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Mississippi Senate accused of paying Black attorney half the salary of white colleagues

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a federal lawsuit accusing the Mississippi State Senate of racial discrimination against Kristie Metcalfe, a Black attorney who worked in its Legislative Services Office (LSO) for nearly eight years. The lawsuit claims that Metcalfe was consistently underpaid compared to her white colleagues despite holding similar job responsibilities. Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, the suit alleges that Metcalfe's salary was set at about half of her peers' pay, violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in the workplace.

Metcalfe's case highlights what the Justice Department argues is a clear



The lawsuit claims that Metcalfe was consistently underpaid compared to her white colleagues despite holding similar job responsibilities. (Photo via NNPA)

example of systemic pay discrimination. According to the lawsuit, when Metcalfe was hired in 2011, her starting salary was substantially lower than any LSO attorney employed in the previous 30 years. While her

white colleagues received raises a month later, Metcalfe's salary remained unchanged, cementing a pay gap that would persist throughout

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People In The News ...



Joy-Ann Reid



Dana Frank

NDG Quote of the Week: "There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up."

- Booker T. Washington

Joy-Ann Reid

(Black PR Wire) NEW YORK – MSNBC Host Joy-Ann Reid will headline Race Forward’s highly anticipated Facing Race conference. Reid is an MSNBC political analyst and host of “The ReidOut.” She has authored numerous books, including her most recent, *Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America*.



More than 4,000 people are expected to attend this year’s conference.

Facing Race will be held in St. Louis, Nov. 20-22 at the America’s Center Convention Complex. It is the nation’s largest multiracial, intergenerational racial justice conference. More

“Throughout its 17-year history, Facing Race has been a one-of-a-kind space that allows community organizers, activists, and movement makers from

across the country to meet up, build strategies for advancing racial justice, and receive inspiration for the work ahead,” said Race Forward President Glenn Harris. “We are excited to curate this unique space for cross-cultural collaboration. We are also delighted that attendees will have an opportunity to hear from Joy-Ann Reid who represents the strength of conviction, determination and boldness our movement needs.”

Held biennially, Facing Race provides attendees unprecedented access to resources, information, and collaborative opportunities to help them advance racial

justice in their practice. In addition to Reid, audience members will also learn from the American Medical Association (AMA), who is joining the convening as a Trailblazer Sponsor. The AMA’s participation is rooted in their commitment to advancing health equity through the Rise to Health: A National Coalition for Equity in Health Care.

This is the first time since the pandemic the Facing Race conference will be held completely in-person. The organization notes they are committed to facilitating a safe and accessible event for all attendees. “There is something truly special about

personal interaction in doing this work,” said Leslie Grant Spann, Race Forward’s director of Conferences and Convenings and the lead organizer of Facing Race. “No one who is fighting for justice should have to figure everything out on their own, but can join us in St. Louis and connect with other movement leaders, and receive support and encouragement.

According to its website, Facing Race is the nation’s largest multiracial, intergenerational racial justice conference. This biennially, one-of-a-kind space serves as a vital intersection where commu-

nity organizers, activists, and movement makers converge to build power and strategies to advance racial justice. The conference provides attendees unprecedented access to resources, information, and collaborative opportunities geared towards advancing racial equity for all.

Over its 15-year legacy, Race Forward has consistently delivered this transformative experience, highlighting places like North Carolina, Detroit, Atlanta, Dallas, Baltimore, Berkeley, and New York. The 2024 chapter of Facing Race is gearing up to be an unforgettable and cup-filling event.

Dana Frank

Dana Frank’s new book, “Get Up and Get On It!” A Black Entrepreneur’s Lessons on Creating Legacy, offers a rich, detailed look into her family’s journey of building generational wealth and overcoming adversity.



cludes more than 100 rental units across Seattle. The Frank family’s legacy reflects decades of resilience, withstanding racial barriers and financial challenges.

The book highlights Frank’s father, Gerald Frank, who left Detroit at 18 in 1950, determined to escape Jim Crow laws and create a better life in Seattle.

Armed with dreams and his drumsticks, Gerald built a real estate legacy by renting subdivided rooms to college students, eventually owning over 20 properties by 1969. “My childhood was different,” Frank told Let It Be Known News, “like putting pickets on banks to amplify the injustice of redlining.”

Following her father’s example, Frank became a steward of her family’s business, TD Frank Family Properties, which now in-

Frank recalled her partnership with her mother after her parents’ 32-year marriage ended, saying, “We faced near-bankruptcy together, but we persevered.”

“Get Up and Get On It!” provides a roadmap for wealth-building with Frank’s R.E.A.L. Method—Research, Expansion, Amplification, and Leveraging connections—designed to empower marginalized communities to

pursue financial independence. Frank emphasized affordability and quality in housing. “This isn’t just our work; it’s a privilege to house families,” she asserted. “Housing is a necessity, and that’s how you create annuity income.”

The book delves deeper into personal stories, historical photos, and social-justice poems, kicking off each chapter with powerful verses.

It highlights the lessons learned from Frank’s late uncle, the famed music producer Quincy Jones, whose influence remains an enduring part of her life. Reflecting on his impact, she says, “He was a giant in so many ways. His legacy will always guide me.”

As an entrepreneur, Frank’s story also addresses mindset shifts essential for success. “Cash erodes—equity grows,” Frank said, explaining the importance of investing in assets that appreciate over time. “Get up and keep moving forward, no matter what life brings.”



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America's healing can start with family around the holidays



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**Ben
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With the holiday season approaching, it seems that our country could not be more divided. That division has been perhaps the main overarching topic of our national conversation in recent years. And it has taken root within many of our own families.

Blood may be thicker than water, but for many American families it seems like it is not as thick as politics. Or, if not politics specifically, then the cultural rifts that have been widened and inflamed within our political debate.

Maybe our national healing can start with our families, around the holiday table.

There are mixed views within my own family, just like there are in millions of American families. And within my family there are stories of division and stories of healing.

My family traces its roots in America on my dad's side back 400 years to Massachusetts – the home of the first Thanksgiving. My mom's family has also been here the better part of 400 years, but in Virginia and Maryland, tracing back to that area's earliest white settlers and their African slaves.

When my parents fell in love as young civil rights activists in Baltimore and got married, their marriage was illegal in Maryland. Their relationship was taboo at the time. My father's family disowned him for marrying a Black woman and he lost his inheritance.

So, I grew up on America's racial fault line. And learning about my own family's history has provided an important perspective on the nature of division both within the family itself and the country – our big, messy American family.

Using DNA research to trace my own family's origins, I discovered that like President Barack Obama, I am distant cousins with former Vice President Dick Cheney. That revelation was interesting. But the revelation that I am also distant cousins with Robert E. Lee was a little harder to swallow. I was the youngest ever national president of the NAACP. He was the Confederate general who essentially fought to preserve the institution of slavery.

The Civil War itself was a conflict that famously divided families. "Brother against brother" is a phrase commonly used to describe those divisions that emerged within many American families, especially in the border states like my home state of Maryland.

And after the Civil War, America's divisions certainly did not go away. But there are inspiring stories of coming together as well that simply have not been told as much as the stories of division and oppression.

My grandmother's grandfather was at the center of one of those stories. In the years immediately following Reconstruction, Edward David Bland – who had been born into slavery – led Virginia's Black Republicans into coalition with former white Confederate soldiers to form a third party that took over the Virginia state government.

How many of us grew up learning that freedmen and the same Confederates that had fought to keep them enslaved actually came together to form a winning political party based on the common desire to save their state's public schools?

Known as the Readjusters, the bipartisan, multi-racial movement won all statewide elected offices and controlled the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1881 to 1885. In that time, they abolished the poll tax and the whipping post, radically expanded Virginia Tech and created Virginia State University, and readjusted the terms of the Civil War debt to save the free public schools and take the state from a financial deficit into a surplus.

That is just one story that

illustrates how as a country we have managed to work through our divisions and move forward. We have common ground. We just need to look for it. And it should not be that difficult to search for and find that common ground within our own families.

Families can be great composites of many different backgrounds and experiences, just like America itself. And just like America, there can also be room for different viewpoints within families.

Most of us want the same things: a better life for our children, safe communities, good schools, freedom. That we might have different perspectives on what some of these things mean does not make for insurmountable differences. Instead, it begs for conversation and ultimately understanding of why we see things differently. Because whether our ancestors arrived as settlers or immigrants, were enslaved or were among this land's Indigenous peoples, what we have in common is we are all in the same boat now. Whether we sink or float, it will be together. And to truly thrive, we must heal our divisions. Within our own families is as good a place as any to start.

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

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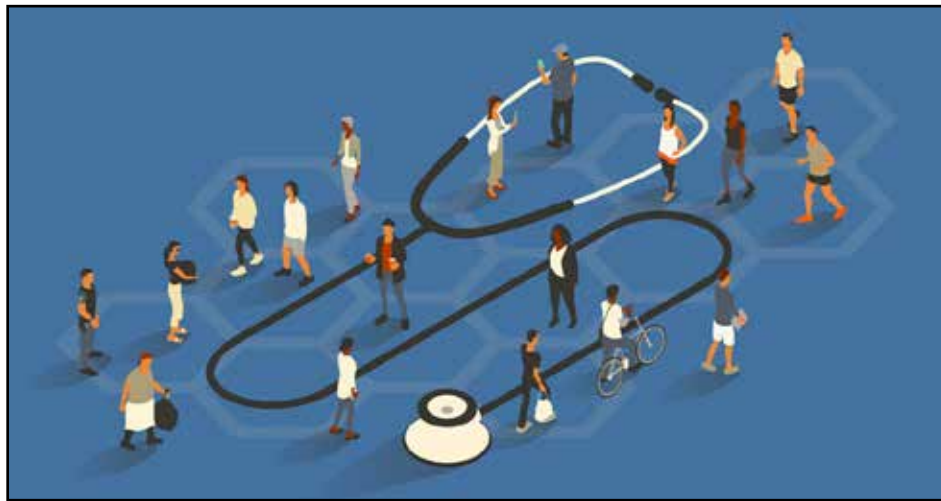
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Affordable Care Act's lifeline in jeopardy as enhanced subsidies face expiration in 2025

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As Congress prepares to finalize its leadership in both chambers, the fate of health insurance subsidies for millions of Americans hangs in the balance. Essentially, if Republicans wrest control of the House along with their victories at the White House, Senate, and Supreme Court, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) likely will end. In 2024, enrollment in ACA marketplaces reached historic highs, with over 45 million nationwide now enrolled in ACA-related coverage—a 46% increase since 2021 and more than three times the enrollment since the ACA's early



In 2024, enrollment in ACA marketplaces reached historic highs, with over 45 million nationwide now enrolled in ACA-related coverage—a 46% increase since 2021 and more than three times the enrollment since the ACA's early years in 2014. (Image via NNPA)

years in 2014.

The program, known as Obamacare, has become an essential fixture in the U.S. healthcare system. “For decades, when it came to

federal programs we could depend on to keep Americans covered, three were always top of mind—Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, but now it's cry-

stal clear that we need to add a fourth—the Affordable Care Act,” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra proclaimed earlier this year. Becerra praised the recent wave

of enrollment, adding, “A record-breaking number of Americans have signed up for affordable health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace, and now they and their families have the peace of mind that comes with coverage.”

The record enrollment has primarily been driven by enhanced subsidies, which were first enacted under the Biden administration in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan. The subsidies limit insurance costs to no more than 8.5% of a household's income for many middle-income Americans, making coverage accessible for those previously unable to afford it. However, the enhanced

subsidies are only guaranteed through the end of 2025, and with Republicans newly in control of the Senate and vying for control of the House, the potential loss of these financial aids could spell trouble for millions of Americans who depend on the ACA.

“These historic enrollment numbers are a testament to the need for comprehensive, quality, affordable health insurance,” said Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. “Not only is demand for Marketplace insurance coverage at an all-time high, but the Marketplaces are deliver-

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Penn study highlights inconsistencies of genetic markers for predicting heart disease

(Newswise) — PHILADELPHIA— Polygenic risk scores (PRSs) are a cutting-edge tool in genetics, combining information from genetic markers across the genome to estimate a person's risk of developing certain diseases, such as coronary artery disease (CAD). By analyzing a person's DNA, PRSs offer insights into an individual's genetic predisposition for conditions like heart disease, potentially informing a more personalized approach to healthcare. But there can be significant variability across currently available PRSs, which may limit their reli-

ability for individual predictions, according to new research from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania published this week in JAMA and presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions in Chicago.

The researchers analyzed data from more than 260,000 participants from diverse backgrounds and found that although most PRSs performed similarly when predicting CAD risk across populations, individual-level predictions varied widely. Many participants were placed in both high and low-risk categories by

different PRSs, suggesting that patients could receive conflicting advice based on which score is used.

“Polygenic risk scores represent an exciting frontier in personalized medicine that has been gaining traction in clinics and as commercial health tests, but our findings suggest that they need to be used carefully,” said co-lead author Michael G. Levin, MD, an assistant professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and cardiologist at Penn and the Corporal Michael Crescenz VA Medical Center (CMC-VAMC). “At the individual level, these scores can vary quite a bit, which means

that the same patient could receive dramatically different risk assessments that impact how doctors make decisions about prevention and treatment.”

The research, conducted with data from the National Institute of Health's All of Us Research Program, Penn Medicine Biobank, and UCLA ATLAS Precision Health Biobank, compared 48 different CAD PRSs using health and genetic data. While 46 of the scores provided similar population-level predictions, 20% of participants had at least one score placing them in both the highest and lowest 5% of risk, depending on which

score was used.

“The goal of PRSs is to help identify people at higher genetic risk for diseases like heart disease,” explained Scott M. Damrauer, MD, Vice Chair for Clinical Research in Penn's Department of Surgery and a vascular surgeon at Penn and the CMCVAMC. “But for clinical use, it's important that the results are consistent and reliable, especially when decisions about someone's health is on the line.”

“Our research underscores a critical gap in our understanding of PRSs, which has implications for their use in personal-

ized medicine,” said the study's lead author Sarah Abramowitz, BA, a medical student at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and a Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Fellow at the Perelman School of Medicine. “While these scores show promise for population-level CAD risk assessment, we need more robust methods to quantify and communicate the uncertainty of individual-level predictions.”

The study's findings highlight the need for more refinement before PRSs can be widely adopted in

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Maryland mother says student attempted to hang her son in school bathroom

By Stacy M. Brown
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Correspondent

A disturbing incident at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School in Charles County, Maryland, has sparked community outrage and conflicting accounts. Initially described as horseplay, the situation involved a 7-year-old student whose jacket became caught on a bathroom stall hook, leaving him unable to free himself. The school called 911 and rushed the child to the hospital as a precaution. However, the child's mother disputes the official account, alleging her son was intentionally "hanged."

The mother, who spoke with a news crew and posted messages on social me-



The school called 911 and rushed the child to the hospital as a precaution. However, the child's mother disputes the official account, alleging her son was intentionally "hanged." (Photo via NNPA)

dia, recounted her son's version of the event. According to her, a fourth grader told her son, "I'm going to show you how I did people back in the day," before hanging him by his jacket. She said her son was unable to call for help because he couldn't breathe and learned the full extent of his injuries only when doctors at the hospital

treated him for strangulation.

After the incident, Principal Carrie Burke informed parents and said a need for clarity remained. Burke also tried to dispel what she called misinformation that had circulated online. "I appreciate the quick thinking of the student who reported their classmate needed help,

our staff for calmly managing a schedule disruption, and our students who followed our directions this afternoon so emergency medical services (EMS) could enter the school and provide care for the student," Burke wrote in a letter to parents.

Over the weekend, Superintendent Maria V. Navarro addressed growing community concerns, emphasizing the district's commitment to transparency while withholding specifics due to the ongoing investigation. She denied accusations of a cover-up. "Speculation about what did or did not happen impedes the investigation process," Navarro said. The Charles County Sheriff's Office has joined the school resource officer in investigating whether

the CCPS Code of Student Conduct was violated.

The mother's Instagram post over the weekend gained widespread attention, showing her son lying in a hospital bed with a neck brace and describing the incident as "the most heartbreaking and traumatizing situation my family has ever been in." Her post, which amassed nearly half a million likes and tens of thousands of comments, called for systemic changes to prevent similar incidents.

Another parent, Courtney Andrews, shared concerns about the same fourth grader, alleging that her second-grade son was attacked in a school bathroom the day before. According to Andrews, the older student punched and kicked her son

when he attempted to break up another altercation. Despite reporting the incident to teachers and an administrator, Andrews said the school did not contact her. "It seems like these bathrooms are definitely a blind spot, and the kids know it," she said.

The mother of the hospitalized child said her family is still reeling from the event and fears the emotional toll it may take on her son. "Bullying should never be overlooked," she said. "I feel like parents should speak up and demand accountability from any school. I'm committed to raising awareness and pushing for real change so what happened to my child won't happen to anyone else's."

While Neo-Nazis march in Ohio, Morning Joe hosts rekindle ties with Trump

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

MSNBC's Morning Joe hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski met with Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago last week, rekindling a relationship strained for several years. While they defended the meeting as an effort to reestablish communication with the president-elect, critics have called it a glaring example of white privilege, mainly as Trump's return to power is the proverbial knee on the necks of marginalized communities. Neo-Nazis

marching through Columbus, Ohio, hurling racial slurs, and the toxic rhetoric earlier this month at Trump's Madison Square Garden rally, filled with racist comments, illustrate the consequences of his leadership.

Brzezinski addressed the backlash Monday morning, explaining the meeting by invoking her father's legacy. "What we did agree on was to restart communications," she said. "My father [former Jimmy Carter national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski] often spoke with world leaders with whom he and the

United States profoundly disagreed. That is a task shared by reporters and commentators alike."

Scarborough added that conversations with Democratic leaders influenced their decision. "A lot of Democratic leaders we have talked to this past week since the election have told Mika and me, it's time for a new approach," he said, assuring viewers that they would continue to hold Trump accountable. "We will not defend or normalize Donald Trump," Scarborough declared.

Yet, their willingness to

tutes of Health (HL169458, T32HL007843), Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation, and US Department of Veterans Affairs Biomedical Research and Development Award (IK2-BX006551).

initiatives through Project 2025—has raised questions about accountability. Many argue that this meeting demonstrates how privilege

allows white commentators to engage directly with a figure who has actively

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healthcare to guide an individual's CAD risk assessment. Researchers recommend that clinicians consider potential inconsistencies and use these scores

as part of a broader risk assessment strategy that considers clinical and lifestyle factors, among others.

This research was supported by the National Insti-

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Embracing Home Visits: Honoring parents and strengthening communities

By Miriam Westheimer

The transition to parenthood is far from easy – and even more difficult if parents don't have support. Studies show that less than half of parents feel prepared for parenthood before the birth of their first baby, and only 18% feel confident as parents after their child arrives.

Home visiting programs, like Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI), can help. These successful programs redefine empowerment. Under these models, designated community members, known as home visitors, don't "bestow" power upon parents. Instead, home visitors affirm that parents simply need support to elevate their natural abilities. To provide that support, home visitors work alongside parents and other primary caregivers in a child's home, taking fam-



Photo via NNPA

ily needs into account to tailor support.

Peer-to-peer engagement is a central and striking feature of home visits. Often, the home visitors are parents themselves and draw on personal experience to connect with families. This model underscores a truth too often overlooked: credentials alone do not define an educator. Instead, genuine empathy among parents can be just as — if not more — impactful. Home visiting programs use peer-

to-peer knowledge sharing to build on parents' unique understanding of their children in three key ways:

- Parents are their children's first teachers — and can have long-term positive effects on their children's futures. Home visitors often teach parents the basics of educational play. This form of play has demonstrable positive developmental effects on children, specifically on early literacy, math, social and emotional, and other cogni-

tive skills. These positive effects persist even after a child's participation in a home visiting program has been concluded. As a result of home visiting programs and parents' educational play, children experience increased school readiness, and participants will have higher rates of both school and college attendance. Children's younger siblings often benefit from their older siblings' participation, as well.

- Parents can affect change beyond their own child's education. We need to celebrate home visiting models not just as educational tools, but also as catalysts for civic engagement. Parents gain confidence from teaching their children, which empowers them to advocate within their communities. These programs are guided by the ethos of neighbors working alongside one another — a "we," not an "I." Through

these relationships, parents see that it's possible to initiate change on their blocks, in their neighborhoods, and their communities. And parents can go to civic meetings, stand up, and say, "I'm a parent, and these issues matter to me."

- Parents find new opportunities to learn and grow as both parents and professionals. But programs like HIPPI don't just inspire parents to participate in civic engagement. They also give parents a professional path forward. Through experiences in home visiting programs, some parents unlock a passion for early childhood education, leading to work as home visitors, pre-K professionals, or even K-12 educators. These parents are then inspired to share their knowledge with other parents, and they apply for jobs and are hired to work for programs like HIPPI as part of an individual equity

accelerator model.

While becoming a parent can be challenging, programs like HIPPI can make the process easier — and empower parents in new ways. Home visiting programs are about so much more than teaching parents how to facilitate educational activities for their children. They are also powerful platforms for transforming parents into community leaders and advocates, redefining what it means to educate and engage.

HIPPI has dedicated staff, school partners, service agencies, community leaders, advocates, and families in 20 states and the District of Columbia, comprising a total of 96 HIPPI sites. HIPPI is a free program for parents of children ages 2, 3, or 4. To learn more about HIPPI, who qualifies, and where it's available, please visit <https://www.hippyus.org/>

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worked against marginalized communities while those communities brace for the fallout.

The disparity is stark. Neo-Nazis marching openly in Ohio and hate-filled chants from Trump's rallies, including slogans

like "It's her body but his choice," are not abstract threats—they represent the tangible consequences of Trump's policies and rhetoric. Trump's administration has already signaled that Black Americans, women, and other minorities will

face steep challenges. Prominent Black allies like Senator Tim Scott and Rep. Byron Donalds have been excluded from Trump's cabinet, but a clear signal of the President-elect's mission is his appointees, who include members of conservative media, conspiracy theorists, and au-

thors of Project 2025.

Trump's return has also emboldened hate groups. In addition to the march in Columbus, his Madison Square Garden rally highlighted the kind of racial hostility that has become synonymous with his leadership. For Black Americans, the implications are

devastating, as Project 2025 seeks to destroy years of progress in equity and inclusion.

Critics of Scarborough and Brzezinski argue that their actions and rhetoric not only reflect a broader unwillingness to confront white privilege, but it reaffirms their own white privi-

lege. Instead of addressing the overwhelming support Trump received from white voters who, like Scarborough and Brzezinski, seek to maintain their privilege at all costs, Scarborough deflected. The host blamed Harris's loss on "racist Hispanics" and "sexist Black men."

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her employment.

The complaint further reveals that, despite Metcalfe's repeated requests for equal compensation, the Senate continued to hire

white attorneys at higher salaries. This included a later hire with similar legal experience but no previous legislative background who was brought on at a signifi-

cantly higher pay rate than Metcalfe. When Metcalfe confronted Senate officials about the disparity, her request for fair pay was reportedly denied.

Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of

the Civil Rights Division called the case a critical stand against discriminatory pay practices. "The Black employee at issue in this lawsuit was paid about half the salary of her white colleagues in violation of

federal law," Clarke said, stressing that such race-based disparities would not be tolerated. "Our work to eliminate race-based pay disparities is about promoting compliance with the law and promoting equity and

fairness for all workers."

Through the lawsuit, the Justice Department seeks back pay, compensatory damages for Metcalfe, and an injunction to prevent further discriminatory practices.



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The March to Memphis: A small Irving charter school is welcomed onto a very large national stage

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

Football season is winding down; and in the ranks of college programs that means a very few select teams are looking for the chance to play in a bowl game. These prestigious events take place at venues throughout the country, with audiences far beyond the students and alumni of the particular colleges represented on the field.

One of these is the Auto Zone Liberty Bowl, slated for Dec. 27 in Memphis, Tennessee. As with many bowl games, select high schools are often invited to share in the festivities; offering a wide variety of entertainment to the throngs of fans who gather for the event. The invitations go far and wide, with bands from schools in foreign countries sometimes making the trek to join in the fun.

But an invitation is hard to come by.

There is one school here in the metroplex that gar-

nered such an invitation, and it is a somewhat unexpected choice. Universal Academy (UA), a public charter school located in Irving with just under 700 students in grades Pre-K through 12, accomplished just that.

The Director of Fine Arts at UA, Dion Hood, has been at the school for 18 years, and has seen the quality of its musicians and program improve over time. This year he sent off a recording of his school's marching band to the bowl game performance committee. It was an optimistic move, and the first time such a submission had been made.

Shortly thereafter he received word back that his school had been chosen.

"We have now this opportunity to represent the state of Texas, this big state with wonderful bands across this metroplex," Hood said. "We are a 1A school. And we are going to be able to perform not only at the ESPN AutoZone Liberty Bowl halftime perfor-

mance, but we're also one of the features at the Liberty Bowl Parade. So this is an amazing feat for our school and our program.

"And I, as director, I'm so proud of what this experience is going to allow our students to dream and to inspire, and to see that they are capable and able to do anything that they really want to do, if they so desire, and stay focused on the right path to do that."

While the invitation is secured for the Marching Eagles to take the field at the Liberty Bowl, it is an expensive endeavor. UA is reaching out to the community for support in sending its students to Memphis. The school is hoping to raise \$25,000 to help pave the way for 54 students to make the trip.

UA students have traveled far and wide before, with a past contingent flying to London and Scotland to perform in the Edinburgh Festival as well as trips to California. But unlike public schools with a

geographic-based business community behind them, students at UA must make a case to the community at large for help.

Fine arts and music (as well as chess and interesting sports like cricket) is weaved throughout its curriculum starting at the

elementary level, but this particular opportunity is seen as an important step

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The Universal Academy Marching Band, from a small public charter school in Irving, has earned a spot to perform at the Liberty Bowl and parade in Memphis in December. (Image: Segasse Media Group)

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Dallas Wings prepare to usher in a new era

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

The Dallas Wings won the WNBA Draft Lottery for the first time in team history this past Sunday. The Wings' last lottery pick came in 2023 when they selected Maddy Siegrist with the No. 3 overall pick.

The 2025 WNBA Draft will be held Monday, April 14, 2025. Securing this year's No. 1 pick sets up Dallas to potentially select UConn superstar Paige Bueckers—she does however have one more year of college eligibility.

Rebuilding sometimes



The Dallas Wings are looking at the possibility of bringing in UConn superstar Paige Bueckers with the next WNBA draft. (Bueckers photo by John Mac (CC BY 2.0) NDG Composite)

requires tearing down as the Wings hired Curt Miller to be their next General Manager and Executive Vice President of basketball operations. Miller is a two-time WNBA coach of

the year and former WNBA Basketball Executive of the Year.

He will be tasked with finding the next head coach of the Dallas Wings this offseason to lead a talented

group that features Arike Ogunbowale and Teaira McCowan. With a chance to draft an extraordinary talent in Bueckers, the job now carries some added appeal around the league.

“For someone like myself who’s just started the head coaching search, what an opportunity to be out talking to coaching candidates to take over the Dallas Wings coaching job—knowing that we have the upcoming number one pick. So I can’t begin to tell you how much this just injects energy [and] enthusiasm as we head into the 25’ season,” Miller stated

following the 2025 WNBA Draft Lottery.

If and when Bueckers decides to declare for the 2025 WNBA Draft, the Wings will be getting a generational talent to build the organization around. She stands six feet tall and plays the point guard position with fluidity and high basketball IQ. Featuring a complete skillset on both ends of the floor, Bueckers contributes to winning in every facet of the game. Her playmaking ability would allow Ogunbowale to play more off the ball where she thrives. Ogunbowale made her excitement known on X writ-

ing, “I just fell to my knees. THANK YOU LORD!”

Bueckers has the potential to have a similar impact to that of Caitlin Clark who took the league by storm in her rookie season. Putting her injuries in the rearview mirror, Bueckers is now fully healthy and will look to help the UConn Huskies win their first national championship since 2016.

“This is my last year to get what I came here for,” Bueckers said this summer.

The Wings will benefit in more ways than one upon Bueckers’ arrival to the

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Film Review: 'Piece by Piece' is a LEGO lover's musical jam session

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) "It might seem crazy what I'm about to say." But this fun-to-watch bio/mus/doc should've been titled Happy, and not Piece by Piece. That's the vibe. That's the depth.

Certainly, Pharrell Williams is worthy of a movie about his musical feats. He's won 13 Grammy Awards; an Academy Award nomination (Happy for Despicable Me 2) and his productions have sold around 100M copies worldwide. Certainly, if Sean Combs could produce a film about himself, (Can't



Jay-Z and Pharrell Williams in Piece by Piece (Image via NNPA)

Stop, Won't Stop: A Bad Boy Story), Williams is entitled too. Right?

Once upon a time, a precocious young kid from the projects of Virginia Beach,

dreamed big and out of the box. "I knew I was different. People would say, 'Oh that's an odd child.' But I loved music. Music would come out of me," recalls

Williams. Almost predestined, he teamed up with his pal Chad Hugo, whom he'd known since 7th grade, and they formed the production duo The Neptunes. The rest is modern music history. A redacted version.

The idea of interviewing fellow musicians and important people in Williams' life, is standard. What's not so standard is having the Oscar-winning documentarian Morgan Neville (20 Feet From Stardom) add those voices to LEGO figures. Like he was actually doing a Q&A with cartoon characters. LEGOs. Superstar musicians. That weird

juxtaposition doesn't get old for 93 fascinating minutes.

It's odd and charming to see cartoon versions of Williams, Neville, Kendrick Lamar, Gwen Stefani, Jay-Z, Pusha T, Timbaland, Justin Timberlake and Busta Rhymes. The coolest one has to be Snoop Dogg. Hearing his smooth-talking voice, with that urban cadence and those rhyming words, but not seeing the real Snoop emphasizes his charm-and-disarm speaking skills. It all proves that animating this doc is a very effective gimmick.

Neville also uses archi-

val footage and shoots new scenes with Williams in his old neighborhood. It's all transferred to a LEGO motif. The colors, figures and cartoony movement are eye catching. The more you watch, the more playful the footage becomes. It's all so novel and cool, it almost makes up for the lack of depth and soul-searching that fuels strong non-fiction films.

This is not an expository doc that has a central thesis and builds to its theory. Or an observational fly-on-the-wall doc. Closer to a perfor-

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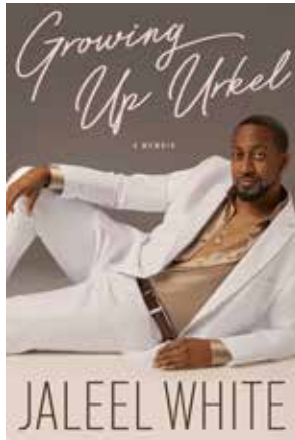
NDG Book Review: 'Growing Up Urkel' brings back a very familiar face

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

At some point in the next few weeks, somebody's going to bring up That Story.

You know the one: That Story happened fifteen or twenty years ago, when you were a kid and did something dumb that became a hilarious tale for an elder to pull out every holiday. Har-dee-har-har. As in the new memoir, "Growing Up Urkel" by Jaleel White, being an adult doesn't give you a pass.

It was only meant to be a single appearance.



Twelve-year-old Jaleel White was a veteran of television, having already appeared in a handful of TV shows and commer-

cials, so he knew what he needed to do to land a bit role on a popular ABC sitcom. He dressed the part, showed up for the audition, and was cast in a one-time role of a neighbor of the Winslows on Family Matters.

That episode was so well-received that White became a permanent member of the cast.

As an only child, White says he was raised with a sort of humbleness: his parents encouraged him to reach for his dreams, but they never told him that

he was "famous." Like all Hollywood stars, he had an agent, a contract, and a salary but when he wanted money, his mother never gave him more than \$300 at a time. Wealth, to White's parents, was never the goal. College was, and they made sure that funding his education was part of the deal.

Years later, by the time the show was canceled, White was ready to move on. He'd gone from a five-foot-tall adolescent into an athletic young man. He'd taken the character as far as

he figured he could, while learning to stand up for himself and how to write for TV.

"My life started the day that Family Matters ended," he says.

Even so, he writes, years would go by before he was able to merge the man he wished to be with the nerd most people remembered him as.

If you were ever a fan of '90s sitcoms, you might not know it but you've been waiting for a book like this. Author Jaleel White is a big boy now and in "Grow-

ing Up Urkel," he shares with readers what it's like to become an adult in front of millions.

But that's just part of That Story.

White also gives readers repeated peeks behind many different Hollywood curtains to reveal the warts of stardom: agents who take advantage of naivete, people who talk big but never deliver, actors who turn nasty behind the camera, and an entire you-scratch-my-back-I-

See URKEL, Page 12

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NAREB's 2024 State Of Housing In Black America report reveals an urgent state of emergency for Black homeownership

ATLANTA, GA – The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report reveals a troubling environment for bolstering Black homeownership in the U.S. The two best-performing demographics for African Americans - Black female-headed households and millennials - both declined in home sales in 2023.

The report authors, James H. Carr and Michela Zonta, meticulously present facts, statistics, and analysis, underscoring the persistent barriers that hinder Black homeownership. The homeownership rate among Black house-

holds was 45.7% in 2023, a sharp contrast to the 74.3% among White households and a significant drop from its peak of 49% in 2004.

On Friday, the SHIBA report will be officially presented at the NAREB Black Wealth Summit at Clark Atlanta University during an event featuring Acting HUD Secretary Adrienne Todman, Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, State Representative Billy Mitchell, State Senator Gail Davenport, local mayors, financial services industry executives, lenders, and many more. It runs from 8 am to 5 pm at the Junita P Baranco Multipurpose Room in the Student Center.

“The 2024 SHIBA report confirms that we are in a State of Emergency with Black homeownership,” said NAREB President Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose. “The SHIBA report underscores that there has been little progress in increasing Black homeownership. The past two years have been tough, but even before 2021, Black homeownership was either falling or stagnant and remains far from its pre-2004 high of nearly 50%.”

Dr. Rose said that the fall in Black millennial applications and originations, in particular, is “exceptionally troubling” because those home buyers significantly contribute to the potential

for long-term wealth accumulation for Black families. “When millennials slow their home purchases, it curtails opportunities for intergenerational wealth,” she said. “Their success determines the aggregate potential for future Black homeownership increases.”

The SHIBA report found that Black homeownership is hampered by a mortgage finance system that continues to discriminate. Black mortgage applicants are turned down more often than Whites; Blacks are more likely to receive high-

cost home loans than their White counterparts on similar properties, and houses in Black neighborhoods are less likely to be appraised at the same values compared to similar homes in White communities.

Further, it's alarming that while Blacks have a strong presence in the labor market, it is not prompting increases in homeownership or narrowing the wealth gap.

“Improvements in employment prospects or minor wage increases are insufficient to narrow the

Black-White racial wealth gap significantly,” said Dr. Rose. “The rise in the value of assets more significantly impacts the growth in household wealth than wage increases. Given that White households hold more valuable assets and enjoy a broader range of investments than Black households, the disparity in wealth between these two demographics is anticipated to continue to increase for the foreseeable future.”

Moreover, the report

See NAREB, Page 12



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PIECE, from Page 9

mative doc that embraces the filmmakers' point of view and emotions in a very subjective way. If you're expecting objectivity, find another film. If you're looking for Williams to reveal some of the tougher parts of his career, it isn't that kind of party.

Williams was entangled in a lawsuit over his writing and production work

on Robin Thick's chart-topping summer 2013 hit *Blurred Lines*. He's also involved in a recent lawsuit with Chad Hugo over naming rights connected to the name *The Neptunes*. Neville doesn't ask the producer extraordinaire the toughest questions. Which is a pity, as both these career challenges could be enlightening, cautionary tales for

those contemplating a music industry career. Particularly as a producer. If you can scream from the rafters, "I firmly believe that everyone has talent, beauty and potential." You can scream from the rafters, "Don't fall into this trap. Here's what I learned. Be careful."

Some of the comradery is heartwarming. Pusha T had lost his record deal when Williams approached him with a new beat that reig-

nited his career. "Hot in Herre" brought Nelly good fortune. As did "I Just Wanna Love U (Give It 2 Me)" for Jay-Z, "Hollaback Girl" for Gwen Stefani and "Drop It Like It's Hot" for Snoop Dogg. Looking for depressing songs? Stop looking, Williams doesn't write 'em. Looking for complex music? None. Catchy, simple brain-worm pop/soul/hip-hop confections are his thing. And those are the

tunes audiences will hum when they leave the theater or click off the remote.

Neville was greatly aided by writers/editors Oscar Vazquez and Aaron Wickenden along with editor Jason Zeldes. Howard Baker, the film's animation director, and the animation studios Tongal, Pure Imagination and Zebu did their part. On view is a unique blend of animation and music doc sensibilities that almost cre-

ate a new genre.

This ditty may not be the insightful, revealing doc some theater audiences seek. Instead, it's a light, cartoony confection aimed at those who love music, like being happy and can relate to a nerdy kid who made good. "Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof."

Visit *Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com*.

NAREB, from Page 11

found that lower-income Blacks and Whites were more likely to pay the highest rates for mortgages when buying a home. This underscores the urgent need for reforms to reshape the nation's housing finance system so it can help the families that need it most.

The SHIBA report also found:

- In 2023, the number of applications and approvals for home loans decreased for all racial and ethnic

categories, with White applicants experiencing a particularly notable drop. This decline, as revealed by the SHIBA report, has significant implications for the housing market.

- A comparison of loan denial rates reveals that Black applicants in 2023 faced more significant challenges than their White counterparts. Black applicants were denied mortgages at more than double the rate of White applicants, with a 17% denial rate for

Blacks compared to 7% for Whites.

- Mortgage applications submitted by Black women decreased. Until 2021, there had been a steady rise in the number of applications from Black women since the Great Recession. In 2022, there was a noteworthy shift, and the number of applications began declining. By 2023, applications submitted by Black women decreased by 24% from 2022.

- In 2020, there was an impressive 28% increase in home loan applica-

tions from Black millennials over 2019, signaling hopeful signs for improving Black homeownership rates and longer homeownership. However, the encouraging trend was short-lived. The application numbers from Black millennials have dropped since 2021. From 2022 to 2023, Black Millennial applications and approvals decreased by about 21%.

- Investors purchased 1 in 6 homes (or 16%) sold in the second quarter of 2024, with single-family homes accounting for nearly 70%

of purchases. Investors disproportionately buy lower-priced homes, accounting for 45% of investor purchases in the second quarter and almost 25% of all lower-cost homes purchased that quarter.

- 21% of the Black population is highly exposed to hurricanes compared to 11% of the White population. Blacks are also more exposed to coastal and riverine flooding, wildfires, and areas at high risk of heat waves.

"The 2024 NAREB SHIBA report demon-

strates that we need all hands on deck to increase Black homeownership," said Dr. Rose. "This is a Call to Action. There must be a united, multi-sector response that involves public, private, and non-profit entities implementing practices, policies, and regulations that can finally reverse the trend and boost Black homeownership. We need innovative ideas and leadership that can bring about change. Black homeownership must increase if America is to have fair and equitable communities."

URKEL, from Page 10

scratch-yours industry that's only survivable with fortitude and perseverance. This book isn't just about broken dreams, though. White remembers former

cast members and other actors with affection, and he shares anecdotes that will make you nostalgic.

As told by a boy-turned-man, a former kid in the

limelight looking back, "Growing Up Urkel" is an interesting take on Tinseltown and it may spur you to set up a binge-watch date soon. For anyone who loves a good memoir, you'll like *That Story*

WINGS, from Page 8

city of Dallas. Clark set the precedence by showing how generational No.1 overall picks can boom the economy of the city they are drafted by. The Indiana

Fever led the WNBA in attendance for the first time in team history and local businesses saw their profits skyrocket. The Wings are planning to move from Ar-

lington to play in an arena that is part of the Dallas convention center by the start of the 2026 season. It is an exciting time for the Dallas Wings who are on the precipice of building something special.

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ACT, from Page 4

ing on the Affordable Care Act’s promise to provide the peace of mind that comes with having health insurance to millions of Americans.”

While the House remains undecided, with Republicans projected at 215 seats to Democrats’ 210 and a majority requiring 218, health policy experts warn that GOP control could end these subsidies. House Speaker Mike Johnson suggested at a campaign stop that significant reforms to the ACA could be forthcoming. “The ACA is so deeply ingrained, we need massive reform to make this work, and we’ve got a lot of ideas on how to do that,” Johnson asserted.

The states with the highest ACA enrollment rates in 2024 were largely conservative strongholds supporting President-elect Trump, including Florida with 4.2 million enrollees, Texas with 3.5 million, and Georgia with 1.3 million. These five states—Florida, Texas, California, Georgia, and North Carolina—accounted for 55% of total ACA enrollment. Each state uses the federal Healthcare.gov

enrollment platform and has yet to expand Medicaid under the ACA, making the ACA subsidies particularly vital for affordable healthcare access.

The subsidies have also substantially impacted middle-income families, including those with incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level, or approximately \$103,280 for a family of four. For this group, enhanced subsidies have capped insurance premiums at 8.5% of income; without the subsidies, premiums could exceed 20% of income, according to Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) Vice President Cynthia Cox. Cox cautioned that if subsidies expire, middle-income enrollees would likely be hit the hardest, as many would be priced out of coverage entirely. “A lot of those folks would drop coverage,” she noted.

ACA enrollment has also surged rapidly in states like Texas and Mississippi, where growth rates have exceeded 200% since 2020. Notably, these states had some of the highest uninsured rates before introducing the enhanced subsidies.

Without Medicaid expansion, the ACA marketplace has been the primary avenue for affordable insurance.

Enhanced subsidies, which reduce premiums for eligible enrollees by an average of 44%, or about \$705 per year, have made health insurance more accessible than ever. However, if Congress fails to renew them, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that ACA enrollment could fall from 22.8 million in 2025 to 15.4 million by 2030 as millions of Americans lose affordable options. Without financial support, many of these individuals—who have come to rely on the

ACA for medical peace of mind—could be forced to go without insurance, leading to even higher rates of medical debt, which stood at \$220 billion nationwide in 2021.

For now, ACA enrollees can rest assured that their 2025 premiums will remain stable if they enroll during the current open enrollment period.

“If people are signing up now during open enrollment, their coverage will take effect in January, and it will cover them for the whole year,” Health policy analyst Louise Norris noted. “Their premiums won’t change—they’re good for 2025.”

However, the stakes for the ACA remain high. “Enrollment in ACA plans has roughly doubled since the enhanced subsidies were implemented, especially among low-income enrollees,” Cox said. “That’s one group you might expect to see. If they have to start making a higher premium to see their coverage.” If made permanent, the enhanced subsidies would cost an estimated \$335 billion over 10 years—a substantial investment but one that may

be necessary to prevent millions of Americans from losing their healthcare coverage.

As Congress finalizes its leadership, healthcare policy experts and millions of Americans watch closely, hoping for a path forward that will secure affordable healthcare for all. “The Affordable Care Act continues to be a successful, popular, and important federal program to millions of people and their families,” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra emphasized.

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You Break It, You Fix It

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Every once in a while, I hear or see something that reminds me of my father. He's been gone for over 15 years, but his memory is still fresh in my mind.

His most famous saying, that I remember, was, "It's better to ask for forgiveness than for permission." He lived that to the very end of his life.

Another saying of his was, "You break it, you fix it." He was quite serious about this one, especially when it came to his children. If we ever broke anything, which was quite often, he made us fix it, at least to the best of our ability.

I've been married to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for over 53 years, and that is one of her savings. "If you break it, you have to fix it."

At first, I assumed she was joking about this. But the first time I broke something, I discovered that she wasn't joking about it at all. I had to fix what I had broken, and I don't quite remember what it was now.

The Gracious Mistress

of the Parsonage can fix anything and everything. If something is broken, it kicks her in high gear, and she has to find a way to fix it. Usually, she finds a way to fix whatever is broken.

I remember several years ago, the front bumper of my truck was loose. I think one of the bolts had broken, and I didn't quite know what to do. I casually mentioned to her that the front bumper of my truck was broken.

That's all I had to do, and she was out there within 30 minutes, fixing it. I was stunned because I didn't think it was fixable. But she took a big paperclip and put it on the place where the bolt had been broken. It was fixed. It's been fixed for over five years now.

I sit on the other side of the table. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can fix everything and anything, while I can break anything and everything.

There is nothing that I cannot break and have broken down through the years.

That's why The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly have a wonderful marriage. We

are partners in the strictest sense of the word. I don't do what she can do, and she surely doesn't do what I can do.

I can break anything, and she can fix anything, which has made our relationship very amenable from the beginning.

If I had not been so busy in ministry, we could have made a good business out of flipping houses. I know how to handle a checkbook, and she knows how to handle home repairs. We could've made a fortune over the years.

Usually, the wife breaks things, and the husband fixes them. I'm unsure how our relationship developed, but we are the opposite.

I'm not upset at what she can do, and she's not upset about what I can do. Well, most of the time.

She knows all the builder stores in the area. I'm not even sure of the names of these stores, but she knows them and even knows the people who work there. These are only second to the thrift stores in the area.

Last week we were doing something across town, and she mentioned that she

are a Universal Academy Eagle champion, because we are going to party together to make certain that we provide those opportunities for our students. So as a principal, I am elated for my Fine Arts Director to say to me 'Dr. Duffey we're ready.'

More information on Universal Academy, its various programs and how to donate to the "March to Memphis" can be found at the school website: universalacademy.com.

needed to stop at one of those building stores to get something for a project she was working on. Of course, I agreed.

As we walked in, I realized that this was my first time in such a store. But as we were walking around, I noticed that she knew everybody, and everybody knew her. She knew exactly where everything in that store was.

A customer happened to stop her and asked if she knew where a certain gadget was. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told her exactly where to go and recommended a certain brand of that gadget. I had no idea what she was talking about.

I'm not very smart about gadgets and fix-it-up tools, but I am pretty smart about

finances.

Once, we went into the bank to do a little business, which I needed there. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went with me, and as we talked, she had no idea what we were talking about. Finance is not her strong point. I know more about finances than I do about fixing up anything.

It boils down to this: I can break anything, she can fix anything, and I can pay the bill. What more do you need for life to be happy?

After 53 years of marriage, we have come to an understanding of our position. When anything is broken, I'm not allowed to touch it. That is the responsibility of the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. We accept our situation and respect each other's strengths

and weaknesses. The motto in our house is simply this: "I break it, she fixes it."

I thought about a Bible verse, James 1:5-6, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

I do not base my life on my wisdom, rather on God's wisdom that He gives abundantly to all who believe in Him.

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in broadening horizons for the students and the school itself.

"This means that we are doing some wonderful things," said UA Principal Sheraton Duffey. "It means that what we said we were going to do – which is to provide our students with multiple opportunities to reach their maximum potential – we're doing that."

"This experience with the Liberty Bowl is providing

our students with a once in a lifetime opportunity to go out onto a large platform, like the Liberty Bowl, and perform in front of a large audience. (It says to our students, it doesn't matter that we're Title I campus here, which means we have some students who are of low socioeconomic status.

"It says it doesn't matter your background. Wherever you come from, you can do any and all things if you

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Discovering the Source of Problems



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

“After that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land.”

- 2 Samuel 21:14b

During the reign of David, there was a famine in the land for three successive years.

So David sought the Lord regarding this famine, “Why is there famine on this land?”

The Lord answered David, “It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death.”

- 2 Samuel 21:1b

Years earlier, Joshua made a peace treaty with the



Gibeonites. This, too, was an act of disobedience.

When God called Israel to come into the Promised Land, they were to destroy all the enemies of God.

Joshua failed to see through the ruse of deception when the Gibeonites portrayed themselves as travelers.

The Israelites signed a

peace treaty only to discover who the Gibeonites were after the fact.

Now, they had to honor the treaty. However, this led to intermarriages and much sorrow for Israel.

Years later, Saul made a decision to kill the Gibeonites. The nation was now receiving the punishment for their sin of disobedience

through a famine.

David knew that famines could have a spiritual source, so he inquired of God and God answered.

The source was Saul’s murder of the Gibeonites. Once David knew the source of the problem, he took action.

David repented on behalf of the nation and made restitution. The famine was then lifted.

Do you have a problem that seems to be a continually unresolved issue? Have you asked God to tell you the reason for the problem?

It may have a spiritual root that is still unresolved with God. He may be allowing this pressure to

bring attention to an issue. He wants you to take care of.

Ask the Lord today to give you revelation on your problem. As a loving Father, He desires to make known anything that stands in the way of fellowship between you and Him.

However, His righteous-

ness must always be upheld. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...”

- 2 Corinthians 10:4

Talk to God, He knows that there are evil influences in this world, causing spiri-

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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:

Friday, Nov 15 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Friday, Dec 6 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov 21 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Thursday, Dec 12 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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

South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. inducts 10 new members

By Gwendolyn H. Daniels

The historic South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. (SDBPWC, Inc.) held its annual New Member Induction Ceremony on November 9, 2024. A total of ten new members were inducted.

In an effort to continue exceptional membership recruitment, the SDBPWC Membership Committee, led by Director Carla Dennis, held a Denim and Pearls Open House in the late summer to boost recruitment efforts.

New members are: Thalida Carter, Yolanna Carter, Esq., Kayla Evans, Esq., Natasha Harris, Taliyah Murphy, Rolanda Price, Lisa Ratcliff, Nikki Ceasar Small, Ed.D., Renada Smith, and Beverly Whitaker.

SDBPWC, Inc. is an affiliate of the South Central District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. It was organized in the fall of 1954 by the late Sarah J. Holbert and is among one of the largest clubs in the Association. SDBPWC, Inc. was recognized by the Association at its national convention for outstanding accomplishments at the highest programming level, the distinguished Bertha Perry Rhodes Award.

President Lavern J. Holyfield, D.D.S., and local officers operate numerous committees who actively provide stellar programs in the Greater Dallas community. Their mission is to promote and protect the interests of African American business and profes-

sional women; to serve as a bridge for young people seeking to enter business and the professions; to improve the quality of life in the Dallas Metroplex and around the world.

The Club offers its membership unique opportunities to raise scholarships for worthy high school seniors; to volunteer with youth (ages 12 to 18); to annually host breast cancer awareness, healthy heart and women's history programs, and to foster many other initiatives involving leadership, technology and entrepreneurship training in the community.

For more information on the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., contact them at: southdallas1954@yahoo.com.



Beverly Whitaker



Kayla Evans



Lisa Ratcliff



Natasha Mandigo Harris



Nikki Ceasar Small



Renada Smith



Rolanda Price



Taliyah Murphy



Thalida Carter



Yolanna Carter



New Members with Director of Membership Carla Dennis

Courtesy photos (11)

TARPLEY, from Page 15

tual battles for Christians.

Ask Him to strengthen your desire to spend time in His Word, that you might hide it in your heart and know it in your mind.

Ask Him to fill you with wisdom and boldness through His Holy Spirit that you might be spiritually wise and on guard,

Be ready to resist temptations

and break down the strongholds that would keep you from the life that He has for you. Thank Him in Jesus' name.

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

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