



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Target Takes a Hit: \$12.4 billion wiped out

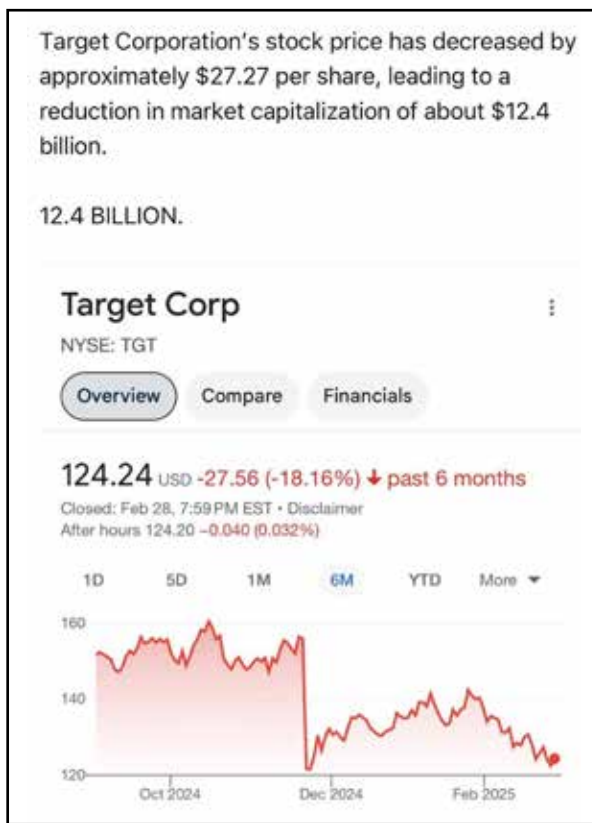
By Stacy Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Target Corporation's stock plummeted by approximately \$27.27 per share by the end of February, erasing about \$12.4 billion in market value. The drop came on February 28, the designated economic blackout day, and coincided with mounting backlash over the retailer's decision to abandon its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) commitments.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has taken action through its Public Education and Selective Buying Campaign. NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. said, "Black consumers helped build Target into a retail giant, and now they are making their voices heard. If corporations believe they can roll back diversity commitments without consequence, they are mistaken."

Reverend Jamal Bryant, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Georgia, has led calls for a "40-Day Target Fast," urging Black consumers to withhold their spending at the retailer. "Black people spend \$12 million a day at Target," Bryant said. "If we withhold our dollars, we can make a statement that cannot be ignored."

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### People In The News ...



Adrienne L. Hooker



Hazel Duker

*NDG Quote of the Week: "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."*

- Langston Hughes

## Adrienne L. Hooker

Great Lakes School of Etiquette is thrilled to announce its six-month residency at The Shops of Willow Bend in Plano, Texas, commencing with a grand opening on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. This residency will offer premier etiquette training classes tailored for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as corporate professionals.

Founded by certified etiquette and protocol consultant Adrienne Hooker in 2010, the school is dedicated to fostering civility, respect, and professionalism in today's dynamic world. With dual certifications



from the Protocol School of Washington and the American School of Protocol, Adrienne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her programs.

Course Offerings in short:

- Children's Manners &

Etiquette: Designed to instill confidence and self-esteem in young learners.

- Teen Etiquette: Focused on helping teens navigate various social situations with poise and respect.

- The Executive Edge: A program aimed at enhancing professional etiquette and leadership skills for corporate individuals.

Each course is interactive and comprehensive, aiming to equip participants with the tools needed to navigate any environment with confidence and grace.

The grand opening event will feature demonstrations of the school's programs, opportunities to meet the instructors, and insights

into the importance of etiquette education in personal and professional development. The local community, businesses, and media are invited to join in celebrating this milestone and exploring the value of etiquette education firsthand.

Event Details:

- Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

- Location: The Shops of Willow Bend, Plano, Texas

For more information about the grand opening event or to learn more about the programs offered, please visit [www.glsoe.com](http://www.glsoe.com) or contact Adrienne L. Hooker at [Adrienne@glsoe.com](mailto:Adrienne@glsoe.com) or (414) 350-0223.

About Great Lakes School of Etiquette:

Established in 2010, Great Lakes School of Etiquette aims to instill confidence in children, teens, and young

adults through comprehensive and interactive programming focused on building character, leadership, manners, and civility. The school offers a variety of courses tailored to different age groups and professional needs, all designed to enrich students' lives and help them navigate various social and professional situations with confidence and respect.

## Hazel Dukes

"She was a warrior in the truest sense of the word and activist extraordinaire." Those words are from Reverend Al Sharpton who is celebrating the life and activism of the iconic Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes, civil rights activist and leader within the ranks of the New York and National Board of the NAACP. Dukes 92 passed away this morning in New York.

Just two weeks ago, Dukes was wheelchair bound and present to perform her duty as NAACP Election Supervisory Chair certifying the elections of the rights groups' board members.

Dr. Ben Chavis, elected in 1993, was the 7th Executive Director and CEO of the NAACP and spoke on the life of Dukes saying, "The transformative leadership legacy of freedom fighter Hazel Dukes will now be enshrined with the greatest honor and respect as a leader of the NAACP in America and throughout the world."



This morning the Chair of the Board of the NAACP Leon W. Russell told Black Press USA that Dr. Dukes led the NAACP New York Conference for 50 years acknowledging, "Her work has helped ensure that the 116-year-old NAACP could remain relevant and continue its work throughout the years. She has been consistent in her work and her support as a member and a leader."

Sharpton says she has known her for almost 50 years since he was a teen. "There never was an issue that she was not out front. We've gone to jail together and the White House together."

Sharpton expects to offer comments at Duke's funeral service. He recalls she was "authentic, committed, and concerned." The rights leader and TV host also says, "We will never have another Hazel Dukes. But thank God we had this one."

The NAACP Board was notified of the passing of Dr. Dukes through the following correspondence this morning:

*Passing of a Loved One. To God Be The Glory!*

*Colleagues, it is with a heavy heart and a profound sense of sadness that I inform you of that our sister, Momma Dukes, went to be with the ancestors at 6:20 AM today. Her transition was officially recorded and announced at 6:38 AM. Please lift her up in prayer and continue to pray for her son Ronald and all of her extended family.*

*It is always hard to send a message like this but as Hazel would say, she is in God's hands now.*

*Dr. Hazel Nell Dukes,*

**See DUKES, Page 13**

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# MSNBC's Ethnic Cleansing



**Dr. John E. Warren**  
Publisher,  
San Diego  
Voice &  
Viewpoint

It appears that the leadership of MSNBC has taken the Trump Kool Aide resulting in its move to either purge and or realign people of color as it separates from NBC.

The firing of Joy Reid and Katie Phang while consolidating three of the remaining Black hosts into a panel presentation in the time slot of Joy Reid and the addition of an hour, apparently are supposed to soften the blow as to what is really taking place.

So if one stops watching the time slot that Joy Reid was in, then you help MSNBC move toward eliminating the three Blacks on the panel filling Joy's time slot.

Perhaps, the most important thing we can do for Joy Reid is to help her get a Podcast going just as Don Lemon did and encourage sponsorship support so that those we spend money with will want to spend money with such a program for Joy.

We can not afford to

waste time arguing with these racist elements of a racist system. We must instead use our money, time, and talents to finance alternatives that serve both our collective and those who share our views and circumstances.

But notice how the new

three million a year compared to Rachel's reduced salary of \$25 million for the next five years. Clearly, Rachel could afford to speak out and her doing so in support of her friend and colleague, Joy Reid, is appreciated.

Perhaps someone should

this Administration in the White House and its Agents of Destruction on the loose, this is truly the time to circle our wagons of information and options starting with the "SBC" (selective buying campaign) aimed at withholding our dollars from those corporations that are canceling DEI and other elements of fairness and equality based on ability and not color.

We have seen nations engage in efforts to remove whole groups of people based on religion or ethnicity. We have called such efforts by others "Ethnic Cleansing".

Now we see the beginning of targeting people in this great nation for removing not only from this country with deportations but also from positions of visibility and authority such as the firing of the Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, apparently just because of his color.

Yes, the firing at MSNBC clearly comes from the same cup the Administration is serving in its campaign against DEI and Affirmative Action. Just like the Trump Administration's agenda, it looks like "Ethnic Cleansing".

*It's interesting that Joy was making three million a year compared to Rachel's reduced salary of \$25 million for the next five years. Clearly, Rachel could afford to speak out and her doing so in support of her friend and colleague, Joy Reid, is appreciated.*

independent MSNBC is handling people of color: Katie Phang and Alex Wagner demoted to network contributors, Jose Diaz is fired while a Latina woman is moved to prime time. Sounds familiar.

Sounds like what just happened to the Joy Reid program and its replacement with the three-person panel of color. It's interesting that Joy was making

suggest that Joy Reid bring her business and followers to the Black Press which already airs a daily radio program with tremendous potential if the right people talk with each other.

Let us not forget that the Black press is still one of the most "Trusted Messengers" in this country, and one of the oldest, lest we forget we are celebrating 198 years of service. With

## TARGET, from Page 1

The NAACP also issued a Black Consumer Advisory in response to Target's DEI rollback, warning Black consumers about corporate retreat from diversity ini-

tiatives. The advisory urges them to support businesses that remain committed to investing in Black communities.

Target is also facing le-

gal battles. Shareholders have filed lawsuits challenging the company's DEI policies, arguing that the commitments hurt financial performance. Meanwhile, conservative groups have sued over Target's diver-

sity efforts, claiming they discriminated against white employees and other groups.

"Consumers have the power to demand change, and Target is learning that lesson the hard way," Chavis said.

Keep up with the news

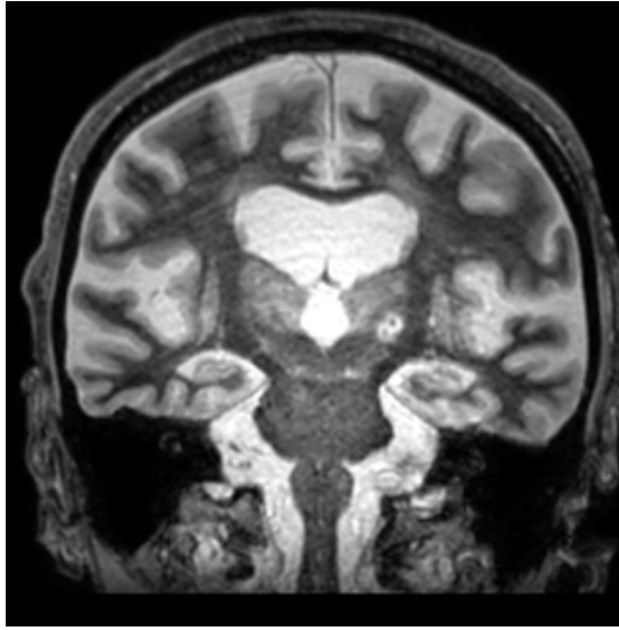
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## UTSW researchers use focused ultrasound to identify stroke biomarkers

(Newswise) — A molecule called glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) rose significantly in the blood of patients who underwent high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU), a procedure that is used to treat tremors and causes damage similar to a small stroke, UT Southwestern Medical Center scientists discovered in a new study. Their findings, published in *Brain Communications*, reveal a potential biomarker for stroke and could eventually lead to blood tests that quickly diagnose brain injuries.

“This is the first study to use HIFU as a controlled model to evaluate brain injury biomarker dynamics,” said Bhavya R. Shah, M.D., Associate Professor of Radiology and Neurological Surgery at UT Southwestern as well as in the Advanced Imaging Research Center. He’s also an Investigator in the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute and a member of the



*A coronal magnetic resonance imaging section shows a high-intensity focused ultrasound lesion in the left thalamus of the brain. (UTSW)*

Center for Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Diseases. “The ability to pair a timed pre- and post-HIFU measurement with precise lesion delivery is unprecedented and offers extraordinary potential for validating blood biomarkers of brain injury in a way that has not been done before.”

Dr. Shah co-led the

study with Nil Saez-Calveras, M.D., a fourth-year Neurology resident at UT Southwestern.

Every year, nearly 800,000 people in the U.S. have a stroke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This condition is characterized by inadequate blood flow to regions of the brain,

causing brain cells to die from a lack of oxygen. Although strokes can be diagnosed using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), delays in care can lead to worse outcomes, explained Dr. Shah, who is also a member of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UTSW.

In 2016, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new treatment for tremor disorders in which physicians use HIFU to burn away a targeted portion of the thalamus, the brain region where many types of tremors originate. Six years later, Dr. Shah and his colleagues reported a new technique that significantly improved HIFU targeting for this treatment. Recently, the team realized that the controlled brain injury caused by this therapy looks indistinguishable from stroke in brain imaging – the two types of damage have several features in common, including how the brain responds to these

injuries, Dr. Shah said.

The researchers wondered whether this similarity could help them achieve a long-held goal of diagnosing stroke and brain injury through markers in the blood, Dr. Saez-Calveras said. Research toward this end has been stymied by a lack of blood measurements taken before stroke occurs, differences in where brain injury occurs in stroke patients, uncertainty about when a stroke occurred, and physiological differences among patients.

They reasoned that using the HIFU treatment as a research tool could overcome these challenges. In the new study, 30 patients at UTSW with tremor-dominant Parkinson’s disease or another movement disorder called essential tremor received HIFU to treat these conditions. The researchers collected blood samples immediately before the procedure, as well as one hour and 48 hours after. They then measured

the concentrations of five molecular markers that previous research suggested might hold promise for diagnosing brain injuries: GFAP, neurofilament light chain, amyloid-beta 40, amyloid-beta 42, and phosphorylated tau 181 (pTau-181).

Forty-eight hours after HIFU treatment, all the molecular markers except pTau-181 had risen significantly; however, GFAP rose the most, more than quadrupling on average compared to pre-treatment measurements.

Based on these findings, Dr. Saez-Calveras said, GFAP could hold significant promise as a marker for stroke and other types of brain injury. The researchers plan to continue to study GFAP’s rise at different points after HIFU treatment to determine its feasibility as a diagnostic marker for brain injury. In addition, they are investi-

**See UTSW, Page 8**

## Seniors Beware: O’Malley says Trump-Musk cuts will cripple Social Security

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Former Maryland Governor and former Social Security Commissioner Martin O’Malley warned that the Trump-Musk administration’s sweeping cuts to the Social Security Administration’s workforce will lead to major disruptions in benefits for millions of Americans. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has ordered a 50% reduction in Social Security’s workforce. The agency, already at its lowest staffing levels in 50 years, announced



*Photo via NNPA*

that it will soon implement large-scale layoffs. “These cuts will inflict a lot of pain on seniors and people with disabilities,” O’Malley said

in a news conference on Friday. “Social Security is being driven to a total system collapse.”

He said five of SSA’s

eight regional commissioners have resigned following the push for deeper reductions. Responding to a question from BlackPressUSA, O’Malley said it’s up to Congress to stop the bleeding. He said, despite handling a record number of beneficiaries, Social Security operates with just 1.2% overhead, far below private insurers like Liberty Mutual, which operates at 23%. O’Malley said productivity had improved by 6% year over year, but the restructuring will erase that progress. “The Republican House has already reduced staffing at Social Security to a 50-year low. Now

co-Presidents Musk and Trump want to cut customer service in half,” he said. O’Malley called the administration’s decision to offer full-year salary buyouts to retirement-eligible employees and \$25,000 bonuses to others the biggest waste of Social Security dollars in U.S. history. “The actions being taken by the Trump-Musk administration to gut customer service and drive employees out of this greatly understaffed agency will break Social Security as we have known it for 90 years,” he said.

He also raised concerns about data security, noting that sharing Social Security

information is a fireable offense. While Trump has said Social Security “won’t be touched,” Musk has defended the cuts by claiming they are necessary to stop “extreme levels of fraud.” However, Musk has not provided proof for this claim. Rich Couture, spokesman for the American Federation of Government Employees SSA General Committee, said any layoffs will hurt the public and undermine Social Security. “Seniors and people on disability should start putting away what money they can now,” O’Malley said. “Benefit check interruptions are coming soon.”

# Democrats defy Trump's address as chaos erupts in Congress

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Just before President Donald Trump took the podium to deliver his address to a joint session of Congress, Democratic Texas Rep. Jasmine Crockett sent a message loud and clear: He is “not like us.” Crockett, dancing and lip-syncing to Kendrick Lamar’s culture-defining hit, later punctuated her defiance with a pointed jab. “Well... the State of the ‘DisUnion’ will begin shortly,” Crockett noted. “I’m gonna be in attendance.” It was just one of many signs of resistance from Democrats who braced for what they predicted would be an address filled with misinformation and political grandstanding. Undeterred, Crockett implored her millions of social media followers, “Do not watch.”

The defiance extended beyond rhetoric. House



Paul Rissing via NNPA

Democratic leadership refused to participate in the traditional escort committee that brings the president into the House chamber, a symbolic rebuke of Trump’s presidency. A spokesperson for Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said the move “speaks for itself.” It was a notable departure from the morning’s strategy session, during which Jeffries and his leadership team urged House Democrats to focus on Americans suffering under Trump’s policies. However, when Trump took the stage, unity gave way to unfiltered outrage. Trump entered

the chamber, flanked by Speaker Mike Johnson, determined to present his administration as a sweeping success. The reality outside his rhetoric told a different story.

Days before the address, Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance engaged in a heated and globally embarrassing Oval Office confrontation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, rocking the international community. The exchange reinforced concerns that Trump is abandoning Ukraine in favor of his well-documented admiration for Russian

leader Vladimir Putin. On the domestic front, his administration has dismantled civil rights protections, slashed federal jobs, and thrown millions into uncertainty. Yet, standing before Congress, Trump claimed that more Americans believe the country is on the right track for the first time in modern history. “Now, for the first time in modern history, more Americans believe that our country is headed in the right direction than the wrong direction,” Trump declared. That was false.

Of the eighteen “right track/wrong track” polls archived by RealClearPolitics since Trump took office, only two showed more respondents believing the country was moving in the right direction—one by Rasmussen with a one-point margin and another by Emerson College with a four-point edge. Meanwhile, sixteen other polls showed the opposite, some

revealing double-digit margins. The RealClearPolitics average showed a nearly nine-point lead for “wrong track.” Yet Trump stood before the American people and claimed victory. The speech had barely begun when Rep. Al Green of Texas stood in the aisle, waving his cane at the president. Lawmakers responded with cheers and boos, forcing Speaker Johnson to issue repeated warnings for decorum.

“Members are engaging in willful and continuing breach of the quorum, and the chair is prepared to direct the Sergeant at Arms to restore order to the joint session,” Johnson declared. He then ordered Green’s removal from the chamber. While Republicans erupted in applause throughout Trump’s speech, Democrats sat stone-faced. Some took it further, removing their jackets to reveal messages emblazoned in white on their backs. Some read,

“Resist.” Florida Rep. Maxwell Frost’s shirt said, “No More Kings.” At the start of Trump’s speech, Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan held up a whiteboard with the words, “That’s a Lie.”

Some Democrats refused to attend the address altogether. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York announced her absence on social media. “I’m not going to the Joint Address. I will be live posting and chatting with you all here instead. Then going on IG Live after,” she wrote. Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut also dismissed Trump’s speech as a “MAGA pep rally” and chose to spend the evening at an event with MoveOn. “We have to fight every single day, every single day,” Murphy proclaimed. Rep. Becca Balint of Vermont also made her position clear. “I watched him take an oath to uphold and protect the Constitu-

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# The Early Childhood Education Profession: The role of the child development associate credential

By Lauren Brooks  
Council for Professional  
Recognition

The recent Early Educators Leadership Conference (EELC) was an opportunity for early childhood educator leaders to network and learn from one another. The Council for Professional Recognition organized the conference and engaged several trailblazers in the field to discuss the importance of high-quality early childhood education and the impact of the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). CDA is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education, and it is a key steppingstone on the path of career advancement in the sector. The CDA is based on a core set of competency standards that guide early childhood professionals toward becoming qualified educators of young children. The Council works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development.

Lauren Brooks with the Council interviewed Dr. Kim Krzanowski, executive director of the Early Childhood Innovation Center at Delaware State University. They discussed the



*CDA is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education, and it is a key steppingstone on the path of career advancement in the sector. (Photo via NNPA)*

impact of the CDA and the Council on early childhood educators and the communities they serve.

**Lauren:** Please tell us about your journey and current role in the field of early childhood education.

**Dr. Kim Krzanowski:** I've been in the field of early childhood for about 20 years. I started as an infant toddler teacher and went on to become a preschool teacher. I was a director for quite a few years and then I wanted to figure out how I could support the workforce in a different way. So, I landed in higher education.

**Lauren:** Why should people care about early childhood education?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** It's the most fundamental priority in the world. Children are the most precious cargo that we have and to not prioritize their health, well-being, and education is insane to me. I've seen what happens when children receive

a quality start in life. As a result, I'm a staunch advocate for this work. It should literally be on the top of everyone's docket, and everyone's priority. We cannot expect people to thrive and grow if they do not have a quality fundamental start. And that start is early childhood education.

**Lauren:** How does having a Child Development Associate credential allow early childhood educators to provide a quality start for young children?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** I've seen the difference the CDA makes in classrooms and with educators. When an educator walks in and says I have a CDA, suddenly their confidence shines and you also see their confidence in classrooms with children day in and day out. So, the importance of the CDA is that it is the signal that keeps shining to the rest of the world indicating that early childhood educators are here to stay, they

are vital, they are important, and earning the credential is the best first step that they can take in their career trajectory.

**Lauren:** Who do you encourage to earn a CDA?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** If you have a passion for working with children, and you want to really set yourself up for success, then you should earn a CDA. CDA allows you to think about the competencies, practices, and best practices that you are learning while you're completing your portfolio, getting ready for your observation, and preparing for the exam. It puts you in a place where you are ready to be the best educator that you can be. It is really the thing that catapults ECE educators to the next level in their careers.

**Lauren:** How can you tell that a CDA has made a difference in the way an educator teaches young children?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** When I walk into an early childhood program, the first thing that I do is listen. I listen to the voices of children and the voices of adults. I can tell pretty much instantaneously what kind of training and professional development credentials people have. It's all about the demeanor, professionalism and the tone. When I hear educators engage

with children at a child's level and talk about investigating, exploring words, language, and science, that is not something that you just pull out of a hat. That's something that you learn and through the process of obtaining your CDA, learning that is embedded into the program. So, when I walk through, you can pretty much pinpoint educators who have gone through the CDA program, some who have not, and some who are in the middle. You see differences in the way people talk, act, and their responses to situations in the classroom. They understand those competencies and their living and breathe them in the classroom.

**Lauren:** What's exciting about ECE today?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** I think just about the fact that you have the potential to change someone's life, not even potentially, you ARE changing someone's life when you are in a classroom of children. Whether you work with infants, toddlers, or preschoolers, you can influence their trajectory. Providing children with a high-quality early education gives them the foundation to be successful as they grow and learn and move into kindergarten and beyond.

**Lauren:** Can you tell us more about your program?

And how did you incorporate the CDA into your program?

**KK:** The Early Childhood Innovation Center was a dream that I had for a very long time. I knew that we had to do something big and bold. So, we knew that the CDA would play an important role in the development of this program, and it has. I'm excited to say that we opened our program in 2023 and last year, we celebrated over 200 CDAs at a recognition event. Those are numbers that Delaware has not seen ever. So, it's very, very exciting. We have a saying that we use: "Insist on Success." It doesn't matter what's going on in a person's life, we want to make sure that they can walk across that stage and obtain that CDA.

**Lauren:** That's a huge emphasis on the CDA! Why did you feel that the CDA was so important to weave into the program versus perhaps just aiming to get folks an associate's or a bachelor's degree in early childhood education?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** I believed it was important because it's the national standard. A CDA is recognized not just in Delaware, but nationally. And I believe that the aspect of the CDA was important for our stu-

See EARLY, Page 13



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# National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Fort Worth Metropolitan Chapter hosts 'Fashion for Royalty' event

By Katherine M. Brown

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Fort Worth Metropolitan Chapter hosted Fashioned for Royalty: Where Luxury Meets Lifestyle on Saturday evening, March 1st. It was held at the Oaks Event Center in Burleson, Texas.

According to the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Fort Worth Metropolitan Chapter President Mia Johnson, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Incorporated is an advocacy organization. Johnson says that "their mission is to advocate on behalf of black women and girls, to promote gender equity, and leadership development in the areas of health, education, and economic empowerment".

Johnson says that Fashioned for Royalty: Where Luxury Meets Lifestyle serves as their annual scholarship fundraiser.

"It is where we celebrate the brilliance and the magnificence of young women," says Johnson. "There are their skills, their talents, and we're able to raise funds to be able to give them scholarships so that they can further their education."

The purpose of the event is to raise funds for scholarships, but it is also when one woman receives a special award.

"Today a very deserving woman is going to receive the Dr. Opal Lee Advocacy Award," says Johnson. "Dr. Opal Lee is a member of our chapter as well, but we did create an award in her



*Nevaeh Caldwell received the "Outstanding Academic Merit" scholarship. She will be attending Spelman College in the fall. (Courtesy photo)*



*Madison Davis received the "Empowering Through Education" scholarship. She will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall. (Courtesy photo)*

honor. We want to honor people in the community that are doing things in similar tandem as Dr. Opal Lee does and advocating in the community. We'll be also awarding that. We're giving out two scholarships, and still raising funds to continue to do this every year."

The organization wants to help the young women pay for college.

"We are strictly here to raise funds and to be

able to continue to donate money into their scholarship funds, so that every year we're able to award scholarships. We do hope to increase our scholarships every year," says Johnson. "We want to be able to assist. We know that going to college is expensive and not just your tuition, but the expenses in regards to just regular books and technology fees and meal plans and things of that nature. College is very expensive.

The young ladies who receive the scholarships are essentially the benefactors of this particular event."

Johnson says that the organization wants to do more to help.

"We're going to continue to do this every year to continue to raise funds. We want to continue to be able to increase not just the amount of the awards, but we want to increase the number of awards that we give. This year we're giving two, and then we're going to reassess and see what we can do next year."

The event is the organization's second one, though it will be annual moving forward.

"The one we held last year was also a fashion show, but my goal was to continue to increase the visibility and to increase the actual event every year," says Johnson. "That's what we have done here today. I'm very proud of what we've done today."

Johnson noticed that the events she saw happening started to all look the same, so a fashion show was something different they

could do.

"What I've noticed is that there are certain looks," says Johnson. The events are starting to kind of look the same, so to speak - not that there's anything wrong with how any other organization or church or what decides to hold an event, but we want it to be just different. We see a lot of gals. We see the masquerade balls. We see the sneaker balls. We see a lot of some of the similar events and we wanted to do something

**See FASHION, Page 12**




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# Dallas Mavericks look to stay afloat in crowded Western Conference

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Contributing Writer

Injuries, injuries, and more injuries have crippled a Dallas Mavericks team that currently holds the last spot in the Play-In Tournament as the No. 10 seed. The list of players out nursing an injury include Anthony Davis (adductor), Caleb Martin (hip), Daniel Gafford (knee), PJ Washington (ankle), and most recently Jaden Hardy (ankle) and Kyrie Irving (knee). Irving went down with what was ruled a left knee sprain during Monday's game against the Kings on March 3. Showing a true testament of dedication to his teammates and strength, Irving remained in the game to knock down two free throws while not being able to put pressure on his left leg to leave the possibility of him returning to the game open—Irving was ruled out shortly after. The Mavs found out the next day that Irving actually suffered a season-ending torn ACL in his left knee.

"I think we're just praying for [Kyrie Irving], that he gets better. Like you said, that's our leader. That's our



DWG Studio

guy right there. He's just everything to the team, so special. And I just hope he gets better, Naji Marshall said following a loss to the Sacramento Kings.

Irving's injury is a devastating blow to Dallas and now they must try to weather yet another storm or tsunami to be exact. Irving is a nine-time NBA All-Star and is averaging 24.7 points, 4.8 rebounds, and 4.6 assists this season. His impact on and off the court is irreplaceable.

While the Mavs hold the No.10 seed, they are only a game and a half behind the Golden State Warriors for the No. 6 seed as of Tuesday March 4. There will certainly be some reshuffling as the current six through ten standings are as followed:

6. Golden State Warriors (33-28)

7. Los Angeles Clippers (32-28)

8. Sacramento Kings (32-28)

9. Minnesota Timberwolves (33-29)

10. Dallas Mavericks (32-30)

The road ahead for Dallas will certainly be a tough one to tread with so many key players out, but head coach Jason Kidd does an admirable job getting the most out of his players and instilling a next man up mentality. Players like Max Christie, Naji Marshall, and Klay Thompson will be counted upon to be key contributors on both sides of the floor.

"Next man up. That's it. That's why you have a team. Injuries, illness. We've been through this before. Next man up," Kidd said earlier this season.

According to NBA.com

es; Jaime Vaquer-Alicea, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases and of Biochemistry; and Alexander Asturias, D.O., and James Yu, M.D., Radiology residents.

Drs. Diamond, Stopschinski, and Vaquer-Alicea are Investigators in the O'Donnell Brain Institute.

The study was funded by grants from the Presbyterian Foundation and the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Foundation.

Dallas has the 14th toughest schedule to close out the second half of the season. The Phoenix Suns are 3.5 games behind Dallas for the final Play-In Tournament spot and have the toughest remaining schedule—facing opponents with

an average win percentage of 58.5%. If the Dallas Mavericks can hold the ship steady and go into the Play-In Tournament as a relatively healthy team with Anthony Davis as their leader, they could potentially play spoiler. The downside of

entering the Play-In tournament as the No. 10 seed is that there is little room for error—having to win two single elimination games without your unquestioned leader is a tall task. Time will tell if the Dallas Mavericks are up for it.

## UTSW, from Page 4

gating hundreds of other molecules as potential candidates that might suggest possible brain injury earlier than GFAP. The team has also begun collecting blood from emergency stroke patients to determine if GFAP is elevated.

"Our study validates the use of focused ultrasound as a platform for biomarker discovery for brain diseases," Dr. Saez-Calveras said.

Other UTSW researchers who contributed to this study include Marc Diamond, M.D., Director of the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases and Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience; Padraig O'Suilleabhain, M.D., Professor of Neurology; Barbara Stopschinski, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology and in the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases

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# Film Review: 'No Other Land' is definitely worth the watch

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*\*) “They shot my son in front of me. I lifted his head and his blood poured on me.”

The people of Masafer Yatta are brave in the face of genocide. Their beautiful mountainous region, home of 20 ancient Palestinian villages on the West Bank, is being encroached upon. Homes and businesses are being demolished. Thankfully the injustices they endure are being chronicled and archived by courageous filmmakers. One of the documentarians is Basel Adra, an observer/activist/writer who is part of this besieged community. He’s cataloguing everything as his people are being forced into a nomadic life.

Over the course of five tortuous years, during an onslaught of intimidation and violence, the filmmaker team chronicles what they can. Andra’s friend and co-writer/director Yuval Abraham, an Israeli journalist, is with him every step of the way, on camera and off. Rachel Szor, an Israeli cinematographer/editor/director, along with Hamdan Ballal, a Palestinian photographer/filmmaker, are the two other members of this Palestinian/Israeli collective. They show and tell all they see and hear regardless of threats, danger and personal injury.

In just 92 minutes their illuminating footage reveals enough drama, history, aggression, ingenuity, persistence, courage, struggle and hostility to fill a year-long docuseries. So much of what is packed into this non-fiction film is relevant, current and dire, in ways



Basel Adra in *No Other Land* (Photo courtesy Antipode films)

that make your eyes stayed glued to the screen. It’s amazing this story is getting out. Amazing that the people of Masafer Yatta and their sense of community are still alive and that these steadfast citizens can control their own narrative.

If the job of an investigative documentary is to expose truth, especially when others won’t, the two filmmakers in front of the camera, Basel and Yuval, along with Szor and Ballal, are extraordinary documentarians. Their smartphones and cameras don’t miss much. Certainly not the grief Basel’s mother expresses after his brother has been gun-downed and paralyzed by Israeli soldiers: “They shot my son in front of me. I lifted his head, and his blood poured on me.”

Her words are shocking and the visuals of what’s happening to the Abraham family and their village is even more alarming. There is no let up. Their houses are bulldozed. They move and build more homes, more schools. Then those buildings are leveled. And

so on... The shallow reason given for the demolition is that the Israeli army needs the territory to expand its military training ground. But anyone can see that the aggressors are just stealing the land.

So much of what’s on view is hard to watch, but you feel you must. That you need to be a witness. Someone who’ll join others in retelling this story, summoning pressure for a halt to the methodical encroachment and encouraging a planning process for a two-state solution. If these Palestinian and Israeli filmmakers can coalesce and work together, so can the leaders of the Palestinian people and Israel. Whoever they may be.

Similarities to other injustices are obvious. The Genocide of Native Americans, America’s Jim Crow segregation laws and civil rights abuses, the troubles in Northern Ireland, South Africa’s Apartheid—and the holocaust. The parallels are most obvious when Abraham’s people demonstrate, with signs, bull horns and battle cries like: “Palestin-

ian lives matter” and “One, two, three, four occupation no more.”

There’s a sameness too in that sobering, lifesaving talk that Black parents give their kids about how to interact with the police and the harsh reality checks Palestinian parents give their children. That parallel is on view when Basel’s mother says to him in an almost matter-of-fact manner: “Basel I will wash your clothes so if you go to jail, you’ll have a bag ready.”

This exploration of the plight of the Palestinians and the people of Masafer Yatta is a microcosm of a

bigger picture. A small story with a gigantic implications. A very personal accounting in which the two lead filmmakers’ eyes and anecdotes become the lens and storyline that exposes so much. Basel and Yuval are young, intelligent, articulate and circumspect. They’re more than willing to reveal their inner thoughts, realities and frustrations. That’s their demeanor as they continuously witness the largest forced transfer ever carried out in the occupied West Bank. A heinous expulsion.

Basel, who has a law

See FILM, Page 10

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# NDG Book Review: 'Firstborn Girls' is a peek into the mind of a Black writer

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Bible includes a lot of begetting.

Cush begat Nimrod. Jacob begat Joseph. Abraham begat Isaac. Salmon begat Boaz and Boaz begat Obed and on and on and on. You might notice that those lines are all fathers and sons, sons and grandsons but in the new book, "Firstborn Girls" by Bernice L. McFadden, it's like mother, like daughter.

For most of her life, Bernice McFadden was followed by her "angelcestors," who watched over her and kept her safe. They swung into action when she was a toddler trapped in a fiery car accident; they subtly stopper her many times when, as a young girl in Brooklyn, she considered killing her abusive, alcoholic father, Robert.

She was never sure why her mother, Vivian, stayed with Robert. Maybe it was because Vivian's mother, Thelma, had loved abusive men, and other women in the family had had man-problems. McFadden's matriarchal tree was riddled by that kind of thing, by domestic violence, hasty marriages, and early death and early pregnancies. In addition, it seemed like every first-born girl in McFadden's lineage ran away at age 15.

And yet, for McFadden, there



were a lot of saving graces through her life. As a child, she spent time every year in Barbados, summering with extended family; there was always family around for support. Neither of her parents graduated from high school, but she did – in fact, because of the car accident, she was able to escape her father's abuse and attend a private high school in Pennsylvania, and then college, later.

And she kept tucked away a dream of being a writer.

When she was still quite young, McFadden cried when the main character on TV's *The Waltons* published his first book. John Boy was a white man, though, and she didn't dare think the opportunity was there for a Black

girl but she grew and learned, watched and learned some more. And she began to understand that knowledge is just another kind of seed, and seeds can grow into stories.

Have you ever accidentally eavesdropped on a stranger in a public place and before you know it, whatever she's saying makes you want to lean in and hear more? That's what it's like to read "Firstborn Girls." You'd gladly give up your afternoon or skip your bus or train stop because you simply have to know what's next.

And when you do, it's unbelievably satisfying. Author Bernice L. McFadden's style invites her readers into her life, even in – especially in – the messy parts, and her candor is casual and comfortable without a speck of overwrought embellishment, which will make you feel as though you were there, right with her, in every event. She's funny and gossipy and relatable, which is exactly what you want in a memoir.

If you're a fan of McFadden's novels, "Firstborn Girls" is a peek inside the making of a writer, and it plainly proves why Black authors are important. If you just want a great memoir from a first-rate storyteller, you should be getting it.

American media. Not the shrinking Palestinian lands, nor the soldiers, settlers and government that are seemingly driving them to the sea. The footage catches them in the act, just like the videos of George Floyd or Eric Garner.

How many people would literally risk their lives to tell a story? That's why *No Other Land* is the most powerful non-fiction film of the year. The most profound. Tell someone.

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

## FILM, from Page 9

degree, is circumspect: "I am stressed because I have nothing to do ... Our economy is ruined, and you can only find work in Israel." His partner Yuval listens attentively, well aware of his privilege. He can go between Israel and the West Bank freely. Basel cannot. Even with that freedom, Yuval experiences his own peril as the right wing in his country harasses him and his family. Watching these two courageous journalists

is never less than inspiring. Different but similar in power to the Oscar-nominated documentary *Last Men in Aleppo*, which covered war-torn Syria.

The cinematography and precision editing by all four filmmakers is as professional as it is purposeful. The people on view, from Basel's mom and brother to his activist father, continuously humanize a tragedy that doesn't get the attention it should in the

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# 'Black Men Smile' prioritizes Black joy in bleak times

(Black PR Wire) Ten years ago, Carlton Mackey, like much of the country's Black population, was overwhelmed with media images of death, anger and unrest in the wake of Michael Brown's killing. Ferguson, Missouri, and cities across the country erupted in protest, and social media users mourned Brown, who was killed by a police officer.

Mackey waded through the social media hashtags circulating at the time: #BlackLivesMatter, #MikeBrown, #HandsUpDontShoot, all delivering hundreds of results with images exuding sadness, pain and frustration.

Then, he typed in the

hashtag #BlackMenSmile.

"It yielded zero results. I was angry and confused," Mackey said. He decided to take action. He thought, "This is an opportunity to claim a space and make it a place where you can go and see and know there is another modality of existence. One of joy and reflections of our life."

"The hashtag #BlackMenSmile was an opportunity to take up a space that had not been claimed," he said.

Mackey made it his mission to promote images of men smiling and expressing joy amid the political turmoil. It quickly grew into a mini movement. Men across the country

populated the hashtag with smiling images alongside vulnerable captions about personal growth and optimism. One man wrote that he smiles because he has "hope that my situation will change." Another wrote, "Thinking about how far I've come from one form of life to another, but knowing that I'm still the same kid that made his first playstation out of cardboard."

Over the years, the small team of two — Mackey and the company's director of narrative media, Jeremiah Griffin — has grown the empowerment company from the ground up. Today, the brand's Instagram account has more

than 100,000 followers and has expanded into apparel, with a line of sweatshirts and other items brandishing messages like "Black Joy is Revolutionary."

Under the Black Men Smile umbrella is a pair of YouTube series, "Je's Journal," which features discussions about fatherhood, relationships and faith, and "Greenhouse Conversations," a nature-themed exploration of Black mental health and spirituality.

Mackey's original mission was simple: "It was about celebrating the way we saw ourselves. It was about placing value and

emphasis and priority on what we have to say about ourselves and not the stories that are being told about us," he said.

Their company's largest collaboration came in 2024 when Target locations across the country briefly sold Black Men Smile apparel as part of Target's Black History Month collection. Nearly a year later, the collaboration is bitter-sweet, Mackey said, given the company's recent announcement that it will roll back its diversity, equity and inclusion programs, following suit with other large retailers including

Walmart and Lowe's.

Mackey said that although the collaboration was a major accomplishment, he likely would not work with Target again as a result of its decision. "I wouldn't choose to essentially condone that behavior by putting my brand in the store at this critical time," he said.

"I'm basing my decision on a principled argument of being in solidarity with the larger body, the larger movement, of Black people who are making conscious decisions" about where to spend their money, he added.

## CONGRESS, from Page 5

tion, and all he did was spew lies, stoke division, and make no effort to unify our country. I won't sit and watch him lie to the American people again," she asserted. Despite his claims, Trump failed to offer any real economic plan.

He blamed Biden for inflation while ignoring that his tariffs on China, Canada, and Mexico are set to raise prices even further, a reality already confirmed by economists. Yet he promised "dramatic and immediate relief" while enacting policies that would do the opposite. At one point, Trump took credit for ending the so-called "weaponized government," portraying himself as the victim. "And we've ended weaponized government where, as an example, a sitting president is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent. Like

me," he said. Republicans cheered. Beyond the speech's theatrics, the real story remains the fallout of Trump's second term. Civil rights protections have been dismantled. Federal workers have been fired en masse. Veterans and people with disabilities have been left scrambling. MAGA loyalists have received unchecked power. And yet, the president stood before Congress and told Americans everything was fine. Rep. Crockett, however, was not having it.

She fired back without hesitation when asked if she had anything to say to Trump. "Grow a spine and stop being Putin's hoe," Crockett railed, using language that proved common in an earlier meeting between CBC members and Black journalists. The apparent divide in the chamber became more undeni-

able as television cameras panned across the room. Republicans stood, grinning, basking in Trump's promises. Democrats, many dressed in bright pink as a deliberate display of protest, sat in silence. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández of New Mexico, chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, explained the color choice. "Pink is a color of power and protest," she said "It's time to rev up the opposition and come at Trump loud and clear." By the time Trump's speech ended, one thing was clear. Democrats aren't backing down. They aren't standing idly by as Trump and his enablers attempt to rewrite reality. They aren't going to pretend that what's happening to this country is normal. As Trump walked out of the chamber, the message left behind by Democrats and on the backs of those standing in defiance said it all. "Resist."



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# Black America braces for impact as Trump's tariffs land

Tariffs set to take effect Tuesday will impose a 25% levy on imports from Canada and Mexico and an additional 10% on Chinese goods. The Trump administration insists the move will protect American industries, but economists and civil rights leaders warn the fallout will be devastating for African

Americans and other marginalized communities. Prices on everyday essentials are expected to rise sharply. The U.S. imports 63% of its vegetables and nearly half of its fruits and nuts from Mexico, making grocery costs an immediate concern. Gas prices are also likely to surge as Canada, the country's largest crude

oil supplier, is hit with tariffs. Low-income families, already struggling with inflation, will bear the brunt of these increases.

"For Black and brown people, who statistically spend the most as a percentage of wealth, the impact is going to be se-

vere," Calvin Boomer, a financial analyst, said. "This isn't just about trade policy—it's about survival for communities already fighting economic disparity." The auto industry, a major employer of African Americans, is also bracing for disruption. Tariffs could

add up to \$3,000 to vehicle costs, potentially leading to declining sales and job losses. "We're looking at a repeat of what happened in 2018 when Trump's first tariffs led to layoffs," said Maurice Richardson, an autoworker in Michigan. "Except this time, it's going to

be worse."

The NAACP has condemned the tariffs, warning that they will deepen racial economic disparities. Democratic lawmakers have also spoken out, calling the move reckless and out of touch with working-class struggles.

## FASHION, from Page 7

very different, and bring not just visibility to the organization, but to the city of Fort Worth."

Entertainment for the night included various couples dancing, poetry, and a fashion show. The fashion show showcased designs by kish|me, Soula, and F&L Signature Fedoras. Food was also served throughout the evening.

The "Outstanding Academic Merit" scholarship recipient was Nevaeh Caldwell. Ms. Caldwell will be attending Spelman College in the fall. The "Empowering Through Education" scholarship recipient was Madison Davis. Ms. Davis will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall.

The Dr. Opal Lee Advocacy Award was presented to Commissioner Lisa Simmons. Although Commissioner Simmons couldn't attend the event herself, someone else accepted the award on her behalf.

During the night, guests could also buy products from various vendors in another room. One business was Peter Piper Prints, which sells custom design items, such as shirts, aprons, banners, and hats. Another brand was Lamik Beauty, which is a clean

and non-toxic makeup line made in Texas. Another brand was Nugget Pop Art, which sells paintings of black people and inspirational art. The business Bougie Cowgirl was present at the event, and it sells wine and candles. The brand Build-A-Scent was also present, and it sells custom fragrance.

Johnson says that it's important to keep pouring into the youth.

"I think that right now - in the climate that we are in - I think it's essentially very important for us to continue to keep our foot on the gas and continue to pour into our youth," says Johnson. "We can't let up. We can't stop. We can't allow any outside influences to take our attention away from the goal. This event - we have a goal in mind. Outside of just this particular event we want to make sure that we are visible in the community so that they know that we are here. We are a staple in the community and we are standing with the community and advocating in those areas - health, education, economic empowerment, public policy - that is what we do and we'll continue to do so."

To learn more, visit <http://ncbwfortworth.org/>.



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### 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<br>January<br>28, 2025   | 4:30pm | Board of<br>Commissioners<br>Meeting | Merritt Homes<br>Community Center | 1200 N. Tennessee St.<br>McKinney, TX 75069 |
| Thursday<br>February 13,<br>2025 | 4:30pm | Public Meeting                       | Newsome Homes<br>Community Center | 1450 Amcott St.<br>McKinney, TX 75069       |
| Tuesday<br>February 25,<br>2025  | 4:30pm | Board of<br>Commissioners<br>Meeting | Merritt Homes<br>Community Center | 1200 N. Tennessee St.<br>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](mailto:info@mckinneyha.org). The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 25th at 4:30pm - Merritt Homes community center.

**EARLY**, from Page 6

dents, our scholars. They need to understand that this is not just a statewide certificate, this is a national credential. If they don't pursue a degree, that's okay. But if they do, going through our CDA program is going to give them the skills, the abilities, and the confidence to be successful.

**Lauren:** What do you think is the benefit of renewing the CDA, even if

you've earned your bachelor's or associate degree?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** Having your CDA shows a commitment to the field. Once you earn this credential, why would you give it up? You want to keep it current. Renewing your CDA is a commitment to the field and a commitment to excellence in early childhood education.

**Lauren:** The Council is

celebrating the 50th anniversary of the CDA. How do you believe the CDA has benefited the ECE field over the last 50 years?

**Dr. Krzanowski:** The CDA uplifts ECE professionals. When someone says I am a CDA, they have a little pep in their step. They are proud to have

earned a credential that is focused on teaching young children. When I looked around at the EELC conference and saw all the people gathered, it made me so happy to see like-minded professionals all focused on what's best for children. At the end of the day, that must be our focus.

**DUKES**, from Page 2

*President of the NAACP New York State Conference and Member of the NAACP National Board of Directors was bold and courageous. She was a true warrior for civil rights and social justice. Her voice and her influence at our table will be missed, but we will all continue to be influenced by that same voice as we continue to fight for that same cause. Hazel was one of the giants on whose shoulders we will continue to stand as we continue to do God's work here on*

*Earth.*

*I will keep you informed as arrangements are announced and finalized. Please know that Hazel passed peacefully surrounded by many of the people who loved her and clergy who knew and pastored to her.*

*May our sister Hazel rest in power.*

*With a heavy heart.*

*Leon W. Russell*

*Chairman,*

*NAACP National Board of Directors*



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# How Coffee Has Changed My Life

Dr. James L. Snyder

Recently, I was sitting drinking a nice hot cup of coffee. It's the first thing I do, and I can't get anything done until I do.

I was thinking about this coffee as I was drinking it and remembered there was a time when I did not like coffee at all.

When I was young, my parents made coffee in the morning, and it was the worst coffee you could ever drink. I tried it and could not get beyond the first sip. I tried it with cream and sugar, black, cream, and sugar, but none of those ingredients enabled me to drink any of that coffee.

I couldn't understand why my parents drank that coffee in the morning. It didn't make sense to me, but then a lot of things my parents did, made no sense at the time.

My father had to have a cup of coffee just before he left for work. He also took a thermos of coffee to work. It never made sense to me.

It wasn't until many years later that I realized why that coffee was so terrible.

After graduating high school, I went to a Bible

college where I met the future Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. My life changed in so many ways that it would take a series of books to explain them all.

The one thing that really changed my life had to do with coffee.

Up until this point in my life, I never drank coffee. When I went out with friends to a restaurant, I was the only one who did not order coffee.

I didn't notice until we were married that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was highly addicted to coffee. I don't know how I missed that before we married, but I did.

After we were married, one of the first things she bought was a coffee maker. That was the first time I really saw a genuine coffee maker.

Every morning, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would make coffee. The smell of that coffee filled the little apartment we lived in then. It was an aroma I had never smelled before, and I just couldn't quite place it.

On our first morning in

our apartment, she said, "How do you like your coffee?"

I looked at her, smiled and replied, "I like my coffee in the coffee pot."

She didn't understand what I was saying, but she let it go.

Several weeks later, I began to think through this coffee business. What puzzled me was why her coffee smelled so much better than I remember my parent's coffee.

I didn't address it because it wasn't necessary. But as the days and weeks went by, I soon became addicted to the aroma of that fresh coffee in the morning. I tried to figure out what the difference was between her coffee and my parent's coffee.

One morning, as she made her coffee, she said, "Why don't you try some of my coffee this morning? I think you just might like it."

It took me several weeks to accept her invitation, but I finally agreed to have a cup of coffee.

"Do you want cream and sugar in your coffee?" I agreed, so she fixed my

coffee and brought it to me.

I smelled the coffee, which smelled so wonderful that I couldn't believe it was coffee. After looking at the coffee for a while, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Are you going to taste it or not?"

Looking at her and smiling, I nodded and took my first sip of real coffee. It was the most wonderful sip I've ever had. I responded, "This is wonderful."

"See," she replied, "I knew you would like it."

It didn't take long for me to drink that first cup of genuine coffee. My wife offered to get me another cup of coffee, and I did not stop her.

When she brought the coffee back, I looked at her and said, "Why is this coffee so much better than the coffee my parents made?"

"I'm not sure," she replied, "maybe your parents were making instant coffee. There's a great difference between instant coffee and real coffee."

I looked at her for a while and remembered those days when I lived at home. When my parents got up early in the morning, my mother would heat water on the stove, put instant coffee in both their cups, and then pour the hot water into each cup. I did not realize at the time that they were not drinking real coffee.

I started giggling, and my wife said, "What are you giggling about?"

With a huge smile on my face, I looked at her, raised my coffee cup, and said, "This, my dear, is the real thing."

From then on, I have

enjoyed many cups of real coffee daily. It has wonderfully changed my life.

Thinking on this I was reminded of a scripture, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Many misquote this verse. But to know God's word is to know the truth which will set you free from all hypocrisy. I want the real truth not some artificial truth.

*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.*

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# Another noteworthy story for Women's History Month



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor



To celebrate strong women who have made, or who are making a difference I will highlight facts about Black Women and their contribution to mankind this month. Thank God for Godly women of this world.

Throughout history, Black women have made contributions to our society. Unfortunately, most of the time, you will not find their stories in America's history books.

Cathay Williams, be-

cause of an error in correctly understanding her name, became William Cathay (a male soldier.) According to an Army doctor; William Cathay enlisted in the United States Regular Army as a Buffalo Soldier in 1866.

The Army surgeon examined William Cathay, the recruit, but failed to realize that William Cathay was

a female and not a male; the surgeon determined the recruit fit for duty and assigned William Cathay to the 38th U.S. Infantry; it was established in August 1866.

Cathay Williams (the female) was 22 years old, 5'9" tall with black hair, black eyes and black complexion. The surgeon did not realize

that William Cathay was a female.

In March 1869, after William Cathay's disability discharge in 1868, the 38th and 41st Infantries were consolidated into the historically familiar African-American 24th and 25th Infantries.

Cathay Williams carved a small, but symbolically important place in the history of American women, in the history of African American women and in the history of the United States Army.

She was the only woman to serve in the U.S. Regular

Army in the 19th Century. To date, she is the only documented Black woman who served in the U.S. Army prior to the official introduction of women.

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in March 2014.)*

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