



North Dallas

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The violence that Trump claims to fear occurs mostly in red states

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Donald Trump continues to attack cities and jurisdictions heavily populated by minorities, often painting them as crime-ridden and unsafe despite evidence showing overall declines in many categories of crime.

Nowhere is this tension clearer than in Washington, D.C., where residents face relentless scrutiny from Trump while Red States — many with far less diversity — quietly struggle with some of the highest murder rates in the nation.

The District of Columbia recorded the nation's highest murder rate in 2023 at 39 per 100,000 residents, with 265 murders.

Despite local efforts to address



Trump continues to attack cities and jurisdictions heavily populated by minorities, often painting them as crime-ridden and unsafe despite evidence showing overall declines in many categories of crime. (Photo via NNPA)

violence, Trump routinely depicts the crime itself but the reality that the city as unlivable. To many residents, the greater tragedy is not just

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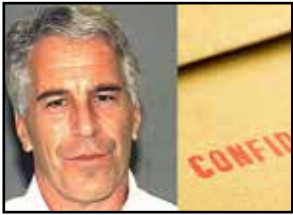
Dragging the nation back to Jim Crow

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People In The News ...



Bill Cosby



Dr. Olumuyiwa Bamgbade

NDG Quote of the Week:

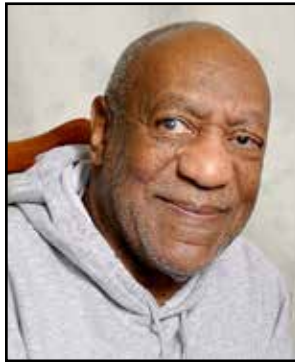
"For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place."
- Dr. Maya Angelou

Bill Cosby

By Stacy Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Bill Cosby said his widely criticized admonition that young Black men should “pull their pants up” was less about fashion and more about a system that profits from negative images of African Americans.

“But what was it they used to say? They not only did that, but what got a lot of attention was the shoes, the untied laces, and then the pants down around the crack. And if this is the attention, then it’s something put towards you like they would put drugs into the neighborhood. They would lace the marijuana. They are putting us under siege,” Cosby said during a candid interview on Black Press USA’s “Let It Be Known.” He tied those im-



WAC Philadelphia / Wikipedia

ages directly to incarceration. “No prisoners had or were allowed to have their pants around the crack. No prisoners were allowed at Phoenix to go around with untied shoelaces,” he said. “So, I just felt this was a move by people who didn’t want to be tied up to have a picture. They would rather have a picture of a youth doing nothing, not studying, and having his pants lowered.” The remarks came in Cosby’s first wide-ranging interview about

his prison experience, the long-standing NBC rumor, the media’s portrayal of his life, and the erasure of Black history.

Refusing to Sign Away Innocence

Cosby, famously known as “America’s Dad,” served nearly three years at Pennsylvania’s SCI Phoenix following a 2018 conviction on an aggravated indecent assault charge. In June 2021, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that his trial and conviction were illegal, ordered his release, and barred any retrial. He said prosecutors offered him a way out — if he admitted guilt. “My lawyer came to me and said, the district attorney is offering you to sign a paper saying you did it, and that you would be, you wouldn’t have to do prison time,” Cosby stated. “And I told my lawyer to continue with the trial, don’t stop

the trial. I wasn’t signing any papers or anything.” Even in prison, Cosby said, the same deal was dangled before him. “Sign the paper and go to these classes, and then we will let you go,” he said. “Well, my signature would be in a sealed envelope, and nobody could open it. So anyway, it was all set up from way in the beginning.”

Life at Phoenix

Cosby recalled his first hours inside. “When I entered Phoenix for the first time, I could not see,” he said. “And there were regulations such as taking off your clothes and switching to other things, and then the search for some things that you might have.” He

said he was kept alone at first. “I was by myself except for a guard or two around the area,” he said. Later, he was moved onto a unit with “convicts who really and truly had done some things like murder, rape, and et cetera, et cetera.” He described the food as barely edible. “It was just that the food was so salty, and it was just that the food appeared from, if you fixed it or it could be written how it’s fixed, it wouldn’t be healthy for human consumption,” he said. Inside, Cosby also became a speaker at peer programs like “Mann Up” and “Men of Valor.” Because the men talked so much about their faith and

reverence of Jesus Christ, Cosby said, “As you leave this prison, whatever you go out and become... make Jesus smile.”

The Release

Cosby described being asleep in his cell when word came. “A resident... said, Mr. Cosby, Mr. Cosby, you have to wake up. You can go home. You can go home,” he said. A white female officer with the rank of major came to push his wheelchair out. “I said, This is not like driving Miss Daisy. And she said, Who’s Miss Daisy?” Cosby recalled.

(Read the full interview at www.northdallasgazette.com.)

Dr. Olumuyiwa Bamgbade

The systemic bias that has historically failed Black people in the USA is no less evident in Canada.

That reality is laid bare in the case of Dr. Olumuyiwa Bamgbade, an anesthesiologist and interventional pain physician who was acquitted of sexual assault after years of humiliation and socioeconomic losses.

Despite his acquittal, he said the silence of the Canadian press shows bias.

Dr. Bamgbade has worked as a physician for three decades across Nigeria, Britain, the USA, and Canada. He mentors junior professionals, collaborates in research, and provides peer reviews for journals. Despite opposition from Canadian authorities, he single-handedly established a community pain clinic in February 2018 in British



Columbia, Canada. Unlike other pain clinics, the Salem Anesthesia Pain Clinic in Surrey only treats Medicare patients without out-of-pocket costs to patients.

The clinic treats police, healthcare, skilled, and unskilled workers and helps them function effectively in their professional and family roles.

According to Dr. Bamgbade, in summer 2020, a 58-year-old Caucasian female patient invited Dr.

Bamgbade’s 17-year-old son to her home. Dr. Bamgbade’s son, who was working as the clinic’s receptionist, declined her invitation.

At a subsequent visit, the lady informed Dr. Bamgbade that she has a new 17-year-old live-in boyfriend. According to Dr. Bamgbade, the woman stated that she took in the vulnerable boy and a 14-year-old girl from her neighbors. The woman allegedly described having unprotected sex with the boy while the girl watched.

he advised her against these illegal behaviors. On the same day, she retaliated by falsely accusing the doctor of physical assault. However, eyewitnesses and forensic hospital examination disproved her allegations.

Despite the overwhelm-

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America being dragged back to Jim Crow as Trump's Project 2025 reshapes the nation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

America is no longer drifting toward authoritarianism. It is living it. Project 2025 has been instituted, and the results are clear.

Donald Trump has put forth racist policies that strip away protections, empower white supremacists, and turn Washington, D.C., into a militarized zone.

His followers have taken the flag of racism and run wild with it, building whites-only communities and terrorizing Black neighborhoods under the cover of his administration.

The Thurgood Marshall Institute at the Legal Defense Fund warned last year that Project 2025 was "a direct, boundless, pregnant threat to the interests and well-being of Black people and our democracy."

The Institute detailed how the plan would consolidate executive power, dismantle civil rights enforcement, suppress the Black vote, gut public education, and eliminate safeguards against discrimination.

"Our democracy stands at a crossroads, a path of infinite promise towards a more inclusive, equitable, and durable democracy on the one hand, and one of immeasurable and irretrievable demise on the other," Janai S. Nelson, President and Director-Counsel of



the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, said in 2024. "The assault on Black communities envisioned by Project 2025 will almost certainly condemn us to demise."

**Trump's
Militarized State**

Since his return to office, Trump has turned the nation's capital into what residents describe as an occupied city. Military vehicles patrol neighborhoods, checkpoints dominate downtown, and police with expanded immunity operate with near total control.

Trump has threatened to "clean out" cities like Chicago, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, targeting majority-Black communities as justification for federal crackdowns.

Immigration raids have surged, ripping apart families across Black and Latino neighborhoods. The atmosphere exploded this week when CodePink protesters confronted Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and Cabinet members Marco Rubio and others. Standing within inches of Trump, they shouted "Free

D.C. Free Palestine, Trump is the Hitler of our time" before being hauled away by security.

Signs of Jim Crow

Across the country, the evidence of regression is mounting. In Rockdale County, Georgia, children walked into Honey Creek Elementary School to find "Whites Only" and "Colored Only" signs taped over water fountains and posted in the cafeteria.

Officials claimed it was part of a history lesson about Ruby Bridges. Parents said their children were traumatized.

One mother recalled her son being mocked by classmates when he drank beneath a sign reading "For Colored Only" and said, "to me that's not a history lesson."

**Building a
White Nation**

Trump's policies have also emboldened groups openly constructing whites-only settlements. In Arkansas, a compound called Return to the Land has built a 160-acre enclave restricted to people of European an-

cestry.

Its leaders praise Adolf Hitler and the Ku Klux Klan while raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to expand into Missouri.

"You want a white nation? Build a white town? It can be done. We're doing it," Eric Orwoll, Return to the Land co-founder, said.

"We don't need to get back to the Jim Crow era," countered Barry Jefferson, NAACP Arkansas State Conference President. "We've been through that before. I think no one should be discriminated against because of their skin color."

A Nation

Pushed Backward

From the militarization of Washington to racist raids in Black cities, from schoolchildren forced to relive segregation to whites-only communities legally testing America's civil rights laws, the consequences of Project 2025 are undeniable.

Trump has institutionalized racism at the highest levels of government, and his supporters are enforcing it on the ground.

"This organization wants to return us to sundown town, and we are not that," said Susan Schmalzbauer, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Missouri. "There's really no place for hate. Hate divides, but love unites."

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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New AI tool pinpoints genes, drug combos to restore health in diseased cells

(Newswise) — In a move that could reshape drug discovery, researchers at Harvard Medical School have designed an artificial intelligence model capable of identifying treatments that reverse disease states in cells.

Unlike traditional approaches that typically test one protein target or drug at a time in hopes of identifying an effective treatment, the new model, called PDGrapher and available for free, focuses on multiple drivers of disease and identifies the genes most likely to revert diseased cells back to healthy function.

The tool also identifies the best single or combined targets for treatments that correct the disease process. The work, described Sept. 9 in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, was supported in part by federal funding.

By zeroing in on the targets most likely to reverse disease, the new approach could speed up drug discovery and design and unlock therapies for conditions that have long eluded traditional methods, the researchers noted.

“Traditional drug discovery resembles tasting hundreds of prepared dishes to find one that happens to taste perfect,” said study senior author Marinka Zitnik, associate professor of biomedical informatics in the Blavatnik Institute at HMS. “PDGrapher works like a master chef who understands what they want the dish to be and exactly how to combine ingredients to achieve the desired flavor.”

The traditional drug-discovery approach — which focuses on activating or inhibiting a single protein — has succeeded with



DWG Studio

treatments such as kinase inhibitors, drugs that block certain proteins used by cancer cells to grow and divide. However, Zitnik noted, this discovery paradigm can fall short when diseases are fueled by the interplay of multiple signaling pathways and genes. For example, many breakthrough drugs discovered in recent decades — think immune checkpoint inhibitors and CAR T-cell therapies — work by targeting disease processes in cells.

The approach enabled by PDGrapher, Zitnik said, looks at the bigger picture to find compounds that can actually reverse signs of disease in cells, even if scientists don’t yet know exactly which molecules those compounds may be acting on.

How PDGrapher works: Mapping complex linkages and effects

PDGrapher is a type of artificial intelligence tool called a graph neural network. This tool doesn’t just look at individual data points but at the connections that exist between these data points and the effects they have on one another.

In the context of biology and drug discovery, this approach is used to map the relationship between various genes, proteins, and signaling pathways in-

side cells and predict the best combination of therapies that would correct the underlying dysfunction of a cell to restore healthy cell behavior. Instead of exhaustively testing compounds from large drug databases, the new model focuses on drug combinations that are most likely to reverse disease.

PDGrapher points to parts of the cell that might be driving disease. Next, it simulates what happens if these cellular parts were turned off or dialed down. The AI model then offers an answer as to whether a diseased cell would happen if certain targets were “hit.”

“Instead of testing every possible recipe, PDGrapher asks: ‘Which mix of ingredients will turn this bland or overly salty dish into a perfectly balanced meal?’” Zitnik said.

Advantages of the new model

The researchers trained the tool on a dataset of diseased cells before and after treatment so that it could figure out which genes to target to shift cells from a diseased state to a healthy one.

Next, they tested it on 19 datasets spanning 11 types of cancer, using both genetic and drug-based experiments, asking the tool to predict various treatment options for cell samples it

had not seen before and for cancer types it had not encountered.

The tool accurately predicted drug targets already known to work but that were deliberately excluded during training to ensure the model did not simply recall the right answers. It also identified additional candidates supported by emerging evidence. The model also highlighted KDR (VEGFR2) as a target for non-small cell lung cancer, aligning with clinical evidence. It also identified TOP2A — an enzyme already targeted by approved chemotherapies — as a treatment target in certain tumors, adding to evidence from recent preclinical studies that TOP2A inhibition may be used to curb the spread of metastases in non-small cell lung cancer.

The model showed superior accuracy and efficiency, compared with other similar tools. In previously unseen datasets, it ranked the correct therapeutic targets up to 35 percent higher than other models did and delivered results up to 25 times faster than comparable AI approaches.

What this AI advance spells for the future of medicine

The new approach could optimize the way new drugs are designed, the researchers said. This is because instead of trying to predict how every possible change would affect a cell and then looking for a useful drug, PDGrapher right away seeks which specific targets can reverse a disease trait. This makes it faster to test ideas and lets researchers focus on fewer promising

targets.

This tool could be especially useful for complex diseases fueled by multiple pathways, such as cancer, in which tumors can outsmart drugs that hit just one target. Because PDGrapher identifies multiple targets involved in a disease, it could help circumvent this problem.

Additionally, the researchers said that after careful testing to validate the model, it could one day be used to analyze a patient’s cellular profile and help design individualized treatment combinations.

Finally, because PDGrapher identifies cause-effect biological drivers of disease, it could help researchers understand why certain drug combinations work

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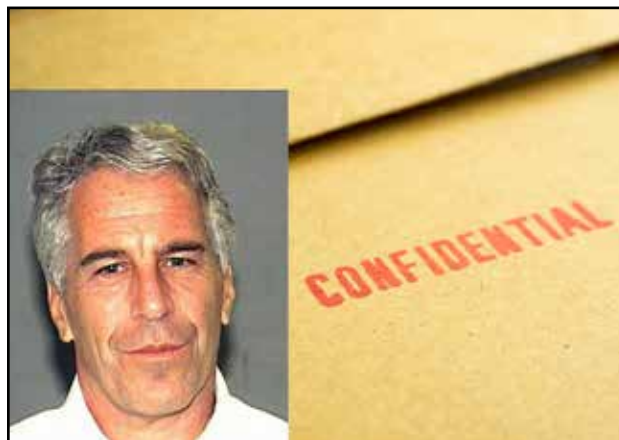
Why Black people should be concerned about the Jeffrey Epstein case

By April Ryan

The voices of victims in the Jeffrey Epstein case to “end secrecy” are loud outside of Capitol Hill. They’re telling their stories and demanding action from Congress.

As the victims are speaking out, Democratic sponsored legislation is moving in the House that would release materials in the Epstein case in 30 days.

The effort to determine who’s connected with these abuses also has support from Trump loyalist Margery Taylor Greene (R-GA), a Congresswoman who is using her platform to get answers.



In contrast, the majority of House Republicans are pushing for an investigation into the Epstein case instead of the release of the documents. In front of the capital building yesterday, the survivors announced a plan to compile a list by and for sur-

vivors of those who allegedly took part in their abuse, along with Jeffrey Epstein.

The Trump White House continues to downplay the president’s involvement with Epstein and the Epstein survivors. Regarding survivors, at least one woman

of color has publicly come forward.

The perceived traditional mainstream media has been wall-to-wall coverage on this, as other media outlets are more focused on the nuances of this administration’s negative impact on cities and people. This reporter asked Maryland Congressman Mfume,

“Why should Black America be concerned in this case?” Mfume, a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, who met with the survivors, said, “Black America should be concerned because this is a classic case of how the rich and powerful are still able to

oppress and deny basic justice.”

“This is not only about the horrific actions of Epstein and [Ghislaine] Maxwell, but also about the wider network of individuals who enable, conceal, and turn their heads away in the face of exploitation. If it can happen to them, it can happen to anybody,” emphasized Mfume.

Various House committees are focused on this Epstein issue, a campaign promise of the candidate Donald Trump. Los Angeles, Democratic Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-

Dove says, “I sit in the Judiciary..... My committee has jurisdiction over the FBI

and the AG, and they have not yet availed themselves to us.” She sarcastically said, “I wonder why?”

Congresswoman Kanka-kee-Dove emphasizes the same point that Congressman Mfume expressed: “This cover-up only exposes what Black people already know. There are laws but two sets of rules. There are those who get walked on and those who look for more bodies to abuse.” The California Congresswoman believes that the truth will come to light, adding,

“These behaviors are getting some sunlight, and we need to continue to expose and shame these actions and demand real accountability.”

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Celebrating a milestone of success in Sunny South Dallas

By Jirah Fleming
Dallas ISD

In Sunny South Dallas, the seven legacy schools that make up the Lincoln-Madison vertical team are celebrating a milestone that reflects strong leadership, dedicated families, and a community invested in its own future: a B rating for all of its schools.

Charles Rice Learning Center, often called a “beacon of hope” in South Dallas, had long been the anchor of success in the area, standing as the only school of the seven, to consistently maintain a B rating over



Dallas ISD

the years. Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center and James Madison High School later joined Rice in maintaining consecutive B ratings.

When the Texas Education Agency released its school ratings this summer, the rest of the vertical team’s schools — Lincoln High School and Humanities/Communications Mag-

net, Billy Earl Dade Middle School, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Arts Academy, and H.S. Thompson STEAM Academy — joined the others with B ratings of their own.

A product of south Dallas, Rockell Stewart is the executive director of the Lincoln-Madison vertical team.

“I am beyond proud of the principals, the staff and the students,” said Stewart. “It’s been almost a decade since every school in South Dallas has been B-rated. The work that I’ve seen the principals and teachers pour into their schools has been phenomenal to witness.”

Stewart leads with intentional care, guided by an African principle that begins with a simple question: “and how are the children?” The response, “all the children are well,” reflects her vision for South Dallas.

For Stewart, this answer that reaches far beyond test

scores to address the health, safety, and opportunities every student deserves is key to the success of the vertical team schools.

“I am always asking what their needs are because when students and schools prosper, the community transforms,” she said. “I want everyone to feel safe in our schools.”

Building on success

The vertical team’s newest member, H.S. Thompson STEAM Academy, had not been rated since reopening in 2021 as an elementary school.

Its principal, Jennifer Atkins, who previously led

Rice Learning Center in obtaining consistent B ratings, was entrusted to do the same for the new school.

“When I was an assistant principal, my principal at the time would say ‘my time is going to be up soon, but people like you have to keep it going,’” Atkins said. “The older generation pours into the younger generation, and we keep the cycle going. That is our legacy in South Dallas.”

Building on Rice’s success, the feeder pattern has reached a unity the community has not seen in a long

See SUCCESS, Page 13

Collin College to host Constitution Day lecture on Lincoln’s Constitutionalism

(Collin College) -- Collin College will commemorate Constitution Day with a special lecture, “Abraham Lincoln’s Constitutionalism as a Lesson in Gratitude,” from 1-2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the McKinney Campus Con-

ference Center.

The event will feature Dr. Andrew F. Lang, an award-winning Civil War historian and author of *A Contest of Civilizations*, a finalist for the 2022 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. His work explores the meaning

of American nationhood, military occupation, and the legacy of the Civil War. Dr. Lang serves on national advisory boards for leading Civil War institutions and is currently researching Abraham Lincoln’s political philosophy and partnership

with Ulysses S. Grant.

Abraham Lincoln is remembered for his leadership during the Civil War, but one of the traits that most infused his public and private life was his sense of gratitude. Lincoln believed that gratitude was central to

constitutional self-government, serving as a virtue of reflection and restraint that binds personal liberty with civic responsibility.

Dr. Lang’s lecture will highlight how Lincoln connected gratitude to the U.S. Constitution and the Decla-

ration of Independence.

This free event is open to Collin College students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. Lunch will be provided at noon.

For more information, contact Cathleen Akers at cakers@collin.edu.

GENES, from Page 4

— offering new biological insights that could propel biomedical discovery even further.

The team is currently using this model to tackle brain diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s, looking at how cells behave in disease and spotting genes that could help

restore them to health. The researchers are also collaborating with colleagues at the Center for XDP at Massachusetts General Hospital to identify new drug targets and map which genes or pairs of genes could be affected by treatments for X-linked Dystonia-Parkinsonism, a

rare inherited neurodegenerative disorder.

“Our ultimate goal is to create a clear road map of possible ways to reverse disease at the cellular level,” Zitnik said. Authorship, funding, disclosures Additional authors include Guadalupe Gonzalez, Xiang Lin, Isuru Herath, Kirill Veselkov, and Michael Bronstein.

The work was funded in part by federal grants (NIH grant R01-HD108794, NSF CAREER 2339524, and US DoD FA8702-15-D-0001), ARPA-H BDF program, awards from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the Gates Foundation INV-079038, Amazon Faculty Research, Google Research Scholar Program, Astra-Zeneca Research, Roche

Alliance with Distinguished Scientists, Sanofi iDEA-iTECH, Pfizer Research, John and Virginia Kanab Fellowship at HMS, Biswas Computational Biology Initiative in partnership with the Milken Institute, HMS Dean’s Innovation Awards for the Use of Artificial Intelligence, Harvard Data Science Initiative, and the Kempner Institute for the

Study of Natural and Artificial Intelligence at Harvard University. Partial support was received from the Summer Institute in Biomedical Informatics at HMS and from the ERC-Consolidator Grant No. 724228.

Gonzalez is currently employed by Genentech, Inc., and Herath was employed by Merck & Co., Inc. during the study.



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Dallas CASA's Champion of Children award dinner will honor Goldman Sachs

Event Will Feature Inspiring Guest Speaker Steve Pemberton

Dallas CASA will honor Goldman Sachs with the Jan and Judge Barefoot Sanders Champion of Children Award for its commitment to bettering the lives of Dallas children.

The award will be presented at the Champion of Children Award Dinner on Thursday, October 9 at The Fairmont Dallas. All funds raised at the event benefit the child victims of abuse and neglect served by the agency's volunteers.

The Champion of Children Award is given annually to recognize community leaders who significantly improve the lives of youth in our community. Past recipients include organizations such as the Dallas Mavericks, the Meadows Foundation, the Junior League of Dallas and NorthPark Center, as well as individuals La La Land Kind Café founder Francois Reihani, Jessica and Dirk Nowitzki, Jan and Trevor Rees-Jones and Nancy A. Nasher. The award is named for Judge Harold Barefoot Sanders, a revered United States District Court judge for the Northern District of Texas, past award recipient and a steadfast supporter of Dallas CASA and his wife Jan Sanders, a former Dallas CASA volunteer child advocate.

Goldman Sachs has been a longtime supporter of Dallas CASA. In 1998, the Archon Group, which Goldman Sachs would later acquire, founded the Dallas CASA Classic golf tournament. Since then, the tournament has raised nearly \$28.1 million for Dallas CASA, transforming the agency's capacity to serve



Steve Pemberton (Courtesy photo)

children in need. Goldman Sachs has also supported Dallas CASA in many other ways, including the growth campaign and building new offices to serve more children, an annual donation of holiday gifts for more than 400 children, other fundraising event support and volunteer advocate and board service.

"As Goldman Sachs grows its footprint in the Dallas area, Dallas CASA could not be prouder to have the company as a partner and cheerleader as we seek to make Dallas the safe and enriching place it should be for all children," said Dallas CASA CEO Kathleen LaValle. "Goldman shares a vision of Dallas as a vibrant city for children, families, professionals and everyone."

The guest speaker will be Steve Pemberton, bestselling author, managing director at Seramount and host of the Pemberton Podcast.

A visionary leader and lifelong advocate for human dignity, Pemberton will share his inspiring belief in the power of ordinary people doing remarkable things. Pemberton's first book, "A Chance in the

World," laid bare a stark childhood spent in foster care. Thanks to small acts of kindness and people who cared, Pemberton left foster care, graduated from Boston College and became a husband, father, corporate executive and motivational speaker. His second book, "The Lighthouse Effect," encourages readers to be "human lighthouses," inspiring those around them toward connection, hope and renewed trust instead

of disillusionment and defeat. In the book, Pemberton writes: "When a human lighthouse sees you in the midst of your storm, it points you toward safety and protection. In doing so, it also sends you an uncompromising message of belief: Yes, the situation is difficult, but you are not alone. I'm standing right here with you, and I know the way home."

Pemberton's professional life, with pivotal roles at

Monster.com, Walgreens and Workhuman among others, has focused on reshaping organizations and how they view their human capital. His journey has been marked by resilience, faith and an unwavering belief in what is possible, and he seeks to ensure that every person, no matter their beginnings, has a chance.

The 2025 Champion of

See CASA, Page 13



Once in a lifetime fight for boxing immortality

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

The highly anticipated clash between two of boxing's biggest stars—Terence Crawford (41-0, 31 KOs) and Canelo Alvarez (63-2-2, 39 KOs) is set to take place Saturday, September 13 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

Both fighters are universally considered two of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the world and will be fighting for the undisputed super middleweight championship.

In what is being billed as “Once In a Lifetime” by the promoters, Crawford is moving up two weight classes and daring to be great against Canelo to become the first men’s boxer to be an undisputed champion in three weight classes in the “four-belt era.” (Claressa GWOAT Shields became an undisputed champion in three women’s



In a historic showdown on September 13 at Allegiant Stadium, undefeated Terence Crawford will move up two weight classes to challenge Canelo Alvarez for the undisputed super middleweight title. (Wikimedia photos by MILLION DOLLAZ WORTH OF GAME and Box Azteca - Both CC BY SA 3.0)

boxing divisions when she defeated Danielle Perkins for the heavyweight title in July.)

“I love Canelo. Crawford will beat Canelo. Crawford will beat Canelo by decision,” ESPN personality Stephen A. Smith predicted. “I can’t see anybody knocking out Canelo Alvarez. But I do believe that if you can box and you can move, you

can beat Canelo. You can outpoint him.

“One of the things I don’t like about Canelo, despite his greatness...It’s like almost every shot has to be a power shot, and that’s not beating Crawford.”

Canelo is arguably the greatest Mexican boxer of all-time and will look to continue cementing his legacy as a legendary fighter.

ESPN BET has the undisputed super middleweight champion as a -175 favorite over Crawford. Canelo has not been a betting underdog since his second fight with Gennady Golovkin in 2018.

“I want Crawford to win, but it doesn’t look like it’s going to happen,” Mike Tyson recently said on The Big Podcast, hosted by basketball legend Shaquille

O’Neal.

“I would like for it to happen, [but] this guy [Alvarez] is a hard puncher, he’s a smart fighter. I want to see it.”

Styles make fights and the slick switch-hitting Crawford presents an interesting challenge for a slugger like Canelo.

Although Canelo is a much different fighter than when he fought Floyd Mayweather Jr., Crawford would be wise to take a few pointers from the defensive mastermind’s playbook. Mayweather beat Canelo with stellar defense and by precisely picking his spots on when to engage with Canelo in the center of the ring.

If Crawford decides to take Canelo’s bait to make it an “exciting” fight, Canelo could potentially overwhelm Crawford with his power.

“I think size is going to be a problem,” Matchroom

chairman Eddie Hearn said. “Is Canelo getting old? One of the things that is so admirable about Canelo Alvarez is that he keeps competing. He keeps having his training camps, and he still has the fire in his belly.

“I think for the Crawford fight, he’ll really get himself up for that fight. I just think the movement is going to cause him a lot of problems. Crawford has got to fight a boring fight to beat him.”

In what will certainly be the fight of the year, Crawford will edge out Canelo by a majority decision. Given that both fighters have a respectable chin and a pit bull mentality, neither will accept being defeated by a knockout.

The fight will be available to stream on Netflix at 9 p.m. ET and will be a legacy-defining moment for both fighters, as Crawford and Canelo look to be considered among the greatest boxers of all-time.

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Ovation's 'Stand for The Arts' awards \$10,000 to Bishop Arts Theatre Center

Check presentation to take place during BATC's Jazz Series at the Dallas Zoo on October 4

Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Ovation's Stand for The Arts initiative, which supports organizations creating positive impact, protecting access, and encouraging action on behalf of the arts. The check presentation will take place Saturday, October 4 during BATC's Jazz Series performance at the Dallas Zoo.

"Support like this does more than fund a season—it affirms the role the arts play in community health, learning, and belonging," said Teresa Coleman Wash, Executive Artistic Director & Founder of BATC.



David Wilfong / NDG

"We're grateful to Ovation for standing with our artists, our students, and our seniors."

BATC will use the funds to expand its theatre series, youth STEAM education programs, and PatioLive!, a

creative wellness initiative for seniors.

The check will be presented as part of the Jazz Series at the Dallas Zoo on Oct. 4 during the evening

See BATC, Page 11



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Film Review: 'An Officer and a Spy' is a relevant masterpiece

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) Accused, court-martialed and imprisoned. Back in late 1800s France, the Dreyfus Affair was a national scandal. Oddly, some of the trumped-up machinations of that case seem so relevant these days

With author/screenwriter Robert Harris (Conclave) on board, alongside veteran writer/director Roman Polanski, anyone looking for thoughtful, tight and illuminating writing gets what they want. The characters are complex. The politically charged elements are in place. Lots of well-staged drama. Peppered with a few vital action scenes. It all makes the base story about a wronged man's path to freedom absorbing enough



Photo via NNPA

to keep adult viewers' attention riveted from beginning to end.

Soldiers march and gather at the École Militaire, a military training facility in Paris. Not for a celebration, but for a denunciation. Captain Alfred Dreyfus (Louis Garrel), a Jewish officer in the French Army, is stripped of his medals and stripes, down to the gold-colored piping on his pants. The humiliation is adminis-

tered by a Captain Marie-Georges Picquart (Jean Dujardin, Oscar-winner The Artist), among others. The degradation comes after Dreyfus has been accused and convicted of selling military secrets to Germany. A treasonous act. He'll spend the rest of his life in prison on Devil's Island. Marooned off the coast of French Guiana, South America.

For taking part in the

court-martial, Picquart is promoted to the head of Intelligence. There he finds a bureaucracy mired in bad habits, traditions and corruption. He takes steps to bring the office under his control. Sifting through official papers and holding his staff accountable, he catches them fabricating lies. Schemes that include plots against Dreyfus and railroading him too, in part because he's Jewish. That discovery forces Picquart, who has a conscience, to do the right thing. To get a wrongfully convicted man freed. Who knew it would be so hard? That he'd stir up the wrath of the military and experience such condemnation.

The people are so distinct. Their ethics so clear. The difference between jus-

tice and injustice shouldn't be that difficult to discern. But yet this small case became a national scandal pitting pro- and anti-Dreyfus factions against each other. The hardened politically charged divisions of today seem so modern, until you witness this centuries-old social/political war. Watching stalwart advocates stand up for an innocent man and get maligned in the process is a timely lesson in courage.

Every scene is impeccably crafted, directed, acted and produced. Picquart, as the onscreen protagonist, perfectly conveys the feelings of a reluctant hero to the audience. His engrossing character arc includes condemnation, revelation, a fight for justice and an unwavering will. Scenes with

his sneaky subordinates and duplicitous superiors are chilling. The looks on Dreyfus's face, the mostly offscreen protagonist, as he's pulled deeper and deeper into a rabbit hole not of his making, are sobering, too. The dynamics intensify until the subterfuge becomes wicked beyond belief.

Polanski is a masterful director. His accomplishments (The Pianist, Tess, Chinatown) are well known. What's unknown? Can an 86-year-old man, Polanski's age in 2019 when this film was originally made, still summon the craftsmanship needed to make this epic work? Well, it's as if time stood still for him. He orches-

See FILM, Page 13



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Georgia Tech researchers put financial influencers to the test using AI

(Georgia Tech) Georgia Tech researchers have designed the first benchmark that tests how well existing AI tools can interpret advice from YouTube financial influencers, also known as finfluencers.

Lead author Michael Galarnyk, Ph.D. Machine Learning '28, joined lead authors Veer Kejriwal, B.S. Computer Science '25, and Agam Shah, Ph.D. Machine Learning '26, along with co-authors Yash Bhardwaj, École Polytechnique, M.S. Trustworthy and Responsible AI '27; Nicholas Meyer, B.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering '22 and Quantitative and Computational Finance '24; Anand Krishnan, Stanford University, B.S. Computer Science '27; and, Sudheer Chava, Alton M. Costley Chair and professor of Finance at Georgia Tech.

Aptly named VideoConviction, the multimodal benchmark included hundreds of video clips. Experts labelled each clip with the influencer's recommendation (buy, sell, or hold) and how strongly the influencer seemed to believe in their advice, based on tone, delivery, and facial expressions. The goal? To see how accurately AI can pick up on both the message and the conviction behind it.

"Our work shows that financial reasoning remains a



DWG Studio

challenge for even the most advanced models," said Galarnyk. "Multimodal inputs bring some improvement, but performance often breaks down on harder tasks that require distinguishing between casual discussion and meaningful analysis. Understanding where these models fail is a first step toward building systems that can reason more reliably in high stakes domains."

All the numbers and hours of content came together to provide some surprising results. "While multimodal inputs improved ticker extraction (e.g., extracting Apple's ticker AAPL)," explained Shah, "both text based and multimodal models struggled to identify whether an influencer was actually making a buy or sell recommendation, often misclassifying general commentary as definitive recommendations."

Key Takeaways From

Portfolio Analysis

- Doing the opposite of what finfluencers recommend, like selling when they say to buy, led to better returns than simply investing in the S&P 500 index. This "inverse strategy" beat the market by 6.8% annually. However, it was riskier overall. For comparison, a popular tech-focused fund (QQQ) offered a smoother ride with better risk-adjusted performance.

- Conviction doesn't guarantee success. Finfluencers who sounded more sure of their stock picks by using strong tone, detailed reasoning, and expressive delivery did better than those who seemed unsure. But even their high-conviction recommendations still didn't perform as well as a simple investment in a tech-focused index fund like QQQ.

- Even the smartest AI still has trouble reading between the lines. The most

advanced models that analyze both video and text couldn't match human-level understanding when it came to spotting how confident a finfluencer was

or telling the difference between real investment advice and casual commentary. In short, AI still struggles to distinguish real recommendations from general commentary.

- Short clips work better than full videos. When AI models were given shorter, focused segments of financial influencer videos, they did a better job understanding the advice and picking up on key details. Breaking things down helped the models stay on track.

With the academic paper garnering 850 downloads and over 6,000 abstract views, investors are eager

to know who they can trust when it comes to financial advice. Proceed with caution: AI still can't match human understanding of finfluencer content – an important gap as social media increasingly shapes retail investment decisions.

"Social media is rapidly reshaping how individuals engage with financial markets," said Chava. "This research provides timely evidence on the influence of online financial content and offers valuable insights into the real-world consequences of following investment advice from digital platforms."



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BATC, from Page 9

program. Tickets are available at bishopartstheatre.org

Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC) is an award-winning, multicultural arts organization in Dallas,

producing a theatre season, jazz concerts, new-play commissions, and year-round education for youth and seniors. Learn more at bishopartstheatre.org.

Stand for The Arts is Ovation's national initiative dedicated to strengthening local arts organizations that create impact, protect access, and inspire civic action. More at ovationtv.com.

BAMGBADE, from Page 2

ing evidence favoring Dr. Bamgbade, he said the regulators and police unfairly punished him.

In summer 2022, Dr. Bamgbade said a 65-year-old South Asian woman tried to leverage this “to ex-

tort the doctor for drugs and money.”

After three years of delays and a trial, Dr. Bamgbade was acquitted of the false allegations made by the 65-year-old lady. He said the police officers

mounted a media campaign against him, looking for other patients to complain against him.

As a result, a 46-year-old South Asian woman accused him of unwanted touching. Dr. Bamgbade said he discharged the woman from his clinic in 2019,

but she continued to hound him and gave him a Google review in early 2022.

Three years after she accused the doctor, the court dismissed the case. Under cross-examination, Dr. Bamgbade said the woman’s criminal life unraveled, and she refused to continue

testifying.

Despite Dr. Bamgbade’s acquittal of all the allegations, the damage proved excessive.

“I’m a Black man in Canada. I keep it together,” he said. “It’s been five years of one thing after another. Based on falsehoods, the

regulators, police, and prosecutors are hounding me. They’ve cost me so much. Everything they did was to strip me of dignity.”

His story clarifies that the presumption of guilt and the silence after acquittal are not confined to American courts.

CRIME, from Page 1

the capital of the United States now looks like an occupied third-world country, with National Guard and federal troops visibly stationed throughout the city. Washingtonians, who have already been denied full congressional representation, have become political pawns in Trump’s rhetoric.

What Trump avoids mentioning is that several Republican-led states top the list of the deadliest places. Louisiana had a murder

rate of 14.5 per 100,000, recording 663 killings in 2023. New Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas — all governed by Republicans in recent years — also posted murder rates higher than 9 per 100,000 residents.

In Missouri, another GOP stronghold, the murder rate stood at 9.1 per 100,000 with 564 murders, disproportionately concentrated in cities like St. Louis and Kansas City. South Carolina, Alaska,

and Georgia each ranked high, while Mississippi, often touted by conservatives as a bastion of “traditional values,” has at times led the nation in murder rates.

Meanwhile, states with larger minority populations that Trump targets — including Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Maryland — often have lower murder rates than many of these Red States. Illinois, home to Chicago, recorded a rate of 6.56 per 100,000, below Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

Critics argue this is no

accident. Trump’s fixation on minority-heavy jurisdictions is part of a long-standing strategy of scapegoating urban areas with large Black and Latino populations, while sidestepping the systemic problems facing states where his support is strongest.

“Murders were far more common in [Mississippi] than they were nationwide,” the World Population Review reported, with Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, and Arkansas following close behind.

The report’s numbers show that while Trump

fixates on minority-heavy cities, the deadliest conditions are playing out in Red States that rarely draw his attention. “Murders are disproportionately concentrated in urban areas, especially in New Orleans and Baton Rouge,” the researchers concluded.

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FILM, from Page 10

trates the entire movie like a meticulous painter. From the opening sequences during the court martial with the beating sounds of drums as the camera (cinematographer Pawel Edelman, *The Pianist*) moves around soldiers who march in lockstep. To exquisitely lit indoor scenes in offices, courtrooms and parlors (production designer Jean Rebasse, *Jackie*) and period appropriate clothes (costume designer Pascaline Chavanne) that replicate culture, location and era.

Polanski and his team pull you back into the 1800s and 1900s

What's military becomes political. What's political becomes social. It's no wonder so many factions in 19th and 20th century France were caught up in this case. Besides the fight for justice, there was a dirty secret. A hatred of Jewish people fueled the vitriol. An unconscionable prejudice. One hundred thirty-five years later, it's as if nothing was learned from this lesson.

Dujardin as Picquart takes his character from antagonist to warrior for justice in the most believable ways. It's an emotionally controlled performance that somehow lets Picquart's indignation break through. Garrel as the quieter officer projects Dreyfuss' strength in the most concentrated, subdued ways. Never apologetic, always sure that he's been wronged and others owe him for the tragedy that's been hoisted upon him

Adult audiences will be riveted as they watch an innocent man maligned,

bullies spitting venom and blatant antisemitism. Any parallels to the isms around today are easy to observe and note.

This is a masterwork based on a piece of history that shouldn't get lost. A narrative as relevant today as it was back during France's third republic. When hostility towards the Jewish community was rampant. When truth and freedom were challenged. A timely, historical allegory.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

SUCCESS, from Page 6

time.

Another contributor to the vertical team's success, Atkins said, is the presence of veteran students, along with veteran teachers, whose impact on children at an early age helped lay the foundation for long-term achievement.

"When children started at Rice in pre-K and went through fifth grade, there wasn't a high turnover with students," said Atkins. "This is what I am trying to do here at Thompson. I want students to continue

to come back. We want to keep our students in rotation in our schools in South Dallas."

Atkins would like them to come back even after they graduate from college. Today many of those same South Dallas graduates are now teachers themselves, carrying forward the legacy by preparing the next generation academically.

It's about community

The commitment to success is shared not only by the principals and team members in the vertical

team schools but also by the families and community leaders.

Stewart understands that student learning can be affected by challenges in their personal lives and is working to provide services to ensure students don't miss school because of outside barriers.

Partnerships with local faith leaders and churches, community events, impactful school branding, and educational programming are all catalysts for the schools' recent success.

There is also a priority for the emotional well-being

of teachers and principals, keeping them uplifted and affirmed as they do the daily work of guiding students, Stewart said.

For those invested in the South Dallas schools, this moment goes beyond academics, it is a silver lining, a time of celebration, and a glimmer of hope for the community.

"When I think of our legacy in South Dallas, for me it's about being a light for our students," Atkins said. "Because many times they've been written off, but it takes leaders like us to keep it going."

CASA, from Page 7

Children Award Dinner is chaired by Pam Busbee, Christie Carter, and Megan and David Martinez. Busbee is a member of Dallas CASA's Advisory Board and Children's Council, while Carter is a longtime member of the Dallas CASA Board of Directors. Megan Martinez is a child advocate, and she and her husband are longtime supporters of Dallas CASA.

Dallas CASA trains and supervises community vol-

unteers who advocate for children living in the protective care of the state. Volunteers seek to protect children and restore childhood by working with everyone in a child's life, including families, caseworkers, doctors, attorneys, therapists, teachers and more. Volunteers are appointed to cases by judges and stay for the duration of the case, often serving as the only consistent adult for children in a tumultuous system.

Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) seeks to protect children, restore childhood and help child victims of abuse or neglect achieve their full potential. The agency's trained and supervised community volunteers are assigned by judges to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are living in the protective care of the state. For many children in foster care, their Dallas CASA volunteer is the only consistent, caring

adult in their lives during a frightening, uncertain time. Dallas CASA envisions a day when all children experience safe childhoods and grow into resourceful, healthy adults. Now in its 45th year, Dallas CASA serves more children than any of the more than 900 CASA programs nationwide. In 2024, 1,009 Dallas CASA volunteers were assigned to advocate for 2,042 children in protective care.

To learn more, visit dalascasa.org.



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Swimming in an Ocean of Pills

Dr. James L. Snyder

I have a confession to make. I never realized that the older I get, the more difficult life seems to be. Oh, for those good ole days.

As a young person, I thought that when I got older, all of my problems would be solved. At the time, I did not know all the problems I was going to face in life. Maybe that's why my face looks like it does!

The one thing I never really anticipated was the medical issue. I never thought that I would be swimming in an ocean of pills as I got older. Every time I see my doctor, he has a new pill for me.

There seems to be a pill for every problem in the world. If I could come up with a pill for being crazy, I would be a very wealthy man in no time. But no matter how many pills I have been prescribed, not one of those pills has anything to do with my being crazy. I'm crazy, no matter how many pills I take.

Every time I go to see my doctor, Dr. Pills-A-Lot, he has some new pill for me. I've seen him so many times that if you look at the pills on the table, you would think I was a drug addict.

It started a few years ago when I was hit with shingles. Fortunately, I caught it in time, so it didn't get as bad as it could have.

Then, a few years later, I had a heart attack, which required more pills. Then, this year I had several skin cancers removed. All of that stuff required pills.

There is no way under God's beautiful heaven that I could ever manage all of those pills. I have to take certain ones at breakfast, then at lunch, and then after supper. If I had to pick them, I would not know which one is which. To me, a pill looks the same. I know there are some with different colors. But at my stage, what does that really matter?

I have one thing that gets me through all of this pill management. That is, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She manages all of my pills all of the time. If I had to manage my pills, I probably would forget to take any.

But she manages my pill regimen quite successfully. Every week, she prepares my pills for the week. Every day she has laid out all the pills I need to take and when I need to take them.

Even when she has to go out of town with our daughters for five days, she always sets up all the pills I need to take and when to take them.

She also manages my doctor visits. I hate visiting my doctor. I know when I visit my doctor and he examines me, he will find something that needs a pill.

I have to be careful what

I say in front of her. If I happen to mention that I have a pain somewhere, she jumps into action and gets a pill for me. I'm not sure what that pill is for or what it is, but she insists I take it.

There is one pill that she hasn't been able to discover, and that is the pill for the Silly Boy Syndrome, of which I have most assuredly.

If, for example, I happen not to take my pills for breakfast and she discovers it, then she says, "What's wrong with you, you silly boy?"

Once I snuck into the kitchen and quietly opened the freezer door where there was some ice cream and began to pick one up and who should walk into the kitchen but The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She looked at me and said, "You silly boy, you're not getting ice cream are you?"

And I can name several other ones, but evidently, she is convinced that I have the Silly Boy Syndrome. I once dared to ask her, "Oh, my dear, do you have a pill for that?"

I don't have to tell you that she was not smiling as she looked at me with both hands on her hips. I never said it out loud after that. But I thought it quite a few times.

She knows as much about my pills as the doctors do. She knows all by name and knows exactly

what they're for. At least, that's what she tells me.

I'm not sure what I would do without her supervision of my pills. I certainly couldn't keep up with all the pills that the doctors prescribed for me.

I thought I had for some time, what would happen if, for one week, I didn't take my pills?

The worst scenario would be that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would find it out, and you know what would happen after that.

Regularly taking my pills cures two things. The first, of course, is my health. But the second, more important, is it makes my wife happy. And when she's happy, I'll take as many pills as is needed.

I couldn't help but think

of my favorite Bible verse. Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Sometimes it takes effort to have a merry heart. But, believe me, it is well worth the effort not only for me

but for those around me.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Phone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail james-snyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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Proving the Word of God



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"They bruised his feet with shackles; his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true."

Psalm 105:18-19

God spoke to Joseph as a young boy through a dream and vision regarding his future. He could not understand its complete meaning at the time, but he knew it had great significance.

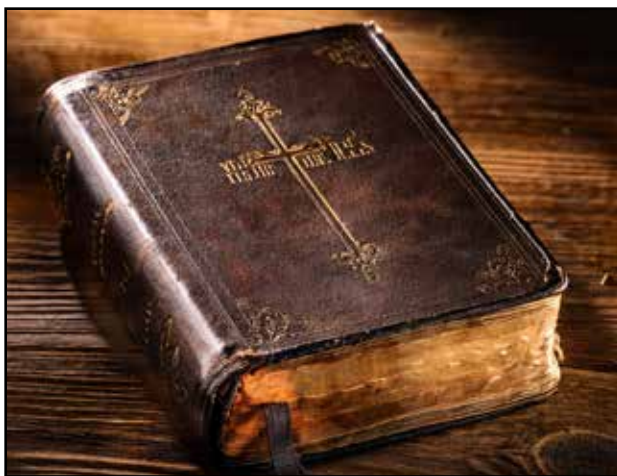
Joseph knew God had a destiny for his life. However, the proving out of that word from God was filled with 13 years of waiting,

rejection, pain, sorrow; and no doubt, Joseph questioned God's faithfulness.

His life was all but a life of influence and impact as a prisoner and slave. No doubt he wondered whether that dream was simply some vain imagination. David must have felt the same when he was anointed king over Israel as a young man only to spend years of fleeing from King Saul.

God's preparation for greatness in His Kingdom is often filled with difficulty. God is more concerned about developing the inner life of his servant.

That inner life can only be prepared by removing all self-confidence and replacing it with God-confidence. God-confidence is only developed in the furnace of life.



Is the Lord proving His word in your life? Perhaps He is using circumstances and events to move you into a place of patiently-waiting as He puts you in the place He desires for you. This is the place where the foundation of your soul matures. Let Him prove your faith.

If you let God prove your faith you will be fully per-

sued to trust God and His promises.

"Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised."
Romans 4:21.

Ponder why God considered Abraham a righteous

man. It was because Abraham looked beyond his own limitations of age and strength and considered God as the one who could accomplish His own goals.

Abraham came to a place in his life where he realized it had little to do with him and all to do with God. His part was initiating the faith within himself; just as all Christians must do.

Against all hope, Abraham, in hope believed and therefore, became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead-since he was about

a hundred years old-and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God. **Romans 4:18-20.**

What are the things in your life that are mere impossibilities? What are the mountains in your life? Are these there in order to build your faith in The One who can enable you to ascend to the peak?

Once you know that it is His will for you to pursue, do it with faith. Faith requires action when we

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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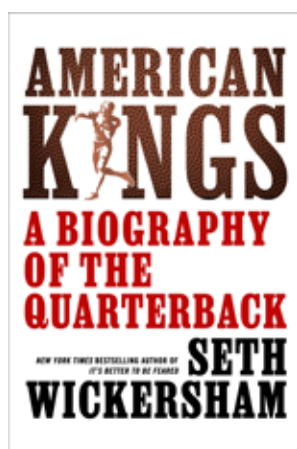
NDG Bookshelf: 'American Kings' dives headfirst into the game

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Snap.

And with that, and a catch that's picture-perfect, your team is on their way to another win. The guy that threw the football sure knows his stuff. He's worth every penny he's paid, and in the new book "American Kings" by Seth Wickersham, you'll see what it took to get there.

Like so many little boys, Seth Wickersham wanted to play pro football when he was growing up; specifically, he wanted to be a quarterback. Unlike most other boys, though, he took it to an extreme, becoming



"obsessed" with throwing a football with the best accuracy, hoping to match the skills of the players he admired.

Alas, despite an entire childhood of near-constant practice and a few wins on

the field in high school, he didn't make varsity and ended up playing as a receiver.

He knows now that to be a quarterback is to be a star, but it's also "a way of life."

Here, he writes about Arch Manning, "a legend, a folk hero, a song title... and the beginning of a family franchise..." Wickersham shares the story of Warren Moon, how he stepped up to help his mother when his father died, how domestic violence almost derailed his legacy, and the racism he quarterbacked under for years.

He spent time with Caleb Williams, "the first true professional amateur quar-

terback" to get money for playing at the college level. He interviewed James Harris, who was prepared to become a teacher "If the league didn't want a Black quarterback..." Wickersham "spent much of 2022 with" Andrew Luck, who "learned quickly that greatness requires an... unlimited selfishness." He writes about how Jack Elway influenced his son's choice of career, what Hollywood had to do with one pro footballer's life, and the post-career of the first player "to throw a consistently beautiful spiral."

Says Wickersham about his subjects, "Anyone could

throw a football. Only a quarterback could make people cheer."

Your favorite chair is oiled for smooth reclining and fast slam-downs. The snacks are laid in for at least a week, and beverages are on ice. You know exactly what you're wearing for the game this weekend. All you need is "American Kings" and you're set.

Author Seth Wickersham calls his book "a biography," but it's just as much a history, since he refers often to the earliest days of the game, as well as the etymology of the word "quarterback." That helps to lay a solid background and

it adds color to a reader's knowledge about football itself, while explaining what it takes for men and women to stand out and to achieve gridiron greatness. On that, Wickersham is honest, sometimes calling out his subjects for their attitudes toward teammates and others. Blunt words are used that are unprintable in family newspapers, so beware if you're sharing.

Is your team's QB in this book? Maybe, or a past favorite surely is, so check out "American Kings" and see what you find. Football fans and pigskin prognosticators both will love this book in a snap.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

know it is God who is leading. It may require risk. As I was told once, faith is

sometimes spelled R-I-S-K. Abraham did not limit God. It is this confidence

in God that God honored and rewarded. He wants to do the same with all Christians.

God is the key to all hap-

piness. He is the key to every life; and the key to the future of all mankind. When you hear Him knocking, open the door; let Him

in to lead and guide you.

Is your testimony what it should be? What would others say about your testimony for you? Can others

see your work for God in your life?

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



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