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## Republicans play hide the ball, pushing through massive Medicaid cuts under budget resolution

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

With all but two Republicans in the game and all Democrats folding, the House Budget Resolution passed by only two votes on April 10. The resulting budget framework paves the way for massive cuts to retirement and health benefits, hurting millions of Americans.

Despite the Republican commitment to shaving government spending down to 1.5 trillion, the U.S. budget deficit is nevertheless projected to grow by trillions of dollars. This, due mainly to a \$4.5 trillion tax cut, half of which will only benefit the top 5%, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The move will result in drastic cuts to health and nutrition programs, including the greatest cuts to Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance in history, explained Stan Dorn, Director of Health Policy



*A House Budget Resolution narrowly passed with only Republican support, paving the way for deep cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and other safety net programs in order to offset massive tax breaks that primarily benefit the wealthy. (Sami Salim/ Unsplash)*

Project for Unidos U.S., at a March American Community Media briefing.

One might question why so many Republican lawmakers would be willing to make the drastic cuts,

which will surely affect their constituencies.

It is fast-track procedures that allow such bills to pass quickly and

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#### People In The News ...



Michelle Obama



Rev. Al Sharpton

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."

- Maya Angelou



## Michelle Obama

Former First Lady Michelle Obama is setting the record straight about her marriage, brushing off rumors of a split from former President Barack Obama and calling out the sexist assumptions that fueled them. In part two of her appearance on the “Work in Progress” podcast hosted by Sophia Bush, Michelle Obama addressed the online speculation that ramped up earlier this year when Barack Obama appeared alone at several high-profile events, including the funeral for former President Jimmy Carter and the inauguration of Don-



Armando Tinoco / Wikimedia

ald Trump. Critics quickly jumped to conclusions — but Michelle Obama made it clear that her choices had nothing to do with marital discord. “This year people couldn’t even fathom that I was making a choice for myself,” Obama said.

“They had to assume that my husband and I are divorcing. This couldn’t be a grown woman just making a set of decisions for herself, right?”

She added, “That’s what society does to us. We start actually finally going, What am I doing? Who am I doing this for? And if it doesn’t fit into the stereotype of what people think we should do, then it gets labeled as something negative and horrible.” The bestselling author and former First Lady, who spent eight years in the White House without scandal — unless one counts Barack Obama’s infamous tan suit — said her efforts to make

room for her voice and decisions have often been misinterpreted. “I feel like it’s time for me to make some big girl decisions about my life and own it fully,” she said. “Because if not now, when? What am I waiting for? Look, the summers are—we’re in the summer countdown at 61, right? It’s not so tragic if something happens to you and you’re 80. So now is the time for me to start asking myself these hard questions of who do I truly want to be every day?” Michelle also spoke about the discomfort women often feel when asserting themselves. “When I say ‘no,’ for the most part, people are like,

‘I get it,’ and I’m OK,” she said. “That’s the thing that we, as women, I think we struggle with — disappointing people.”

Despite the rumor mill, the Obamas have continued to share affectionate public messages. On Valentine’s Day, Barack posted a photo with Michelle, writing, “Thirty-two years together, and you still take my breath away.” Michelle echoed the sentiment in her post: “If there’s one person I can always count on, it’s you, @BarackObama. You’re my rock. Always have been. Always will be.” The couple met in 1988 at a Chicago law firm. Michelle, a 25-year-old Harvard Law

graduate, was assigned to mentor Barack, then a summer associate finishing law school. They married in 1992 and have two daughters, Malia, 26, and Sasha, 23. Many on social media, especially in Black communities, were quick to ridicule the divorce rumors, pointing out that the Obamas — whose biggest scandal was wearing a tan suit — are still treated with more suspicion than Donald Trump, a twice-impeached and 34-time convicted felon who routinely is ensconced in scandals. “This couldn’t be a grown woman just making a set of decisions for herself, right?” Michelle Obama said.

## Rev. Al Sharpton

Rev. Al Sharpton said Monday that he will meet with PepsiCo CEO Ramon Laguarta this week following the company’s decision to roll back key diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. The meeting comes just weeks after Sharpton warned of a potential boycott in a letter dated April 4, where he condemned PepsiCo’s retreat from its DEI commitments. PepsiCo, whose portfolio includes Pepsi, Gatorade, Doritos, Mountain Dew, and Lay’s, informed employees in February that it would no longer set diversity goals for its managerial ranks or supplier base. The announcement drew swift backlash from civil rights advocates.

“You have walked away from equity,” Sharpton wrote in his letter to Laguarta. “Removing DEI



Wikimedia

hiring and retention goals and dismantling community partnerships with minority organizations are clear signals that political pressure has outweighed principle.” A spokesperson for PepsiCo did not respond to a request for comment. The National Action Network, which Sharpton founded and leads, has been pressuring major corporations to uphold DEI policies in the face of growing political and legal attacks. Since President Donald Trump’s return to the White House,


numerous companies, including Walmart and Target, have scaled back internal programs to increase diversity and address systemic discrimination.

Trump has also eliminated DEI efforts across federal agencies and warned schools to do the same or risk losing federal funding. Sharpton said he plans to press Laguarta for clarity on the company’s DEI commitments and what steps, if any, PepsiCo still intends to take to support equal opportunity in hiring and contracting. In January, Sharpton launched a “buy-cott” urging consumers to shop at Costco in recognition of its continued investment in DEI, setting a contrast with companies pulling back. “That is the only viable tool that I see at this time, which is why we’ve rewarded those that stood with us,” Sharpton said.

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# Confederates whistle Dixie tunes and Black MAGA applauds

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent



WH Photo by Castle City Creative / NNPA

In Donald Trump's second term, the faces of compliance are no longer just white. They include Black MAGA supporters who've chosen silence—even solidarity—as racism escalates from campaign rhetoric to federal policy. When Trump returned to the White House, he did so with a platform not just soaked in bigotry but engineered to roll back civil rights and diversity efforts on every front. And while his white base cheered, many of his Black allies—those donning MAGA hats and taking up seats on the frontlines of his rallies—chose loyalty over principle, muting themselves as a wave of white nationalist policymaking targets their communities.

Their silence began long before Inauguration Day. During the 2024 campaign, Trump's Madison Square Garden rally drew fire after a comedian on the lineup referred to Puerto Rico as "garbage." But that wasn't the only racist moment. As Florida Rep. Byron Donalds, one of Trump's most visible Black surrogates, walked onto the stage, the campaign blasted "Dixie"—a song revered by the Confederacy and white nationalists. Donalds said nothing. And neither did the rest of Black MAGA. That same silence echoed in Springfield, Ohio, when Trump and his running mate, J.D. Vance, spread a

false and racist claim that Haitian immigrants were "eating cats and dogs." The fabrication was met with horror from civil rights advocates and journalists. But Trump's Black supporters? Not a word.

Black MAGA loyalists, many of whom cite values, religion, and personal ambition as their rationale, have essentially normalized the very racism that their grandparents fought to dismantle. Pew Research shows that while only 4% of Black Americans identify as Republicans, those who do often express a belief that the GOP better represents their values—even as those values are trampled by the very administration they support. One study published in *Sociological Inquiry* found that Black Republicans often "reframe racism in a way that makes their alignment with white conservatives more palatable," even when it involves rationalizing policies that harm Black communities. And harm is precisely what Trump's policies are doing. Since taking office, Trump has issued a barrage of executive orders aimed at eliminating diversity, equity, and

inclusion initiatives across the federal government. Agencies that serve minority communities have faced massive defunding, DEI offices have been shuttered, and civil rights enforcement has all but disappeared. As noted in *The Hill*, the goal is not just the destruction of policy—it's the erasure of progress itself.

"Every act of Trump's second term has been a white-nationalist signal," wrote one analyst in *The American Prospect*, calling MAGA an "identity movement" that champions white grievance over democratic principle. There is little space for Blackness, except as a prop. And yet, some Black Trump supporters defend the administration with defiance. One such supporter, who canvassed for Trump in 2024, told *The Independent* he was called the N-word by fellow conservatives. Rather than walking away, he doubled down on his allegiance. The consequences of this allegiance are becoming deadly clear. As *TIME* reported, nearly 20% of Trump supporters said freeing the slaves was a mistake. According to *The Washington Post*, sup-

port for Trump has long been fueled more by racial resentment than economic concerns, and that resentment has now translated into policy.

A report from *Press Watch* concluded that Trump's base continues to be driven by a desire to protect white dominance and suppress nonwhite progress, particularly through culture war battles over schools, immigration, and federal hiring. Even academic journals have noted that wearing a MAGA hat has become "a proxy for racialized identity"—an affirmation of white supremacy, no matter who's wearing it. Meanwhile, *The Conversation* documented how MAGA's rise has coincided with increased armed intimidation at polling places, violent rhetoric against journalists, and calls to monitor so-called "urban" neighborhoods—all with Trump's encouragement. The Black MAGA base has not only failed to object—they've offered Trump moral cover. Whether out of personal ambition, political opportunity, or delusion, they've made peace with racists, while the administration they uphold works tirelessly to erase the freedoms won through generations of Black struggle. As *The American Prospect* put it: "Trump's MAGA identity is a movement rooted in white identity politics. That some Black Americans have chosen to stand inside of it doesn't make it less racist—it makes it more dangerous"



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**Special Projects to  
the Publisher**

Clinique Hill

**Published by**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Production**

David Wilfong

**Assistant Office Coordinator**

Belda Ibarra



**Contributing Writers**

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

**Publisher's Office:**

[publisher@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:publisher@northdallasgazette.com)

**Sales Department:**

[marketing@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:marketing@northdallasgazette.com)

**Editorial Department:**

[editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)



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

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By the 2010s, the rate had declined to 1,073 per 100,000 for Black infants and 499 per 100,000 for white infants, yet the disparity grew to a mortality ratio of 2.15. (Djavan Ridriguez via NNPA)

# Black babies are still dying — and America let it happen

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

A sweeping new analysis of U.S. mortality data over the past 70 years reveals that Black children in the United States have consistently faced significantly higher mortality rates than their white peers, with no improvement in relative

disparities since the 1950s. The study, published March 25 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, documents more than half a million avoidable infant deaths and nearly 690,000 childhood deaths among Black Americans between 1950 and 2019. Conducted by researchers from Harvard, Yale, and other institutions, the study found that while life expect-

tancy and overall mortality rates have improved for both Black and white Americans, the mortality gap among infants and children has widened. In the 1950s, Black infants died at a rate of 5,181 per 100,000 compared to 2,703 per 100,000 among white infants—an excess mortality ratio of 1.92. By the 2010s, the rate had declined to 1,073 per

100,000 for Black infants and 499 per 100,000 for white infants, yet the disparity grew to a mortality ratio of 2.15. “These trends show a disturbing persistence of racial inequities in childhood survival,” the authors wrote. “Despite medical advancements and public health initiatives, Black

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without resistance, explained Dorn. Most bills pass with a 60-Senate vote, requiring both Democrats and Republicans to be on board. But the budgeting process requires only a simple majority, meaning Republicans can pass their budget without a single Democratic vote.

As a practical matter, the budgetary process is the only way Congress will be able to make the cuts they want, explained Dorn.

The budgetary process is composed of two steps, he said. Budget resolution sets overall numerical targets. Once the House and the Senate agree on these dollar targets, they move on to budget reconciliation, where relevant committees make specific, detailed changes to laws affected by the monetary targets set during budget resolution.

Massive cuts to health and retirement are being justified as targeting waste, fraud, and abuse, added Dorn. Truth is, the 2017 Trump tax cuts are set to expire after this year, and keeping them alive will require the administration to come up with about 5 tril-

lion dollars, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The good news is Congress is nervous that taking Medicaid away from millions of people could damage them politically. We know that huge numbers in every congressional district rely on Medicaid for health insurance, he said.

It’s a bizarre circumstance that the House Budget Resolution passed considering many Republicans won by narrow margins, and most say they’d rather not cut Medicaid or SNAP. They’ve been told there won’t be any real cuts at the end of the line, he said.

Truth is, Republicans will call the cuts anything but cuts, be it waste, fraud, or abuse. What the cuts will mean in reality, is that fewer people will have health insurance.

Ending Medicaid for people who can’t meet new work requirements may be appealing in theory, said Dorn. In practice, it will mean fewer people with sufficient health care to maintain an ability to work. It will mean more people unable to resolve debilitat-

ing health conditions.

People of all races and ethnicities will suffer, but communities of color are especially vulnerable, said Dorn since over 13 million African Americans have Medicaid as their health insurer, covering 60% of Black children and more than a third of all Black adults age 65 and older.

The current program supports their at-home and nursing home health care, meaning when these programs are cut, many will be on the street. In some states, about a quarter of the people have already lost their coverage, said Dorn.

Cuts to Medicaid include rigid federal caps on how much a state can get per person, he said. This will shift federal costs to states, forcing them to face tough spending decisions.

States are already having budgetary troubles, said Dorn. The federal cuts may mean states may be forced to cut K-12 education, police, roads, or fire fighters.

A big portion will lose benefits because they didn’t hear about the policy, didn’t fill out all the paperwork, or couldn’t get through on overcrowded phone lines, he added.

Since most patients under the system already work, said Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy Research Professor, Joan Alker, the added level of bureaucracy will result in people losing coverage that they’re still eligible for.

In the two-pronged Medicaid system where both states and the federal government contribute, states will not be able to make up for the federal cuts, resulting in ripple effects throughout the entire healthcare system, Alker explained.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) runs off Medicaid, covering nearly half of all American children and 41% of all births. The cuts will be devastating to young families, as well low-income seniors, who use Medicaid to help cover their costs under Medicare, said Alker.

Community health centers will also feel the pain in a reduced number of provider reimbursements. With more coverage after the Affordable Healthcare Act, explained Alker, health centers became more financially stable.

“Financial stability en-

ables growth and expansion, she said, and this enables community health centers to open new sites, provide new services, start new programs and [add] new initiatives to support their patient’s health.”

We know when patients are uninsured that they’re more likely to minimize or delay care. They have fears related to costs, and this just leads to worse health outcomes in the long run,” she said.

Many will end up in emergency rooms, which is far more expensive and isn’t good for anyone. These health care cuts will impact all of us and the sufficiency of the overall healthcare system to meet the needs of every American, she said.

“Last November, people voted with their wallets, seeking greater affordability, including for health care,” added Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Families USA. “Cuts in the recent budget resolution would only shred our safety net, the opposite of what voters called for.”

Polling tells us that nearly 75% of Americans agree Medicaid is very important to their local community, and that includes over 60%

of Trump voters.

They’re trying to play hide the ball, added Wright. They may call their cuts work requirements or leave out the word Medicaid in their budget resolution, but the fact remains, there are 880 billion dollars of cuts under the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees Medicaid.

If you cap the formulas or cut funding streams to states, it only shifts the costs to already strapped states, which are then forced to make a Sophie’s choice of either cutting coverage, benefits or services.

Wright, who grew up in the Bronx—one of the poorest congressional districts in the nation where Medicaid enrollment is 70%, asked:

“What happens if that source of coverage, Medicaid, is cut by hundreds of billions of dollars? What happens to the hospitals in that area? What happens to the clinics in that area?”

What can be done to stop the cuts, he asked. People can share their opinions with members of Congress.

This is not a done deal yet, he said, and Republicans only have a slim majority.



# Collin County Democrats co-sponsor April 19 protest

Bolstered by the growing popularity of peaceful, non-violent protests as well as their undeniable effectiveness, the Collin County Democratic Party is co-sponsoring the Stand Up for Democracy protest on Saturday, April 19, in solidarity with 50501, Indivisible, and Hands Off.

Individuals, groups, families, and civic organizations are invited to participate in this collective show of force from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. lining the frontage road at the northwest corner



of US 75 and State Hwy 380. Free public parking is available in the lots of Target Plaza, 2025 N. Central Expy in McKinney.

“Peaceful protesting is

one of the fundamental rights that we as Americans enjoy,” said Jeremy Sutka, Chair of the Collin County Democratic Party. “It’s one of the sacred pil-

lars that helped spark colonial Americans to break from the strangling grip of England. It’s a time-honored tradition that is proving its effectiveness even today.” Notably, the Stand Up for Democracy protest falls during the 250th anniversary of the revolutionary battles at Lexington and Concord.

The April 19 protest is a continuation of the civic actions that continue to occur throughout the nation in response to the constitutional abuses, unabated grift, ille-

gal corruption, and blatant incompetence of the Trump administration. Appropriate signs and banners are encouraged.

“The uniquely seamless blending of people from all political persuasions, liberal and conservative, new and experienced activists, young people and seniors, white and people of color, is a testament to the universal nature of our message,” said Sutka. “We, the people, are speaking with one voice, and it’s a voice that must be heeded.”

The Collin County Democratic Party is a leading proponent of the protest movement, having recently established an official Protest Subcommittee, filled with individuals passionate about ensuring a consistent presence in the protest coalition with resonating messages of justice, fairness, equality, and responsible government.

While not required, registration for the protest can be accomplished by visiting <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/775836/>.

# Landmark Dollar General case poised to make historic impact on DEI

Nashville, TN – A historic, multimillion-dollar lawsuit has been filed in federal court, spearheaded by award-winning Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Top Executive Dr. Johné Battle, on behalf of himself and 75,000 Black and Brown workers against Dollar General – the nation’s larg-

est brick-and-mortar retailer. This groundbreaking case will redefine corporate accountability, racial equity, and racial justice. Unbeknownst to many, Tennessee-based Dollar General Store operates over 20,000 stores, employs approximately 170,000 workers, and generated a whopping \$40 billion in rev-

enue last year. Dollar General is TWICE the size of Walmart & Target, COMBINED! The company faces allegations of systemic racial discrimination that have affected thousands of marginalized employees nationwide and cost the top executive, his job and millions in salary. With 75% of U.S. households living

within a five-mile radius of a Dollar General store, the milestone case underscores the widespread impact of the company’s biased employment practices and is,

by far, the most egregious in the wake of the country’s “anti-woke” climate and the recent attempts at dismantling racial equity. This groundbreaking

case is poised to shine the brightest light, to date, on the DEI dilemma and its historically destructive im-

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# Celebrating success, embracing growth, and planning for what's next



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

Greetings, District 6

I hope you had a wonderful spring break, and return rested and ready for the final stretch of the 2024-2025 school year. With the end in sight, I encourage each and every one of you to be proud of all you have accomplished this year. You have what it takes to cross the finish line.

April is here, and with it comes Financial Literacy Month — a great reminder to brush up on those money

skills that can really make a difference. Financial literacy is something everyone needs, no matter where they are in life, but it feels especially relevant for our seniors as they prepare to walk across that graduation stage and step into their next chapter.

In fact, a quote from Nelson Mandela comes to mind: **“money won't create success, the freedom to make it will.”** It's one thing to know about budgeting, balancing a checkbook, or building a savings account — but it's another to actually know how to use those skills in real life. The first step toward financial freedom is just knowing



where to start. And once you do, it can open so many doors and possibilities. So, during Financial Literacy Month, I encourage you to

take a moment to explore some of the resources and tools out there. It's truly an investment in yourself and your future!

**Register for pre-K for the 2025-2026 school year:** Families with pre-K aged children can now enroll for the next school year. Studies show that students who attend pre-K are 3.5 times more likely to be ready for kindergarten, more likely to succeed in school, and more likely to attend college. Set your children up for success by signing them up for pre-k today! For more information, visit the Dallas ISD website.

**Congratulations Kimball Knights:** Justin F. Kimball High School boys' basketball recently celebrated winning their eighth 4A Division I State Cham-

ionship title. District 6 is proud to recognize and celebrate their outstanding achievement. This success is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the student-athletes, coaches, and all those who have supported them along the way.

**Shoutout to District 9's Lady Tigers:** As a proud graduate of Lincoln High School and the Humanities/Communications Magnet, I want to give a huge congratulations to the Lady Tigers on their fourth state basketball championship! While I may represent District 6, my alma mater will always hold a special place in my heart.

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children in the U.S. are still twice as likely to die before adulthood as their white counterparts.”

Over the seven-decade span, the study estimated 5.02 million excess deaths and 173.6 million years of life lost among Black Americans that would not have occurred if their mortality rates matched those of white Americans. Children under 20 accounted for 13.7% of these deaths, with infants representing 10.4%. The leading causes of excess deaths varied by age. Among children under five, perinatal conditions were the primary cause,

while external causes such as homicides and accidents dominated among those aged 5 to 19. For adults, circulatory system diseases contributed the most to the mortality gap. The study emphasized that these disparities are rooted in a long history of systemic racism and structural inequities. Factors such as housing segregation, unequal access to health care, and socioeconomic disadvantages have all played a role. Today, Donald Trump's presidency has brought a wave of executive actions, judicial appointments, and public rhetoric that emboldened

racist systems and undermined civil rights protections. From ending consent decrees with police departments to attempting to ban diversity training in federal agencies, Trump's actions have intensified the already disproportionate suffering of Black Americans.

Civil rights leaders had warned of this dangerous second term—one where Project 2025 and other radical policy blueprints have further dismantled protections for marginalized communities, including Black children. Even before this moment, Black America has endured the weight of systemic racism, beginning with centuries of enslave-

ment and extending through segregation, redlining, police brutality, environmental racism, and inequitable access to health care. Meanwhile, the new study identifies the long-standing effects of these forces—including discriminatory housing policies, employment, and criminal justice inequities, and biased medical care—as primary drivers of the mortality gap. “Being Black in the United States remains associated with less wealth, lower income, and diminished access to health services,” the researchers noted. “These conditions directly impact health outcomes and mortality risk, especially among

children.”

Although Black life expectancy has risen from 60.5 years in the 1950s to 76.0 in the 2010s—surpassing the 13% gain seen among white Americans—the last years of life remain staggering. In the 2010s alone, Black Americans lost 20.6 million years of life due to higher death rates. The study calls for urgent policy interventions to address these disparities, including expanded access to quality health care, targeted public health initiatives, and structural reforms to reduce socioeconomic inequities. The authors also advocate for greater health-care quality outcomes and

data reporting transparency. “Nearly 690,000 Black children who died since 1950 could have survived if given the same chance as white children,” the researchers concluded. “That reality should be a call to action for this nation.” The study did not examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which researchers noted has likely exacerbated existing disparities. They indicated that more recent data may reveal even greater gaps in health outcomes. “Until the structural causes of these inequities are addressed,” they wrote, “Black children in America will continue to face unjust risks to their lives.”



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# Target reels from boycotts, employee revolt, and massive losses as activists plot next moves

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Target is spiraling as consumer boycotts intensify, workers push to unionize, and the company faces mounting financial losses following its rollback of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. With foot traffic plummeting, stock prices at a five-year low, and employee discontent boiling over, national civil rights leaders and grassroots organizers are vowing to escalate pressure in the weeks ahead.

Led by Georgia pastor Rev. Jamal Bryant, a 40-day “Targetfast” aligned with the Lenten season continues to gain traction. “This is about holding companies accountable for abandoning progress,” Bryant said, as the campaign encourages consumers to shop elsewhere. Groups



Image via NNPA

like the NAACP, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and The People’s Union USA are amplifying the effort, organizing mass boycotts and strategic buying initiatives to target what they call corporate surrender to bigotry.

Meanwhile, Target’s workforce is in an open revolt. On Reddit, self-identified employees described mass resignations, frustration with meager pay raises, and growing calls to

unionize. “We’ve had six people give their two-week notices,” one worker wrote. “A rogue team member gathered us in the back room and started talking about forming a union.”

Others echoed the sentiment, with users posting messages like, “We’ve been talking about forming a union at my store too,” and “Good on them for trying to organize—it needs to happen.” Target’s problems aren’t just anecdotal.

The numbers reflect a company in crisis. The retail giant has logged 10 straight weeks of falling in-store traffic. In February, foot traffic dropped 9% year-over-year, including a 9.5% plunge on February

28 during the 24-hour “economic blackout” boycott organized by The People’s Union USA.

March saw a 6.5% decline compared to the previous year. Operating income fell 21% in the most recent quarter, and the company’s stock (TGT) opened at just \$94 on April 14, down from \$142 in January before the DEI cuts and subsequent backlash. The economic backlash is growing louder online, too.

“We are still boycotting Target due to them bending to bigotry by eroding their DEI programs,” posted the activist group We Are Somebody on April 14. “Target stock has gone

down, and their projections remain flat. DEI was good for business. Do the right thing.”

Former congresswoman Nina Turner, a senior fellow at The New School’s Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, wrote, “Boycotts are effective. Boycotts must have a demand. We will continue to boycott until our demands are met.” More action is on the horizon. Another Target boycott is scheduled for June 3–9, part of a broader campaign targeting corporations that have abandoned DEI initiatives under pressure from

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## LAWSUIT, from Page 5

pact on inclusion in America. It is poised to do for DEI what Brown vs. The Board of Education did for education and what Roe vs. Wade did for abortion.

“I want to be clear, everything that you have discovered in the counterclaim response that was filed in federal court is true, accurate and can be corroborated by multiple eyewitnesses that were present as the events unfolded,” said Dr. Battle. “The counterclaim is a small snapshot of the barriers that many Chief Diversity Officers

face when trying to help organizations on their transformational journeys. The fight for equity in corporate America is a modern civil rights struggle, and Chief Diversity Officers often stand on the front lines, pushing for systemic changes in the face of deep resistance. The first casualty of war is the truth.”

The lawsuit challenges Dollar General’s alleged quiet, massive, and multi-layered cover-up in its bigoted hiring, promotion, and pay practices when comparing Dollar General’s

employees of color to the company’s white workers. Full complaint here: <https://bit.ly/drjohnnebattle>.

Battle has referred to it as a new age, cryptic “plantation-style” culture. Amid unfounded U.S. tariffs and a remarkable economic downturn, Dollar General is the ONLY company, quietly, thriving. With Dollar General being TWICE the size of Walmart & Target, Civil rights leaders are organizing one of the LARGEST DEI marches and boycotts that will take place at Dollar General headquarters in Nashville, TN.





# Dallas Wings Turn the Paige to a New Chapter

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Contributing Writer

The Dallas Wings selected Paige Bueckers No. 1 overall in the 2025 WNBA Draft on Monday night—a move that gives the franchise a superstar talent for years to come. Bueckers is fresh off a national championship in her final season with the UConn Huskies. During her four seasons at UConn, Bueckers overcame two serious knee injuries and averaged 19.8 points, 4.6 assists, and 2.1 steals while shooting 42% from three-point range. Bueckers is a generational prospect and brings championship pedigree to a Wings organization that is seeking its first championship since 2008—back when the franchise



was known as the Detroit Shock.

“We are extremely excited as a franchise to select Paige Bueckers with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2025 WNBA Draft,” said Dallas Wings Executive Vice President and General Manager Curt Miller. “The addition of Paige is another huge momentum-building moment for the Wings franchise and team. Paige

is one of the most efficient and decorated players we have seen in the history of the collegiate game. We anticipate her making an immediate impact on the court but also recognize her commitment to give back to the community which aligns with our strong beliefs as an organization. Tonight is truly a special night for Paige and the Dallas Wings.”

The 23-year-old combo

guard joined Maya Moore and Breanna Stewart as the third UConn player to tally 2,000 points, 400 rebounds, 400 assists and 200 steals in her career. Bueckers is also the sixth UConn player to be drafted No. 1 overall—following in the footsteps of Sue Bird (2002, Seattle), Diana Taurasi (2004, Phoenix), Tina Charles (2010, Connecticut), Moore (2011, Minnesota) and Stewart (2016, Seattle). She credits her Huskies teammates for contributing to who and where she is today.

“They’ve changed my life, those are my sisters,” Bueckers said. “Just ex-

remely grateful for them. I think two teams, or one team would be genius to add Kaitlyn Chen and Aubrey Griffin to their teams, so I think they should get drafted tonight. I just love them (UConn teammates) so much and they’re going to be my sisters for life.”

The Dallas Wings will insert Bueckers into an intriguing potential starting lineup that features DiJonai Carrington, NaLyssa Smith, Teaira McCowan, and All-Star guard Arike Ogunbowale.

Bueckers and Ogunbowale form an electric backcourt that already can

be argued as being one of the best tandems in the league. Ogunbowale averaged 22.2 points, 4.6 rebounds, 5.1 assists, and 2.1 steals per game last season. Both guards have the ability to play on and off the ball—giving head coach Chris Koclanes a variety of offensive sets to attack opposing defenses.

“I think {Paige Bueckers] is just so unselfish,” Koclanes said. “She can take over a game when she wants to and when she needs to, but she just has such a great feel for getting

See WINGS, Page 13




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# Film Review: 'The Amateur' is a darker, more nuanced 'Revenge of the Nerd'

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*) Hell hath no fury like a nerd seeking revenge. That hardly seems like a threat, until a wonky CIA worker loses the love of his life and goes on a war path.

When it comes to espionage/action/thrillers, assassins like Jason Bourne (*The Bourne Identity*) and field agents like Ethan Hunt (*Mission: Impossible*) come to mind. So, how the hell did a geeky coder named Charlie Heller (Rami Malek, *Bohemian Rhapsody*), who works out of a basement at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, get involved in a rogue international mission of his own doing?

That's the premise of Robert Littell's novel, that's been adapted into a fairly gripping screenplay (Ken Nolan and Gary Spinnelli) and developed into an engaging movie by TV director turned feature filmmaker James Hawes (*One Life*). When you start with a weak-looking, anti-hero, you have the audience rooting for the protagonist from the jump. That's what happens over 2h 3m of tightly cut (editor Jonathan Amos, *Baby Driver*), globe-trotting footage, shot in England, France and Turkey, and screening in big ass IMAX.

One morning Charlie reiterates that he doesn't want to go on his wife Sarah's (Rachel Brosnahan, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*) business trip to London, even though she goads him: "Just this one time take a risk." The two flirt, but he declines. They kiss, hug



Image via NNPA

and he runs after the Uber car that drives her off to the airport. Some would call that romantic.

Then one afternoon Charlie's CIA bosses, Director Moore (Holt McCallany) and Director O'Brien (Julianne Nicholson, *Janet Planet*), pull him into their offices and show him security cam footage of his wife being murdered during a terrorist attack in London. He flips out, turning from hurt husband into a scheming, aggrieved vigilante. After blackmailing his superiors and receiving training ops from a Colonel Henderson (Laurence Fishburne), skinny little Charlie goes after the big bad guys. Pity the bad guys.

This may not be a kindred blockbuster type Bourne or *Mission: Impossible* movie, but in terms of production quality, it's close enough. Cinematographer Martin Ruhe learned his trade with music videos (Coldplay: *Talk*), and all on view has a fluid look to it, from shots in dark hallways, to beaches in Istanbul, to ship interiors. All are well-lit, composed, angled and flattering. Offices, homes, hotels and grimy rooms reflect the locations perfectly under production

designer Maria Djurkovic's (*The Imitation Game*) guidance and set decorators Nicolas Brechat and Sophie Phillips' fine eye. The prescient costume designer Suzi Harman (*RocknRolla*) drapes Charlie in wrinkled, lived-in clothes. Composer Volker Bertemann (*Conclave*) knows when to lay the orchestra music on heavy or light. Every frame looks like it's part of a thoughtfully created big budget movie.

Skillfully, Hawes keeps all the moving parts zipping along with a rhythm that doesn't quit. Loving couple, murder, revenge plan and complicated schemes. Elaborate traps, inventive assassinations and subterfuge. Double-crosses, revelations and payback. It's all fits together neatly, and in intriguing ways. Credit the complex but easy to discern storyline for giving the director a lot to work with. He's more than capable of shooting action, drama, thriller and suspense scenes in the most kinetic ways. His work and this film meet but may not glowingly exceed genre expectations. However, fans of global thrillers will be satiated. It's a pity that some of the most arresting slight-of-

hand killings are already in the trailers and won't be a surprise to audiences.

The screenplay gives the leads expressive things to say, and the cast uses the dialogue to their advantage. Moore is dubious because McCallany plays him like

a swindler: "We'll tell you what we can." Henderson blows hot air out of both sides of his mouth, as Fishburne bullies his way through the colonel character: "I can't make you into something you're not."

But it's the ultra-nuanced

performance of Malek as the marginalized techie that resonates. Using facial expressions, movement and inflections the Oscar® winner adds engaging subtleties to his ever-evolving

See FILM, Page 13

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6:30-7:30 p.m.

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**MAY 3, 2025, GENERAL ELECTION  
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES  
COUNCIL DISTRICTS / BALLOT ORDER**

**Council District 1**  
1 Jason Vanhof  
2 Katrina Whatley  
3 Chad West

**Council District 2**  
1 Jesse Moreno  
2 Sukhbir Kaur

**Council District 3**  
1 John Sims  
2 Jeseca E. Lightbourne  
3 Zarin Gracey

**Council District 4**  
1 Kebran W. Alexander  
2 Maxie Johnson  
3 Avis Hardaman

**Council District 5**  
1 Jaime Resendez  
2 Elizabeth Matus

**Council District 6**  
1 David Blewett  
2 Monica R. Alonzo  
3 Gabriel Kissinger  
4 Tony Carrillo  
5 Laura Cadena  
6 Machelles Wells  
7 Nicolas "Nico" Quintanilla  
8 Linus Spiller  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 7**  
1 O'Neil Hesson  
2 Lamar "Yaka" Jefferson  
3 Adam Bazaldua  
4 Cydney Walker  
5 Jose Rivas Jr  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 8**  
1 Erik Wilson  
2 Ruth Steward  
3 Lorie Blair  
4 Davante D. Peters  
5 Subrina Lynn Brenham  
6 Eugene Ralph

**Council District 9**  
1 Paula C. Blackmon  
2 Ernest P. Banda  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 10**  
1 Serrano Keith Baldeo  
2 Kathy Stewart  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 11**  
1 Kendal Richardson  
2 Mona Andy Elshenaw  
3 Bill Roth  
4 Jeff Kitner

**Council District 12**  
1 Cara Mendelsohn  
2 Marc Rossouw  
3 Jose Cavazos

**Council District 13**  
1 Diane Benjamin  
2 Gay Donnell Willis

**Council District 14**  
1 Paul E. Ridley



**DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING DATES / TIMES / LOCATIONS**

<b>*April 22-25</b>	Tuesday-Friday	8a.m. to 5p.m.
<b>April 26</b>	Saturday	8a.m. to 5p.m.
<b>April 27</b>	Sunday	12p.m. to 6p.m.
<b>April 28-29</b>	Monday – Tuesday	7a.m. to 7p.m.

VC#	Location	Voting Area	Address	City	Zip
E0004	Elections Training / Warehouse	Vote Center	1460 Round Table Dr	DALLAS	75247
E0012	Glenn Heights Family Center	multpurpose rm	1932 S Hampton Rd	GLENN HEIGHTS	75154
E0021	Islamic Association of North Texas	Brothers & Sisters Ent Foyer	840 Abrams Rd	RICHARDSON	75081
E0022	Vietnamese Community Center	Front and Back Room	3221 Belt Line Rd	GARLAND	75044
E0023	For Oak Cliff	Multipurpose Room	907 E Ledbetter Dr	DALLAS	75216
E0024	North Garland Branch Library	Program Room	3845 N Garland Ave	GARLAND	75040
E0025	Kiest Recreation Center	Small Rm	3081 S Hampton Rd	DALLAS	75224
E0029	MLK Jr Branch Library	Auditorium	2922 MLK Jr Blvd	DALLAS	75215
E0030	Northway Christian Church	Fellowship Hall	7202 W Northwest Hwy	DALLAS	75225
E0038	Royal Lane Baptist Church	Vickrey Hall	6707 Royal Ln	DALLAS	75230
E0041	Makkah Masjid IDEA	Back Multipurpose Room	3301 Buckingham Rd	GARLAND	75042
E0043	Ministerios Charisma	Large Side Room	740 Melrose Dr	RICHARDSON	75080
E0049	Dallas County Mesquite Gov Ctr	Community RM L101	500 S Galloway Ave	MESQUITE	75149
E0050	Dallas County Records Bld	Lobby	500 Elm St	DALLAS	75202
E0051	Addison Athletic Club	Community Rm	3900 Beltway Dr	ADDISON	75001
E0052	Methodist Richardson Medical Center	Suite 100	403 W. Campbell Rd	RICHARDSON	75080
E1022	Oak Lawn Branch Library	Auditorium	4100 Cedar Springs Rd	DALLAS	75219
E1029	Richland Campus-Dallas College	LeCroy Center R012	9596 Walnut St	DALLAS	75243



VC#	Location	Voting Area	Address	City	Zip
E1052	Lochwood Branch Library	Black Box Theater	11221 Lochwood Blvd	DALLAS	75218
E1071	Lakewood Branch Library	Auditorium	6121 Worth St	DALLAS	75214
E1074	Samuell Grand Recreation Center	Game Room 112	6200 E Grand Ave	DALLAS	75223
E1088	Skyline Branch Library	Auditorium	6006 Everglade Rd	DALLAS	75227
E1096	Pleasant Grove Ctr-Dallas College	Community Room 108/109	802 S Buckner Blvd	DALLAS	75217
E1116	Harry Stone Recreation Center	Multi-Purpose Room 104	2403 Millmar Dr	DALLAS	75228
E1301	Florence Recreation Center	Event Room	2501 Whitson Way	MESQUITE	75150
E1708	Garland Center-Dallas College	Conference Room A&B	675 W Walnut St	GARLAND	75040
E1723	South Garland Branch Library	Program Room	4845 Broadway Blvd	GARLAND	75043
E2005	Marsh Lane Baptist Church	Fellowship Hall	10716 Marsh Ln	DALLAS	75229
E2052	Fretz Park Library	Black Box Theater	6990 Belt Line Rd	DALLAS	75254
E2060	Audelia Road Branch Library	Auditorium	10045 Audelia Rd	DALLAS	75238
E2220	University Park UMC	Parlor RM 101	4024 Caruth Blvd	DALLAS	75225
E2305	Farmers Branch Manske Library	Community Hub	13613 Webb Chapel Rd	FARMERS BRANCH	75234
E2407	Josey Ranch Lake Library	Meeting Room 150	1700 Keller Springs Rd	CARROLLTON	75006
E2604	Valley Ranch Library	Meeting Room	401 Cimarron Trl	IRVING	75063
E2805	Coppell Town Center	Atrium	255 E Parkway Blvd	COPPELL	75019
E2927	Rowlett Community Centre	Room C & D	5300 Main St	ROWLETT	75088
E2941	Sachse City Hall	Courtroom	3815-B Sachse Rd	SACHSE	75048
E3043	Paul L Dunbar Library	Auditorium	2008 E Kiest Blvd	DALLAS	75216
E3064	Friendship West Baptist Church	Banquet Hall Foyer	2020 W Wheatland Rd	DALLAS	75232
E3073	Highland Hills Library	Auditorium	6200 Bonnie View Rd	DALLAS	75241
E3106	A E Sims Cedar Hill Rec Center	Bluebonnet Room	310 E Parkerville Rd	CEDAR HILL	75104
E3202	Duncanville Library	Meeting Rms 1-3	201 James Collins Blvd	DUNCANVILLE	75116
E3400	Balch Springs Civic Center	Big Room Area	12400 Elam Rd	BALCH SPRINGS	75180
E3500	Sunnyvale Town Hall	Council Chambers	127 N Collins Rd	SUNNYVALE	75182
E3605	Disciple Central Comm Church	Sanctuary	901 N Polk St	DESOTO	75115
E3809	Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library	Meeting Room	1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy	LANCASTER	75134
E3921	Seagoville City Hall	Foyer	702 N Hwy 175	SEAGOVILLE	75159
E3940	Wilmer Community Center	Main Room	101 Davidson Plz	WILMER	75172
E3950	Hutchins City Hall	Council Chambers	321 N Main St	HUTCHINS	75141
E4029	West Dallas Center-Dallas College	Room 141/142	3330 N Hampton Rd	DALLAS	75212
E4050	Mountain Creek Library	Auditorium	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	DALLAS	75249
E4064	Martin Weiss Recreation Center	Large Room	1111 Martindell Ave	DALLAS	75211
E4071	Oak Cliff Government Center	Main Lobby	702 E Jefferson Blvd	DALLAS	75203
E4081	Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Center	Area in Lobby/Hallway	3114 Clymer St	DALLAS	75212
E4086	Grauwylar Park Recreation Center	Room A	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	DALLAS	75235
E4113	Mountain View Campus-Dallas College	E. Bldg., East Foyer	4849 W Illinois Ave	DALLAS	75211
E4502	Betty Warmack Library	Empower Room	760 Bardin Rd	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
E4514	The Summit	Ballroom 1	2975 Esplanade Dr	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
E4516	Crosswinds High School	Room 104	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	GRAND PRAIRIE	75050
E4607	Irving City Hall	Main Lobby	825 W Irving Blvd	IRVING	75060
E4642	Irving Arts Center	Suite 200	3333 N Macarthur Blvd	IRVING	75062

**Dallas County Early voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.dallascountytvotes.org/voters/election/may-3-2025-joint-special-election/>

**\*\*Those City of Dallas residents who are in Denton County, please access the following website for Denton County Early Voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.votedenton.gov/election-day-information/current-and-upcoming-election-information/>

**\*\*\*Those City of Dallas residents who are in Collin County, please access the following website for Collin County Early Voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.collincountyttx.gov/Elections/polling-locations>

**\*Note for Early Voting: Because Monday, April 21, 2025, is San Jacinto Day, which is a legal holiday, early voting will not be conducted on this date.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:**

**Biliera Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809**

# Tainted, toxic, and troubling: recalls spike nationwide

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

It may feel like every day brings news of another product recall—from baby carrots and cold cuts to LED bear lights and adjustable dumbbells—and you’re not imagining it. The avalanche of food and consumer safety alerts is real, and it’s happening against a backdrop of deep federal cuts and deregulation under the Trump administration. For Black Americans and other vulnerable communities, the consequences of these safety lapses hit harder, from the dinner table to the workplace and beyond. The latest food recall involves



Panaderia Salvadorian Inc., which pulled its Quesadilla de Queso bread off shelves in Rhode Island and Massachusetts due to undeclared milk allergens. The product, sold in 14-ounce clear plastic packages, failed to properly list milk among

its ingredients, posing a potentially life-threatening risk to individuals with allergies. No illnesses have been reported, but the Rhode Island Department of Health flagged the mislabeling during a routine inspection. The company cit-

ed a packaging breakdown as the cause and claims the issue has been resolved.

Just days earlier, Fresh Creative Foods recalled

Trader Joe’s Hot Honey Mustard Dressing sold in 17 states due to undeclared peanuts, soy, sesame, and wheat—another oversight that could prove fatal for allergy sufferers. Meanwhile, Frito-Lay yanked select bags of Tostitos Cantina Traditional Yellow Corn Tortilla Chips after discovering some bags contained nacho cheese chips, again with undeclared milk. Additionally, The FDA said more than 1,700 pounds of Cabot Creamery butter is being recalled because it is “contaminated with elevated levels of coliform,” a bacterium prevalent in

animals’ digestive systems and excrement. The recalled butter is distributed in New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Arkansas. According to the recall notice, the Cabot butter product is packaged in cardboard shells holding two four-ounce sticks. The possibly tainted batch expires on September 9, 2025. Just as alarming is the recall from Walker’s Wine Juice LLC, which pulled its pumpkin juice due to potential botulism contamination. The New

See **RECALLS**, Page 13

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Bid Date: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00 PM

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Greg Byars  
[w.byars@eaglecontracting.com](mailto:w.byars@eaglecontracting.com)  
Office Number 817-379-1997 Ext. 127  
Cell 817-401-9019

This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBEs through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details of the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit [www.twdb.texas.gov/DBE](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/DBE).

\*\*\*Eagle Contracting welcomes proposals from Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs). Contractors and Suppliers submitting Proposals shall encourage HUBs to participate in performance of this contract.\*\*\*

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## RECALLS, from Page 12

York State Department of Agriculture discovered improper pH levels posed a serious foodborne illness risk during processing. While no illnesses have been reported, the threat of botulism—an often fatal toxin—shows a breakdown in quality control.

And it's not just food. Recent consumer product recalls underscore mounting dangers:

- Five Below's Room-2Room LED Iridescent Bear Lights were pulled after 28 overheating incidents, including six burns and two cases of property damage.

- Vivitar Blender Bottles, sold at Target, could allow the blades to run without the bottle attached, posing a laceration hazard.

- AliExpress' LVOE Hair Dryers are under recall

for lacking shock protection, which could potentially cause electrocution if dropped in water.

- HONEYJOY High-chairs, sold on Amazon, violated federal regulations with their dangerous incline—posing suffocation risks.

- Gerolsteiner Sparkling Water bottles from Trader Joe's were recalled due to risks of cracking and lacerations.

- Supercan Bulk's Pig Ear Slivers pet treats tested positive for salmonella, endangering both pets and humans.

The Trump administration's sweeping layoffs at the Department of Health and Human Services—announced as part of efforts to “shrink the federal government”—have only fueled these safety fail-

ures. Among those fired were leadership staff at the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, essential for overseeing food safety, especially during crises like the ongoing bird flu outbreak affecting nearly 1,000 U.S. dairy cattle herds. Federal health officials have warned against the dangers of consuming raw milk, which could carry the H5N1 bird flu virus. Still, Trump's health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a vocal proponent of raw milk, has slashed oversight capacity at a time when coordination is crucial. “You chop off the head of the leadership, and now we have to reinvent that wheel,” said one health official. “That's not in our best interest.”

The ripple effects of weakened federal protections are already being felt by millions, especially in

Black communities, which are more likely to suffer from environmental and health disparities. From the closing of community grocers to job losses in federal food safety and healthcare programs, many called the pain personal and pervasive. For consumers, the advice remains constant: Read labels, monitor recall alerts, and return or destroy recalled items. However, as oversight continues to erode, so does public trust in the institutions meant to protect consumers.

“If your product is unsafe, it shouldn't be on the market. Period,” said Dr. Janet Woodcock, former acting FDA commissioner, during a recent panel on public health accountability. “And when government agencies are gutted, the people paying the price are the ones least able to afford it.”

## WINGS, from Page 8

others involved, and that's something that's really special. You put that next to Arike and I feel together they'll be able to play off of each other and read who's going, who needs a touch, maybe I need to be more aggressive, maybe I need to defer in this moment. Love [Bueckers'] mindset

of getting others involved, I think [Bueckers and Ogunbowale] will mesh well together.”

It's an exciting time for Wings fans as a new era is in full swing for the franchise. In 2026 the Wings will leave their current home court at UT Arlington's College Park Cen-

ter and move to Memorial Arena at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in downtown Dal-

las. The Wings are looking to build something special both on and off the court as they enter a new chapter.

## FILM, from Page 9

character. Charlie's misery, courage and determination are always present: “I want to face my wife's killers... and balance the scales.” Malek has a very international looking face, is well suited for this role and earns his paycheck.

When the climax comes, audiences will have mar-

veled at the tech nerd in the corner who turned into a genius killer. A skinny, calculating punisher who's cold fury burns those who deserve it and tricks those who abet with a revenge that tastes so sweet.

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

Hemphill, LLC proposes to build a 113-foot Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 106 East Clarendon Drive, Dallas, Dallas Co., TX 75203 [Lat: 32-44-03.57 N, Lo: 96-49-19.22 W]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Arjun Pai, a.pai@trileaf.com, 7700 West Highway 71, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78735 – 512.519.9388*



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# The Journey of 1,000 Miles Begins with an Apple Fritter

Dr. James L. Snyder

Life has many paths, and I have discovered that traveling any of them takes a lot of energy.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, my energy comes from those wonderful Apple Fritters. I can't remember the first time I had one, but I vividly remember the last time.

Trying to get through life successfully is quite an energetic activity; everybody needs that energy. Finding that energy is the great secret of life.

For years, I have tried convincing The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage of the value of an Apple Fritter, at least for me. We've had this argument or rather discussion, and I have tried to prove that an

Apple Fritter is a fruit. After all, isn't an apple fruit? And shouldn't we be eating fruit?

On the other side of the dining room table, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gets her energy from eating broccoli. I don't even like pronouncing the name, let alone seeing it on the dining room table. But for her, broccoli is the Queen of all vegetables. (Yuck)

I argue that I'm a fruit guy, but she misuses that phrase and calls me a fruity guy.

I can remember one time in my life when I ate broccoli. It was so disgusting that I have never eaten it again. I can't even stand the smell of broccoli in our house.

Every once in a while, I smell broccoli from the

kitchen and know it's on the dinner menu tonight. I don't mind having broccoli on the table, but I certainly do not accept having it on my plate.

Through the years, I have tried to negotiate with her and tell her I will eat Apple fritters when she eats broccoli. After all, it's what we like.

Once I was a good negotiator. My mother was trying to get me to eat spinach, which I really hated. One Saturday, I was watching Popeye the Sailor on TV. When my mother saw me watching it, she said, "See, Popeye loves spinach. I think you should be eating spinach too."

Without even looking at her, I said, "Popeye also smokes a pipe. Does that mean I can smoke a pipe?" That discussion never came

up again.

That's the only negotiating on food I've ever won.

For some reason, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage hates Apple fritters. I think she hates them more than I hate broccoli.

For me, Apple fritters provide the energy I need to build up my attitude of excitement in life. Nothing does that better than Apple fritters.

She argues that because of my health condition, my food has to be sugar-free. I don't know who came up with that idea, but a sugar-free menu certainly is not appealing.

"Don't you know," she will explain, "that there is sugar in those Apple fritters? And you need to be on a sugar-free diet."

After years of debate, I fi-

nally thought of a solution. I talked to the baker where I get most of my Apple fritters and we both came to an amicable agreement. I asked him how much sugar was in an Apple Fritter, and he told me. I asked if he could make the sugar free

instead of paying for it. After all, if all the sugar is free, then according to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, it is okay for me to eat.

I tried explaining to her that sugar is always free

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right-wing politics and recent executive orders by President Donald Trump.

The People's Union USA, which led the February 28 boycott, has already launched similar weeklong actions against Walmart and announced upcoming boycotts of Amazon (May 6-12), Walmart again (May 20-26), and McDonald's (June 24-30). The organization's founder, John Schwarz, said the goal is nothing short of shifting the economic power balance.

"We are going to remind them who has the power," Schwarz said. "For one day, we turn it off. For one day, we shut it down. For one day, we remind them that this country does not belong to the elite, it be-

longs to the people." As for Target, its top executives continue to downplay the damage. During a recent earnings call,

Chief Financial Officer Jim Lee described the outlook for 2025 as uncertain, citing the "ripple" effects of tariffs and a wide range of possible outcomes. "We're going to be focusing on controlling what we can control," Lee said. But discontent is spreading internally. A Reddit post from a worker claimed, "The HR rep is doing his best to stop the bleeding, but all he did was put a Bluey band-aid on what is essentially a severed limb."

Several employees criticized the company's internal rewards system, "Bulls-

eye Bucks," for offering what amounts to play money.

"Can't pay rent or buy food with Bullseye Bucks," one wrote. Others urged their colleagues to join unionizing efforts. "Imagine how much Target would lose their mind if they were under a union contract," one team leader wrote. "It needs to happen at this point." One former manager said they left the company after an insulting raise. "Quit last year when they gave me a 28-cent raise. Best decision I've ever made." From store floors to boardrooms, the pressure is growing on Target. And as calls for justice, equity, and worker rights get louder, one worker put it plainly: "We're all screwed—unless we fight back."

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# God Knows the End to the Beginning



**Sister Tarpley**  
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Years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze, prostitution, and murder.

Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Capone out of jail. Capone paid Eddie very well and gave him special dividends. Easy Eddie's family occupied a fenced-in mansion that filled a Chicago block, with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day.

Although Eddie gave little consideration to the

atrocities that went on around him; he had one soft spot: a son that he loved dearly; the son had the best of everything: A good education, clothes, cars, etc.

Nothing was withheld and price was no object. However, Eddie tried to teach his son right from wrong. He wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet with all his wealth and influence, Eddie couldn't pass on a good name and a good example to his son.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision; he wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. To do this, he had to go to the authorities and tell the truth about Capone, clean up his tarnished name and offer his son some semblance of integrity.

He had to testify against "The Mob"; he knew that the cost would be great.

Within one year of testifying, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a Chicago Street. But in Eddie's eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift that he had to offer, at the greatest price he would ever pay.

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

On February 20, 1942, O'Hare's entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his tank. He didn't have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet. As he was returning to the carrier, he

saw a squadron of Japanese aircraft speeding toward the American fleet.

The American fighters were on a maneuver and were all but defenseless. O'Hare couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the

fleet; or warn them of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mount-

ed 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another.

He fired on as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was spent.

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whenever I buy an Apple Fritter, so technically speaking, the Apple fritters I purchase at my bakery are sugar-free.

How to be simpler than that is beyond my resources. She didn't accept that argument and seriously said, "That is not what I'm talking about. The sugar in that Apple Fritter is dangerous to your health."

Apart from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, nothing is sweeter than an Apple Fritter. Whether I pay for the sugar or it comes free doesn't really matter to me. Honestly, I don't eat Apple fritters every day. I am very disciplined when it comes to my diet. I can't explain my frequency for obvious reasons.

Once in a while, I have this inward yearning for an

Apple Fritter. If I haven't had one in some time, I begin thinking about it and am famished for one.

Controlling my diet at my age is very important. I'm not as young or skinny as I once was. I understand that and realize I cannot eat like I am 18. But sometimes, I need to enjoy something that will nourish my current enthusiasm. Several things come to my mind, but the first thing is an Apple Fritter.

I'm not sure who invented the Apple Fritter, but I'd like to meet them someday, shake their hand, and thank them.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I will celebrate our 54th wedding anniversary this August. Amazingly, we've been together this long,

and our only disagreement during that time has been the Apple Fritters/broccoli controversy. That's a remarkable accomplishment, especially in the day we live.

So, if I gave up Apple Fritters, we would have no disagreements. What kind of life would that be?

While thinking about this a favorite verse of Scripture came to mind. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

It's not so much what you don't agree on but rather on what you to agree on. That's what brings to people together.

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.jamesnyderministries.com.

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## NDG Book Review: 'Together We Roared' is great for golf fans and more

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Three hundred thirty-six little pockmarks.

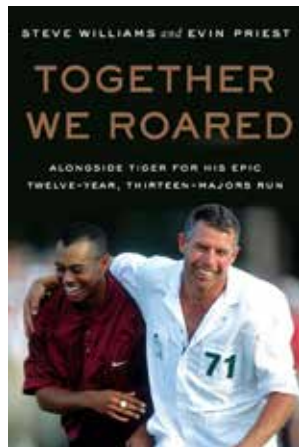
Placed atop a thick sliver of wood, the ball they're on presents a challenge. Whack that dimpled sphere into 18 holes in the ground, do it in as few swings as possible, and you can ace the game. Do it and, as in the new book, "Together We Roared" by Steve Williams and Evin Priest, you could be a champion of a different stripe.

When the first call came, Steve Williams thought it was a prank.

It was a late spring night in 1999 and the voice on the other end of the line identified itself as Tiger Woods. Because Williams had a friend on the golf circuit who did an authentic-sounding Woods impression, Williams hung up the phone.

And the phone rang again. And again. Yes, it was Tiger Woods, who wanted to ask Williams to be his new caddy. Williams said he wanted to think about it.

Caddies, say the authors, are weather analysts, topographers, psychologists, mind-readers, and companions. The luckiest ones become friends with their bosses, which is what



happened with Williams and Woods – although the fact always remained that Woods was in charge. Williams had to learn what Woods needed on the course, and how to do it firmly.

Sometimes, that meant getting up at "dark-thirty" to be ready to caddy as the sun rose. It meant knowing when Woods wanted a fan or another golfer to leave him alone – and to get rid of the interrupter quickly. It meant telling Woods which golf club was best, given the situation, and knowing when the time was right to argue with him.

As their working relationship deepened, so did their friendship. Williams enjoyed Woods' "generosity and loyalty." In turn, he cared for Woods on the course, giving his best for a dozen years until their partnership ended swiftly with

the most explosive controversy.

Here are the first and perhaps most important words you need to know before you even touch "Together We Roared": know golf.

Without a basic understanding of the game, the bulk of this memoir might as well be written in Cyrillic. Authors Steve Williams and Evin Priest talk the talk and their stories are thrilling and inspirational, but only if you know your way around a golf course. If you've watched a game with even the slightest knowledge of what's going on, you'll love the tiny nuggets of insight because it's apparent that they come from a respectful insider whose aim is not to gossip. But this can't be underscored enough: just being a Tiger Woods fan won't be adequate and you will be thoroughly befuddled more than not. Reading it won't be the fun you want.

If you're a fan and a golfer, though, then yeah, this is a book for you.

In their introduction, the authors list common questions that they're asked, and they promise to candidly answer them here. They do, and you'll be glad. If you love the game, "Together We Roared" will fit you to a tee.

the Congressional Medal of Honor. At 29 years of age, O'Hare was killed in aerial combat. O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is named in tribute of Butch O'Hare. His statue and Medal of Honor is located between Terminals 1 & 2.

Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son. God is so awesome!

## TARPLEY, from Page 15

Undaunted, he continued the assault, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction. Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped

back to the carrier. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of O'Hare's attempt to protect his fleet. He had destroyed five enemy aircraft.

O'Hare became the Navy's first Ace of W.W. II and the first Aviator to win

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