



North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

16 State Attorneys General Sue HUD for Fair Housing Rollbacks

Congressional Black Caucus, 600 advocates warn move will increase housing discrimination

By Charlene Crowell

For nearly 60 years, April has observed Fair Housing Month. But this year, attorneys general (AGs) from 15 states and the District of Columbia recently filed a joint lawsuit seeking to ensure state and federal agencies will continue to fully enforce the landmark federal Fair Housing Act (FHA), first enacted in 1968 to protect people from unlawful housing discrimination and to punish bad actors.

Filed on March 16 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the lawsuit alleges violations of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act. It also challenges a Trump administration executive order that directs HUD to end consideration of a crucial mechanism for combating housing discrimination: disparate impact.

"HUD, without legal authority, is effectively undermining state laws that offer stronger protections than



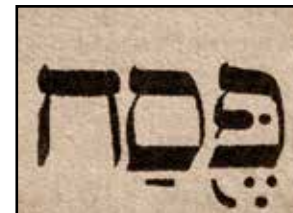
As the nation marks nearly 60 years of Fair Housing Month, a coalition of state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit accusing HUD of unlawfully gutting key anti-discrimination tools like disparate impact liability in a bid to weaken enforcement of the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act. (City of Philadelphia Fair Housing Image)

federal law," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who co-leads the effort. "My fellow attorneys general and I are united in our answer: not on our watch. HUD's guidance is unlawful and would only roll back

the progress we've made to keep our families safe from discrimination that limits where they can live."

Illinois Attorney General Kwame

See HUD, Page 7



Theology of Passover Seder

- See Page 3



Care for Women with Diabetes

- See Page 4



New Jobs Data Raises Ire From Dems

- See Page 5



'Future Ready' Campaign

- See Page 6



Every Church Needs a FAM

- See Page 7



'The Drama' is Just Disappointing

- See Page 9



Jazz Goes Classical This Weekend

- See Page 10



Sister Tarpley: It's Time to Pray

- See Page 15

Inside...

- People in the News 2
- Op/Ed 3
- Jackson Tribute 4
- Community 5
- Education 6
- Feature 7-8
- Entertainment 9
- Marketplace 10-12
- Religion 14-15
- Dallas ISD 16

People In The News ...



LeRoi Hicks, MD



Amanda Gorman

NDG Quote of the Week:

"If my future were determined just by my performance on a standardized test, I wouldn't be here. I guarantee you that." — Michelle Obama

LeRoi Hicks, MD

(Black PR Wire) Philadelphia – The American College of Physicians (ACP) announced recently that LeRoi Hicks, MD, MPH, MACP will be the organization’s next Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer. The Wilmington, DE resident and accomplished internal medicine physician will assume the position of EVP and CEO of the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States on July 6, 2026. The selection was made after a national search and based on the recommendation from a search committee appointed by ACP’s Board of Regents. Dr. Hicks’ exceptional clinical and executive leadership experience positioned him as the top choice for the ACP Board of Regents, and with this appointment, he becomes the first Afri-



can American physician to serve as EVP and CEO of ACP. Dr. Hicks will succeed Darilyn Moyer, MD, MACP, ACP’s current EVP and CEO, the longest-serving female physician to lead a medical specialty society in the U.S. Currently, Dr. Hicks is President of ChristianaCare’s Wilmington Campus, a major health care hub in Delaware, where he oversees the hospital’s overall strategic vision, financial health and day-to-day operations. Dr. Hicks has built a national reputation for advancing

equity in health care, with a strong focus on addressing health care disparities and the social determinants of health.

“Serving ACP over the past decade has been one of the great honors of my career,” said current EVP and CEO Darilyn Moyer, MD, MACP, who in 2025 announced her plans to retire in July 2026. “I’m confident leaving ACP in Dr. Hicks’ capable hands. His aptitude for business leadership, commitment to health equity, and focus on patient-centered care will guide ACP into its next chapter of growth and innovation.”

As EVP and CEO, Dr. Hicks is the senior staff officer of ACP and has the authority and responsibility to implement all College policies and activities. Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Hicks was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field with his

election to Mastership in the American College of Physicians (MACP), which he earned in 2024. Election to Mastership is one of the highest honors the College bestows, recognizing physicians who have demonstrated excellence and distinction in medical practice, leadership, research, or medical education. This honor reflects Dr. Hicks’ national reputation as a leader in advancing health care quality and mentoring the next generation of physicians.

“I am humbled to be selected to lead ACP at a time when internal medicine physicians are navigating profound challenges and

unprecedented opportunities in a rapidly evolving health care environment,” said Dr. Hicks. “My experience in executive leadership, patient care, and academic medicine has prepared me to champion ACP’s mission and strategic imperatives. I look forward to working with ACP’s leadership and staff to deliver programs and services that support internal medicine physicians across every stage of their career and advance equitable access to high-quality care for all.”

At ChristianaCare since 2014, Dr. Hicks has held several high-profile and impactful roles for the large

hospital system, including serving as vice chair of the Department of Medicine. In 2016, he became the Hugh R. Sharp, Jr., Chair of Medicine and physician leader for the system Acute Medicine Service Line. He was named chief medical officer of Wilmington Hospital in 2020 and campus executive director and president in 2023. Before joining ChristianaCare, Dr. Hicks served as division chief of Hospital Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Dr. Hicks is a past president of the Society of General Internal Medicine

See HICKS, Page 12

Amanda Gorman

(Black PR Wire) She’s a wordsmith, a change maker, and one of the most prolific voices of our time.

Amanda Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, as well as an award-winning writer and cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where she studied Sociology. She has written for the New York Times and has three books forthcoming with Penguin Random House.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, she began writing at only a few years of age. Now her words have won her invitations to the Obama White House and to perform for Lin-Manuel Miranda, Al Gore, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Ma-



lala Yousafzai, and others.

Amanda has performed multiple commissioned poems for CBS This Morning and she has spoken at events and venues across the country, including the Library of Congress and Lincoln Center.

She has received a Genius Grant from OZY Media, as well as recognition

from Scholastic Inc., YoungArts, the Glamour magazine College Women of the Year Awards, and the Webby Awards. She has written for the New York Times newsletter

The Edit and penned the manifesto for Nike’s 2020 Black History Month campaign. In 2017, Amanda Gorman was appointed the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate by Urban Word – a program that supports Youth Poets Laureate in more than 60 cities, regions and states nationally. She is the recipient of the Poets & Writers Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award, and is the youngest board member of 826 National, the largest youth writing network in the United States.

CHRISTMAS CLUB SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Get a head start on next year’s Christmas money now by opening a Christmas Club Savings Account! Deposit money throughout the year and in early November, your account balance will be mailed to you!

- No Minimum to Open
- No Minimum Daily Balance
- Earns tiered interest*
- Annual account payout is mailed in early November.



HAPPY

A DIVISION OF CENTENNIAL BANK 

HAPPYBANK.COM

A Home BancShares Company (NYSE: HOMB)

*Earns tiered interest-See customer service representative for current rate information, calculation method and to obtain a copy of our Truth in Savings Disclosure. Transaction limitations and fees apply. Fee for each early withdrawal applies. \$5 customer debit charge for each withdrawal prior to annual payout. Fees could reduce earnings. Rates subject to change. No overdraft privilege available. See Bank for details.

Liberation Theology of the Passover Seder

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
and Rabbi Dr. Judy Schinder



iStockphoto / NNPA

On behalf of Spill the Honey, we are pleased to offer our collective experience and perspectives on the historical and contemporary context and significance of the Seder at Passover from both the Jewish American and Black American religious traditions.

As Jews gather around the Seder table and Christians move toward the sacred culmination of Easter, the convergence of these seasons calls forth one of the most enduring theological truths in human history: God is a God of liberation. The Passover Seder is not merely ritual remembrance; it is a living, breathing re-enactment of divine deliverance. And within Black America, this same story has been reinterpreted, re-sung, and re-lived as a testimony of survival and struggle against oppression.

An essential teaching of the Haggadah (the Jewish text that guides the Passover rituals) affirms, "In every generation, one must see oneself as if one personally left Egypt." This command transforms memory into moral responsibility. The Seder becomes an ethical summons: freedom is not complete until all are free.

Modern Jewish scholarship underscores this theological imperative. Rabbi and theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel famously declared, "In a free society,

some are guilty, but all are responsible." Though brief, this insight resonates profoundly with the Passover mandate. The liberation from Egypt is not simply a national origin story; it is a perpetual call to confront injustice wherever it exists. As contemporary Jewish reflections note, Passover is "the season of our freedom," a celebration of both physical and spiritual redemption.

The Seder itself dramatizes this theology. The bitter herbs remind participants of suffering; the unleavened bread symbolizes both affliction and liberation; the four cups of wine celebrate stages of redemption. Each element reinforces a central claim: God acts in history on behalf of the oppressed. The Exodus is not just a miracle—it is a moral revelation.

This same revelation has profoundly shaped Black religious consciousness in America. For enslaved Africans and their descendants, the story of Moses confronting Pharaoh became a coded language of hope. Spirituals like "Go Down, Moses" were not simply songs—they were

theological declarations. The God of the Hebrews was also the God of the enslaved in America.

No scholar articulated this more forcefully than Dr. James H. Cone at Union Theological Seminary, whose groundbreaking work *A Black Theology of Liberation* re-centered Christian theology around the experience of the oppressed. Cone wrote, "The God of the oppressed takes sides with the black community," insisting that divine neutrality in the face of injustice is a theological impossibility. The famed theologian, Dr. Frederick Herzog at Duke University School of Divinity, joined Dr. Cone in unpacking the Judeo-Christian Tradition grounded inclusively in the global theology of liberation.

For Cone, the Exodus was not a distant Biblical episode but the foundational paradigm for understanding God's activity in the modern world. Black theology, he argued, arises from the recognition that "God is a God of justice" who actively delivers those suffering under systems of domination. The paral-

els between ancient Egypt and the history of slavery, segregation, and systemic racism in the United States are not incidental—they are theological.

Within Black churches, the Passover motif has long been embedded in preaching, prayer, and protest. Theologian and visionary leader, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., frequently invoked the Exodus in his speeches, framing the Civil Rights Movement as a journey from bondage to freedom. In his final speech, King declared, "I've been to the mountaintop... I've seen the Promised Land," echoing Moses' vision and linking the Biblical narrative to the struggle for racial justice in America.

The convergence of Passover and Easter deepens this theological resonance. For Christians, Easter celebrates resurrection—the triumph of life over death. Yet this victory cannot be understood apart from the Passover context in which Jesus lived and died. The Last Supper itself was a Passover meal, grounding the Christian story in the Jewish narrative of liberation.

Thus, both traditions proclaim a God who liberates in Judaism, through the Exodus; in Christianity, through the cross and resurrection. And in Black theology, these narratives are fused into a living testimony that God continues to

See SEDER, Page 16



Visit
Our
Website

www.northdallasgazette.com

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum
1933-2009

Religious Editor Emeritus

Shirley Demus Tarpley
("Sister Tarpley")
1941-2024

Chief Editor Emeritus

Ruth Ferguson
1965-2020

Special Projects to

the Publisher
Clinique Hill

Published by

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Production

David Wilfong

VP Sales & Marketing

Siobahn Rich

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



SUBSCRIBE:

- Library of Interviews
- Community Leaders
- Arts, Entertainment

To subscribe to NDG's
Video Channel scan the
QR code at right...



North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility
for unsolicited material and reserves the right to
edit and make appropriate revisions.

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

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

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

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

www.northdallasgazette.com

Women with Diabetes Less Likely to Receive Preventive Care, Some Screenings

By Enrique Rivero

(Newsweek) — Physicians are less likely to provide preventive care such as conception counseling and some cancer screenings to women with diabetes than they do for women without the disease, a UCLA-led study suggests.

The findings, to be published April 3 in the peer-reviewed *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, are based on a detailed analysis of more than 40 studies from several countries. They spotlight how physicians largely overlook the importance of these routine services to women who have Diabetes Mellitus (DM), putting them at risk for preventable medical conditions such as pregnancy complications.

“These findings are important because they identify that women with diabetes are not receiving recommended well-woman care, which is essential to support both managing their diabe-



DWG Studio

tes and their overall health,” said senior author Lauren Wisk, an associate professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. “Providers need to be aware that they should not forget to provide these essential services for women with diabetes.”

The researchers sifted through thousands of studies, focusing on concepts of “women,” “diabetes,” and “Women’s health services” and settled on 44 that addressed treatment services for women ages 15 to 49

years with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, exclusive of those with diabetes insipidus or gestational diabetes. They specifically looked at four preventive health service categories: contraceptive counseling and use, breast/cervical cancer screening, pre-conception counseling, and screening for sexually transmitted infections.

Here are key findings from the studies the researchers reviewed:

- One study found that 48% of women with diabetes received contraceptive services vs. 62% of women without the disease
- Nine papers showed

cervical cancer screening rates ranging from 38% to 79% for women with diabetes compared with a 46% to 86% rate for those without diabetes.

- Four studies concluded that breast cancer screenings rates for women with diabetes ranged between 38% and 69% compared with 54% and 82% for those without diabetes

- Fourteen studies found pre-conception counseling rates of just over 1% compared to 46% for women with diabetes who are planning to get pregnant.

The researchers did not identify any studies on screenings for sexually transmitted infections, which they said represents “a substantial gap in the literature.”

“One of the more striking findings of this review is the importance of robust coordinated care teams in ensuring access to appropriate services for women with DM,” the researchers write. “Several of the identified

studies provide support that a co-management model, or the concept of involving endocrinology, primary care, and other specialty care providers in the care of individuals with DM (as recommended by the American Diabetes Association), is associated with greater receipt of services.”

Within the time constraints of an office visit, primary care physicians are expected to address preventative health needs as well as chronic disease management, said Dr. Lisa Kransdorf, an associate clinical professor of medicine at the Geffen School and a study co-author. Frequently the chronic disease management will take priority.

“In cases where the patient has other providers such as specialists and clinical pharmacists actively involved in their chronic disease management, there is opportunity for primary care physicians to attend to preventative care gaps,” she said.

There are some limitations to the findings. The search yielded only 44 studies, many of which relied on patient recall, which can be unreliable, and highlighting the need for further research. In addition, most of the studies analyzed had small sample sizes or were conducted at a single site, limiting how applicable the findings might be in other settings.

“Future research should look into how health systems should use electronic health records to increase preventive health services among women with diabetes, improve care-coordination and communication between healthcare providers, and evaluate co-management models’ quality of care,” Wisk said.

Study co-authors are Dr. Madeline Treasure, Dr. Pourandokht Nourbakhsh, Kate Diaz Roldan, Antonia Osuna-Garcia and Dr. Lisa Kransdorf of UCLA, and Sara Esteves of Creighton University.

Gene Editing Therapy Shows Success Against Severe Sickle Cell Disease

(Newsweek) — New results from a clinical trial show promising outcomes for a gene-edited treatment for severe sickle cell disease, a genetic blood disorder with few curative options.

Conducted as part of the multicenter RUBY Trial, researchers published their latest findings in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Remarkably, 27 out of 28 patients did not have any painful sickle cell crises after treatment, achieving what physicians call a “functional cure.”

In the trial, patients were

treated with an experimental one-time gene editing cell therapy – Renizgamglogene autogedtemcel (reni-cel) – that modifies a patient’s own blood-forming stem cells to correct the mutation responsible for sickle cell disease. The novel therapy increases levels of fetal hemoglobin – which prevents red blood cells from forming into sickle-shaped cells – and improves overall hemoglobin levels, reducing complications from the disease.

“We have seen that a benefit of this CRISPR/Cas12a gene-editing technol-

ogy is that there is no rejection, so it’s different from traditional bone marrow transplants, which is standard treatment for sickle cell patients currently,” says Rabi Hanna, M.D., lead author and chair of the Pediatric Hematology – Oncology & Blood and Bone Marrow Transplant Division at Cleveland Clinic Children’s. “Our aim has been to achieve a functional cure to help prevent any future damage caused by sickle cell disease, and these latest results are compelling.”

The 28 patients – four

of whom were treated at Cleveland Clinic Children’s – underwent a procedure where their stem cells were first collected for gene editing. They then received chemotherapy to clear their bone marrow, making room for the repaired cells which were later infused back into their body.

The results showed that most patients saw key blood cells recover within a month after treatment and by six months, average total hemoglobin levels rose to 13.8 g/dL, up from 9.8 g/dL before treatment

– a level closer to what is seen in people without sickle cell disease. The average level of fetal hemoglobin (HbF) was 48.1%, and these levels remained stable over time.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder that causes red blood cells to be misshapen like a sickle. Normal red blood cells are round and carry oxygen smoothly through blood vessels. In sickle cell disease, the abnormal cells block blood flow and break apart easily, leading to complications such as severe pain, liver and

heart issues, and a shorter life span, typically in the mid-40s. Medications can help manage the disease, but a cure is possible only through a blood or marrow transplant, which has risks and often requires a sibling donor.

Cleveland Clinic has a specialized center for the care of adults and children with sickle cell. It provides comprehensive care, including treatment and support services throughout a patient’s lifetime, beginning in childhood.

The RUBY Trial is sponsored by Editas Medicine.

Rep. Venton Jones Slams New Federal Jobs Data as Gas Prices Surge 36% in Dallas and Economists Warn of Recession

State Rep. Venton Jones (D-Dallas) blasted Republican leaders today after new federal data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the Texas economy treading water while working families across the state pay more for gas, groceries, and housing than they did a year ago.

“Black unemployment is at 7.1 percent, nearly double the rate for white work-



DWG Studio

ers. Federal jobs that have been a ladder to the middle class for Black families are disappearing. Gas is up a

dollar from last year. Groceries cost more,” said Rep. Venton Jones, who serves as the Texas House Demo-

cratic Caucus Whip. “Texas Republicans want to celebrate job numbers while families in my district are choosing between filling up their tank and buying groceries. These numbers don’t land the same when you’re in a community that’s been hit hardest and left out of the recovery. Tell a family paying nearly \$4 for gas that the economy is doing great.”

The BLS January 2026 State Employment and Unemployment report puts Texas at 4.3 percent unemployment, up from a year ago and matching a national rate that has climbed since January 2025. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia saw unemployment rate increases from a year ago. Forty-five states saw essentially no change in employment

over the year. Only four states in the entire country had significant job growth.

The Dallas Federal Reserve found that Texas employment growth was effectively zero in 2025 after federal revisions slashed reported national job gains by 70 percent.

In Dallas, gas is averaging \$3.87 a gallon, up 36

See GAS, Page 12

Dallas Names New Poet, Youth Poet Laureates During Poetry Month

Mayor Eric L. Johnson announced Kristodie Woods, professionally known as Black Ceasar Poetry, as the City of Dallas’ third Poet Laureate during a special ceremony Wednesday morning at Dallas City Hall. Booker T. Washington High School student Cadence Diggs was named Youth Poet Laureate.

“April is National Poetry Month, as well as Dallas Arts Month,” said Mayor

Eric L. Johnson during the presentation. “This month, I call upon civic leaders, educators, librarians and all the people of Dallas to celebrate the cultural riches of our community, including our new Dallas Poet Laureates.”

During his two-year term, Woods will serve as an ambassador for the literary arts, presenting original works at community events and developing outreach

initiatives that inspire Dallas residents to read, write and perform poetry. He will also host regular artist-in-residence office hours at the Central Library, offering opportunities for community members to engage with him directly.

A Mississippi native now based in Dallas, Woods brings a dynamic background in performance arts to his new role. He is widely recognized for his

Emmy Award-winning performances with the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers. In addition to poetry, Woods is also an author, teacher and filmmaker, with a passion for uplifting underrepresented voices through creative expression.

Cadence Diggs will serve a one-year term as Youth Poet Laureate, working alongside the Dallas Poet Laureate to promote poetry

among young people across the city. An 11th-grader at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Diggs is the founder and president of the Pegasi Poetry Society, a creative writing and literary organization for her fellow students. She is passionate about cultivating spaces where young people can grow into their fullest potential.

The Dallas Poet Laureate

program was launched in June 2021 by Dallas Public Library, the Office of Arts and Culture and Deep Vellum to recognize exemplary poets and elevate the role of poetry in the community. The program is funded in part by the Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Inc. and the Joe M. and Doris R. Dealey Family Foundation. For more information, visit www.dallaslibrary.org/poetry.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2698	Winter Winnings Overall Odds are 1 in 3.91	\$5	4/10/26	10/7/26
2599	Colossal Cashword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.31	\$50	4/16/26	10/13/26
2693	Wild Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.10	\$5	4/17/26	10/14/26
2696	White Elephant Overall Odds are 1 in 4.49	\$1	5/20/26	11/16/26
2663	Cowboys Overall Odds are 1 in 3.80	\$5	5/20/26	11/16/26
2664	Houston Texans Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77	\$5	5/20/26	11/16/26

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2026 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.



We Buy Ugly Houses



- Pretty Houses
 - Ugly Houses
 - Divorce
 - Inheritance
 - Problem Tenants
 - Need Repairs
 - Vacant House
 - Fire Damage
 - Estate Sale
 - Behind on payments
- CALL 972-665-0170

We Buy Houses ... Fast!

'Future Ready' Campaign Celebrates Community College Awareness Month

Five-week initiative highlights impact on students, workforce and North Texas economy

Dallas College is celebrating Community College Awareness Month this April with the launch of a five-week campaign, "Dallas College: Future Ready," highlighting the critical role community colleges play in expanding access to education, strengthening the workforce and driving economic mobility across North Texas.

Community College Awareness Month is a national opportunity to recognize the impact community colleges have on students, families and local economies. At Dallas College, the month will showcase how



Dallas College

the institution is transforming lives and strengthening communities through education, workforce training and strategic partnerships.

Serving more than 127,000 students annually and having educated more

than 3.3 million students over the past 60 years, Dallas College is one of the largest community college systems in the country. The institution generates an estimated \$5 billion annual economic impact and

returns \$15.90 for every \$1 invested, underscoring its role as a key driver of North Texas' economy.

Throughout April, Dallas College will spotlight the people, programs and partnerships that make the college a hub for opportunity across the region. Each week will focus on a different theme:

- Week 1: Hub for the Community – Connecting education, workforce training and community support across North Texas

- Week 2: The Future of College – Reimagining higher education through innovation and workforce

alignment

- Week 3: Solutions for the Workforce – Preparing students for high-demand careers through industry partnerships

- Week 4: The Smart Choice – Expanding access through affordability and flexible pathways

- Week 5: Leading the Future – Convening leaders to shape the future of education and workforce strategy

The campaign will feature student and alumni stories, employer partnerships and insights from college leadership through a dedicated online hub, showcasing how Dallas College is

helping individuals move from opportunity to career and strengthening the region in the process.

Community members, students and partners are invited to participate in the campaign by using the Dallas College: Future Ready digital toolkit, which includes campaign messaging, social media posts, graphics and videos designed to help share the impact of Dallas College across North Texas. To explore the campaign toolkit and learn more about Dallas College's impact throughout the month visit DallasCollege.edu.

Delaying Kindergarten May Have Limited Benefit

By Christina A. Samuels
The Hechinger Report

When my son was about to turn 5, I was faced with a decision that may be familiar to parents of children whose birthdays are close to kindergarten enrollment cutoff dates

In my local school district, children must be 5 years old on or ahead of Sept. 1 before they enroll in kindergarten. With a late September birthday, my son was only a few weeks too young to make that cutoff. A friend of mine whose child had a similarly timed birthday was trying for early enrollment. Should I, too?

Ultimately, I decided against it, swallowing thousands of dollars for another year of preschool tuition. Instead of starting kindergarten just a few weeks short of 5, my son started when he was just a few weeks away from turning 6.



Image via NNPA

And while I was not "redshirting" — intentionally holding my child back for a year when he would have otherwise been allowed to enroll — the supposed benefits of redshirting were part of my thinking. Of course, I thought, boys need more time to mature, and starting school on the older end of his cohort would be a clear win.

But are those perceived benefits of redshirting — a term borrowed from athletics and sports eligibility rules — really true? A new study suggests that whatever

academic boost children may experience when they are the oldest in their kindergarten class fades by the time they reach third grade.

"For the average kid, they're not going to get that much of an advantage," said Megan Kuhfeld, the director of growth modeling and data analytics at NWEA, an assessment and research organization behind the Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP, tests used by tens of thousands of schools across the country.

For this analysis, NWEA

studied the 3 million students who took the kindergarten through second grade MAP Growth assessment between 2017 and 2025. Researchers also followed a cohort of students who started kindergarten in the 2021-22 school year to see what their test results looked like when they were in third grade, compared to when they entered school.

Students who started kindergarten a year later than their peers had measurable advantages in reading and math. Compared to the average academic growth of kindergartners, the academic advantage of "redshirted" children represented 20 percent to 30 percent of an academic year of learning.

That advantage didn't last long, however. By the time students entered third grade, children who had been held back a year were indistinguishable from their peers academically.

The NWEA study didn't

dig into the factors behind these findings, but Kuhfeld has some theories. First, there might be some benefit to children of having older peers in the classroom to serve as academic and behavior role models. In other words, children like my son, who started school as an older 5-year-old, could be a positive influence on children who turned 5 shortly before the cutoff for kindergarten enrollment. Children who are already much older than their grade-level peers have no model to emulate.

The benefits of starting school late may also disappear because children who enter school already knowing the kindergarten curriculum may get bored, Kuhfeld said. Classrooms aren't necessarily set up to push along children who are already meeting academic standards; instead, the teacher is likely to be focused on children who

need more help.

Among the more surprising results of the study for me was that redshirting is relatively uncommon. For each of the years studied, about 5 percent of kindergartners started school a year after official eligibility. That peaked at 6.4 percent in fall 2021. The children most likely to be held back a year are white students and boys; redshirting was also more common in low-poverty and rural schools.

Considering how rare the phenomenon is, it sure is talked about a lot. Kuhfeld said that may be because people are more aware of, and worried about, the higher academic demands of kindergarten. Also, Kuhfeld said, the idea of holding children back gained more attention after a prominent author, Richard Reeves, wrote a 2022 article recommending that all

See **BENEFIT**, Page 8

Every Church Needs A FAM

By Dr. Brenda Fleming

In contemporary culture, “fam” is widely accepted as an informal term for family. However, as a passionate and dedicated proponent for the welfare of vulnerable children who have experienced abuse or neglect, I have adopted FAM as the acronym for Foster and Adoption Ministry. I strongly urge every religious institution, particularly those with a predominantly Black congregation, to integrate a FAM as a vital component of their or-



DWG Studio

ganizational structure.

The specification of predominantly Black congregations is underscored by the documented disproportionality of Black children

within the foster care system. An analysis of the data reveals that Black children in Texas are significantly overrepresented. Although comprising 11% of the child population, they accounted for 18-20% of Child Protective Services (CPS) reports and removals between 2019 and 2023. Black children are up to twice as likely to be investigated or removed compared to white children, a disparity that has amplified in recent years.

As of 2023, Black children were 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.1 times more likely to be investigated, and 1.8 times more likely to be removed than white children. Extreme disparities are observed in urban areas, where Black children sometimes constituted 27% of removals despite representing only 7% of the child population. Research suggests that children of color are less frequently assigned to “alternative response” (a less invasive investiga-

tion method) than White children, especially when socioeconomic factors are present. Concerns exist regarding “hidden foster care,” where CPS utilizes safety plans to relocate children to kinship caregivers without formal court oversight, disproportionately affecting minority families. Despite state-level initiatives to decrease overall foster care placements, the racial disparity in removals has grown; 2023 data

See FAM, Page 11

HUD, from Page 1

Raoul, the lawsuit’s other co-lead, offered similar comments.

“These actions are part of a broader, ongoing effort by the Trump administration to subvert the legal protections our country has put in place to combat discrimination and to tear down the hard-fought progress we have made for civil rights,” Raoul said. “I will continue to fight for fair access to housing for all Americans and for the rule of law.”

In response to the lawsuit, HUD Secretary Scott Turner said, “Leftist state attorneys general have run to a San Francisco courthouse in a desperate attempt to obstruct President Trump’s America First agenda through political lawfare. Their latest stunt will not succeed.”

But for the thousands of people taking time and effort to file fair housing complaints, the law – not Trump’s agenda – remains the valid concern.

According to the National Fair Housing Alliance, 32,321 fair housing complaints were received

in 2024, the most recent data available. Of these complaints, only 0.14 percent were processed by the Department of Justice and 4.85 percent were processed by HUD. The bulk of these complaints – 74.12 percent – were processed by only 82 private, non-profit fair housing organizations. Although this year’s approved HUD budget is \$77.3 billion, only \$86 million is allotted for fair housing, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center.

From the law’s inception, HUD and state and local agencies have operated in partnership through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP). HUD’s FHAP funds support investigations of housing discrimination complaints, lawsuit filings, staff training, and community outreach.

The landmark law prohibits discrimination based on seven protected traits: (1) race, (2) color, (3) national origin, (4) religion, (5) sex, (6) familial status, (7) disability. Now HUD has threatened to decer-

tify agencies wherever state laws expanded federal protected classes. In such locales, both complaint referrals and funding would be cut off.

But state AGs say the FHA Act and its later amendments establish a floor — not a ceiling — for protection against housing discrimination.

The administration began fair housing rule rollbacks in January, when HUD published its intent to remove its discriminatory effects regulations and leave to courts questions related to interpretations of disparate impact liability under the Fair Housing Act.

That move took its cues from an April 2025 executive order (EO) entitled, Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy that states in part, “It is the policy of the United States to eliminate the use of disparate-impact liability in all contexts to the maximum degree possible to avoid violating the Constitution, Federal civil rights laws, and basic American ideals.”

After analyzing the EO, the Congressional Black Caucus issued its detailed

opposition saying in part, “Without disparate impact liability, the agencies will now have to prove malicious intent in order to punish bad faith actors, which requires a much higher burden of proof and will lead to more instances of unchecked discrimination.”

Procedurally, proposed federal agency rules must allow a 30-day public comment period. As comments are reviewed, agencies can gain additional insights and opportunities to modify

changes before finalization. By the time the 30-day public comment period on disparate impact expired, a total of 607 comments were filed - most in opposition to the change including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF).

“It’s clear the attacks on disparate impact are part of the administration’s broader efforts to undermine civil rights law,” said Demetria McCain, LDF’s Director of Policy. “Rather than fulfilling the promise of the Fair

Housing Act and making housing affordable and accessible to everyone, HUD is abdicating its responsibilities and leaving communities at risk of deep social and economic harm... And we call on HUD to immediately reverse course with its gutting of the regulation and fulfill its duty to enforce it.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Watchdog, Historians Sue to Block Trump's Effort to Evade Records Law

Lawsuit Comes Just Days After Trump DOJ Advanced Sweeping Effort to Block Access to Hundreds of Millions of Documents from Current, Past Administrations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American Oversight and the American Historical Association have filed suit challenging a sweeping memorandum from the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) that declared the Presidential Records Act (PRA) is unconstitutional and that President Donald Trump "need not further comply" with its requirements, effectively encouraging the president to violate federal law. The lawsuit argues that the memo relies on virtually no judicial authority and defies binding Supreme Court precedent outright, representing a radical attempt to nullify a law that has governed presidential records for nearly half a century.

The memo reflects a broader push to concentrate power in the presidency, at the expense of the public's right to know. If allowed to stand, the administration's position could have sweeping consequences far beyond President Trump's own records, threatening to upend decades of established law governing presidential transparency. Legal



Public Domain

experts and historians warn that applying the opinion could block public access to hundreds of millions of records — including more than 700 million White House emails — and disrupt the established process for releasing records from prior administrations.

"Since Watergate, Congress has made clear that presidential records belong to the American people — not to any one president," said Chioma Chukwu, Executive Director of American Oversight. "The DOJ is now pushing a sweeping view of presidential power that would hand control of those records to the White House — a position the

Supreme Court has already rejected. The White House does not get to decide what is preserved, what is hidden, or what is destroyed. The law sets an independent process, followed by every administration for nearly half a century, to safeguard public access. If that framework is cast aside, it puts critical records at risk of being controlled, concealed, or even destroyed before the public ever has a chance to see them."

"Since its founding in 1884, the American Historical Association has advocated for the preservation of federal records," said Dr. Sarah Weicksel, the Asso-

ciation's executive director. "The AHA's 1910 argument in support of establishing a National Archives remains true in this current fight for preservation: these records are 'materials which historians must use in order to ascertain the truth.' Presidential records are essential for transparency and accountability in our democracy; they are also essential sources for researching and understanding the American past. Those records and the history they tell belong not to any individual, but to the American people."

The PRA was enacted in 1978 in the wake of the Watergate scandal to ensure the preservation and public accessibility of presidential

records. It established that presidential records are the property of the American people, not the president. In upholding a prior law governing President Richard Nixon's records, the Supreme Court rejected claims that such requirements violate separation of powers, affirming Congress's authority to regulate the preservation and disclosure of presidential materials.

Since then, no presidential administration — including Trump's administration in his first term — has questioned the law's constitutionality. As recently as last year, the Trump administration itself acknowledged in litigation

that White House agencies and offices are subject to the PRA and must comply with its requirements, underscoring the abrupt and self-serving nature of its current reversal.

The lawsuit also raises urgent concerns about the administration's current recordkeeping practices in the wake of the OLC memo. Because OLC memos are typically treated as binding across the executive branch, there is a serious risk that the National Archives and other officials will halt compliance with the PRA altogether. The White House has provided no assurances — and under

See RECORDS, Page 11

BENEFIT, from Page 6

boys be redshirted to give them an extra year for their brains to mature. (Rise Together, a fund established by Reeves, is one of The Hechinger Report's many donors.)

Kuhfeld said that the study focused solely on academics, not behavioral outcomes or other factors, so parents should make de-

isions that work for their individual children.

But there are social implications of being older than your grade-level peers, she noted. Parents of kindergartners might not be thinking about this when their children are young, but what does it mean to be the first of your friends to go through puberty, or one

of the oldest high school seniors?

"It's worth considering there are trade-offs," Kuhfeld said. "It's often painted in conversation as, 'Of course you would do this,'" she added. "There's actually a lot of nuance here."

This story was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news outlet focused on education.

VOYAGE BENEATH THE SEA

Event Co-Chairs:
Landen Oster
& Tommy Stockton

28TH Annual Toast To Life 2026

April 11, 2026
7 - 11 pm
The Empire Room
Dallas, TX



Brooke Lynn Hynes
Queen of the North
RuPaul's Drag Race Alum
International Drag Icon



Scan QR Code
for Tickets &
Sponsorship Info

Presented by



resourcecenter

Film Review: 'The Drama' is Disappointing

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) - You wouldn't wish this wedding day on anybody. But there they are. Two lovers who should be in bliss are trapped in their own turmoil.

Norwegian writer/director Kristoffer Borgli has built a solid reputation for dark comedy (Sick of Myself). It's an avenue he treads again, somewhat. Only this time out, the darkness is mixed with romance and drama. Any slight bits of comedy are meant to evoke only nervous laughter. He takes a sweet couple and turns their relationship upside down in a love-gone-wrong narrative. Adding in a strange blend of present day, short flashbacks, longer recollections and cryptic glimpses.

In case audiences weren't squirming enough, he harps on a social issue that may be triggering to many U.S. audiences, school gun violence. The sensitive subject isn't broached cautiously. More like a blunt-force object meant to make the film more disturbing. As rendered, it's a repellent aspect. It's hard to understand Borgli's usage, confounding in ways. If he's trying to make a point about this tragic norm, it's lost and dubious. The creepy ambiguity mirrors movies by Lars von Trier (Nymphomania: Vol. 1), another Scandinavian filmmaker who likes to press his audience's buttons.

It starts in a bustling Cambridge coffee shop. He sees her sitting at a window seat reading a book. He's smitten. Mustering up courage to approach her, Charlie (Robert Pattinson), a museum curator Brit living in Boston, starts a conversation with the very lovely Emma Harwood (Zendaya), a book editor. In the most disingenuous way, he lies, pretending he has read her book.



After an awkward conversation, the infatuated thirtysomethings start their very Gen Y romance.

In the beginning, viewers, especially couples, will be enthralled by the budding love story. Charlie's dishonesty may be off-putting, but he's in love—hate the game, not the player. Borgli's script pulls two lost souls together and gives them very approachable personalities, which are expertly displayed by Pattinson and Zendaya. They make the characters seem authentic and accessible, like people you might know. Eventually cohabitating in a nice Victorian rowhouse, like career-minded couples might do. Once Borgli has you in his "this-feels-so-real" grip, he turns on the weirdness. The emotional torture. The "wish this never happened to these people" feelings don't abate.

One fated evening, as the couple and their best friends Mike (Mamoudou Athie, Jurassic World: Dominion) and Rachel (Alana Haim, Licorice Pizza) are doing a tasting of their impending wedding menu, the wine flows and confessions do too. Rachel, "Before we got married, we did this thing where we said the worst thing that we ever did." Mike, "I'll tell mine if we all do it. Promise?" The foursome joins the game with the same verve

that people play "Truth or Dare." Each tells a tale they should probably never reveal, and judging by their confessions, no one is in a position to shade another. Until one admits to planning a mass school shooting. The shaming, blaming and questioning escalates. The friendship is blemished, a relationship torn apart. It's the week of the wedding; will the emotional chaos subside before they take their vows?

Attraction and serious romance give way. Mistrust and bleakness take the sheen off what began as a winsome love story. Viewers may not like what Borgli does to their emotions, but if his goal was to make audiences feel uncomfortable, he wins. Can you imagine facing your wedding day and trying to put on a happy façade for guests, when underneath it there's serious doubt? That at any minute a lover, friend or acquaintance could destroy the big day with an accusation or revelation.

The film's quirky tone is accentuated by the staccato flute music in the score by Daniel Pemberton (Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse), which sustains a peculiar tone. Cambridge looks as inviting as a "Visit Cambridge" tourist commercial be-

See FILM, Page 13

YOU FOUND THE RIGHT PLACE. LET'S MAKE IT YOURS.

FHA

VA

USDA

PRIMARY RESIDENCES

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER ASSISTANCE

With City Bank Mortgage, homeownership is closer than you think. We offer a seamless online application, quick approval process and industry-leading customer service, so you can spend less time searching for a loan and more time finding your next address.



city.bank/mortgage

132 E. Main St. Suite 107
Grand Prairie, TX 75050

City Bank
MORTGAGE

We make it happen. You make it home.

©2024 City Bank. All Rights Reserved. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. Some restrictions apply. This is not a commitment or loan. Subject to credit approval. See bank for details. NDA15-4-437722

The Bradley-Johnson Foundation Presents Second Annual 'Jazz Goes Classical' Experience

The Bradley-Johnson Foundation will present the second annual Jazz Goes Classical Experience featuring Dallas native Erika Nicole Johnson on Sunday, April 12, at the Winspear Opera House in Hamon Hall. Doors open at 3:45 p.m. and the concert begins at 4 p.m.

The concert will showcase musical performances by students from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, highlighting emerging talent while raising funds to support music education and scholarships for young artists.

Bradley-Johnson Foundation CEO Vivian Johnson, PharmD, MBA, said the Jazz Goes Classical Experience was inspired by her passion for the arts and



commitment to giving back to the community.

"I wanted to provide an opportunity for young musicians to showcase their talents while raising money toward their future," Johnson said. "Our foundation's principles focus on science, economics and the arts to enrich the community around us, and our annual Jazz Goes Classical Experience fulfills our arts initiative for the year."

The Bradley-Johnson

Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to uplifting and empowering communities through support and action in science, economics and the arts. In 2025, the inaugural Jazz Goes Classical Experience sold out with 200 guests in attendance, and proceeds funded a \$2,250 music scholarship.

This year, the foundation awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors to support

their higher education at Berklee College of Music in Boston and Texas Christian University.

"To me, this music scholarship provides the confidence to keep dedicating sleepless hours to a craft I truly want. In an era where the future of the music industry feels so unpredictable and in such a state of flux, music remains the one thing I can never stop thinking about," said Christian Ramos, one of the scholarship recipients and student at the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy. "This award serves as a 'you are on the right track' message as I prepare to attend Texas Christian University on a full ride for music."

"This scholarship will help me tremendously by supporting my college edu-

cation, music lessons and continued artistic development," said Jiles Clark, a senior vocal music major at I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA who will attend Berklee College of Music in Boston this fall to study voice performance. "It goes a long way and is an amazing resource to help me pursue my goals and dreams. I'm grateful to the Bradley-Johnson Foundation for uplifting young artists and musicians like me."

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at <https://attpac.org/event/jazz-goes-classical-26>. Interested sponsors and donors can contact BradleyJohnsonFoundation@gmail.com for more information.

The Bradley-Johnson Foundation is a Dallas-based nonprofit organiza-

tion dedicated to uplifting and empowering communities through initiatives in science, economics and the arts. Through scholarships, cultural programming and community partnerships, the foundation creates opportunities for young people to develop their talents, access educational resources and showcase their creativity.

The foundation's signature Jazz Goes Classical Experience reflects its commitment to supporting emerging artists, strengthening arts education and investing in the next generation of leaders and performers in the Dallas community. The foundation is looking for students from the Dallas-Fort Worth Area to audition for the Youth Classical Artist Competition for 2027.

Lone Star Wind Orchestra presents Lights, Camera ... Trumpet

Highlighting Music of the Movies on Sunday, April 19, at Moody Performance Hall

Movie magic takes center stage this spring as the Lone Star Wind Orchestra presents Lights, Camera ... Trumpet – Music of the Movies on Sunday, April 19, at 3 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall in the Dallas Arts District (2520 Flora St.).

Featuring some of the most beloved scores in film history, the concert pairs powerful live performance with cinematic flair, including movie trailers projected on the big screen before each piece.

The program also spotlights acclaimed trumpet soloist Robert Murray, a doctoral graduate of the

University of North Texas' renowned music program, whose dynamic artistry brings both precision and showmanship to the stage.

Led by music director Eugene Migliaro Corporon, the concert features a high-energy lineup of familiar favorites, including:

- Theme from Star Wars, John Williams/Bulla
- Collection of James Bond films, John Barry/DeMeij
- Theme from Back to the Future, Alan Silvestri/Saurer
- Granada from The Queen of Spain, Agustín Lara/Smith
- Theme from Beetle-

juice, Danny Elfman/Chudy

- Silverado, Bruce Broughton

- Theme from Ghostbusters, Elmer Bernstein/Schwartz

- Ennio Morricone Medley (including The Good, the Bad and the Ugly and A Fistful of Dollars)

"As we celebrate our 20th season, this program reflects everything the Lone Star Wind Orchestra stands for -- artistic excellence, meaningful education and deep community engagement," said LSWO co-founder Christopher Tucker. "From inspiring young musicians through our education programs to bringing audiences

together with music they know and love, this concert captures the heart of our work."

"A highlight of the program will be a featured performance by Murray," Tucker said.

Praised for his "golden tone" and "convincing performances," Murray has built an international career as both a performer and educator. Equally at home in commercial and classical settings, he is principal trumpet with the North Charleston POPS! A former member of Dallas Brass, he has toured nationally and appeared as a guest artist with orchestras including

the Cincinnati Pops and Florida Philharmonic.

His credits also include performances with Mannheim Steamroller, the Moody Blues, Doc Severinsen and Bernadette Peters, along with numerous Broadway productions and pop artists.

The concert culminates with a special collaboration, as the orchestra performs live alongside a recent film by Dallas-based nonprofit kNOwBOX Dance – music from Adagio for Winds by Joaquín Rodrigo.

The Lone Star Wind Orchestra, whose mission is to create life-changing experiences through unforget-

table performances, music education, collaboration and inclusive community engagement, also operates the Lone Star Youth Winds. The ensemble features 80 outstanding woodwind, brass and percussion students from across North Texas. Their final performance of the season, Soul Serene: A Mother's Day Celebration, takes place Sunday, May 10, 2026, at Moody Performance Hall.

Tickets, which start at \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, are available at lswo.com or at the door the day of the event.

For more information, visit lswo.com.

FAM, from Page 7

indicated a decrease in removals for White families, while removals for Black and Hispanic families increased.

Churches are targeted as agents of engagement for several critical reasons.

The Bible, across both Old and New Testaments, clearly emphasizes the high regard God holds for children.

Members of religious congregations are traditionally encouraged and recognized as compassionate individuals.

Church congregations provide a public forum where critical issues, such as the plight of children in foster care, can be openly addressed.

Given the established compassion of congregants, awareness of the serious challenges facing foster children (especially those aging out of the system) is anticipated to mobilize them toward action.

Congregation members are committed to prayer and the belief in divine intervention, making them a reliable source for actively

petitioning for spiritual guidance.

Miraculous outcomes have been reported when people of faith have acted decisively to care for “the least of these,” as illustrated by the following historical and contemporary examples of individuals who dedicated themselves to the care of orphans.

George Müller of England cared for 10,024 orphans throughout his lifetime. His guiding principle was faith, believing God would provide for every necessity. For instance, one morning, Mr. Müller’s orphanage lacked food for 300 children. He nonetheless gathered them, prayed, and expressed gratitude for the forthcoming meal. A baker soon arrived with bread, and a dairy delivery cart unexpectedly broke down near the facility, and, to prevent spoilage, provided sufficient milk for them all!

China’s One Child Policy resulted in the overcrowding of many orphanages due to the abandonment of children with disabilities or

those of the “wrong” gender. Guided by faith, Social Worker Robert Glover and his wife, Elizabeth of England, moved to China with their six children and successfully reformed the state’s system from institutional care—which lacked affection, attention, and proper nurturing—to a family-based model of foster and adoption. The book, “As Many As The Stars,” provides an in-depth account of this transformation.

For contemporary examples of Black, Texas Christians who have provided critical assistance to children, we offer the stories of Bishop & First Lady Blake of Brownwood and Bishop & First Lady Martin of Possum Trot.

Pastor and high school counselor, Aaron Blake, and his wife, immediately following the departure of their six biological children from the home, became involved in foster care after a foster care student sought assistance in the counselor’s office and asked for housing help. This initial plea eventually led the Blakes to adopt six

boys and inspire 39 families within their congregation to pursue fostering and adoption.

The story of Bishop & First Lady Martin has received widespread attention, as the film, “Sounds of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot,” chronicled their efforts in leading their small community to foster and/or adopt all the foster children residing within a 100-mile radius.

Finally, reminding everyone of the dire consequences of inaction, The AAMC (American Association of Medical Colleges) reports that the suicide rate for Black teens and young

adults who age out of foster care has risen 78%!!! Our children are killing themselves because too few are stepping up to care for them!

The Christian Alliance for Orphans offers a particularly salient quote: “No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.” What commitment is God guiding you to undertake? The following are suggestions for prayer and action steps for those who want to make a positive difference for the sake of our children:

- If your church does not currently have a FAM, initiate a prayer group to dis-

cern the establishment of one.

- Commit to daily prayer for orphaned children.

- Volunteer as a mentor for a foster or adopted child.

- Serve as a respite provider to offer foster parents an opportunity for rest and renewal, thereby bolstering their commitment to this demanding work.

God will offer direction as you pray, but you can also contact Dr. Bren (<http://REECHthetop.org>) for insights into the operation of her church’s FAM and to gain ideas for your congregation.

RECORDS, from Page 8

its new policy may not even attempt — to comply with longstanding requirements to preserve presidential records, including restrictions on the use of personal email, text messaging, or encrypted applications for official business. Without those safeguards, records documenting key decisions and actions could be lost, deleted, or never preserved at all.

Among these records are those now eligible for

public access under the PRA’s five year provision, and for which American Oversight filed a sweeping set of Freedom of Information Act requests seeking records that could provide additional details on corruption, conflicts of interest, and abuses of power during Trump’s first term — one of the most opaque and controversial presidencies in modern history.

In their complaint, American Oversight and

the American Historical Association ask the court to declare the PRA constitutional, block the administration from relying on the OLC memo, and compel compliance with federal law — including the preservation of presidential records and the timely release of those records to the public. The case underscores a fundamental principle: presidential records belong to the American people, and no president has the sole authority to control or conceal them.



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 1, 2026
Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally. We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Mechanic (Field)
- Laborer (Earthwork)
- Form setter (Structures)
- Dozer Operator (Earthwork)
- Roller Operator (Earthwork)
- Mixer Operator (Earthwork)
- Finisher (Structures, Paving)
- Batch Plant Operator (Paving)
- Slipform Machine Operator (Paving)
- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
- CDL Drivers (Haul Truck, End Dump)
- Barricade Servicer (Must have valid DL)

Available: multiple openings
Rate: Negotiable
Must have own transportation.
Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required
Must have a Clear Background
Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs.)

Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.
Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

UVA Research Report Shows How Social Media, Finfluencers, and the 'Digital Hustle' Are Reshaping Young Adults' Financial Lives

(Newswise) — The report, *Financial Lives in the Networked Generation*, outlines how young people are increasingly turning to a mix of digitally mediated income streams—including gig work, content creation, and platform-based entrepreneurship—alongside new modes of borrowing, investing, and learning about money through social networks. The research is supported by UVA's Thriving Youth in a Digital Economy institutional initiative.

“These shifts are not incremental—they represent a categorical transformation in how young people experience and understand money,” the authors note. “Traditional financial education models were not designed for this environment.”

Key Findings:

- A fundamentally new financial environment: Young adults' financial lives are increasingly

shaped by social media and digital platforms rather than traditional institutions.

- The rise of “finfluencers”: Social media has become a primary source of financial advice, with influencers wielding significant power despite lacking fiduciary responsibility.

- The emergence of the “digital hustle”: Many young people are supplementing or replacing traditional employment with platform-based, often unstable income streams.

- Blurring of finance and identity: Online financial spaces are not just informational—they are central to identity formation, community, and even political engagement.

- Earlier and riskier financial behavior: Young adults are investing and taking financial risks at younger ages, often learning from peers and online communities rather than formal education.

- Gamification of money: Financial decision-making is increasingly intertwined with entertainment, driven by platforms designed to encourage frequent engagement and impulsive choices.

The report also highlights how economic precarity is shaping behavior. Many young adults face high housing costs, student debt, and wage stagnation—conditions that contribute to declining trust in traditional financial institutions and a growing belief that conventional paths to stability may be out of reach. At the same time, U.S. consumers are investing at much earlier ages than prior generations—The average age of first investment has dropped dramatically—for Boomers, the average was 35 years old; for Gen Z, it was 19.

As a result, some younger Americans are turning to high-risk financial strategies or “digital hustle” in-

come streams, while others become targets for scams and exploitative financial products. The report identifies this dynamic as part of a broader pattern of “predatory inclusion,” in which new financial technologies expand access while simultaneously introducing new risks.

Crucially, the report finds that traditional financial literacy approaches have not kept pace with these changes. Designed for a more stable, institution-centered financial system, existing education models often fail to address the complexity of today's digitally mediated, socially

networked financial environment—leaving many young people to learn instead from peers, influencers, and online communities. While there is bipartisan consensus about offering financial literacy to adolescents, there is no prevailing agreement or stan-

dard as to what that curriculum should teach, or how.

The report calls for updated approaches to financial literacy and policy that reflect the realities of a digitally mediated financial system, where information, risk, and opportunity are increasingly shaped by platforms and online communities.

Key questions for policymakers and educators:

- How can personal finance curriculum address the financial tools and platforms young people are using (BNPL, investing apps, crypto, gambling/prediction markets) without legitimizing their most harmful features?

- How can financial education address the competing (and often more compelling) financial narratives

on social media?

- How should financial education address the role of algorithms, platform incentives, and influencer economies in shaping financial behavior?

- How can financial education make space for conversations about loss, debt, shame, and anxiety around money?

- As more states mandate financial education, how can policymakers ensure that curricula reflect contemporary digital financial practices?

- How can policy move beyond fraud prevention to address the normalization of risky and extractive financial participation?

The report was authored by Lana Swartz, Maximilian Brichta, and Kate Larson.

GAS, from Page 5

percent from a year ago. Filling up a 15-gallon tank costs \$12.50 more than last year. Diesel in North Texas hit \$5.20 a gallon, up from \$3.28 a year ago, a cost that gets passed directly to every product that moves by truck.

National gas prices crossed \$4 last week for the first time since August 2022, driven by the administration's war in Iran. Gas in Dallas has gone up 30 cents in the last week alone.

Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi

warned Monday that his recession indicator has been in positive territory since January, writing that “recession risks remain uncomfortably high, with close to even odds of a downturn in the coming year.” Zandi noted that without healthcare hiring, the national economy

would already be losing jobs, and that the full economic fallout from the Iran war has yet to hit.

When asked about surging gas prices, President Trump told Reuters: “If they rise, they rise.” Texas' all-time record of \$4.69 per gallon is no longer out of reach.

HICKS, from Page 2

(SGIM), the professional home for the world's leading academic general internal medicine physicians.

Dr. Hicks graduated from Howard University in 1991 and earned his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine.

He completed his residency at Mount Auburn Hospital, where he served as chief resident. Dr. Hicks completed a fellowship in general medicine and faculty development at Brigham and Women's Hospital and earned a Master of Pub-

lic Health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with members in more than 172 countries worldwide. ACP membership includes 163,000 internal medicine

physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

NDG Presents Season 1
5 Part Documentary Mini-Series
Black Dallas Hallowed Ground

EP.1 Booker T. Washington High School

EP.2 Martyrs Park

EP.3 Juanita Craft Civil Rights House

EP.4 Northern Farmlands

EP.5 Paul Quinn College - Dallas' HBCU

This is a series of mini-docs dedicated to memorializing locations in the Dallas area of specific importance to the African-American community.
Subscribe to NDG Video Channel

*Anybody interested in Dallas' Black community and on its culture - North Dallas Gazette's inaugural season of Black Dallas: Hallowed Ground is a MUST SEE!
- The Publisher

Go Here! - Link Also in Bio!
youtube.com/@ndglive6056

Selling to Employees is a Competitive (and Underused) Exit Strategy

(Newswise) — NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Across the United States, millions of business owners are quietly approaching one of the most consequential decisions of their lives: what will happen to the companies they built.

For many, that decision is shaped by what they imagine to be a limited set of options: an external sale, such as a private equity buyout, a management buyout, or a transfer to other family members. These paths are frequently assumed to be the only viable routes forward.

But they are not the only

options.

The Rutgers Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing today released a new research report, “Business Owner Perspectives on Selling to Employees: Insights from In-Depth Interviews.” The report examines why and how some business owners chose a less common pathway to exit: the employee ownership pathway.

Rutgers researchers estimate that 1.2 million businesses are strong candidates for transition to employee ownership through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) or a

worker cooperative (co-op). With these models, employees become owners, at no cost to them, and they build wealth alongside their wages, while businesses remain rooted in their communities.

This report goes directly to the source: the sellers themselves. Based on in-depth interviews with 23 company owners, it captures what owners considered, what triggered their search for an exit, and how their understanding of the available options evolved over time.

Across interviews, sellers consistently described employee ownership not

as a niche or purely values-driven choice, but as a practical and financially competitive strategy. Many found they could achieve fair market value — sometimes comparable to private equity — while preserving jobs, maintaining company identity, and rewarding employees who helped build the business.

In their own words, these owners describe expanding their sense of what was possible. Some rejected outside buyers out of concern for layoffs or relocation; others were drawn to the opportunity to sustain their company’s culture and community ties. To-

gether, their experiences offer a rare window into the human side of business succession and underscore a central message of the report: business owners have more choices than they of-

ten realize.

The Rutgers report was authored by Adria Scharf, Oyindamola Ijewere, and Matt Mazewski, with support from MetLife Foundation.

FILM, from Page 9

cause cinematographer Arseni Khachaturan captures its urban, New England magic both on the streets and in the handsome apartments. Charlie and Emma’s flat looks welcoming, like you’d want to wake up in it, thanks to set designer Zosia Mackenzie’s (Fire Inside) cultured tastes. Clothes, provided by costume designer Katina Danabassis (Past Lives), help the cast round out the characters, both in casual scenes and in formal wear on the wedding day. Editor Joshua Raymond clips the scenes at the right moment, just when you’re aghast at what you’ve seen or heard.

Prepare to be suckered in by Zendaya and Pattinson’s eye-catching performances. No matter what contortions the couple’s relationship goes through, you want to stick with them because these two talented and very

photogenic actors don’t let you give up on Charlie and Emma. Even though you’ll want to smack the anxiety out of him and tell her to find a better man. Their bent relationship isn’t physically volatile like the one in *The War of the Roses*. Yet their hurt feelings and mental fatigue feel as toxic. Athie and Haim are quite believable as their friends who turn sour.

Hard to walk away from this trainwreck. Theatergo-

ers may find themselves watching until the very end, hoping for a coda that redeems what they’ve just witnessed. But that flirtation with this grimdark romance may not trans-

fer into positive word of mouth. Which makes you wonder who will RSVP to this wedding invite.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



GARLAND
TEXAS MADE HERE

**Attention Suppliers of Goods,
Services and Construction**

Review Competitive Opportunities at
<https://garlandtx.ionwave.net>

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415

Comps/Info Tech: Kaar Technologies (Dallas, TX). Multi positions: Comp Prgmr: Plan, develop, test & document comp progms. Conduct trial runs of progms & testing of sw apps. Evaluate user requests for new/modified progms, & compatibility with current systems & comp capabilities. Comp Sys Engr/Arch: Architect, design, develop & implement efficient info &/or ops systems in support of core enterprise functions. Understand business reqs, study existing app landscape & identify redundant/ineffective systems. Conceptualize technical solutions to complex problems & maximize benefit of IT systems investment. IT Proj Mgr: Responsible for proj planning & delivery w/n agreed timeframes, & for enhancing the quality of deliverables through analytical & intellectual leadership. Perform requirements analysis & develop estimates based on feasibility & impact analysis. All positions req MS/BS in Comp Sc, Engg, IT, Comp Apps, MIS, CIS or related w/ 1-5 yrs exp in the field & exp w/ several prog langs, tools & comp skills. We offer competitive salaries & benefits. Send CVs to humanresources@kaartech.com.



**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING
AND REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUE A CAREER AS A
POLICE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- . . . and more

REGISTER ONLINE TO TAKE THE CITY OF IRVING'S
NEXT CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM

OR SEE THE FULL LIST OF JOB OPENINGS AT

www.irvingtx.gov

The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetics, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression/reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150

Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637

www.tiseopaving.com

Performing Concrete Street Paving
in the Metroplex Area

We Accept Subcontracting Bids

For All Public Works Projects
in the Dallas Area.

We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Equal Opportunity Employer

My Addiction to Happiness

Dr. James L. Snyder

One of the most important elements of life is happiness. When I look around the world, I notice how scarce happiness seems, which makes me reflect on its true value.

I have come to the conclusion that happiness is a choice. I can be happy or sad. The choice is mine.

Whenever things aren't going the way I want, and it seems very chaotic around me, I stop, think a little bit, and actively choose happiness over my worrying, which helps me regain perspective.

Not too long ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Why are you so happy?"

I looked at her smiling and said, "As long as you're in my life, I will be happy."

She looked at me, smiled, and then walked away. I'm not sure if she understood



DWG Studio

exactly what I was saying, but I meant it from the bottom of my heart.

I once told her that I had a PhD in happiness.

"What does that mean?" She asked.

"A PhD is a 'Perpetual Happiness Demeanor'". And I have earned that degree.

Throughout the years, I have had this degree challenged on many levels. When things seem at their worst, I need to step back, smile, and be happy.

If you watch the news on TV, there are a million reasons not to be happy. If I believed everything on TV, it would be hard to be

happy. The purpose of television news is to depress people, and they are very successful at it.

No matter how bad a situation looks, I can be happy. For every bad thing in the world, I can always find something good to be happy about.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those possibility thinkers who think all I have to do is think it and I can achieve it. I don't believe that at all. But I do believe in happiness in itself.

The other day The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was looking very sad. I approached her and said, "What's wrong? Why

are you looking so sad?"

Then she explained to me in detail why she was so sad. Based on what she said, she has every good reason to be sad. She had both thumbs injured, and they were not quite movable, which hindered her from doing some of the work she does.

"I just am tired of my thumbs not working yet."

It reminded me of a time in my life when I was hit with shingles on my right side. My right arm was lim-

ited in what I could do with it. It really may be quite sad.

One day, I went to Wendy's, and a man came out of the store without a right arm. From the top of his shoulders down, his arm was missing.

As I watched him walk to his truck, I got to thinking. That man will never be able to use his arm because it's gone. I, on the other hand, will be able to use my arm again one day because it's just a temporary setback.

So, I told my wife, "Don't get discouraged. That will soon go away and you will have full access to both of your thumbs." I smiled at her, hoping she would catch the happiness bug.

I don't think happiness comes automatically. It's a matter of choice. In the midst of some very negative situations, I can either suffer through them or choose to be happy. I'm not happy about my situation,

See SNYDER, Page 16

This Just In:
"Laurel Land Single Space For Sale"
 Garden of the Cross Section, Lot 39, Block D, Space 4
 Laurel Land charges a minimum of \$4,500 per space.
 I am willing to sacrifice:
\$2,500 (plus transfer fee)
972-665-0170

MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES
 Convenient Notarization at Your Location!
OUR SERVICE:

- Document Notarization • Certified Copies
- Signature Witnessing • Oath Administration

Don't Wait!
 ☎ 501.647.1911
 👤 chill@heroffices.com
<https://clinique44.wixsite.com/heroffices>



Keep Up with the News Back Home!

If you aren't originally from Dallas, we've still got you covered! As members of NNPA, the *North Dallas Gazette* is connected to Black newspapers across the country. Visit our site to find links to African-American newspapers in your hometown and beyond!

www.northdallasgazette.com

It's Time to Pray



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Every morning when I turn my television on to hear the news, there are one, two or more devastating occurrences that happened during the night or very early that morning in the Metroplex area alone, not to mention state-wide or even nation-wide.

Prayer is our greatest weapon in crisis. Look in Acts 4:19-31 when Peter and John were arrested, the church held a prayer meeting. In Acts 7:59-60 when Stephen met death, he was praying. When Peter was in prison, Acts 12:5, he concentrated on prayer.

Prayer keeps you strong.

In Matthew 4, Jesus was weak, but because of His prayer life and His understanding of the Word of God, He was strong. Each Christian should stay in prayer for the Lord's church, for lost souls, and especially for unity in the Body of Christ.

Prayer is love in action. There is no greater force in the universe than love. When we pray, mighty forces move. Prayer helps us overcome life's obstacles. It helps give us peace of mind, and helps us find our own strength. Prayer helps us build our spiritual house. Ultimately, prayer helps us to remember who we are. When we remember who we are, we become the love of God.

When we start the day with a prayer, we are energized throughout the day. When we end the day with

a prayer, we fertilize our dreams, a source of healing and creativity; and we get a good and peaceful night's sleep. All prayers lead back to one source, and that source is God.

Pray for your household: Ask God to look graciously upon your household as you gather together in His name. To give them, whom He have set over your household, wisdom to direct those committed to their charge; to give to all its members, strength to fulfill His will in His daily work to which He has appointed them; grant that love and peace be with all others, that grace may live and grow among them, and that finally they may meet before His throne in Heaven and be united in His love forever.

Pray for God's Peace: God's peace between neighbors, between family mem-

bers, between husband and wife, between children and parents, between individuals, and between friends, all in the love of the Jesus.

Pray for the beginning of each day: As you rise up in the morning before the start of each day; as you go to work to prepare your word for the day. Pray for protection from the dangers of the day and from every stumbling block.

Pray to meet the tasks of the day: Thank God for His mercies which are new every morning. Thank Him for the gift of sleep; for your health and strength. Thank God for the vision of another day with its fresh opportunities of work and serve

Him. Thank Him for all these and more than these. Before looking on the face of men you will look on His face, Jesus is the health of your countenance and your God. Not without His guidance would you go forth to meet your duties and tasks of the day. Ask God for strength so that in all your work you may be faithful to Him in the middle of your trials; courageous in your suffering, patient in your disappointment and full of hope in Him. Ask Him to grant this for His honor and goodness' sake.

Pray at the close of the Day: Thank God for His care and protection each day, keeping you from

physical harm and spiritual corruption. Place the work of your day into His hands, trusting that He will redeem your errors and turn your achievements to His glory. And ask God to work within you, trusting that He will use the hours of your rest to create in you a new heart and new soul. Let your mind, which through the day has been directed to your work, through the evening be wholly directed at God.

(This column originally ran in April 2012. It has been edited for space. Sister Tarpley passed on in May 2024. We keep her words alive in our print edition every week.)

**STOP THE
MESS
BEFORE IT STARTS**

**The STI Hotline
is your local resource
to prevent messy situations.**

214-266-7837

Parkland providers are here to answer questions, provide guidance, and schedule testing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT parklandhealth.org/sexual-health


DALLAS CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates

**You can make
all the difference
in the life of a
child who has
been abused.
VOLUNTEER!**

Protecting children | Restoring childhood

Dallas CASA needs volunteers to help children living in foster care

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION:

Thursday, April 16, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 24, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 30, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 8, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

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

NDG Bookshelf: 'Black Out Loud' is a Great Read for Laughs

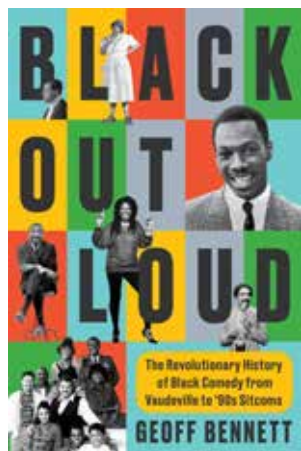
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Wait. Did you hear that right?

Yes, you did – and it was so funny that you just now caught your breath. What the guy onstage said was so unexpected, so dead-on, so real that you couldn't stop laughing. And as you'll see in the new book "Black Out Loud" by Geoff Bennett, his routine reaches back more than a hundred years.

On April 15, 1990, ten-year-old Geoff Bennett was watching TV in his family living room when his world was shaken. He'd stumbled on the debut of *In Living Color*, the irreverent, hilariously funny sketch show that featured mostly Black entertainers.

Entertainers, in other



words, who looked like him.

That show was a first for Bennett. But it wasn't the only first, by any means.

In the late 1800s, there was minstrelsy, the cast of which were usually mostly white people with burnt-cork-blackened faces - until African American enter-

tainer Billy Kersands came along and performed song-and-dance comedy acts in blackface. Audiences loved him, and he "became the first Black entertainer in America to achieve national celebrity."

Hot on Kersands' heels, Bert Williams and George Walker became vaudeville stars in the early 1900s, followed by Stepin Fetchit and his controversial, but very successful, career. Then Hattie McDaniel, who lampooned stereotypes with over-exaggeration in movie roles, became the first Black actor to land an Oscar.

As others made the transition from movies and radio to TV, Rochester (The Jack Benny Show) eased the roles of Black char-

acters into that of friends, rather than domestic workers. Black comedians began recording their acts on LPs, as they moved from live stage to small screen. Some landed their own TV shows, changed popular sketch programming, and made fun of white America right under white America's noses.

And they made us laugh at ourselves.

"For more than a century," says Bennett, "Black comedians have been witnesses... And when the world was finally ready to hear the real story of America, it knew exactly where to turn – to America's conscience: the Black comedian."

LOL. That was you every Monday-Thursday-Friday-

Saturday-Sunday night, or whenever you caught your favorite comedy show.

Everybody talked about it the next day. Now, read about it.

Yes, you may have a few favorites that aren't inside this book, but author Geoff Bennett's work here is pretty comprehensive: he includes today's hottest Black comedians and some who were once famous but are unremembered today.

You'll have a chance to know them and, while you get acquainted or you read about superstars you love now, Bennett also surprises readers with biographies, little-known facts, and notable accomplishments those stars worked hard for – all in a narrative that's casual, sometimes profane,

but very highly enjoyable. Bonus: read some of the stars' comedy bits here, and LOL while you enjoy this excellent book.

"Black Out Loud" is a great collection for anyone who devours pop-culture entertainment or who just loves to laugh. It's one of those books you won't want to let go, so don't miss it. No, you shouldn't hear of that.

Want more? Then look for "Darkology: Blackface and the American Way of Entertainment" by Rhae Lynn Barnes (Liveright, \$39.99), a book that dives deep into two centuries of racism in American entertainment. It's unsettling, but a must-read if you love Black performance history.

SEDER, from Page 3

act in history.

But the relevance of Passover today extends beyond religious observance. In a world marked by growing antisemitism, racial injustice, economic inequality, and political oppression, the question posed by the Seder remains urgent: What does it mean to be free? The Hebrew word for Egypt, *Mitzrayim*, connotes "narrowness" or "constraint,"

suggesting that liberation is not only external but internal — a breaking free from all that diminishes human dignity.

For Black America, this question is both historical and contemporary. The legacy of slavery has given way to new forms of systemic inequality, from mass incarceration to economic disparity. The Exodus story challenges both Jews and

Christians to see these realities not as inevitable, but as conditions that demand transformation.

For Jewish America, the historic fear of unsafety is no longer a dormant remnant of intergenerational trauma. The recent burning of a synagogue in Mississippi, the explosive-laden terrorist truck crashing into Temple Israel in Michigan, and the violent assaults aimed at Jews in cities across our country have be-

come an agonizing reality.

Jewish and Black traditions alike insist that memory must lead to action. The Seder begins with the invitation, "Let all who are hungry come and eat," signaling that liberation is incomplete if it is not shared. This ethic of solidarity aligns with the core insight of liberation theology: faith is not merely belief—it is praxis.

In this sacred season, as matzah is broken and Easter

hymns are sung, America stands at a crossroads. Will these rituals remain symbolic, or will they inspire a renewed commitment to freedom, equality, justice, and safety? Today to help answer that question and others, we in *Spill the Honey* offer a series of film documentaries that celebrate the longstanding solidarity between Blacks and Jews in America at <http://www.SpilltheHoney.com>

Rev. Dr. Benjamin F.

Chavis, Jr. is Spill the Honey Chairman, President and CEO of National Newspaper Publishers Association (NPA), Liberation Theologian, and Senior Fellow for Divinity and Interdisciplinary Studies at Duke University School of Divinity

Rabbi Dr. Judy Schinder is Spill the Honey Executive Director, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies at Queens University of Charlotte, and Rabbi Emerita of Temple Beth El in Charlotte.

SNYDER, from Page 14

but happiness is my choice in life.

When my schedule is full, it is an opportunity for something to go wrong. I've lived long enough to realize that something going wrong is always an option. When I think I've got everything in line and I'm ready to take the next step,

something blows up in my face.

That is enough to make me sad and even angry. I see a lot of angry people in this world. I can choose to be angry or to be happy. The choice is all mine.

It's taken me almost a lifetime to understand that and to choose happiness

under every circumstance.

The other day I had a doctor's appointment across town. Just a checkup that the doctors like to do. I went out, got in my truck, and it would not start. I did everything I could possibly think of, but nothing got that truck running.

That was a real recipe for some anger in my situation. I finally had to call AAA

to have them come and start up my truck. When he came, he discovered that it was the battery.

It took him about an hour to fix my truck and get it running. In the meantime, I had to cancel my doctor's appointment and reschedule it.

I was a little bit agitated. When I walked into the house, The Gracious

Mistress of the Parsonage greeted me and said, "Are you happy now?"

She caught me with pie in my face. I looked at her, smiled very gently, and said, "I am now!"

I found some scripture that supports my happiness.

Proverbs 3:13, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

My happiness is not found in the world, but in my personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.