



North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

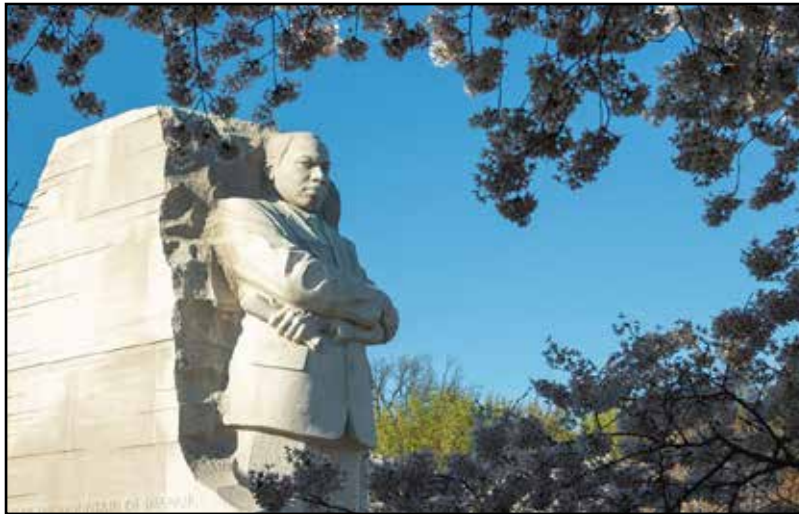
A forward march for MLK in the new Trump Era

By April Ryan
BlackPressUSA.com
Washington Bureau Chief
and Chief White House
Correspondent

"Today hits differently," says Democratic Texas Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett who decided to observe the National Martin Luther King Jr. holiday away from the 60th Presidential inauguration of Donald John Trump.

A large swath of the 62 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who were invited to the ceremonies chose to observe the National King Day away from the nation's capital.

"Today, unlike any King Day before, I've truly searched my soul for his strength and praying for an ounce of his political prowess," according to the outspoken Texas lawmaker who was a co-chair of the Kamala Harris Presidential campaign last



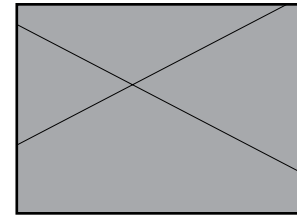
A large swath of the 62 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who were invited to the ceremonies chose to observe the National King Day away from the nation's capital. (Photo via NNPA)

year. The Harris presidential campaign ended in defeat on November 5, 2024, with Donald Trump being named the 47th President of the United States.

If Dr. King, a civil rights icon, had

lived; he would have been 96 years old on January 15th of this year. The irony of the day honoring the civil and human rights leader is that it is

See MLK, Page 12



What Trump will do to energy bills

- See Page 3



Higher medical risk for IVF fetuses

- See Page 4



Welcoming in a new semester

- See Page 5



The NFL gauntlet is down to four

- See Page 8



Can a new bill stop a \$5B leak?

- See Page 11



Sister Tarpley: Welcome to a brand new year

- See Page 14

Inside...

- People in the News 2
- Op/Ed 3
- Health 4
- Community 5
- Education 6
- Feature 7-8
- Entertainment 9-10
- Marketplace 12-13
- Religion 14-15
- Dallas ISD 16



Scan to go to:
The NDGLive
YouTube
Channel
(and "Like" us)

By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

For the latest news and events in DFW, follow us online:
www.northdallasgazette.com

People In The News ...



Wendy Williams



Marcus Garvey

NDG Quote of the Week: "Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place."
- Zora Neale Hurston

Wendy Williams

Wendy Williams stunned her fans and others when she made a surprise call to “The Breakfast Club,” where she revealed deep frustrations with a conservatorship she described as “emotional abuse.”

Despite her diagnosis with frontotemporal dementia and primary progressive aphasia in 2023, Williams was assertive. “I am not cognitively impaired,” she demanded. “But I feel like I am in prison.”

The former talk show queen and radio host expressed her discomfort with being placed in a



maximum-security care facility alongside much older residents. “I’m in this place where the people are in their 90s and their 80s and their 70s,” she told Charlamagne Tha God. “There’s something wrong with these people here on this

floor.”

Williams then criticized her conservatorship. “This system is broken,” she declared. Williams then described her isolation, having lost her autonomy with her pets taken away and her finances under strict control.

Her niece, Alex, also on the call, shared that Williams’ guardian, Sabrina Morrissey, retains control over Williams’ older phone and restricts her financial autonomy.

During the interview, Williams shared her longing to visit her 94-year-old father in Miami for his birthday, though it remains unclear if she will be al-

lowed to travel. “At 94, the day after that is not promised,” Williams remarked.

Alex voiced concern about potential repercussions from the guardian following the interview, recounting a critical conversation: “I said, ‘You know, we do this; you’re ready for what’s on the other side?’ And as she said, ‘I have to do this. There’s nothing else I could do at this point.’”

The family also raised concerns about being in the dark regarding Williams’ location during the airing of the documentary “Where is Wendy Williams.” The interview concluded with Williams using her iconic

catchphrase, “How you doin’?”

Charlamagne encouraged listeners to amplify the story on social media. Just one week prior to Williams calling into the show, Charlamagne had described another phone conversation he had with Williams over the Christmas holiday.

“She seemed perfectly fine to me... there ain’t nothing incapacitated about Wendy Williams,” Charlamagne told his audience. He recalled a humorous moment from that call when Williams playfully thought he was recording.

The conversation around Williams’ conservatorship has contributed to a grow-

ing national dialogue about such legal arrangements.

The cases of Britney Spears and Amanda Bynes have already brought attention to potential abuses.

Additionally, as reported by ESPN and NPR, the situation involving football player Michael Oher further complicated the discourse.

After turning eighteen, Oher was under a conservatorship managed by the Tuohy family rather than being adopted. This allegedly led to the family profiting significantly from his earnings, including royalties from the movie “The Blind Side.”

Marcus Garvey

In one of his final acts in office, President Joe Biden posthumously pardoned Marcus Mosiah Garvey Jr., a seminal figure in the civil rights movement, whose advocacy for Black nationalism and self-reliance left an indelible mark on leaders like Malcolm X and movements across the Black diaspora.

Born on August 17, 1887, in Saint Ann’s Bay, Jamaica, Garvey was the son of a stonemason and a domestic servant. His journey to becoming a leader began after traveling to Latin America and studying in London, where he was influenced by Pan-African nationalism.

Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in 1914, advocating for Black nationalism through African history and cultural celebration. His ambitious efforts included the establishment of the Black Star Line, a Black-owned passenger line designed to facilitate the “back to Africa”



movement, and various economic enterprises like restaurants and shopping centers to foster Black economic independence. Despite facing relentless criticism and legal challenges, including a controversial mail fraud conviction in 1923 that many believe was politically motivated, Garvey’s vision and tenacity spurred a global movement.

Biden’s broad act of clemency also included others like Don Scott, the current Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, who transformed a past drug conviction into a catalyst for advocacy in criminal justice reform. Ravi

Ragbir, an immigrant rights activist; Kemba Smith Pradia, a former drug offense convict turned prison reform advocate; and Darryl Chambers, a Delawarean who now studies and writes about gun violence prevention, were also granted clemency.

Garvey’s legacy, though marred by controversies, including his interactions with white supremacists and criticism from Black leaders like W.E.B. Du Bois, has continued to inspire countless individuals within the Nation of Islam, the Black Power movement, and the Rastafari movement. Many, including most Congressional Black Caucus members, said Garvey’s posthumous pardon serves not only as a correction of historical injustices but also as a powerful affirmation of his enduring influence on Black empowerment and self-determination.

The White House proclaimed that Biden’s term

See GARVEY, Page 14

Happy State Bank Bill Pay

Simplify your bill payment process with Happy State Bank’s enhanced Bill Pay

- ✓ Pay multiple bills at once
- ✓ Be alerted when bills are due & more.

HAPPY
A DIVISION OF CENTENNIAL BANK Member FDIC



Certain transaction fees, limitations and requirements may apply. Please refer to product terms and conditions or see Bank for details. Your wireless carrier’s data rates may apply.



Visit Our Website

www.northdallasgazette.com

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum
1933-2009

Chief Editor Emeritus

Ruth Ferguson
1965-2020

Published by

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Assistant Office Coordinator

Belda Ibarra

Contributing Writers

Jamal Baker
Katherine M. Brown
Allen Gray
Jackie Hardy
Lori Lee
Terri Schlichenmeyer

Religious Editor Emeritus

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

Special Projects to the Publisher

Clinique Hill

Production

David Wilfong



Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

marketing@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com



SUBSCRIBE:

- Library of Interviews
- Community Leaders
- Arts, Entertainment

To subscribe to NDG's Video Channel scan the QR code at right...



North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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

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

President Trump Will Raise Your Energy Bills



Ben Jealous
Sierra Club
Exec. Dir.
and U. Penn
Profeswsor

Ratepayers beware. Team Trump's eagerness to enrich his fossil fuel industry cronies with his "drill baby drill" (and export baby export) agenda is going to raise energy costs for American households.

Burning fossil fuels is deadly on many levels. The pollution in our air and water from burning coal, oil, and gas kills people. The pollution from extracting fossil fuels from the ground and transporting them kills people. And the climate crisis and its extreme weather events – extreme heat waves, supercharged wildfires and hurricanes – kill people.

Just as our continued reliance on fossil fuels kills people and entire ecosystems, slowing down our transition to clean energy kills jobs. Because of President Biden's signature legislative achievements, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the CHIPS and Science Act we have seen clean energy projects create more than 406,000 new jobs across this country. Hundreds of thousands additional jobs are being created as an indirect result of these new clean energy jobs.

We are reshoring entire supply chains for the products and technologies that will be the foundation of the new global economy. American manufacturing is back. And after losing

65,000 American factories since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect 30 years ago, factories are now coming back – this time, building solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, and batteries.

But it is not enough for fossil fuel interests and their allies in the Trump administration to put our lives and livelihoods in jeopardy. They are sprinting to make those factories empty once again, sending American jobs anywhere but America as they kill our pocketbooks with higher energy costs.

Energy from solar and wind power is not only already less expensive and more resilient than energy from fossil fuels, it keeps getting cheaper. So efforts by the Trump administration and its allies in Congress to slow the transition to clean energy are not just anti-climate, they are anti-consumer. When they say they want to come after the IRA or undo "Green New Deal" policies, they are talking about jacking up the cost of lighting and heating your home.

It is all based on the big lie that increasing fossil fuel production and supply will lower energy costs. That is hardly the case. Especially when we are talking about exporting those fossil fuels. And that brings us to "liquefied natural gas," or LNG.

The US is already the world's leading exporter of LNG. Methane gas is a powerful greenhouse gas – more than 80 times more powerful at warming that carbon dioxide. And the lifecycle of LNG – from fracking and transport to

liquefaction and refinement to shipping and burning – is fraught with methane leaks, making it nearly as harmful to the climate as coal. But the LNG market is also volatile, and the oil and gas companies that have such ambitious plans for expanding exports to countries and markets that will pay far more for it than the domestic market rate. That drives up the price of methane gas here at home.

The Department of Energy released a report confirming that unfettered LNG exports would drive up domestic energy prices – further supporting the Biden administration's pause of LNG export projects as the right choice.

But Big Oil and Gas can get rich from the higher prices other countries are willing to pay, so they don't care about household energy burdens here at home. And they are even willing to undermine our national security by supplying LNG to our rivals, like the Chinese government, who can then resell it and leverage their role as an energy supplier elsewhere in the world. All the while, domestic consumers potentially face paying billions more in annual energy costs.

President Trump has made big promises to Big Oil and Gas in exchange for their support of his reelection. At one campaign fundraiser, Trump told oil and gas executives if they collectively contributed \$1 billion to his reelection they would essentially get whatever they want and it would be a "deal" for them. They got the message. In addition to many other high-dollar

contributions from the industry, the CEO of the country's largest LNG exporter Cheniere Energy kicked in \$250,000. Cheniere continues to rapidly develop more export capacity at new and existing LNG terminals on the Gulf coast.

LNG is not the only way Trump could increase energy costs for everyday Americans. If his threatened 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports happen, prices at the pump could end up rising between 35 and 75 cents a gallon. That is according to GasBuddy's head of petroleum analysis Patrick De Haan, who says the increases might be steepest in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions but would likely happen across all regions. And Trump's baffling war on energy efficient home appliances threatens utility bill savings that would benefit millions of households and are especially important to low-income families. Those families spend as much as four times more on energy bills as a portion of their household income.

Trump has talked a big game on bringing down energy prices. But most of his proposed policies – from more oil and gas drilling to his attacks on clean energy and energy efficiency standards – are far more likely to drive the cost for consumers up. Americans need relief from punishingly high energy prices, not to be sacrificed on the altar of fossil fuel industry profits.

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

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

www.northdallasgazette.com

IVF pregnancies at greater risk of exposure to medicines that can harm fetus

(Newswise) — A new Australian study has revealed a potential reason why some pregnancies achieved through assisted reproductive technology (ART) may result in birth defects in comparison to naturally conceived pregnancies.

Researchers found that in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) pregnancies had the highest exposure to teratogenic medicines that potentially can harm the fetus during the first trimester of pregnancy.

These are listed as Category D and X medicines by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The risk associated with



DWG Studio

Researchers from the University of South Australia (UniSA), The University of Western Australia (UWA) and The Kids Research Institute Australia analysed more than 57,000 pregnancies in four conception groups over a two-year period. The groups comprised women using ART (2041); those taking medication to induce ovulation (590); untreated sub-fertile women

In later trimesters, the trend persisted, with 3.4% of ART pregnancies exposed to Category D medications versus 0.6% of naturally conceived pregnancies.

Exposure to Category X medications (causing the most harm during pregnancy) was low across all groups and trimesters, at less than 0.5% of pregnancies.

“These differences in exposure are primarily linked to medications used as additional treatment following ART to prevent repeat miscarriages or failed implantation, rather than medications to treat underlying chronic conditions,” says UniSA researcher Dr Anna Kemp-Casey, who led the study.

“For example, ART pregnancies, during the study period were more often exposed to progestogens like medroxyprogesterone acetate, which may have been used to treat threatened or recurrent miscarriages,” Dr Kemp says.

The five most frequently used Category D/X medications across all pregnancies regardless of conception

status were paroxetine, lamotrigine, valproic acid, carbamazepine, and nicotine dependence treatments.

UWA co-researcher Professor Roger Hart, also a practising IVF clinician and the national medical director of City Fertility, says the higher exposure to Category D and X medicines in ART pregnancies during the first trimester may contribute to the higher rate of birth defects observed in ART babies.

“Although ART pregnancies are carefully planned, medications taken during fertility treatments may inadvertently increase exposure to birth defect risks, particularly during critical periods of fetal development,” Prof Hart says.

Researchers say the findings demonstrate that the vast majority of IVF babies are healthy, and do not suggest that ART pregnancies are unsafe, but they underscore the importance of personalised medical care for women undergoing ART treatment and close monitoring for women in early pregnancy.

Prof Hart says more research is needed to examine Category D and X medicines exposure in pregnancy as well as underlying maternal medical conditions and their contribution to birth defect risk in ART babies.

The study has been published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Epilepsy patient samples offer unprecedented insights on brain ‘brakes’ linked to disorders

By Mario Aguilera

(Newswise) - Certain proteins found in the human brain have long been known to be critical to controlling how brain cells communicate with each other. So-called GABAA receptors are proteins that control the flow of ions into and out of cells. As they play such a vital role in how neurons slow down or stop firing, they have become the targets of many drugs for conditions such as epilepsy, anxiety, depression and insomnia.

Yet due to technical limitations and the delicate nature of studying human brain tissue, scientists have lacked a complete picture of how GABAA receptors, and their 19 subunits, come

together to carry out their functions.

Researchers at the University of California San Diego and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have for the first time constructed a detailed structural map of GABAA receptors in the human brain, revealing how they assemble and how drugs bind to them. Their findings were published on January 22, 2025 in the journal Nature.

“These receptors are targeted by many drugs for a variety of conditions, and by studying receptors directly from human brains, this research provides new insights into their exact structure, including how they interact with specific drugs,” said study senior

author Professor Ryan Hibbs of UC San Diego's School of Biological Sciences.

Due to the technical challenges of studying human brain samples, scientists had relied on information about GABAA receptors using studies from simplified systems, rather than direct examination of the protein in brain tissue. Jia Zhou, a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Neurobiology, Hibbs and fellow research team members were able to overcome these obstacles with direct examinations of human GABAA receptors.

Samples were collected with full consent from patients undergoing surgery to treat epilepsy. These surgeries removed small

portions of brain tissue that were already being taken out for medical purposes.

The tissue samples were then analyzed at UC San Diego in the Hibbs lab and the recently opened Goedel Family Technology Sandbox, which features advanced cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) instruments. Cryo-EM flash-cools tissue in a process that “freezes” samples in place and results in new ways to visualize intricate details not possible through other means. The researchers also used electrophysiology to measure how GABAA receptors function and respond to drugs.

The results allowed the scientists to create a detailed map of GABAA receptors, revealing how

they assemble together and how drugs bind to them. The cryo-EM data allowed the researchers to construct 3-D structural models of 12 GABAA receptor subunit assemblies, which revealed the great variety of ways the subunits come together to make the receptors, as well as new drug mechanisms that may be relevant to treating epilepsy.

The new information paves a path to understanding why certain drugs work effectively or fail when treating neurological disorders. The researchers reported that they have already discovered novel functions for two epilepsy drugs previously not known to act on GABAA receptors.

“This research helps

explain how the brain's ‘brakes’ work — how neurons slow down or stop firing,” said Zhou, the paper's lead author. “By understanding this process, scientists can create better treatments for conditions like epilepsy, anxiety and insomnia, ultimately improving the lives of millions of people.”

The researchers are now studying how the different subunit combinations affect receptor functions across various brain regions, as well as investigating the design of new drugs that more precisely target these receptors. They also plan to expand the studies into patients with specific neurological conditions for possible customized therapies.

Biden uses pardon power to guard against Trump's threatened prosecutions

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

With just hours left in his tenure, President Joe Biden issued a series of preemptive pardons on Monday, aiming to shield numerous public servants from potential prosecutions threatened by President-elect Donald Trump. Among those pardoned were Dr. Anthony Fauci, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley, and various mem-



Among those pardoned were Dr. Anthony Fauci, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley, and various members of the committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. (Photo via NNPA)

bers of the committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S.

Capitol.

Biden's action was directed towards individuals,

including Capitol and D.C. Metropolitan police officers who testified before the committee, legislators such as Sen. Adam Schiff, Rep. Bennie Thompson and former Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger. The president cited the looming threats of politically motivated prosecutions as the driving force behind his decision, asserting that those pardoned "served our nation with honor and distinction and do not deserve to be the targets of unjustified

and politically motivated prosecutions."

In his statement, Biden highlighted Milley's four-decade career, noting his leadership through "complex global security threats" and his role in strengthening U.S. alliances. Biden lauded Fauci for his critical contributions to managing public health crises including HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and Covid-19.

The preemptive pardons, described by Biden, aim to prevent the "baseless and

politically motivated investigations" that could harm the reputations and finances of those targeted. He emphasized, "Even when individuals have done nothing wrong—and in fact have done the right thing—the mere fact of being investigated or prosecuted can irreparably damage reputations and finances."

General Milley said he was grateful. "After

See PARDON, Page 13

Trump Outlines America First Agenda: What it means for Black Americans

By Stacy M Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Donald Trump has unveiled his American priorities, which include measures addressing border security, economic policies, government restructuring, and social values. While the policies aim to bolster what the administration calls "American values and safety," they carry profound implications for Black Americans and other marginalized communities.

Border Security and Immigration

The president plans to reinstate hardline immigration policies, including ending "catch-and-release," reinstating the "Remain in Mexico" program and expanding the border wall. The proposed suspension of refugee resettlement could disproportionately affect Black migrants from African and Caribbean nations who seek asylum in the U.S. Increased deportation operations targeting undocumented immigrants, including those with minor infractions, may further contribute to fears of racial profiling and discrimination in Black and immigrant

communities.

Additionally, deploying the military, including the National Guard, to the border raises concerns about the militarization of immigration enforcement. The designation of certain cartels as foreign terrorist organizations could lead to broader enforcement measures that risk overreach and collateral harm to immigrant populations, many of whom are Black.

Economic and Energy Policies

Trump's plan to "Make America Affordable and Energy Dominant Again" centers on reducing costs through expanded energy production and deregulation. While these measures aim to lower living expenses, they could have mixed consequences for Black Americans. Communities of color often bear the brunt of environmental harm caused by deregulated industries and fossil fuel expansion, raising questions about long-term health and environmental justice.

The administration's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord and rejection of renewable energy investments could also slow progress in creating green

jobs, an industry where Black workers have begun to gain traction.

Government Reform

In his pledge to "Drain the Swamp," Trump proposes freezing hiring in non-essential areas of the federal workforce, with a specific focus on reducing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This could result in fewer opportunities for Black professionals and reduced attention to addressing systemic inequities in federal agencies.

Plans to reduce remote work among federal employees could disproportionately affect Black workers, who often rely on flexible arrangements to manage systemic disparities such as longer commutes and caregiving responsibilities.

Social Policies

Under "Bring Back American Values," the president has vowed to uphold traditional gender definitions and push back against what he terms "radical gender ideology." While the policy may resonate with some, critics argue it risks undermining protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, including Black transgender and nonbinary people who

already face high levels of discrimination and violence.

Additionally, the administration's promise to rename American landmarks to "appropriately honor" U.S. history raises concerns about erasing the recognition of Black leaders and historical figures in public spaces.

Implications for Black Americans

Trump's America First agenda presents a mix of

challenges for Black communities. Policies targeting immigration, environmental regulations, and government reform could exacerbate existing inequities, while the rollback of DEI programs threatens to stall progress toward racial justice.

As the administration prepares to implement these policies, the impact on Black Americans will

depend on how federal and state agencies carry out the president's vision. Critics warn that many of these proposals risk further marginalizing Black communities in an era of increasing social and economic disparities.

"No administration can ignore the lasting impact of its policies on communities already fighting systemic barriers," a civil rights advocate said.

We Buy Ugly Houses



- Pretty Houses
- Ugly Houses
- Divorce
- Inheritance
- Problem Tenants
- Need Repairs
- Vacant House
- Fire Damage
- Estate Sale
- Behind on payments

CALL 972-665-0170

We Buy Houses ... Fast!

Welcoming in the new semester with hope and positivity



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Hello, District 6!

Just like that, we're back and ready to kick off the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year!

I hope your break was filled with fun, family, and plenty of rest. Now it's

time to dive back in with fresh determination and a positive mindset. Remember, you've already come so far, and you've got what it takes to cross that finish line!

As we start this semester, I'm reminded of the saying, "A good education can change anyone. A good teacher can change everything." With that in mind, I want to take a moment to thank our amazing teach-

ers, staff, and administrators for the incredible work you do every day.

You are truly changing lives, and your dedication doesn't go unnoticed. I'm so grateful for each and every one of you. Let's make this semester one to remember.

January is Board Recognition Month, and I just want to say how grateful I am to all my fellow board members for everything

they do for our district and students every day. Serving in this role is truly a calling, and I'm proud to be part of such an esteemed group.

David W. Carter High School student making headlines: I'd like to give a big shoutout to Aiden A., a talented student from Carter. He began boxing at just 13, and recently earned the title of Texas State Silver Gloves Champion in the 143-pound weight

class. Ranked as the No. 1 boxer in Texas, Aiden represented both our state and Dallas ISD at a competition in Arkansas over Christmas break, where placed second in his class. He will also be competing in Dallas in February. Best of luck, Aiden — we're all cheering you on!

Application deadline for specialty schools: Students who want to attend specialty and neighborhood

schools, or want to request a school transfer, have until Jan. 31 to apply. These schools include P-TECH, magnet, STEAM/STEM, Montessori, personalized learning, project-based learning, transformation, visual and performing arts, dual language schools and neighborhood school transfers.

For more information, visit the Dallas ISD website.

On MLK Day, Wise Words about Education

By National Head
Start Association

As we mark Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we recall what he said about education:

"The richest nation on Earth has never allocated enough resources to build sufficient schools, to compensate adequately its teachers, and to surround them with the prestige our work justifies.

"We squander funds on highways, on the frenetic pursuit of recreation, on the overabundance of overkill armament, but we pauperize education."

We also highlight early childhood education success stories. For instance, the National Head Start Association recognized Natalie Hankins with its Aubrey Puckett Memorial Award for demonstrating passion for and commitment and engagement to serving



Natalie Hankins received the Aubrey Puckett Memorial Award for her dedication to supporting early childhood education. (Photo via NNPA)

through advocacy—as both a current staff member and a Head Start alumna.

Ms. Hankins attended Head Start as a child in 1967. She remembers being a child who cried often but found comfort in her teachers. She vividly recalls the activities that helped her: finger painting, reading books, singing songs, and

her nurturing teacher Mrs. Katherine Culp. "Head Start was a great start for me, on all levels," says Ms. Hankins.

"It was a great start for my education journey. Being a Head Start child instilled in me a strong desire to learn that I've always kept with me. Both of my grandmothers were educators and

education advocates. It was only natural for me to follow their lead and improve myself through education."

Ms. Hankins embodies the spirit and culture of Head Start. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work, followed by her master's in education, and has been working for the Institute

of Community Services for over 24 years.

She began as an outreach worker and is currently the parent advocate educator. She coordinates with center directors to facilitate parent-child events, parent committee meetings, implementation of parent curriculum, recruit policy council members, track parental engagement, and continuously measure efforts.

She has rallied at both state and national levels advocating for Head Start funding, encouraged and empowered parents to complete their voter registration, and led other enriching activities for children and families such as the Salvation Army Angel Tree and Stuff the Bus in her community.

When Ms. Hankins had her first child, she and her husband decided to enroll him in Head Start.

Before his enrollment, her son had trouble with the alphabet. After attending the B.I. Whitaker Head Start of Byhalia, MS, Ms. Hankins recalls experiencing a drastic transformation, "like a light bulb came on." Her son is now an electrical engineer, and her daughter is a clinical pharmacy specialist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It feels like a full circle moment doing what I do for a living," stated Ms. Hankins. "I remember enjoying learning at Head Start as a child. That's why I believed in Head Start to support my child. Then, I really enjoyed the training topics for Head Start parents; they motivated me to be so engaged. Now, I do the same for other Head Start parents. What keeps me going is seeing the wonderful and positive outcomes on children and their families."



Check us out on Facebook!

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



DOJ recovers \$2.9 billion through False Claims Act in 2024, Qui Tam actions set record

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said it recovered more than \$2.9 billion from False Claims Act (FCA) settlements and judgments in 2024. Among the highest in recent years, this figure was supported by a record 979 qui tam lawsuits filed by whistleblowers. These actions, where private citizens sue on behalf of the government, remain an essential element of federal enforcement, allowing individuals to help expose fraud and recover taxpayer funds.

This year's results included 558 settlements and judgments, falling just short of the record 566 recoveries achieved in 2023. However, the DOJ said total recoveries exceeded the \$2.4 billion reported a year earlier. Officials said the agency has maintained vigilance in attacking



The latest report revealed that the healthcare sector contributed more than \$1.67 billion to the total fraud costs. (Photo via NNPA)

fraud schemes in all forms. They said since the FCA was strengthened in 1986, recoveries have surpassed \$78 billion.

The latest report revealed that the healthcare sector contributed more than \$1.67 billion to the total fraud costs.

Among the most notable cases was a \$425 million settlement with Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.

The settlement put to bed allegations of fraudulent marketing and pricing

practices involving its multiple sclerosis drug, Copaxone. According to the DOJ, the Raytheon Company, which agreed to pay \$428 million to address claims of falsifying cost and pricing data on defense contracts, was another major victory.

DOJ officials claimed that the increase in whistleblower activity demonstrates growing public awareness of the FCA's provisions. Qui tam lawsuits empower individuals

to report fraud and share in recoveries, receiving between 15% and 30% of the recovered funds. In 2024, such actions accounted for a significant portion of the total recoveries. By comparison, 2023 saw 713 qui tam actions.

Over the years, the DOJ's enforcement actions have tackled fraud across a wide range of industries, from healthcare and defense contracting to disaster relief and cybersecurity. In fiscal year 2024, targeted efforts were concentrated on healthcare fraud, which included additional cases targeting opioid manufacturers and providers accused of exacerbating the nation's opioid crisis.

One such case involved Endo Health Solutions, which agreed to a bankruptcy settlement valued at \$475.6 million to address allegations of marketing practices tied to its opioid product, Opana ER. Other

cases, such as a \$7.5 million settlement with Rite Aid Corporation and its subsidiaries, further highlighted the DOJ's focus on holding companies accountable for contributing to public health crises.

Outside of healthcare, other significant recoveries were realized in defense contracting. The Raytheon case, one of the most substantial recoveries this year, reinforced the DOJ's scrutiny of government contractors accused of submitting false data or misrepresenting costs. Over the years, defense procurement fraud has remained a key area of FCA enforcement, officials said.

Year-over-year comparisons have demonstrated the DOJ's consistency in addressing fraud through the FCA. While recoveries have varied depending on the scope and nature of cases pursued, the steady rise in whistleblower engagement and the substan-

tial sums recovered have shown the effectiveness of the FCA's provisions. For example, in 2021, FCA recoveries reached nearly \$4 billion, including some of the most substantial whistleblower-led cases in recent history.

Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer described the DOJ's work under the FCA as essential to protecting taxpayer dollars. "The Department's enforcement of the False Claims Act this past year demonstrates its continued commitment to pursuing those who seek to defraud the American taxpayers," Mizer said.

Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton added, "The results announced today demonstrate that such conduct will not be tolerated and that those who knowingly misuse taxpayer funds will be held accountable."

Biden seeks to correct historical wrongs with commutation of 2,500 sentences

With one bold stroke of his pen, President Joe Biden hopes to finally correct the historical and devastating blunder of his 1994 Crime Bill that disproportionately affected African Americans. Biden announced on Friday that he has commuted the sentences of nearly 2,500 inmates convicted of non-violent drug offenses. The decision marked the broadest use of clemency powers by any U.S. president, specifically targeting those who were disproportionately affected by harsh sentencing

laws of the past that many, including Biden, now acknowledge as discriminatory and unjust.

The White House said that Biden's action addresses the disparities in sentencing, particularly those resulting from the unequal treatment of crack versus powder cocaine offenses. "These individuals were handed disproportionately long sentences compared to what they would face today under current laws," Biden stated. "With today's action, I have now issued more individual

pardons and commutations than any president in U.S. history."

The decision to commute the sentences is part of Biden's broader efforts to rectify the racial injustices that have long plagued the U.S. criminal justice system. The move aligns with legislative reforms such as the Fair Sentencing Act and the First Step Act, which aim to reduce disparities and correct historical wrongs.

Reflecting on his own role in shaping criminal justice policy as a senator, Biden

acknowledged his past support for the 1994 crime bill, which contributed to the era of mass incarceration that severely damaged Black communities. Having expressed regret, officials said Biden has made it a priority during his presidency to address these issues comprehensively.

"Today's clemency action provides relief for individuals who received lengthy sentences based on discredited distinctions between crack and powder cocaine, as well as outdated sentencing

enhancements for drug crimes," Biden explained. He said this step not only aims to amend past oversights but also serves as a testament to his administration's commitment to reform and progress in criminal justice.

In recent weeks, Biden has also commuted the sentences of nearly all prisoners on federal death row and set a record with 1,500 commutations for those moved to home confinement during the COVID-19 pandemic. The aggressive use of clem-

ency is part of a broader initiative to overhaul the penal system and reduce the nation's prison population, which is the largest in the world.

With just two days left before President-elect Donald Trump takes the oath of office, Biden indicated that his administration would continue to review and process additional commutations and pardons. Among other considerations are preemptive pardons individuals who may be targeted for political retribution by Trump.

Final Four is Set for NFL Playoffs

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

And then there were four. The Washington Commanders, Philadelphia Eagles, Buffalo Bills, and Kansas City Chiefs have advanced to the NFC and AFC Conference Championships. Four teams, four styles of play, and many legacies ready to be cemented. Each quarterback of the respective teams remaining have a chance to write their own unique stories—adding to the beauty and drama of these playoffs. But how did we get here?

The Chiefs are no strangers to this stage and are perennial Super Bowl contenders—they are playing in their seventh straight AFC Championship game. The Patrick Mahomes era is in full effect and in terms of greatness, his name can confidently be mentioned



alongside legends like Michael Jordan, Tom Brady, and Derek Jeter. Kansas City is one step closer to winning their third consecutive Super Bowl—a feat that has never been done in the 104-year history of

the NFL. They prepare to welcome a Buffalo Bills team that is desperate to overcome the greatness of Mahomes and head coach Andy Reid.

Buffalo has been one of the most exciting teams

to watch this season. Josh Allen is going to win the NFL's MVP award and has led the Bills every step of the way. The Bills defeated a talented Baltimore Ravens team in the divisional round of the playoffs yet still understand their toughest test of the season awaits them this weekend.

“We know what they are. They're the perennial of what you want to be in the NFL. You've got to beat them to get past them, Allen said in reference to the Chiefs, via The Associated Press.

To be the champs you have to beat the champs, and time will tell if the Buffalo Bills are ready to take down their Goliath.

The Philadelphia Eagles are heading to their second NFC Championship in the last three years. A savvy organization known for making roster improvements

that pay big dividends—look no further than Saquon Barkley. After rushing for a total of 205 yards in a 28-22 divisional round victory over the Los Angeles Rams, Barkley continues to put the Eagles on his back. Hindsight is always 20/20, but would the New York Giants still choose to pay quarterback Daniel Jones instead of Barkley? This is a safe space Giants fans, you all can answer that question. However, Eagles' fans are grateful that a special talent like Barkley came knocking at their doorstep. Barkley and the Eagles will look to keep their momentum going against a Washington Commanders team playing with house money.

The irony of Magic Johnson being co-owner of the Washington Commanders is almost too good to be true. Rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels has a chance to do

for the Commanders what Johnson did in 1980 for the Los Angeles Lakers—lead his team to a championship as a rookie.

“He's just a rare competitor, no doubt about that. If he was a basketball player, he'd want the last shot,” head coach Dan Quinn said about Daniels.

The Cinderella story of the Commanders continues to be written after taking down the number one seeded Detroit Lions in the NFC divisional round.

Conference championship weekend is shaping up to be an exciting one. Washington will edge out Philadelphia in a classic physical NFC East showdown while Kansas City will defeat Buffalo in a high scoring affair. The young lion in Daniels will meet the battle tested lion in Mahomes in what will be a Super Bowl for the ages.

Rev. Sharpton announces boycott of companies that abandon DEI policies

WASHINGTON, DC — Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), today announced the organization and its partners will identify two companies in the next 90 days that will be boycotted for abandoning their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) pledges.

NAN's formation of a council to identify these companies comes as President Trump has begun his promised assault on DEI programs in the federal government.

“Donald Trump can cut federal DEI programs to the bone, he can claw back federal money to expand diversity, but he cannot tell us



Advocates emphasized that DEI policies benefit everyone by promoting fairness and innovation. (Photo via NNPA)

what grocery store we shop at,” said Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of National Action Network (NAN).

“Companies that think they can renege on their promises to do better, bring in new voices, or abandon

us will see the impact of Black buying power. That's why in the next 90 days we will begin to send a message that we will not go back, and we will bring this issue to the topline by going after their bottom line.”

Rev. Sharpton formally

announced the council on Monday during NAN's MLK Day Rally at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D.C.

His remarks on the need to safeguard DEI were delivered as Trump was sworn in as president for the second time, promising to target federal DEI programs in his inaugural address.

On Tuesday, Trump followed through on this vow by ordering all federal DEI staff on paid leave. Agencies have until the end of the month to submit a plan to the Office of Personnel Management on how they will shrink the number of employees who work on their respective DEI pro-

grams.

Equally alarming is an order Trump gave to the Justice Department to deliver recommendations to private companies and educational programs that receive federal funds to downsize their initiatives.

Trump's actions this week culminate an assault on DEI that Rev. Sharpton has fought since the Supreme Court gutted affirmative action in higher education in June 2023. Since then, NAN has sought to hold companies accountable for the billions of dollars they collectively pledged toward DEI initiatives after the protests over the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

NAN's new initiative will send the largest message yet to the private sector on the importance of DEI. While hedge fund billionaire Bill Ackman has led the push to end these crucial initiatives, global business leaders such as JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon have stressed the economic benefits of DEI.

Now, those companies who have felt pressure to drop DEI and ignore the fact it is good for business will begin to feel the economic impact from Black Americans, whose buying power is expected to reach \$1.7 trillion in the next five years.



Selton Mello and Fernanda Torres costar in "I'm Still Here." (Photo via NNPA)

Film Review: 'I'm Still Here' is a lesson in the value of civil rights

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) What's it like when a dictator and his military regime run a country—into the ground?

This cautionary and true tale, which is based on Marcelo Rubens Paiva's memoir, chronicles the life of his family and particularly his mother. It includes the challenges they faced while Brazil was run by a military dictatorship, specifically in the early '70s, though military rule lasted from 1968-85.

Brazil's most famous director, Walter Salles (Oscar nominated *Central Station*, Oscar-winner *Motorcycle Diaries*) starts the first scenes with the Paiva family swimming and playing on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro. Sugar Loaf mountain in the background, sun above and an ominous military truck driving down Avenida Atlântica, the main artery. The juxtaposition of the tranquil scene and the armed

forces depicts the paradoxical life Brazilians led during those times. Heavenly destination. Hellish government.

Rubens (Selton Mello), a former congressman, lives with his wife Eunice (Fernanda Torres) and their children in a swank house. On the surface he's a father and husband. Behind closed doors, he's involved in a clandestine resistance movement. Life is so precarious that the couple sends their rebellious oldest daughter Vera (Valentina Herszage) off to live with family friends in London. They're afraid she'll get herself into trouble with the authorities.

Nonetheless, trouble finds its way to their door. Military interrogators show up, arrest Rubens and stake out the house. They don't leave. The patriarch has disappeared. Eunice screams to the kidnapers, "Where's my husband!" Eventually, they arrest her and her daughter Eliana (Luiza

Kosovski), putting hoods over their heads. They're taken to military barracks too. Detained secretly.

The circumstances don't seem farfetched for Brazilians these days. They just escaped a right-wing extremist president with dictator tendencies. Nor will it seem so unlikely to American audiences, as they face threats from a new presidential who said he'll be a dictator on day one and use the military to his liking. Piece by piece, screenwriters Murilo Hauser and Heitor Lorega create a portrait of a loving, well-to-do family whose lives become unraveled with a knock on the door. It's easy to see their plight and experience their anguish.

Salles gets convincing performances from the entire cast. They feel like family and friends caught up in an evil regime that's stealing people and never releasing

See FILM, Page 10

THERE'S LIFE
AFTER ROMEO

Juliet
& Romeo

THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL

JAN 28 - FEB 9

BROADWAY
DALLAS

GET TICKETS

Backlash for Snoop Dogg's performance is getting louder

By April D. Ryan,
BlackPressUSA.com
Washington Bureau Chief
and Chief White House
Correspondent

Social media is abuzz over Snoop Dogg's performance during the 60th presidential inauguration ceremonies for Donald John Trump Friday night.

Some supporters are calling it "sickening," and on social media, others are asking, how they should address this controversy.

Snoop Dogg, clad in what looked like a tuxedo, performed at the first ever Crypto Ball while guests who paid upwards of \$2,500 a ticket wore hats exclaiming, "Make crypto great again." The event was meant to emphasize President-Elect Donald Trump's enthusiasm about crypto currency.

Needless to say, the



On social media, many Snoop Dogg and Nelly fans are questioning whether the singers should be muted, like Chrisette Michele, who was blackballed once she sang at the first Trump inauguration in 2017. In 2016, Snoop joined the chorus of those condemning anyone who performed at the Trump inauguration calling them "jigaboos" and "Uncle Toms." (Mika Väisänen / Wikimedia Commons)

tickets were sold out for the Snoop Dogg event at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. The rap star, whose songs include words about sipping on gin and juice with money on his mind, created a flurry of controversy on social me-

dia along with singer Nelly, who is also expected to perform during Trump inauguration events this holiday weekend.

On social media, many Snoop Dogg and Nelly fans are questioning whether the singers should be muted,

hero. But those deeds seem truncated. If her son wrote a memoir about his mom, the audience should see in real time all she accomplished in her life. Not a condensed version.

This is a clear warning. Living under military dictatorships is fraught with peril—for everyone. During Brazil's worst years, 434 people were confirmed dead or missing and 20,000 were tortured. Thank the wise filmmaker Salles for spreading the word that democracy, civil rights and protection from illegal arrests under the Fourth Amendment are gifts that shouldn't be taken for granted. I'm Still Here says that loud and clear.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

like Chrisette Michele, who was blackballed once she sang at the first Trump inauguration in 2017. In 2016, Snoop joined the chorus of those condemning anyone who performed at the Trump inauguration calling them "jigaboos" and "Uncle Toms."

The very visible shift in Snoop's feelings about Trump came when then President Trump granted clemency to Death Row Records co-founder Michael Harris.

Fast forward to this weekend, and the irony of all the attention on the Crypto

people posted the Snoop performance, which he had not even mentioned on his Instagram account as of early Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, Snoop's inauguration appearance should not be a surprise. The Long Beach, California native, rapper, producer, and actor, whose real name is Calvin Broadus Jr., supported Republican Los Angeles mayoral candidate Rick Caruso in 2022. Caruso lost to the then Democratic California Congresswoman Karen Bass after spending \$110 million of his own money on that campaign.

FILM, from Page 9

them.

At 2h 16m, it doesn't feel like every second is accounted for (editor Alfonso Goncalves). Possibly because the beginning scenes take a long time to set up the location, era and politics of the situation. Slowly, living under a cloud of dread and looming arrests becomes a haunting feeling that resonates. Still, it's almost 45 minutes before the first inciting incident, and that's a long wait. The pace picks up and finds its rhythm when Eunice is imprisoned. Dressed well (costume designer Cláudia Kopke), she becomes the tony matriarch who is treated like a poor criminal in a dank jail cell (production designer, Carlos

Conti). Stuck in the same clothes for 12 days. This is where viewers firmly see that no one is immune from the ills of tyrannical rule. Not even rich people.

As Eunice pieces her life back together, nurtures her family and plans their future the plotting and pacing finds a groove. She's on a mission to hold the government responsible for what they did to her husband. That quest becomes a compelling metamorphosis. Mom/wife turns into rights activist. This is where the film needed to spend more time. She's clearly the protagonist. What she accomplished during and after her husband's disappearance made her a national folk

Check us out on Youtube!



Scan to go to:
The NDGLive
YouTube
Channel
(and "Like" us)

By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

American Airlines faces scrutiny over customer service / discrimination allegations

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Senior National
 Correspondent



An incident on Jan. 17 involving passenger S.L. Brown, whose trip from New York's JFK to Saint Marteen was abruptly canceled, again exposed these problems (Photo via NNPA)

American Airlines continues to suffer a string of customer service problems, including severe charges of racial discrimination, sparking worldwide condemnation and a rethinking of its operational policies. An incident on Jan. 17 involving passenger S.L. Brown, whose trip from New York's JFK to Saint Marteen was abruptly canceled, again exposed these problems. Brown's contact with a customer service agent named "Sash," who was described as "very nasty, very insensitive," left her with no viable solutions. Not only did Sash not give a refund or travel credit, but her handling of the

situation forced Brown to arrange a costly same-day flight for her and her three children from LaGuardia Airport with Delta Airlines, incurring significant additional fees. This instance points to deeper structural concerns within American Airlines, as indicated by the huge volume of complaints received. According to the

Canadian Transportation Agency, American received 1.9 complaints per 100 flights in the fourth quarter of 2023, with passengers regularly citing issues like as unexpected cancellations, misplaced luggage, and inefficient customer service, which often exacerbates their travel delays. In addition to Brown's experience in which the

traveler said she believed was in part racially motivated, the airline is facing serious claims of discrimination. In a distressing lawsuit, retired Black police officer Anthony Williams and his white wife, Katsiaryna Shasholka, claim they were wrongfully accused of human trafficking by another passenger on their honeymoon flight from Phoenix to Miami. The couple was publicly escorted off the plane, detained, and subjected to humiliating scrutiny by airline staff without any credible evidence. The event suggests a possible trend of racial profiling by airline staff, as it is similar

to another case involving artist David Ryan Harris, who was falsely accused of trafficking his mixed children. American also has faced legal jeopardy because of its hiring and employment practices. Following a complaint by America First Legal, American Airlines was found to have violated federal anti-discrimination laws in its hiring practices. This has reportedly led to a mandated cessation of these practices after a federal investigation by the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Last year, the U.S. Transportation

Department imposed a \$50 million fine on American for failing to provide adequate assistance to passengers with disabilities, a record fine for such violations, which emphasizes the need for significant improvements in how the airline assists vulnerable passengers. American Airlines claimed that it has maintained a commitment to enhance the travel experience for all its passengers. The airline said it continues to review complaints and allegations against it. Transportation officials said the

See AMERICAN, Page 14

Senior Software Engineer

Define Azure cloud infrastructure. Creation of database models (ER diagrams). Define the project development model. • API development and management • Implement Active directory web token authentication to process API requests • Monitor and implement work plan. • Analysis and maintenance execution for database. • Involved in various phases of the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) • Implement the project using ASP.NET, C# and the back-end database SQL Server. Analyze client's requirements and involved in designing the GUI. • Used GitHub to manage and modify existing code. • Front End Development. • Utilize Azure cloud technologies, such as web functions, service bus, Azure Blob Storage, Azure SQL. • Designed dynamic cshtml web pages for the Application using ASP.NET core, C#, HTML and JavaScript. • Effectively use ADO.NET objects such as Data Reader, Dataset and Data Adapter to access data from MS SQL Server. • Develop Stored Procedures, Triggers and complex SQL statements.

Must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or in a related field, and 60 months of experience in this role or software developer or in a related position. Must be able to use Azure Storage, API, ASP.Net, and ADO. Job Location: Grapevine, TX.

40.0 hrs./wk

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

\$139,464/Year



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

January 1, 2025

Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Laborer (Earthwork)
- CDL Drivers (Water Truck)
- Dozer Operator (Earthwork)
- Loader Operator (Earthwork)
- Excavator Operator (Earthwork)
- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
- Fuel Service Truck Driver (CDL Hazmat)

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation.

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs.)

Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
 @ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.

Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
 Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

Will a new CFPB overdraft rule be allowed to save consumers \$5B each year?

By Charlene Crowell

On December 11, an important but under-reported U.S. Senate hearing addressed the nation's challenging economy.

After calling to order the session entitled, Protecting Workers' Money and Fighting for the Dignity of Work, long-time Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, who for a full decade served as either the Banking Committee's Chair or Ranking Member, spoke to the financial concerns of everyday people just days before his tenure ended.

"Most people don't have fancy lawyers," noted Brown. "They don't have high-priced lobbyists. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is their advocate and their voice. ... OUR charge, whether in the Senate or out of it, is to look out for workers and put them at the center of everything we do."

And in both significant and measurable ways, the CFPB has met its mission by returning nearly \$21 billion to more than 205 million consumers who were financially abused in a wide



DWG Studio

range of personal finance issues. For example:

- Detrimental medical debt collection has now been removed from the credit reports of 22.8 million people who previously had at least one such debt;
- CFPB stopped illegal credit repair scams and returned \$1.8 billion to 4.3 million consumers harmed by credit repair companies that illegally charged advance fees and used deceptive bait-and-switch advertising tactics; and
- Through 39 public enforcement actions, including six Military Lending

Act violations, CFPB returned \$363 million to veterans and service members.

Beyond these and other enforcement actions, CFPB has promulgated key rules governing personal financial transaction that together provide clarity and transparency for financial firms and consumers alike.

Unfortunately, and despite notable achievements, the agency remains as contentious a topic today as when it began in 2011. And with a new Congress and President in 2025, consumers and their advocates would be prudent to remain

watchful.

In particular, a new rule that brings the potential to save consumers \$5 billion each year may be at risk. Previously, overdraft fees ranged as high as \$35 per transaction, with affected consumers learning of the charges after receiving their monthly bank statements. Those hardest hit with these predatory fees are consumers whose bank balances provide slim to no financial cushion – the millions who work paycheck to paycheck and may be aptly described as 'the working poor'.

Finalized in December and scheduled to take effect this October, CFPB's overdraft fee rule closes a bank overdraft loophole that had been allowing financial institutions to unfairly charge billions in excessive fees. Financial institutions with assets of \$10 billion or more will now be required to comply. Those that wish to offer overdraft as a convenient service would be allowed to set their fee at an amount that covers their costs and losses - instead of generating a revenue stream designed to boost profits. Additionally, the

rule calls for account-opening disclosures that enable comparison shopping, and give consumers a choice of whether to pay automatically or manually.

Earlier and in multiple, related overdraft enforcement actions, CFPB returned a combined total of \$446 million from institutions found to have charged their respective customers with illegal fees: Wells Fargo (\$205 million), Regions Bank (\$141 million), Navy Federal Credit Union (\$95 million), and Atlantic Union (\$5 million).

"For far too long, the largest banks have exploited a legal loophole that has drained billions of dollars from Americans' deposit accounts," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra. "The CFPB is cracking down on these excessive junk fees and requiring big banks to come clean about the interest rate they're charging on overdraft loans."

In a comment letter that earlier urged enactment of overdraft reform, the Center for Responsible Lending noted this predatory loan's disproportionate impact on Black and Latino consumers.

"[O]verdraft fees continue to be a major reason why consumers lose bank accounts. Black and Latino consumers are already four to five times more likely to be unbanked than white Americans, wrote CRL. "They are also disproportionately likely to be ejected from the financial mainstream. Ejection from the mainstream financial system can have long lasting and negative systemic effects. The Proposed Rule has the opportunity to save at least \$3.5 Billion for the 23 million consumers who pay overdraft fees yearly."

Perhaps, Senator Brown summarized best the consumer challenge before us.

"As important and effective as Wall Street reform was, it was incomplete. We still have an economy where hard work doesn't pay off like it should... And over the next four years, the work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will be more crucial than ever. The work continues."

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

MLK, from Page 1

shared with the 60th presidential inauguration ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building. Historically, the second inaugurations of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama took place on MLK Day in 1997 and 2013. There were some democratic hopes that Kamala Harris could be a repeat of today's swearing-in history. A few months

ago, some Kamala Harris campaign staffers believed the then-Democratic presidential candidate would have been sworn in today by Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson on this King Day.

Since the 15th of this month, there have been many celebrations honoring the life and civil rights history of Dr. King. One

was at Riverside Church in Harlem, New York Rev. Mark Thompson, host of "Make It Plain," and NNPA Global Digital Transformation Director, remembered Dr. King by saying, "his memory calls us to transcend all of the things we are most concerned about today."

Dr. King, who was killed in 1968 by an assassin's bullet, challenged authority at the highest levels to

achieve equality for African Americans in this nation like voting rights and civil

rights. Thompson warns in this new political era, "rather than relax or be discour-

aged we should...continue to hold the Office of the President accountable."

Let us hear from YOU!!!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

PARDON, from Page 7

forty-three years of faithful service in uniform to our Nation, protecting and defending the Constitution, I do not wish to spend whatever remaining time the Lord grants me fighting those who unjustly might seek retribution for perceived slights," Milley stated.

Fauci also acknowledged the pardons. "There is absolutely no basis for these

threats," Fauci stated. "I have committed no crime, and there are no possible grounds for any allegation or threat of criminal investigation or prosecution of me."

The unprecedented use of presidential pardon power comes as Biden continues to express concern over what he perceives as potential abuses of power by his successor. As Trump

assumes office, he has indicated plans to pardon many involved in the Jan. 6 attack, contrasting Biden's protective measures for those who investigated it.

"I am eternally grateful to President Joe Biden, not just for this preemptive pardon, but for his leader-

ship and service to this nation, especially over the last four years," said Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn. "I wish this pardon weren't necessary, but unfortunately, the political climate we are in now has made the need for one somewhat of a reality."



DOUBLE CRYPT FOR SALE

CRYPT #6 LOCATED IN OAK GROVE GARDEN MAUSOLEUM IN IRVING, TEXAS

\$8,000.00

CONTACT
214-207-0811



IRVING TEXAS

DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND REWARDING CAREER?

PURSUE A CAREER AS A POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- ...and more

REGISTER ONLINE TO TAKE THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM

www.cityofirving.org

The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetics, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression/reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.



GARLAND TEXAS MADE HERE

Attention Suppliers of Goods, Services and Construction

Review Competitive Opportunities at <https://garlandtx.ionwave.net>

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150

Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637

www.tiseopaving.com

Performing Concrete Street Paving in the Metroplex Area

We Accept Subcontracting Bids For All Public Works Projects in the Dallas Area.

We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Equal Opportunity Employer

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

- Must be an aspiring writer looking to gain some experience or a school credit in Journalism.
- Must have transportation, a valid driver's license and vehicle Insurance. Assignment requires candidates to work on and offsite.
- Contract pay is \$13.75 per hour plus gas stipend.
- Hours are 12 to 15 hours per week.

Please send resume or inquiries to:
businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com

Comps/Info Tech: Kaar Technologies (Dallas, TX & client sites throughout the US). Multi positions:

Comp Sys Analyst: Analyze data processing problems to implement & improve comp sys. Analyze user reqs, procs, & problems to automate or improve existing sys & rev comp sys capabilities, workflow, & scheduling limitations.

Comp Prgmr: Create, modify & test the code, forms & script that allow comp apps to run. Work from specs drawn up by s/w devs or others. Dev & write comp prgms to store, locate & retrieve specific docs, data, & info. All positions req MS/BS in Comp Sc, Sw Engg, Elec Engg, IT, Comp Apps, MIS or CIS w/ 1-5 yrs exp in the field & exp w/ several prog langs, tools & comp skills. We offer competitive salaries & benefits. Travel Req'd. Send CVs to humanresources@kaartech.com.

I'm Not Old Just Young Challenged

Dr. James L. Snyder

Most people are fascinated by their age as if it makes any difference in their lives. Some people are very intimidated by getting older and struggle against it.

When I was young, I couldn't wait to get older. I couldn't wait until I was old enough to get a driver's license. Why does it take so long to get old when you're young, and when you're old, it flies by like a bullet?

Sometimes, I get a call from a scammer who asks me how old I am. I respond, "I'm not sure how old I am because every year my age changes." Then I hear the infamous "click."

I have several relatives who will never accept how old they are. They are frozen at 20 and try living as though they were 20 years old. It never works out, but I won't be the one to tell them. Why try to act like you're younger than you are when you could just be

yourself?

People are intimidated by getting older. I keep telling them that the only cure for old age is to die.

If I tried to live my life as though I were 20, I'd get into a lot of trouble, especially with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She is one of those reality people. I don't disagree with her, but I often conflict with her by not acting my age.

I might be doing something rather silly, and she'll catch me. Then, with both hands on her hips, she will say, "Why don't you just act your age?"

I wanted to respond a few times and ask her if she was acting her age, but my love of life keeps me from doing stupid things like that.

At this stage, the big question in my life is: How do I act my age? And what really is my age?

If I'm at a certain age, I'm not acting that age; I'm just living that age. So when The Gracious Mistress of

the Parsonage wants me to act my age, she wants me to pretend I'm older than I really am. I don't know what that means!

I tried to tell her that I'm really not old; just young challenged.

I was wondering the other day if I acted like I was 30 if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would recognize me. When I was 30, I was completely different than what I am today, whatever my age. I believe I should be able to get up in the morning, pick an age, and then act that age.

It sounded like a good idea until I tried it.

One morning, I got up and said to myself, "Today, I am 20, and so I'm going to act like a 20-year-old."

Before lunch, I had worn myself out so badly that I didn't know if I would continue the day. I forgot how active I was at 20. I forgot that when I walked, I was half-running. I forgot that when I ate, I ate like a starving chimpanzee. Oh, I don't

want to be young again.

I began to realize what it really means to be young and challenged. I would have to practice for a month to act like I was 20 for one day. I don't have that much time left to do that.

So I'm young challenged. So what?

When I was young, I acted my age and got into trouble that I won't discuss with anyone today. But those days are over, and now I'm going to try to act like I'm an old geezer. I have found that I am a superb actor in this category. If there was an Emmy for acting like an old geezer, I would win hands down.

My wife and I were discussing this, and she said, "I remember what you were like when you were 20, and it would be good for you to act like you were 20 again."

With a little smirk on my face, I looked at her and said, "I will act 20 if you also act 20. Because a 20-year-old doesn't date an old geezer."

I'm not sure she got it, but she didn't like how I said it.

But if I'm going to act like a 20-year-old, then my whole surroundings have to be in that category. What good is it to act like your 20 when you don't have the energy of a 20-year-old?

It's been a long time since I heard The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage ask me if I was going to act my age. I'm glad because I'm not a very good actor.

I also have a hard time acting my age. How do you practice to act a certain age so that by the time you're done practicing, you're older?

It doesn't matter how old you are or that you have to act a certain age; it's really living today with today's understanding.

I was reminded what Solomon said. "The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29).

I never understood this until one day I looked in my mirror and saw I had grey hair. I never thought my hair would get grey, but there it was and my mirror doesn't lie, so says The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail Jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.james-snyderministries.com.

GARVEY, from Page 3

has been distinguished by a robust commitment to civil rights. Officials said the commitment is evident in significant legislative achievements and proactive executive actions to foster racial equity. His administration pursued an ambitious equity agenda

through legislation like the American Rescue Plan and executive orders to dismantle systemic barriers.

Administration officials noted that, as Biden prepares to leave office, his record on equity and justice, marked by these recent pardons, is further proof of his

unwavering dedication to building a more inclusive America. They said Garvey's pardon not only rectifies a historical wrong but also powerfully reaffirms his enduring legacy—a legacy that continues to inspire a movement for dignity and self-determination among Black communities worldwide.

AMERICAN, from Page 11

urgency for comprehensive policy and operational reforms remains high as the airline navigates through these legal and public relations challenges.

"The dignity of every

passenger that entrusts American Airlines with their travel must be affirmed," stated the attorney for Anthony Williams. "This case is about much more than rectifying a

single grievous wrong; it's about addressing systemic issues that undermine passenger trust and safety.

"Our efforts aim to ensure that no other individual or family undergoes such a distressing experience ever again."

Cemetery Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

- Inherited plot and can't sell it?
- Bought plot years ago and your plans have changed?
- Singles space or Side by Side spaces is okay.

We will make you a "cash offer" on your cemetery plot today! If you get voice mail-leave message phone number and information on cemetery space. We will get back to you

Call Us Today!!!!!!!
972.665.0170

Start the New Year With a New Attitude



Sister Tarpley
NDG Religion Editor

This is the start of a “New Year” you can learn from mistakes that was made last year to make positive changes in your life from this day forward. You will be happier and so will those around you, because---

Life is short no matter how long we live, so use it wisely. Life never seems to be enough no matter how long one gets to live. I have never heard anyone (in the right frame of mind) say, “Ninety years is enough living for me, so I will just die now!”

Usually, people just don’t speak like that when



it comes to their life. Generally, everybody wants to live to that ripe old age, and if we (only) had a say in how long we should stay, we would all shout, “Forever!” It’s true most of us love life! What do we know about this thing we hold so dear?

- It’s a gift from God
- It’s not ours to keep; it can be taken away at any time
- It can be worthwhile or worthless (it depends on

the individual)
Those of us who are alive need to know that we are at the mercy of the “Life Giver.” The time that we have been given should not be spent on trying to preserve this life, but fulfilling the purpose for which we were created.

Knowing that we all must go the way of the flesh, should hasten our resolve (especially now, a New Year) to put things in perspective. Some of the

questions you should be asking are, “What have I done with my life? What do I want to do with the rest of my life?”

If this was your time to die, would your life be celebrated or mourned? You are the one who will say how the rest of your

life story plays out. Will it be WORTHWHILE or WORTHLESS, the choice

See TARPLEY, Page 16

Inspiring Body of Christ 
Pastor Rickie G. Rush



7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.572.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCCHURCH.org

Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

LOSING WEIGHT IS ABOUT
PROGRESS
Not Perfection



Obesity affects the entire body. Take a step forward toward progress. For more information about nutrition, losing weight and fitness, visit

www.parklanddiabetes.com



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:

- Thursday, Jan 23 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb 6 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, Jan 31 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb 13 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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



NDG Book Review: 'Slavery After Slavery' sheds light in a hidden past

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your kids will have a better life than you had.

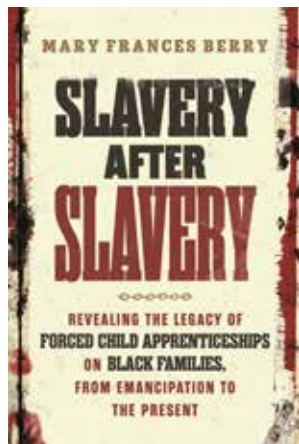
You'll make sure of it, saving for their education, demanding excellence from them, requiring discipline, and offering support for their dreams and desires. Their success is your dream and, as parents did in the new book "Slavery after Slavery" by Mary Frances Berry, you'll fight to see that it happens.

In the years after the end of the Civil War, some Southern former slave owners refused to accept that slavery was over, and the courts often sided with them. In particular, under habeas corpus, Black children were sometimes taken from their parents and placed into an "apprenticeship," which was another word for "slavery" then. Berry estimates that more than two million 10-to-19-year-olds were trapped in this way for years.

Here, she shares the stories in many of them.

In late 1865, Nathan and Jenny Cox lost their five children to their former "master," who also took seven other children by persuading a local magistrate to let him apprentice the kids. As time passed, some of the children took their former owner's last name as their own which, in effect, erased their family's history.

When six-year-old Mary



Cannon was in danger of being apprenticed, a white woman came to her defense. Ultimately, the courts sided with Mary's benefactor and the girl was returned to her parents to live on their former enslaver's plantation.

Hepsey Saunders tried to leave her former owner's plantation, but he "refused to let her take the children" that were born when she was enslaved. Though the theft of her children happened in 1865, the story lingered over a span of decades.

In mot of the cases Berry cites, the families – with or without the return of their children – remained uneducated, unhealthy, and under discrimination. Imagine, she says, that these former slaves had had a chance to control their own lives. Imagine, she says, "if these black people were permitted to pursue the American Dream..."

While it may seem that "Slavery after Slavery" is

a historical narrative, that's not all you'll get if you tackle this skinny book.

When reading the stories inside here, readers may struggle to keep track of what's told. The accounts are a bit repetitious and each one packs a lot of names, legal decisions,

court rulings, and places, some of which nearly require a law degree and all of which demand full attention. That can be overwhelming, unless you shut the door and avoid any distraction.

Author Mary Frances Berry uses these stories to

point out lasting damage done to many Black families, which is essential info for readers to ponder. She goes further to argue that what happened to the two million children is reason enough for reparations, which makes a good argument but it's sometimes

misplaced inside the flow of this book.

Still, readers will agree that the accounts Berry uncovered have been hidden too long, and shedding light on them is essential. What's in "Slavery after Slavery" educates, and could help make conversations better.

TARPLEY, from Page 15


is certainly yours to make.

WE MAY NOT ALWAYS REALIZE - We may not always realize that everything we do, affects not only our lives, but also others, too!

For a little bit of thought-

fulness that shows someone you can create a ray of sunshine for both of you to share.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in January 2011. It has been edited for space.)



603 N. Tennessee St. * McKinney, TX 75069
www.mckinneyha.org

McKinney Housing Authority 2025 ANNUAL & FIVE-YEAR PLAN

PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year. Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2025 fiscal year. Program participants, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Autoridad de Vivienda McKinney PLAN ANUAL Y QUINQUENAL 2025

REUNIONES DARSE CUENTA

La Ley de Vivienda y Responsabilidad Laboral de Calidad de 1998 requiere que la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney presente un Plan de la Agencia cada año.

El Plan PHA es una guía completa de las políticas, programas, operaciones y estrategias de las agencias de vivienda pública (PHA) para satisfacer las necesidades y los objetivos de vivienda locales. Hay dos partes en el Plan PHA: el Plan de 5 años, que cada PHA presenta a HUD una vez cada quinto año fiscal de PHA, y el Plan anual, que se envía a HUD cada año.

A continuación hay una lista de reuniones que están programadas para revisar y analizar los documentos del Plan de la Agencia para el año fiscal 2025.

Se anima a los participantes del programa, al público y al personal a asistir a las reuniones

Tuesday January 28, 2025	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Thursday February 13, 2025	4:30pm	Public Meeting	Newsome Homes Community Center	1450 Amscott St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday February 25, 2025	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed ANNUAL and Five Year Plan is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 603 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

Comments can be submitted by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 603 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or info@mckinneyha.org. The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 25th at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.