, but important process was to be disrupted either through constant waking or separation anxiety, it could have lasting effects on the brain

and behavior.

Now, a new study led by Sean Gay, a graduate student in the lab of Graham Diering, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology at the UNC School of Medicine, has given us more insights into how sleep loss during early life impacts key parts of brain development - and how it can also increase one's risk for developing autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences.

"The unique effects of sleep loss during development are largely unexplored," said Diering. "Our data show that babies and children are more vulnerable to the negative effects of sleep disruption. We also found that sleep loss during this crucial period of time can negatively interact with underlying genetic risk for autism spectrum disorder."

## Sleep Disruption and Autism

Sleep issues are an important early indicator of brain growth issues and

other neurodevelopmental disorders, such as ASD, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and intellectual disability. Sleep disruption has been noted in >80% of people with ASD, but whether sleep disruption is a cause or consequence of ASD is largely unknown.

Diering has long studied how sleep strengthens synapses over time - a process termed synaptic plasticity - and how lack of sleep can contribute to cognitive and neurodegenerative dis-

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# Researchers launch \$3.7 million study on how structural racism accelerates aging in Black Americans

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

A group of researchers from Rutgers University and Michigan State University have launched a major study to examine the long-term effects of structural racism on cognitive aging, physical decline, and frailty—particularly in Black Americans.

A five-year grant from the National Institute on Aging, a division of the

National Institutes of Health, will support the study under the direction of Danielle L. Beatty Moody, an associate professor at Rutgers University, and Richard C. Sadler, an associate professor at Michigan State.

The research team plans to explore how lifetime exposure to structural racism in neighborhoods affects the aging process. The study will involve 800 Black and white participants from Baltimore who

have been tracked for over two decades as part of a larger project on healthy aging in diverse neighborhoods. The long-term data will allow researchers to examine the cumulative impact of historical, enduring, and contemporary markers of structural racism.

In a news release, Moody and Sadler asserted that the study moves beyond traditional research focused only on residential segregation or redlining.

"It's not just redlining, and it's not just segregation," they said. "The patterns of racist, discriminatory practices go far deeper. We need to comprehensively document the full array of tools used to entrench structural racism in our urban landscapes to understand why racial inequities persist across numerous health outcomes."

In addition to exploring how non-Black residents in the same communities are affected, the research-

ers said they would investigate personal experiences with discrimination and biological and social factors that influence risk and resilience. The authors expect the study will inform strategies to address racial inequities in accelerated aging, particularly in communities where Black Americans live and age in place.

Once completed, researchers said they would share the results with participants and local stake-

holders to support ongoing advocacy and policy efforts to achieve health equity. Moody and Sadler hope the study's findings will help drive transformative change, particularly in housing and neighborhood environments.

"We are not only looking at the past or present," Sadler remarked. "We're also aiming to influence the future of health equity in communities where Black Americans continue to take the hardest hits."

## NEELY, from Page 2

ple. He picked me out of the crowd and said, 'Come here, let's do this! Don't be scared.'"

Harper recalled how Neely was always full of life when performing but faced immense personal challenges. Neely's mother was murdered when he was

14, a trauma that Harper said deeply affected him. "That kind of hurt is indescribable," Harper wrote. "Performing as Michael Jackson was his escape."

Despite his talent, Neely struggled with mental health and homelessness in the years leading up to

his death. Harper reflected on how Neely often felt invisible and ashamed of his circumstances, even as he tried to maintain his dignity through his performances. "There is too much pressure put on Black men to hold a certain type of posture and profile," Harper wrote. "For Jordan, I'd imagine he felt like, 'The

last time you saw me, I was dressed up like the greatest entertainer in the world. Look at me now.'"

Harper noted the broader systemic failures of individuals like Neely, who are often neglected by society. "The system failed Jordan," he wrote. "He didn't have a diploma, he was homeless, and he was

dealing with mental health issues. On top of all of that, when he performed, he would get antagonized by people who hated Michael Jackson."

As the trial moves forward, the video of the fatal incident will serve as a key piece of evidence in determining whether Penny's actions were justified. But

for those who knew Neely, the trial is about more than just a legal verdict—it is about the value of a life lost too soon.

"When I think of Jordan Neely, I think of a gifted, kind, young soul who was trying to find some joy and peace in this world," Harper wrote. "He was priceless."

# Gun Industry Exposed: Secret customer data used to influence U.S. elections

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

An investigation by ProPublica has uncovered that some of America's most iconic gun manufacturers secretly shared sensitive personal information on hundreds of thousands of customers with political operatives—without their consent. The covert operation, spearheaded by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), aimed to bolster pro-gun politicians running for Congress and the White House. The intimate customer data, some of which date back to the 1970s, formed the backbone of a massive political database that influenced elections for over two decades.

## The Start of a Secret Project

According to ProPublica, the clandestine operation began in the late 1990s as the gun industry faced increasing financial, legal, and political threats. At least 10 major firearm com-



Photo via NNPA

panies—including Glock, Remington, Smith & Wesson, Marlin, and Mossberg—supplied gun buyers' names, addresses, and other private details to the NSSF. These companies collected this data primarily through warranty cards that customers filled out when purchasing firearms. While the cards promised confidentiality or allowed for third-party marketing, none informed customers their details would be used in political campaigns.

By 2000, the NSSF had built a database containing over 5.5-million-gun owners' names, using not only warranty card data but also voter rolls and hunting license records. The NSSF

then launched a voter education initiative, Vote Your Sport, which would later evolve into GunVote, to mobilize these gun owners and influence key elections. The organization's efforts proved successful, helping elect both George W. Bush and Donald Trump to the White House and securing a wave of pro-gun lawmakers in Congress.

## A Game-Changing Election Strategy

The NSSF's database gave the industry an unparalleled ability to target gun owners, a fiercely protective group known for their privacy concerns. Many gun owners—police officers, judges, domestic violence survivors, and

others at risk—had legitimate fears about their personal information falling into the wrong hands. Yet, unbeknownst to them, their data was being shared with lobbyists and political consultants.

ProPublica's investigation revealed that by 2016, the NSSF had handed over large amounts of customer data to Cambridge Analytica, the controversial political consulting firm credited with playing a pivotal role in Trump's 2016 election victory. Cambridge Analytica combined the NSSF's database with additional information from commercial data brokers, building detailed psychological profiles of voters based on their purchasing behavior, including intimate details such as income, religion, and even the clothing sizes of female gun owners.

ProPublica said the profiles were used to craft hyper-targeted political messages aimed at swaying gun owners to support pro-firearm candidates. In the

2000 and 2016 elections, the NSSF's data-driven voter outreach was seen as a "critical component" of the electoral success of pro-gun politicians. An internal NSSF report allegedly boasted that its campaign in 2000 likely tipped the balance in favor of Bush in several key states.

## Gun Control in the Crosshairs

The NSSF's influence in Washington has helped secure some of the most significant victories for the gun industry in modern history, the report noted. Following George W. Bush's election, the industry celebrated the expiration of the 1994 assault weapons ban in 2004 and the passage of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act in 2005. The landmark law granted gun manufacturers sweeping immunity from lawsuits related to the misuse of their products—a protection that remains in place today despite the growing number of mass shootings across the nation.

Pro-gun lawmakers backed by the NSSF have repeatedly blocked efforts to reintroduce the assault weapons ban, raise the minimum age for purchasing assault-style rifles from 18 to 21, and expand background checks—despite overwhelming public support for these measures. The toll of these political victories has been devastating. Mass shootings involving assault weapons have surged in recent decades, and the firearms at the center of these attacks have become more lethal and accessible than ever before.

## From Columbine to Uvalde: A Devastating Timeline

The NSSF's political power grew in the shadow of some of the most horrific mass shootings in American history. The Columbine High School massacre in 1999, which claimed 13 lives, was a turning point for the gun industry. In response to the growing

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## SLEEP, from Page 4

orders. If researchers could better understand the links between sleep and ASD, researchers and physicians also could make earlier diagnoses and come up with new treatment strategies for the disorder.

In 2022, the Diering lab sought to understand if sleep disruption during early life could interact with underlying genetic risk for ASD to cause long-lasting changes in adult behavior. Using mouse models, researchers found that sleep disruption during the third week of life (similar to age 1-2 in humans) caused long-lasting deficits in social behavior in

male mice that were genetically vulnerable for having ASD.

## A Study on Sleep Rebound

The Diering lab wanted to explore these findings further, this time diving into how adult and developing mouse models compensate for sleep loss. Using specialized mouse houses with highly sensitive sensors, researchers were able to carefully track mouse movements and breathing, allowing the researchers to keep score of wake and sleep states.

Researchers showed that when the adult mouse mod-

els lost a significant amount of sleep, they compensated for it by increasing sleep later during their regular active hours. Termed "sleep rebound", this response allowed the adults to "make up" for lost sleep.

The younger mice; on the other hand, lacked sleep rebound entirely. This confirmed the researcher's hypothesis that the younger mice might be more susceptible to the harmful effects of sleep deprivation. Researchers also noted that sleep deprivation in young mice completely impaired their performance in a learning memory task, whereas adults were far more resilient after sleep loss.

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# How research can help us better understand and support early childhood educators

By Usma Mohamed, Ed.D.  
Council for Professional  
Recognition

Experts have highlighted research for many years that stresses how the most important part of education success relates to the quality of the teaching in the classroom. RAND reports that “When it comes to student performance on reading and math tests, teachers are estimated to have two to three times the effect of any other school factor, including services, facilities, and even leadership.” Quality teaching matters as much in early childhood education as it does in K-12 classrooms. In fact, the effort to better understand and support early childhood educators is growing.

The National Association for the Education of



Young Children (NAEYC) released research, in collaboration with The Education Trust, that looked at the responses, reactions, and recommendations from early childhood educators of color; the report examined the “structures, supports, and funding needed to support early childhood educators in increasing their educational qualifications, without deepening existing divisions along racial, geographic, socioeconomic, and linguistic lines.”

The report, “Increasing Qualifications, Centering Equity: Experiences and Advice from Early Childhood Educators of Color,” includes participants’ initial reactions to the “prospect of earning a credential or degree; their reflections on their experiences; and their recommendations to policymakers on how to support this transition to increased qualifications for others.” The findings from the report stated that when policies change so that

credentials and/or degrees become requirements, education systems have an obligation to support early childhood educators of color in tangible ways that respond to their expressed strengths and needs.

These supports include financial, workplace, higher education, and personal so that the leaders can maintain and grow workforce diversity. The need for research in this area continues to grow. This month the Council for Professional Recognition announced it had selected The Stanford Center on Early Childhood at Stanford University to conduct the most extensive and in-depth research project ever undertaken in the nearly 50-year history of the Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential™. The study will seek

to understand the ways CDA has impacted the early childhood workforce. “Understanding the Impact of the Child Development Associate® Credential on Educator Outcomes” will also aim to identify opportunities to further bolster the effectiveness of the CDA credentialing process and support career pathways and trajectories for early educators.

The Council administers the CDA, the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE). To date, over 1 million CDA credentials have been issued around the world. The CDA is a key steppingstone on the path of career advancement in ECE and is based on a core set of competency standards that guide early childhood professionals toward

becoming qualified educators of young children. Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr., CEO of the Council, says, “This announcement highlights the Council’s commitment to taking our research capabilities and insights to the next level. Research has always been at the forefront of our efforts, including through our CDA Holder Survey and the Reimagining the CDA Process Initiative. We’re proud the CDA continues to attract new interest, and this research will help us provide even more data and understanding at this critical time for early childhood education.” Dr. Moore says the Council’s Director of Psychometrics and Research, Dr. Richard S. Brown, led the intense review process

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## ELECTION, from Page 1

rowly defeated Trump in 2020, early voting has seen 1,691,298 ballots cast so far. The partisan split is tight, with 49% from Republicans and 46% from Democrats, reflecting how crucial the state remains in the 2024 contest.

Wisconsin, another battleground where Biden edged out Trump in 2020, has seen 326,124 early votes, with Democrats accounting for 40% and Republicans just 19%. In Michigan, where Biden won by a margin of 50.6%

to 47.8% in the last election, 1,031,654 early votes have been cast, with 54% from Democrats and 36% from Republicans.

Pennsylvania, pivotal in Biden’s 2020 victory, has already seen 921,720 early votes, with 64% from Democrats and 27% from Republicans. Nevada, another state that helped seal Biden’s win in 2020, has logged 247,738 early votes, with a breakdown of 40% Democrats, 35% Republicans, and 25% from other voters.

## The Toss-Up Nature of the 2024 Election

Polling data, including a Washington Post-Schar School survey, shows that Harris and Trump are locked in a dead heat, with each receiving 47% support from registered voters. Among likely voters, Harris holds a slight 1-point lead at 49%, compared to Trump’s 48%. This trend mirrors the tight electoral battles seen in these battleground states, where margins of victory could come down to just a few thousand votes, as they did in 2020.

“I think this election will break at the end,” veteran Democratic strategist James Carville stated. “Someone will carry the swing states, and that will decide it,” Carville said, adding, “Whoever breaks those states 5-2 or 6-1 will not only take the presidency; they’ll likely do well in the House and Senate too.”

## The Shadow of Project 2025

While much of the focus is on the election itself, the looming influence of Project 2025, a Heritage Foundation initiative to reshape the federal government,

has garnered attention. The initiative, which has strong ties to Trump’s first administration, is conservative in ideology. Despite Trump’s claims that he has no connection to the project, analysis has revealed that well over half of the 307 authors and contributors to the “Mandate for Leadership,” the document guiding Project 2025, served in Trump’s administration or during his campaign.

The policy proposals outlined in Project 2025 aim to overhaul key aspects of the federal government, including dramatically re-

shaping regulatory frameworks, reducing the size of government, and reversing many policies implemented by the Biden administration. Critics have pointed out that the project could significantly alter how federal agencies operate, and its influence could expand should Trump return to the White House.

“This race is a long way from decided,” added Carville, who noted he has “a feeling” Harris will win. “But one thing’s clear— whoever breaks those states is going to take the presidency.”



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# Lebron and Bronny James make NBA history a family affair

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Contributing Writer

Witnessing father-son duos play on the same team at the highest level always calls for flowers to be given. Lebron and Bronny James became the first father-son duo to play in an NBA game together on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The journey to achieve this accomplishment is one of inspiration, dedication, and manifestation.

Lebron is one of the greatest players the game



Erik Drost, Eleven Warriors (CC BY 2.0)

of basketball has ever seen—securing four championships and the league’s scoring record in his ever-evolving career. Continuing to defy father time,

Lebron fulfilled the dream he made known to the world of playing with his son while Bronny was still a senior at Sierra Canyon high school.

“I need to be on the floor with my boy, I got to be on the floor with Bronny. ...either in the same uniform or a matchup against him,” James said back in January of 2023, per ESPN’s Dave McMenamin. “But I would love to do the whole Ken Griffey Sr. and Jr. thing. That would be ideal for sure.”

Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey Jr. became the first father-son duo to appear in the same MLB lineup in 1990. Life has a way of providing full circle moments

as the two baseball legends were in attendance to witness Lebron and Bronny’s version of the rare feat.

Bronny was a 2023 McDonald’s All-American and played his college ball at USC. During a practice session at USC, Bronny collapsed and suffered cardiac arrest caused by a congenital heart defect. Prior to his cardiac arrest, he was a projected top ten pick in the 2024 NBA draft. The Los Angeles Lakers selected Bronny with the 55th overall pick—giving

him a chance to continue writing a story of perseverance. Before checking into the game with an immeasurable amount of pressure on his shoulders, Lebron calmed the nerves of his rookie son.

“Bout ready? You see the intensity, right? Just play carefree, though. Don’t worry about mistakes. Just go out and play hard,” Lebron said in an exchange captured by TNT cameras and microphones.

See NBA, Page 14

## WHEN WE VOTE, WE WIN.

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**Election Day is November 5th.**  
**Vote for Kamala Harris.**

Photo Credit: National Archives (Top)





# Film Review: 'Union' is a gutsy documentary that's worth a watch

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*) It's David versus Goliath and Goliath better watch out.

Battles like D vs G tend to capture audiences' hearts and minds. In this case the small warrior is a band of blue-collar workers, and the hostile giant is the behemoth corporation Amazon. It's on!

Directors Stephen Maing and Brett Story don't put a lot of spit and polish on the footage. Nothing looks too



Chris Smalls, Connor Spence, Tristan Dutchin in Union (Image via NNPA)

glossy (cinematographer Aiki Aubrey Loew, Candyman) and the sound is just clear enough to hear the

semi-private conversations and public declarations. It's like you're there, walking the picket lines, canvassing employees, barking back at security guards and stating a case for uniting to defy The Man.

At an Amazon warehouse in Staten Island, New York, lots of workers have a gripe, but only a few, so far, are willing to act. The leader of the organized dissention is Chris Smalls. Amazon likely views him as an ex, disgruntled employee. But this African American

brother's dismissal is not a unique event. As others are fired from their jobs, the list of workers ready for a fight grows. Egged on and shepherded by Smalls, they're all determined to unionize Staten Island's huge JFK8 – Amazon Fulfillment Center.

Film fans have seen it before. Sally Field won an Oscar® Award for Best Actress in 1980 for the 1979 movie Norma Rae. She dressed like a gutsy, enraged and determined textile worker fighting for employee rights. But that was so Hollywood. This

is so Staten Island. Smalls and his band of rebels' story unfolds like a drama. Not a bevy of interviews, or an elaborate collection of clips, or fluff. Their harsh existence pans out like a reality show where people's livelihood and futures are actually on the line.

In a smart move, Maing and Story stay out of the way, yet make viewers feel included. Over the course of 1h 40m, audiences will get pretty ticked off at the

See UNION, Page 12

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# NDG Book Review: 'The Spirit of Justice is a smooth, info-packed read

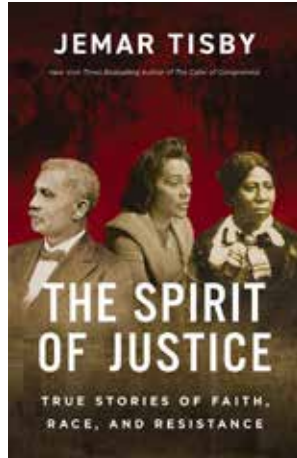
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You have all the tools you need.

You have a level, so you're always even-keeled. A hammer, to nail down your ideals. A saw to cut through nonsense and pliers to pull out the truth. You have almost everything you need for equality; now you need "The Spirit of Justice" by Jemar Tisby for the right blueprint.

In early December of 2017, Myrlie Evers-Williams "granted a private audience" with a group of journalists on the day that the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum opened. Jemar Tisby was in that group, and Evans-Williams' remarks stunned him.

She said that "the spirit of justice raises up like



a war horse... that stands with its back sunk in" until it "hears that... 'bell of freedom.' And all of a sudden, it becomes straight and the back becomes stiff. And you become determined all over again."

This made Tisby think of all the people who have seen "the worst of humanity" and still kept going. He wondered how they did it.

There were, for instance, Black sailors on Columbus's earliest voyages and West Africans in at least one of his Caribbean settlements. Some of them may have been Christian, which likely "complicated" things.

Conversely Queen Nanny, a Maroon Black from Jamaica who practiced Obeah never let faith affect her fierceness for her people. Not coincidentally, she became "Jamaica's only female national hero" in 1975.

John Punch was the first person to be legally considered "Black" in America. Richard M. Allen helped establish the AME Church and Jarena Lee was the first Black woman to become an AME preacher. David Ingraham, a white mis-

sionary, sketched a slave ship in his journal before he became an abolitionist. Anna Murray Douglass, wife of Frederick Douglass, helped her husband "in every possible way..." Black people formed a militia during the Civil War, and started "black institutions" of higher learning when the war was over. Charles Hamilton Houston established the NAACP. And Prathia Hall inspired Martin Luther King, Jr. to speak his mind...

In his opening chapter, author Jemar Tisby says that he never intended to

write about "perfect people who never did or said anything objectionable..."

He did, however, "focus on Black Christian resistance to anti-Black racism." To that end, you'll read about people who are familiar – Dr. King, Harriet Tubman, Phillis Wheatley, and others – but "The Spirit of Justice" also introduces you to a host of new heroes to admire.

Beware, though, that spotting them will keep you on your toes. Tisby rushes their stories through quickly, keeping the narrative from getting bogged

down while also holding readers' attention nicely. There's a lot of strong, applicable-for-today information packed into this book, in fact, and it reads smoothly with an easy-to-follow timeline that's easy on the brain.

Be prepared for tales that are wrenching, stories that'll make you want to research further, and tales that are inspiring in both action and faith.

For adults, "The Spirit of Justice" is just right; for teens ages 15 and over, it's a great book to have in the toolbox.



# National philanthropist Dr. Cheryl Polote Williamson honors Black women business owners in Dallas with Women of Influence Award luncheon

In honor of Women's History Month, Dr. Cheryl Polote Williamson, in partnership with Soul Reborn, a 501 c (3) non-profit organization that focuses on transforming the lives of women, and Cheryl Magazine, an international information source highlighting the amazing work of powerful women around the world, is bringing back the

Women of Influence Awards luncheon. The event, now in its third year, will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Statler Hotel (1914 Commerce St. in Dallas).

Emmy-nominated television anchor Nicole Baker and Roni Talley, bestselling author, actress, film producer, and speaker known as The Exit Strategist, will co-host the luncheon.

The Women of Influence Awards Luncheon has sold out early the last three years in a row. Tickets start at \$100 and are available online. This year's event is sponsored by Intuit and She Empowerment Global. Additional sponsorship oppor-

tunities are also available online.

The Women of Influence award is presented to individuals who have exhibited extraordinary talent, integrity, and leadership in their respective industries and have shown compassion for causes that elevate women and have helped pave the road for future generations.

The 2025 luncheon, themed "The Affirmed Woman," aims to highlight women with unwavering pursuit of excellence in their respective industries, driving both impact and transformation. The luncheon will include music, awards, performances, networking, and a catered lunch.

The 2025 Honorees are:

- Patricia Adams Williams – Founder, She Empowerment Global
- DeDe McGuire – Radio Host, Philanthropist, and Community Activist
- Teri Ijeoma – Master Trader and Educator
- Kimberly Sweet – Emmy-Nominated Multimedia Journalist
- Karen Boykin-Towns – Vice Chair, NAACP Na-

tional Board

• Tabitha Brown – Emmy-Winning Actress and Best-Selling Author

• Denise Polote-Kelly – Grief Recovery Specialist and Life Coach

• Dr. Jill Waggoner – Family Practice Physician and Health Advocate

• Egypt Sherrod – Real Estate Broker and HGTV Star

• Tammy Franklin – Advocate and Motivational Speaker

• Shani Hosten – VP of Audience Strategy, AARP

• Erica Terry Derryck – Communications Professional, Intuit

• Sheryl Adkins-Green – Former Chief Experience Officer, Mary Kay Inc.

• Raven Nicole Barnes – VP, The Confidence Group and Youth Advocate

• Tamira Chapman – Entrepreneur and Publisher, Storehouse Publishing

• Britni Ricard – Founder and CEO, Cota Skin Care

Founded by Dallas-based philanthropist, best-selling author, and filmmaker Dr. Cheryl Polote Williamson, Soul Reborn and Cheryl

Magazine underscore Dr. Polote Williamson's efforts to help women realize and embrace their full potential. Soul Reborn is dedicated to transforming the lives of disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and previously incarcerated women. During its 5-year tenure, the organization has donated over \$610,000 and helped thousands of businesses globally. Notably, during the coronavirus pandemic, Soul Reborn fed over 8,000 essential workers and awarded grants to 10 college women and 50 women-owned businesses – five of which are based in

Dallas.

Cheryl Magazine further supports these efforts by highlighting the work of powerful women from around the country. It serves to inspire the "everyday woman" to be true to themselves and to pursue their dreams and desires unapologetically.

"We are so excited to expand the number of celebrated honorees this year," said Dr. Polote Williamson. "We are beyond grateful to be in our third year. The 2025 luncheon will be bigger and better than ever, so we wanted to provide a full experience that reflects that

as well as highlight a wider variety of inspirational women who have excelled in their fields."

The lack of access to capital has been a major factor preventing Black women from starting their businesses. With educational, financial, and inspirational resources like those made available via Dr. Polote Williamson and Soul Reborn, Black women are at the forefront of business ownership, making up the fastest-growing group of business owners.

A portion of the proceeds will fund grants for women-owned businesses.

## ← EARLY, from Page 6 →

for a research partner and will oversee the project and others as the Council's research initiatives continue to expand.

Dr. Philip Fisher, Director of the Stanford Center on Early Childhood, and Excellence in Learning Professor at the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University, says, "This study is a critical first step in evaluating the CDA that will yield important learnings to advance the Council for Professional

Recognition's ongoing evaluation and research efforts. Given CDA's history and prevalence, our findings will be meaningful to both the Council for Professional Recognition and the entire early childhood sector. Our approach, grounded in centering participant voice, adeptly aligns with the Council's values of listening, learning, and putting stakeholders first."

Dr. Fisher and his team will use the Continuous Improvement Rapid Cycle

Learning and Evaluation (CIRCLE) framework, a robust evaluation methodology. The framework will weave together multiple data sources (quantitative and open-ended response surveys, focus groups, and interviews) to not only quantify CDA impact but also capture the lived experiences of educators as they relate to CDA. The research will examine educators who've attained the CDA as well as those who have not. The Council estimates the research will take at least two years to complete.



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# Bipartisan infrastructure law drives \$2.4 billion in rail enhancements

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), under the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), has announced an investment exceeding \$93.7 million in rail grants for the District of Columbia.

The financing is part of a broader \$2.4 billion national investment through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, targeting 122 rail improvement projects across 41 states and Washington, D.C. Administration officials said the initiatives will enhance rail safety, reliability, and resilience while reducing disruptions, shipping

costs, and pollution.

The funding, distributed through FRA's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program, covers various enhancements: upgrading tracks, rehabilitating bridges, expanding port rail connections, and adding environmentally friendly locomotives.

Significantly, CRISI is the sole federal program prioritizing support for short-line railroads, which are crucial to regional economies and supply chains, especially in rural areas.

"This marks the most significant investment in American rail in over 50 years," U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete But-

tigieg emphasized, underscoring the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to a stronger, safer transportation network. He noted the initiatives are designed to reduce consumer costs, support job creation, and strengthen supply chains.

"Each project advances a future where our supply chains are stronger, passenger rail more accessible, and freight movement safer and more efficient," Buttigieg added.

FRA Administrator Amit Bose added that the historic scale of the investment would reverse decades of underfunding. "Today's CRISI grants will enhance rail safety, connect communities and ports, support

workforce development, and provide the world-class rail our citizens deserve," Bose said.

Highlighted projects include:

- Mechanical Craft Workforce Development Apprenticeship Training Program (\$14.4 million): The Amtrak-led initiative will establish a 36-month mechanical apprenticeship, offering career paths for maintaining Amtrak's equipment fleet. Scheduled in multiple states, the program addresses essential rail safety and performance workforce needs, aligning with CRISI's workforce development focus.

- Short Line Data Infrastructure Advancement Project (\$20.5 million):

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association is in charge of the project, which aims to improve data infrastructure for short-line railroads. Improvements in data accuracy and analysis on metrics like energy use and emissions will enable strategic freight system enhancements, supported by contributions from multiple short-line railroads.

- Shunt Enhancement Safety Project (\$58.8 million): Amtrak will install Onboard Shunt Enhancement (OSE) devices on 443 locomotives and 192 cab cars nationwide, a safety measure designed to prevent trains from losing critical safety signaling. The project involves sup-

port from numerous state transportation departments and reflects a commitment to rail safety.

Additionally, the USDOT and FRA have advanced rail safety under the Biden-Harris Administration by finalizing new regulations, conducting safety audits, expanding safety programs, and advocating for paid sick leave for Class I freight railroad workers.

"We are building a rail network that not only meets the needs of today but anticipates the demands of tomorrow," Bose concluded. "This funding represents a transformative step forward for our communities, our workforce, and the economy."

## UNION, from Page 9

thought of Jeff Bezos' callous wealth and the crumbs he leaves his workers. In fact, the footage starts with the launch of the Amazon owner's Blue Origin space vehicle blasting off into the sky. The sight of Bezos' trophy toys versus workers huddling in a tent in the dead of winter trying to create an Amazon Labor Union (ALU) is both jarring and revealing.

The dynamics between Small and his team are family like, with multiracial, multicultural, male and female members. All on some level have experienced low pay, disrespect, few benefits. Some have been terminated for standing up for themselves. Says one: "I'm the one who got fired because I did the protest." Worker issues, like union-busting scabs getting paid \$2000 to \$3000 a day to do

jobs employees do for nickels, incenses them. Gender discrimination too. Execs plot against them and throw expensive lawyers in their path, but they're not intimidated. "Right now, Amazon is on their high horse, and we want to punch them in the face. We stand up for ourselves."

Petitions are signed, arrests made, nerves frayed. Intergroup friction, powerplays and betrayals cause heated arguments and fiery emotions. One woman unionizer has had enough: "I can't leave one boys' club at Amazon and work for another boys' club in the union." Even with discord, the goal is still to have employees vote for or against unionizing. Can these beleaguered proletariats fight the system and become the first labor union at an Amazon location in the entire coun-

try?

Documentary-loving audiences will stay tuned long enough to find out who wins. Ditto for young adult viewers who will see in these Gen Z working-class heroes peers finally galvanizing around a cause.

Rarely would you want backstories in a doc, but these characters could use some. Knowing their pasts would add depth to their being and explain how they arrived at this war. Smalls is the anti-hero. Not as educated or monied as some of the others. Yet he is a steadfast leader. An achiever. Willing to take risks. Even get jailed. Somehow, despite their differences, they all find ways to work together. They set an example for coalition building that others can follow as they unionize or even organize local political campaigns.

The filmmaking is low key, unpretentious. The

band of rebels takes center stage, do their thing and reap the rewards. Smalls has a warning for the company that underestimates them and him: "We want to thank Jeff Bezos for going

into space. When he was up there, we were signing people up."

A ballsy, grassroots doc that chronicles a ballsy, grassroots group of Davids ready to slay a Goliath.

For more information about the Sundance Film Festival go to: <https://festival.sundance.org>

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

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## GUNS, from Page 5

public demand for gun control, the NSSF ramped up its voter mobilization efforts. The group's database had swelled to 5.5 million names just two years after Columbine, fueling its first full-scale election effort.

In 2012, the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, brought the gun industry's influence into sharp focus. The shooter used an AR-15-style assault rifle, a weapon that had been aggressively marketed in the years following the expiration of the federal assault weapons ban. Despite the deaths of 20 young children and six adults, attempts to pass new gun

control measures stalled in Congress. Pro-gun lawmakers, many of whom had benefitted from the NSSF's campaign contributions, stood firm in their opposition.

ProPublica noted that the NSSF's influence has only grown in the years since Sandy Hook. In 2018, 19 students and teachers were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, by a gunman wielding an AR-15-style rifle.

The shooter had legally purchased the weapon just after turning 18—highlighting the continued loophole in federal law that allows teenagers to buy assault ri-

fling, while handgun buyers must be 21. Several proposals to raise the minimum age for purchasing such firearms have been blocked in Congress, thanks to the lobbying power of the gun industry.

More recently, the gun industry's influence was laid bare in the tragic shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas. 18-year-olds who legally purchased assault rifles carried out both attacks. Despite mounting public pressure and repeated legislative efforts, the gun industry has continued to use its political sway to block reforms that could prevent such tragedies.

**A Crisis of Gun Violence**  
Today, the U.S. faces

an unprecedented crisis of gun violence. For the first time, firearms have become the leading cause of death for children and teenagers, surpassing car accidents and other common causes. In 2021, more people died from gunshots than in any other year in American history, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In June 2023, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared gun violence a public health crisis, calling for the reinstatement of assault weapons bans and universal background checks as necessary steps to reduce the rising death toll.

However, the political infrastructure that the gun

industry has built over the past 20 years continues to thwart significant reform.

Despite public outrage, the gun industry and its allies in Washington remain entrenched in their opposition to new gun control measures. The NSSF's influence has ensured that even the most widely supported reforms, like raising the age to buy an assault rifle, remain off the table.

### The Legacy of a Secretive Campaign

As ProPublica's investigation makes clear, the gun industry's long-standing efforts to mobilize gun

owners for political gain have had profound consequences for American society. The use of private customer data without consent represents a stunning breach of trust for millions of gun buyers who thought their information was confidential.

"The hypocrisy of warning about a governmental registry and at the same time establishing a private registry for political purposes is stunning," said Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a vocal gun control advocate. "Absolutely staggering."

## CLOCK, from Page 3

dents of the Shiloh community. And the clock is ticking.

We don't know what will happen with the presidential election. But it is possible it could result in some of the same people returning to the US Department of Transportation who originally approved the use of federal funds for the disastrous Alabama highway project back in 2018. Or

people willing to have the federal government turn a blind eye to racial discrimination by a state with a deep history of it. Any more delay could mean justice being permanently denied to members of the Shiloh community.

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



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# Nothing Is More Satisfying Than Doing Nothing

By Dr. James L. Snyder

We were facing a very severe hurricane, and everything was being shut down. The hurricane was to hit us on a Wednesday night. Because we were in the center of where that hurricane was supposed to come, we were not allowed to get out and drive on the streets.

I knew that I had to finish all my work by Tuesday. I had radio programs to record and write my syndicated newspaper column.

With due diligence, I got everything done by Tuesday afternoon. We still had electricity, so I was able to email my radio programs, and newspaper column. I was afraid that if I had waited for my normal routine, we would have lost electricity at the least, and I would not have been able to get it all done.

I've never done something like this before, but I did all my week's work on Monday and Tuesday. When I woke up Wednesday morning, I realized that I had nothing to do. All of the work for the week had already been finished, and I had nothing more to do.

Nothing like this has ever happened to me before. I'm

the kind of person that likes to work every day. I go to my office every day and work and work and work. That's my MO. I like nothing better than working.

Now, I had the rest of the week with nothing to do. I suppose I could've continued working on one of my writing projects or read some books I was working on, but I had a little butterfly thought floating in my head.

What would it be like if I had nothing to do?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage worked in her craft room, and was busy with her projects. Even if the electricity went out, she had something to do in her room.

I could've gone to my office, sat before my computer, and done some work.

Being the old geezer I am, I don't have the energy I had 10 years ago. It takes me longer to do things that I once could do with a snap of my finger.

What if I just spent the next three days doing nothing?

At one time, that would've been a terrible thought for me. But now I'm beginning to like that thought.

At the time, doing nothing seemed to be an excellent idea.

Having never done nothing before, I couldn't figure out how to do it or how to plan my day. I'm pretty good at planning my day, but then I realized that if I'm going to do nothing, there is nothing to plan.

I did think about asking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage how I should plan my nothing days. As I thought about that, I realized she would tell me what to do, and then I would have something to do rather than nothing. She is the great architect of doing things.

As I was planning my "Nothing Days," I realized that I couldn't think because that would be something. Oh boy, it is hard work to do nothing.

When I got up Wednesday morning, it started to rain, and there was a wind outside, so I decided to wear my pajamas all day. If I had changed into my daily pants and shirt, that would have been doing something, and I didn't want to do anything.

I walked out to the kitchen where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage

action to ensure his game develops and matures at a consistent rate. LeBron continues to be the unquestioned leader and most important player for a Laker squad looking to find their identity under new head coach JJ Redick.

As the season progresses, LeBron and Bronny will surely give basketball fans more memorable moments on basketball's biggest stage.

was doing something. She was making breakfast.

She asked me, "Are you going to wear your pajamas all day?"

I looked back at her and said, "I have nothing to say."

Thus began my first day of doing nothing.

Without even thinking about it, I ate my breakfast and wobbled my way to my easy chair to sit down and continue doing nothing.

"Do you have any plans for today?" My wife asked.

"I have nothing to say." She looked at me rather strangely and then walked back to her craft room to begin her projects for the day, whatever it was.

I just sat on my easy chair, leaned back, and enjoyed the moment.

One thing I've learned

about these "Doing Nothing Days" is that they're very easy to start. Nothing demands that I do nothing, and I am unanimous in that.

I didn't even look at my watch because that would be doing something. And if I'm doing nothing, why must I know what time it is?

I enjoyed three splendid days of doing nothing.

By Friday, the hurricane was out of our area, but there were still driving restrictions because of some damage. But the hurricane was over; therefore, my days of doing nothing were ending, and I would soon be back doing something.

When I was in my easy chair, I tried hard not to think because that was doing something. But Friday morning, I could think a

little and look back over those days with great appreciation.

I've learned that there comes a time when I should set aside a day to do nothing. Maybe we should have a national Do-Nothing Day. I would recommend one restriction: everybody would be able to pick the day they would do nothing. I think that would go a long way in benefiting our country today.

I reflected on Colossians 3:23, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

*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.*

## NBA, from Page 7

Their time on the court was short-lived, but the magnitude and impact of what transpired will last a lifetime. Logging three minutes of playing time, Bronny checked out of the game to a huge ovation from the Laker crowd.

"I'm just extremely grateful for everything. I was given an amazing opportunity to come in this

league and get better everyday, learn everyday. I'm just extremely grateful, Bronny said postgame.

Bronny is expected to join the team on their current road trip until Nov. 6 before splitting time between the Lakers and their G League affiliate South Bay Lakers. This early in his career it is important for Bronny to see live game

## Cemetery Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



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# Hearing God on the Job



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor



“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-27

God is rising up a new kind of workplace believer who is experiencing the power of God in their daily work life.

Emeka Nywankpa, was a barrister (lawyer) in Nigeria. Emeka spoke at a conference a few years ago on the subject of how the spiritual impacts the physical.

Emeka shared a story about arguing an important Supreme Court case

in his country. There were five points to argue in the case. The morning the trial began, he prayed with his wife and junior lawyers in his chambers.

During his prayer time, he sensed that the Holy Spirit was telling him, “Do not argue points one through four. Only argue point five.”

Imagine making such a change just before you are to argue a case before the Supreme Court!

In the courtroom, Emeka announced that he wished to drop points one through four and only wished to argue point five.

The judge was shocked, but gave him permission to proceed. He argued point five and sat down.

The other attorney got up, and then for twelve minutes stumbled around trying to defend his position, unable to get a coherent word out.

Finally, he approached the bench and said, “Your

Lordship, it is unfortunate that my learned friend has dropped the first four points. I wish to yield the case.”

The other attorney had only prepared for the first four points. Emeka won the case. God had given him a strategy to win his case supernaturally.

It made no sense to him, but he obeyed and God gave him victory in a very unusual way.

When is the last time you allowed God to give you a strategy to be successful in your work-life calling and bring glory to His name? This is His desire for you.

Pray to our Heavenly Father, worship Him this day.

Declare that He is God and lift up His Holy name.

Praise Him above all on the earth and above every being in the heavens. He is the Almighty, all-powerful and all-knowing God.

He holds us in His wonderful hands and watches over us. Thank Him for shielding us and loving us.

Thank Him for His tender mercies and His firm chastisement of us.

God is the One who loves us more than any other. Thank Him for reminding us of whom He is and who we are.

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in November 2017.)*

## LEAVE SMOKING TO YOUR TURKEYS

**DO YOU WANT TO QUIT SMOKING?**  
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**Parkland**

## DOING THE RIGHT THING

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

<b>Friday, Nov 1</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	<b>Friday, Nov 15</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Nov 7</b> 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>Thursday, Nov 21</b> 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for this event, please visit [dallascasa.org](http://dallascasa.org)





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