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United Nations confirms a Level 5 Catastrophe in Gaza

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

As over a million Israelis protest the continued fighting in Gaza, while calling for release of Israeli hostages, the Palestinian government last week accepted a ceasefire deal that would have set free half of the remaining hostages, MSNBC reported. Yet, as appealing as that might sound to many Israelis, it is unlikely their far right government will accept the deal, Netanyahu demanding release of all hostages and claiming he will not stop until Hamas is completely defeated, the BBC reported.

Given the divide between a majority of Israelis and their government, some have been calling for new elections, The New York Times reported.

Meanwhile, over half a million face starvation in Gaza as religious and government leaders continue calling for critical supplies into the country. Earlier this month, UNI-



The UN has raised an alarm for what it is calling a "Level 5 Catastrophe" in the midst of ongoing fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. (Mohammed Ibrahim / Unsplash)

CEF Executive Director Ted Chai-bon urgently requested the Strip be flooded with supplies through all channels and all gates.

Prior to the Hamas attack, the nutrition and health of Gazans had been generally good, with high rates

of vaccination and few being mal-nourished, explained research professor and executive director of the World Peace Foundation Alex de Waal at an August Community Me-

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'Pretend it never happened'

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Heart disease follows race lines globally

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Black-led cities are under fire

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Top marks for two Dallas ISD elementaries

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The Slave Trade: 500 Years Later

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Bueckers, Flagg raise Dallas hopes

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People In The News ...



Ben Vinson, III



Brandon Q. Jones

NDG Quote of the Week:

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

- Booker T. Washington

Ben Vinson, III

In a surprising announcement, Howard University President Ben Vinson III, 55, will leave his position as Howard University's 18th President.

Vinson's departure comes at a usual time: The start of the academic year.

"We understand that this news may be surprising to some, coming at the start of the academic year," said Leslie Hale, Howard University Board of Trustees chair, on a video posted on Howard University's website.

A statement on Howard's website posted before the news of Vinson's departure reads, "As we stand on the threshold of this new academic year, I am filled with optimism and hope



for what lies ahead. Let us continue to embrace the spirit of Howard University – a spirit that encourages us to push boundaries, seek justice, and strive for excellence in all that we do."

A campus-wide engagement tour is also posted on the President's page online as of August 22.

Though Vinson's departure happens at a moment

when military National Guard troops have occupied Washington, DC, at the orders of President Trump, there is no indication at this time that Vinson's departure is related to DC being occupied by federal police and the military.

Vinson became President of Howard only two years ago, on September 1, 2023.

In 2023, right before he began to lead Howard, Vinson told *The Washington Post* that, "all of us have been recognizing over the past several years an overall declining faith in the value of higher education. It's been under scrutiny. And so this is a time for all of our institutions to really rise to the moment. What that looks like is going to look quite different in every particular institution."

Vinson is a former provost at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Former Howard President Wayne A.I. Frederick was selected by Howard's Board of Trustees to return as Howard University's president on an interim basis in ten days.

"On behalf of the Howard University Board of Trustees, we extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Vinson for his service and leadership as president," said Hale, Chair of the Board of Trust-

ees, in a statement issued on August 22.

"As we move forward, the Board of Trustees and University leadership remain steadfast in our commitment to maintaining Howard's mission of excellence, truth, and service and a vibrant, welcoming, and innovative academic environment where students continue to succeed," added Board Chair Hale. How long Frederick will remain as interim President of Howard is unknown.

Howard University, a pri-

vate institution in Washington, D.C., is a historically Black, federally chartered research university. Founded in 1867, the nonsectarian school is located in the city's Shaw neighborhood.

Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Howard holds the prestigious "R1: Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity" classification. The university offers more than 120 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs.

Brandon Q. Jones

UNCF Dallas is proud to announce Comerica Bank's Senior Vice President, Director of External Affairs Brandon Q. Jones as chair for the 2025 North Texas Walk for Education® to help raise funds for underserved students across North Texas who are trying to get to and through college.

With nearly two decades of financial industry success, Brandon Q. Jones has proven himself to be a leader in the financial services and community development arenas.

"As a proud graduate of Texas Southern University, I know firsthand how the power of an HBCU education can transform lives," said Jones. "That's why I am proud to chair the UNCF Walk – together, we can help open doors, create pathways and build a future for more



North Texas area students"

Jones holds a Certificate in Corporate Citizenship Management from Boston College. In addition, he is a graduate of the 10th class of Leadership North Texas, was featured in the fifth edition of Who's Who in Black Dallas and was named in the Dallas Business Journal's 40 under 40 list.

His passion for helping individuals, entrepreneurs and communities become financially astute has led him to work with various

organizations across the DFW Metroplex. Jones serves on the board of directors for the Resource Center and as a member of UNCF's North Texas Leadership Council.

The UNCF North Texas Walk for Education is part of a nationwide initiative to raise the critical funds UNCF needs to fulfill our mission of supporting our 37 member HBCUs and to help students pursue their educational endeavors and prepare for active participation in society. Over the last year, we helped deliver over 950 scholarships to students in Texas and supported nine Texas HBCUs.

Join us to help make a difference while having some fun with friends in the community at the North Texas Walk for Education on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, at Oak Cliff Founders Park, 1300 N. Zang Blvd, Dallas, TX 75201.

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Administration tries to pretend slavery never happened

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Trump White House has declared war on history itself. In an official article published Friday, Aug. 22, on the White House website, the administration blasted the Smithsonian Institution for telling the truth about slavery, systemic racism, and inequality in America. It was not just an attack on museums—it was an attack on memory, on facts, and on the lives of generations of Black Americans who endured the country's greatest crimes.

The White House mocked exhibits at the National Museum of African American History and Culture for daring to explain that America privileges whiteness. It dismissed scholarship on the legacies of slavery in the Texas Revolution, ridiculed art that reckons with the Middle Passage, and condemned programs that document systemic exclusion in immigration and housing. It went further, painting the Smithsonian as "anti-American propaganda" for highlighting the ways colonization, racism, and oppression shaped the very foundations of the nation. What the administration is doing is clear: it is trying to erase the trail of oppression that runs like a scar through U.S. history—from the whip on enslaved backs, to Jim Crow segregation, to the discriminatory policies

that persist today.

From Slavery to Jim Crow

Slavery was not just an economic system—it was a regime of terror. Families were ripped apart, women were violated, men were chained, and entire generations were forced into labor that built the wealth of this nation. When emancipation finally came, Reconstruction briefly promised equality. Black men held office, built schools, and claimed rights once denied. But white supremacy roared back with violence and legal restrictions. Reconstruction collapsed, and Jim Crow rose in its place. For nearly a century, Jim Crow laws ensured Black Americans could not vote freely, attend equal schools, or live without fear of lynching. The White House's attempt to dismiss museums for teaching about this reality is nothing less than an attempt to silence that history.

Redlining and the War on Drugs

When Jim Crow ended, systemic racism mutated. The federal government backed redlining policies that locked Black families out of home ownership, while white families accumulated wealth through suburban expansion. Gentrification decades later uprooted Black communities in cities, pushing families out of neighborhoods they had called home for generations. Then came the war on drugs. Entire commu-

nities were criminalized. Harsh sentencing laws and targeted policing filled prisons with Black and brown bodies, devastating families and stripping away economic and political power. The administration now attacking the Smithsonian is the same one that celebrates law-and-order policies that continue this cycle.

Civil Rights Gains Under Siege

The Civil Rights Movement forced America to confront its hypocrisy. Through marches, sit-ins, and court victories, Black Americans dismantled legal segregation. But every gain came with backlash. Today, voter suppression laws, redistricting schemes, and so-called "voter integrity measures" are dressed-up attempts to return to the days when Black voices were excluded. The Smithsonian's exhibits on democracy document this truth. The White House calls it subversive.

Erasing History to Protect Power

The Trump White House's attack on the Smithsonian is not accidental. By branding the truth as "anti-American," the administration seeks to recast America as blameless. The logic is simple: if slavery is just a footnote, if Jim Crow was just the past, if systemic racism never existed, then there is nothing to fix. There is no reason for reparations, no reason for equity, no reason to con-

front police violence, mass incarceration, or economic injustice. The administration even ridiculed the National Museum of African Art's exhibit inspired by Drexciya, a myth of children born underwater from enslaved women who died in the Middle Passage. Instead of honoring the resilience behind that vision, the White House dismissed it as "fringe".

The Fight for Memory

The attempt to rewrite history is part of a wider campaign. This White House has moved to criminalize protest, weaken civil rights protections, and silence Black leaders. Attacking the Smithsonian is about controlling the narrative—deciding whose story matters and whose story gets erased. The truth is this: America's history is not just one of freedom and triumph. It is also one of bondage, violence, exclusion, and systemic theft of opportunity.

To erase that truth is to dishonor every enslaved man, every woman denied her humanity, every family displaced by redlining, every child funneled into mass incarceration. The Smithsonian was created to tell America's story in full. Today, that mission is under direct assault from a White House that has chosen denial over truth. And if the nation accepts this whitewashing, the suffering of millions will not just be forgotten—it will be erased.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Global study shows racialized, indigenous communities face higher burden of heart disease made worse by data gaps

(Newswise) — A new study has revealed that racialized and Indigenous communities across Europe, North America, and Central America face significantly higher rates of cardiovascular disease (CVD), and that gaps in health-care data are making the problem worse.

CVD is the leading cause of death worldwide but does not affect people equally. In many countries, Black, South Asian and Indigenous peoples have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, or high blood pressure compared to white populations. Without an understanding of who is most at risk and why, health systems are unprepared to provide fair and effective care.

The research, published



on August 21, is co-authored by two McMaster University scientists as part of The Lancet Regional Health-Europe commission on inequalities and disparities in cardiovascular health, announced in June 2024. The findings will be presented at the European Society of Cardiology's (ESC) Congress 2025 in Madrid on Aug. 29.

"The novelty of this re-

search lies in the comprehensive, cross-regional evidence showing that these disparities are not random, they're deeply tied to social disadvantages such as poverty, poor housing, and limited access to care. The findings show women from marginalized communities are especially affected," says Sonia Anand, lead author of the research and a professor in the Department

of Medicine at McMaster. Anand is associate vice-president of Global Health and the inaugural leader of the Mary Heersink School of Global Health and Social Medicine at McMaster.

A key issue highlighted by the study is the inconsistent collection and reporting of racial data in health-care systems globally. This gap limits the ability to identify high-risk groups for CVD, tailor prevention and treatment, and design policies that address the risk.

- In Canada, ethnicity is collected in the census but not in health-care administrative databases, making it difficult to track disparities in real-time clinical settings.

- In Europe, most countries lack standardized ethnicity data in health care.

Proxy measures like country of birth are used, which are inadequate for understanding health risks.

- In Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, ethnicity and race data are rarely collected, and Indigenous health data is especially sparse.

- In the United States, race and ethnicity are collected more consistently, but the categories are not granular enough, especially within diverse groups like Asian Americans.

"This research highlights a critical blind spot in global health systems: without accurate data on race and ethnicity, inequalities in heart health remain hidden and unaddressed," says Sujane Kandasamy, co-author on the study and an assistant professor in the

Department of Medicine at McMaster.

The study has a special section devoted to Indigenous populations in each global region, and showed Indigenous peoples, irrespective of region, continue to be affected by marginalization and other impacts of colonialism that have disrupted their traditional, healthy lifestyles. The section, led by co-author Miles Marchand, an Indigenous cardiologist from the University of British Columbia, showed populations of Indigenous peoples who have maintained or restored their traditional lifestyles displayed improved cardiovascular health irrespective of the barriers to care they face.

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GAZA, from Page 1

dia briefing. Yet preceding the attack, Gaza had been quite dependent on Israel, which controlled its supplies of everything from food to medicine to fuel.

Since the fighting began, it's been a tug of war between Israel and humanitarian organizations. Understandably, Israel has been criticized as constraining supplies as a weapon.

With only 45 percent of Gaza's food and 80 percent of its water coming from local sources, the UN reported, Israel's response to Hamas attacks have meant deep shortages of food and water for Gazans. This, in addition to housing, medical care, and sanitation, all defined by international law as objects indispensable to

survival.

Shortly after Israel's military campaign began, conditions in Gaza escalated from crisis and emergency levels to near famine conditions. This, as early as November 2023, according to the United Nations' Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System (IPC).

Aid worker and journalist Afeef Nessouli, who recently returned from Gaza, painted a vivid picture of the conditions. With limited supplies, people are begging for food all the time. At the market, a network of cash brokers persist unregulated, with cans of tuna going for \$10 to \$15 a can and bags of flour selling for hundreds.

The aid distribution sites are very disorganized and dangerous, de Waal added, with huge crowds of people rushing in to get supplies under severe time limits. In this environment, soldiers wary of Hamas' presence, can panic quickly, creating dangerous conditions for those desperately needing help.

Because they are disorganized, these centers meant to provide aid are not of the ethos of equality, neutrality or humanitarianism, said Messouli. "In my opinion, they're set up as another strategy of eradicating and bringing a lot of pain to the people, rather than relief."

Eating once a day was hard, Nessouli noted, but it's a lot easier than eating once every few days, which is happening now for peo-

ple Nessouli came to know while in Gaza.

The worst case scenario of famine is recently unfolding, said de Waal. And after long-term exposure to hunger, the long awaited supplies of food are not enough.

Famine is a social phenomenon, said de Waal, and as a social observer, the moment a family goes from sharing and breaking bread together to fighting for his own bread, famine begins. This is the line between what is human and what is animal, declared de Waal.

It was clear a process of dehumanization was occurring during what would become known as the flour massacres, added Amnesty International researcher Budour Hassan. In February of 2024, when people

were allowed to return north of the Gaza Strip, trucks carrying flour and other supplies into Rafah were met by starved, desperate people, some resorting to eating feed meant for animals. The tightly-knit community exhibited a clear breakdown of social fabric, Hassan said.

During a brief window of hope, as people returned to rebuild damaged homes during the ceasefire, aid was allowed in. Yet, Israel denied entry of supplies for makeshift housing and machinery needed to remove the rubble.

Grazing lands and poultry farms were mostly destroyed by Israel, she said. And though some farmers planted to alleviate the starvation, they were not allowed access to the fertile

lands within the extended buffer zones.

As the ceasefire collapsed, Israel pulled back on supplies. Yet, when shipments resumed in May, they were not enough to meet the needs of the persistently malnourished community, de Waal explained.

Last Friday, The UN confirmed a level five catastrophe in parts of the Gaza Strip, with 500,000 people facing catastrophic conditions. Phase five, the highest level, is characterized by extreme lack of food, starvation and death.

The agency calls the occurrence a man-made disaster resulting from restrictions imposed by Israel. The UN also defined starvation used in warfare as a war crime.

Vance, Hegseth lie about DC crime as Trump targets cities with Black mayors

By Lauren Burke

Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller visited Washington, DC's Union Station on August 20. They spoke with members of the National Guard during their visit. On August 11, President Trump ordered that the National Guard be deployed in Washington, DC under an emergency authority order to deal with crime.

Washington, DC, has the lowest violent crime rate in 30 years, according to ongoing data from the Metropolitan Police Depart-



Image via NNPA

ment (MPD). During their visit to Union Station, there were many onlookers who were not happy with a visit from Trump Administration officials.

"We're going to ignore these stupid white hippies who all need to go home and take a nap because

they're all over 90 years old, and we're going to get back to the business of protecting the American people and the citizens," Miller said, apparently referring to the negative jeers heard in the background.

Miller, Hegseth, and Vance stood in Union Sta-

tion's Shake Shack, where members of the guard had gathered. Miller, who is reportedly the lead architect in Trump's White House of many of the policies being implemented related to diversity, mass deportation, and additional police-state related actions, and the Vice President were met with jeers and boos from onlookers, some of whom chanted "free DC" during their visit.

Both Vance and Miller greeted members of the

guard and made brief remarks. As their strategy has been in the past, they referred to Washington, DC, as crime-ridden even though crime stats show a drop in violent crime.

"If you look at what has happened in Washington, DC, in just nine days, you've seen a 35% reduction in violent crime, we've seen a fifty percent reduction in robberies because these guys are here busting their ass," Vance told reporters as he stood around

a group of National Guard members.

He did not refer to where his data came from.

"We do not have to allow our cities to be taken over by violence and disorder and chaos," Vance added.

Vance's remarks were similar to what President Trump stated on August 11 as he announced an unprecedented federal government takeover of Washington, DC. Trump mentioned six

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Two Dallas ISD elementaries climb to the top of the ratings

By MariCarmen Eroles
Dallas ISD

When school ratings were announced, Dallas ISD learned it had doubled its number of A-rated campuses from 30 in the 2023-2024 school year to 60. Among those A-rated campuses were Umphrey Lee and Whitney M. Young Jr. elementary schools, both of which had previously been among F-rated campuses.

"I expected it, but didn't know we would get it," said Yolanda Knight, principal of Umphrey Lee Elementary School. "But our expectation is always to be at the top. We didn't know we would get there as fast, but we knew we would get there."

Shabranda Mathis, principal of Whitney M. Young Elementary School, learned in late July that her school was facing an estimated F rating. Determined to change the trajectory, she met with her team in August to tighten the campus



Dallas ISD

instructional systems, build on their progress, and ensure the campus earned no less than a B.

"I have an amazing team," she said. "I am a product of Dallas ISD of 75216, the very zip code I serve. The very community I come from. The faith in my campus and my community never wavered."

Going from an F to an A rating in a year can be seen as a remarkable achievement, even more so for

schools that are almost 80% economically disadvantaged and almost 95% minority. But for Mathis, Knight, and other principals who saw similar gains, the success came from faith in their teams, students, parents, and above all, hard work.

"I give all the credit to my teachers and their hard work, to student buy-in, the administrative staff, and demonstration teachers," Knight said. "I think we did

a lot more with intentionality on our part with our planning, our scheduling, interventions, collaboration, and with motivating students. We focused on our kids. We made sure they understood what we were all doing."

Lee Elementary School is divided into four houses, which encourages collaboration and competition that the teachers and administrators use to motivate students. Eventually, Knight said, students took owner-

ship of their learning and their achievement, knowing and caring where they were and where they needed to be.

For Young Elementary School, the road to an A rating began with a simple phrase: "This is our winning season."

Building on the foundation laid the previous year, her team tightened key systems, such as progress monitoring, and focused on analyzing data that provided critical learning indicators to drive instruction.

"People outside of education don't always realize the magnitude of this, the level of work and commitment it truly takes," she said. "Everyone came in believing this was our winning season, that we had what it took, that a B was within reach. Then we got to work."

By the look of the ratings released by the TEA, almost all of Dallas ISD got to work last school year. Districtwide, Dallas ISD

has 228 schools, and of those campuses, 163, more than 70%, earned an A or B, and nearly 93% are A, B, or C rated.

"These results reflect the unwavering commitment of our educators, students, and families. None of this happens without them," said Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed. D. "While there is still work to be done, these results are a clear sign that we are moving in the right direction, and we will not stop until every school is achieving at a high level. It's what our kids deserve, and it's the legacy we are committed to build for every student."

Additionally, students in all grade levels and tested subjects not only met but often exceeded state performance levels. These gains are especially significant among student groups who have historically faced the greatest challenges.

In 80% of the tested cat-

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CRIME, from Page 5

cities with Black Mayors during his remarks at the White House. They were: Oakland, Washington, DC,

Baltimore, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. "So many Americans live in cities. They occupy these

spaces. They know how unsafe they are, and they would love to be able to just live their life in places like Union Station without violent criminals making it im-

possible," Vance also said.

What the Trump Administration continues to focus on is allocating billions into law enforcement-related parts of the government.

Videos of what appear to be members of law enforcement and others, some of whom are masked and will not identify their agency or name, have been widely

seen on social media. Several states with Republican Governors are sending their National Guard units to Washington, DC, including Ohio and West Virginia.

HEART, from Page 4

The authors say the research provides a roadmap

for fairer, more effective care and policy, with the

potential to save lives and reduce health-care costs. Among their recommendations are for governments

to monitor trends of cardiovascular health with self-reported data, for clinicians to screen high-risk commu-

nities, and for public health programs to provide low-cost treatments and encourage active lifestyles and

culturally tailored healthy eating.

There were no external funders of this study.



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The Transatlantic Slave Trade: 500 years later the diaspora still suffers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

“Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they’ve been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It’s an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It’s a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing.” — Muhammad Ali

“We need to exert ourselves that much more and break out of the vicious cycle of dependence imposed on us by the financially powerful: those in command of immense market power and those who dare to fashion the world in their own image.” — Nelson Mandela

The most enduring consequences of the migration for the migrants themselves and for the receiving communities were the development of racism and the corresponding emergence and sustenance of an African American community, with particular cultural manifestations, attitudes, and expressions. The legacy is reflected in music and art, with a significant influence on religion, cuisine, and language, according to Paul E. Lovejoy, a distinguished research professor and Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History at York University in Toronto. “The cultural and religious impact of this African immigration shows that migrations involve more than people; they also involve the culture of those people,” Lovejoy



said in a recent post about the creation of the African diaspora.

American culture is not European or African but its own form, created in a political and economic context of inequality and oppression in which diverse ethnic and cultural influences, both European and African – and in some contexts, Native American – can be discerned, Lovejoy said. “Undoubtedly, the transatlantic slave trade was the defining migration that shaped the African Diaspora. It did so through the people it forced to migrate, and especially the women who were to give birth to the children who formed the new African American population,” he said. These women included many who can be identified as Igbo or Ibibio, but almost none who were Yoruba, Fon, or Hausa.

Bantu women, from matrilineal societies, also constituted a considerable portion of the African immigrants, and it appears that females from Sierra Leone and other parts of the Upper Guinea Coast were also well represented, Lovejoy said. “These were the women who gave birth to African American culture and society,” he said. After many rang in 2019 with celebratory parties and gatherings, there were

still others who solemnly recalled the beginning of the transatlantic slave trade that started 400 years ago – 500 years, depending upon the region. For Africans

throughout the diaspora, their struggle not only traces back 400 or 500 years, but it continued and was underscored as recently as 135 years ago when the infamous Berlin Conference was held.

The conference led to the so-called “Scramble for Africa” by European powers, who successfully split the continent into 53 countries, assuring a division that remains today. “There isn’t a single thing that was more damaging to Africa than the Berlin

Conference,” said African Union Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao. “Africans weren’t even invited to the conference,” she said. At the conference, which took place over three months in Brazil beginning in February 1884 and attended by 13 European nations and the United States, ground rules were established to split Africa. “Africans still are suffering the consequences,” the ambassador said. Said John W. Ashe, the president of the United Na-

tions General Assembly:

“The Transatlantic slave trade ... for 400 years deprived Africa of its lifeblood for centuries and transformed the world forever.” There’s no question that legacies of the slave trade persist today in most of the countries Africans were taken to, said Ayo Sopitan, founder of Pendulum Technologies in Houston, Texas. “I have been thinking about how Africans and the diaspora need

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Dallas basketball future bright with Paige Bueckers and Cooper Flagg leading the way

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

Dallas Wings star rookie guard Paige Bueckers nearly notched a double-double in a 90-81 loss to the Golden State Valkyries on Sunday—extending the Wings' losing streak to five games.

Bueckers finished with nine points and nine assists on 3-of-12 shooting from the field—snapping her 30-game scoring streak of double-digit points to start her career.

The former UConn superstar has proven to be well beyond her years with her ability to get to her spots on the offensive end of the floor and run the offense at a high level. She is on pace for the team's assist record—needing 37 more with six games remaining on the Wings' schedule.

Last week, Bueckers



DWG Studio

became the first player in WNBA history to score 40-plus points while shooting at least 80%.

"I've always prided myself and the team on winning so that's obviously the main goal. Honestly, I think I'm just most proud of this team, like, the way we fight... This team just means so much to me.

"The way we love each other, like, it could be easy for us to sit here and be nine in whatever we are and be miserable and hate coming to work but just

how we show up for each other, we're learning and growing together... As much as success and the wins haven't translated yet, what we're building here, it just makes me so happy. I'm just super grateful for it," Bueckers said.

Dallas Mavericks head coach Jason Kidd was seen sitting courtside during Sunday's matchup and offered advice to Bueckers.

"Always keep learning," Kidd said. "I'm here watching and learning. I think we can always learn from each

other. She's one of the best in the world. She's a rookie. She has shown she can play at a high level, and we're getting better here in Dallas. We're gonna win championships."

Kidd recognized the unique situation of the current state of Dallas hoops with both the Mavericks and Wings potentially drafting two generational talents in the same year.

"The basketball gods were great to us when you talk about two number ones with Paige and Cooper [Flagg] so just understanding the future is bright," Kidd said.

With Bueckers and Flagg poised to lead their respective franchises, Dallas is

shaping up to be the future epicenter of basketball excellence.

Flagg is entering the league with an immeasurable amount of hype surrounding his name.

Former No. 1 overall pick and six-time NBA All-Star Blake Griffin recently expressed his excitement about the kind of prospect Flagg could become.

"I think he's the most complete player that we've seen come into the NBA in recent memory," Griffin said on the Post Moves podcast with Candace Parker & Aliyah Boston. "I'm not saying he doesn't have room to grow, he still has a ton of room to grow, but he passes, he shoots, he

defends, he rebounds. He seems like a great teammate, seems like a great kid.

With a 6-9, 221-pound frame and 7-0 wingspan, Flagg's unique versatility on both ends of the floor has the potential to present matchup nightmares for opposing teams.

During NBA Summer League play, the former Duke superstar showcased his ability to play on the ball and initiate offense while also being able to defend smaller quicker guards.

"What's the red flag? Which is really exciting for basketball to have these

See HOOPS, Page 12

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Collin College hosts annual faculty art exhibit

The Art Gallery at Collin College will host the Annual Collin College Art Faculty exhibition from Sept. 2-26 at the Plano Campus. A reception will be held, free and open to the public, from 4-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18.

The annual exhibition features artworks by art professors in the Fine Arts Division of Collin College. The diversity of media and styles makes this show a unique opportunity for students to learn about art courses offered at Collin College, and for the public to view what



Collin College

the professors create in their own studios. Art courses offered at Collin College include 2-D design, 3-D design, ceramics, commu-

nication design, digital arts, drawing, figure drawing, jewelry/art metals, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and watercolor.

The gallery is located on Collin College's Plano Campus, Room A175, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano. Gallery hours are:

9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Friday.

For more information about this or other exhibitions, contact Gallery Coordinator Dr. Anna Fritz at 972.516.5028 or afritz@collin.edu. To see the gallery's webpage, visit www.collin.edu/departments/arts-gallery.

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 Nurs-

ing (BSN), a Bachelor 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 a new Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Software Technology. 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.

SCHOOL, from Page 6

egories, Dallas ISD showed larger increases than the state, and Black, emergent bilingual, and economically

disadvantaged students outperformed their state peers in the "all subjects and grades" category.

Both principals agree outperforming expectations was certainly what took place at Lee and Young elementary schools. And that when high expectations and

belief in the team and students are paired with hard work, all schools can beat the odds.

"I want people to understand that I truly get

the community I serve," Mathis said. "We celebrate our kids for who they are. I have a phenomenal team, the best I've had the honor of serving with in my en-

tire career as an educator. I've never seen a group that feels so much like family while also holding each other accountable the way this team does."



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The silent force behind online echo chambers? Your Google search

(Newswise) — A new, timely study reveals 90% of people unknowingly phrase search queries to match their existing beliefs—even when they're not trying to.

According to lead author Eugina Leung, an as-

sistant professor at Tulane University's A. B. Freeman School of Business, that subtle bias can trap users in digital echo chambers, reinforcing views on everything from caffeine to COVID-19.

Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the study tested nearly 10,000 participants and found that even AI tools like ChatGPT can deepen polarization unless search engines

are redesigned to deliver broader perspectives. The fix? A simple algorithm tweak could help millions break out of their bubbles.

"When people look up information online—whether on Google, Chat-

GPT or new AI-powered search engines—they often pick search terms that reflect what they already believe (sometimes without even realizing it). Because today's search algorithms are designed to give you

'the most relevant' answers for whatever term you type, those answers can then reinforce what you thought in the first place. This makes it harder for people to discover broader perspectives, Leung said.

Shipping policies designed to boost online spending instead drive consumers into stores

(Newswise) — Online shopping has experienced massive growth over the past decade, leading to extensive research into how businesses merge their physical store presence with online platforms.

A new study from the University of Notre Dame reveals surprising results when shipping policies are adjusted from tiered to flat-rate models.

Previous studies have ignored the nuances of e-commerce shipping fee policies, which serve as a critical strategic tool for retailers. Traditionally, companies including AutoZone, World Market and BatteriesPlus have favored tiered shipping fees determined by order cost. More modern policies at retailers like BoxLunch, White House Black Market and Saks Fifth Avenue have shifted to flat fees designed to encourage higher-dollar online orders, as consumers may feel the fees are "wasted" unless they make a larger purchase.

Rather than boosting e-commerce, the change drives many online shoppers into the stores, leading to an overall increase in sales from both channels, according to the lead author Vamsi Kanuri, the Viola D.

Hank Associate Professor of Marketing at Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. Kanuri's findings, "Disentangling the Customer-Level, Cross-Channel Effects of Large-Order-Advantaged Online Shipping Policies" were recently published in MIS Quarterly.

Kanuri, along with Andrew Crecelius from Iowa State University and Subodha Kumar from Temple University, analyzed 16 months of transaction data from more than 21,000 customers of a major luxury department store operating online and with physical stores in five states. Switching from a tiered online shipping fee where bigger orders cost more to ship, to a flat-rate that costs the same no matter how much is purchased, they tracked how the new policy impacted online and in-store purchasing behavior, specifically focusing on order frequency, size and item types.

Under the retailer's tiered system, a \$10 order included no fee, a \$30 order incurred a \$7 fee and a \$100 order had a \$20 fee. With the shift to a flat-rate shipping policy, customers paid \$7 regardless of order size.

"We expected this would boost online shopping," Kanuri said. "But surprisingly, in-store sales increased by 23 percent among the shoppers who purchased only through the online channel before the policy change."

Specifically, shoppers reduced their average monthly online spending by \$242,000 (11 percent decrease), while previously online-only shoppers spent a whopping \$975,000 (23 percent increase) in stores. They pooled their online orders until they reached the threshold, resulting in fewer but larger online orders, then visited physical stores in between for smaller items.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Amazon has dominated the \$900 billion online market, while rivals with physical stores like Macy's rush to boost their e-commerce sales and others including J. Crew, Neiman Marcus, Pier 1 Imports, Revlon and Sears faced bankruptcies and store closures.

"For these legacy retailers trying to stay competitive with Amazon, especially those with both online and physical stores, this study is big," Kanuri said. "Our work shows

that online shipping policies can shape how and where people shop. A flat-rate shipping fee might not juice up online orders as intended, but it can be a

clever way to get customers to step into a physical store and boost sales for both, putting 'e-tailers' at a slight disadvantage."

Kanuri advises managers

to make better use of their physical locations by assessing how their shipping strategies affect in-store behavior as well as online sales.



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Tech tool offers improved assurances for small business contracts

By Matt Shipman

(Newswise) — Researchers have demonstrated a new tool to improve the security of small-scale business transactions with the goal of helping ensure that businesses are paid and customers get what they pay for. The tool, which relies on blockchain-powered smart contracts, essentially serves the same function that letters of credit provide for large companies.

A key idea here is the “letter of credit,” which is a letter from a financial in-

stitution guaranteeing that a seller will receive payment from the buyer in full and at a specific time, provided that the seller meets the contract specifications. The financial institution effectively backs the transaction, so that the seller can feel secure in making the transaction. Letters of credit are widely used in international transactions between large organizations, but are not generally available to small businesses or the public.

The new tool relies on smart contracts, which make use of blockchain

technologies and execute the terms of a specific agreement when a defined set of conditions are met. Specifically, the new tool consists of multiple smart contracts, each of which oversees a different aspect of the client-contractor agreement. At a baseline, the tool would include smart contracts that cover the scope of the work to be done, payment for the work and completion of every milestone of the job. But additional smart contracts can be incorporated into the tool depending on the com-

plexity of the work, whether arbitration is necessary, and so on.

Here’s how it works.

“If a client wants a service performed for an agreed-upon price, the client would have to demonstrate that they have the funds to pay that price,” McConnell says. “The tool may also require that contractors meet requirements, such as proof of licensure, proof of insurance, etc. Once both parties have signed on to the agreement, it would be recorded on the blockchain — meaning there would be a clear

record of what both parties agreed to, and that both parties had the wherewithal to meet the obligations of the contract. Then, if the contractor performs the service, the terms of the relevant smart contracts would be met and the funds would be released to the contractor.

“This example is pretty straightforward, but we also outline mechanisms that can be used to address situations where either the client or the contractor does not meet the terms of the agreement. For example, how can smart contract

technology help a client who is dealing with an unresponsive contractor who has not completed all work milestones to standard?”

The researchers conducted proof-of-concept testing to demonstrate that the tool works and is capable of handling unexpected challenges.

“We think this technology has practical utility for a host of small businesses and other users, and we are open to working with interested parties who would like to develop it further,” says McConnell.

HOOPS, from Page 8

young guys. I mean, even Wemby (Victor Wembanyama), very complete, as well. But Cooper is able to play so many different positions, guard so many

different positions, that is exciting,” Griffin said.

Flagg is also joining a Mavericks team that has playoff expectations and a solid core already in place.

If Cooper Flagg can meet the lofty expectations surrounding him, he has the potential not only to make an immediate impact but also to help elevate the Mavericks into legitimate championship contention.

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DIASPORA, from Page 7

to get together – through proxies in the persons of recognized leaders – and have a conversation about the past, the role that African collaborators played, and how we can unite as a people. Then, and only then, will we be able to excel as a people,” Sopitan said.

“I have sat at lectures by Henry Gates and learned about blacks in the Americas. The conclusion is that wherever we are, blacks are usually at the bottom of the totem pole. This does not have to continue,” he said. The transatlantic slave trade was an oceanic trade in African men, women, and children that lasted from the mid-sixteenth century until the 1860s. European traders loaded African captives at dozens of points on the African coast, from Senegambia to Angola and around the Cape to Mozambique.

The great majority of captives were collected from West and Central Africa and from Angola, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization – UNESCO. The trade was initiated by the Portuguese and Spanish, especially after the settlement of sugar plantations in the Americas, UNESCO officials noted in a 2018 web presentation titled “Slavery and Remembrance.”

European planters spread sugar, cultivated by enslaved Africans on plantations in Brazil, and later Barbados, throughout the Caribbean.

In time, planters sought to grow other profitable crops, such as tobacco,

rice, coffee, cocoa, and cotton, with European indentured laborers as well as African and Indian slave laborers. Nearly 70 percent of all African laborers in the Americas worked on plantations that grew sugar cane and produced sugar, rum, molasses, and other byproducts for export to Europe, North America, and elsewhere in the Atlantic world, according to UNESCO. Before the first Africans arrived in British North America in 1619, more than half a million African captives had already been transported and enslaved in Brazil. By the end of the nineteenth century, that number had risen to more than 4 million. Northern European powers soon followed Portugal and Spain into the transatlantic slave trade.

The majority of African captives were carried by the Portuguese, Brazilians, the British, the French, and the Dutch. British slave traders alone transported 3.5 million Africans to the Americas, UNESCO reported. The transatlantic slave trade was complex and varied considerably over time and place, but it had far-reaching and lasting consequences for much of Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia. The profits gained by Americans and Europeans from the slave trade and slavery made possible the development of economic and political growth in major regions of the Americas and Europe. Europeans used various methods to organize the Atlantic trade.

Spain licensed (by Asiento agreements) other nations to supply its Span-

ish American and Caribbean colonies with African captives. France, the Netherlands, and England initially used monopoly companies. In time, the demand for African laborers in the Americas was met by more open trade, which allowed other merchants to engage in the trade with Africans. Thus, formidable private trading companies emerged, such as Britain’s Royal African Company (1660–1752) and the Dutch West India Company of the Netherlands (1602–1792), according to UNESCO.

The profits generated from the Atlantic trade economically and politically transformed Liverpool and Bristol in England, Nantes and Bordeaux in France, Lisbon in Portugal, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador de Bahia in Brazil, and Newport, Rhode Island, in the United States. Each port developed links to a wide hinterland for local and international goods in Asia and capital to sustain the trade in African captives. European merchants and ship captains – followed later by those from Brazil and North America – packed their sailing vessels with local goods and commodities from Asia to trade on the African coast.

Enslaved Africans, their often-violent capture and enslavement out of sight of the European general public, were exchanged for iron bars and textiles, luxury goods, cowrie shells, liquor, firearms, and other products that varied region by region over time. Much of the wealth generated by the transatlantic slave trade supported the creation of industries and institutions in modern North America and Europe.

To an equal degree, profits from slave trading and slave-generated products funded the creation of fine art, decorative arts, and architecture that continues to inform aesthetics today, UNESCO officials said.

“European countries – Portuguese, English, French, and Spanish – are most complicit in the transatlantic slave trade. This pernicious form of slavery was driven by European capitalistic countries seeking to expand their nation-states and empires,” said Dr. Jonathan Chism, assistant professor of history and a fellow with the Center for Critical Race Studies at the University of Houston Downtown. The pain continues today. “The fact that slavery was underway for a century in South America before its introduction in North America is not widely taught nor commonly understood,” said Felicia Davis of the HBCU Green Fund.

“It is a powerful historical fact missing from our understanding of slavery, its magnitude, and global impact. Knowledge that slavery was underway for a century [before it began in North America] provides deep insight into how enslaved Africans adapted,” Davis said. “Far beyond the horrific seasoning description, clearly generations had been born into slavery long before introduction in North America. It deepens the understanding of how vast majorities could be oppressed in such an extreme manner for such a long period of time,” Davis said. “It is also a testament to the strength and drive among people of African descent to live free.”



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Is That My Grandfather's Hand?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

This past week, I thought of my maternal grandfather. I haven't thought of him for a long time because he died over 50 years ago. I'm not sure what inspired me to think about my old grandpa.

As a youngster, I used to spend summers with him on his farm. He owned a farm up in the mountains of Pennsylvania and had dairy cattle and hogs. So for many summers I spent with him on that amazing farm.

One thing I remember about my grandfather was his sense of humor. He was always telling jokes, and we all laughed, even though I had no idea what that joke was about.

For instance, "Why did the monkey not eat the banana? Because it was not appealing to him."

I knew there was a joke in there somewhere, but I could never figure it out, even though he told that joke probably 100 times. That was his favorite joke of all time.

I tried to think of all those jokes, and I still don't get the funny part of them. But, he was my grandpa, and therefore when he told a joke, I laughed. That's what a good grandson is supposed to do.

There was a time in the 60s when he had some health problems, and we needed to bring him down to Hershey, where his doctor was. I still remember that very clearly. We took

him to the fast-food restaurant for lunch. This was the first time he had ever been at such a place. Up in the mountains where he lived, they did not have fast-food restaurants.

I remember we got him one of the big cheeseburgers, and we sat down to eat them. Grandpa looked at it for a few moments. Finally, he began to separate everything from each other. He laid the bun down and took out the lettuce and the tomato, and all that went with it. He separated them all from each other. Then he began to eat each element one at a time.

I never saw that before, and I'm not sure where he got that.

I then remembered something I did to my grandpa, which was to make fun of him, especially his hands. I looked at his hands and saw so many wrinkles I didn't know where they came from.

"Grandpa," I said, "how did you get all of those wrinkles on your hand?"

Looking at me, he replied, "Well, son, if you must know every wrinkle is the result of one year of hard labor." He looked at me and smiled, and then we both looked at his hand.

"Will I ever get hands like that?" Grandpa laughed and then said, "Only if you live as long as I do and work as hard as I do."

I had forgotten that conversation until just recently.

The other morning, I got up and went to my easy

chair for my morning coffee. As I began sipping that delicious coffee, I happened to look at my hand, and I was scared. Is that my grandfather's hand?

I almost had a heart attack as I was looking at my hand and seeing my grandpa's hand. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was as if my grandfather's hand was right there holding my coffee cup. How in the world could that be? After all, he's been gone for 52 years.

I looked at that old wrinkly hand and soon realized that it was not my grandpa's hand. In fact, it was my grandpa's grandson's hand. It was like he was right there in front of me.

Processing that was difficult because I did not know how in the world grandpa's hand got on my hand. It was as if he were in the room with me at the moment.

Looking at my hand for a few moments, I begin to count the wrinkles on my hand. If what grandpa said was true, that every wrinkle represents one year of hard work, I must be 150 by now.

Sitting there, I remembered how many times I made fun of grandpa's old wrinkly hand. I'm not sure what to do, but I might start wearing gloves when I go outside.

In a few moments, I began to smile. The thought came to me that this challenge to my smile was, How many other aspects of

my grandpa do I have?

This is an area I do not want to visit. But is it that my grandchildren are seeing me as I saw my grandpa?

The other night, while watching TV, there was a commercial about getting rid of wrinkles. I watched that very carefully, and for a moment, I was tempted to get that cream to get rid of all my wrinkles.

When the commercial was over, I sat back and thought very deeply. What is wrong with being like my grandpa? After all, he was a good man. What I should do is to live my life in a way that he would be proud. So, my wrinkles are here to stay.

Recently I read in the Bible a verse along this line. "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the

glory of children are their fathers" (Proverbs 17:6).

I'm beginning to see that there are many things in my life that lead back to my grandfather. I need to leave something to pass that on to my grandchildren so when I'm gone they're remember

me.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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From Pain to Purpose



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

God often allows pain to awaken our purpose in life. Without some type of incentive, many individuals would never fulfill the purposes for which God created them.

Oftentimes a measured assault invades our life and creates a dept of pain that all we know to do is call upon God with our whole being.

When this first happens, our motivation is to ask God to take away the pain. After a period of extreme emo-

tional and many times physical hurt, a second phase begins for us.

This second phase moves us to discover a new and deeper relationship with God. We begin to discover things about ourselves and about God that we never would have learned without this stimulus from God.

Slowly, our heart changes our motivation from pain to loving obedience because there is a transition of the heart that takes place. No longer do we seek God for deliverance from the pain; like Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane, we seek Him because He is God.

"And he went forward for a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if

it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt." Mark 14:35 & 36.

When we move to the second phase we often find ourselves moving into a new vocation and calling for our lives because God often separates us from the old life in this process.

No doubt Joseph felt this pain of his crises when his brothers stripped him out of his coat of many colors, they also threw him in a pit without food or water and finally they sold him to a company of Ishmeelites.

However, later Joseph

could realize God's purposes in his crisis. Like Joseph, we are able to say,

"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Genesis 50:20.

Why not let God move you from your place of pain to your place of purpose. Let God show you the secret things He has reserved for you as a result of the crises you may find yourself in.

Allow Him to guide you on the paths that He has for

you to travel. Ask God to help you be obedient to His will and His prompting to you.

Too many people put off something that brings joy to them or someone else

See TARPLEY, Page 16



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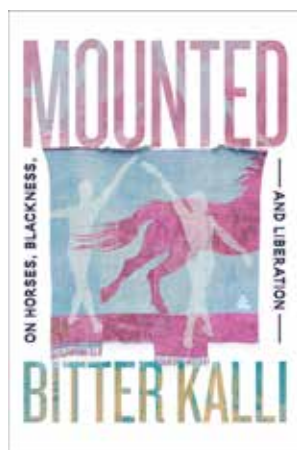
NDG Bookshelf: 'Mounted' is great for horse and history lovers alike

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

One thousand, two hundred pounds and four legs.

Put that between your knees and you'll find out what real horsepower is. You're five feet off the ground, moving as fast as a car on a downtown street, hooves pounding as hard as your heart. Dangerous? Maybe. But as you'll see in "Mounted" by Bitter Kalli, your ancestors did it and so can you.

When they were a young child, "around the age of six or seven," someone gave Bitter Kalli a set of "pony books," the kind that appeal to young girls, mostly white ones. Kalli



wasn't entirely comfortable identifying as a girl then but they adored the books, in part because the stories featured the kinds of friendships and acceptance Kalli wanted. After devouring those stories,

they begged their parents for riding lessons from a nearby Brooklyn stable.

Fast forward to 2014, when Kalli was seventeen years old, an experienced equestrian, a trans individual, and a protester at college. During that protest, they watched the horses that carried the police, and wondered what those animals saw in the crowd.

For that matter, what did horses see throughout Black history?

In times of slavery, it was not uncommon for fleeing slaves to steal a horse or two to get away faster. Kalli shares heart-pounding tales of escape, sharing examples of how

human chattel was often compared to that of equines in newspaper ads, as slaveholders mourned the latter loss much deeper than the former.

Many Americans are unaware of the rich contributions that African Americans made to the settling of the West. Kalli examines a popular movie, deconstructing it and adding real history to the Hollywood tale.

"What we know as the Wild West would not exist without the 182,000 enslaved people living in Texas in 1860..." they say.

Horses are featured in many of the world's religions. Horsey language

lends itself to the erotic. Even, says Kalli, "Black and brown youth in Brooklyn" understood the appeal of a good-looking Polo pony...

Take a good study of the cover of "Mounted." Appreciate the artwork, notice the design. Then add this book to your "Things I Never Really Thought About" list, because you'll think about it now. And you're going to want to read every delicious word.

Horses have been hiding in plain sight in Black history for centuries, but author Bitter Kalli pulls them to the forefront, turning each facet of the subject over for deeper ex-

amination and additional thought. Happily, you won't feel forced to do that; their writing comes across like an invitation to a warm, intimate conversation, the kind you get while casually hanging out with a new group of friends on the patio. What you learn is highly intriguing, and you won't ever see horses in the same way again.

Beware that this book has one explicit chapter inside, but it fits the narrative and you won't mind. You'll be too busy enjoying what you read and wanting more. For horse lovers and history lovers alike, "Mounted" is the perfect ride.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

just because they haven't thought about it; they didn't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming

or they were too rigid to depart from their routine. There are times you must seize the moment or time.

How many people that didn't do something positive the morning of September 11th?

It's a good thing to learn to be a little more flexible.

Tell someone that you love him or her today. Be a little kinder to some you meet along the way, you don't what they will have faced before they saw you.

Look back and thank God, look forward and trust God. Look around and serve God. Look within and find God. God opens doors that no man can close; and

closes doors that no man can open.

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

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