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Democrats silent as Trump's authoritarian grip tightens, leaving supporters outraged

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Except for outspoken lawmakers Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Democrats have remained frustratingly silent as Donald Trump solidifies his grip on power. Despite his administration's policies, a government funding freeze, and his allies pushing the racist and oppressive Project 2025 agenda onto Americans, Democratic leadership has offered no real response.

For many loyal Democratic voters, the past month has been a slap in the face. As Trump and his enablers work to dismantle civil rights protections, former President Joe Biden walked out of the White House without a clear strategy to protect Black Americans, Latinos, women, and other



For many loyal Democratic voters, the past month has been a slap in the face. As Trump and his enablers work to dismantle civil rights protections, former President Joe Biden walked out of the White House without a clear strategy to protect Black Americans, Latinos, women, and other marginalized communities. (Photo via NNPA)

Instead, individuals have left many questioning Biden's departure sent a chilling message: You're on your own. His silence and that of other complacent in-

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Trump's knife in the backs of Americans

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Cancer risk is established before birth

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Tolbert in as new Dallas city manager

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'One of Them Days' can wait for the stream

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People In The News ...



Nancy Leftenant-Colon



Marcus Garvey

NDG Quote of the Week: "The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind."
- Maya Angelou

Nancy Leftenant-Colon

Nancy Leftenant-Colon, the first Black woman to join the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after the military was desegregated in the 1940s, has died at the age of 104. She passed away earlier this month at a nursing home in New York. Known for quietly breaking barriers during her remarkable military career, Leftenant-Colon enjoyed a legacy of resilience, excellence, and service.

Born on September 29, 1920, in Goose Creek, South Carolina, to James and Eunice Leftenant, she graduated from Amityville



High School in New York in 1939. Despite facing racial discrimination, Leftenant-Colon pursued her passion for nursing, graduating from Lincoln School of Nursing in 1941. According to her biography posted on Tuskegeecairmen.org,

when she initially sought to join the Armed Forces, she was denied due to her race. Undeterred, she persisted and was accepted as a reservist into the Army Nurse Corps in January 1945, becoming a Second Lieutenant and serving at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, treating wounded soldiers from World War II.

In 1948, after President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 abolishing segregation in the military, Leftenant-Colon became the first Black woman integrated into the Regular Army Nurse Corps. Her career continued to flourish as she transitioned to the

newly established U.S. Air Force, where she supported missions during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, serving in various locations, including Germany, Japan, Alaska, and Vietnam. As a Flight Nurse with the 6481st Medical Air Evacuation Group, she evacuated wounded soldiers from active war zones and was credited with saving countless lives.

Her groundbreaking service extended beyond the battlefield. In 1989, she became the first woman elected as National President of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., where she held multiple leadership roles. Honored

with numerous accolades, Leftenant-Colon received honorary doctorates from Tuskegee University and Mount Saint Vincent College and was inducted into the Long Island Air and Space Hall of Fame.

After retiring as Chief Nurse at McGuire Air Force Base in 1965, Leftenant-Colon continued to serve her community as a school nurse at her alma

mater, Amityville High School, until 1984. In 2018, the school honored her with a new media center named in her memory.

“She was just an awesome person,” her nephew Chris Leftenant told The Associated Press. “She never created waves when she was doing all this first this, first that. She never made a big thing of it. It was just happening.”

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Michael Jones

(Black PR Wire) WACO, Texas — The American Football Coaches Association is proud to announce its 2024 Assistant Coach of the Year winners, with Florida Memorial University Assistant Head Football Coach and Offensive Coordinator Michael Jones being named 2024 AFCA NAIA Assistant Coach of the Year.



One assistant coach from the five divisions of college football has been selected for their dedication to their teams and communities. A total of 67 nominees from Football Bowl Subdivision, Football Championship Subdivision, Division II, Division III, and NAIA were nominated in 2024.

Each year, staff representatives from NCAA and NAIA football-playing schools are asked to nominate an assistant for consideration. From those nominations, the winners are selected by the AFCA Assistant Coach of the Year Committee.

The Assistant Coach of the Year award was first presented in 1997 and was created to honor assistant coaches who excel in community service, commitment to the student-athlete, on-field coaching success and AFCA professional organization involvement.

The 2024 honorees are as follows:

FBS—Sean Saturnio, Special Teams Coordinator, Army West Point

FCS—Don Dobes, Defensive Coordinator, Linebackers, Dartmouth College

Division II—Roy Thompson, Jr., Defensive Coordinator, Ouachita Baptist

University

Division III—Cody Baethke, Associate Head Coach, Defensive Coordinator, Defensive Backs, Coe College

NAIA—Michael Jones, Assistant Head Coach, Offensive Coordinator, Quarterbacks Coach, Florida Memorial University

The criterion for the award is not limited to on-field coaching ability or the success of the team and the players whom these assistant coaches work with. Service to the community through charitable work and other volunteer activities, participation in AFCA activities and events, participation in other professional organizations and impact on student-athletes are all considered in the selection process.

137 assistant coaches from 103 different schools have been honored by the AFCA since the inception of the award in 1997 ... Iowa and Virginia Union join Benedictine (Kan.),

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Trump's America Last agenda is a knife in the back of working people



Ben Jealous
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Donald Trump's playbook has always been to campaign like a populist and govern like an oligarch. But it is still shocking just how brutally he went after our country's working people in the first few days – even the first few hours – after he was sworn in last week.

Donald Trump's actions on Day One of his presidency, and each day since then, have laid bare his willingness to undermine the health and wealth of working families. He is determined to pollute our air and water. And for all his tough talk about China, he is rapidly ceding vital economic ground to China as he attempts to shutter the new factories powering our nation with clean energy. A true "America First" agenda would focus on American leadership on the global stage. And it would put the American people first. Instead, he is putting Americans' last by sacrificing our health and our jobs in favor of corporate greed.

In the first minutes of his presidency, President Trump promised to "drill, baby, drill" in his inaugural address.

In the first hours, in a flurry of Day One executive orders, he declared an 'energy emergency' and

moved to: claw back unspent Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds; withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement; overturn protections against offshore drilling for more than 625 million acres of ocean; roll back federal vehicle emission standards for cars and trucks; halt the development of all offshore wind projects; remove vital protections for public lands across Alaska ... and, sadly, that was just the beginning.

Making our communities more susceptible to climate-fueled disasters, driving up respiratory and heart disease, increasing our energy bills, and shipping our jobs overseas is the opposite of "America First." And it shows Trump breaking his promises – ON DAY ONE! – to stand up for working-class families.

As you read this, the Trump administration is actively working to boost Americans' household energy costs by promoting the expansion of LNG (liquefied natural gas) exports. Those exports go to nations that will pay far more than the domestic market rate for methane gas, driving up prices here at home. And, of course, more methane gas means more fracking, more pollution, and more disaster-prone transportation and refinement of yet another dirty fossil fuel. (Not to mention the na-

tional security implications of LNG producers and exporters selling this energy resource to adversaries like China that then can re-sell it to client states and leverage their status as an LNG supplier.)

The administration is driving up energy costs and threatening grid reliability – in an age of increasing extreme weather from climate change – with its hostility to the clean energy sources that are cheaper and more resilient than fossil fuels.

It is killing thousands upon thousands of good American jobs with actions like his executive order banning more development of offshore wind energy. So much for the GOP's "all of the above" energy approach. Wind energy now makes up 10% of US electricity generation and offshore wind alone currently employs 120,000 Americans. New offshore wind projects would promise many thousands more. And offshore wind has also helped revitalize domestic supply chains, support growth in American shipping, and bring in billions of dollars in investment.

The administration is killing jobs by attacking the progress and investments spurred by the last administration's Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which have already created more than 400,000 clean energy jobs.

The fossil fuel push will

lead to pollution that causes heart attacks, asthma attacks, cancer, and more – and will end up killing many of the very people he pledged to fight for. It also will have an especially deadly impact in the communities that already suffer disproportionately from pollution. A recent Stanford Medicine study, for instance, found that Black Americans are far more likely to die from air pollution-related causes than other groups. This bears out in a city like Chicago, where the city's West Side, which has more Black and Latino residents than other parts of the city, has up to 32% more nitrogen dioxide (NO2) air pollution.

And one more way this administration looks to hurt both the wallets and bodies of working families is with the rising cost of healthcare that all the illness from increased air and water pollution is sure to bring.

In these dark times, it is critical to remember that we are strong enough as a country to keep making progress no matter who is president. As I've seen firsthand from the frontlines of the civil rights and environmental movements, when the American people suffer setbacks, when the hill gets steeper, we do not stop climbing.

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

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Study suggests cancer risk may be established before birth

(Newswise) — GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A person's lifetime risk for cancer may begin before they are even born, reports a paradigm-shifting study by Van Andel Institute scientists.

The findings, published in *Nature Cancer*, identified two distinct epigenetic states that arise during development and are linked to cancer risk. One of these states is associated with a lower lifetime risk while the other is associated with a higher lifetime risk.

If cancer does develop in the lower risk state, it is more likely to be a liquid tumor, such as leukemia or lymphoma. If cancer develops in the higher risk state, it is more likely to be a solid tumor, such as lung or prostate cancer.

“Because most cancers



Van Andel Institute's Dr. J. Andrew Pospisilik and Dr. Ilaria Panzeri are co-corresponding authors of a *Nature Cancer* paper that suggests a person's lifetime risk for cancer may begin during development. (Photo: Van Andel Institute)

occur later in life and are understood as diseases of mutation, or genetics, there hasn't been a deep focus on how development might shape cancer risk. Our findings change that,” said J. Andrew Pospisilik, Ph.D., chair of VAI's Department of Epigenetics and co-corresponding author of the

study. “Our identification of these two epigenetically different states open the door to an entirely new world of study into the underpinnings of cancer.”

Cancer risk increases as people age, thanks to an accumulation of DNA damage and other factors. Still, not every abnormal cell

goes on to become cancer. In recent years, scientists have identified other influences, such as epigenetic errors, as additional contributors to cancer.

Epigenetics are processes that affect how and when the instructions in DNA are carried out. Problems with epigenetics can derail cellular quality control processes, enabling sick cells to survive and spread.

In their study, Pospisilik and collaborators found that mice with reduced levels of the gene *Trim28* can have one of two patterns of epigenetic marks on cancer-related genes, despite being otherwise identical. These patterns are established during development. The strength of the patterns determines which of the two cancer risk states occur.

“Everyone has some level of risk but, when cancer does arise, we tend to think of it just as bad luck,” said Ilaria Panzeri, Ph.D., a research scientist in the Pospisilik Lab and the study's first and co-corresponding author. “However, bad luck doesn't fully explain why some people develop cancer and others don't. Most importantly, bad luck cannot be targeted for treatment. Epigenetics, on the other hand, can be targeted. Our findings show that cancer's roots may start during the sensitive period of development, offering a new perspective to study the disease and potential new options for diagnosis and treatment.”

The team found evidence of the two epigenetic states throughout tissues in the body, which suggests

that developmental epigenetic risk may be common across cancers. In the future, they plan to explore the effects of these two states in individual cancer types.

Other authors include Luca Fagnocchi, Ph.D., Stefanos Apostle, M.S., Megan Tompkins, Emily Wolfrum, MPH, Zachary Madaj, M.S., Galen Hostetter, M.D., Yanqing Liu, Kristen Schaefer, Chih-Hsiang Yang, Ph.D., Alexis Bergsma, Ph.D., Anne Drougard, Ph.D., Erez Dror, Ph.D., Darrell Chandler, Ph.D., and Timothy J. Triche, Jr., Ph.D., of VAI; the PERMUTE Consortium; and Daniel Schramek, Ph.D., of University of Toronto. Schaefer also is affiliated with Case Western Reserve University.

New American Heart Association report reveals alarming inequities in heart health by race and gender

The American Heart Association's 2025 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update uncovers glaring racial and gender disparities in cardiovascular health, illustrating the profound toll heart disease takes on marginalized populations. According to the report, non-Hispanic Black adults experience an age-adjusted mortality rate of 379.7 per 100,000 due to cardiovascular disease (CVD), compared to just 104.9 per 100,000 among non-Hispanic Asian females. Researchers asserted that such inequities reflect the disproportionate burden underrepresented communities bear in accessing equitable healthcare and prevention.

Women also face significant challenges in cardiovascular health, particularly during and after pregnancy. Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy doubled from 2007 to 2019, with preeclampsia and gestational hypertension contributing to adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes. Black women are disproportionately affected, experiencing higher rates of these conditions, which often lead to long-term cardiovascular complications. Additionally, gestational diabetes increased by 38% between 2016 and 2021, with older mothers facing nearly six times the risk compared to younger mothers. The study's authors

also found that poor sleep quality further compounds the risks, particularly for women, who are up to 2.3 times more likely to report insomnia symptoms than men. According to the report, poor sleep is strongly linked to an increased risk of stroke and other cardiovascular events.

According to the study, social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, and geographic location, also exacerbate these disparities. Individuals in rural areas or neighborhoods with fewer healthcare resources face limited access to screenings, healthy food options, and consistent medical care. For instance, periph-

eral artery disease (PAD) patients living in zip codes with a median household income of less than \$40,000 are at a significantly higher risk of undergoing amputations. The report also noted that racial inequities extend to emergency care. Black individuals experiencing out-of-hospital cardiac arrests are 27% less likely to receive bystander CPR at home and 37% less likely in public locations than White individuals. These disparities persist even when income levels are accounted for.

“We have the tools to address these inequities, but they require a commitment to prioritizing the health of all communities,” stated Dr.

Seth Martin, who chaired the report. Officials said the AHA's “Life's Essential 8” framework is a guideline for improving cardiovascular health. This model includes recommendations for healthier diets, consistent physical activity, and better cholesterol and glucose management. However, the report indicates that over 80% of U.S. adults fail to meet these criteria. Average diet quality scores are just 59 out of 100, and disparities are evident across race, income, and education levels. Researchers insisted that improving these metrics could reduce major cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes.

Community health initiatives play a critical role in addressing these disparities. Expanding access to nutritious food, exercise facilities, and education can help reduce risk factors. For example, studies have shown that reallocating just seven minutes of sedentary behavior daily to moderate or vigorous physical activity can significantly improve cardiometabolic health, including reductions in body mass index (BMI) and blood sugar levels.

Another critical area of focus is maternal health. Programs that emphasize early intervention and monitoring for pregnant

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Kimberly Bizer Tolbert named new Dallas City Manager

Last week, the Dallas City Council adopted a resolution appointing Interim City Manager Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, to the position of City Manager. Tolbert is the 19th city manager for the City of Dallas dating back to 1931. The resolution also approved the terms of her employment and authorized the execution of an Agreement of Employment.

This appointment follows a national search for Dallas' City Manager, led by the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs, with Mayor Pro Tem Tenell Atkins as its Chair. She was selected as one of three finalists for the role and in addition to interviews, participated in three candidate community



engagement events.

Tolbert was appointed Interim City Manager in May 2024. At that time, Tolbert proactively launched a 100-Day transition plan to address critical areas for process improvement and operational enhancements. Some of her key successes within her first 100 days as Interim City Manager include delivering a balanced biennial FY 2024-25 bud-

get with unanimous City Council Approval, cutting overall new construction commercial permitting median issuance time by 31%, restructuring the organizational chart to foster greater cross-departmental collaboration, consolidated multiple departments to enhance productivity, saving \$13 million, and launched recruitment and retention incentives to enhance first

responder competitiveness.

As Dallas' City Manager, City Manager Tolbert will continue to oversee the City's \$5.2 billion budget and 13,000+ City of Dallas team members.

"I want to thank the City Council for their confidence in me to lead this City as we evolve on the world stage, with a thriving and inclusive community that sets the standard for excellence," said Tolbert.

"I am certain that we can collectively achieve this through innovation, efficient government, and targeted economic growth. But we cannot do it alone, each of our stakeholders make Dallas extraordinary, and we are committed to continuing to foster trust by delivering on our promise

of Service First, with the urgency of Now! Finally, I want to thank our talented City of Dallas team. Their passion and dedication have inspired me during my tenure as Interim City Manager and I am excited to build upon the momentum we have already achieved."

In a statement following the vote, City of Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson said:

"I am proud to support Kimberly Bizer Tolbert as Dallas' new city manager. As Interim City Manager for the past 10 months, Tolbert has streamlined city operations, improved government efficiency, reduced taxpayer waste, and delivered a budget with the largest single-year property tax rate reduction in Dallas

history."

"With Tolbert now serving in a permanent role, Dallas is poised to take full advantage of the opportunities before us as we continue to reduce the tax rate, enhance government efficiency and transparency, and keep the people of Dallas safe. Now, Dallas can take the next steps toward hiring permanent police and fire chiefs to strengthen our standing as the safest major city in America."

"Lastly, I want to thank Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins for his leadership in guiding the selection process as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs," added Mayor Johnson.

The appointment was effective January 23, 2025.

Win With Black Women joins the Black Women's Leadership Collective and more than 10k Black women to thank Vice President Kamala Harris

(Washington, D.C.) – Members of Win With Black Women, the collective committed to uplifting Black women and defending those in leadership positions from unjust attacks, have signed on to an open letter expressing gratitude to Vice President Kamala Harris for her service, leadership, commitment, and inspiration to millions of Black women across the country. The group, which made history with their support of Vice President Harris' groundbreaking presidential campaign, continues its mission alongside more than 10,500 signatories on the letter.

The letter expresses deep appreciation for Vice President Harris' tireless work and dedication to advancing key issues such as vot-

ing rights, economic justice, healthcare, and equity for marginalized communities. It emphasizes her selfless leadership, which has set a powerful example for others—particularly Black women—on what true leadership looks like.

"Vice President Harris's tenure as the first woman and first Black Vice President of the United States represents an unwavering commitment to justice and equality that will not be dismantled," said social impact strategist and founder of Win With Black Women Jotaka Eaddy. "Her leadership serves as inspiration to countless individuals, especially Black women, children, daughters, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers, showing that with determination and vision, barriers

can be broken and progress can be achieved. The thousands of women who signed this letter show the world that even as President Trump works to reverse the progress our nation and Black women everywhere have made, we will continue to work together and vow to never give up."

WWBW has been a steadfast advocate for Vice President Harris, from championing her as President Biden's Vice Presidential pick in 2020, to raising over \$3 million for the Harris-Walz ticket in 2024, to inspiring more than 200 pro-Kamala affinity groups that collectively raised over \$20 million for the campaign. The group and its members have underscored their ongoing commitment to protecting Vice President

Harris' legacy, advancing Black women into leadership roles, and safeguarding

the future of our democracy. "No matter who is in the White House, Black women

will continue to champion

See HARRIS, Page 14

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HBCUs in jeopardy of losing funding for Black cultural studies

By April Ryan

“This is only the beginning of a long fight,” according to Democratic North Carolina Congresswoman Alma Adams.

She is addressing the Executive Order to pause federal loans and grants. There is an overwhelming concern in the Historically Black College and University community that many key programs focused on race and equity will be impacted. Adams, a ranking member of a House Subcommittee on Higher Education and the Founder and Co-Chair of the Bicameral HBCU Caucus, issued a statement to Black Press USA once a federal judge temporarily blocked



HBCUs are two hundred year old institutions that are one of the largest segments of this nation to create the Black middle class. Adams passionately expressed, “he’s [President Trump] jeopardizing the futures of countless students.” (Photo via NNPA)

President Trump’s funding freeze.

Adams, whose state houses 11 HBCUs, the largest number in any given state, believes, “President Trump is dismantling equity in education with the stroke of a pen by rescinding federal initiatives for MSIs.” HBCUs are

two hundred year old institutions that are one of the largest segments of this nation to create the Black middle class. Adams passionately expressed, “he’s [President Trump] jeopardizing the futures of countless students.”

According to the Trump White House, the pause is

meant as a review period for federal loans and grants to organizations and agencies. A White House official told this reporter Historically Black Colleges and Universities are fine. However, if African American History and or Woke programs are taught with federal funds, those monies will be extracted from the school and or program. Walter Kimbrough, the Interim President of Talladega College exclusively told Black Press USA the initial announcement of the funding freeze “was a shock to the HBCU community, which has continued to enjoy broad, bipartisan support.” However he sharply questioned, “how can you be an HBCU without Af-

rican American history?” “The terms of the executive order is 90 days... It is a review process to say that there is discretionary spending... to a contract, to a non governmental organization.” Trump White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller also gave the press an example of teaching “critical race theory” which he says would lose the federal funding.

“The pause on the federal loans and grants will involve “a politically appointed individual... who simply reviews and approves the expenditure so that we have democratic control over the operations of government,” emphasized Miller who further

acknowledge “this doesn’t impact any programs that Americans rely on.”

Adams, a former alumna of North Carolina A and T and a former professor of an HBCU believes this examination of federal funding is “putting HBCUs, which are already underfunded but vital to our communities, directly in harm’s way.”

Meanwhile, Kimbrough wants the 111 Presidents of the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities to meet with President Trump detailing, “we are eager to meet with the new administration to remind them of the consequential role HBCUs make to our nation, and to solicit their support and further investment.”

JONES, from Page 2

Morningside, Bethel (Minn.), Campbellsville, Carson-Newman and Hampton as schools with three winners each ... Army, Air Force, Carroll (Mont.), Central (Iowa), Clemson, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Kansas Wesleyan, Lindsey Wilson, Marian, Mount Union, Northwest Missouri State, Tabor, Wabash, Washington (Mo.) and Winona State all have

two winners each. Winners of the Assistant Coach of the Year Award will receive a plaque to commemorate their recognition. They will be honored Sunday, January 12, during the 2025 AFCA Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Winners Football Bowl Subdivision

Sean Saturnio, Army West Point: Saturnio is in

his 11th year as an assistant for the Army Black Knights and his 6th year as special teams coordinator. In 2020, Army led the nation in both blocked kicks and blocked punts under Saturnio.

Football Championship Subdivision

Don Dobes, Dartmouth: Dobes has been a college coach for 45 years with the last 15 at Dartmouth. In 2024, Dobes’ defense allowed fewer than 20 points in five of 10 games and

ranked 7th nationally in rushing defense.

Division II

Roy Thompson, Jr., Ouachita Baptist: Thompson, who was just named the head coach at Arkansas Tech, has been at Ouachita Baptist for 13 years in two different stints. Thompson has coached four players who have earned All-America honors, seven All-Region players, and 26

All-Conference players.

Division III

Cody Baethke, Coe: Baethke joined the Coe coaching staff in 2018 after four years as an assistant at Central College. Coe’s defense ranked second in the American Rivers Conference in total defense, rushing defense and scoring defense.

NAIA

Michael Jones, Florida Memorial: Jones is the assistant head coach, offensive coordinator, and quar-

terback coach at Florida Memorial. In 2023, Jones was awarded the inaugural Assistant Coach of the Year Award for the Sun Conference for guiding an offense that finished first in rushing and third in passing. He finished the 2024 season third in the Sun Conference in total offense at 425.1 yards per game and third in rushing at 207.6 yards a game. He is a key contributor to the Lions’ seven All-Conference honorees.

HEART, from Page 4

women—especially those at high risk—can reduce complications such as preeclampsia and gestational diabetes. Lifestyle interventions, including weight management and exercise, have been shown to cut the

risk of hypertensive pregnancy disorders nearly in half. Dr. Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, a contributor to the report, added that systemic solutions are essential to addressing these disparities. “When we

examine cardiovascular health, it’s clear that social determinants and structural inequities remain significant barriers. Improving health equity means removing these barriers,” she said.

Additionally, the report spelled out the economic burden of cardiovascu-

lar disease, which totaled \$417.9 billion in 2021 alone. Prescription medications and office visits represent the largest cost drivers, but inequities in care access often lead to more severe and costly outcomes for marginalized groups. The report

concluded that addressing the various issues would require a collective effort from policymakers, healthcare providers, and community leaders. Expanding Medicaid, funding local health initiatives, and ensuring equitable resource distribution are steps that

can help bridge these gaps. “Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death globally,” said Dr. Mitchell Elkind, another key contributor to the report. “Progress is possible, but it demands both innovation in healthcare and a commitment to equity.”



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King family seeks review of files on MLK Assassination, Bernice King addresses public disrespect

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The family of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has expressed its hope to review records related to his assassination before they are made public. King's family's statement came after President Donald Trump signed an executive order to declassify records surrounding the assassinations of the civil rights icon, President John F. Kennedy, and Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

"For us, the assassination of our father is a deeply personal family loss that we have endured over the last 56 years," the family stated in a message shared by King's daughter, Bernice King. "We hope to be provided the opportunity to review the files as a family prior to its public release."



King's family's statement came after President Donald Trump signed an executive order to declassify records surrounding the assassinations of the civil rights icon, President John F. Kennedy, and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. (Photo via NNPA)

The family also noted not granting interviews as they await further information.

The release of the documents hasn't been the only moment in the news this week for King's family.

The nation observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which fell on the same Monday as Trump's inauguration this year. Bernice King, the youngest of King's four children, told MSNBC that the overlap provided an opportunity to

recall her father's legacy while the country transitions to a new administration.

"It's wonderful that this occurs on the King holiday, the inauguration, because it reminds us of King," said King, who was five years old when her father was assassinated in 1968. "It points us back to King. It says, 'When we move forward, we've got to do it in the spirit of King.'"

She called on Americans

to remain steadfast in the values her father championed, particularly nonviolence. "We have to strategize. We've been missing the strategy. We've been missing the spirit of Dr. King," she said. "The spirit of Dr. King is nonviolence. And nonviolence is not just a posture; it's a mindset. It's a love-centered way of thinking, speaking, acting, and engaging that leads to personal, cultural, and societal transformation."

This year marked just the third time that Martin Luther King Jr. Day coincided with a presidential inauguration, the first during President Bill Clinton's second term in 1997 and the second during President Barack Obama's second term in 2013. Obama took his oath of office using a Bible that once belonged to King.

In yet another incident

this week that stirred controversy surrounding the King family, rapper Sexy Red posted an AI-generated image of herself and Dr. King at a nightclub on social media on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The image showed the rapper holding hands with King in a crowded setting. The post, which lacked a caption, was widely criticized and later deleted following a request from Bernice King.

"This is intentionally distasteful, dishonoring, deplorable, and disrespectful to my family and my father, who is not here to respond himself because he was assassinated for working for your civil and human rights," Bernice King wrote in response.

Despite calling out the post, King also addressed negative comments directed at the rapper, writing, "I

don't believe Sexy Red to be a 'degenerate,' 'ghetto,' or 'trash,'" King stated. "I have spoken out in the past about the use of and comparison to either of my parents to denigrate other people."

Sexy Red immediately apologized, saying, "You ain't wrong; I never meant to disrespect your family. My apologies. Just reposted something I saw that I thought was innocent."

King accepted the apology. "I value you as a human being," King responded. "I know that my father has become a bit of a caricature to the world and that his image is often used with no regard to his family, his sacrificial work, or the tragic, unjust way in which he died (a state-sanctioned assassination). Unfortunately, I regularly challenge the disregard."

Café Nubia marks first year with celebration of culture, cuisines and couture

Café Nubia is celebrating its one-year anniversary, marking a year of bringing its signature Mediterranean and African cuisines to the local community. In recognition of this major milestone, the upscale restaurant and lounge will host a weekend celebration kicking off on Friday, February 14. From an elegant evening celebrating black excellence in business to a swanky Galentine's Day brunch, the restaurant will host a festive Valentine's weekend of culture, cuisines and couture.

"We are excited to embark upon our one-year anniversary and extremely grateful for the opportunity



Courtesy photo

to celebrate with the many patrons and overall community who have shown us love and support along this amazing journey," said Kenechi "KC" Nnamani, co-owner of Café Nubia.

Café Nubia's anniversary celebration features three

exciting days of events that exemplify and embody the heart and soul of the restaurant and lounge. From date night and girls' night out to brunch and bubbly, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

• Friday, February 14,

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. – "Afro Futurism Meets Haute Couture" Met Gala: This Valentine's Day ticketed event features a sophisticated evening of glamour where guests will strut the red carpet and be showered with red roses all while sipping sparkling champagne. They can then indulge in an evening of live music and entertainment, while savoring delectable signature cuisines such as grilled lamb chops, oxtail, cauliflower steak, jollof rice, smashed potatoes and grilled seasonal vegetables. A premium open bar and bottomless champagne will also be available, which will be perfect for the eve-

ning's grand toast to black excellence in business. For those wanting to keep the evening going, an elevated After-Party experience will take place from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. featuring mixing, mingling and dancing to the vivacious sounds of two renown DJs. Tickets to attend this event are \$200 per person and include a complimentary brunch ticket for Saturday or Sunday.

• Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Nubian Galentine's Day Brunch: A swanky outing for gal pals and (and guys too), the Nubian Galentine's Day brunch will feature Café Nubia's signature African

and Mediterranean cuisines with an American twist and plenty of bubbly. Guests can also enjoy robust music, specialty pink cocktails, roses, and an array of photo opportunities. Additionally, the spacious and scenic patio will house hookahs and a cigar bar. Brunch is a la carte.

• Saturday, February 15, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Nubian Love Oasis: Prepare to be transported to a Nubian Love Oasis of fine dining, romantic music and sensual-themed cocktails. This is the perfect date night for grooving to the sounds of

See NUBIA, Page 12

Dallas Cowboys introduce Brian Schottenheimer as new head coach

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

The search is over, and the Dallas Cowboys have found their guy. Brian Schottenheimer received a promotion from his offensive coordinator title and signed a four-year contract to be the next coach of the Dallas Cowboys. The Cowboys did not cast a wide net in their search for a head coach, formally meeting with only three other candidates—Seattle Seahawks assistant head coach Leslie Frazier, former New York Jets head coach Robert Saleh, and Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Kellen Moore. Despite the frustrations of the fanbase



with Cowboys brass not doing what appeared to be a thorough search, Schottenheimer brings strong NFL pedigree as the son of Marty Schottenheimer who served as a head coach in the National Football League for 21 seasons.

“Brian Schottenheimer is known as a career assistant,” Cowboys’ owner Jerry Jones said per ESPN’s

Adam Schefter. “He ain’t Brian no more. He is now known as the head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.”

At his introductory press conference on Monday, Jan. 27, Schottenheimer impressed by commanding the room and speaking with confidence. He claimed the offense will be more modernized and rely on a running game that sets up play

action passes.

“I go back to my days with Pete [Carroll], if you go back and you look at some of the things we did in Seattle. Obviously, the starting point for me would be things that our players do well—you’re always going to start with that. If your system is not flexible enough to do what your players do well, then you’re probably in the wrong business. I’m a big believer in shifts and motions to distort things. We’re going to do a great job marrying our runs and our passes—make those look the same,” Schottenheimer said.

Schottenheimer’s statements should be music to

the ears of Cowboys fans who have claimed the offense has been rather stale and outdated. Not only did he mention modernizing the offense, but he also made known his ability to develop a successful rushing attack.

“I’m proud to say two different times in my career as a coordinator, we led the league in rushing. And they go hand in hand—running game and the action passing game go hand in hand,” Schottenheimer explained.

There happens to be a special talent at the running back position entering the NFL draft in Ashton Jeanty. Jeanty is a local kid from Frisco, Texas where the Dallas Cowboys are

headquartered—the pairing of Jeanty and the Schottenheimer offense almost seems too good to be true. Holding the 12th overall pick in the NFL draft, Dallas will certainly draft Jeanty if he is available.

Dallas Cowboys players showed up and showed out at Schottenheimer’s introductory press conference—a positive sign that he is well respected and liked inside the locker room. Dak Prescott, Tyler Smith, DeMarvion Overshown, and Brock Hoffman were among the players seated with the media. The Schottenheimer era has the potential to be a successful one for Dallas, only time will tell.

Men of Alpha Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Inc. serve the homeless in downtown Dallas in collaboration with Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc.

In a powerful display of community service and brotherhood, the men of the Alpha Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. came together to make a tangible difference in the lives of Dallas’ homeless population. On 1/25/2025, the chapter partnered with Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc. for a special event aimed at providing meals and essential support to individuals in need.

The event, held in downtown Dallas, was a testament to the fraternity’s longstanding commitment to service and uplifting communities. The brothers of Omega Psi Phi, alongside the dedicated volunteers from Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc., set out to offer more than just a meal—they were on a mission to show compassion, respect, and humanity to those facing difficult circumstances.



Courtesy photo

A Unified Effort to Serve the Community

The collaboration between Omega Psi Phi and Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc. allowed for a well-organized, impactful initiative. The men of Alpha Iota Iota Chapter worked tirelessly throughout the day, preparing, and distributing meals, including hot plates, sandwiches, and beverages, en-

suring that everyone who came by was welcomed with open arms. As part of their effort, the brothers also offered hygiene kits, clothes, and other essentials to those in need.

“This is about more than just giving food—it’s about making a personal connection, showing people, they matter, and doing our part to support those who

are less fortunate,” said Chapter member Kadeem Sherrill. “We believe in our commitment to uplifting our communities, and today we are honored to partner with Kind Hearts Outreach to make a meaningful impact.”

Making a Real Difference

The event was a success, not just in terms of the

number of meals served, but also in the spirit of fellowship it fostered.

Many of the homeless individuals expressed gratitude for the care and attention they received, sharing stories and connecting with the volunteers. For the men of Alpha Iota Iota Chapter, this was more than just a day of service—it was an opportunity to strengthen their bonds with each other and with their community.

A Continued

Commitment to Service

The partnership with Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc. is just one of many initiatives that the Alpha Iota Iota Chapter has organized as part of its ongoing commitment to community service. The fraternity’s history is rich with projects aimed at improving the lives of those less fortunate, and the men of Alpha Iota

Iota have consistently answered the call to serve.

Moving forward, both Omega Psi Phi and Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc. plan to continue their collaboration, with plans for more outreach events to support the homeless and other vulnerable populations in the Dallas area.

The Alpha Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. exemplifies the ideals of uplifting, scholarship, and perseverance that are at the heart of the fraternity’s mission. By partnering with organizations like Kind Hearts Outreach, Inc., the brothers of Alpha Iota Iota are not just changing lives—they are fostering a culture of giving that extends beyond any single event, leaving a legacy of compassion and brotherhood in the heart of Dallas.



Keke Palmer and SZA in *One of Them Days* (Photo via NNPA)

Film Review: 'One of Them Days' will be big on the streaming end

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) They're girlz in the hood. Two young women trying to make it from Friday to Next Friday and Friday After Next. And as they do, they take viewers on a journey through working class Los Angeles that feels like it was ripped from the past and updated with a modern feminist twist.

The film's comedy roots are showing. It's employing an old tradition of two friends trying to get through life in a paycheck-to-paycheck part of town. This time in Baldwin Hills. Producer Issa Rae (*Insecure*), screenwriter Syreeta Singleton (*Insecure*) and music video director turned filmmaker Lawrence Lamont don't venture far off the block. Keep it simple. Give the two lead characters, Dreux (Keke Palmer) and Alyssa (SZA), the same kind of bonding experience as the Friday franchise's Craig (Ice Cube) and Smokey (Chris

Tucker) or Craig and Day-Day (Mike Epps)—then roll the dice.

Dreux and Alyssa are roommates. Similar in ways, different in others. They're so close they can finish each other's sentences and mirror each other's thoughts. They chat incessantly. Or just roll their eyes, toss their hair in the air and fan their long fingernails like they're talking in a code language. They chatter continuously about men, love, life and the bills.

The difference is Dreux has a job at a restaurant named Norm's, wants to become a manager and climb the corporate ladder. She's the breadwinner. Alyssa is a budding artist/painter with lots of canvasses and no sales, yet. She's also distracted by her live-in and forever-mooching lover Keshawn (Joshua David Neal). Her Ray J.

Rent is due on their apartment and the irascible landlord Uche (Rizi Timane) ain't playing. Pay up or get out. Unbeknownst

to Dreux, Alyssa has given their rent money to her irresponsible boyfriend—and it's gone. Crisis!!!! Uche confronts them and his ultimatum is clear, pay him \$1,500 by 6:00PM or their stuff will be put out on the streets. Door locked, end of story.

The "there ain't nothing going on, but the rent" plot device gives the proceedings momentum for 97 minutes (editor Tia Nolan). Even when the pacing goes up and down with its dialogue-clogged scenes, there is a goal, and everyone is onboard. Time ticks away. You can see it intermittently on the screen in big bright orange numbers and letters. A timer notches the countdown. It's a fun way to end the longer sequences and up the panic factor.

Singleton's specialty is episodic TV. She can write a funny line, like when a bundle of hair blows by on the street and someone yells "tumble weave!"

See FILM, Page 10

MLK Community Center is calling for Black artists to showcase talent

The City of Dallas Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is seeking local artists to participate in a special art showcase in celebration of Black History Month.

Artwork will be displayed inside of the MLK, Jr. Community Center from February 3 - February 28, 2025.

Artists from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex are invited to participate in a special art showcase in honor of Black History



Courtesy photo

Month. Artwork should reflect themes of Black History, drawing inspira-

tion from historical figures, significant events, cultural movements, or personal in-

terpretations connected to the Black experience.

Acceptable mediums

include, but are not limited to, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, collage, poetry, and mixed media.

Organizers encourage artists to explore their creativity and bring their unique perspective to the display.

How To Submit

Submit artwork to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center (2922 MLK, Jr. Blvd., Dallas, TX 75215) along with the following details:

- Artist Name
- School/Grade (if applicable)

• Art Title & Description

Deadline

- Submit art by February 3, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.
- Art will be on display from February 3- February 28, 2025
- Art pick-up date: March 3, 2025

For more information, contact Natashaia Cooper at natashia.cooper@dallas.gov or call 214-670-8418.

FILM, from Page 9

Yet, there's a sense, with this segmented narrative rhythm, that what you're watching feels more like a series of sketches pulled together than a smooth feature comedy film, like *Girls Trip*. Also, the incessant chatting between the two leads seems like strained improv at times and might be better placed on a TV show, where words carry the plotline. Would have been nice if more scenes were purely visual and the script trusted the audience to see the story as well as hear it.

That said, Palmer and SZA rattle off the dialogue like they've lived this story. Alyssa, "We been that girl!!!" Dreux and Alyssa have mad chemistry. They argue, fuss and fight. Makeup and go back to being sister friends all over again. Both lead actors are animated the entire time. Most of their antics are funny. Sometimes it seems like they're working overtime to save the movie. And they do. They're the core.

Palmer is a known TV/movie entity. She's over-excited on *Password*, lively on BET's *Just Keke* and a scene-stealer in movies like

Nope. Her Dreux isn't a new persona, more like an extension of the one she's already created. The surprise in the duo is the Grammy-winning SZA. Who knew? Who knew that this neo soul singer had such comic acting chops? She's fluid with dialogue, batshit crazy when she needs to be and boyfriend addicted in ways that are very funny. Between the two, she's the one that gives a performance that cries out, "I'm ready to helm a comedy series. Bring it on!"

Scenes are peppered with odd characters who add spice. Timane the gruff landlord, Maude Aparrow as Bethany, the white neighbor who's hated then loved and Katt Williams as Lucky, the vagabond streetwise soothsayer. Keyla Monterroso Mejia (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*) plays Kathy, the uppity loan officer who needles the girls unmercifully, with a droll audacity that's hysterical.

In his first feature film, director Lamont guides the madness to its ending. What's so surprising is that as a former video director (*Big Sean: Single Again*) he doesn't showcase a unique,

flowing style. Aside from a split screen, he doesn't really tap into his music video skills. When the duo runs down the streets, in heels, that would have been a good time to display some dazzling camerawork (cinematographer Ava Berkofsky). His best comic instincts are presented during a blood bank sequence. When a clumsy phlebotomist (Janelle James, *Abbott Elementary*) has trouble finding veins in Dreux's arm. It's the film's funniest scene, and Lamont pours on the wackiness and physical comedy until you howl. Some viewers may wish he could've sustained that level of outlandish humor for film's entirety.

Production designer Monique Dias, costume designer Kairo Courts and the music by Chanda Dancy and musical tastes of music supervisors Sarah Bromberg and Stephanie Diaz-Matos help shape the movie's setting and soul. This is a modern day take on urban life where the struggle is real. Their attention to detail corroborates that.

There's enough here to make twentysomethings and the girls' night out crowd holler back at the screen in a local cinema.

In the future, this raucous, R-rated comedy will become a staple on late night streaming services and

draw a much wider audience.

One of Them Days opens on Friday. Wouldn't you

know it.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

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

Clear Channel Outdoor, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America activate National Mentoring Month campaign featuring prominent women leaders

(Black PR Wire) New York, NY – Clear Channel Outdoor (NYSE: CCO), one of the world’s largest out of home (OOH) media providers, and Big Brothers Sisters of America (BBBSA), the preeminent one-to-one youth mentoring organization in the United States, today announced the activation of a national digital out of home (DOOH) media campaign timed with National Mentoring Month.

For the month of January, the digital billboard campaign features leaders from BBBSA’s newest cohort of women ‘Game Changers,’ a powerful collective of influential changemakers in sports, business, entertainment and beyond, united to create access and opportu-

nity for youth, particularly girls and young women.

According to recent CDC data, 3 in 5 teen girls in the U.S. are grappling with significant mental health challenges. National data from the 2023 Ruling Our eXperiences (ROX) Survey also shows that girls’ confidence levels are declining throughout adolescence compared to boys.

Fueled by the shared belief, “if you can see it, you can be it”, the Game Changers are responding to the societal need for positive mentorship by lending their voices and support to shift the mentorship narrative and encourage more volunteers to get involved as mentors. Research indicates that positive mentor-

ing relationships significantly enhance self-esteem and confidence among girls, providing critical support as they navigate the pressures of adolescence.

The ‘Game Changers’ celebrated in this nationwide DOOH social initiative include:

- Carey Arensberg, Educator, Trauma and Resilience Specialist, Social Media Influencer, Alumni Big
- Croix Bethune, NWSL Rookie of the Year, Washington Spirit
- Eden Bridgeman, Owner and CEO EBONY & Jet
- Kardea Brown, Emmy Nominated Food Network Host & Author
- Gizelle George-Joseph, COO, Global Investment Research, Goldman Sachs

• Tammy Henault, Chief Marketing Officer, NBA

• Jeannie Mai, Emmy Award-Winning TV Host and Producer

• Sadé Muhammad, Chief Marketing & Impact Officer, TIME, Alumni Big

• Paula Price, Corporate Board Director, Former Macy’s EVP & CFO

• Marissa Solis, Senior VP, Global Brand, NFL and Alumni Little

• Sehr Thadhani, Chief Digital Officer, NASDAQ

• Lexi Underwood, Actress, Producer, Author, Changemaker

• Sybil Wilkes, Media Maven, Former Co-Host of the Tom Joyner Morning Show

• Michelle Wong, Chief Marketing Officer

• Shelley Zalis, CEO, Female Quotient

The inaugural group of ‘Game Changers,’ launched in 2023, convened prominent Black men to address the urgent representational gap in mentorship by encouraging more Black men to get involved as mentors and supporters.

“We are proud to continue building our partnership

with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Their mission to ignite the power and promise of youth through mentorship is admired throughout the country and has directly influenced the way Clear Channel Outdoor has approached its own mentoring programs,” said Dan Levi, EVP & CMO, Clear Channel Outdoor. “Our work with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America over the past few years has enabled us to harness the power of out-of-home to

See MENTOR, Page 13

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Mela Vitamins teams up with WNBA stars to champion wellness for Black women

Mela is honored to partner with WNBA champions Azurá Stevens (LA Sparks) and Dana Evans (Chicago Sky). These athletes—trailblazers both on and off the court—will join Mela Vitamins as Investors and Brand Ambassadors on a shared mission to empower and educate communities of color about nutrition and wellness. Together, they are leading a movement that transcends athletics and

fosters a culture of inclusive health and wellness. “More than 80% of Black women are vitamin D deficient, a condition linked to double the rates of heart disease, autoimmune disorders, and type 2 diabetes,” said Ashley Harmon, founder and CEO of Mela Vitamins, who personally battled a vitamin D deficiency for years. “This partnership is about creating impactful solutions to

address these health disparities while empowering our communities to prioritize their health and wellness. Azurá and Dana are incredible role models, and we’re honored to have them champion our mission.”

“As an athlete, I’ve seen firsthand how access to the right resources can make all the difference in achieving your full potential” said Azurá Stevens, WNBA Champion and

Mela Vitamins Brand Ambassador. “Black women deserve wellness solutions designed specifically for them, and that’s why I’m proud to partner with Mela Vitamins. This partnership is about more than just supplements—it’s about advancing health equity, empowering our community, and giving Black women the tools they need to thrive.”

“Wellness is so much

more than physical health; it’s about equity, access, and community,” Harmon added. “By collaborating with these incredible athletes, we’re breaking down barriers and driving meaningful change to ensure women of color have the resources and support they need to truly thrive.”

This partnership reflects Mela’s broader commitment to health equity. Mela Vitamins is not only fill-

ing a market gap but also leading a transformative movement in the wellness industry with products and programs designed to address longstanding disparities in nutrition and wellness.

Founded by Ashley Harmon, Mela Vitamins is a wellness brand dedicated to creating science-backed supplements formulated specifically for women of color.

DEMS, from Page 1

fight, with some likening it to abandoning its base to a modern-day Jim Crow era.

Yet, even with Trump’s administration moving rapidly to disenfranchise millions, Democratic leaders like House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries have barely mustered a public outcry. The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), which boasts a record number of members this session, has been equally absent. With Trump’s allies openly threatening democracy, Black Americans and other marginalized groups expected their elected leaders to take an aggressive stand. Instead, they’ve been met with silence and inaction.

What’s particularly infuriating to many is that the warnings about Trump’s return to power were clear. His policies were openly laid out, and his intentions were never hidden. The Supreme Court ruling that

provided him with immunity also extended to Biden while he was still in office. Unlike Republicans, Biden and the Democrats chose not to use it. Some legal scholars argued that, based on the authority provided by the Court and the Constitution, Biden could have declared that the nation was facing a clear and present danger. With a strong legal team and a split Congress, he could have denied Trump the office, at least temporarily, while the courts sorted it out.

Instead, Biden, Bill Clinton, and especially Barack Obama attended Trump’s inauguration. That decision has fueled even more outrage among African Americans, who now feel utterly abandoned by a party they have historically supported.

Jeffries posted on X (formerly Twitter) on January 29:

“The illegal GOP funding

freeze ends Medicaid as we know it, throws children off of Head Start, and starves seniors who rely on Meals on Wheels. Extreme MAGA Republicans support this scheme to rip off hardworking American families. House Democrats will Stop the Steal.”

The post offered no concrete plan to counter Trump’s policies. It also failed to address the direct attacks on African Americans, even after Trump’s press secretary publicly signaled to journalist April Ryan of Black Press USA that the federal government would not recognize Black History Month.

That exchange further infuriated Black voters, particularly given their longstanding loyalty to the Democratic Party. But the frustration boiled over when Professor Hassan Kwame Jeffries, a self-described longtime Democrat and podcast host, dismissed concerns about Democratic

inaction. He posted on X:

“I’m seeing a lot of this, all versions of the same question: what’s the Democrats’ plan to deal with #Trump’s madness?? The plan was vote for #Harris. You said no to the plan.”

Rather than galvanizing support, Jeffries’ dismissive tone only alienated those who had backed former Vice President Kamala Harris. His post sparked widespread anger.

X user Ariana Jasmine expressed the growing outrage among those who supported Democrats, demanding action:

“The nation is falling apart; please, for the love of God, say or DO SOMETHING!!!”

Another user, @ArchangeAntoine, responded bluntly to Jeffries:

“Weak statement! You are discounting the millions of people who said yes. Now again, what the fck is their plan?”*

Despite Trump signing

pardons for January 6 rioters and his allies openly embracing white nationalism, many 2028 Democratic hopefuls have remained silent. According to Politico, the shift in strategy is deliberate. Instead of directly challenging Trump’s authoritarian rule, Democratic leaders are focused on biding their time, avoiding “outrage cycles,” and looking for bipartisan opportunities. The article notes:

“Just a few thousand showed up to protest Trump’s inauguration.”

This is a sharp departure from 2017, when millions mobilized against Trump’s first term. Democrats appear paralyzed, unwilling to take the kind of resistance-driven approach that once defined their opposition to Trump. Michigan State Sen. Malloory McMorrow spoke openly about the inaction, telling Politico:

“My advice is, call it out, be blunt, but don’t shriek about it.”

Meanwhile, Crockett and Ocasio-Cortez stand alone in calling out Trump’s attacks on Black Americans and marginalized communities. Despite their growing influence and millions of social media followers, Democratic leadership continues to ignore them.

The outrage over the party’s silence is growing. X user @WintersPolitics captured the frustration:

“Am I the only one who is mad as hell that AOC and Jasmine Crockett are seemingly the only members of the Democratic Party who are using their platforms to speak out against Trump and MAGA, the oligarchy?”

With Trump moving swiftly to consolidate power, the Democratic strategy of “hope” and “pray” appears to be failing. The party’s reluctance to fight back has left its most loyal supporters feeling abandoned—and many believe Democrats may never recover from this betrayal.

NUBIA, from Page 7

a live band and cozying up amidst Café Nubia’s private booths and lounge. This is a free event; however, reservations are required.

• Sunday, February 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Café Nubia Champagne Brunch: A day for everyone to enjoy, the Café Nubia Champagne

Brunch will feature a buffet-style brunch and bottomless mimosas. From shrimp, grits, chicken and waffles to pasta, falafel and fried plantains, there will be something for every discerning

taste. In addition, the scenic ambience and coastal-inspired patio are the perfect backdrop to capture great photos from a memorable weekend filled with love. Brunch is \$40 per person.

Café Nubia’s celebratory events will unite culture, cuisines, couture, and community. In support of American Heart Month, a percentage of proceeds from the weekend will benefit

the American Heart Association. To purchase tickets to the one-year anniversary events or to learn more about Café Nubia, please visit www.cafenubiadfw.com.

MENTOR, from Page 11

drive positive change within our communities. We have truly built a partnership that is focused on catalyzing positive change for our youth and making a greater impact together.”

“Big Brothers Big Sisters of America’s partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor demonstrates the incredible societal impact that community and corporate collaboration can build together,” said Artis Stevens, Presi-

dent and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. “The Game Changers billboard series harnesses the power of representation and visibility to spark national dialogue about the life-changing role mentorship plays in shaping brighter futures for our youth. By coming together, we’re not only amplifying the voices of these remarkable leaders but also inspiring heroes

in communities across the country to become mentors and make lasting change on the next generation.”

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is the largest and most experienced youth mentoring organization in the United States. The mission of Big Brothers Big

Sisters of America is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters has over 230 local agencies serving more than 5,000 communities across all 50 states. For more information, visit: bbbs.org.



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How Old Is Too Old?

Dr. James L. Snyder

One of my grandchildren asked me quite a penetrating question this week. Everybody knows how perceptive these little people are, especially when they are around big people. I am all for questions and answering questions and that sort of thing. Sometimes, however, the question crosses the wrong line.

“Grandpa,” one of the little people asked, “how old are you?”

I have always told the truth throughout life, which has been a great challenge.

Before I was married, there was no problem about always telling the truth. I always got in trouble if I did not tell the truth, so my practice has been to always tell the truth, no matter how difficult it might be or who it might hurt.

Then I got married. Growing up I did not have much interaction with people of the opposite sex. Actually, they made me nervous every time I was around them. What do you say? What do you talk about? After all, girls are not boys.

After being married for several years, I was presented with a question I was unprepared for. We were going to a banquet and just before leaving the house, my wife looked at me and said, “Does this dress make me look too fat?”

Where was my father when this question was posed? He never prepared me for such questions.

I really did not know what to say. As everybody knows, truth can be relative, especially when you are related to the one who was asking you the question. When it comes to clothing and fashion, I am completely outclassed.

After I got over being stunned by this question posed to me by my wife, a wonderful thought hit me. I looked at her and simply said, “I don’t know about that, but your hair looks beautiful.”

“Oh,” she said with a smile dancing all over her face, “thank you.”

Enough said.

Getting back to the question of the little person, I had to ponder for quite a while. How old am I, really?

I am not sure I can really

answer that kind of question. It all depends upon your definition of old. When I was in my 20s, someone my current age I consider old. Now that I am this age, I understand the word old differently.

How old a person is, has nothing to do with the year of his or her birth. The one thing my father did tell me about people of the opposite sex is, “Never ask a woman her age.” To the best of my knowledge, I have kept to that standard.

“So, grandpa,” the curious little person asked, “how old are you?”

When you have a little person whose age is still in the single digits how do they know anything about age? Most of these little people are most anxious to reach that birthday when their age is double digits. You realize that single digits only last for nine years and double digits last the rest of your life!

This little person looked at me with curiosity all over her face, when a marvelous thought danced into my cranium. I then responded, “Well, I am not as old as your grandma.” For the time being, that satisfied that little slice of

curiosity.

I quickly excused myself because I was quite certain the little person would approach her grandma with that question and I did not want to be in the room.

With all of the fads and the trends today toward looking younger what is a person to do. When young we want to look old and when a person gets to some magical age, they want to look young. What is the right age?

Looking back over my life, I do not know any year I would like to repeat. I certainly do not want to be a teenager again. I remember those teenage years and I was so glad to get out of that age group. My 20s were not any better, except it was during my 20s that I met the person who

later became the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Those were good years.

Then when I got into my 30s, little people started coming into our house. They arrived about 18 to 20 months apart and stopped when the number reached three. Three is a good number.

I certainly do not want to go back to when little people roamed the house day and night. I certainly do not want to go back to when those little people became teenagers. The roughest thing about having teenagers is that it is payback for when you were a teenager. That is why as a grandpa, I smile benignly as I watch my children trying to parent their teenagers.

I would like to remind those parents of what life

was like for me when they were teenagers. It is wonderful being a grandfather who always gets the last laugh.

David understood this when he wrote, “Now also when I am old and grey-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come” (Psalms 71:18).

I am not old; I am just mature for my age.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail james-snyder51@gmail.com or website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

HARRIS, from Page 5

the progress that Vice President Harris has led, whether in our own neighborhoods, communities, or in Washington, D.C. Her leadership has opened doors, but there is still much to be done, and we are committed to standing with her and driving the change that uplifts our communities,” said WWBW partner Holli Holliday,

President of Sisters Lead Sisters Vote.

Notable signatories include Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-3), Donna L. Brazile, Rhonda Briggins, Roslyn Brock, Yvette Nicole Brown, LaTosha Brown, Glynda Carr, Melanie Campbell, Yolanda Caraway, Chris-

tina Cue, Rev. Leah Daughtry, Hazel Dukes, Jotaka Eaddy, Secretary Marcia Fudge, Karen Finney, Tina Flournoy, A’shanti Gholar, Holli Holliday, StarJones, Minyon Moore, Rachel Noerdlinger, Brittany Packnett Cunningham, Symone Sanders Townsend, Angela Rye, Hollye Weekes, as well as thousands of Black women from across the country.

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Other Quotes of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. to Ponder, Part 2



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor



“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” “I just want to do God’s will. And he’s allowed me to go to the mountain. And I’ve seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright day-break of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and uncon-

ditional love will have the final word.” “I submit that an individual who breaks the law that conscience tells him is unjust and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for law.”

“I submit to you that if a man hasn’t discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.” “I want to be the white man’s


brother, not his brother-in-law.” “If a man hasn’t discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.” “If physical death is the price that I must pay to free my white brothers and sisters from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive.” “If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values - that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control.”


“In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” “Injustice anywhere is a threat to jus-

tice everywhere.” “It is incontestable and deplorable that Negroes have committed crimes; but they are derivative crimes. They are

born of the greater crimes of the white society.”

(This column originally ran in January 2012. It has been edited for space.)

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“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: 'In Open Contempt' is an eye-opening look at artwork

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The issue appears to be permanent.

It's been happening for a long time. It doesn't look like it'll stop any time soon, either, and though you've been able to work around it, you shouldn't have to. Some say it might be better some day but you're not holding your breath. As in the new book, "In Open Contempt" by Irvin Weathersby Jr., some things are too set in stone.

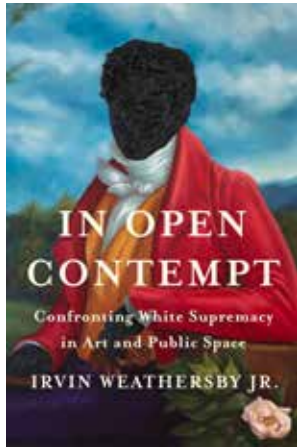
Cemeteries are filled with them.

So are parks, campuses, galleries, museums, and courtyards where, for centuries, humans have left their carved and constructed monuments and artwork celebrating and commemorating our heroes. Those works may be so familiar, in fact, that you might barely notice them, although many of the monuments have lauded white supremacists.

Says Weathersby, while some works have been removed in the recent past, many still stand, quietly, unobtrusively.

In his hometown of New Orleans, for instance, there was great controversy over the removal of statues honoring Civil War figures. The Ninth Ward street that Weathersby lived on as a child honored a slaveholder. Schools he attended nearby were named after men who established racist laws and ways of life.

He didn't know to ques-



tion those things when he was a child, or even as a young man. When he enrolled at Morehouse, an HBCU, though, he "began... unlearning...white supremacist culture." Stories from his great-grandmother helped him see white supremacy clearer.

He found it in South Dakota, at Mt. Rushmore and at Wounded Knee, and he saw its effects at an Indigenous Writer's Festival where he learned of the Dakota 38.

He sees it in art everywhere. He saw it once, when he was jailed overnight for a bike ticket he'd already dealt with. White supremacy is there when he thinks about the innocent people killed by police, and he thinks about how close he came to being a policeman himself.

"Look," he says, "white supremacy everywhere."

And, he says, if we have the courage to actually see it, to look hard and clear at it, "there exists a chance to heal and become empowered."

You know how you can stare and stare at something, only to suddenly realize that there's something about it that's surprising, even shocking, right in front of you? That's the sense you'll get as you read "In Open Contempt," that


smack-your-forehead, duh feeling you get when your eyes are opened wide.

And yet, like many of the things he discovered and points out, author Irvin Weathersby Jr. keeps a quiet presence in his book. His words are soft, but urgent.

Gentle, but insistent. Firm, but prodding, leading, like having a presence sitting on your shoulder, whispering in your ear and urging you to see, to notice, demanding that you tell others, too.

Readers who drive or walk past a monument to a

historical figure every day will surely be spurred to regard it with fresh new eyes, after reading this book. You may never view artwork quite the same, either, because what you'll learn inside "In Open Contempt" is monumental.



McKinney Housing Authority
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.

