



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Is American authoritarianism now irreversible?

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

After 100 days, polls indicate many Americans are disenchanted with our current president. A recent Nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute poll found 52 percent said Donald Trump is a dangerous dictator. ABC, Washington Post, and Ipsos polls also found 49% believe the president is expanding his authority, ignoring the rule of law and moving away from the country's founding principles.

Insinuating his authority is absolute, since Trump took office, he has been ignoring Congress, the courts, and essentially the balance of powers called for under the Constitution. The Administration has also tried to suppress any information that would contradict or counter its actions, while attacking the free press and American universities.

Because the president handily won the election, Vice President



*Amid warnings from constitutional scholars, the Trump administration is accused of eroding democratic norms through authoritarian tactics such as bypassing legal institutions, silencing dissent, and undermining minority rights. (DWG Studio)*

Vance said the Administration essentially has permission to do what it wants, as MSNBC reported.

Nevertheless, public opinion clashes with many of its actions, according to the recent polls.

Professor Lucan Way, an expert on political transitions and authori-

tarian governments, spoke recently at an American Community Media briefing. Way said he had expected a slower, more legalistic progression toward authoritarianism, more like that of Hungary, Poland or India.

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### People In The News ...



NiJaree Canady



Shameta Jones-Harrell

#### NDG Quote of the Week:

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

- Former President Barack Obama



## NiJaree Canady

NiJaree Canady, a 22-year-old African American softball phenom, has become the first college softball player to sign a Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deal worth more than \$1 million, a historic moment in collegiate sports.

The former Stanford ace transferred to Texas Tech, where she secured a groundbreaking \$1,050,024 one-year contract through the Matador Club, an NIL collective affiliated with the university.

The deal includes a \$1 million direct payment, \$50,000 for living expenses, and an additional \$24 in



honor of her jersey number.

According to BlackNews.com, Canady, who was named the 2024 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, entered the transfer portal shortly before Texas Tech hired Coach Gerry Glasco. He acted quickly to

bring her to Lubbock—with backing from NFL quarterback and Red Raider alum Patrick Mahomes—and offered her not just a starting role but an expanded opportunity to develop her offensive skills.

“The coaching staff and their vision were a major reason I made this decision,” Canady told ESPN.

She described her transition from Stanford’s Palo Alto campus to West Texas as smooth, noting that the environment reminds her more of her hometown of Topeka, Kansas.

USA Today noted that Canady’s impact on the field was immediate and unmatched.

Despite suffering a minor injury, she helped lead Texas Tech to its first Big 12 regular-season and conference titles, finishing the season with a 26-5 record and a nation-leading ERA of 0.86.

She also threw a two-hit shutout with 10 strikeouts to deliver the program’s first-ever win at the Women’s College World Series. Coach Glasco called Canady the best pitcher he’s ever coached and said he believes she can lead Texas Tech to a national championship.

Her resume is as stacked as her fastball is deadly.

In addition to her 2024

USA Softball Player of the Year honor, Canady received the Honda Sport Award, was a two-time Women’s College World Series All-Tournament Team selection and dominated at Stanford with a 41-10 record and a 0.67 ERA over two seasons. She also represented Team USA in the 2024 Japan All-Star Series.

Before college, Canady was a standout at Topeka High School, where she was a two-time Kansas Gatorade Player of the Year and led her team to back-to-back state championships.

She graduated in 2022 and was ranked as the No. 11 softball recruit in the na-

tion by Extra Innings Softball.

Off the field, she’s equally grounded—an academic All-American who enjoys reading and spending time with her dog.

She is the daughter of Bruce and Katherine Canady, and her brother Bruce Jr. plays football at Cal. Canady’s NIL deal not only sets a new benchmark for college softball but also signals a shift in opportunities for Black female athletes in a space that other demographics have long dominated.

“She’s changing the game—literally and financially,” Coach Glasco said.

## Shameta Jones-Harrell

Shameta Jones-Harrell has officially taken the helm as police chief of Austell, Georgia, becoming the first woman to lead any police department in Cobb County’s history.

With over two decades of law enforcement experience, Jones-Harrell brings a strong track record of leadership, innovation, and a deep commitment to community policing. Sworn in Tuesday evening,

Jones-Harrell outlined her top priorities: increasing female representation on the force, enhancing community engagement, and securing state accreditation for the department.

“We are almost at the end of that goal,” she told WSB-TV, referencing the department’s progress toward certification.

Her rise through the ranks has been both historic and impactful. She began her law enforcement career in October 2000 with the College Park Police Depart-



ment, where she served in various roles, including as a detective specializing in sex crimes, domestic violence, and crimes against children.

She also served on the SWAT team, the only woman at the time to hold that position. Her leadership journey continued at the Brookhaven Police Department, where she joined as a sergeant and quickly rose to lieutenant, then major.

There, she oversaw the Support Services Division, managed the Community Engagement Unit, and launched initiatives such as the “One Congregation One Precinct” program to build stronger ties between

police and faith-based communities. She also acted as a liaison to the Social Justice, Race, and Equity Commission’s Police Accountability & Legitimacy Committee.

In 2021, she joined the Austell Police Department as deputy chief, where she led roughly 60 community outreach efforts and implemented daily patrol strategies that she credits with helping reduce violent crime in the city.

“One of the reasons why I decided to join law enforcement is so I can make sure I could progress other women through the ranks,” she said. Her emphasis on accountability, training, and inclusion reflects a broader effort to build a department that represents and serves the entire community.

A graduate of Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a concentration in Forensic Science, Chief Jones-Harrell

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# Trump, The Law, and 'We The People'



**Dr. John E. Warren**  
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Voice &  
Viewpoint

As Thomas Payne once wrote in his paper "The Crisis" during the American revolution, "These are the times that try men's souls". Nothing is more trying than seeing an American President, who has taken an oath to "Protect And Defend" the Constitution of the United States, blatantly ignore both his oath and the very document he swore to uphold. There is nothing worse than a lawless President, a Republican controlled Congress and a United States Supreme Court who refuse to take the necessary steps to protect the very people they too swore to 'Protect

and Defend". While "We" the American people rise up in protest against the unconstitutional efforts of all the parties named above, we must do so within the confines of the law.

We must not allow our sense of moral righteousness and frustration to lead us to the very acts of violence that this President and all his agents want and need to justify their violation of laws that prohibit placing American troops on the grounds of the United States as prohibited by law.

Again, we must go into the Congressional District of each and every Republican Member of Congress who remains silent against the President's violation of his Oath and the law that he swore to uphold. We must not allow the ICE arrest and protest to become a distraction from our fight to block

Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" which would literally kill millions of Americans with the loss of healthcare insurance and benefits. We must laser focus on the recall and removal from office all vulnerable Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, to ensure the defeat of this Bill. We can fight ICE long after the Bill is defeated, but less not be tricked by the forces of Trump.

"We The People" must keep up the protest and "We the Press" must stay the course as the Trusted Messengers, the Black Press in particular, have been for 198 years.

Black people in particular can not afford to sit this one out, no matter what the rationale. We are all in this boat together. We can be angry with the President, but let's not forget

those both with him and standing behind him. Let's think about what we will do about them.

We can cover the ongoing boycotts in corporate America, but let's not get caught up in them. Let us remember that there are only three things that corporate America understands: (1) Loss Profits, (2) Bad Publicity, and (3) A Vote cast against Their Interest.

We, the Press, have the job of reporting on how each of these elements are affecting corporate America as we go about our task of daily news reporting. The same applies to the President and his conduct under the rule of law. Let us help each other with this critical task so key to survival of democracy and our own survival during "These Are The Times That Try Men's Souls".

## The Travel Ban's Chilling Impact

By April Ryan

"Another shameful moment for our nation's foreign policy" is what ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Greg Meeks calls President Trump's latest travel ban on 12 countries.

President Trump reinstated his first-time travel ban based on national security concerns. Beginning June 9, 2025, at 12:01, citizens of the designated countries are banned from entering the United States.

The entry bans citizens from the following countries: Afghanistan, Myan-

mar, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The 12 countries on the travel ban list comprise seven African nations and one Caribbean nation. This ban will impact commerce and possibly diplomatic relations with these countries.

Congressman Meeks says, "Trump's travel ban is discriminatory from the ground up, and ultimately self-defeating—it even betrays our Afghan allies who supported U.S. troops over our twenty-year war and

were waiting for their visas to enter the United States."

President Trump also signed a ban on international students attending Harvard University, a school he has been battling with over issues such as antisemitism on campus and discrimination against white, Asian, male, and straight individuals.

The Trump administration is also concerned with China's foreign influence and perceived woke ideology. Chioma Chookwoo of American Oversight says, "A quarter of Harvard's student population is international."

The latest travel ban has far-reaching implications for higher education in the United States.

North Carolina Democratic Congresswoman Alma Adams told Black Press USA, "Nationwide, we have more than 1 million international students who contribute \$50 billion to the U.S. economy each year."

In Adam's home district, she says the University of North Carolina at Charlotte "has 2,000 international students from nearly 100 countries."

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# A new look at the Stateville Prison malaria experiments

(Newswise) — The next time your doctor suggests that you take a genetic test before prescribing a drug, you can thank a group of Black inmates imprisoned outside Chicago 75 years ago. The story starts with malaria research using prisoners but has long been told as if no Black participants were involved at all. That narrative is now being rewritten.

Much attention has been paid to malaria experiments conducted on inmates at Illinois' Stateville Penitentiary and the fraught ethical issues that the carceral studies raised. Stateville



University of Utah

inmates were infected with the potentially fatal mosquito-borne disease from 1945 to 1974 to test the efficacy of various antimalarial treatments—part of a

U.S. military-funded effort to protect American troops serving overseas.

The standard version of this history is that African-American prisoners were

intentionally excluded from the infamous studies, based on the myth that Black people were immune to malaria.

University of Utah medical ethicists, led by philosophy professor James Tabery, are now shining a light on a buried part of the Stateville story in hopes of revealing how the prison experiments advanced medical science that benefits patients today, and which would not have happened were it not for the participation of Black inmates. The Utah research was funded by the National Institutes of Health and

appears June 11 in JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association).

## The genetic basis of adverse drug reactions

Black inmates at Stateville were eventually brought into the malaria experiments in 1950—not to test antimalarials, but rather to figure out why the antimalarial drugs, such as primaquine, triggered dangerous adverse reactions in some people. This aspect of the Stateville research, in which at least 80 primaquine-sensitive inmates were studied, helped set the foundation for pharmacogenetics

and “precision medicine,” the modern practice of tailoring medical treatment to individuals’ genetic profiles, according to former Utah graduate student Hannah Allen, first author on the study and now an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley.

This study explores the history of these experiments funded by the U.S. Army and led by Alf Alving, a nephrologist with the University of Chicago. The toxicity studies over-

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## AUTHORITARIAN, from Page 1

Yet the Administration’s progress has been dramatic.

Professor Aziz Huq of the University of Toronto, a scholar of U.S. and comparative constitutional law, also spoke at the briefing. Huq explained, we have seen attacks on the American legal system, on law firms and on the courts. These are not just rhetorical attacks but actual threats toward judges and their families in a greater campaign to steer court decisions.

Yet, many have opposed Trump’s executive orders, as both democratic and republican judges continue to rule against him. District of Columbia Judge Boasberg perhaps took the strongest stance by bringing criminal contempt proceedings in an effort to force federal compliance with the rule of law. Yet, in April, the proceedings were stayed. We have yet to see the outcome of Judge Boasberg’s efforts, said Huq.

As Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Gloria Browne-Marshall, pointed out, this is not the first constitutional crisis in America. The first was against African Americans with the destruction of their constitutional protections granted after the Civil War.

Black citizens have long had to fight for their rights of equal protection and free speech. Their right to vote was historically challenged through poll taxes and literacy tests and more recently, through gerrymandering.

“In many ways, society has been dismissive of the Black plight, said Browne-Marshall. All we did as a nation was to grow numb to the cries of those people and their arguments.”

Yet, many, previously incognizant of their struggles, are now feeling similar pains to what the group has experienced historically.

One cannot allow the

rights of marginalized groups to be undermined, she said. The abuses will only spread to the greater society.

We oftentimes think of the United States as being the world’s oldest democracy, added Way. By any standard definition of democracy, we’ve only been a true democracy since the early 1970s with the implementation of the Voting Rights Act. “And democracy is very much over,” he added.

In Venezuela, it took a very long time to undermine democracy, and it also took a long time for people to start to realize that they actually no longer live in a democracy.

“I want to emphasize that by our measure, Venezuela today is a full scale classic dictatorship,” said Way. Yet, the nature of authoritarianism has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. Formerly the product of military coups, 63% of dictators are now elected.

We have a different type

of dictatorship today, said Way, known as “competitive authoritarianism.” Like in Hungary, Turkey, and India, elections are held regu-

larly in this system. Protests and opposition may be allowed openly, and to the normal person on the street, they appear like democra-

cies. Nevertheless, subtle legal or semi-legal abuses continue to occur.

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# Trump military parade spawns nationwide opposition protest

This Saturday there will be a large-scale military parade held in Washington, DC; the first such parade since 1991. At that time it was to mark the end of the Gulf War. Prior to that, the last one was held at the end of World War II.

This time it is being called the "United States Army 250th Anniversary Parade," but many are viewing it as "Trump's Military Parade" as the president had expressed a desire to hold military parades on the streets of the capital numerous times. Many call this a hallmark of dictatorships or authoritarian regimes, and insist, "We don't have kings in America."

As a result, many are planning to parade their opposition to such fanfare across the country.

On June 14, millions of people in more than 1,500 cities across all 50 states and commonwealths will take to the streets. No Kings is expected to be the largest single-day mobilization since President



This map marks the location of planned "No Kings Parade" protest throughout the U.S. (nokings.org)

Trump returned to office—a mass, nationwide protest rejecting authoritarianism, billionaire-first politics, and the militarization of democracy.

A full list of participating cities and event details is available online at [www.NoKings.org](http://www.NoKings.org).

The "No Kings" mobilization is a direct response to Donald Trump's self-aggrandizing \$100 million military parade and birthday celebration, an event funded by taxpayers while millions are told there's no

money for Social Security, SNAP, Medicaid, or public schools.

All No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to nonviolent protest and community safety. Organizers are trained in de-escalation and are working closely with local partners to ensure peaceful and powerful actions nationwide.

## LOCAL EVENTS

Dallas will be the host of a No Kings demonstration on Saturday as well, and there are numerous

such events planned in the smaller surrounding communities.

The Dallas protest will

be held on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. in Akard Plaza (1500 Marilla St. in Dallas).

There will also be a demonstration held in **Frisco** (FM 423 between Main/King and Stonebrook) earlier in the morning from 9:30-11 a.m.

At 10 a.m. a No Kings gathering is slated to take place in **Arlington** at the Arlington Sub Courthouse (700 E. Abram St.). At the same time in McKinney a protest is planned for the Target area (2025 N. Central Expy).

In **Denton**, the protest is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. on the Denton Square (110 W. Hickory St.).

From 2-4 p.m. in **Flower Mound**, there will be another No Kings protest held at Parker Square Gazebo (1500 Cross Timbers Rd.).

"A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action," organizers noted in an online release. "We show up with conviction and courage—not aggression. Our power is in our unity, our voices, and our commitment to justice. Please do not engage with any hecklers and seek to de-escalate or avoid any confrontations."

## BAN, from Page 3

The congresswoman, who also is a member of the House Committee on Education, says, "These students are coming to our country to better their edu-

cation and consistently give more than they receive."

"Between this latest travel ban, the freeze on student visa processing, and other chilling actions to de-

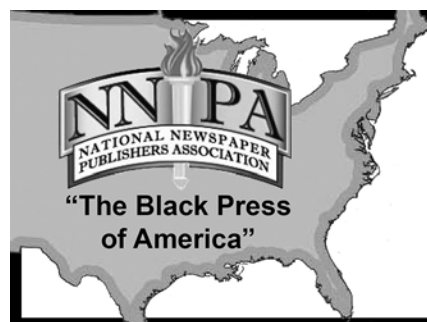
ter international students, the Trump administration is creating a self-inflicted brain drain that further damages our economy and undermines U.S. influence and soft power," offered Meeks.

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## Keep Up with the News Back Home!

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# Here's to new beginnings and bold dreams



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

Hello, District 6, Congratulations, Dallas ISD students! You've crossed the finish line of the 2024–2025 school year.

I couldn't be more proud of the determination and perseverance each of you showed throughout these two semesters. Whether this year brought triumphs or challenges (or both), you made it. And now, it's your time to rest, reflect, and recharge.

Summer is more than a break — it's a launchpad. If you're staying right here



in Dallas or setting off on travels near or far, this is your season of discovery. Take a moment to pause and ask yourself: What lights me up? What do I want to explore, become, or create?

I'm reminded of Oprah Winfrey's wise words: "The biggest adventure

you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams."

This summer, dare to begin that adventure. Dream bigger than ever before. Be bold in how you live. Dive deep into who you are and who you want to be.

Whether stepping into pre-K or preparing for senior year, it's never too



Courtesy photos

soon (or too late) to start building the life you imagine. And know this: Dallas ISD is with you every step of the way.

We are your champions, cheering you on as you reach your goals.

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, remember Dallas ISD has resources and opportunities

to help you thrive. Want to become a five-star chef? A mechanical engineer? Attend an Ivy League university? Earn a certificate that launches your career? It's all possible. And we're here to help make it happen.

So go ahead — explore, dream, grow. Because the world is waiting for everything you have to offer.

Have an amazing summer. We'll see you soon. Remember, the first day of school is Aug. 12.

**Food and Child Nutrition Services serves free summer meals:** This summer, Dallas ISD will provide all kids 18 years and younger, or 21 and under for those with disabilities, with healthy, no-cost sum-

mer meals. All meals meet or exceed USDA health requirements, featuring items like lean proteins, whole grains, multiple fruits and vegetables, and milk. Visit [dallasisd.org](http://dallasisd.org) for more information and to find a site near you.

**Summer Breeze blows into Dallas:** Get ready to dive into a summer filled with discovery, growth, and unforgettable fun through Summer Breeze 2025!

Designed to accelerate learning while supporting students' social and emotional growth, this program offers a wide variety of camps and classes that inspire curiosity and boost academic achievement.

For more information, visit [dallasisd.org](http://dallasisd.org).

## Collin College offers new bachelor's degree in Software Development

Collin College will offer a new Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Software Development starting in Fall 2025. This is the college's fifth baccalaureate degree.

The college received final approval for the BAT in Software Development from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) on April 4.

The program, which will be housed at Collin College's Frisco Campus, builds upon the college's

current Associate of Applied Science degree in Software Development.

"The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Software Development will give our students seeking advanced knowledge a path to higher level employment opportunities," said Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. "We are proud to be able to extend our bachelor's degree offerings and continue to provide affordable higher education opportunities for the local communities."

The program will give students hands-on expe-

rience with real-world software development practices, including agile teamwork, collaborative tools, and modern programming frameworks. Students will develop critical skills in project management and team collaboration that are common in the software development industry today.

"Graduates of the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Software Development will be prepared for a rewarding career in this high-demand, high-pay field," said Dr. Diana Hopes, campus provost of the Frisco

and Celina campuses.

Admission to the BAT in Software Development program requires admission to Collin College, completion of an Associate of Applied Science degree in Software Development or a closely related degree from an accredited educational institution, and completion of an application to the BAT in Software Development.

The college's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity launched in Spring 2020. The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)

in Construction Management began in Fall 2022, followed by the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Clinical Operations Management in Fall 2023.

For more information about the Software Development program, visit [www.collin.edu/departments/software-development](http://www.collin.edu/departments/software-development).

Collin College serves more than 60,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a Bach-

elor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity, a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Construction Management, a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Clinical Operations Management, and the new Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Software Development.

The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government, and industry, providing customized training and workforce development. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu).



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# Dallas Linebackers 2025: Talent, tenacity, and redemption

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Contributing Writer

The Dallas Cowboys are entering the 2025 season with a linebacker core that should wreak havoc against opposing offenses. Competition will certainly be high in the Cowboys' linebacker room.

The unit will feature:

- o DeMarvion Overshown
- o Kenneth Murray Jr.
- o Marist Liufau
- o Jack Sanborn
- o Shemar James
- o Damone Clark
- o Buddy Johnson
- o Darius Harris
- o Justin Barron

DeMarvion Overshown made a strong case to be named the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year before suffering a devastating knee injury that ended his 2024 season. Overshown tore his ACL, MCL, and PCL in his right knee and underwent surgery in December 2024 to repair the ligaments.

He is targeting a potential return in November against the AFC champion Kansas City Chiefs.

"Oh yeah I'm active in this," Overshown wrote in an Instagram post after Dallas' Thanksgiving Day game was announced.

Across 13 games, Overshown recorded 90 tackles, five sacks, eight tackles for loss, one forced fumble, an interception, and a touchdown. His presence on the defensive side of the ball brings an added element of speed and violence that wreaks havoc against opposing offenses.

If there's one thing we know about Overshown, it's that the kid is resilient.



He suffered a torn ACL in his left knee during a preseason game that caused him to miss his entire rookie season. Coming off that injury last season, he proved to everyone that he is one of the league's rising stars.

With renowned linebacker guru Matt Eberflus coordinating the defense, the Cowboys are hoping Overshown returns to the field better than ever.

Overshown is going back to his college number this season and will be wearing jersey No. 0. Earning the nickname "Agent 0" at Texas, he will look to showcase his elite level linebacker skills once again.

The Cowboys traded for linebacker Kenneth Murray earlier this offseason, and the former first-round pick already feels comfortable in Eberflus' scheme.

"I think it's a great fit," Murray said, via Clarence Hill of All City DLLS. "I've been enjoying myself, obviously transitioning over from being traded and getting up to speed and stuff like that. Lot of things work to my strengths, coming down hill, playing the coverage, stuff like that. It's been good. It's been great being here during the offseason program, getting around the guys and just trying to come in and establish a culture and get better every day."

Murray is expected to be a Day 1 starter and could potentially wear the green dot to call plays on defense this year.

"I'm extremely comfort-

able with it," Murray said of being the green dot. "I've done it the majority of my career, getting us in and out of checks, being able to decipher different things, different formation, stuff like that."

Murray was a defensive captain with the Tennessee Titans last season and recorded 95 tackles, 3.5 sacks, an interception, and a forced fumble across 14 games.

As quarterback of the defense, Murray vows to

improve the Cowboys run defense—which has been a major weakness over the past five seasons. Dallas ranked 29th in run defense last year and have not ranked higher than 16th since 2018.

"I think it's just taking a different approach," Murray said. "Obviously, it's a new style coming in, and then, you know, got some new players. That's something that I'll take extremely personally. That's the mentality I'm gonna bring

to it. It's personal, man. When they just running it down your throat, it's unacceptable."

Murray has a chance to be the run-stopping X-factor on the new—and hopefully improved—Dallas defense.

Dallas selected linebacker Marist Liufau with the 87th overall pick in the third round of the 2024 NFL Draft, and he has made significant strides in his devel-

**See COWBUYS, Page 13**





# House Committee votes to strip CFPB's victim compensation fund

*\$4.2 million restitution still owed consumers after nearly a year*

By Charlene Crowell

For more than a decade, consumers have lauded the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) for its myriad accomplishments that have brought transparency and fairness to the financial marketplace. Earlier this year, a survey commissioned by the Center for Responsible Lending found that 82 percent of Americans believe it is important to regulate financial services to ensure they are fair for consumers.

Research, regulation, investigations, and litigation were among the effective tools CFPB used to return more than \$21 billion to over 200 million defrauded consumers.

At the same time, the anti-regulatory interests that opposed CFPB's creation never stopped trying to weaken, defy, or eliminate the agency. Now with a president and Congress actively embracing a deregulatory stance, the combination of pro-business presidential executive orders vigorously pursued by executive appointees have wreaked financial harm on consumers and compromised the agency's mission.

From slashing CFPB staffing by 70 percent, halting both investigations and pending litigation, to reversing regulations on overdraft and credit cards, in recent days a third anti-consumer move announced the agency would not enforce regulation of 'buy now, pay later' credit. In sum, today's agency actions no longer reflect its name or mission.

Yet the fight to neuter CFPB is still not done. It is now moving monies—denying or delaying millions that consumers are rightfully owed, and sending billions of dollars earmarked for victim compensation to the U.S. Treasury instead.



A pending, real-life case illustrates the harm wrought by such moves, and the financial injustice that results.

This February, several state attorneys general began restitution inquiries owed by Prehire, LLC. Earlier, CFPB determined that Prehire, LLC, an unlicensed online sales training program, violated two federal laws: the Truth in Lending Act, and Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. The firm lured prospective tech sales students with false promises of guaranteed minimal annual earnings of \$60,000 at a 'tech company of their choice.' The cost per student was half that amount—

\$30,000. Then the firm sold loans to its students to cover enrollment costs.

A March 12 joint letter to CFPB that asked about the status of payments to Prehire's victims failed to receive a reply. On May 06, a follow-up letter restated their earlier concerns.

Terming Prehire as "a predatory online training bootcamp," the state attorneys general in Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and South Carolina as well as the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, wrote in part:

"Prehire trapped its students with illegal and deceptive 'income share' loans. Prehire then resorted to abusive debt collection practices—including filing hundreds of debt collection lawsuits—when students could not repay those loans and the job of-

**See LOANS, Page 12**



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# Legendary funk pioneer Sly Stone dies at 82

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Sylvester “Sly” Stewart—known to the world as Sly Stone, frontman of the groundbreaking band Sly and the Family Stone—has died at the age of 82. His family confirmed that he passed away peacefully at his Los Angeles home, surrounded by loved ones, after battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other health complications.

Born March 15, 1943, in Denton, Texas, Stone moved with his family to Vallejo, California, as a child. He began recording gospel music at age eight with his siblings in a group called the Stewart Four. By his teenage years, he had mastered multiple instruments and was already pioneering racial integration in music—an ethos that would define his career.

In 1966, Sly and his brother Freddie merged their bands to form Sly and the Family Stone, complete with a revolutionary interracial, mixed-gender lineup. The band quickly became a commercial and cultural force with hits such as “Dance to the Music,” “Everyday People,” and “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)” —all penned by Stone himself.

Their album *Stand!* (1969) and live performances—most notably at Woodstock—cemented their reputation, blending soul, funk, rock, gospel, and psychedelia to reflect the optimism and turmoil of their era. Sly Stone’s musical approach radically reshaped popular music. He tran-



Chris Hakkens (CC BY SA 2.0)

scended genre boundaries and empowered a new generation of artists. The band’s socially conscious message and infectious rhythms sparked a wave of influence, reaching artists as diverse as Miles Davis, George Clinton, Prince, Dr. Dre, and the Roots.

As the 1970s progressed, Stone confronted personal demons. His desire to use music as a response to war, racism, and societal change culminated in the intense album “There’s a Riot Goin’ On” (1971).

But drug dependency began to undermine both his health and professional life, leading to erratic behavior and band decline through the early 1980s. Withdrawn from the public eye for much of the 1990s and early 2000s, Stone staged occasional comebacks.

He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammys in 2017, and captured public attention following the 2023 release of his memoir *Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)*—published under Questlove’s imprint. He also completed a biographical screenplay and was featured in Questlove’s

documentary *Sly Lives!* earlier this year.

His influence endured across generations. Critics and historians repeatedly credit him with perfecting funk and creating a “progressive soul,” shaping a path for racial integration both onstage and in the broader culture.

“Rest in beats Sly Stone,” legendary Public Enemy frontman Chuck D posted on social media with an illustrative drawing of the artist.

“We should thank Questlove of the Roots for keeping his fire blazing in this century.” Emmy-winning entertainment publicist Danny Deraney also paid homage.

“Rest easy Sly Stone,” Deraney posted. “You changed music (and me) forever. The time he won over Ed Sullivan’s audience in 1968. Simply magical.

Freelance music publicist and Sirius XM host Eric Alper also offered a tribute.

“The funk pioneer who made the world dance, think, and get higher,” Alper wrote of Sly Stone. “His music changed everything—and it still does.”

Sly Stone is survived by three children.

keeping a photo nearby bearing the words, “Inside me is a weak heart, but behind me is a strong God.” Her faith, she said, and her role as a devoted mother of two sons continue to keep her grounded as she leads with strength and purpose.



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## HARRELL, from Page 2

has completed advanced leadership training, including the Law Enforcement Executive Development program and Critical Incident Stress Management courses. She is also a member

of both the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Jones-Harrell often reflects on the memory of her late mother,



# NDG Book Review: Books for Father's Day

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your Dad is the best.

He gives great hugs, first of all. He teaches you things, fixes what's broken, and he likes to play with you sometimes. Dad works hard, he's really smart, and he picks great books to read before your bedtime, books like these...

Who doesn't like to go camping with Dad? In the new book, "You Make the World" by Múon Thi Vãn, illustrated by Phùng Nguyễn Quang & Huynh Kim Liên (Orchard Books, \$18.99), a young child goes out in nature with their father, and learns a few things about what makes the world go 'round – at least, in Dad's eyes. It's a book that sings with joy and love; but it will also help your child



Terri Schlichenmeyer

understand that emotions actually mean something. Just don't be surprised if this sweet little story makes Dad tear up a bit because it's that kind of book. "You

Make the World" is perfect for bedtime, and it's great for kids ages three-to-seven.

Another book full of love is "Love, Dad: Inspiring Notes from Fathers to Kids" by Dr. Joel Warsh and Andrew Gardner, il-

lustrated by David Elmo Cooper (Random House, \$14.99). Here, authors Warsh and Gardner asked "lots of dads" what they wished their kids knew, and what they "hoped to teach their kids." It starts with the words, "When you grow

up, I hope you..." and the rest of the sentences are warm, loving, funny, inspiring, empowering, and good for kids of any age. Read this book now to your five-to-seven-year-old, then

See BOOKS, Page 12

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## MALARIA, from Page 4

loaded the prisoners with primaquine and then documented what happened to their physical health. The Stateville researchers discovered up to 10% of the African American subjects experienced an acute hemolytic reaction.

"This is where the drug is essentially destroying the body's red blood cells at a faster rate than they are being produced," Allen said. "This occurs due to an enzymatic deficiency that makes metabolizing the drug difficult. It's incredibly painful. You have a decrease in oxygenation to your limbs and organs, so it causes cyanosis, nausea, fatigue. Some people's spleens failed or kidneys started to fail, the urine becomes really dark."

The Stateville researchers shifted their focus to unearthing the basis for this primaquine sensitivity.

"That was the genuine mystery," said Tabery, a member of University of Utah's Center for Health

Ethics, Arts & Humanities. "Why is it the case that certain people have this really awful reaction to these drugs and nobody else does? Trying to answer that question is what sets the stage for modern pharmacogenetics."

In 1956, Alving's team discovered the genetic basis of primaquine sensitivity boiled down to an inability to sufficiently produce an enzyme, known as glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD), leaving the patient unable to combat oxidative stress triggered by exposure to the drug. The discovery was important because it told a clear genetic story behind a vexing health phenomenon and helped set the stage for avoiding dangerous drug reactions by testing people first to determine who might be sensitive.

Doctors now routinely administer genetic tests to their patients before prescribing certain drugs to decrease the risks of

adverse reaction—a cardiologist who checks her patient's genetic profile before prescribing a blood thinner, or an infectious disease specialist who ensures their patient with HIV will tolerate abacavir. These preventive measures are direct pharmacogenetic descendants of what was learned from Black research participants at Stateville.

### Proper acknowledgment for the prisoners

Setting up that pharmacogenetic revolution came at a cost to the Black prisoners involved, according to Allen and Tabery's research. In addition to the debilitating experience of the hemolytic anemia, the inmates' identifiable information was regularly reported in publications, family members were even recruited into the controversial studies, and they were paid less than the white prisoners.

"There was a clear difference between what the white prisoners and Black prisoners experienced in

the research conducted at Stateville," they said.

Medical research involving prisoners—at Stateville and across the nation—was suspended in 1974 over ethical concerns centered on informed consent and coercion. The Stateville Penitentiary itself has been shuttered; the last inmates were moved out this year, and old cellblocks are planned for demolition.

Stateville was built in 1925 as a maximum-security prison with state-of-the-art panopticon structures where every cell could be observed from a central guard station. Its iconic roundhouse cell-

blocks became famous as sets in TV shows and major films, such as "Natural Born Killers" and "Bad Boys," and the prison was the subject of the 1961 documentary, "Life at Stateville: The Wasted Years."

Because prisoner records are sealed for 75 years under Illinois state law, historians today are not able to identify the participants after 1950 except through contemporaneous press accounts, Tabery said. Those accounts focused largely on the white prisoners who were tested for drug effectiveness. Accordingly, the Black participants' identities remain obscured. Still,

Allen and Tabery are exploring other ways to properly acknowledge the role played by Black men in this transformational medical research—spotlighting the role of Black prisoners in museum exhibits about the history, and with science educators to develop lessons about pharmacogenetics oriented around the prisoner participants. As the JAMA publication concludes, "The medical community still has much to learn from what occurred at Stateville, and it is essential to recognize the participants—the people—who were at the center of it."

## COWBOYS, from Page 8

opment this offseason.

Liufau has a chance to win one of the starting linebacker roles this summer. Eberflus has a strong track record of developing linebackers, and Liufau has noticed a clear difference in practice sessions this year.

"I feel like from the players standpoint at least, running to the ball, there's a lot more energy, emphasis on running to the ball and getting to the football as a defense and attacking the ball, emphasizing takeaways," Liufau said.

Liufau had a productive rookie season, recording 50

tackles, 1.5 sacks, and two forced fumbles across 17 games.

Standing 6-2, 234 pounds, Liufau improved his strength throughout the offseason to be better suited to meet the physicality demands of an NFL linebacker.

The Notre Dame product has also bought into what new head coach Brian Schottenheimer is selling.

"I love it, that's his personality. I love that he is who he is, kind of has that swagger and just brings it to the table every day," Liufau said. "You love that from

a head coach, just showing you who they are and showing you that they're ready to work and they're going to show up to work and have that energy to get better."

The second-year linebacker is one of many players who have raved about the new culture Schottenheimer has built with the team.

Liufau is poised to build on his promising rookie season and could become a key contributor for the Dallas defense this upcoming season.

The linebacker position group in Dallas is shaping up to be an exciting one.



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## LOANS, from Page 8

fers Prehired promised did not materialize. Prehired specifically targeted military veterans with its advertising.

“Prehired was in bankruptcy and unable to issue refunds to its victims,” the letter continued. “In such cases, the CFPB’s Civil Penalty Fund is available to compensate harmed victims. Our offices worked with the CFPB to secure an allocation from the Civil Penalty Fund, in the amount

of \$4,248,249. The CFPB finalized the allocation on May 30, 2024.”

Ironically, a recent party-line vote by the House Financial Services Committee (HFSC) approved a resolution to remove CFPB’s ability to repay defrauded consumers from its Civil Penalty Fund (CPF). If subsequently passed by Congress, the fund’s unallocated revenues would be given to the Treasury Department, instead of re-

maintaining available to compensate victims.

Billions of dollars at stake. In June 2024, the Office of Inspector General at the CFPB reported that the CPF had collected \$3.4 billion and held a balance of \$1.9 billion, as of September 2023. Much of that balance came from a \$1.7 billion fine levied against Wells Fargo Bank, according to a February 2025 report by the Congressional Research Service.

An important part of the law creating CFPB design-

nated the CPF to be used for payments to legally defrauded victims or – when available – for consumer education and financial literacy programs. The law also identifies the fund’s administrator as the official responsible for supervising payments. Additionally, every six months the administrator sets aside monies for payments to harmed consumers.

Democratic members of HFSC offered multiple amendments as alternatives, rather than ceding monies

to Treasury. For example, Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley proposed that bad financial actors would bear the financial burden for funding when their practices violated applicable laws. This and other amendments made by committee Democrats were also rejected by majority members.

[M]y Republicans colleagues are telling their constituents loud and clear that they care more about protecting their friends on Wall Street than the people who voted to send them

here,” noted New York Congressman Greg Meeks, also a committee member.

“It’s not really about saving taxpayer money or anything related to the budget. It’s about getting rid of the Bureau,” said Christine Hines, senior policy director at the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

*Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

## BOOKS, from Page 10

make it a tradition by reading it every year for the next five or ten years.

And finally, if you’re looking for something your Dad might love to read, or if you’re a father yourself, consider “Fatherhood: A

History of Love and Power” by Augustine Sedgewick (Scribner, \$30).

“By any measure, fatherhood is one of the most meaningful concepts in human culture,” the author says, but it can also be filled

with aspects that today’s society might find oppressive, to one degree or another. For example, the idea that men must provide for and protect partners and offspring has been around a long time – though it’s changed and adapted with modern attitudes, feminism,

and other forces. You’ll see it through Sedgewick’s portraits of influential, powerful men throughout history, men who happened to be fathers.

This is a thoughtful, aha! kind of book for the dad who wants to read something different, for an older

teen who’d like a history of an unusual sort, or for Mom, who wants a peek into the other side of parenting.

Of course, there’s more to being a Dad than biology, and there are more books on the subject at your favorite bookstore or

library. To find them, you just need to step inside and ask for books on being a Dad, being a child with a Daddy, or getting to know the man who was your father. Indeed, your librarian or bookseller can help you find the Father’s Day books that are the best.



City of Dallas

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## OPPOSITION, from Page 4

Where the costs of opposition flourish, democracy disintegrates, he added. Now, even mainstream opposition is costly, he added. From defamation suits to online harassment, the costs of opposition are spiking, making the United States today unambiguously a competitive authoritarian society.

“Yet it’s not like democratic crisis is anything new in the United States,” he said. Its history of democracy has been quite imperfect. African Americans and other civil rights activists have long suffered the brunt of American authoritarianism.

More recently, attacks on minority groups, of both immigrants and African Americans, are increasing, while universities and the media are also under attack.

Never before have attorneys faced challenges due to their supporting one of the two major parties. It is a significant break from the past, said Way, and a major shift.

Recent denials of due process for immigrants is another way the government is overstepping its authority. Referenced in both the 5th and the 14th Amendments, due process is a protection against the arbitrary and erroneous actions of the government and a right for all of us, he said.

An essential element of democracy is that citizens can criticize the government while not suffering harassment or lawsuits as a result. Now, in addition to immigrants, others have to think twice about whether to oppose Donald Trump.

We are seeing self-censorship in the media. Even Bill Owens, the longtime producer of “60 Minutes,” an American staple, has resigned. The debacle suggests a dire threat against the free press is occurring, making clear the costs of opposition are increasing greatly, said Way.

Is the U.S. Constitution or the rule of law failing, or will it hold? As Congresswoman Terry McBride has often said, “if all of us are a little bit more brave, you don’t need heroes.” In other words, there is safety in numbers, said Way. Though we are experiencing

authoritarianism, it is not irreversible, he said. This is especially true in the United States, where society is well resourced and incredibly robust.

“We can fight back, and, in fact, it’s unlikely the Republicans will succeed in consolidating autocracy,” concluded Way.

If we go back to what happened during the Nixon presidency, he was well on his way to accumulating this type of power. Then, the Supreme Court stepped in. And he, of course, stepped out. We’ve now gone many steps beyond what Nixon achieved, said Way.

If you look at the his-

tory of autocracies, the ones that have succeeded most are those that were very popular, such as with Hugo Chavez and Vladimir Putin, added Browne-Marshall. With Trump’s popularity now around 40%, the chances of him successfully consolidating authoritarian rule are quite low, she said.

Autocracy only succeeds when those in the government apparatus go along, but they will only go along when they believe they’ll succeed, she said. If the government apparatus sees public opinion going against autocracy, they’ll undoubtedly sit on their hands.

On behalf of T-Mobile, this will advise interested members of the general public as follows. T-Mobile intends to install six (6) telecommunications antennas at a center-line height of 215-feet on a 219-foot building located at 2700 Commerce Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75226. Lat: 32° 46’ 57.80” N, Long: 96° 47’ 2.70” W. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects of the proposed co-location on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to: *Astha Clariday, Trileaf Corporation representative acting on behalf of T-Mobile, 7700 Hwy 71 West, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78735 or call at (512) 519-9388.*



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# Just Me And My Coffee

Dr. James L. Snyder

It was one of those days that don't often come my way. I was out sitting on the porch with my 1st cup of coffee for the day.

Today was special. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, her daughter and granddaughter went to St. Augustine for spring break. They would be gone for about three days.

In the meantime, I was here but not alone; I did have my cup of coffee. What more could anyone ask for?

What would the world be like without a nice, fresh, hot cup of coffee in the morning? I don't know, I've never had such a day.

I had no agenda for the day. I finished my latest book and sent it to the publisher. I was also caught up on my radio ministry and syndicated weekly newspaper column.

Everything was up to date, and I had nothing on my schedule.

I don't know anybody who can do "nothing" as well as me. And I say that unanimously.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, who has no idea what doing nothing is. As long as I have known her, there has never been a day she has done nothing.

She usually does something in her craft room when she has nothing to do. Even when she is sleeping, I think she dreams about doing something. Believe me, I have never asked.

Some things are better not to know.

The one area where I outshine The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is my talent for doing nothing. When I don't have a project, I grab a cup of coffee, go to the porch, and think about nothing. Staring into space has become my hobby.

While drinking my coffee that day, I noticed a large lizard climbing up the screen on our porch. I watched it for a little while, then it stopped, looked at me with a quizzical look which said, "Who are you?"

I just stared and suddenly stuck out my tongue, and the lizard disappeared faster than anything I'd ever seen. I now have another productive use for my tongue.

Sure, there were a lot of things I could be doing. I could sit in my office all day and work on future projects down the road. I could work in my library, getting caught up on reading. There were 1,001 things I could be doing instead of sitting on the porch doing nothing but drinking coffee.

I can't remember the last time I didn't have to do anything. But I wasn't going to spend any time trying to remember. I was going to spend all my time doing nothing. I will have nothing to show for doing nothing. And I like that.

When younger, I thought it was terrible not to be busy all the time, and I fulfilled that expectation to a great degree.

I thought if you weren't doing something, you were being lazy. But looking back, I ask myself, "What's wrong with being lazy?"

I'm in my 70s, but I don't have to live like I was back in the 70s.

Sitting on the porch in my rocking chair I felt so wonderful not doing anything.

If I were The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I'd sit here thinking of things to do once my coffee cup was empty.

I must confess that she is excellent at doing anything and everything. She far outshines me in that department. But, on the other hand, I far outshine her in doing nothing.

After sitting there for a while, I began to think of what I could do for the rest of the day, and the list began to grow.

Suddenly, I said, "You're not going to do anything today. This is your to do nothing day."

I often don't listen to myself, but this was the best time to start. If I have nothing to do, then at the end of the day, I have done nothing; I have at least succeeded in my day's expectation. What kind of reward comes with that? (An Apple Fritter?)

One great thing about doing nothing is that you don't have to stress about doing nothing at the end of the day. I usually try to figure out what more I could've done that day.

What a waste of time.

I took another sip of coffee, sat back, took a deep breath, and appreciated my state, which has no governor, so I don't have to respond to anybody. Oh, how I love doing nothing.

Giving my brain a day off is usually a good thing. At my age, I need to respect my brain's activity and slow it down as much as possible.

I was beginning to feel a little guilty. Is this OK with God? Is God OK with me doing nothing for a day?

While pondering this, I read a verse of Scripture. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:9-10).

Sometimes, I think I need

to work to impress God. In this regard, my activity is more important than stopping everything and simply resting in God's grace and mercy.

As I finished my coffee, I thought about what it would be like for me to simply enter into God's rest.

Dr. James L. Snyder

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# Happy Father's Day



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

Father's Day in the United States is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. It honors the contribution that fathers and father-figures make for their children's lives. Its origins may lie in a memorial service held for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907.

A "father" is one that God ordained and honors. There are many "fathers"

that are God-fearing and attempts to or tries to be the man that has compassion and humility.

He is one that prays for his family, his pastor and church. He also prays for his friends, community, neighborhood and workplace.

A praying father loves his family unconditional and is a good man at home, in his community, at his workplace, in his church, and around his friends and neighbors at all times.

Some fathers that I celebrate and honor are: My son, Jarrell Tarpley; my son-in law, William (Bill) Lott; My godly friend, Eugene H. Tinner; my uncles,

Charlie Baker and Monaque Carter, Sr. and my brother-in-law, David Fielding.

It is my belief that the "Secret to Happiness" for any father is: 1) Trusting God in the face of adversity. 2) Forgetting the unpleasant things that come into life and focusing on the good things.

3) Apologizing if he believes that he has offended someone because he has learned that a sincere apology is the superglue of life. 4) Willing to admit an error; and do his best to learn from them. 5) A father tries his best to avoid mistakes.

6) He is willing to listen to sound advice; and ask God to help him make the

right decision. 7) Keep his temper (God said to be ye angry and sin not.) 8) He will shoulder the blame.

9) A father will make the best of things. 10) Maintain high standards for himself and his family. 11)

Think first, pray and act accordingly.

12) He will put the needs of his family and others before his own. 13) A father will forgive and forgive some more. 14) He will pray without ceasing for

family, friends, his church members, leaders of his church and leaders our country.

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in June 2014. It has been edited for space.)*

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