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White Supremacy in America: How Did We Get Here?

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

All too often, Americans find themselves in front of their devices, stressed over what they're seeing on social media. As the world becomes increasingly complex, it seems many are turning to conspiracy theories and radical philosophies to make sense of it all.

Zeroing in on the recent rise in Christian nationalism in the U.S., Heath Druzin, host and creator of the "Extremely American" podcast series, said "there is an alarming number of people who are pretty fond of Hitler at the moment and pretty okay saying it out loud." Druzin, who joined a panel discussion on the mainstreaming of White Supremacy at an American Community Media briefing last week, said there are two main reasons for the increase. One is you've got political leaders saying things that formerly would have been consid-



White nationalism and various strands of Christian nationalism have increasingly moved from the political fringes into the American mainstream, fueled by online radicalization, political rhetoric, and broader social resentments, creating a growing threat to democratic norms despite remaining unrepresentative of most Americans. (DWG Studio)

ered political errors, and people are finding it more comfortable, sheltered by the anonymity of online echo chambers, to say things they wouldn't normally say in public.

Many people will remember

Trump's early messaging regarding immigrants being rapists and bringing crime with them to this country. It was maybe the first wow moment

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People In The News ...



Isiah Thomas



Pres. Barack Obama

NDG Quote of the Week:

"When I dare to be powerful to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

- Audre Lorde

Isiah Thomas

There is something tender and knowing in the way Isiah Thomas speaks about the earth. It is the tenderness of a man who understands struggle and sunlight, who respects what grows slowly and what survives storms. When he began describing how his journey into renewable materials first took root, he started not with profit sheets or projections, but with the living world beneath our feet.

"I began by understanding the plants and the soil," Thomas told Black Press USA. "Rice, corn, soy, all of these crops work directly with the earth. They are biofeed. They speak to the



ground."

He said he watched how these plants responded to wind, water, and purpose. He spoke of them almost like kin. "They show you what they can become if you pay attention," the NBA Hall of Famer stated. "They show you how to live with the earth instead of

against it."

From those thoughts came a deeper question. Thomas wanted to know how to reduce plastic use during a time when industries across the world were scrambling to shrink their carbon footprints. "I began looking at how we take carbon out of the system, how we reduce plastics, and whether there was something in these natural fibers that could answer that call," he said.

He hired engineers. He worked with Stellantis. He poured time and thought into a field most people in his world did not consider. "There were a lot of research moments, a lot of ups and downs, a lot of failures," Thomas acknowl-

edged. "But eventually, we got it. And once we got it, we patented the process and started moving it into automotive."

That path led to a milestone no NBA player had ever reached. Thomas became the first in league history to hold majority control of a publicly traded company, guiding One World Products into its transition as Isiah Enterprises, a clean-tech leader rooted in renewable materials and sustainable production.

His rise in business leadership began with a near-failing facility in Midland, Michigan. Eco Bio Plastics Midland was close to

bankruptcy. Thomas said he saw more than broken machines and struggling workers. "When I looked at that place, I saw a chance to rebuild something. I saw possibility," he explained.

He bought it. He nurtured it. And under his direction, the company expanded into advanced materials used in vehicles, reusable containers, and packaging solutions. The transformation became the foundation of Isiah Enterprises.

The company began gaining ground. It shipped over 100,000 pounds of pelletized rubber compounds from the Michigan facility, proving that sustainable

manufacturing could be scaled with precision and care. "This milestone represents more than just output," Thomas declared. "It tells us the strategy works."

The growth continued as One World expanded its Eco Bio Plastics division through a compounding partnership with Full Circle Technologies. "We are processing tens of thousands of pounds of renewable materials every week," Thomas proclaimed. The expansion opened doors to a massive global packaging industry valued in the trillions and built on earlier successes, including hemp-

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Pres. Barack Obama

Several sources have confirmed that former President Barack Obama phoned Reverend Jesse Jackson over the weekend, who is in Stable Condition at a Chicago Hospital. President Obama is said to have been coordinating with the family for several days before the 44th president reached the civil rights icon.

There have been family connections spanning decades between the Jackson family and the Obamas. In 2008, Jesse Jackson Jr. served as the national co-chair of the Obama Presidential campaign.

On Sunday, Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. also received a FaceTime call from Rev. Amos Brown, another Civil Rights pioneer who worked with Jackson. In the 1950s and 1960s, they marched and labored alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the fight for first-class citizenship for African Americans.



In the 1970s, the two lieutenants of Dr. King separated and served in different parts of the country.

Brown told this reporter that Jackson recognized him during the FaceTime communication "by his expression and countenance." The San Francisco Pastor of former Vice President Kamala Harris also says the elder Jackson did not speak, but Brown "encouraged him to fight on as we had fought in the struggle as friends and freedom fighters."

In a matter of days, politicians, former staffers, and

others have also gone to Jackson's bedside to encourage him during his illness. Some of those include Reverend Al Sharpton.

In a recent written statement, the Jackson family said that Reverend Jackson was diagnosed with Parkinson's syndrome in 2013. In April, the diagnosis changed to supranuclear palsy (PSP), a neurological disorder.

The family that is constantly by Reverend Jackson's side in the hospital says, "We believe in the power of prayer, and we are grateful for the overwhelming

outreach and prayers of the faithful. Our father is alert and continues to share his vision for churches and pastors to come together and reduce malnutrition during this period. He is enlisting 2,000 churches and pastors to distribute 2,000 baskets of food, to feed four million families this season," said son and family spokesperson, Yusef Jackson.

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**Special Projects to
the Publisher**

Clinique Hill

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Production

David Wilfong

Editorial Assistant / Writer

De'Shane Frye

Contributing Writers

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



Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

marketing@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com



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P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

The Government Shutdown Proves We Need Skilled Trades

*Our current moment is a powerful case study in
where economic value and job stability lie*

By Louis J. King II
President and CEO
OIC of America

Aging U.S. infrastructure, increasingly frequent natural disasters and booming data centers don't care that the government is shut down. Real work still needs to get done.

While political gridlock blocks funding for federal agencies, furloughs thousands of workers, and delays the collection and analysis of crucial economic data, the underlying physical infrastructure and essential services of our nation march on.

We might not be able to open the government back up ourselves, but we aren't powerless, either. Giving workers future-proof credentials isn't just a way to guard against political whims that ignore the real challenges we face—it's a way to maintain stability in the communities that need it most.

For our skilled trades, this is the moment.

A government shutdown, while disruptive, doesn't stop water mains from bursting, electricity grids from needing repair, data centers from running, or construction projects—especially those not reliant on immediate federal funding—from moving forward.



istockphoto / NNPA

*"In this environment of instability,
the demand for tradespeople —
electricians, plumbers, HVAC
technicians, welders, heavy
equipment operators, and more —
becomes even more pronounced."*

ward.

Even amid a shutdown, essential functions like air traffic control, border security, and certain healthcare services continue, often with "essential" personnel working without pay, adding immense strain to these systems. When federal funding for infrastructure projects is delayed, it creates a backlog, which will require a massive, immediate surge of labor when the government reopens.

In this environment of instability, the demand for tradespeople—electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, welders, heavy equipment operators, and more—becomes even more

pronounced. These professions are the bedrock of the physical economy, operating independent of the fickle winds of Washington.

We see this at the state and local level too. Take Pennsylvania, where the national nonprofit OIC of America—the organization where I serve as president and CEO—is based. The state's budget is currently four months late and counting, and like at the federal level, essential services are starting to see their resources dry up.

But the demand for infrastructure projects continues—and the supply of workers looking for another source of income,

besides one reliant on the government, increases. We need more workers in the skilled trades—both now and once the shutdown ends.

Even if the federal shutdown is recent, the U.S. economy has been grappling with a chronic skilled trades labor shortage for years. This persistent gap is driven by demographics—an aging workforce retiring in droves—and a societal bias toward four-year degrees that has de-emphasized vocational training. When businesses don't have the workers to meet demand, all communities suffer.

That's why the shutdown is such a powerful case study in where economic value and job stability lie. At a time when the White House is advocating for apprenticeship programs, Fortune 500 companies are sounding the alarm about the skilled trades gap, and communities around the country have a deep desire to work and to contribute meaningfully to the economy, we finally have the opportunity to give skilled trades their due.

It's up to all of us to talk about this need. Let's amplify the alarm.

Louis J. King II, President and CEO, OIC of America.

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National Poll: Parents Say Mental Health and Belonging Are as Vital to School Safety as Building Security

(Newswise) — ANN ARBOR, Mich. — When parents think about school safety, most are just as concerned about students’ mental health and sense of belonging as they are about locks, cameras and drills, suggests a national poll.

Nearly 60% of parents of elementary and middle schoolers say teacher training to identify and support students with emotional or behavioral problems would make schools safer, according to the University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll on Children’s Health.

Almost half support hiring more school counselors, while four in ten endorse confidential reporting systems and programs to promote inclusion and friendship among students.

Meanwhile, traditional security measures — such as on-site law enforcement, active shooter drills or reinforced building securi-



ty— garnered support from about a third of parents.

“Many people equate school safety with preventing tragic shootings,” said Mott Poll Co-Director Sarah Clark, M.P.H. “But our report suggests parents view safety more broadly.

They see it as protecting children from the everyday harm caused by bullying, exclusion and emotional distress.”

A focus on mental health The nationally representative survey of 1,000 parents of children ages 6–12,

conducted in August, found that one in six parents are extremely or very concerned about their child’s safety at school.

Parents’ top priorities center on equipping teachers and schools to respond to students’ emotional and

social needs. Many said they want teachers trained to recognize when a child is struggling and to connect them to timely support.

“Teachers see kids every day and are often the first to notice when something’s wrong,” Clark said. “With the right training, teachers may be able to step in early and help a student in distress before problems escalate.”

Parents also voiced strong support for increasing the number of school counselors, ensuring students get prompt attention when referred. They emphasized the importance of initiatives that help children form and sustain friendships as well, which are key to fostering a sense of belonging.

What parents see as root causes of safety concerns

When asked what contributes most to safety problems at school, parents pointed to lack of parental supervision, student access

to weapons, insufficient services for struggling children, mental health challenges among students, inadequate security on school grounds and inconsistent or ineffective discipline

One in four parents also said their child’s school does too little to hold parents accountable when their children cause safety problems.

“Accountability can be a tough balance,” Clark said. “Schools want to keep families engaged and participating in counseling or behavior plans but parents also expect clear consequences for ongoing issues.”

Experts agree that children learn best when they feel safe and connected at school, Clark added.

“While high-profile threats are often what grab headlines, many parents seem to agree that real safety starts with relationships, belonging and early mental health support,” she said.

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based reusable containers delivered to Flex-N-Gate in collaboration with ORBIS and West Michigan Com-pounding.

The two-time NBA champion’s leadership in sustainable innovation stretches back further. He stepped in as CEO of One World Pharma in 2020, bringing with him relationships across continents and a commitment to working honorably with indigenous communities in Colombia. He said the company had “deep commitment to ex-

cellence and humanitarian partnership.”

To secure the future he envisioned, Thomas increased his own investment in the company while working alongside institutional backers who believed in the mission. “I wanted to make sure we had the capital we needed to grow responsibly,” the all-time great Detroit Pistons floor general said. He added that long-term supporters helped restructure debt and strengthen opera-tions.

Yet the story that holds his heart rests with family. When asked whether he always dreamed of leading a public company, he shook his head. “It wasn’t always part of the plan,” Thomas related. “What was always part of the plan was uplifting my family out of generational poverty.”

He said some nieces, nephews, and cousins still struggle. The knowl-edge grounds him. It gives weight to each decision. “I started looking at the penny stock differently,” Thomas said. “I thought about people buying in for

one, two, or five dollars. I thought about what that could mean for families like mine.”

He spoke with the memory of someone who has watched wealth pass through other communi-ties without stopping in his own. “We never get a chance to participate at the ground level,” he said. “The only time we get to play with that kind of money is the lottery. But what if instead of buying tickets, we bought shares? What if we became shareholders and not ticket holders?”

Thomas noted that he

watches how wealthy fami-lies give stock to their chil-dren every holiday. “They pass out stock,” he said. “They stuff the stockings with stock. And by the time those kids are in high school, it is worth some-thing. I want that for other families too.”

His long-term dream is bold. “My goal is to be the first NBA player to uplift a company to the NASDAQ,” Thomas said. “If we take this stock from two cents to a dollar, people can do the math. They will know what it means.”

The challenge now is

spreading the word and delivering the applications that industries are de-manding. “The automotive and food packaging worlds are calling for alternatives,” he continued. “We have come up with several appli-cations already. Now I have to make sure we execute.”

With a calm that feels both gentle and resolute, Thomas looked toward the horizon of his new work. And with the same tone he used many times on the court when victory re-quired faith, he said, “Now I have to come up with the applications to do it.”

Texas House Democratic Leaders Respond to Federal Court Victory in Redistricting Case

AUSTIN -- After a panel of three federal judges appointed by Presidents Obama, Reagan, and Trump ruled that Texas had racially discriminated in its 2025 Congressional redistricting and enjoined the state from using the maps House Democrats broke quorum to stop, Texas House Democratic leaders issued the following statements:

Texas House of Representatives Minority Leader Rep. Gene Wu: "A federal court just stopped one of the most brazen attempts to steal our democracy that Texas has ever seen. Greg



Abbott and his Republican cronies tried to silence Texans' voices to placate Donald Trump, but now have delivered him absolutely nothing. The governor delayed relief for victims of the July 4th flooding in

Kerr County, weaponized law enforcement against us, filed frivolous lawsuits to intimidate us, and still lost. Today, a federal court saw through Greg Abbott's lies, and Texas families won."

Texas House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Rep. Mihaela Plesa: "Today, a federal court reminded Greg Abbott that our democracy is not negotiable. Texans didn't ask for mid-decade redistricting, the White House did. The court finally saw through this unfair and illegal power grab and blocked them. This victory today belongs to every Texan who testified, who organized, who spoke truth to power and made this possible."

Texas House of Representatives Committee on Redistricting Vice Chair Rep. Jon Rosenthal: "This

is a monumental victory in the fight against racist gerrymandering in Texas and the country overall. This is a huge win for fair representation of Black and Latino communities. The work does not end here. We will continue to fight."

Mexican American Legislative Caucus Chair Rep. Ramón Romero, Jr.: "Today's ruling is a win for every Texan who believes in fair representation. The court confirmed what we've said from the beginning — this map was designed to divide communities of color and silence their voices. This decision

restores faith that the law still protects voters, not politicians." (Full statement)

Texas Legislative Black Caucus Chair Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins: "As Chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, I'm excited about the ruling of the courts to deny the Republicans the ability to draw maps that not only hurt communities across Texas and confuse our constituents on who they will be voting for in 2026. The court made a great decision in denying such action. I'm pleased with this ruling."

America's Maternal and Infant Health Crisis Deepens

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The March of Dimes has released its 2025 Report Card, and across the United States, the findings tell a story of mothers and infants facing preventable risks that too often lead to tragedy. The national preterm birth rate remains at 10.4 percent. Babies born to Medicaid-insured mothers experienced an 11.7 percent preterm birth rate, while babies born to mothers with private insurance recorded a 9.6 percent rate. For Black mothers, the rate climbed to 14.7 percent, the highest of any group in the country.

"Behind every statistic is a mom, a baby, and a family that deserves their best chance at a healthy start," Dr. Elizabeth Kielb, Director of Maternal and Infant Health at the March of Dimes, stated.

Those numbers speak to families whose lives can change in an instant. Preterm birth remains one of the leading causes of infant death and long-term health complications. For many mothers, the first signs of a problem appear months before delivery, yet too often they cannot secure the early prenatal care that could help keep a pregnancy safe. The United States now has hundreds of counties with no obstetric providers or birthing facilities. Some families travel for hours for a basic checkup. Others miss appointments because clinics are full or insurance does not cover the visit.

The Commonwealth Fund's 2025 national analysis found that the United States continues to have the highest maternal mortality rate among wealthy nations. American women die from pregnancy-related causes at rates far beyond those of peer countries. The

Fund reported that Black women face the greatest danger, in part because of delays in care, long-standing gaps in coverage, unaddressed chronic conditions, and limited access to trusted providers. These findings match the patterns documented by the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes identifies several reasons behind the country's performance. Many women enter pregnancy with unmanaged hypertension, diabetes, or other chronic conditions. Large portions of the country are considered maternity care deserts, with no birthing hospitals and few clinicians trained in maternal health. Millions of women lose health insurance shortly after childbirth, leaving complications untreated. Black and Native mothers often report that their concerns are dismissed during prenatal and postpartum appointments, which can lead

to dangerous complications that go unnoticed until they become life-threatening. These conditions place families at greater risk, no matter where they live.

The states struggling the most sit in every region of the country. Mississippi recorded a preterm birth rate of 14.8 percent. Alabama stood at 13.6 percent. Louisi-

siana recorded 13.2 percent. South Carolina reached 12.7 percent. Georgia reported 12.4 percent. These

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Dallas College Celebrates 60 Years by Advancing Vision for Downtown Campus

Dallas College today announced the shortlist of development teams advancing to the next stage in planning its new downtown campus, a cornerstone project under the 2019 voter-approved \$1.1 billion Dallas College Bond Program. This shortlist marks an important milestone in the Bond Phase 2 process, as the College celebrates its 60th anniversary and its enduring commitment to meet the needs of Dallas County students and employers.

“For 60 years, we’ve been serving Dallas on Main Street because we believe in the power of being rooted where opportunity begins and we’re not just staying, we’re deepening that commitment for generations to come,” said Dr. Justin Lonon, Dallas College Chancellor. “This moment reflects both our legacy and



Dallas College

our future. It underscores our continued investment in the people, partnerships and possibilities that will shape the next generation of learners and leaders.”

The four finalists, identified through a rigorous qualifications process, will now move forward to the next phase. Dallas College anticipates issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) in December 2025. The RFP will invite detailed plans and pricing for the new downtown

campus. A final selection of a development partner is expected in spring 2026.

By reinvesting in its existing downtown footprint, Dallas College preserves continuity for the more than 30,000 students who are served by El Centro and maximizes the impact of bond dollars through intentional, future-focused development.

The announcement follows significant progress under Phase 1 of the Bond

Program, which has delivered more than 500,000 square feet of new academic and innovation space across Dallas College campuses and workforce centers. More than \$325 million in bond funds have been invested to modernize facilities, expand workforce training capacity and enhance campus learning environments.

“The scale of the Bond Program reflects the trust our community has placed in us, and we take that se-

riously,” said Dr. Lonon. “Our reimagined El Centro Campus will be a dynamic hub for innovation and opportunity. We look forward to working with the finalist teams and developing public private partnerships to bring this vision to life—designing every square foot with purpose to elevate student success, strengthen workforce pipelines and foster innovative spaces where ideas thrive.”

The Bond Program is transforming facilities

across all Dallas College campuses, including plans for a new Health Sciences Center for Excellence in the Medical District. In addition, a new Early College High School on the Mountain View Campus will open next month. The 45,000-square-foot facility will serve dual credit students earning college credits while still in high school. For more information visit Dallas College Bond Program and our 60th Anniversary websites.

Dallas ISD Schools Earn Top Rankings for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dallas ISD schools once again earned top honors from Children at Risk, a research and advocacy non-profit organization, across multiple categories in the 2025 rankings of North Texas schools, showcasing the district’s continued excellence and commitment to academic achievement at every level.

At the high school level, Dallas ISD claimed five of

the top 10 spots among all North Texas schools. The School for the Talented and Gifted at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center earned the No. 1 ranking, maintaining its long-standing reputation as one of the best public schools in the nation.

Close behind, Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet ranked No. 2, followed by Marvin E. Robinson School of Business

and Management at No. 4 and the School of Health Professions at No. 5 — both also housed at Townview. Rounding out the district’s top performers was Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School, ranked No. 6.

Dallas ISD’s middle schools also stood out regionally. Sudie L. Williams Talented and Gifted Acad-

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Facing Fire and Funding Cuts, Farmer Fights to Save His Land

By Megan Sayles
AFRO Staff Writer

New York farmer David Haughton had hoped the end of the COVID-19 pandemic would bring relief from his revenue challenges. But just as he began to recover, new funding gaps under the 47th president's administration brought hardship back to his farm. In March 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it would cancel the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program, which had helped farmers like Haughton sell produce while supplying fresh food to communities in need.

Haughton's major customers, like The Campaign Against Hunger and GrowNYC, were directly



Courtesy of David Haughton

affected.

"Because of the cut, we actually lost 60 percent of our market," said Haughton. "Some of them dropped out. Some of them we will have to wait a period of time to get money [from]. Some of them still owe me money."

The LFPA program was

created in 2021 under former President Joe Biden to help farmers cope with pandemic-related challenges. It provided funding to states to purchase produce from local farmers and then distribute it to food banks and other hunger-relief organizations. The program especially sought to support

small and minority farmers, who often face greater obstacles than their counterparts.

When LFPA was terminated earlier this year, local organizations no longer had the funding to pay for Haughton's produce, putting a serious strain on his cash flow. Suddenly, the 35-acre property he had cultivated since 1995—following the death of his son—was at risk.

"We almost lost our home and our property because we couldn't make the mortgage payments," said Haughton.

Because he is a small, Black farmer, securing a loan to help with his financial challenges proved difficult. It was the Black Farmer Fund (BFF) that provided Haughton a lifeline. The

organization was created by farmer activists in 2017 to provide low-interest loans, grants and technical assistance to Black farmers and other food businesses.

Myra Marcellin, investment director at BFF, said access to capital and resources remain the top obstacles to the sustainability of Black farmers' operations—especially in light of funding changes under the 47th president's administration.

"Some of the grants that have been canceled and paused have really impacted Black farmers the most," said Marcellin.

For many farmers, like Haughton, that means the difference between keeping their land and losing it. Marcellin said BFF uses its \$20 million integrated capi-

tal fund to help Black farmers scale their operations and economic and social impact.

"With folks, like farmer Dave, they need support relative to marketing, branding, as well as financial and production support because they have to grow based on demand," said Marcellin. "As far as the Black Farmers Fund, we provide those levels of technical assistance to help them identify some of these challenges and areas of need so that they can understand their business better and figure out what they need to focus on to optimize their growth potential."

BFF ultimately provided Haughton with a grant that helped him save both his

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states received failing grades from the March of Dimes. Each has large rural regions with few maternity care providers, high rates of chronic medical conditions, and long-standing racial gaps that make pregnancy more dangerous for families of color.

Cities face their own challenges. Memphis recorded one of the highest preterm birth rates among major metro areas. Detroit continued to see some of the largest racial gaps in infant outcomes. In Fresno and Bakersfield, mothers face long waits for prenatal care and limited access to specialists. In Washington, D.C., the preterm birth rate rose to 11.8 percent, the largest one-year increase in the country.

Maryland and Virginia show mixed signs of prog-

ress. Maryland received a D+ with a 10.5 percent preterm birth rate. Virginia earned a C minus at 10.1 percent. Both states continue to wrestle with racial gaps and shortages in maternity care providers across rural communities and urban neighborhoods.

The March of Dimes notes that these conditions are not distributed evenly. Families with higher incomes and stable private insurance can often secure early prenatal care, while families with low incomes or public insurance face delays that increase the risk of complications. Many women do not receive postpartum care beyond the immediate weeks after childbirth, even when ongoing monitoring is needed.

The organization is trying to address these gaps

through mobile health centers, NICU Family Support programs, and partnerships with hospitals aimed at improving maternal and infant care. On the national level, the March of Dimes is calling for investment in maternal mortality review committees, research funding through the PREEMIE Act, and nationwide adoption of extended Medicaid postpartum coverage.

Dr. Michael Warren, Chief Medical and Health Officer at the March of Dimes, said the findings show how much is at stake. "As a clinician who has seen how much is possible when we get it right, the data is deeply frustrating," Dr. Warren said. "We have known about risk factors for preterm birth, including a history of prior preterm birth, chronic disease, and unequal access to care for years."

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Cowboys Honor Marshawn Kneeland With Inspired Monday Night Win

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

With heavy hearts, the Dallas Cowboys snapped a two-game losing streak against the Las Vegas Raiders on Monday night at Allegiant Stadium. In Dallas' first game since the death of defensive end Marshawn Kneeland, the team wore custom Kneeland T-shirts during pregame warmups.

While the Cowboys were navigating grief and a heavy emotional toll, they rallied together as a group and played inspiring football in a dominant 33-16 victory.

"So proud of these



guys. I mean, the way that they grieved, cried (and) laughed. But they wanted

to honor (Kneeland), and we're not done honoring him. He's a part of our

family forever," Cowboys coach Brian Schottenheimer said postgame.

"But it's been tough, man. I mean, these past 11 days been really tough. I'm proud of those guys, because just the way they played (Monday). They played with Marshawn's to play style."

The defensive line unit played with a relentless effort the entire night and the impact of former All-Pro Quinnen Williams was instantly felt in his first game with the Cowboys.

Williams finished the game with five quarterback hits, four combined tackles and 1.5 sacks.

"I want to keep stacking these, man," said Williams. "I want to keep stacking

these performances, and I want to keep getting better week in and week out. And it's just the main goal, man, to keep getting better, keep stacking up the good things, fix the bad things, and win football games."

The Cowboys also received stellar play from defensive tackles Osa Odighizuwa and three-time Pro Bowler Kenny Clark, who consistently generated pressure in the middle of the pocket.

Edge rushers James Houston and Donovan Ezeiruaku continue to be bright spots for the Dallas

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Five Million Airbnb Reviews Illuminate Guests' Crime and Safety Concerns

(Newsweek) — Concerns about crime and safety have a dramatic impact on the behavior of Airbnb customers, according to new research co-authored by Liad Wagman, Ph.D., Dean of the RPI Lally School of Management.

In an analysis of nearly 5 million reviews left by Airbnb guests, Wagman and his colleagues found that a short-term rental property's occupancy rate and rental price dropped by significant amounts after a guest left a review mentioning safety concerns at or around the property: oc-

cupancy rates fell by anywhere from 1.5 to 2.4 percent, while average nightly prices dropped by roughly 1.5 percent.

These negative safety reviews influenced the behavior not only of potential future customers, but also of the people who wrote them.

Worries about safety within a property — say, a broken step or a slippery tub — also reduced customers' willingness to return to the platform, but by a more modest amount.

The study also found that when people with neigh-

borhood safety concerns did return to the platform, they tended to book properties in areas with lower rates of crime.

Overall, the researchers found that safety-oriented reviews were rare: only about 0.5 percent of customer reviews mentioned safety concerns. But those reviews tend to be more negative in sentiment than the typical customer review, giving them an outsize impact on the behavior of subsequent would-be customers.

The findings illustrate a delicate balancing act a 14-acre farm in Jamaica.

"Farmers are heroes, and farmers feed heroes," said Haughton. "We face the most challenging times, whether it's climate change or the market falling. I wish that the federal government or even some of these financial institutions wouldn't just look at us but help us."

digital platforms have to perform, particularly those that rely heavily on user

reviews: while highlighting negative experiences can help consumers make more

informed choices, too much emphasis can drive customers away completely.

FARMER, from Page 7

farm and home. He was also able to buy new equipment and hire a few part-time workers.

However, in August 2025, a fire ravaged his home—destroying part of the house, ruining personal belongings and supplies

and flooding the basement. Haughton has set up a GoFundMe to help him with recovery.

Despite the struggles he's encountered, Haughton remains committed to being a farmer. It's been in his blood since growing up on


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Film Review: 'The Running Man' isn't going to win a trophy

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**) He's running as fast as he can—in a film that's going nowhere.

There isn't one "wow" moment in this entire remake of the tepid 1987 movie of the same name, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger. Blame the writing, direction and production elements for the inability to make any of this footage truly exciting or visually stunning. But don't fault the cast, especially Glen Powell. He's doing the best he can with what he's been given.

And where did it all begin? In 1982 the prolific sci-fi writer Stephen King wrote a book about a totalitarian society with televised violence. The setting was 2025. Ben Richards, a man down on his luck and money, becomes part of a reality show called



Paramount Pictures

The Running Man. Participants are given a head start as hitmen track and try to kill them—on live TV. The winner gets a bundle of cash. The losers, well, death. The eerie fascist, nihilist theme was mind-boggling 43 years ago. It's timely and scary today. But never as scary as it should be in a film adaptation that should've learned from the mistakes of its predecessor. So, aside from name recognition, why shake the dust

off this story? Dystopian themes couldn't be more apropos.

Ben Richards (Glen Powell) and his wife Sheila (Jayme Lawson, Sinners, The Woman King) live on the wrong side of the tracks, in poverty in a place called "slum side." But they aren't alone. Many are suffering while the wealthy few don't. Their little daughter has serious health issues, and they can't afford the medicine she

needs. Perhaps their Obamacare has run out? Or they can't afford the new 100% premium hikes? Mom is willing to take on more shifts, but dad decides that bringing in more money is on his shoulders. The Running Man TV show offers big bucks to those who can outrun killers for 30 days. Sheila warns, "People on these games never come back." Against his wife's wishes, Ben signs up.

Thrust into the world of the media giant "The Network," he is shocked to learn how callous the show's producer Dan Killian (Josh Brolin) can be. And the emcee, Bobby Thompson (Coleman Domingo), is just as eager to see contestants get hunted like prey by a killing force:

"Bloodlust is our birth-right!" Eying the money, Ben becomes friendly with two fellow contestants: Laughlin (Katy O'Brian, Twisters) a hard partying type and the very nerdy Jansky (Martin Herlihy, Saturday Night Live). The game is on. Those who dally die. Those who don't stay steps ahead of an evil posse led by Evan McCone (Lee Pace). Incidentally, Evan wears a mask, just like ICE agents. Coincidence? Run for your life!

An interesting premise. A very timely look at a modern world desensitized and dehumanized by reality TV. The plot even has a show called Americanos, a vapid Keeping Up With the Kardashians knockoff. Poor people on defense.

Exploiters and villains on offense. The media's warped attention to Ben's deeds and misdeeds are hyper-inflamed missives. Like sensationalized headlines from the New York Post or seedy clips from TMZ. Somewhere in this collage of ideas, visions and tonal missteps are hard truths about the wicked world we live in. That's what the audience would relish if the film's other aspects weren't so subpar.

Every scene looks like it was shot in a poorly lit studio. Cinematographer Chung-hoon Chung worked on the classic Asian thriller Oldboy, but his talent is either wasted here or he's off his game.

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COWBOYS, from Page 8

defense, as the former recorded a sack and the latter notched his first career safety.

"I'm playing with some great individuals," said Williams. "You got Kenny Clark, you've got Osa, you've got [Ezeiruaku] ... the guys around me were playing unbelievable. It helped me. All I just kind of needed to do was my job. Having a great group of guys around me makes it easy for me."

In what was one of their most inspiring performances yet, the defense will look to build on the relentless effort and momentum they put on film Monday night.

Now let's get to the offense.

In an explosive performance, Dak Prescott threw four touchdown passes to four different receivers—George Pickens, CeeDee Lamb, Jake Ferguson and Ryan Floutney.

Prescott now has the most games with at least three touchdown passes in franchise history—totaling 41 such games for his career.

Wide receiver George Pickens also had a dominant performance—recording nine catches for 144 yards and one touchdown.

Pickens holds the franchise record for the most

receiving yards through his first 10 games with 908, and he now ranks second all-time in Cowboys history for receiving yards in a 'Monday Night Football' game.

"[Pickens] is a one-of-a-kind guy. Special individual. Elite. Has a great feel for the game. Loves the game, plays the game like a kid. I mean, when you watch him play, I'm sure, right, the energy, the celebrations, like that's contagious, you know," Prescott said.

With a 4-5-1 record, the Cowboys face a daunting stretch ahead and will look to pick up a crucial win against the division-rival Philadelphia Eagles this Sunday at AT&T Stadium.

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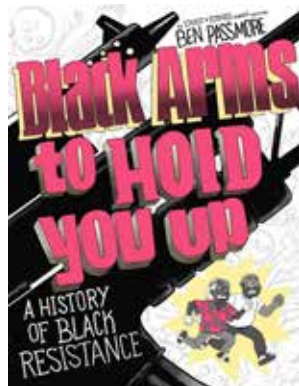
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NDG Book Review: 'Black Arms to Hold You' is a tough but insightful read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

This week, you plan on acting up.

In a good way, of course. You'll make a cardboard sign and march with others for your beliefs. You'll shout and dance, walk and make noise. You'll get into "good trouble" and yes, you might get arrested for it. You do what you need to do to make politicians and others know how you feel and that you mean business. As in the new book, "Black Arms to Hold You Up" by Ben Passmore, you



have history at your back.

There was violence just down the street when Ben's father showed up on his doorstep with two bags of books. He hadn't been

much of a father, so when he started pushing Ben to pay attention to history, Ben wasn't having any of it.

They argued. Ben's father hit him in the head with a book – and the next thing he knew, Ben was standing on a street corner somewhere, and there were policemen; nearby was a man named Robert Charles, and the year was 1900. Ben was about to witness a deadly gunfight over Jim Crow laws, Black Code, "Christian Black identity," and inequality in

New Orleans.

He ran for safety and landed at the foot of a stage, where activist Marcus Garvey was giving a speech at a Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) rally. Ben ran, and found himself in a church, at Emmett Till's funeral. He sat in a movie theater and learned about Robert E. Williams, a man whom "both the whites and the NAACP made... out to be an angry and violent brute." Ben received a new name to reflect the Republic of New Afrika, and he

hid upstairs in a house in Philadelphia, as MOVE fought with police in 1985.

The journey was wild and terrifying, and his eyes were opened. Yes, he wanted liberation, but it could kill him. So could just walking around his neighborhood.

Were these things inevitable? He wondered - until his father told him what "Black liberation is really about."

Your young adult needs to know their history. You might need the same. And you both might find it in-

side "Black Arms to Hold You Up," but there are a few things you need to know first, before you pick it up.

Deeply researched, very thought-provoking, and including a bibliography for more information, this book hits a lot of major points in Black history, many of which today's schoolbooks don't tell. Author Ben Passmore proves that Black activism didn't just start during the Civil Rights Movement, or

See ARMS, Page 12

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SUPREMACY, from Page 1

for a lot of people, said Druzin, some in a bad way, others finding the statement more relatable. That kind of talk was undoubtedly shocking then for many, but it has since become more acceptable and a part of everyday American life, he said.

White nationalism has a long history, added Devin Burghart, executive director of the Institute for Human Rights (IHR). Back in the late 1970s, when the Aryan Nations Compound was publishing pamphlets about the invasion of the U.S. from the South, it gained ground in shifting public policy toward White Nationalist philosophies. It gained greater traction in the 1980s during the Reagan years, added Sanford F. Schram, Po-

litical Science Professor at the University of Alabama and Professor Emeritus at Hunter College. This, as Pat Buchanan managed to get through to the Republican Party using a sanitized version of what Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke had been pushing.

Later, the election of the first non-white American president would lead to the emergence of the Tea Party, which helped the GOP take control of the House in 2010, fueled by high levels of racial resentment. Donald Trump would soon follow in 2016 riding a tide of resentment politics all the way to the White House, added Schram.

Now, extremists are going mainstream, as people in the Republican Party and the media play along.

Stuart Stevens, the Republican advisor to the Bush Administration, said recently, the Republican Party understood that White Nationalists were part of their coalition, but they thought they were the recessive gene. It turns out they're the dominant gene now, and that's how the party has evolved, noted Schram.

"Now, the next generation of young people, most recently on the internet and Twitter, Discord and elsewhere, are trolling neo-Nazi memes as if that's the cool thing these days," said Schram.

From the 1970s up to the election of President Obama, the far right was moving a wave of activism into the mainstream, added Burghart. As it quickly expanded over thirty years, with 2.4 million Ameri-

cans having been exposed to conspiratorial thinking, according to the IHR 2022 survey. The COVID denial, anti-vaccine segment, fueled by conspiratorial thinking and racial resentment, has now breached the mainstream, IHR tracking 875 state legislators having joined far-right groups recently. That's everything from militia groups to COVID denial and anti-Semitic groups, and QAnon-inspired organizations. By joining these groups, state legislators are giving their stamp of approval, providing a pipeline for ideas once confined to the margins and now in the mainstream as

they quickly become public policy, said Burghart.

Formerly, you would just hear about theories brewing at some backwoods militia meetings from people like John Truckman, of harmful plane "chemtrails" once considered laughable, he said. Now, two states have adopted laws against "geo engineering" based on these theories, which scientists and the Environmental Protection Agency have repeatedly disproved. Worse still, the IHR 2024 survey found growing numbers of state legislators are still joining these groups, said Burghart.

White identity politics is relatively new, yet for

a long time, White people have been buying into such racist ideas, noted Schram. As Ashley Giardino's "White Identity Politics" pointed out, more and more Whites are feeling passed over in inclusive politics as they look to the government to protect them. When it doesn't, government becomes the enemy, noted Schram.

The Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement is embracing such resentment to gain votes, as theories like the Great Replacement, which claims immigrants are being brought in to replace

See IDENTITY, Page 13



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FILM, from Page 9

Production designer Marcus Rowland's dingy, staph-infection looking sets are shockingly telltale, which is a surprise because his work on Last Night in Soho superbly meshed style and color. Costumes by Julian Day are slightly more tuned in, but Sheila is way over dressed for a poor person—and over made-up too. The musical score doesn't leave a lasting impression or feel (composer Steven Price), while editor Paul Machliss's work is sufficient. Not more.

Though, it's hard to edit a film together well if the scenes that you're combining aren't that interesting. The body count is high in this movie. The actions scenes plentiful. None are mesmerizing. The gutsy, innovative action/thriller John Wick: Chapter 4, set the bar high. Its stunt choreography was astonishing. No rumble, chase scene or gunfight in this production is near that level. Though there was one sequence that had promise: Ben finds refuge in a booby-trapped

home owned by Elton (Michael Cera), an anarchist with a grudge against The Network. This weird house scene could have been the blast the film needed. It fizzles.

Director Edgar Wright displayed a great sense of design, movement and intrigue with Last Night in Soho. Had his finger on the pulse with the crime/thriller Baby Driver. Knew how to accentuate consistent outrageous humor in Shaun of the Dead. None of the flair, grit or drollness from those gems is evident or well executed here. This

sci-fi/action/thriller mish-mash is an ugly duckling. Unimaginative. Not an improvement over its 1987 predecessor. The script by Michael Bacall (Inglorious Bastards) and Wright may have aimed for something higher, but the writing and any lofty ideas haven't firmly translated to the screen.

Glen Powell, as Ben, is billed as a nice guy trying to save his daughter. But really Powell is a superman tasked with saving this film from the junk heap. An overwhelming assignment

for most actors. But this leading man finds ways to make his character interesting even when the script is not. That's what superstars do. Tom Cruise does it. Now, Powell is learning how to give movies that have virtually no redeeming qualities one saving grace. His performance. He's stalwart. Belligerent. Delivers lines with conviction. Consistently expresses his plight and emotions well for 133 minutes. Michael Cera is interesting too, but his character's role is truncated. Emilia

Jones as Ben's sidekick, Danile Ezra as a podcaster, O'Brian and Herlihy are all fine. Sandra Dickinson plays Cera's deranged mom like she's on furlough from an insane asylum. She and Colman Domingo chew up the scenery in the most grandiose yet delightful ways.

The filmmakers should be grateful that Powell is running as fast as he can while carrying their dead weight.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrown-Ink.com.

ARMS, from Page 10

five years ago, or last year. Such reminders make this book relevant.

Just know this: violence literally colors every page of this book. It's relentless.

It's loud and shocking, with illustrations tinted blood-red throughout, which will properly and righteously shock anyone who's unaware.

That may trigger a sensitive reader, but it may wake up folks ages 16-to-adults, too. Just be mindful and know who's doing the reading. Having "Black Arms to Hold You Up" around might be a good action.

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IDENTITY, from Page 11

White Americans, convince some to get on board. These marginal votes matter, said Schram, and the group will likely remain a significant force in politics. Though many may not support the violent crack-down on undocumented immigrants, a number do support government action to defend White Nationalism.

As religion and race are embedded in American history, the tendency toward Christian Nationalism emerges with the blending of Christianity and national political identity, added Taylor. White people have used Christianity against even Christians of color, adding markers like Anglo-Protestant or European Protestant to exclude while blending whiteness with Christianity as definitional to being American.

Christian Nationalists want a theocracy, or laws based on Christianity, explained Taylor, and there are at least three major strands of the movement. The Far-right Catholic strand favors Catholic traditionalism and deeply opposes the Second Vatican Council of the sixties, while White Christian supremacy, derived from Calvinism, is formal and theological using patriarchal messaging that men should be in charge.

Doug Wilson, who leads Christ Church in Idaho, is famous for his views on Christian Supremacy, leading a kind of quasi-sect called the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches, explained Druzin. Wilson has built a Christian industrial complex of fundamentalist schools

and churches, while establishing a streaming service and turning out educational material through the Canon Press. He's trying to recreate society in a fundamentalist Christian image, said Druzin, and he's been very successful and influential in providing social and entertainment through a fundamentalist lens.

Pete Hegseth praises Wilson's writings and has attended his church in DC several times. Because the sect is patriarchal, Wilson doesn't believe women should vote. He also believes the LGBTQ community should be outlawed.

The third version of Christian Nationalism is the Independent Charismatic strand, which is more supernaturalist and accelerationist in its orientation to politics, added Taylor. This form predominates in Trump's advisory circles, tied to the belief that God will intervene in American politics as people reign in a new divine order. This sect is more open to women in leadership and part of why prosperity gospel televangelist Paula White came to be director of the White House Faith Office. With Trump's win, these ideas are getting mainstreamed, as his people get into places of influence, said Taylor.

The Christian Nationalist realm is much more multi-ethnic and why Trump manages to enlist some Christians of color. Tied in with theological and media strands of charismatic spirituality, some are buying into the messaging surrounding Trump as this kind of prophesied figure, therefore overlooking some things they don't

agree with. This messaging serves as a universal adapter, said Taylor, allowing QAnon, the anti-Semites, the Philo-Semites, and Christian Zionists to plug in.

They've managed to paper over some of the contradictions, added Burghart. "I would argue those contradictions are becoming much more evident, especially in this blow up around anti-Semitism that we're seeing right now". The Epstein case may bring yet more contradictions to light between Christianity and what this government is doing, he said.

As the movement grows, it broadens the network diversifying from anti-Black sentiment to opposing people of diverse gender identities. This, as more mainstream whites re-sort themselves into the Republican Party, going along with them due to the opportunities of

power they present. This is also a reason people in the Trump Administration, on the Supreme Court, and in Congress stay on board, Schram said.

Until about 1990, around 90% of Americans identified as Christian. This is why the religious right in the 1980s and 1990s said they could take over American politics if they could just get Christians to vote the way they wanted them to. Yet, as these movements grow in power, Church attendance is going down, noted Taylor, this as rapid secularization occurs. We're down to around 62-63% of the population identifying as Christian, with church attendance dropping under 50% in 2022, he said. The people who are still identifying as Christian, especially the ones who want to hold on to notions of Christian nationalism, are feeling more and more like a minority. This is why we're

seeing more extreme ideas populating as these routes to dominating American politics end. What's going on from the top down, said Schram, is a lot of people who are not necessarily white nationalists are willing to play along because it enables them to further their agenda.

Where far-right populist movements have blended with religious nationalist movements, democracies have been overturned, warned Taylor. The U.S. is just one outpost of a broader global trend, as we're seeing this in India, in Turkey, and in Poland. IHR research shows people who have higher hostility about

diversity are less likely to support democracy and are more willing to tolerate an authoritarian leader—that being their road to power, Schram added.

Yet, one must remember that Christian nationalism is at odds with the vast majority of Christians in America. As Druzin explained, Christian nationalism arguments are really loud and successful right now. Yet, most Americans are not on board with their ideas. This may be why Christian Nationalists don't like democracy — because they're not very good at winning broad general elections, Druzin noted.



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Did I Really Say That?

Dr. James L. Snyder

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a writer. My maternal grandmother wrote poems and would read one at the family gathering. I don't know if that's where I got it, but I got it.

I like to create words and phrases in my head and practice them before writing.

One of my favorite writers at the time was James Thurber, who wrote the famous short story, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." Later on, it was made into a movie.

James Thurber was blind, and his work schedule was to write his stories in his head at night, then dictate them to his secretary in the morning. That always impressed me.

It encouraged me to make things up in my head and think it through before I wrote them down.

I could create words and phrases and assemble them in sentences that really made sense. As I got older, howev-

er, my tongue and my brain had a falling-out. I could think of things in my head, but my stubborn tongue would never get them right. This caused me a lot of trouble. I think my tongue did it on purpose.

Most of the trouble was with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

One of her infamous questions to me is, "What are you thinking?"

That is one of the most challenging questions I have to answer. Do I tell her what I'm actually thinking or make up a story that would make her happy?

Usually, I would give a quick response that would satisfy her at that moment. To tell her what I was thinking would take several hours—who has time for that? Not her.

Sometimes I'll be thinking about something and start chuckling to myself. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is there with me and asked, "What's so funny?"

I look at her quite seriously and say, "I was just think-

ing about a joke. Why was I afraid of 7? Because, 7 8 9."

She might have believed me the first time I said that, but never after.

Sometimes, when you speak your mind, you either confuse the other person or get yourself in trouble. That's been my experience throughout the years.

Often, when watching TV at night, I'm thinking about my sermon for the weekend. I will go over and over the elements of that sermon and work it out in my mind.

I'm not paying too much attention to what we're watching on TV. But, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "Did you see that? Wasn't that amazing?"

At the time, I had no idea what she was talking about. But I go along with her and say, "That certainly was amazing."

Then, much to my shock, she replies, "Tell me what was the most amazing part of that scene?"

Now I am in a situation I can't get out of. She has caught me many times in

this kind of situation.

It is not that I can't pay attention; I'm just thinking about something altogether different. I'm working it out in my head so I can put it all in writing in the morning. That's just the way I work.

We'll be driving across town in her Sissy Van. She's behind the wheel, and I'm sitting in the passenger seat, thinking about a project I'm working on. That's a great time for me to think through some project I'm working on.

"Oh, my," she said very

excitedly. "Did you see that?"

Now I'm in a pickle jar, and not sure what she saw. Most of the time, I respond, "Yes, that was really something."

She will glance at me and say, "I was referring to the dead raccoon on the road back there."

I will never get it right. I can spend the first few moments in the car chatting back and forth, but sooner or later, my mind will focus on a project, and I won't hear or see anything around me.

I can't help but think of a verse in the Bible that deals with the tongue. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (James 3:5).

Most of my trouble stems from my tongue. If I can control my tongue, my life would be a better experience.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Find him at www.jamessnyderministries.com.

SCHOOLS, from Page 6

emy earned the top spot as the No. 1 middle school, while School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove ranked No. 2. William B. Travis Academy/Vanguard for the Academically Talented and Gifted placed No. 4.

The district's success

extends to the gold ribbon rankings, which highlight high-performing schools that excel while serving student populations facing economic challenges.

In the gold ribbon middle school category, Dallas ISD campuses claimed eight of the top 10 positions, with

School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove ranked No. 1.

Finally, at the elementary level, Jack Lowe Sr. Elementary School led the Gold Ribbon list at No. 1, followed by seven other Dallas ISD schools that were recognized among the top 10 for their outstanding performance.

This Just In:
**"Laurel Land Single
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 Lot 39, Block D, Space 4
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Being Thankful



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

When emergencies arise, we are usually thankful for emergency numbers that we can call for immediate help. The following numbers are more effective than 911. You can truly be thankful.

When you are sad, feel free to call – John 14. If you have sinned, call – Psalm 51. When people have failed you, call – Psalm 27. When this time of the year you feel like an outcast, call – Roman 8:31 – 39.

If you are seeking God's peace, call – Matthew 11:25 – 30. If you require courage for a task, call – Joshua 1. If you are depressive, call – Psalm 27. If your bank ac-

count is empty, call – Psalm 37.

If you loose faith in mankind, call – 1 Corinthians 13. If you are losing hope, call – Psalm 126. Do you want to know Paul's secret for happiness? Call – Colossian 3:12-17. Do you want to know how to get along with other people? Call – Romans 12

Alternate Numbers that You Can Call: For dealing with fear, call – Psalm 3:47. For security, call – Psalm 121:3. For God's assurance, call – Mark 8:35. For His reassurance, call – Psalm 145:18.

The good news is that all of these numbers may be phoned directly, no busy signal and no operator assistance is necessary!

A good statement, "If you feed your faith you will starve your doubt to death."

Entwined They Stand --

"If you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length and depth and height." **Ephesians 3:17-18.**

One of the wonders of the world is the Redwood Forest in California. Some of the trees are the oldest, largest, and tallest living things in the world.

Some of the trees are more than three hundred feet tall and more than 2,500-years old. They have weathered the ravages of time, holding up against all the combative elements. They stand tall in spite of opposing forces.

People that don't know will immediately jump to the conclusion that the Redwoods have a deep root system. To the contrary, their roots are shallow. What holds them? What supports them?

Their root system entwines and locks each tree to the tree around it. They Stand Together! That is the secret to their Herculean (extra ordinary) strength.

When the wind, hail and upheaval threaten, no tree stands alone but rather is strengthened and supported by the others. Each is needed for the support of the whole grove of trees. The Redwoods can truly say, "United we stand, divided we fall."

How true of us! We need the help of others. One of the blessings of the church is its fellowship in which we have the entwining of each other and of the Lord.

Locked Together We Can Withstand the Storms of

Life! Unquestionably, *"Two are better than one."* **Ecclesiastes 4:9.**

Tyanna, my only granddaughter, is a joy and a blessing. She smiles at me, ever so slightly, I grin right back at her but ever more brightly.

I've traveled paths you've yet to walk; I have learned lessons old and new, so let kindness spread like sunshine. Embrace those who are sad. Respect their dignity and leave them feeling glad.

Forgive those who might hurt you; and though you have your pride, listen closely to their viewpoint and try to see the other side. Express what you are feeling, but your beliefs you

should uphold. Don't shy away from what is right; be courageous and be bold.

Remember friends and family, of which you are a precious part; love deeply and love truly; Give freely from your heart.

The world is far from perfect, there's conflict and there's strife, but you still can make a difference, by how you live your life. And so I'm very blessed to know, the wonders you will do; because you are my only granddaughter and I believe in you.

(This column originally ran in November 2014. Sister Tarpley passed away on May 10, 2024. We keep her words alive in our print edition every week.)

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Friday, Nov 21, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec 12, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan 9, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 15, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register, please visit dallascasa.org

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DEC. 6, 2025

Elementary 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Middle/High School 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

JAN. 17, 2026

All grades 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



DallasISD.org/Discover