



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Dallas Revival Conference Sparks New Vision for Black Churches

By Terry Allen  
NDG Special Contributor

More than 200 ministers, pastors, lay leaders, church advocates, nonprofit leaders, communications professionals and community influencers gathered in Dallas for the National Worship Revival Conference for Black Churches, a powerful multi-day experience designed to strengthen, reimagine and revitalize the Black Church in America.

Hosted by the and conference partners, the event brought together nationally respected faith leaders, scholars and ministry innovators. Their sessions inspired standing ovations, emotional responses and renewed calls to action throughout the gathering. The conference featured dynamic presentations and workshops from top-tier speakers including Rev. Rudy Rasmus and other respected voices committed to the future of Black worship, ministry leadership, social justice and congregational growth. Conference



Rev. Cynthia Wilson hosts a music workshop during the National Worship Revival Conference, which brought more than 200 religious leaders to Dallas to address the future of the Black Church in America. (Hasan Diggs)

organizers said the revival gathering was intentionally designed to move beyond traditional church conferences and become a strategic space where ministry, mission, worship, communications and community impact converge.

"This conference proved that the Black Church remains one of the

most transformative institutions in America when it is united around purpose, innovation and service," said Rev. Richie Butler. Ron Carter, The Carter Agency, Los Angeles.

One of the conference's most talked-about sessions came from Rev.

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### People In The News ...



Rachele Hendricks-Sturup



Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown

NDG Quote of the Week:

"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated"  
- Maya Angelou



### A Wicked Good Time at Fair Park

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### Sister Tarpley: Fight the Right Foe

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## Rachele Hendricks-Sturrup

(Newswise) — JMIR Publications announces Rachele Hendricks-Sturrup, DHS, MSc, MA, FACTS, as the new lead editor for the Journal of Medical Internet Research. The lead editor is instrumental in advancing the journal through strategic leadership grounded in scientific expertise. With experience in biomedical research, bioethics, and policy, Dr Hendricks-Sturrup will be leading a diverse editorial board of editors and advisors, and working alongside the journal's editor in chief and staff.

"For a long time, I have witnessed and remain deeply impressed by the Journal of Medical Internet



JMIR Publications

Research's ability to attract high-quality research, disseminated by both early-stage and seasoned researchers and research communities across the globe. Therefore, it is an honor to join the Journal of Medical Internet Research as lead editor, working alongside its powerhouse team," said

Dr Hendricks-Sturrup. "Together, we will continue JMIR Publications' mission to engage a strong and multidisciplinary group of editors and editorial board members, support authors and reviewers who aspire to publish high-quality work, and engage readers in thought-provoking content that advances science as a whole."

Dr Hendricks-Sturrup's distinguished career includes her role as research director of Real-World Evidence (RWE) at the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy, Duke University, where she concentrates on critical areas in health policy, including biomedical innovation, regulatory matters, implemen-

tation science, and clinical and translational science. Before her tenure at Duke-Margolis, she served as health policy counsel and lead at the Future of Privacy Forum (FPF), leading impactful initiatives focused on health and genetic data. Dr Hendricks-Sturrup holds a doctor of health science degree and developed her expertise through postdoctoral research training at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute and Harvard Medical School. Her commitment to the field is further recognized by her selection for the inaugural 2026 Fellows of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS)

cohort.

"Dr Hendricks-Sturrup is a proven leader in strategic projects with real-world impact. She is a strong believer in advancing scientific knowledge and discovery through open access publishing and research dissemination," said Tiffany I Leung, MD, MPH, FACP, FAMIA, FEFIM, scientific editorial director, JMIR Publications. "The Journal of Medical Internet Research is a highly recognized and ranked journal in the fields of eHealth, health informatics, and technology-enabled services for health and well-being. We look forward to what comes next with Dr Hendricks-

Sturrup as our new lead editor."

Rachele Hendricks-Sturrup, DHS, MSc, MA, FACTS, is an internationally recognized engagement expert, biomedical researcher, bioethicist, and policy practitioner who presently serves as the research director of Real-World Evidence (RWE) at the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy in Washington, DC.

Before joining Duke-Margolis, she served as health policy counsel and lead at the Future of Privacy Forum (FPF), leading the organization's health and genetic data initiatives and work group.

## Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown

The NAACP announces that Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, longtime civil rights leader, pastor, and tireless advocate for justice, will be honored with the 111th Spingarn Medal this July at the 117th NAACP National Convention in Chicago, recognizing his extraordinary contributions to civil rights, social justice and leadership over more than six decades.

Instituted in 1914 by Joel E. Spingarn, the Spingarn Medal is awarded annually to an African American whose achievements reflect the highest levels of excellence across honorable fields. First presented in 1915 to biologist Ernest Everett Just, the medal has recognized individuals whose work has shaped the nation and the world. Rev. Dr. Brown joins a distinguished list of honorees whose work has advanced the cause of freedom and equality, including Rosa



NAACP

Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Toni Morrison, Vice President Kamala Harris, Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, Congressman James E. Clyburn, Misty Copeland, Maya Angelou and Thurgood Marshall.

A contemporary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, Rev. Dr. Brown has dedicated his life to confronting injustice and expanding opportunity. From his early work as a Freedom Rider to his leadership in organizing voter registration efforts across the South, Rev. Dr.

Brown has carried forward a lifelong commitment to nonviolent resistance and community empowerment.

For nearly 50 years, Rev. Dr. Brown served as pastor of Third Baptist Church of San Francisco, extending his ministry beyond the pulpit through advocacy for economic justice, educational equity, criminal justice reform and global human rights. His influence spans local, national and international efforts, including advocacy against apartheid, interfaith coalition-building and ongoing work to address systemic inequities affecting Black communities.

"Rev. Dr. Amos Brown represents the NAACP tradition of service, leadership and sacrifice," said Leon W. Russell, chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors. "He has stood at the forefront of the fight for justice, bringing clarity, courage and conviction to

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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.

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By Portia Wood  
Special to the AFRO

I'm a lawyer. I'm not going to tell you there are easy answers here, because there aren't. What happened on April 29, when the Supreme Court nullified the last enforcement tool of the Voting Rights Act, was a significant loss. Pretending otherwise doesn't help anyone. What I can tell you is what exists, what's already in motion, and what each of us can do that actually matters.

### The federal path is largely closed — for now

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would restore the preclearance requirement gutted by Shelby County in 2013, using a modernized coverage formula built on current evidence of discrimination rather than data from the 1960s. It has passed the House. It has never passed the Senate. The filibuster and the current Senate composition have blocked it for years, and there is no realistic path to passage in the near term without either filibuster reform or a change in Senate control.

That could change. It needs to change. Every Senate race in a competitive state is part of the answer. But we have to be honest about where we are at this moment, and building false hope around a federal legislative fix that doesn't exist yet doesn't help the people whose districts are being redrawn right now.

### State courts and state constitutions

Several state constitutions have voting rights

## What We Do Now

provisions that are stronger than federal law as it currently stands. Litigation in state courts, under state constitutional provisions, is now the primary legal battlefield — and it's a harder one. State-by-state, jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction, more expensive and more dependent on the composition of state judiciaries. But it's real, and it's where the legal fight is moving.

The organizations leading that fight need resources. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under

states that are racing to redraw maps right now — Florida passing new maps the same day as the ruling, Louisiana cancelling its primary, five states calling special sessions in 48 hours — are doing all of this because Black political participation is a threat to them. They wouldn't be moving this fast if it didn't matter.

Former President Obama, responding to the Callais ruling, said that setbacks like this "can be overcome" at the ballot box — but only "if citizens across the coun-

now where we can only defend the laws of the past, and a new approach is needed."

That new approach is going to take organizing at the state level — state legislative races, state supreme court races, state attorney general races. These offices now matter more than they ever have.

### What this generation has to build

The VRA wasn't passed by people who expected the institutions to save them. It was passed because people organized at the local level for years, marched in the face of violence, and refused to accept the argument that the law was working fine when they could see it wasn't. The federal protection the VRA created was won through sustained, unglamorous, dangerous organizing work that spanned decades before it produced a single piece of legislation.

That kind of organizing is what's needed now — at the state level, in state legislative chambers, in judicial elections, in the precinct and county infrastructure that determines who gets to vote and how easy it is. None of this is fast. None of it is easy. All of it matters.

ASALH's statement got exactly right: "This is not a time for silence, not a moment for resting or for being still; this is a moment to act."

And, a line from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King still holds: "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle."

*"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle."*

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Law, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, and Democracy Docket are already in courtrooms and already filing. The LDF filed an emergency brief in Louisiana within days of Callais. The ACLU filed its challenge to Landry's election suspension on May 2. These organizations are not waiting. They are fighting right now, with the tools that remain, and they need sustained financial support to keep doing it.

Voter suppression works by discouraging participation. It does not work when people refuse to be discouraged.

### The ballot box itself

This is still real. The

try who cherish our democratic ideals continue to mobilize and vote in record numbers in every election, not just the upcoming midterms."

He's right. It's harder than it sounds. Voter suppression is specifically designed to make it harder. But the math is still real: more Black voters showing up, in more elections at every level — federal, state, local, judicial — narrows the margin by which these maps can do their intended work.

Damon Hewitt, of the Lawyers' Committee, was honest with the AFRO about the scale of the challenge: "It's a Herculean task. We're in a time right

Keep up with the news

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# One Thousand More Steps: A Simple Prescription for Surgical Recovery

(Newswise) — CHICAGO — Researchers analyzing data from the National Institutes of Health's All of Us Research Program have found that a patient's step count following surgery is a powerful, objective predictor of recovery, outperforming other metrics such as heart rate variability and self-reported wellness. The study is published in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)*.

For every additional 1,000 steps a patient took per day after surgery, length of stay, risk of complications, and likelihood of readmission all decreased. This association stayed true across different types of procedures and patient health statuses.

"We tell patients that



DWG Studio

they need to get up and walk after an operation, but we don't have a good sense of how much they're actually moving," said Timothy M. Pawlik, MD, PhD, MPH, MTS, MBA, FACS, senior author of the study and professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio. "Wearables give us an objective,

continuous readout. Instead of asking how you feel, we can see that you're up and moving, which is a very actionable signal of how your recovery is progressing."

## Study Results

- After adjusting for factors like age, sex, and surgical risk, each additional 1,000 steps per day in the postoperative period was associated with a 6% reduction in length of stay, as

well as lower odds of 30-day and 90-day complications.

- Postoperative changes in heart rate variability and self-reported "wellness" scores (using the SPADE composite) were not independently associated with length of stay, complications, or readmissions.

- Incremental increases in daily steps were also associated with lower odds of 30-day and 90-day hospital readmissions.

The study, which included 1,965 adult patients undergoing inpatient surgery, leveraged the All of Us database, a unique resource that links electronic health records with data from wearable devices. This allowed researchers to analyze objective preoperative and postoperative

data alongside clinical outcomes.

"It's a bit of a chicken-and-egg situation," Dr. Pawlik said. "People who feel better are naturally more likely to be up and around. However, the signal is so strong that it suggests step count is not just a marker of wellness, but a key component of it. Seeing a patient's step count drop can be an early indicator to intervene, perhaps by involving physical therapy or checking in more frequently."

The findings align with a 2023 study presented at the ACS Clinical Congress, which found that patients who took more than 7,500 steps per day before surgery had a 51% lower risk of postoperative complications.

Dr. Pawlik noted that integrating this data into care pathways could empower patients and clinicians. "If a patient's goal is 8,000 steps before surgery and 6,000 on postoperative day three, they can see if they're hitting those targets," he said. "It gives them a concrete goal and gives us objective data to help decide if they're ready for discharge or if they need more support at home."

He also said that all exercise plans should be discussed with a provider and that the number of steps any individual takes each day should be considered in light of other health issues.

*Co-authors are Abdulaziz Elemosho, MD; Odysseas P. Chatzipanagiotou, MD; and Meher Angez, MD.*

# Misinformation Puts Over 16 Million Americans at Increased Risk for Skin Cancer

(Newswise) — ROSEMONT, Ill. — The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) today released results from its annual Practice Safe Sun Survey, revealing many Americans still engage in risky sun behaviors driven by misinformation, social media, and persistent tanning myths despite their concerns about the long term aging effects of sun exposure. In recognition of Skin Cancer Awareness Month (May) and Melanoma Monday® on May 4, the AAD is encouraging the public to practice safe sun to reduce their risk of skin cancer.

The survey underscores a perception gap between what Americans understand to be safe sun practices and the reality of good habits. This leads to a difference between aware-

ness and action in protecting our skin from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

- While 57% of Americans regularly use sunscreen and more Americans report taking steps to protect their skin, one-third said they got a sunburn in the past year.

- Nearly half of Americans score a "C" or lower on AAD's sun safety quiz, which assesses knowledge related to sun protection, despite 67% rating their own habits as "good" or "excellent." Among Gen Z (ages 18-29), one-third received a D or F.

## Misinformation Online Influences Sun Protection Decisions

Survey data reveal that misleading information online is a key driver of sun safety decision making, with more than 16 million

adults reporting reducing or stopping sunscreen use because of online claims. This influence is especially pronounced among younger audiences:

- While 21% of Americans rely on Instagram or TikTok influencers for skincare advice, 36% of Gen Z name influencers from these platforms as their primary source.

- Nearly half of all Americans, and 64% of Gen Z, report encountering sunscreen misinformation online.

"While it's encouraging that over half of Americans are using sunscreen, young people and adults are navigating an overwhelming amount of conflicting information about sun protection," said AAD President and board-certified dermatologist Murad

Alam, MD, MSCI, MBA, FAAD. "Misinformation reinforces harmful tanning myths, leading people to underestimate the risks of UV light exposure and ignore protective measures. It's important to evaluate the source of medical information and make informed skincare decisions by seeking advice from a board-certified dermatologist. The reality is that window glass cannot stop harmful rays, and no amount of sun exposure is necessary or completely safe."

## Tanning Myths Remain Pervasive

One persistent myth is that a tan is harmless or healthy. Any tan is a sign of UV damage, which can increase skin cancer risk and accelerate premature aging. In fact, at least one in five Americans will devel-

op skin cancer in their lifetime. Despite these risks, over 160 million American adults got a suntan in 2025, with nearly 60 million doing so intentionally, often driven by appearance ideals and false information.

- 83% of all adults say sun exposure gives them a "healthy-looking glow," and 55% believe tanned skin looks healthier.

- More than half (52%) believe at least one tanning myth, including that tanning is safe if you don't burn (29%) or that a base tan can prevent sunburn or reduce cancer risk (19%).

"There is no such thing as a safe tan. Every time you tan or burn, you are also damaging the DNA in your skin and the more damage, the greater your risk of skin cancer," added Dr. Alam. "There is a dis-

connect driving high rates of sunburn, with consequences that go far beyond just temporary discomfort. Sunburns cause pain and embarrassment in the short term, and over time they make the skin look wrinkled, spotted, and old, while also dramatically increasing the risk of skin cancer."

## Knowledge Gaps About Long Term Skin Protection Persist

Concern about long-term skin health is evident as more Americans see the effects of sun exposure:

- Half of adults (50%) worry about premature skin aging, and 43% are already seeing damage like wrinkles or dark spots.

- Looking back, 70% wish they had done more

**See CANCER, Page 13**

## Oak Cliff Community Leaders, Schools and Businesses Unite to Honor Police Officers

Community members, students, educators, local businesses and police officers came together Tuesday morning in Oak Cliff for a Community Appreciation Breakfast held behind Levines Uniforms Headquarters on Jefferson Boulevard.

The breakfast brought together people from across the community for a morn-

ing focused on appreciation, support and connection. Officers spent time with residents, business owners, school representatives and families as the Oak Cliff community came together to thank them for their service.

The event was organized with the support of local businesses, schools, restaurants and community part-

ners from across Oak Cliff, all working together to create a positive and welcoming event for the officers in attendance.

The event was supported by a wide group of Oak Cliff businesses, schools and community partners, including Levines Uniforms Headquarters, Cinema Dental, La Calle Doce, Las Ranitas, Al Chile, A Sweet

Bitee, U.S. Plumbing, Taxco Produce, Trove, W. E. Greiner Exploratory Arts Academy, Héctor P. García Middle School, W. H. Adamson High School, Moisés E. Molina High School, Sunset High School, John F. Peeler Elementary School, Felix G. Botello Personalized Learning Elementary and George Peabody Elementary School.



Courtesy photo

## MPAC Responds to Second 'Sharia-Free' Hearing Held by Rep. Chip Roy

*Hearing held amidst an 11-fold increase in threats and attacks on Muslims in first three months of 2026*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The second hearing for the Sharia-Free America - Why Political Islam & Sharia Law are Incompatible with the U.S. Constitution: Part II took place today on Capitol Hill in another attempt to further a manufactured narrative casting suspicion onto American Muslims, their civic participation, and religious expression as a legitimate threat to the Constitution.

The hearing featured testimony from Amy "Mek" Meikelburg, self-described anti-Muslim activist and Founder of RAIR Foundation USA; Ammon Blair, Army Veteran and Senior Policy Fellow at Texas Public Policy Foundation; Marco Hunter-Lopez, Student at Wylie East High

School; and Amanda Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Throughout the hearing, witnesses and Republican lawmakers repeatedly framed Islam and "Sharia" as inherently incompatible with the Constitution despite providing no evidence of any legal effort by American Muslims to impose Islamic Law or supersede civil law in the United States.

Testimony included inflammatory statements where Amy Mek claimed that "Islam is a hostile totalitarian political ideology", asserting that the growth of mosques in American communities constitutes evidence of "Sharia overtaking America."

Though witnesses re-

peatedly clarified during questioning that they were not experts in Islamic theology, testimony throughout the hearing still tied extremist violence to Islamic doctrine in an absolutist sense, without the contextualization of the political climate or separating the overwhelming majority of Muslims from bad-faith actors.

In an exchange between Rep. Jayapal and Tyler, it was confirmed that there is no legislation to adopt Sharia in the U.S., no requirement for Muslims to violate the Constitution, no courts replacing American law with Sharia, and no indication in polls that "Sharia" ranks among Americans' top concerns.

The Muslim Public Af-

fairs Council asserts that this hearing serves as a diversion of public attention from the actual issues affecting Americans nationwide as a result of their administration, whether that be the constitutionality of the War in Iran, affordability, economic insecurity, and public safety, cited by both Representatives Raskin and Jayapal.

"There is a profound irony, as we see actual constitutional violations unfold

in plain sight by this administration, whether it be ICE or crusade rhetoric in federal agencies, while fingers continue to be pointed at the one percent of the population least responsible for them," said Haris Tarin, MPAC Vice President of Policy & Programming.

The rhetoric is not without consequence. According to our own data from the Center of Security, Technology, & Policy, anti-Muslim threats and attacks

increased elevenfold in March alone compared to January 2026, trends alluded to by Congresswoman Mary Scanlon in questioning.

Moreover, the contradiction at the center of this hearing is evident. Some of the leading lawmakers and witnesses warned of a threatening religious imposition by American Muslims, yet pointed ap-

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## REVIVAL, from Page 1

Rudy Rasmus, nationally known as the longtime pastor to Beyoncé, the Knowles family and countless artists, activists and community leaders. His message on inclusion, outreach and authentic ministry received multiple ovations and resonated deeply with attendees seeking new pathways for

engagement and relevance within their congregations.

Conference participant Sharon Spratt said the experience exceeded expectations.

"Every session I attended was powerful," said Spratt. "But my final workshop with Dr. Regina Moore, Mission Matters,

truly shifted my thinking. It challenged me to revisit the mission statement messaging for our church and ask whether we are fully communicating who we are called to serve and why our mission matters."

For more information about the National Worship Revival Conference for Black Churches, visit sbc21.org.

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# Parrish Announces \$50,000 Endowed Scholarship at UNT Dallas

The University of North Texas at Dallas (UNT Dallas) today announced the establishment of a new \$50,000 endowed scholarship, made possible through a generous gift from the Parrish Charitable Foundation, the family philanthropy founded by celebrated entrepreneur and longtime education advocate Roland G. Parrish, Chief Executive Officer of Parrish Restaurants, Ltd. Parrish, who operates one of the largest McDonald's franchise organizations in the U.S., unveiled the gift during UNT Dallas's 2026 Commencement ceremonies at the Texas Trust CU Theater in Grand Prairie, where the University also conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The Parrish Charitable Foundation Endowed Scholarship will provide need- and merit-based support to UNT Dallas students in perpetuity, with a focus



*Roland G. Parrish addresses students at the commencement where he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of North Texas at Dallas. (UNT Dallas)*

on first-generation college students and students from historically underserved communities across North Texas. As an endowed gift, the principal will be invested and managed by the University, with annual earnings used to fund scholarships every year, creating a lasting source of opportunity for generations of UNT Dallas Trailblazers.

The announcement marks a tenfold increase over Parrish's previous gift to UNT Dallas. When he

addressed graduates as the commencement speaker in 2017, he surprised the University with a \$5,000 contribution. Nearly a decade later, his return to the commencement stage brought a \$50,000 endowed commitment — a sustained and deepening investment in the success of UNT Dallas students. Parrish further pledged to contribute to the endowment on an annual basis going forward, ensuring the fund continues to grow and serves UNT Dal-

las students for many years to come.

Parrish Restaurants has been named the #1 Black owned Business in North Texas for six years in a row. Parrish is the second-largest African American McDonald's franchisee in the nation. Currently, Parrish operates 25 McDonald's franchise stores; at one time he operated as many as 27.

Addressing the Class of 2026 from the commencement stage, Parrish challenged graduates to keep learning, stay disciplined, and lead with humility — and reminded them that their degrees had positioned them for lifelong economic mobility.

Closing his remarks with words from a poem, Mr. Parrish left graduates with a final charge: "Life is yours. Live it. Love it. Take it."

In conferring the degree, the University recognized Mr. Parrish's extraordinary entrepreneurship, unwaver-

ing commitment to education and opportunity, and lifetime of service to the people of Dallas and beyond. "We share the same values. Yours are ours, and ours are yours," said UNT Dallas President Warren von Eschenbach during the conferral. "UNT Dallas exists to open doors of opportunity for students who might not otherwise have them — to serve the communities of southern Dallas and to prepare the next generation of leaders and changemakers. In that mission, we could not ask for a more fitting embodiment than the man standing before us today." With those words, President von Eschenbach welcomed Dr. Roland Glynn Parrish as a Trailblazer.

President von Eschenbach hailed the gift as a milestone moment for the institution's growing scholarship endowment.

The scholarship builds upon another recent an-

nouncement aimed at supporting future UNT Dallas Trailblazers. On May 1, the University launched the Trailblazer Tuition Trust program offering free tuition and mandatory fees to prospective UNT Dallas students whose family income is less than \$100,000 and who meet eligibility requirements. The program is targeted at Texas high school graduates who plan to enroll for their bachelor's degree in the fall of 2026.

State Senator Royce West, who also addressed graduates, said the new endowed scholarship embodies Parrish's philosophy of giving back to the community in which he lives and operates his restaurants.

"The generosity Roland Parrish demonstrates with this scholarship is yet another example of his continued commitment to the southern Dallas communi-

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## **BROWN**, from Page 2

some of the most important civil rights struggles of our time. It is an honor to recognize his life's work with the Spingarn Medal."

As part of his lifelong civil rights work, Rev. Dr. Brown has invested deeply in future generations through the Dr. Amos C. Brown Fellowship, supporting students in their pursuit of education, leadership and social justice movements. Brown served as vice chair of the California Reparations Commission and the local San Francisco Reparations Commission, which resulted in apologies from the

state and local reparations commissions.

In 1991, he united all major Black Baptist conventions and testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposition to Clarence Thomas' appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the Spingarn Medal," said Rev. Dr. Amos Brown. "This recognition reflects the collective work and shared commitment of those who continue to stand for justice, equality, and human dignity."

Rev. Dr. Frederick

Haynes III, Brown's longtime friend, spiritual son and mentee for social justice and world peace, will present the medal to Rev. Dr. Brown at the Spingarn Award dinner on Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m.

Between July 18-22, the NAACP 117th National Convention is expected to convene thousands of activists and leaders to advance civil rights under the theme "We, the People" and mobilize action for equity and justice as the nation nears its 250th anniversary. To learn more, register for the Convention and view the latest schedule, visit [naacp.org/convention](http://naacp.org/convention).

### Policy of Non-Discrimination Wisdom and Truth from The Storehouse, Incorporated

Wisdom and Truth from The Storehouse, Incorporated places emphasis on the dignity and worth of all people while valuing everyone. As we preserve the integrity of our beliefs, **Wisdom and Truth from The Storehouse, Incorporated** is committed to welcoming membership and participation in our religious practices regardless of race, color, and national origin.

According to Galatians 3:28 – "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

# Garland Ramps Up for Downtown Juneteenth Celebration

Garland will mark Juneteenth with an evening of music, art, food and historical reflection as the city celebrates freedom, culture and community on Saturday, June 20.

The free event runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Downtown Garland Square. Organizers expect a family-friendly crowd drawn by live performances, vendor booths, children's activities and cultural exhibits. A special dedication ceremony begins the day's events at 4:30 p.m. at The Atrium, 300 N. Fifth St.

The Flats Mosaic Dedication honors Garland's original free-standing African American community, known as The Flats. The 36-foot mosaic installation preserves stories of the neighborhood's early 20th-century schools, churches, businesses and families. Following the ceremony,



the Unfaded Brass Band will lead a procession down Fifth Street to the square, evoking traditional second-line jazz traditions.

The celebration commemorates June 19, 1865, when enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation — more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. In Garland, the event blends historical remembrance with vibrant cultural expression through

music, art and shared experiences.

Headlining the entertainment is the Don Diego Band, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The Dallas-Fort Worth-based five-piece group, led by nationally recognized artist Don Diego, features male and female vocals along with saxophone, keys, guitar, bass and drums. Their set spans Billboard hits, Top 40, R&B, jazz and old-school favorites.

DJ Raspy will spin



Visit Garland (2)

throughout the evening, closing her set around 7:15 p.m. with line dancing open to all ages. Local food trucks, artisan vendors and businesses will offer a variety of flavors and goods. Attendees can also explore cultural displays and exhibits highlighting Juneteenth's significance.

The City of Garland will present its 2026 Juneteenth Ambassador Award to Sims Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, recognized as the oldest African American

church in the city. Founded in 1915 with nine members, the church served as a spiritual home, educational center and community anchor during segregation and beyond. It hosted one of Garland's earliest schools for Black children and continues to embody resilience and service.

The Garland Landmark Museum will feature its exhibit "A Series of Firsts: Garland's Black Community Leaders," with new recognition this year for Sims

Chapel. A 2D art exhibition by North Texas artists inspired by Juneteenth will be on display during the event and later at Epiphany Gallery. Organizers have also invited entries for a Tea Cake Competition, judged on texture, sweetness, presentation and the traditional "snap."

City officials encourage participation from residents and visitors alike. ADA parking will be available in the garage behind Garland City Hall, with golf cart shuttles offered for convenience.

The Garland Juneteenth Celebration aims to foster unity while educating younger generations about the holiday's importance. As one of the city's signature annual events, it highlights the contributions of Black residents to Garland's history and ongoing community fabric.

## EmpowerED Outreach Announces Free Juneteenth Freedom Fest in Fate

After more than a year of planning and seeking approval, EmpowerED Outreach is proud to announce that Juneteenth Freedom Fest has officially been approved by the City of Fate and will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CST at Robert Smith Family Park in Fate, Texas.

The event is free and open to the public. Families, residents, local businesses, community partners, and supporters are invited to come together for a meaningful celebration honoring freedom, culture, history, unity, and community connection.

Juneteenth Freedom Fest is designed to be a family-friendly celebration that creates space for education, reflection, joy, and togetherness.

The event will highlight the importance of remembering history while also bringing the Rockwall community together in a positive and welcoming environment.

"Juneteenth is more than a date on the calendar. It is a reminder of freedom, resilience, and the importance of community," said a representative of EmpowerED Outreach. "After working to get this event approved since last year, we are

grateful for the opportunity to bring this celebration to Rockwall and create something meaningful for families and residents."

The event will include opportunities for community engagement, family activities, local participation, and cultural celebration. Organizers are currently seeking sponsors, volunteers, and community partners to help make the event a success.

Some remaining sponsorship are still needed to support event-related expenses, including supplies, setup needs, outreach, activities, and other festival costs.

Local businesses, churches, civic groups, and individuals are encouraged to contribute through sponsorships or in-kind donations.

Sponsors will receive recognition through event promotions, social media, printed materials, and public acknowledgment during the celebration.

EmpowerED Outreach is a community-centered organization committed to empowerment, healing, education, and connection.

Through outreach, programs, and community events, EmpowerED Outreach works to create spaces where individuals

and families feel supported, valued, and encouraged to move forward.

For more information about Juneteenth Freedom Fest, sponsorship oppor-

tunities, participation, or volunteer opportunities, contact EmpowerED Outreach at 430-444-2831 or empowermentproject24@gmail.com.



# Mavericks Could Find Hidden Gem with Ninth Overall Pick

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Sportswriter

The basketball gods gave the Dallas Mavericks a gift in the 2025 NBA Draft Lottery by winning the No. 1 overall pick with just a 1.8 percent chance. One year later, reality set back in as the Mavericks fell from No. 8 to No. 9 in the 2026 NBA Draft Lottery in Chicago.

In a draft loaded with talent, Dallas will still have a chance to add a high-quality prospect to build around with 2025 NBA Rookie of the Year Cooper Flagg.

Rolando Blackman, a Dallas Mavericks legend and the franchise's former No. 9 overall pick in 1981, served as Dallas' lottery



NDG Composite

representative and shared his thoughts on the selection slot.

"We wanted No. 1, of course," said Blackman. "We wanted to have the same situation (as last year) again.

"But when you talk about a deep draft the way it is right now—and also the No. 9 pick—I was No. 9, so I can't drag down the No. 9 pick."

The Mavericks have also owned the No. 9 overall pick three other times in franchise history, selecting Dale Ellis in 1983, Samaki Walker in 1996 and Dennis Smith Jr. in 2017.

New general manager Mike Schmitz, who was hired last Friday, feels good about Dallas' chances to get an impact player at their current draft spot.

"I'm just excited for the

opportunity," Schmitz said. "You look every year at pre-drafts and there's always the thinking of consensus, but the reality is there's players who end up being All-Star caliber guys or even better that don't go in the top two, three, four, five.

"I feel really confident that we're going to be able to get a high-level player at nine, and I'm excited to get the process going."

Two prospects in particular the Mavericks should hope fall in their lap at No. 9 are freshman point guards Kingston Flemings from the University of Houston and Mikel Brown Jr. out of the University of Louisville.

Flemings is an explosive

guard with elite basketball IQ and thrives as an offensive initiator. He averaged 16.1 points and 5.2 assists while shooting 47.6 percent from the field and 38.7 percent from beyond the arc.

Brown Jr. has the potential to be the purest point guard in this class while also being one of the most dynamic scorers. In pick and roll situations he displays a maestro-like ability as a playmaker and bucket-getter. Brown Jr. averaged 18.2 points, 3.3 rebounds and 4.7 assists last season for the Cardinals.

Both Flemings and Brown Jr. would serve as ideal building blocks to pair alongside Flagg and push the organization closer to returning back to con-

tender status.

"He's so versatile," Schmitz said. "I think that's the beauty of Cooper. He can play with the ball, he can play without the ball, he's got such a high IQ, and he defends multiple positions at a high level.

"I think there are a multitude of different players that can fit with that style, and I think that allows us to be really creative with different lineups we can put around him and different targets that we can look to add in the draft, in free agency and in trades."

The 2026 NBA Draft is set for June 23-24 in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Dallas will look to add key pieces for the franchise's future.

## Dallas Arboretum Set to Host 6th Annual Black Heritage Celebration

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden will host its sixth annual Black Heritage Celebration on Saturday, May 16, 2026, transforming the 66-acre garden into a day-long cultural venue with two distinct experiences: a daytime market and runway show, followed by an evening concert series, all set among the blockbuster exhibition Hunt Slonem: Bunnies, Birds & Butterflies.

The Arboretum has built the day to serve two audiences. The Sun & Style Celebration runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a vendor market featuring more than 20 Black-owned businesses and a 1 p.m. fashion show produced by Willie Johnson and scored by a live performance from Dallas-based RC & The Gritz. Daytime programming is included with general gar-



Courtesy photo

den admission.

The Twilight Noir Celebration runs 6 to 10 p.m. with a second vendor market and live performances by LaRon Hearst, Kelvin Thomas-Edebe, and a return set from RC & The Gritz. Evening tickets are sold separately.

The celebration is presented in partnership with Bank of America, the South Dallas Cultural Cen-

ter, and Litehouse Wellness, anchoring the program in organizations with deep community standing.

"At Bank of America, we believe arts and culture are essential to vibrant, thriving communities, as exemplified by the Dallas Arboretum's Black Heritage Celebration. Events like this make culture accessible, celebrating Black heritage and providing a

platform for local artists, entrepreneurs, and creators," said Jennifer Chandler, president, Bank of America Dallas. "Through our partnership, we are honored to help preserve and elevate the stories, traditions, and voices that make Dallas a stronger, more connected city."

The vendor market reflects that intent. Participating businesses span

food, fashion, beauty, art, and lifestyle goods, including Coffee Bae, Parchware Handcrafted Gourmet Cookies, Just Good Cajun, Tammye's Fashion Haus, Eye Do Eyewear, Pieces of Us By Us, Puzzles of Color, and Round House Paper, among others. The full vendor roster is available at [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org).

The fashion show, staged in the main garden, features designs from market vendors set to a live RC & The Gritz score. The Dallas-based band, known for its long-running residency and collaborations with Erykah Badu and other Dallas artists, has performed at venues from the Kessler Theater to South by Southwest.

The evening lineup brings vocalists LaRon Hearst and Kelvin Thomas-Edebe to the stage alongside the band's sec-

ond set, extending the day's programming into a full concert

"In its sixth year, the Black Heritage Celebration continues to grow as one of our most dynamic and meaningful events, bringing together culture, creativity, and community in a way that feels both joyful and intentional." Said Dustin Miller, Vice President, Programs & Learning at the Dallas Arboretum.

The Black Heritage Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 16. The Sun & Style Celebration is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (included with admission). The Twilight Noir Celebration runs from 6 to 10 p.m. and requires a separate ticket.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located at 8525 Garland Road in Dallas. Tickets are available at [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org).

# A Wicked Good Time is Available at the Music Hall at Fair Park

Broadway Dallas and Broadway Across America (BAA) are pleased to announce Wicked, Dallas's most popular musical, will return to the Music Hall at Fair Park May 6 – June 14, 2026, as part of the 2025/2026 Broadway Series presented by Broadway Dallas. Tickets for the return engagement go on sale Friday, December 5.

Tickets will be available at BroadwayDallas.org or by calling 800-982-2728. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 214-426-4768 or emailing Groups@BroadwayDallas.org.

The 2021 engagement of Wicked in Dallas was the first Broadway tour in the U.S. to resume performances following the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and completed a successful 5-week run seen by over 120,000 patrons, with the final gross in ticket sales outperforming the 2016 engagement by 3%.

Currently the 4th longest-running show in Broadway history, Wicked recently celebrated its 22nd anniversary on Broadway.

Winner of over 100 international awards including the Grammy Award and three Tony Awards, Wicked has been performed in over 100 cities in 16 countries around



Joan Marcus

the world (U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan, Germany, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, The Philippines, Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland and China) and has thus far been translated into six languages: Japanese, German, Dutch, Spanish, Korean and Portuguese. Wicked has been seen by over 72 million people worldwide and has over \$6.2 billion in global sales.

In addition to the Broadway production, Wicked in North America has enjoyed unprecedented record-breaking sit-down engagements in Chicago, where it ran for nearly four years; Los Angeles, where it ran for two years; and San Francisco, where it ran for nearly two years, as well as two North American Tours.

The Broadway sensation Wicked looks at what happened in the Land of Oz...but from a different

angle. Long before Dorothy arrives, there is another young woman, born with emerald-green skin, who is smart, fiery, misunderstood, and possessing an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikeliest of friendships ... until the world decides to call one "good," and the other one "Wicked."

With a thrilling score that includes the hits "Defying Gravity," "Popular" and "For Good," Wicked has been hailed by The New York Times as "the defining musical of the decade," and by Time Magazine as "a magical Broadway musical with brains, heart, and courage." NBC Nightly News calls the hit musical "the most successful Broadway show ever."

Based on the novel by Gregory Maguire, Wicked

ceremonies came as UNT Dallas begins its academic transition from four schools — Business, Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Behavioral Health and Human Services — to a new three-college structure designed to streamline student pathways and strengthen interdisciplinary programs.

has music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, and a book by Winnie Holzman. The production is directed by Tony Award winner Joe Mantello with musical staging by Tony Award winner Wayne Cilento. Wicked is produced

by Marc Platt, Universal Stage Productions, The Araca Group, Jon B. Platt and David Stone.

The blockbuster film version of Wicked opened on November 22nd, 2024, and has become the highest grossing film based on

a Broadway musical in history. The highly anticipated second film Wicked: FOR GOOD opened on Friday, November 21st, 2025.

For more information about Wicked, please visit [www.WickedTheMusical.com](http://www.WickedTheMusical.com).

## PARRISH, from Page 6

ty," said Senator West. "He understands UNT Dallas's mission and that the University stands as a beacon of hope and promise for countless future Trailblazers."

Parrish addressed graduates at two ceremonies. The 11 a.m. ceremony — at

which UNT Dallas conferred the honorary degree — celebrated graduates of the College of Business and Technology and the College of Education and Human Services. The 3 p.m. ceremony honored graduates of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The

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# Major, International Touring Exhibition 'Treasures of the Pharaohs' Coming to the Kimbell Art Museum in 2027

FORT WORTH, TX—The Kimbell Art Museum today announced that it will be one of only two North American venues for the landmark exhibition Treasures of the Pharaohs. Through 130 carefully selected artifacts from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the Luxor Museum, Treasures of the Pharaohs offers rare insights into the daily life, social structures, religious practices, and legacies of the Egyptian pharaohs.

Three thousand years of ancient Egyptian history are presented through an array of dazzling royal treasures expertly crafted from gold, granite, lapis lazuli, and other precious materials, along with objects that reveal the inner workings of this sophisticated civilization that continues to intrigue, influence, and inspire the modern world. Treasures of the Pharaohs will be on view at the Kimbell from March 14 through September 19, 2027, in the museum's Renzo Piano Pavilion.

"Treasures of the Pharaohs will awe," said Eric M. Lee, the museum's director. "From the scale and splendor of some of the artifacts on view to the revelations about day-to-day life and inclusion of objects from one of the most recently excavated sites in Egypt, visitors will find this exhibition brilliant, both visually and intellectually."

The exhibition paints an unparalleled picture of the lives of the pharaohs, from the grandeur surrounding their kingship, deity worship, and elaborate preparations for the afterlife, to the strict hierarchies and day-



Courtesy photos (2)

to-day routines of the people around them—a highly organized bureaucracy critical to maintaining Egypt's divine kingship.

Key aspects of ancient Egyptian civilization are explored through six thematic sections: The Treasures of the Pharaohs; People Around the Pharaohs; Religion and Beliefs: The World of Gods and Goddesses; Daily Life in Ancient Egypt; The Golden City; and Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt.

Objects that proclaim the pharaohs' power and status range from monumental granite statues to elegantly designed gold jewelry and richly decorated furnishings.

In contrast to royal art, newly discovered artifacts from King Amenhotep's workers' community within the "Golden City" in Egypt's Valley of the Kings will be introduced to North America for the first time, providing a glimpse into the lives of those often overlooked in presentations of ancient Egyptian art history. Statues representing various deities, carved and painted stone funerary stele, and lavishly decorated sar-



cophagi and other exquisite tomb furnishings convey the religious beliefs that shaped the Egyptian understanding of the world and the afterlife.

Highlights include works directly associated with pharaohs and their families, dating from Dynasty I (c. 3100 BC) to the Ptolemaic period (321 BC). Among them are some made in precious metal: the golden sarcophagus of Queen Ahhotep, the gold funerary mask of Amenemope, the golden sarcophagus of Thuya, the gold funerary covering of Pharaoh Psusennes I, the gold collar of Psusennes I, the painted and gilded wooden Canopic Box of Yuya with Sloping Lid on a Sled, and the gilded wooden

chair of Princess Sitamun. Sculptures in stone are also represented, including the carved schist Menkaure Triad and the limestone relief of Akhenaten and His Family. A rare manuscript, the Hieroglyphic Funerary Papyrus of the Songstress of Amoun Djedkhonsuiusankh, is also featured.

Treasures of the Pharaohs is currently on view at the Scuderie del Quirinale in Rome, where it is on track to become one of the most

highly attended exhibitions in the museum's history. After its close in Rome on June 14, 2026, the exhibition will be on view at the de Young museum in San Francisco from August 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027, prior to its presentation in Fort Worth.

The exhibition curator is Dr. Tarek el-Awady, former director of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The exhibition is accompanied by a major scholarly catalogue by Egyptian archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass. The exhibition's presentation at the Kimbell is organized by Jennifer Casler Price, senior curator of Asian, African, and ancient American art.

"These remarkable works offer a broad perspective on the lives of the pharaohs and those who served them," said Casler Price. "From stunning treasures that convey the power and awe of divine kings, to the humble yet fascinating ob-

jects of everyday life, this exhibition illuminates the glory and wonder of ancient Egyptian civilization."

The Kimbell Art Museum, owned and operated by the Kimbell Art Foundation, is internationally renowned for both its collections and its architecture. The Kimbell's collections range in period from antiquity to the twentieth century and include European paintings and sculptures

The museum's 1972 building, designed by the American architect Louis I. Kahn, is widely regarded as one of the outstanding architectural achievements of the modern era. A second building, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, opened in 2013 and now provides space for special exhibitions, dedicated classrooms, and a 289-seat auditorium with excellent acoustics for music. For more information, visit [kimbellart.org](http://kimbellart.org).

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# Predatory lenders seek bank charters to evade state rate caps

By Charlene Crowell

As of this writing, 21 states and the District of Columbia have outlawed triple-digit interest rates on payday loans and similar credit products. These hard-won consumer victories largely stopped lenders from trapping people in triple-digit interest rate debt – key strides towards financial freedom.

But now, a pair of predatory lenders, Enova and Opportunity Financial (OppFi) listed on the New York Stock Exchange, have turned to a different approach for continued exploitation of the nation's working poor: becoming a bank.

By seeking federal approval to acquire national bank charters, once again working people would be snared into long-term debt traps and increased financial instability in the throes of a nation already grappling with an affordability crisis.

Federal banking regulators are fast-tracking these lenders' bank applications, without offering opponents an opportunity to discuss their concerns.

With a national bank charter, predatory lenders would gain an end-run advantage to once again impose triple-digit loan rates even in states with existing lending rate caps. This regressive regulatory move also comes at a time when the federal government is decreasing lender supervision and enforcement. State usury limits are the only source of these loan protections for borrowers not covered under the federal Military Lending Act.

National banks are sup-



DWG Studio

posed to provide a “public benefit”. But in these instances, the private corporations – not the public – would benefit.

OppFi, a digital finance platform that makes short-term installment loans at up to 195 percent Annual Percentage Rate (APR), has announced plans to acquire Arizona-based BNC National Bank (BNC). At the start of this year, BNC had approximately \$1.1 billion in total assets and approximately \$1.0 billion in total deposits.

Enova, a lender fined by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for repeated anti-consumer behavior, is seeking to acquire Grasshopper Bank, based in New York City with assets of \$1.59 billion. Enova is better known by the names of its consumer and small business loan brands - CashNetUSA, NetCredit, and OnDeck.

A coalition of civil rights and consumer groups in an April letter urged Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell to reject the applications of these predatory lenders, pointing to new analysis which shows that a disproportionate number of complaints against Enova were generated in predominantly

Black and Latino communities, raising questions of equity and disparate impact.

In part the coalition letter states, “Black and Latino communities typically lack access to small business capital due to unaddressed systemic discrimination. The answer is not to lend at predatory rates as Enova does. Underserved communities should not be subject to such high, predatory costs...Products that increase indebtedness, drive borrowers out of the banking system, and disproportionately harm communities of color are not a public benefit under any reasonable regulatory construction of that term. The Federal Reserve’s review must account for the quality and cost of credit being offered, not merely its availability.”

The letter was signed on behalf of the Legal Defense Fund, NAACP, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL).

And this January, CRL released a research report entitled, Lost Opportunities: How OppFi Traps Borrowers in Unafford-

able Debt. CRL’s analysis of OppFi’s transactional data uncovered examples of borrowers caught in an unaffordable cycle of loan repayment, including instances of refinancing two to three months after taking out an installment loan ranging from \$500–\$5,000 with interest rates up to 195 percent APR.

“This national bank affiliation scheme would enrich a handful of rogue lenders looking to evade state interest rate limits so they can siphon millions of dollars in excess fees from consumers’ wallets,” said Ellen Harnick, executive

vice president at CRL. She said the findings show that OppFi’s lending does not serve community needs, and approval would allow the bank to export predatory consumer loans to many more states, putting tens of thousands of borrowers at risk of falling into extended debt traps.

More recently, the National Consumer Law Center, also weighed in on the proposed bank charter. “President Trump should not allow OppFi to become a national bank and spread high interest rate pain across the country,” said Lauren Saunders, a NCLC

senior attorney. “At a time of an affordability crisis, the Trump Administration is considering allowing new national banks that would charge triple-digit interest rates, well above state interest rate limits approved by voters and legislatures in 45 states.”

Bank charters provide private companies with public benefit. They must only be granted when lending is fair, not predatory.

*Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*



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## Leasing Momentum Accelerates at the Offices Three at Frisco Station With Nearly 50,000 Square Feet in New Activity

FRISCO – Leasing activity is gaining momentum at Frisco Station, a 242-acre mixed-use development in Frisco's North Platinum Corridor, as The Offices Three secures nearly 50,000 square feet in new activity and introduces 12,000 square feet of move-in-ready spec suites. The building is now 48% occupied, with momentum building across multiple floors.

The Offices One, Two and Three offer a combined 700,000 square feet of fully amenitized Class A office space in the southwest portion of the development.

Recent leasing activity at The Offices Three includes:

- Parkhill – The architecture and engineering firm will occupy 26,254 square feet on Level 5 in a fully



Courtesy photo

customized space designed to reflect its brand and support a modern, collaborative work environment. The office marks Parkhill's second location in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

- Ash Grove – The cement manufacturer will occupy 5,174 square feet on Level 2, a move-in-ready spec suite ideal for efficiency and limited upfront

investment. The office will serve as its regional office.

- Raymond James – The full-service financial firm will occupy 5,120 square feet on Level 2. The move-in ready spec suite will serve as its Frisco branch.

- Additional Spec Suites – 12,000 square feet on Level 2, available in 2,500 to 6,500 square foot configurations, offering fully fin-

ished, plug-and-play spaces with access to a dedicated tenant lounge, dining area, huddle rooms and bar-top collaboration areas.

“With a location that's easy to get to and amenities people want to use, The Offices Three continues to attract strong interest and maintain leasing momentum,” said Tyler Chapman, director of development for VanTrust Real Estate's Dallas office. “Our spec suites and fully built-out spaces are meeting growing demand for turnkey office solutions as tenants prioritize amenity-rich, accessible lo-

cations with space they can occupy right away, without the time or cost of a full build-out.”

The Offices Three offers convenient access to Dallas North Tollway, State Highway 121/Sam Rayburn Tollway, The Star, the Dallas Cowboys' world headquarters, and the region's expanding Collin County workforce.

In addition to office space, Frisco Station already includes four residential communities and three hotels: Canopy by Hilton Dallas Frisco Station, The AC Hotel Dallas Frisco and

The Residence Inn Dallas Frisco, making it easy for visitors and teams to stay onsite. Cambridge Holdings also broke ground on Frisco Station's first medical office building, kicking off the development's Health and Wellness District. A 30-acre park and trail system connects Frisco Station to the city's regional hiking and biking trails.

The Frisco Station Partnership is composed of Hillwood, VanTrust Real Estate and The Rudman Partnership. For more information about Frisco Station, visit [www.FriscoStation.com](http://www.FriscoStation.com).

### MPAC, from Page 5

provingly to the placement of Bibles and the Ten Commandments in schools. These same figures openly advocate for policies and political frameworks that explicitly privilege Christianity in public life, frequently advocating for the United States to be governed as a “Christian nation.”

Nonetheless, MPAC maintains that this series of congressional hearings comes amid a galvanized push for anti-Islam hysteria, coinciding with upcoming elections in Texas, where scapegoating muslim communities has conveniently become the vehicle for political clout and electoral gain.

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## NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

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FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE  
CASE NO.: 24D007480  
TO: YOSSEL RAFAEL MORENO HERNANDEZ  
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 1035 E CENTERVILLE RD APT 513 GARLAND, TX 75041

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Denisse Gallegos, whose address is P.O. Box 15891 Santa Ana, CA 92735, on or before 09/24/2024, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter.

If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

**DATED THIS 7 OF MAY, 2026**

**Let us hear from you!**

If there is any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at: [publisher@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:publisher@northdallasgazette.com)

## Perceptions of Cultural Foreignness May Lead to Job Discrimination

(Newswise) — WASHINGTON — Asian, Arab and Latino Americans may face more discrimination when seeking jobs that emphasize stereotypically American characteristics because they are deemed to be culturally foreign, according to research published by the American Psychological Association.

Researchers found this pattern of discrimination across several experiments, regardless of whether the proposed job applicants had foreign-language first names or Anglicized first names. The findings also were supported through an analysis of hundreds of employment discrimination lawsuits filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The research was published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

“It’s important to consider perceptions of cultural foreignness in our understanding of how different racial groups experience discrimination,” said lead researcher Terrance Pope,

PhD, a quantitative researcher who received their doctorate at the University of Washington.

In an online experiment, more than 1,000 white American participants were presented with a job ad that emphasized stereotypically American characteristics, including strong English skills and familiarity with American customs and traditions. The participants then viewed similar resumes with candidates who had common Asian American, Latino American or Black American last names and Anglicized first names.

The participants rated the Asian and Latino American applicants as less hireable and more culturally foreign than the Black American applicant. The participants selected the Asian American applicant (21%) or the Latino American applicant (23%) at lower rates compared with the Black American applicant (57%).

A second study with 500 white undergraduate students at the University of Washington had similar

findings with Asian American applicants perceived as significantly less hireable for a stereotypically American job than Black American candidates.

In two additional experiments with MBA or undergraduate student participants of various races, the job candidates included both male and female names. The racial or ethnic groups of the candidates also were expanded to include common Asian, Arab, Latino, Black and white American names.

Asian, Arab and Latino American applicants were perceived as more culturally foreign and less hireable

for a stereotypically American job relative to Black American applicants, who in turn were perceived as less hireable than white applicants.

The experiments examined hypothetical hiring decisions as an analogy for real-world decisions that often include many other factors besides the race or ethnicity associated with candidates’ names.

The researchers also reviewed 330 employment discrimination lawsuits that were litigated by the EEOC from 1997-2006. Among Asian, Arab and Latino American plaintiffs, a significant proportion of the

cases (ranging from 31%-53% for the different racial groups) involved cultural foreignness stereotypes, and nearly all of those cases were categorized by the EEOC as national origin discrimination rather than racial discrimination.

The researchers recommended that efforts to reduce stereotyping in hiring decisions should include

perceptions of cultural foreignness as a possible factor.

“Programs and policies that intend to reduce discrimination should avoid adopting one-size-fits-all solutions because racial and ethnic groups may experience discrimination in different ways and in different contexts,” Pope said.

## NAME CHANGE

I, **Tarrun Arulkumar Rajeswari S/o Arulkumar Varadharajan** date of birth 12th April 2011 residing at 422, Windward Dr, Murphy, TX , 75094, shall henceforth be known as **Tarrun Arulkumar.**



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## CANCER, from Page 4

to protect their skin earlier in life.

• Yet knowledge gaps persist, with 21% unaware that sunscreen helps prevent premature aging and 26% not realizing it can help prevent dark spots.

“Data show that many Americans are learning about long term sun damage the hard way,” said Dr. Alam. “The effects of UV exposure build over time — driving premature aging and increasing the risk of skin cancer, which is now the most common form of cancer in the United

States. The good news is that much of this damage is preventable with simple, consistent sun protection habits.”

To detect skin cancer early, perform regular self-exams. If you find any new or suspicious spots on your skin, or any spots that are changing, itching or bleeding, consult a board-certified dermatologist, your most trusted partner in protecting your skin and visit [aad.org/skincancer](http://aad.org/skincancer) to learn more and find a board-certified dermatologist near you.

# Sometimes I Feel Like A Rabbit

By Dr. James L. Snyder

A lot of things in life, I am not very good at. That list could go on and on and on. Not only am I not good at some things, but I'm terrible at most things.

However, I am actually excellent at a few things. I think the top of that list is eating, which I do with a passion that might make you smile.

I've never met a cheeseburger that I didn't like. I could have a cheeseburger every day and be very happy. Along with my cheeseburger would be some very delicious French fries. Nobody can eat a cheeseburger and fries like me. I never know when I've had enough.

Along with that, I've never met a serving of Mac & Cheese I didn't like. I enjoy those buffets where I can eat as much as I want. I'm not sure who came up with this idea of Mac & Cheese, but they certainly deserve a



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Nobel Peace Prize.

When it comes to dessert, I have never met a dessert I did not love.

At one restaurant, when I order my dessert, I tell the waitress, "You surprised me and pick out a dessert you think I would enjoy."

Never once did any waitress bring me a dessert I didn't like.

Then, I have never had an Apple Fritter I did not enjoy. I can't remember when I first started eating Apple Fritters, but it's certainly been a wonderful experience for me.

I try to convince The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that an Apple

Fritter is actually a fruit. Everybody knows that an Apple is a fruit. Whenever I say that to her, she looks at me and says, "The only fruit I know is you, and you're a fruitcake."

When it comes to breakfast, I've never had a waffle I didn't like. There is nothing like a plate filled to the top with waffles floating in syrup. I love waffles, and I could eat them all day.

Recently, some health challenges developed, and my doctor said I was slightly overweight. I asked what that meant, and he just smiled, probably knowing I'd find some humor in it.

I then had a slight heart

attack, along with an episode of shingles and even a case of acute bronchitis. All of that together redefined my health condition.

When I say redefine I'm referring to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She's usually with me when I see my doctor and knows everything the doctor says about me and my health condition. She remembers even more than I hear. I'm not sure she is remembering everything that actually occurred.

Because of that, she has now taken over the culinary aspect of my health. I did not see that coming. All of a sudden, my eating habits are being supervised by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I must confess that she is a wonderful cook. I don't think there's anything she can't cook or bake that doesn't taste delicious.

But now, because of my health conditions, she has developed a vegetable

diet for me. Also, some fruits are involved. The main part of my meals every day is lettuce. Personally, I only love lettuce on my cheeseburger. After a while, I have come to the point where I want to say, "Let us alone." But I can't speak that out loud in case of reciprocation. Believe me, nobody wants to experience anything like reciprocation from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Still, I understand it's for my health, even if I joke about it.

I did not know there were so many vegetables in the world until recently. It seems she has a vegetable for everything.

There is one strict restriction along this line, and that is broccoli. No matter what anybody else thinks, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I do not consider broccoli to be a vegetable. Disagree with me if you want, but I am unanimous in that.


I do confess that the lettuce salads she makes are rather delicious. No question about that for me. But as long as I've been alive, I have never considered a lettuce salad to be the mainstay of lunch and dinner.

For the past year, she has been very diligent about the "vegetable diet" she developed for me. As a result, I have lost around 15 pounds. When the doctor told me that, I spent a whole week looking for those lost pounds. It's funny, but I know it's a positive change for my health.

Evidently, her "vegetable diet" is working for me. I'm losing weight, and my blood pressure is under control. I never knew it was out of control before, but doctors are always right, so says The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.


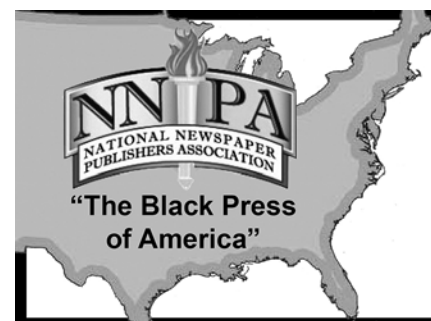
After a week of eating lettuce salads, I began to feel like a rabbit. Now I know what rabbits feel like when they're running

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**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

In times like these, (just read the newspaper or listening to the news on the radio and/or television) there are many Christians, believers or just plain people, which are losing the battles in their lives. They are losing because they are fighting the wrong enemy!

People for years have been deceived into believing that just because a person said or did something to hurt them, that person is the one they need to fight or to be angry with.

But they are wrong. The Bible says, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,*

*but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

**Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)**

And since people are definitely flesh and blood, they’re never the source of our problem.

Some will say, “But Brother/Sister, you just don’t know what So-and-So did to me!” Believe me, it doesn’t matter.

If you waste your time fighting “So-and So”, your real enemy (Satan and his demons) will get away scot-free. They are your lifelong enemies. They are behind every personal affront you encounter.

People who hurt and persecute you are only Satan’s tools. When he wants to discourage you, to strike out at you, mentally and

## Fight The Right Foe

physically attack you, he uses people to get the job done.

Please keep in mind that persecution is not the manifestation of another person’s hate for you. It’s a manifestation of Satan’s fear of you, because as a Christian, he knows that you have the Word of God in you.

When you take God’s Word and start swinging it around—using it as the Sword of the Spirit, because that’s what the Word of God is, the Sword of the Spirit, Satan gets scared.

Remember that Jesus always used the Word to send Satan packing, and when he returned (you can be sure that Satan and/or his demons will come back,) Jesus used the Word every time he returned.

Satan will look for some

person that he can send in there to dishearten you and to stop you from using God’s Word. The Word of God is the only thing that can stop Satan and his demons.

The next time that someone hurts you, don’t let yourself get sidetracked into fighting them. Pray, and then bind the spirit behind them. Put flesh and blood battles behind you and war with the weapons of the Spirit.

*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) . . . II Corin-*

*thians 10:3-4 (KJV)*

Zero in on Satan with authority and the Word of God and bring your real enemy down! “Fight the Right Foe”

*Prayers can’t be answered unless they are prayed: Life without purpose is barren indeed – There can’t be a harvest unless you plant a seed. There can’t be attainment unless there’s a goal, and man is but a robot unless there’s a soul.*

*If we don’t send ships out, no ships will come in, and unless there’s a contest, nobody can win. For games can’t be won unless they are played; and prayers can’t be answered*

*unless they are prayed.*

*So whatever is wrong with your life today, you’ll find a solution if you kneel down and pray. Not just for pleasure, enjoyment and health; not just for honors and prestige and wealth.*

*But pray for a purpose to make life worth living, and pray for the joy of unselfish giving. For great is your gladness and rich your reward, when you make your life’s purpose the choice of the Lord.*

—Helen Steiner Rice

*(Editor’s Note: This column originally ran in May 2015. Sister Tarpley passed away in May 2024. We keep her words alive each week in our print edition.)*

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# NDG Bookshelf: Books for College-Bound Students

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The videos and news reports were inspiring.

In them, a hesitant prospective-college student turned into a happy new college-bound student with the click of a key. They were accepted into the college of their dreams - so how can you get the same feeling next spring, when you're the one with the highest of hopes?

You can start by reading these great books and sharing them with your family...

You probably already know that getting into the college of your choice is not something you do last-minute. In **"The People's Guide to College Applications: A Week-by-Week Approach to Writing, Connecting, and Getting in"** by Jill Constantino (Prometheus Books, \$21.95) takes you through each step, but not in a frantic way. There's no pressure here, just easy-to-grasp, makes-sense methods to apply for the college you want. There are reminders here, things you can't forget and things you can, hints on asking for referrals and writing essays, and plenty of reminders to take a deep breath. Bonus: it's also a book for parents,



Terri Schlichenmeyer

who may feel just as much pressure as does their child.

Okay, but let's say that you're an adult, a parent who's sweating those college applications, classes, and the FAFSA for yourself, ugh! Then you'll want to read **"Student Parent: The Fight for Families, the Cost of Poverty, and the Power of College"** by Nicole Lynn Lewis (Beacon Press, \$26.97). an urgent call meant for non-traditional students who are also Black, Latinx, gay, Moms, or Dads.

Inside this book, you'll find stats and stories that may already sound familiar, tales of not enough money, not enough support, not enough arms or sleep or resources. If you're looking for a book of advice, this isn't it, though. It's more of a resource that you'll want to take to your guidance counselor or any local politician.

Alright, but what if you've decided that col-

lege can wait? Is that okay? Look for **"The Mission Generation: Reclaim Your Purpose, Rewrite Success, Rebuild Our Future"** by Arun Gupta and Thomas J. Fewer (Wiley, \$29.00) because - guess what? - you have many options for your future.

The kind of workday your Grandpa had is probably over, and you can't count on toiling at the same place for 40 years for a pension and a gold watch. You already know that, and this book will help you decide your next step. You'll learn what kind of worker you are, what's stopping you from finding a job or occupation you'll love, how to determine the purpose you envision for your future, and how to get where you need to be. This book isn't just for high-schoolers, but for anyone ages 16 and beyond who's feeling restless, ready for change, or who's thinking about some kind of purposeful retirement.

And if these aren't the college-based or not-college-bound books you need, then be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help on ideas, how-to's, test prep books, or study guides. They'll have books for you, and maybe a little inspiration, too.



## SNYDER, from Page 14

around looking for lettuce. The only difference with a rabbit is the ears. They have big ears and can hear everything, whereas I have small ears and can hardly hear anything.

I remembered what the

Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Whatever my diet is, whether I like it or not, I'm going to do it to glorify

God, after all, God deserves my praise.

*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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