



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Clawing Back North Texas' Affordability Advantage

*Landmark McKinney event draws advocates, developers and community leaders to focus on growing housing challenges*

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

The first ever McKinney Affordable Housing Summit was held on Monday, April 13, at the MISD Community Event Center. A sold out event, there were more than 300 people in attendance.

The summit brought together employers, developers, policymakers, and housing advocates to examine innovative approaches to workforce housing challenges and to form strategic partnerships.

Organized by McKinney Front Porch in partnership with the City of McKinney, the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, the McKinney Community Development Corporation, and the McKinney Housing Authority; the event emphasized how coordinated housing efforts could strengthen the local economy, pro-



*In addition to tax laws, a low cost of living -- including housing -- was one of the drivers that brought extensive growth to the DFW area in recent decades. Now, those looking for housing are feeling the pinch, and many are looking for solutions. (David Wilfong / NDG)*

mote workforce stability, and improve residents' quality of life.

As an overt networking opportunity, organizers also added extra

chairs at every table, encouraging everyone to invite others to sit and

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### People In The News ...



Tamara McCaw



Tony Adamo

#### NDG Quote of the Week:

*"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."*  
—Harriet Tubman



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## Tamara McCaw

New York Carib News

The renowned Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) has announced the appointment of Jamaican-born cultural executive Tamara McCaw as its new president, marking a historic leadership transition for one of the United States' most influential performing arts institutions.

McCaw, whose career spans arts administration, philanthropy, and international cultural development, becomes one of the few Caribbean-born leaders to helm a major American arts organization. Her appointment signals



Photo via NNPA

BAM's renewed commitment to global storytelling, diversity, and community engagement in an evolving cultural landscape.

In a statement accompanying the announcement, McCaw said, "This is a deeply meaningful moment for me, both professionally

and personally. As someone shaped by Jamaica's rich cultural heritage, I am honored to lead an institution that has long been a beacon for artistic innovation and inclusion."

Founded in 1861, BAM has built a global reputation for presenting groundbreaking work across theater, dance, music, and film. The institution has also played a central role in Brooklyn's cultural revitalization, attracting artists and audiences from around the world.

Board members highlighted McCaw's strategic vision and leadership track record as key factors in her selection. A spokesperson noted that her experience

in fostering cross-cultural partnerships and expanding access to the arts aligns with BAM's long-term priorities.

"Tamara brings a dynamic blend of creative insight and executive leadership," the board said in a statement. "Her global perspective and commitment to equity will help guide BAM into its next chapter."

Born and raised in Jamaica, McCaw has frequently credited her upbringing with shaping her appreciation for the arts as a vehicle for storytelling and social connection. Throughout her career, she has championed initiatives that elevate underrepresented voices

and bridge cultural divides.

Her appointment comes at a time when arts institutions across the United States are reimagining their roles in society, balancing financial sustainability with broader mandates around accessibility and representation.

Looking ahead, McCaw emphasized the importance of community-centered programming and global collaboration. "The future of the arts depends on our ability to connect across cultures and create spaces where every voice can be heard," she said. "BAM has always been a place where bold ideas thrive, and I look

forward to building on that legacy."

The announcement has been met with enthusiasm from both the arts community and members of the Caribbean diaspora, many of whom view McCaw's appointment as a significant milestone for representation at the highest levels of cultural leadership.

As she prepares to assume the role in the coming months, all eyes will be on how McCaw shapes the next era of BAM, an institution long celebrated for pushing artistic boundaries and redefining the cultural conversation in New York and beyond.

## Tony Adamo

Visit McKinney is proud to welcome Tony Adamo as the new Sales Manager, bringing a dynamic blend of creative marketing, communications expertise, and deep municipal tourism experience to the organization's destination sales efforts.

Prior to joining the Visit McKinney team, Adamo served as the City of McKinney's Communications and Media Specialist where he played a key role in shaping the city's public-facing parks and recreation marketing and communications. In his new role with Visit McKinney, he will leverage that experience to strengthen partnerships, attract meetings and sporting events, and position McKinney as a must-see destination for travelers across



regional, state, and national markets.

With a career rooted in destination marketing and municipal government, Adamo brings a proven track record of building compelling tourism campaigns and meaningful community connections. His previous roles include work with several surrounding cities and CVB's and his diverse background gives him a unique understanding of

how destination branding, events, and visitor experiences work together to drive economic impact.

Tony says, "I'm excited to join Visit McKinney during such a period of momentum for our city. I look forward to working with our partners to strengthen our tourism presence and support continued economic impact."

In his new role, Adamo will lead sales efforts to attract visitors, meetings, and tourism-focused initiatives to elevate McKinney's profile while highlighting the unique character, historic downtown, vibrant sports scene, and growing list of attractions.

For more information about Visit McKinney and upcoming initiatives, visit our website at [visitmckinney.com](http://visitmckinney.com).

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**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](mailto:publisher@northdallasgazette.com)

**Sales Department:**

[marketing@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:marketing@northdallasgazette.com)

**Editorial Department:**

[editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)



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

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

# Regime Change and the Roots of U.S. Hostility With Iran

By Dayvon Love  
Director of Public Policy  
Leaders of a  
Beautiful Struggle

In 1953, the United States and other Western forces collaborated to overthrow the democratically elected president, Mohammad Mosaddegh, of Iran.

The stated rationale for pursuing regime change was based on the Cold War logic that Mosaddegh was aligning with an evil communist sphere of influence anchored by the former United Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR/Russia).

Those who are serious in their study of history are clear that the Cold War was a propaganda campaign to position communism and socialism as a "boogeyman" in order to justify Americans' desire for geopolitical domination of the world. Additionally, Mosaddegh's policy of nationalizing the oil wealth of the country was disruptive to western oil companies that wanted unfettered access to Iran's oil reserves.

After the overthrow of Mosaddegh, the United States installed the Shah of Iran to lead the country, which was a brutal, autocratic regime that lasted for a couple decades. The 1979 revolution in Iran that resulted in the overthrow of the Shah and the taking of American hostages is often narrated as an act of anti-American aggression instead of a response to U.S.

imposition of a brutal regime on the people of Iran. In other words, the 1979 Iranian revolution and the anti-American sentiments expressed over the years by Iranian leadership is a response to U.S. imperialist aggression toward the sovereignty of the Iranian people and the larger Muslim world.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio gave a speech a few weeks ago in Munich, Germany, which provides a clear underlying logic for U.S. military strikes against Iran. He said:

"...For five centuries, before the end of the Second World War, the West had been expanding – its missionaries, its pilgrims, its soldiers, its explorers pouring out from its shores to cross oceans, settle new continents, build vast empires extending out across the globe," Rubio said. "But in 1945, for the first time since the age of Columbus, it was contracting. Europe was in ruins. Half of it lived behind an Iron Curtain and the rest looked like it would soon follow. The great Western empires had entered into terminal decline, accelerated by godless communist revolutions and by anti-colonial uprisings that would transform the world and drape the red hammer and sickle across vast swaths of the map in the years to come ..."

The luxuries and quality of life that western civiliza-

tion enjoys is based on the colonial relationship it has with the so-called Third World that is largely non-White and poor. People who are self respecting will rise up to challenge the social order that is the cause of its degradation.

Additionally, in a November 1979 interview with journalist Mike Wallace, the Ayatollah Khomeini (leader of Iran) committed to (and delivered on this commitment) released Black and women hostages. His rationale for releasing Black hostages was that we are an oppressed group in America and not responsible for the aggression toward their people. This is a recognition of the global system of domination that bolsters White political and economic domination of the world.

It is also important to acknowledge the role that Israel has played in encouraging U.S. military aggression toward Iran.

Israel considers itself to be a cultural descendant of western civilization. The state of Israel serves as a proxy for maintaining U.S. geopolitical domination of the muslim world and the Palestinian people have been casualties of U.S. maintenance and support of the settler colonial project of the state of Israel. Israel has been urging the U.S. to take a more aggressive stance toward Iran to advance its own military

domination of the region.

The current administration's capitulation to Israeli political leadership's urging to enact regime change in Iran is further acknowledgement of how important Israel is as an instrument of American imperialism. This current military strikes against Iran by the Trump administration is another example of the White nationalist political agenda of the Republican Party.

What has to be acknowledged is that the military industrial complex that funds both political parties has to be directly confronted and ultimately dismantled. America currently invests \$1 trillion a year of our tax dollars to maintain America's role as policeman of the world.

Democrats in the upcoming midterms need to be forced to engage in a radical change in American foreign policy that does not legitimize military aggression toward people defending their sovereignty. Democrats need to be forced to pursue a policy that divest from the \$1 trillion military budget, and put those resources in the hands of the masses of people in this society who have been victimized by the global system of White supremacy.

Dayvon Love serves as director of public policy for Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle (LBS), a Baltimore-based grassroots think-tank.

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# Study: Air Pollution Associated with Increased Migraine Activity

(Newswise) MINNEAPOLIS —Air pollution is associated with increased migraine activity, according to a study published on April 15, 2026, in *Neurology*®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Both short-term and cumulative exposure to air pollution as well as climate factors such as heat and humidity were associated with increased migraine activity.

The study does not prove that air pollution causes migraine attacks; it only shows an association.

“These results help us to better understand how and when migraine attacks occur,” said study author Ido Peles, MD, of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Be’er Sheva, Israel. “They suggest that for people who have a susceptibility to migraine to begin with, environmental factors may play two roles: intermediate-term factors such as heat and humidity may modify the risk for attacks, while short-term factors such as



DWG Studio

spikes in pollution levels may trigger attacks.”

The study involved 7,032 people with migraine who lived in Be’er Sheva in the Negev desert and were followed for an average of 10 years. Researchers looked at daily exposure to air pollution from traffic, industry and dust storms, as well as weather conditions. Then they looked at how often and when people had to visit the hospital or a primary care office with an acute migraine and compared that to the pollution and weather conditions that day and up to seven days earlier, since pollution effects may take a few days

to affect the body.

They also looked at cumulative exposure to air pollution and migraines. As another measure of migraine activity, researchers checked pharmacy records to see how many doses of the migraine medications called triptans participants needed.

During the study, 2,215 people, or 32%, had at least one visit to the hospital or clinic for acute migraine. A total of 47% of the people had purchased triptan medications during the study, with average use at two tablets per month and 2.3% of people using 10 or more tablets per month.

The researchers found an association between air pollution and visits to the hospital or clinic for migraine. On the day with the highest number of visits to the hospital or clinic, air pollution levels were elevated compared to the average amount over the study period. On that day, the level of particulate matter 10, or PM10, which includes dust, was 119.9 microns per square meter ( $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^3$ ), compared to an average of 57.9 during the study. For PM2.5, which includes particles from motor vehicle exhaust and the burning of fuels from power plants and other industries, the level on that day was 27.3  $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^3$ , compared to an average of 22.3 during the study. For nitrogen dioxide, or NO2, a gas mostly from traffic emissions, the level on that day was 11.2 parts per billion, compared to an average of 8.7.

The day with the fewest visits to the hospital or clinic also had lower than average pollution levels.

After adjusting for other factors that could affect risk of migraine attacks, such as sex and socioeconomic status, researchers found that people with short-term exposure to high levels of NO2 were 41% more likely to go to the hospital or clinic for migraine than people not exposed to high levels. People exposed to high levels of solar radiation, or ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun, were 23% more likely to seek help for migraine than those not exposed to high levels.

People with cumulative exposure to high levels of NO2 were 10% more likely to have high use of migraine drugs than people without cumulative exposure to high levels. People with cumulative exposure to high levels of PM2.5 were 9% more likely to have high use of the drugs.

Researchers found that climate conditions played a role in the effects of pollution. High temperatures and low humidity amplified the effect of NO2, while

cold and humid conditions intensified the effect of PM2.5.

“These findings highlight opportunities for anticipating what care will be needed,” Peles said. “As climate change intensifies the frequency of heat waves, dust storms and pollution episodes, we will need to integrate these environmental risk factors into our guidance for people with migraine. When high-risk exposure periods are in the forecast, doctors can advise people to limit their outdoor activity and use air filters, take short-term preventative medications and start using their migraine drugs at the first sign of a problem to ward off attacks.”

A limitation of the study is that exposure to air pollution was measured by monitoring stations and did not take into account individual behaviors such as amount of time spent indoors, use of air conditioning or air filters, type of job and daily

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## New Procedure Offers Hope for Patients with Complications From Blood Clots

(Newswise) HAMILTON, ON – A major international clinical trial co-led by McMaster University has found that a minimally invasive procedure significantly improves symptoms and quality of life for people living with a painful and often disabling condition that can develop after deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Researchers found that patients who received the procedure experienced less severe post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS) and significantly better quality of life six months after treat-

ment compared with those who received standard care alone.

The trial is the largest randomized study to date to evaluate endovascular therapy – a procedure in which physicians use tiny tubes and stents inside blood vessels to clear chronic blockages caused by old blood clots.

PTS affects 20 to 50 percent of people who have had a DVT – a serious condition where a blood clot forms in a deep vein, usually in the legs. PTS can cause chronic pain, swelling, heaviness and mobil-

ity limitations that interfere with daily life. Existing treatments – most commonly compression stockings – offer inconsistent relief and do not address the underlying cause of the disease. No medications have been proven to improve PTS severity in rigorous clinical trials.

The results, published April 13, 2026, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, are being simultaneously presented at the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting in Toronto. The trial was

co-led by McMaster and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, with McMaster’s Trials Research and Clinical Evidence (TRACE) clinical trial unit playing a key coordinating role.

“PTS can be life-altering, yet we’ve had very few effective treatment options,” says Sameer Parpia, senior author and data coordinating centre principal investigator of the study and an associate professor in the departments of Oncology and Health Research Methods, Evidence, & Impact at McMaster. “This trial pro-

vides clear evidence that targeted endovascular therapy can make a meaningful difference for patients living with this condition.”

The multicentre trial enrolled 225 patients with moderate-to-severe PTS and imaging-confirmed iliac vein obstruction. Participants were randomly assigned to receive either endovascular therapy plus standard care or standard care alone.

Patients who received the minimally invasive procedure had significantly lower PTS severity at six months. Their disease-

specific quality of life improved a clinically meaningful amount – and they also experienced important improvements in overall physical quality of life.

Because the procedure involves placing stents to reopen chronically blocked veins, patients require additional anti-clotting medication. This stepped-up blood-thinning approach is standard practice in endovascular care and was built into the study protocol. As a result, the trial found a higher rate of bleeding in

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# Barriers to Bridges: The Loop Dallas and City of Dallas Unveil Landmark Segment of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail

The Loop Dallas, in partnership with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department and TxDOT officially cut the ribbon on a Landmark Segment of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail on Tuesday.

The event marked a transformative milestone in providing equitable parkland and trail access to the Pleasant Grove community.

The Loop Dallas opened Trinity Forest Spine Trail phase I in 2023, connecting the Santa Fe Trail at White Rock Lake to Far East Dallas.

Phase II extends the existing AT&T and Trinity Forest Trails on its eventual journey to White Rock Lake, winding from forest floor to treetops, currently ending at the new Lake June Bridge and 2nd Avenue along US-175. The new Lake June Rd bridge serves Pleasant Grove resi-



Courtesy photo

dents on both sides of US-175 and the dedicated pedestrian bridge brings users one-mile closer to White Rock Lake.

When completed, the Trinity Forest Spine Trail's nine-mile corridor will connect the Trinity River Audubon Center to White Rock Lake and is a major leap forward for Far East and Southeast Dallas.

Phase II specifically ad-

resses the longstanding need for pedestrian access across US-175 and a safe, resilient way for neighbors to move between neighborhoods without a car.

"The Loop Dallas mission is connecting Dallas to Dallas. This is a game-changer for Southern Dallas where neighborhoods have been historically divided. Our partnership with the City of Dallas,

Dallas County, Texas Department of Transportation and the community has empowered us to turn barriers into bridges," said Jeff Ellerman, Chairman of The Loop Dallas. "By bridging the gap across US-175 and a flood-resistant one-mile elevated trail, we are ensuring that our neighbors in Pleasant Grove have safe, world-class transit options.

An elevated parkland corridor coupled with the Lake June Road bridge shows how we are connecting Dallas to Dallas."

The project emphasizes neighborhood connectivity, made possible through the leadership and support of The Loop Dallas. From securing funding to building key partnerships, The Loop Dallas was instrumental in delivering phase II, including the new Lake June Road bridge with dedicated bike lanes and wide sidewalks that connect residents to the Lake June DART Station and existing trails, like the AT&T Trail.

The Trinity Forest Spine Trail represents a vital investment in providing high-quality parkland to every corner of Dallas," said John Jenkins, Director of the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. "With the opening of Phase II,

we're showing how smart infrastructure can both preserve the natural beauty of the Great Trinity Forest and make it more accessible for exploration and community connection, an effort made possible through our strong partnership with The Loop Dallas and our shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

The realization of this project has been made possible through a collaborative funding model involving a federal RAISE Grant, the City of Dallas, Dallas County, TxDOT, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

"Active transportation projects like the Trinity Forest Spine Trail provide essential alternatives for both commuting and recreation," said Robie Vaughn, Texas Transportation Com-

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activities.

In addition, since the information on migraine activity was gathered through hospital and clinic visits and pharmacy data, the findings mainly reflect people with severe migraine and may not be applicable to people with milder episodes of migraine or those they manage on their own.

The study was supported by the Israeli Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology.

Discover more about migraine at Brain & Life®, from the American Academy of Neurology. This resource also offers a web-

site, podcast, and books that connect patients, caregivers and anyone interested in brain health with the most trusted information, straight from the world's leading experts in brain health. Follow Brain & Life on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

The American Academy of Neurology is the leading voice in brain health. As the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals with more than 44,000 members, the AAN provides access to the latest news, science and research affecting neurology

for patients, caregivers, physicians and professionals alike. The AAN's mission is to enhance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor who specializes in the diagnosis, care and treatment of brain, spinal cord and nervous system diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache and migraine.

Explore the latest in neurological disease and brain health, from the minds at the AAN at [AAN.com](http://AAN.com) or find us on Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

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# Collin College Set to Offer Three New Programs in Fall 2026

Collin College will be offering three new programs – Medical Laboratory Technology, Law Enforcement – Public Administration and Supervision, and Cosmetology – this fall. The three new Associate of Applied Science (AAS) programs and corresponding certificates aim to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in today's competitive job market.

## Medical Laboratory Technology

The AAS in Medical Laboratory Technology will address the increasing need for healthcare profes-



sionals. This program will train students in essential laboratory skills while emphasizing hands-on training and clinical experience. Graduates will be equipped to work in hospitals, clinics, and research facilities,

playing a crucial role in future patient care in our growing region.

## Law Enforcement – Public Administration and Supervision

This program will offer an AAS and a Level 2 Cer-

tification in 21st Century Police Administration that will build upon basic police officer courses already available at Collin College. The new offering will further prepare students for a rewarding career in law enforcement with a focus on leadership, administration, community relations, and more.

## Cosmetology

The Cosmetology program will offer an AAS degree and a Certificate in Cosmetology. Students will receive comprehensive training in hair, skin, and nails, as well as professional development, while

preparing for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) Cosmetology Operator License exam. The program also includes a Continuing Education component for licensed cosmetologists.

“We are excited to offer these new programs that align with the needs of our community and the changing job market,” said Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. “These programs not only provide valuable skills but also open doors to fulfilling careers for our students. We are committed to supporting their success and

helping them achieve their professional goals.”

For more information about Collin College's current offerings, visit [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu).

Collin College serves approximately 60,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates. The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government, and industry, providing customized training and workforce development. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu).

# City of Plano Earns LEED Gold Certification

PLANO — The City of Plano has achieved LEED Gold certification, a nationally recognized designation that reflects the city's ongoing commitment to sustainability, resilience and quality of life.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is administered by

the U.S. Green Building Council and is the world's most widely used green building and community rating system. The LEED for Cities and Communities program evaluates how local governments are performing across key areas like energy, water, waste, transportation, education

and overall quality of life.

Plano's Gold-level certification reflects the collective efforts of the city, its residents and community partners to build a stronger, more sustainable community while continuing to identify opportunities for improvement.

“This recognition reflects

years of thoughtful planning and strong collaboration across our community,” said Mayor John Muns. “Plano residents care deeply about where they live, and this achievement shows what is possible when a city and its people work together to create a healthier, more sustainable

future.”

Plano received high marks in areas including resilience planning, energy efficiency, natural resource conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and smart water systems. The city has also made progress through programs that support com-

posting, environmental education, water conservation and emergency preparedness.

While the certification recognizes progress, it also serves as a roadmap for continued improvement. City leaders emphasize that

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missioner. “TxDOT is proud to support this new activation, as it delivers on our mission to provide innovative infrastructure that enhances safety, mobility, and the overall quality of

life for all Texans.”

“Growing up, we made do with what we had when it came to riding our bikes, but nothing like this existed. Today, we finally have this kind of infrastructure

in our community,” said Dallas City Councilman Jaime Resendez (District 5). “Since the inception of this plan, I have been a strong advocate for the kind of infrastructure Pleasant Grove deserves. The Trinity Forest Spine Trail is a

transformative investment that enhances our quality of life by inviting residents outdoors and providing a safe, connected pathway for walking and biking between neighborhoods. This opening is a major win for our community.”

Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, whose \$10M county investment was foundational to the project, added: “In 2014, we saw the potential for this trail to be a critical connection. Today's milestone shows that our

investment is paying off. By expanding the reach of the trail system toward the Trinity River Audubon Center and White Rock Lake, we are providing residents with unprecedented access to the best Dallas has to offer.”

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the intervention group – an expected trade-off when more intensive anti-clotting therapy is used. Importantly, most bleeding events were non-major and occurred more than 90 days after the procedure, rather

than during or immediately after treatment.

“Our findings show that carefully performed endovascular therapy, supported by evidence-based medical management, can meaningfully reduce symptoms and

improve daily functioning for patients with long-term blockages of important veins after a blood clot,” says Dr. Suresh Vedantham, professor of radiology and of surgery at WashU Medicine, the lead author of the study and national principal investigator of the

clinical trial.

“These results provide a strong foundation for clinicians as we work to deliver safe, effective, and durable treatment options for people living with the long-term consequences of deep vein thrombosis,” adds Vedantham.

The researchers acknowledge the contributions of the late Clive Kearon, a renowned McMaster thrombosis expert who helped design the study and secure early funding before his passing in 2020.

“This work reflects

years of collaboration and dedication from clinicians, scientists, research staff and patients across North America,” adds Parpia.

*The trial was funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.*

# Los Angeles Summit Brings Together Leaders to Tackle Poverty and Affordability

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Correspondent

On March 2, over 200 leaders from government, philanthropy and community organizations convened in Los Angeles this week for a major summit aimed at addressing poverty, housing instability and

economic inequality across the city.

Hosted by the City's Community Investment for Families Department, the 2026 "Making LA Affordable for All: A Summit on Equity, Access, and Economic Stability" focused on advancing coordinated solutions for the more than

600,000 Angelenos currently living in poverty.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who headlined the event, emphasized the need for a unified approach to interconnected challenges such as housing, food insecurity and widening wealth gaps.

"For too long, poverty

has limited opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Angelenos," Bass said. "Housing instability, food insecurity and widening wealth gaps are interconnected, and our response must be just as connected."

City officials described

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Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass delivers remarks at the 2026 Making LA Affordable for All Summit, where more than 200 cross-sector leaders convened to address poverty, housing stability, and economic opportunity in Los Angeles. (GlobeNewswire Inc. / NNPA)

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make personal connections with as many fellow stakeholders as possible for future collaboration.

McKinney has experienced exceptionally rapid population growth, particularly since the 1990s, transforming it from a small town into one of the fastest-growing large cities in the United States. As a result, solutions for McKinney can have far-reaching effects on how other communities tackle similar issues. Representatives of organizations and agencies statewide attending the event.

(At Right) Dr. Cullum Clark gives the keynote address to attendees at the first McKinney Affordable Housing Summit on Monday morning. (Below) More than 300 people attended the event, representing business, government and advocacy groups. (David Wilfong / NDG)

"This was a really strong first Affordable Housing Summit for the city of McKinney," said Ashley Brundage, president and CEO of the Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity. "The conversations felt grounded in both urgency and opportunity, with real focus

on how business, development, and community can come together to support the local workforce.

The summit focused on fostering collaboration among public agencies, private employers, and housing developers to expand sustainable housing options for employees contributing to the city's economic suc-

cess. The program began with the audience being given assessments of the housing situation at the local level as well as legislative actions taking place in Austin.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Cullum Clark of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Institute. His work has been shared widely through numerous media outlets as well as guest appearances on podcast and radio. Clark outlined how affordability helped push the growth that made the region successful, but that its advantage is eroding and it's going to take serious planning and investment to get back on track.

"One point that stayed with me: nearly 40% of our construction workforce is expected to retire in the next decade, at the same time we're seeing an accelerating pace of people leaving Dallas County," Brundage said. "Those trends together make clear that housing is not just a social issue, it's an economic one. Encouraging to see this level of collaboration early on."

Three discussion panels highlighted advances in affordable housing from the construction perspective, employer/developer strategies, and regulatory processes. Through these discussions, businesses and developers shared insights

into potential incentives and support from the City of McKinney to advance workforce housing projects.

"The first-ever McKinney Affordable Housing Summit was a tremendous success," said Margaret Li, Housing and Community Development Director for the City of McKinney on LinkedIn after the close of the summit. "I'm deeply grateful for our insightful speakers, dedicated sponsors, and engaged attendees who helped make this event truly impactful. The momentum we built together is only the beginning, and I'm excited for what comes next for our community."



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# Wings Draft Azzi Fudd and Reshape Future Around New Core

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Sportswriter

The Dallas Wings selected University of Connecticut standout wing Azzi Fudd with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2026 WNBA Draft on Monday night at The Shed in New York City.

With Fudd now in the fold, Dallas will have the ability to space the floor and provide open scoring lanes for 2025 WNBA Rookie of the Year Paige Bueckers and All-Star guard Arike Ogunbowale.

Fudd, Bueckers and Ogunbowale will form a dynamic trio that can score at a high clip from all three levels of the floor.

Fudd has proven to be an



NDG Composite

all-world three-point shooter and continued to progress as a shot creator during her time with the Huskies—reinforcing her work ethic and willingness to expand her game. Her impact will also be felt on the defensive end with her ability to stay in front of ball handlers and read passing lanes.

“Azzi Fudd is one of the best shooters in our game

today,” said Dallas Wing Executive Vice President and General Manager Curt Miller. “She has a lightning-quick release and her movement off the ball is elite. She competes hard defensively and is an efficient, unselfish player who knows how to win. In an outstanding draft class, she stood out to us not only with her basketball skills but with her

intangibles. She is a great teammate and has outstanding basketball IQ.”

The Wings became just the fifth team in WNBA history to pick No. 1 overall in back-to-back drafts, and the first since the Indiana Fever in 2023-24.

History suggests that this is a recipe for success as both the Las Vegas Aces and Seattle Storm turned their consecutive No. 1 picks to championships soon after. The Aces drafted Kelsey Plum, A’ja Wilson and Jackie Young with the top selection from 2017 – 2019, while the Storm selected Jewell Loyd and Breanna Stewart from 2015 – 2016.

Selecting Fudd builds

upon a strong offseason the Wings are already having with exciting free agency moves.

Dallas re-signed Ogunbowale to a multiyear, seven-figure deal and added former Minnesota bigs Jessica Shepard and Alanna Smith.

Ogunbowale has been a foundational piece in Dallas since her arrival in the W and will provide valuable veteran leadership for an ascending Wings squad.

“We are so excited that Arike has chosen to return to Dallas and build upon her great legacy here,” Miller said in a press release. “Her commitment to the Wings and City of Dallas is undeniable and we are look-

ing forward to building this team with her veteran leadership at the forefront.”

Shepard stands 6’4” and ranked 7th overall in the WNBA for rebounds last season. She signed a multiyear deal with Dallas after spending the last five seasons with the Lynx and will provide a much-needed interior presence.

Smith also agreed to a multi-year deal and will be the defensive anchor for the Wings. The reigning Co-Defensive Player of the Year averaged 9.6 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 1.9 blocks and 1.3 steals per game last season.

The Wings have quickly gone from rebuilding to a playoff contender.

# The Future of Florida’s Black History Museum is in Limbo

Jacksonville Free Press

Plans to establish a long-awaited Black history museum in Florida are once again on hold after legislation needed to advance the project failed to clear the state House for a second consecutive year, despite repeated approval in the Senate.

A proposal sponsored by Tom Leek, a Republican from Ormond Beach, has now passed the Senate in back-to-back legislative sessions. But the House version, filed by Kiyon Michael, a Jacksonville Republican, did not receive final approval in either year, effectively stalling the effort.

Under Florida law, identical or similar bills must pass both chambers before heading to the governor’s desk. Without House approval, the legislation has



Jacksonville Free Press / Courtesy

been unable to move forward, leaving the project in limbo. Long journey, contested location.

The proposed museum, formally known as the Florida Museum of Black History, has been years in the making, with lawmakers and community leaders framing it as a long-overdue institution to preserve and showcase the state’s African American heritage. A central point of conten-

tion has been the museum’s location. St. Augustine — widely recognized as the nation’s oldest city and a site deeply tied to both slavery and early Black history — emerged as the leading contender. Supporters argue the city’s historical significance makes it a natural home for the museum. However, competing interests and regional considerations have fueled debate, slowing consensus

among lawmakers.

While the Senate-backed measure has consistently advanced, the lack of alignment in the House has underscored ongoing divisions about how and where the project should take shape.

The holdup in the Florida House appears to be less about opposition to the museum itself and more about a combination of procedural bottlenecks, unresolved

structural issues, and lingering disagreements over how the project should be formalized and governed.

Despite legislative setbacks, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has publicly supported the museum. Speaking last month during the unveiling of a statue of abolitionist Frederick Douglass in St. Augustine, DeSantis said the project would move forward “one way or another,” signaling an intent to see the museum built regardless of legislative hurdles.

The anticipated museum has already cleared several hurdles. St. Johns County signed an agreement last year with Florida Memorial University to use the land that once housed its campus last year’s legislative session netted \$1 million in funding for St. Johns County to work on planning and design for the museum.

However, its anticipated that a million \$3 million is needed.

Still, without statutory approval to finalize key components — including governance, funding mechanisms and site selection — the project remains largely conceptual.

With the House bill failing again, the timeline for the museum’s development is unclear. Lawmakers could revisit the proposal in the next legislative session, but any further delays risk pushing the project back several more years. Advocates warn that continued inaction could stall momentum for a museum many see as critical to telling a fuller, more accurate story of Florida’s past. For now, the effort remains paused — caught between political support at the top and legislative gridlock within the Capitol.

# Film Review: 'You, Me & Tuscany' is Cute, and That's About It

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2)

She loves him. She loves him not. He loves her. He loves her not. One woman. Two men. She's living a lie and falling in love under the Tuscan sun.

How did that happen? That premise, by Kristin Engle, involves a young woman, an Italian villa and a big fib. That notion was turned into a script by Engle's screenwriter husband Ryan Engle. It's not the kind of project that usually includes a Black female lead character. But that unique possibility drove producer Will Packer (Girls Trip) to build a love story around that atypical casting. Something in the mold of My Big Fat Greek Wedding or Mamma Mia!. Something that meets rom/com genre requirements but also adds a fresh spin.

The night the very unprofessional house sitter Anna (Halle Bailey, The Little Mermaid) winds up in a hotel bar alone, not much is going right. She's just lost a job for wearing her last client's clothes (Nia Vardalos, My Big Fat Greek Wedding). A depressed Anna catches the eye of an Italian tourist, Matteo (Lorenzo de Moor). He casually mentions that he owns an empty villa in a small Tuscan town. Before you can say "arrivederci," she's on a plane to Italy—and he has no idea.

With director Kat Coiro (Marry Me) at the helm, all the production pieces are assembled in a very simple



Universal Pictures / Courtesy

and commercial way. The bright lighting and glossy cinematography (Danny Ruhlmann) make Tuscany look like a shiny, postcard-perfect setting. However, it's not as impressive as the cinematography in The Equalizer 3, which made Italy's Amalfi Coast so dramatically beautiful you'd want to grab your passport and go. For a broke twentysomething, Anna dresses awfully well (costume designer Massimo Cantini Parrini) and has lots of clothes for someone who arrived in Italy with just a purse and a shoulder bag. Another hiccup is the bland, mediocre rom/com score (composer John Debney).

By comparison, the very catchy playlist is more successful, mirrors Anna's journey and helps to create a hip, romantic mood: Grammy winner Olivia Dean crooning "So Easy (To Fall in love)," Ari Lennox's ode to Black women "Soft Girl Era," "Let Me Love You" by Mario and Estelle's meditative "Live, Love, Learn." Production designer Elena Albanese (The Spiderwick Chronicles) is a champ at making the villa gorgeous. Also, momentum is never an issue because editors Zene

Baker and Troy Takaki (Almost Christmas) give the film a steady, engaging rhythm. What's on view is sometimes formulaic, sometimes unpredictable.

Anna arrives in Matteo's hometown of San Conessa (actually Pienza in Tuscany's Val d'Orcia region). She barely has a dime in her pocket. Stranded, with all the hotels booked, a friendly taxi driver Lorenzo (Marco Calvani) drives her to Matteo's villa, Casa Luna. She sneaks in and spends the night. In the morning, she encounters his family and lies about why she's there. Surprisingly, they embrace her. There's Matteo's mom Gabriella (Isabella Ferrari), the very wary grandmother Nonna Alessia (Stefania Casini, 1900), dad Vincenzo (Paolo Sassanelli) and the wild sister Francesca (Stella Pecollo). But the relative that catches Anna's eye is Michael (Regé-Jean Page, Bridgerton), Matteo's very suave cousin—and rival.

Coiro handles what's in front of her well. Her directing style is pretty standard for the genre. No striking artistry, just proficient filmmaking and she builds the romance, jealousy and drama efficiently.

But for a romantic comedy, the romance far outweighs the funny stuff. It misses opportunities for physical humor or biting satire. Most of the comedy comes from Anna's smart mouth friend Claire (Aziza Scott, Home Before Dark). But

there's something so cliché about the character, the mannerisms and dialogue that Claire borders on being a sassy Black woman trope.

Coiro is far better with the flirting, goo-goo eyes, heart-yearning elements.

Which is good news for those who like involving love stories, especially female audiences. They'll find it easy to put themselves in Anna's shoes and ogle the man she adores.

See FILM, Page 13

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# Dallas Cowboys and Houston Texans Team Up to Crown First-Ever Girls Flag Football Texas State Champions at University of North Texas

DENTON - The Dallas Cowboys and Houston Texans are joining forces to make history with the first-ever Girls Flag Football Texas State Championship, set for June 13 and June 14 at DATCU Stadium at the University of North Texas (UNT). This landmark event will bring together the top teams from both the Cowboys and Texans Girls Flag Football Leagues to compete for the inaugural state title and showcase the growing talent and passion for the sport.

The championship is part of a broader effort by both organizations to expand competitive opportunities for young female athletes and to advocate for girls flag football to become a sanctioned high school sport in the State of Texas. Since 2016, the NFL, its 32



clubs and football partners have worked to increase high school girls flag football participation nationwide. Today, more than 500,000 girls ages 6–17 play flag football across the United States, with 17 state athletic associations sanctioning the sport for varsity play.

Working in close collaboration, the Cowboys and Texans have helped establish more than 200 scholastically based varsity girls flag football teams

across Texas to date, with further expansion expected as both organizations pursue U.I.L. sanctioning. By combining their leagues for this championship, the two NFL teams are demonstrating a shared commitment to growing the game, raising visibility for players, and inspiring the next generation of female football athletes.

“High school football is the heartbeat of Texas, and seeing more and more girls take the field through flag is a reminder that the game is bigger than any one team,” said Dallas Cowboys Chief Brand Officer and Co-Owner Charlotte Jones. “Teaming up with the Texans for our state championship is about more than just crowning a winner, it’s about opening doors, celebrating talent, and grow-

ing football for a whole new generation of young women. The future of girls flag football is incredibly bright, and we are proud to be a part of a journey that is only just beginning to show its power.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the Cowboys to host the first-ever girls flag state championship as we continue to work together to grow the game we love,” said Houston Texans Chief Community Officer and Vice President of the Houston Texans Foundation Hannah McNair. “When our high school girls take the field, it will be another shining example of the pathway we are building from youth participation to the pros in this sport. We know that football changes lives and we are proud to inspire the next generation

of female athletes and future leaders across the great state of Texas.”

While teams from the Cowboys and Texans leagues will compete for the championship title over the course of the two-day tournament, the impact of the event extends far beyond the field. Both organizations hope this collaboration will build momentum toward official sanctioning by the Texas U.I.L., further strengthening pathways for young athletes across the state to play both at the high school and collegiate level.

With girls’ flag football surging nationwide and set to debut at the 2028 Summer Olympics, the Cowboys and Texans are positioning Texas student-athletes for future collegiate and national-team

opportunities. In January 2026, the NCAA added women’s flag football to the Emerging Sports for Women program across Divisions I, II and III, putting the sport on a pathway to NCAA championship status once minimum sponsorship and contest criteria are met. These NCAA programs join existing NAIA, NJCAA and HBCU teams, expanding scholarships, media visibility, and elite opportunities for young women to use football as a pathway to education and success beyond high school.

The Girls Flag Football Texas State Championship is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.DallasCowboys.com/girlsflag](http://www.DallasCowboys.com/girlsflag) and [www.HoustonTexans.com/girls-flag](http://www.HoustonTexans.com/girls-flag).

## Carolyn Wonderland joins Richardson’s Wildflower! Slate in May

Award-winning Texas guitarist and singer Carolyn Wonderland will bring her signature blend of blues, soul and rock to Richardson this spring, performing at the Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Known for her dynamic guitar work, expressive songwriting and unmistakable Texas vocals, Wonderland has built a reputation as a fiercely independent artist



Courtesy photo

over a career that began when she was just 15. She has spent decades on the

road, honing a sound that blends grit, emotion and technical skill.

Throughout her career, Wonderland has shared the stage with a wide range of music legends, including Townes Van Zandt, Levon Helm, Buddy Guy, Hubert Sumlin, Bob Dylan and John Mayall. She also made history as the first female guitarist in Mayall’s renowned Blues Breakers, further cementing her place

in the blues world.

Her performance is scheduled at Galatyn Park Urban Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Showtime has yet to be announced.

On her 2025 Alligator Records album, *Truth Is*, Carolyn Wonderland, with her vividly detailed, instantly memorable songs, reflects on the world with honesty and righteous conviction. Wonderland’s bold and in-

sightful songs tell common-sense truths that, in her words, “need to be told.” They are driven by her sometimes savage and other times gently melodic guitar fingerpicking, along with her full-throated yet still vulnerable vocals. As for the album’s brutally honest subject matter, Wonderland says, “There’s always hope and we’re still here for each other, but at some point, you have to sing about the el-

ephant in the room.”

*Truth Is* was produced by legendary guitarist and songwriter Dave Alvin (producer of Wonderland’s *Alligator* debut, *Tempting Fate*), who also co-wrote four songs, three of which he plays on. Ticket prices for the Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival range from \$50 to \$225. While Sunday admission is free, attendees must reserve tickets online in advance.

## PLANO, from Page 6

everyday actions by residents play an important role in maintaining and building on this success.

Simple steps such as recycling, reducing water use, maintaining sprinkler

systems, using reusable materials and keeping litter out of storm drains all contribute to a healthier environment and stronger community.

“Plano’s LEED certifi-

cation demonstrates tremendous sustainability and climate leadership,” said Peter Templeton, president and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council. “LEED for Cities was created to help local governments advance responsible, sustain-

able solutions for energy, water, waste, transportation and many other factors that contribute to quality of life.

“Plano is a prime example of how leadership and accountability can accelerate progress toward sustainability and resilience

goals.”

Plano joins a global network of cities and communities using LEED to measure performance, set goals and improve outcomes for residents.

As the city looks ahead, Plano leaders vow

to continue expanding programs that support water conservation, environmental stewardship and community engagement, ensuring long-term benefits for residents, businesses and future generations.

## Study: GenAI Could Push Consumer Research Toward Generic, Biased Results

(Newswise) — Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is opening the door for more researchers to conduct consumer studies than ever before. But that same accessibility may push the field toward increasingly generic results—and ultimately disconnected from real human behavior.

A recent study warns that consumer research is on a trajectory shaped by three forces: democratization, the “average trap,” and model collapse. The work is authored by Distinguished University Professor and David Bruce Smith Chair in Marketing Roland Rust at the University of Mary-



DWG Studio

land’s Robert H. Smith School of Business and Ming-Hui Huang, Distinguished University Professor at National Taiwan University.

Rust also directs Smith’s Center for Excellence in Service, for which Huang is a Distinguished Research

Fellow.

They find that GenAI tools — from ChatGPT to OpenAI’s Operator — make it easier for anyone, including marginalized consumers, to generate data about product use. But the analysis of that data inherits the biases embedded in the

models themselves.

“It happens because people are biased, and so if you try to predict what people do based on the database, your predictions about them would be biased,” Rust says. “If the data are biased before you even start researching, then you don’t really have a chance.”

As more researchers rely on GenAI-generated insights, the models’ next-token prediction structure pushes results toward what is most statistically common. Huang notes that even simple prompts reveal this tendency: in the UK, the sky is more likely to be pre-

dicted as “gray,” while in Taiwan it is more likely to be “blue.” This popularity prediction leads to the average trap, with researchers coming to similar conclusions based on prevailing results from past studies.

The final stage, model collapse, emerges when GenAI begins generating synthetic data that researchers then analyze as if it were human-produced. “AI is starting to generate its own data and then analyze that,” Huang says. “It leads to model collapse, which is where the results of consumer research don’t look human-like at all.” The

predictions will lack human sense because GenAI does not think humanly; it is based on next-token prediction. “People don’t really realize the risk involved with that,” she adds.

To avoid this trajectory, Rust and Huang argue that consumer research must remain human-centric, intentionally preserving human differences rather than smoothing them out. They call for new methodologies that reinforce human relevance and help researchers detect when AI-generated insights are drifting toward bland, average or non-human patterns.

### LA, from Page 7

the summit as a pivotal moment in shaping long-term policy and programmatic responses. Abigail R. Marquez said the gathering builds on the city’s 2024 Poverty Report, shifting the focus from analysis to action.

“The Summit represents a critical turning point in how we confront poverty in Los Angeles,” Marquez said. “We are bringing together leaders not just to discuss the data, but to act on it.”

Discussions centered on policy reform, homelessness prevention, tenant protections and expanding access to living-wage jobs. As part of a broader restructuring effort, Mayor Bass has directed multiple agencies, including youth development and aging and workforce departments, to align under a unified Community Investment Department aimed at improving service delivery.

City leaders also high-

lighted recent efforts to expand affordability and prevent displacement.

Under Bass, Los Angeles has moved to accelerate affordable housing production through streamlined approvals, with more than 30,000 units currently in development. The city has also advanced plans to convert underused office buildings and hotels into housing.

Tenant protections have been strengthened through updates to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance—the first major revision in nearly four decades—now covering more than 600,000 rent-stabilized units.

Efforts to prevent homelessness have also expanded. Through coordinated eviction defense programs and FamilySource Centers, the city reports assisting 88,000 households, with nearly three-quarters achieving improved housing stability.

Officials pointed to economic initiatives as another pillar of the city’s strategy. Programs such as free tax preparation services have generated tens of millions of dollars in economic impact for low-income families, while targeted rental assistance and direct cash aid have supported seniors, people with disabilities and immigrant households.

Organizers said the summit reflects Los Angeles’ broader commitment to a comprehensive, cross-sector approach—one that combines housing, economic mobility and social services—to make the city more affordable and equitable in the years ahead.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the founder of Black Virginia News. She hosts the show LAUREN LIVE on YouTube @LaurenVictoriaBurke. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LV-Burke*



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# Junior Achievement of Dallas Celebrates Record-Breaking 2026 Dallas Business Hall of Fame

Junior Achievement of Dallas (JA Dallas) honored four distinguished business leaders at the 28th annual Dallas Business Hall of Fame on Saturday, March 28, at the Omni Dallas Hotel. The fundraising gala—presented by Ryan, LLC—recognized Susan Adzick, Phillip Huffines, Allen Nye and Steven Williams for their lasting contributions to the Dallas business community and region.

The event raised a record-breaking \$1.4 million in support of JA Dallas' mission to inspire and prepare young people for success in a global economy.

Dallas Cowboys Strength and Conditioning Coach Harold Nash served as emcee, kicking off the program by pondering aloud what exactly a Cowboys strength coach was doing hosting a celebration of Dallas business leaders—before drawing a convincing parallel between his work developing athletes and Junior Achievement's work preparing students for the real world. Nash set a high-energy tone that carried through the entire evening.

JaiMarie Bardwell, a senior at Irving High School, was named the 2026 Student of the Year and awarded the Sandi Smith Scholarship—a \$15,000 award to support her higher education journey. Selected from a competitive pool of applicants, Bardwell was recognized for her leadership, service and commitment to creating opportunity for others, including her mentorship of younger students through the JA High



Brad Newton/Grant Miller Photography

School Heroes program. Casey Melody, JA Dallas Vice President of Education, presented the award. Stephen Tigh, JA Dallas Board Chair, followed with a champagne toast before dinner.

When Chris LaTurno, president and CEO of Junior Achievement of Dallas, took the stage, he emphasized the lasting impact JA has on students' trajectories—and why the organization's hands-on approach is exactly what the future demands.

“Three in five JA alumni say they started or owned a business because of their JA experience—and 92 percent agree that as automation and AI change jobs and the economy, students who go through JA will be better prepared for the future,” said LaTurno. “Students are not just hearing about economics and personal finance—they are experiencing them.”

Auctioneer Scott Peterson followed with a competitive live auction featuring exclusive experiences, including trips to the Amal-

fi Coast, Sonoma Valley and Champagne, France, as well as a Texas Rangers package and a private dinner at Chamberlain's Steak and Fish.

The evening took an unforgettable turn during the live appeal, when Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott—in attendance at the invitation of his coach and mentor Harold Nash—took the stage and announced a personal gift of \$25,000 to Junior Achievement of Dallas.

“I am the man that I am, strictly because of the community that was around me when I grew up,” said Prescott. “It takes a village to raise somebody, and everyone in this room is a part of that community. So, I'm giving \$25,000 tonight—I challenge each and every one of you to give to the leaders of tomorrow.”

Prescott then tossed autographed footballs to guests making matching donations throughout the room.

JA Dallas students introduced each of the evening's four honorees.

Susan Adzick, president

of McLane Restaurant, leads one of the largest food service systems distribution companies in the country, with 45 distribution centers delivering to more than 34,000 restaurants. She has held executive roles at McLane and previously at PepsiCo Food Systems and has served on boards including the International Foodservice Distributors Association, National Restaurant Association and Women's Foodservice Forum. She has also been involved with the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas and the Dallas Arboretum Women's Council.

Phillip Huffines, co-founder and co-owner of Huffines Communities, has spent more than four decades transforming the North Texas landscape through real estate development. His firm has developed more than 20,000 single-family homesites and 2,500 multifamily units, generating billions in value and supporting regional growth. A dedicated mentor and philanthropist, he supports STEM educa-

tion and entrepreneurship through the Huffines Foundation and is a longtime JA Dallas board member—named the organization's Philanthropist of the Year in 2018.

Allen Nye, CEO of On-cor, leads Texas' largest electric delivery company, serving more than 13 million customers. Under his leadership since 2018, On-cor has emphasized safety, reliability and innovation while guiding the company through an era of rapid growth and modernization.

He is also active in civic and industry organizations supporting public service, economic development and education.

Steven Williams, executive vice president and vice chairman of PepsiCo,

leads global commercial strategy, stakeholder engagement and growth initiatives across one of the world's most recognized food and beverage companies. A PepsiCo veteran since 2001, he previously served as CEO of PepsiCo North America and serves on boards including State Farm, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and UT Southwestern

The Dallas Business Hall of Fame raises funds to help JA Dallas provide students across North Texas with hands-on learning experiences in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship—equipping them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become the next generation of leaders.

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- The Publisher

# If You're a Perfectionist at Work, Your Boss' Expectations May Matter More Than Your Own, Research Finds

(Newswise) — Workers perform better, have less burnout and experience greater job satisfaction when their standards for perfection match their supervisor's expectations, according to a University of Florida study.

If you're among the 93% of people who struggle with perfectionism at work, new research suggests that your experience may depend less on your own high standards and more on whether those standards meet your supervisor's expectations.

Researchers from the University of Florida Warrenton College of Business found that whether perfectionism helps or harms employees depends largely on whether employees' personal standards align with their supervisors' expectations. Specifically, they looked at the connection between employees'

self-oriented perfectionism, or the expectations of flawlessness they set for themselves, and supervisors' other-oriented perfectionism, which reflects the extent to which they set excessively high standards for and critically evaluate their employees' performance.

Using data from more than 350 employees and about 100 supervisors, the researchers found that perfectionism's impact depends on whether employees' standards align with what their supervisors expect and how clearly those expectations are understood.

When employees' personal standards are aligned with their supervisors' expectations, they tend to experience less role ambiguity, meaning they have less uncertainty about the expectations and standards for their role, why those

standards matter and the consequences of not meeting them. This clarity in their work is linked to better performance, lower burnout and higher job satisfaction.

"Problems between employees and their supervisors are more likely to arise when these expectations don't match," explained Brian Swider, Beth Ayers McCague Family Professor.

The most difficult situation occurs, Swider and his colleagues found, is when supervisors expect higher levels of perfectionism than employees expect from themselves. In these cases, employees reported greater uncertainty about their roles, along with worse work outcomes including higher burnout and lower job satisfaction.

"If you're an employee who struggles with perfec-

tionism at work, our findings suggest that understanding your supervisor's expectations may be just as important as managing your own tendencies towards perfectionism," Swider said. "Talking to your supervisor about priorities, standards and how your performance will be evaluated can help reduce uncertainty and ensure you both share a clear understanding of what success looks like."

The researchers have similar recommendations for employers: help your employees by clarifying expectations through regular feedback and performance conversations to reduce role ambiguity, as doing so can provide employees with a better understanding of role expectations and enhance mutual understanding of those standards. The researchers also

recommend that organizations should consider how employees and supervisors are paired, as mismatched

expectations can increase stress, reduce job satisfaction and ultimately impact performance.

## FILM, from Page 9

Why? Because there's no shortage of glam shots of the very photogenic Page. Shirt on. Shirt off. Smiling bright enough to light up the screen. His Bridgerton fans get all the Regé-Jean they can handle.

There's a weird part to Engle's script. Basically, the lead character is a con artist with little remorse. Unethical and hardly a role model. It's a bit unsettling. But her masquerade gives the movie its distinct verve. And along the way, the duplicitous interloper mends a family that's in great discord. Gabriella says, "You

are the key to bringing our family together." Also, Anna's secondary trait as a wannabe chef, trained but not a professional, adds a cuisine angle that's oh so perfect for Italy.

Halle Bailey has an accessible young woman quality and plays a habitual liar in the most charming way. Casting her instead of a supermodel makes this Anna very approachable. However, some may wonder what could have been if a comic actress was in the role. Someone with the comedic instinct of Tiffany Haddish or Me-

lissa McCarthy who knows how to milk the humor out of scenes. It's a thought. Meanwhile, Page, who's matinee idol handsome and very debonair, gives a performance that lacks depth and layering. Pecollo as the very saucy, twerking sister is hysterical. The rest of the supporting cast is vivacious

and very amped up, like they're on a TV show.

It's easy to ignore the flaws and just have a good time under the Tuscan sun. She loves him. She loves him not. She lies. She mends. She entertains.

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# Does Anybody Ever Grow up?

Dr. James L. Snyder

In a few months, I will celebrate another birthday. Interestingly, these birthdays come every year. This year, if I've kept up to date, I will celebrate my 75th birthday. I never expected to get this far along in life. I always thought 75 was old.

If I believe one of my old uncles, my 75th birthday amounts to  $7+5 = 12$ . So I will be 12 years old in a few months. I can't imagine what it's going to be like to be 12 once again. I guess I don't know the difference between 75 and 12. There may not be much of a difference.

As a youngster, my mother would often say in a very sarcastic tone, "Are you ever going to grow up?" Sometimes she would say, "Just grow up."

At the time, I didn't quite understand what she was saying. By the time I reached 6 foot, I began to



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realize that wasn't what she meant by growing up. Of course, I really don't know what she meant by that.

Looking back over the years of my life, I'm not quite sure what it means to grow up. I can't see anywhere in my life where I have actually grown up. Sure, I've gotten older, but I haven't grown up.

I'm not sure I work hard enough throughout my life to grow up. Of course, not knowing what growing up means, how do I know if I got there?

I spent some time reflect-

ing on my family and trying to figure out which one of them actually grew up. When I assumed one relative had grown up, they did something that completely destroyed the image I had of them.

What does growing up mean?

Getting older does not mean you're actually growing up. I know a lot of old people who certainly do not show any signs of having grown up. For example, look at some of the politicians at the White House. If they represent what grown

up is, then I do not want to grow up in any regard.

Back when I was in my teenage glory, I thought I knew everything. I thought I was smarter than my teachers, and of course, I was smarter than my parents at the time. I assumed that I had grown up back then. But as my life unfolded, I saw very clearly that I was nowhere near being grown up.

My resolution for my birthday this year will be to discover what it actu-

ally means to be grown up. After I study that subject, I may come to the conclusion that I really don't want to grow up.

Looking at the people around me and thinking they are grown-ups would make me want not to grow up, as far as that is concerned.

The only person I know who has honestly grown up is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. After all, that's why I married her. If she has grown up, then I

don't have to be grown up, which is the case all through these years of marital bliss.

Every once in a while, when I do something really stupid, she will reply to me and say, "Oh, why don't you just grow up."

Of course, if I knew what she meant by "grow up," I might do a little bit about it. But I'm enjoying life too much to stop and try to figure out what it means to grow up. After all, one

See SNYDER, Page 16

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# A Joseph Calling



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*“And he sent a man before them - Joseph, sold as a slave.” - Psalm 105:17*

God is doing a unique work around the world today. He is rising up Josephs throughout the world. Some are still in the “pit” stage of their pilgrimage, while others are heading toward fruitfulness.

What does it take for a person to become a true Joseph? It takes years of preparation and testing to be, “A True Joseph.” It takes what God is allowed to use. Read the Story of Joseph in Genesis, Chapters 38 through 46.

A true Joseph is one who is a provider both spiritually and materially for those in the Body of Christ. It is a person who understands that he is simply a manager of all that God has entrusted to him.

It is a person who has humility and a broken and contrite heart before God. But, how does God prepare modern-day Josephs?

Modern-day Josephs are prepared through their own trials. It is often through the adversities of life, visions, relationships and broken dreams.

These are the things that try people the most. These are the things God uses to allow the Josephs of our day to be proven by the Word of the Lord. Once proven, God brings them out of their prisons and



uses them mightily for His purposes.

Joseph went through his own trials - not because of any failure, but because of an incredible calling: to save and provide for an entire nation.

God had to prepare this man with 13 years of broken dreams and humble circumstances in order to break every ounce of pride

and self-will.

God could not afford to have a 30-year-old steeped in arrogance and pride running an entire nation.

The story of Joseph came to mind when my grand-

daughter Tyanna finally decided, after many urgings from her mom Sheila and others, to seriously consider taking a week of her summer to travel to Honduras on a church mission.

When Tyanna was a baby it was prophesized that she would do a great work for God. When she was in primary and elementary schools she learned Spanish.

And, at Hebron High School she is perfecting her Spanish and taking other courses to prepare her for college and beyond.

This summer God is given Tyanna the privilege,

honor and opportunity of joining her church, Freedom Life Church in Carrollton, Lead Pastor Kendall Bridges, the mission’s team trip to Honduras in the Kid’s Ark International program.

It is my belief that Tyanna is in the path that God is preparing for her to do a work for Him in the future.

Tyanna’s first trial, on Monday, April 11th, she was broadsided on the driver’s, side, she said that a big man snatched opened the door that was stuck and three ladies hugged her

**See TARPLEY, Page 16**

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# NDG Bookshelf: Books for Poetry Month by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

In life, there are times when you want some rhymes.

Short ones or long, alone by yourself or attached to a song, rhymes you read quietly or read out-loud, savored alone or enjoyed with a crowd. It's Poetry Month and you're on the look, so why not seek out one of these books?

Who are you and where did you come from? "Stages" by Tramaine Suubi (Amistad, \$19.99) gives you things to think about, including your inner life and what's going on outside it. Read it, and be educated.

Place matters a lot, and "Shade is a Place" by MaKshya Tolbert (Penguin



Terri Schlichenmeyer

Poets, \$20) is a book that considers Charlottesville, Virginia, in various ways. It invites readers to visit the "Black sense" of the city, to seek out natural parts of it, and to study the small, quiet places within. This book is perfect for vacation

or if you're thinking about travel.

If you are a new parent – or you're about to be – look for "They Bloom Because of You" by Jessica Urlichs (Putnam, \$19.00), a book about the ever-evolving process of becom-

ing a mother: the love, the despair, the strengths and sadness, and watching as a newborn becomes a toddler becomes a big-kid. This is a book you'll reach for many times over the years.

On that note, "This is Not a Small Voice" by Sonia Sanchez (Beacon Press, \$18.99) is a book that tackles a wide variety of topics: love and community, as well as activism and family. Readers will absolutely note the urgent power in these poems, and they might make you want to get out and do something.

If the Sanchez book is right up your alley, then you'll also want "We (The People of the United States)" by Joshua Bennett (Penguin Poets, \$20),

one long book-length poem that touches upon many aspects of American life over the last century or so. Black culture, scientific innovation, popular music, creativity, whatever made America good – and bad – is in this book. The semiquincentennial is coming soon, so read it now.

And finally, if you want to know more about poets, then look for "No More Worlds to Conquer: The Black Poet in Washington D.C." by Brian Gilmore (Georgetown University Press, \$29.95). In this book, you'll read about a thriving literary community that Gilmore says is often overlooked but that's just as vibrant as any other in Amer-

ica. Filled with interviews, it's deeply researched, and nicely comprehensive, making it a book you'll absolutely want to have next to your poetry collection. Tackle it in between reading poetry; you won't be sorry.

If these books are good but they're not enough, if you want other poems and rhyming stuff, if you've got some rhymes but you need more, then head to your library or local bookstore. The staffs there are good, they'll put books in your hands, they'll put rhymes in your head and they'll make you a fan. Or find these books, above, for their timing then sit down and read, and happy rhyming.

## TARPLEY, from Page 15

when she got out of the car and told her that every will be okay.

There was a policeman nearby who saw the accident; when Tyanna completed her talk with him she looked around to thank the man and three ladies and couldn't find them. God protected her and her Jeep

in that accident.

When Tyanna called her mom, Shelia, to tell her about the accident, she told her that approximately 30 minutes prior to the accident that God had given her the thought to pray for her. Tyanna didn't get a scratch and her car could be driven. This is how my awesome

God works!

Perhaps, Tyanna will meet other youth from different parts of the world that have a Joseph calling on their lives as well.

These youths will probably have humility of heart and a spirit unlike any others in our country. Each one will have his/her own Joseph story. Maybe it will change Tyanna's life and

her view of the world.

She might see firsthand a phenomenon that is going on throughout the world. I believe that God is rising up these youthful servants to prepare for a worldwide global harvest of souls by the awesome demonstration of God's power working today and in the future.

In preparation for this mission trip Tyanna has

setup a Go-Fund-Me page on Facebook to help. Please read her information and consider supporting her trip. Remember, it is only what you do for God's work that will last throughout eternity.

Tyanna is willing to allow God to use her gifts and talents that He has so graciously given her for His eternal Kingdom.

Look for Tyanna Lott on Facebook and allow God to lead and guide you in this effort. I thank you and appreciation your consideration.

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in 2016. Sister Tarpley passed away in May 2024. We keep her words alive in our print edition every week.)*

## SNYDER, from Page 14

grown up in a marriage is all that is needed. Since she is a grown-up, I don't have to worry about that at all.

This year, we will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. Throughout that time, I had never noticed that I had achieved any "grow up" status. All of that weighs on the shoulders of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She's the grown-up in this relationship, and I'm very happy

with that.

When you grow up, you lose a lot of fun times in your life. What is the purpose of that? I want to live life on the "Fun Train," and my understanding is that you can't ride it once you have grown up.

I have some friends that I've known for a very long time who think that they have grown up. According to what I see, because they have grown up, there are a

lot of things that they can no longer do, things that are fun in life. They have sacrificed fun activities for the sake of being grown-ups.

Whatever somebody accuses me of doing something stupid, my excuse is, "I'm just not grown up yet." That has gotten me out of many difficult situations.

When I'm ready, I'll surrender to being grown up. Until then, I'm going to enjoy all of the fun things in life. When I run out of steam for enjoying

these things, I will consider growing up.

As I was reflecting on this a Bible verse came to mind. 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and

for ever. Amen."

Honestly, I'm not sure what it means to "grow up", but my focus as a Christ is seen in this verse. I am to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." The most important growth is

my relationship with 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.*

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