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## Young Blacks and Latinos Lack Access to Wealth-Building Tools

By Charlene Crowell

As much of the nation continues to grapple with rising costs that are outpacing wage gains, new research affirms that younger, more diverse generations are caught in a financial marketplace built for yesteryear not today.

Ambition Without Access, a newly released study by the Julian Bond Institute (JBI), an initiative of the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), is the first nationally representative look at how wealth and financial aspirations differ across race and generations particularly for Blacks and Latinos.

"Young Blacks and Hispanics want to own homes, want to start businesses, want to retire comfortably, and want to leave something for their children — at rates that either match or exceed their white peers," states the study. "They are optimistic. They are financially motivated. And they are determined."

The JBI 2050 Survey, conducted



*A new national study finds that despite strong financial ambition among younger Black and Latino Americans, structural barriers like soaring housing costs, limited access to credit, and generational wealth gaps are keeping homeownership and long-term wealth out of reach. (DWG Studio)*

in cooperation with NORC at the University of Chicago, surveyed white, Black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans across Gen Z (age 18-28), Millennial (29-44), Gen X (45-60), and Boomer (61-79) age groups.

Among its findings:

- 86% of Americans across every race and generation say homeownership was a financial goal when they became financially independent — yet only 23% of Black Millennials who aspired to homeownership

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### People In The News ...



Shanna Ward



Tommy Cowan

#### NDG Quote of the Week:

*"The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at."*

- Jesse Owens

## Shanna Ward

By D. Kevin McNeir  
Special to The AFRO

Shanna Ward, the owner of a publishing company and insurance agency located in Columbus, Ohio, said the elders in her family often say she inherited her entrepreneurial spirit from one of their ancestors – a formerly enslaved child from Virginia whose freedom came through manumission in 1827.

For years, she wanted to know more about her ancestor John T. Ward, she said, and her curiosity eventually became an obsession, leading her to become the gene-



Courtesy photo

alogist for her family. And so, for more than a decade, she set out to trace her family's roots and discovered a story that would change her life and the way she viewed American history.

John T. Ward would help others secure their freedom

and justice in his roles as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, an abolitionist, and political activist. But realizing that economic freedom was essential to his and his family's survival, he and his son founded the Ward Transfer Line in 1881 (now E.E. Ward Moving) – one of America's oldest Black-owned businesses. While it has transferred ownership, the business remains in operation today.

Shanna Ward recently published a book about her ancestor, "The Bequest of John T. Ward," which she hopes can be added to other unheralded tales of Black resistance that occurred during America's antebellum

period.

"Originally, I just wanted to write a 100-page story when I first began digging and was encouraged after I found a copy of a will dated 1827 which included him and was a rare example of a mass manumission," Shanna Ward said. "Three of the slaves, including John's grandfather, were given about 294 acres of land in the will, but all the former slaves were supposed to remain on the plantation until their 21st birthday. Some refused to remain. That's how our family got to Ohio."

Ward said she learned that newly freed Blacks, including her ancestors in Ohio, had to fend for themselves

and often did so with amazing results given the obstacles they faced.

"In those days there were no civil rights organizations, and in local communities, Blacks formed and supported Black-owned businesses, took their own census recordings, and became involved in local politics – all without White involvement," she said.

"There is part of Ohio where, during the days of slavery, if you successfully crossed the river you were free," she said. "That was where Black life began – across the river in freedom. When we understand ourselves as more than property and uncover tales of surviv-

al which are the foundation of our legacy, then we can better understand who we are and what our ancestors endured. We are stronger than we are often led to believe."

Efforts among African Americans to learn their family roots have increased over the past several decades, particularly given the success of the PBS documentary, "Finding Your Roots," hosted and narrated by Harvard University professor Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

On the show's website, Gates said he developed the show in 2012 in efforts

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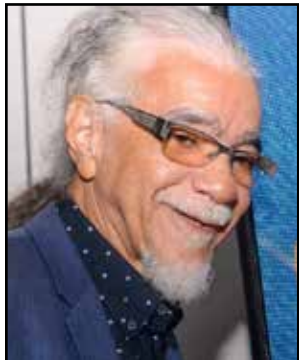
## Tommy Cowan

By NY Carib News

Few figures in Jamaican music embody longevity and influence quite like Tommy Cowan. As he marks his 80th birthday, Cowan reflects on a journey that has not only mirrored the evolution of reggae but has also helped shape its global impact.

His introduction to the industry came in the early 1960s, when a teenage Cowan was invited to join a vocal group following a school performance. That opportunity led him into Jamaica's vibrant ska era, where he connected with pioneers such as Clement 'Coxsone' Dodd and performed alongside the Skatalites. As the music transitioned into rocksteady, Cowan and his group, eventually known as The Jamaicans, remained active contributors to the island's shifting soundscape.

Cowan's career expand-



Jamaica Information Service

ed far beyond performing. As a manager and producer, he played a pivotal role in developing and guiding some of reggae's most iconic talents, including Beres Hammond, Dennis Brown, Nadine Sutherland, and Carlene Davis. His work also extended to influential bands such as Third World, Inner Circle, and Black Uhuru, solidifying his reputation as a key behind-the-scenes architect.

A defining chapter of his career unfolded through his collaboration with Bob Marley. Through his Talent Corporation, Cowan

helped amplify Marley's music, contributing to the success of tracks like One Drop and Natty Dread. He later joined Tuff Gong as a marketing manager, touring internationally and assisting with major cultural events, including Zimbabwe's independence celebrations.

Cowan also played an instrumental role in staging the historic One Love Peace Concert, where Marley famously brought political rivals Michael Manley and Edward Seaga together on stage in a symbolic gesture of unity during a turbulent period in Jamaica's history.

In the 1980s, Cowan became widely recognized as an emcee, earning the nickname "Mr Yes Indeed" for a phrase that became his trademark during live performances. The moniker followed him across continents, reinforcing his dynamic presence on stage.

Despite his many ac-

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# A 'Main Street' Bank Bill That Would Really Hurt Main Street

By Ben Jealous

In Washington, the name on a bill is often the opposite of what it does.

The Main Street Depositor Protection Act is the latest example. The name sounds noble. The math is not.

Here is what the bill would change. The FDIC is the federal agency that pays you back if your bank closes its doors. Today, it covers up to \$250,000 in each account. Most people never come close to that limit. Most small businesses do not either.

The bill would allow the FDIC to raise that limit to \$5 million for business checking accounts that pay no interest. That is not a small bump. That is twenty times bigger.

Supporters say the change will help small community banks and the small businesses they serve. I wish that were true. It is not.

The current \$250,000 limit already covers 99 out of every 100 bank accounts in this country. A study by JPMorgan Chase found that the typical small business keeps about \$12,100 in its account on a normal day. The new limit would be more than 400 times higher than that.

So who really gains from a \$5 million guarantee? Not the corner bakery. Not the family barbershop. Not the small farm down



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***Insurance is not free. When the FDIC raises its guarantee, banks must pay more to fund it. When banks pay more, they lend less. When they lend less, the door closes hardest on the people who are already locked out.***

the road. The gain goes to the biggest depositors at the biggest banks. The bill even covers banks with more than \$100 billion to their name. Fewer than one in 100 banks in America are that big. No honest person would call them "small."

In other words, the bill takes the name of Main Street and hands the prize to Wall Street.

Here is the part that should worry every American. Insurance is not free. When the FDIC raises its guarantee, banks must pay more to fund it. When banks pay more, they lend less. When they lend less, the door closes hardest on the people who are already locked out.

Black-owned businesses

are already turned down for loans 39 percent of the time. That is more than double the 18 percent rate for white-owned businesses.

Hispanic-owned businesses face a 29 percent denial rate. These are the dreamers most likely to hear "no" when they walk into a bank. A new cost on lending will make that "no" come faster and louder.

The economy runs on loans. When loans dry up, the trouble spreads. The Great Recession of 2008 began exactly that way. The people who pay the highest price are never the wealthiest. They are the families with the least cushion to fall back on.

The bill does offer a

small shield to community banks under \$10 billion. They would not pay the higher costs for ten years. That is a kind gesture. But the wider damage to the loan market will not wait ten years to arrive.

There is one more problem. Deposit insurance works in part because it has limits. Limits force big depositors to pay attention to where they put their money. That attention keeps banks honest. Take the limit away, and you take the watchdog away too. The taxpayer is left to clean up the mess.

The goal of helping Main Street is a good one. This bill is not the way to reach it.

If Congress wants to help small business, it should make loans easier and fairer to get. It should invest in the neighborhoods that banks have ignored for too long. It should knock down the doors that have stayed shut for Black and Hispanic business owners for generations.

And if big corporations want extra protection for their millions, they can pay for it themselves. The taxpayer should not be asked to insure the comfort of the rich while the dreams of working families go unfunded.

Read the name of a bill. Then read the math. The two should match. On the Main Street Depositor Protection Act, they do not.

Keep up with the news

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# Black Women in Rural Areas Grapple with Stark Decline in Obstetric Care

By Ashleigh Fields  
Special to the AFRO

Black women in rural areas are facing the brunt of declining medical services, including access to obstetric care, as new policies threaten clinic and hospital closures.

Under the current White House administration's summer spending package, federal reimbursement for services covered by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act declined sharply, leaving rural healthcare providers to fend for themselves amid pressing patient concerns.

"The risks facing women in rural communities are due to hardship in receiving routine screenings and also access for treatment if conditions/diseases arise. Also, in rural areas there are few specialists," Dr. Sonya Buchanan, a preventative medicine physician and Meharry Medical College graduate, told the AFRO.

"Most specialists practice in larger cities with larger populations. Commuting to and from for treatment of chronic illnesses or cancer may not



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be possible for a number of reasons, including financial, logistical, or missing time from work," she added.

In response to the 47th president's spending bill, Georgia Rep. Nikema Williams (D) introduced the Maternal Health Equity Under Medicaid Act to raise federal matching rates to 90 percent for Medicaid expenditures on maternal healthcare.

Nearly 1 in 5, or 20 percent, of rural adults and 40 percent of rural children rely on Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. Amid cost concerns, rural Americans also face geographic challenges that threaten healthcare.

Most live an average of 10.5 miles from the nearest hospital, versus just 4.4 miles for their urban coun-

terparts, according to the National Rural Health Association.

"Medicaid is the largest payer of maternity care in this country and must be part of the solution to the maternal health crisis. Too many people are still falling through the cracks in our healthcare system, especially Black mamas who continue to face a worsening maternal health crisis," Williams said in a statement noting that 42 percent of births are financed by Medicaid.

Still, women who enroll in Medicaid in their third trimester have a 4.7 times higher likelihood of experiencing maternal mortality and a 1.5 times higher risk for infant mortality, according to her office.

"Raising the federal match for maternal care will give states the resourc-

es they need to expand care and save lives. As Republicans threaten devastating Medicaid cuts, this legislation is a clear statement: we must invest in care, not cruelty," the Georgia lawmaker said.

As of 2022, more than two-thirds of rural hospitals in eight states were without obstetric services, according to a Health Affairs study. From 2010-2022, 12 states also reported the loss of 25 percent or more obstetric services in rural hospitals.

"The mass closures of obstetric wings in rural hospitals have been a major issue for years now. In North Carolina, 40 percent of our counties have no maternity care facilities at all. The passage of the Big Beautiful Bill—I like to call it the Big Ugly Bill—will only make these issues so much worse. Labor and delivery units are often the first to get cut when hospital budgets get low," Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.) told the AFRO.

"This bill made major cuts to Medicaid dollars, which hospitals rely on to stay afloat. It also created new restrictions making

it more difficult to remain eligible for Medicaid," she added.

The United States remains the only developed country with a rising maternal mortality rate, according to UNICEF, with deaths skewed towards women of color.

Black women are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications and twice as likely to lose an infant to premature death. Women in rural communities are threatened the most.

All 50 states were granted access to the federal Rural Health Transformation Fund, which provides more than \$100,000 to strengthen and modernize health care in rural communities nationwide.

"While it won't fully alleviate the burden of these Medicaid cuts, our state will be using some of these dollars to keep rural hospitals in business and expand maternity care access in our state, focusing on non-medical barriers to care, too," Rep. Adams said.

"Let's be honest, though—this is a bandaid to our country's Black maternal health crisis. We

need comprehensive legislation to address it, like the Momnibus Act, which we're reintroducing soon with Rep. Underwood and Sen. Booker. We need major action soon, because our country is reaching a boiling point, and our moms deserve better," Adams continued.

The Momnibus Act is a package of 13 bills that address social determinants, mental health, workforce diversification, and data collection, with over \$1 billion in proposed investments to address the maternal mortality crisis.

While lawmakers are addressing issues through policy, doulas have also been stepping in to bridge the gap by providing travel services to help mitigate the lack of care in rural communities.

"Historically, doulas were responsible for assisting those giving birth and midwives and were often among the few enslaved individuals who were allowed to travel due to the indispensability of their services. However, as births moved into hospitals,

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to continue his quest to "get into the DNA of American culture."

In each episode, celebrities view ancestral histories and share their emotional experience with viewers. Gates attributes the success of the show to a significant surge in interest among Black Americans in tracing their family roots and a desire to reconnect with ancestral history that was severed

by slavery.

"Advancements in DNA testing have increased accessibility of records and led to a cultural push to reclaim identity beyond the 'brick wall' of 1870," said Gates who noted that the 1870 U.S. Census represents the first time former slaves were listed by name and, unfortunately, serves as the point where records of their lives often stop and

cannot be traced any earlier.

In a recent paper published in the journal "American Anthropologist," University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign anthropology professor LaKisha David posits that by using genetic genealogy, African Americans now have the real possibility of restoring family narratives that were disrupted, severed and destroyed by institutional slavery.

"For African Americans

who have grown up with a sense of ancestral loss and disconnection, this reclamation of family history is deeply humanizing and healing," she writes. "It replaces the genealogical unknown with tangible knowledge of ancestral histories and kinship ties.

"Identifying African ancestors and living relatives is an act of restorative justice. It is ultimately about (re)claiming the humanity, dignity, and agency of en-

slaved Africans and their descendants, which is an essential component of repairing the harms of slavery."

Ward said by uncovering her family's truth, she has established a platform for education and empowerment for herself, her children, and today's youth.

"I realized how important it is to pass down our own stories to the next generation," Ward said. "There's so much our children need to know about the Under-

ground Railroad, the quilt codes created by Black women, and other examples of unrecorded heroics and bravery exhibited by Black men and women. Their collective efforts led to the end of Jim Crow laws and the securing of equal rights in the U.S. Constitution for African Americans. If you look hard enough, I believe everyone has someone like Harriet Tubman or Frederick Douglass in their family."

# Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Partners with The Jed Foundation (JED) to Strengthen Mental Health Support of Members and Community

(Black PR Wire) BALTIMORE, MARYLAND & NEW YORK — Fraternities and sororities shape the college experience for hundreds of thousands of students, and they can have a powerful impact on the emotional well-being of their members and broader campus communities. Today, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. announced its new partnership with The JED Foundation to protect mental health and prevent suicide among its members through participation in The JED Greek-Letter Organizations (GLO) programs. The Fraternity is a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), also known as the Divine Nine (D9), comprising nine historically Black Greek-Letter Organizations.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 20-24. Among young Black men ages 20-24, the suicide rate



The Jed Foundation

increased by 47% between 2018 to 2024, and for the first time in history, the suicide rate among young black men surpassed that of their white peers in 2024.

GLO provides evidence-informed guidance to fraternities and sororities committed to promoting emotional well-being and preventing suicide. JED's GLO partnerships with fraternities and sororities — including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority, Inc., Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. — and higher education institutions like La-

fayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania represent nearly 1.2 million college and lifetime members.

These partnerships aim to:

- assess and strategically plan organizational needs and priorities.
- strengthen substance misuse and hazing prevention training for staff, volunteers, alumni, and members using JED-developed workshops.
- support implementation tools, strategies, and techniques for measurable mental health improvements.

Founded at Cornell University in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the first intercollegiate Greek-

letter fraternity established by African American men. The fraternity was initially established as a study and support group for minority students. Since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha has initiated more than 300,000 members across nearly 900 chapters internationally.

“As part of our promise to confront mental health challenges within our Brotherhood, we have partnered with The Jed Foundation to create programs designed specifically for Alpha men,” said Lucien J. Metellus, Jr., general president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.. “When the opportunity was presented in December, we acted quickly and secured Board approval in January. We are now moving to address these real issues impacting our members. This partnership gives us hope, strength, and a path to sup-

port every Brother.”

JED GLO programs build on the JED report, Fraternities and Mental Health: Supporting Emotional Well-Being Among Members and Across Campus, which highlights how fraternities can impact mental health on college campuses. The report provides key recommendations for improving the emotional well-being of fraternity members and other students across campus. While fraternities can positively impact mental health by providing belonging and social connection, fraternity membership can also increase certain risky behaviors such as alcohol misuse and hazing participation, highlighting the need for programming that provides support for building healthy fraternity environments.

“JED recognizes that

fraternities and sororities are powerful communities for connection, leadership, and identity development. This makes them essential partners in advancing student mental health and well-being on and off campus,” said Dr. ShirDonna Lawrence, senior manager of JED's Greek-Letter Organization Programs. “This partnership strengthens Alpha's enduring mission and advances JED's work in culturally responsive, community-centered mental health promotion. Together, this collaboration demonstrates how intentional engagement with fraternity and sorority life can drive meaningful impact at both the individual and organizational level.”

To learn more about JED's Greek-Letter Organization Programs, email [greek@jedfoundation.org](mailto:greek@jedfoundation.org) or visit JED's website.

## CARE, from Page 4

the non-clinical support system declined — removing an invaluable service for expectant mothers, particularly those within communities disproportionately affected by maternal mortality rates and limited access to medical care and birthing services,” according to Valerie Rochester, chief health equity officer at Creating Healthier Communities (CHC).

“Increasingly, research suggests that doulas are not only beneficial in better health outcomes, but also in reducing unnecessary

medical procedures and, therefore, healthcare costs. A recent study of Medicaid beneficiaries found that women who received doula support had both lower cesarean and preterm birth rates,” she added.

Jacque Souza, a self-employed doula, said families in areas without access to immediate healthcare or concerns about their care inside hospitals have benefited from at-home services doulas provide.

“A birth doula holds space so birth can unfold with dignity. She does not

replace medical care but helps mothers make the best decisions when bringing a baby into the world,” Souza told the AFRO.

Doulas also provide extensive treatment after babies are born.

“A postpartum doula also has an important, though often less visible, role. She helps families navigate the unique and delicate postpartum period. Those days when nights are long and the days feel endless. A postpartum doula guides and cares for new mothers during this profound transition,” Souza said.

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# Founding Trustee Dr. J. Robert Collins Retires After More Than Four Decades of Service to Collin College

After 41 years of service as a founding member of the Collin College Board of Trustees, Dr. J. Robert “Bob” Collins is retiring.

Dr. Collins’ final event as a trustee was the May commencement ceremony, where he celebrated a deeply personal milestone – being on stage to shake his grandson’s hand after graduating from Collin College.

“We always believed Collin County deserved a college that could grow with the community and provide opportunities for generations of students,” Dr. Collins said. “It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this institution alongside such dedicated faculty, staff, administrators, and fellow trustees. Watching my grandson graduate from Collin College during my final commencement ceremony made this moment especially meaningful for my family and for me.”

A resident of Farmersville, Dr. Collins served the college in numerous leadership capacities at Collin College, including chair of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Organization, Education, and Policy Committee. Elected to Place 8, he remained one of the longest-serving trustees in Texas community college history.

“It is difficult to imagine Collin College without Dr. Collins’ grand vision, leadership, and unwavering dedication,” said Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. “Since its inception, Dr. Collins has helped shape the college into the institution it is today, creating a foundation



Collin College

for student success. His influence can be seen in every campus, every partnership, and in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students whose futures have been transformed through education. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him for the last 11 years.”

Before entering higher education leadership, Dr. Collins spent more than 30 years with a Fortune 500 defense electronics company, eventually serving as a vice president and officer of the corporation. He later joined Texas A&M University at Commerce (now East Texas A&M) as a faculty member and administrator serving for almost 20 years. His long record of public service also includes serving as a Plano City Council member and mayor pro tem.

Under Dr. Collins’ leadership and guidance, Collin College grew from a handful of classes taught at area high schools to 10 campuses and centers across seven cities, plus the iCollin Virtual Campus. His vision helped expand the college to serve more than 60,000 students annually, develop more than 200 degree and certificate programs aligned with workforce needs, and

introduce bachelor’s degrees that provide affordable, high-quality education close to home. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Collins championed affordability, strategic growth, workforce partnerships, and student success. He frequently emphasized the importance of maintaining low tuition rates while expanding educational opportunities throughout the region.

College administration and community leaders recognized Dr. Collins’ service during a communitywide reception on May 26 with a joint resolution from the state of Texas presented by Representatives Jeff Leach, Candy Noble, and Keresa Richardson. Dr. Collins was also honored with a congressional proclamation from the office of Congressman Keith Self.

## Applying for Place 8

To be eligible for consideration for the Collin College Board of Trustees, a candidate must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, a qualified voter, and a resident of Collin County for six continuous months and the state of Texas for 12 continuous months prior to the date the appointment is made. The selected candidate must be willing to commit to reside

in Collin County for the duration of the appointment and be available to attend monthly meetings. Applications will be accepted immediately.

To be considered or to nominate a candidate, submit a completed Application for Consideration form, résumé, and two let-

ters of recommendation to Deputy Elections Secretary Kristy Horkman by email at [khorkman@collin.edu](mailto:khorkman@collin.edu) or by mail to Kristy Horkman, Collin College, 3452 Spur 399, McKinney, TX 75069. The application form is available online at [www.collin.edu/aboutus/externalrelations/boardelections](http://www.collin.edu/aboutus/externalrelations/boardelections).

Completed applications with cover letters, résumés, and recommendation letters must be received no later than Friday, June 26 at 5 p.m.

Visit [www.collin.edu/leadership/board\\_of\\_trustees](http://www.collin.edu/leadership/board_of_trustees) for more information about the Collin College Board of Trustees.

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# NDG Bookshelf: 'Ghalen: A Romance in Black' is Great for Patient Readers

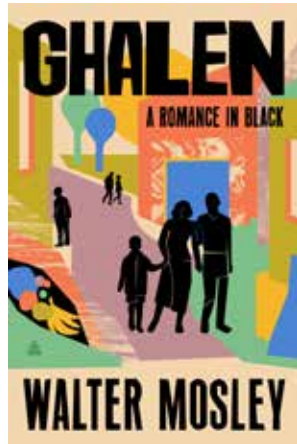
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Take care.

What a nice thing for someone to say as they take their leave! Be well. Stay safe. Be careful, watch where you walk, be mindful so you can see one another again. Take care – and, as in the new novel, “Ghalen” by Walter Mosley, take care of others, too.

It was raining the day Jamilah Fenestra and Robert Horton finally met, but the romance that sprang from there was often sunny for years to come.

Jammy was a scientist; Robert worked as an as-



sistant chef at a restaurant. She took care of him when a policeman pushed him down on the cement, hitting his head and causing slight brain damage. He taught her

to think slowly and carefully. They balanced one another well – and when she gave birth to their only son, it was the pinnacle of their lives.

Ghalen was the best of both his parents. His mother said he was “the smartest person” she’d ever encountered. His father taught him to think smart, to be kind, and that no job was beneath him. The boy grew up to be handsome and popular, a natural leader at a young age, a son who was willing to take care of his parents, even when he was just a schoolboy. He loved, and was loved deeply by those

who knew him – and that included many women.

But as Ghalen grew and matured, he began to realize that he needed to make his own way in the world. His father would need even more help in the future, his grandmothers were not aging well, but life was an adventure to seize. Was college necessary, when so many people would require his assistance later, or were Ghalen’s talents needed closer to home now, with his father and his best friend, who was in and out of jail?

How would Ghalen ever become a man of his own?

Chances are, if you

picked up a copy of this book, you’d be looking for either “a Romance in Black” or you’d expect another fast-paced novel from author Walter Mosley. The problem is, you might not get either.

“Ghalen” is messy. It’s not a romance in the usual sense; there’s a lot of sex, including an uncomfortably explicit assault scene, but not a lot of love-and-flowers stuff. Really, it’s more Forrest-Gump-ish, as the fifteen-year-old title character bounces through many, many adult-like events over the course of a few months.

Fans, though, they won’t

mind. This book is written in the usual Mosley style, with long conversations, tiny details, psychology in characterization and plenty of grit, with a bit of his signature detective plotline thrown in for good measure. Readers will also have good reason to wonder if you’ll see Ghalen again in another book.

Whether you view that as a good thing or not is another matter. This isn’t a bad book, but it may take some patience for readers unused to Mosley’s pleasantly-rambling style. You may like “Ghalen” a lot – or you might not care for it.

## Don’t Believe The Hype Bowl-a-Thon slated for June 27

Veteran journalist Cheryl Smith is set to host the 2026 edition of her long-running “Don’t Believe the Hype Celebrity Bowlathon,” continuing a three-decade tradition of blending fun, celebrity glamour and scholarship fundraising for North Texas youth.

The event, organized by Smith’s Don’t Believe the Hype Foundation, is scheduled for June 27 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Plano Super Bowl, 2521 K Avenue. The annual bowling event draws local celebrities, elected officials, business leaders, nonprofits and everyday bowlers for friendly competition and fellowship.

Registration options include team packages for six bowlers starting at \$600 for nonprofits and \$1,000 for general teams, with higher tiers offering VIP access and named scholarships. Individual bowlers and spectators can also participate, alongside vendor opportunities. Proceeds directly support educational initiatives, with sponsors able to present scholarships at re-

lated honors events.

Past iterations have featured lively atmospheres, family-friendly activities and significant fundraising success even after a brief COVID hiatus. Smith has described the Bowlathon as a cornerstone of her foundation’s mission to empower young people through opportunity rather than hype.

“This year we’re especially proud of scholarship recipient Briana Jones-Gill,

a graduate of the Dr. Yvonne A. Ewell Talented and Gifted Magnet School in Dallas,” Smith said in a release. “She won a scholarship in 2024 and this year the Honors Graduate received her degree from Florida A&M University, graduating with several job offers after interning twice at NBC-DFW.

“There are several other success stories as we continue to support Sen. Royce West’s Dr. Emmett J. Con-

rad Leadership Program and offer the Dr. Betty Shabazz Educational Excellence Scholarships with long-time generous support from

Judge Aiesha Redmond, Lyria Howland and others.”

For more information or tickets, visit the event’s Zeffy.com page or call 214-

941-0110. Organizers encourage early registration as teams fill quickly for the popular Dallas-area gathering.

# Dallas Hoops Has Everyone Talking

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Sportswriter

Dallas professional hoops on both the men's and women's side have been national hot topics of discussion over the last couple of weeks. But with chivalry being alive and well, ladies first.

I just want the applause to be as loud as the disrespect when it comes to Dallas Wings guard and 2026 No. 1 overall pick Azzi Fudd.

The former UConn Husky has yet to crack the starting lineup, and after the first two games of her career, many questioned whether she was worthy of the top selection.

Fudd displayed some nerves and did not look as



NDG Composite

comfortable as we're accustomed to seeing in her first two games, but any rookie deserves grace this early in their career—the WNBA is a completely different and more physical game than college.

However, Fudd is coming off her best performance of the season, dropping 24 points while shooting 60% from the field and 50% from 3-point range in a 91-

76 victory over the New York Liberty.

Fudd's six three-pointers were the most by any Wings rookie in a single game—a record previously held by 2025 WNBA Rookie of the Year Paige Bueckers.

"I'm in a super incredible and rare situation whereas I'm on a team with some incredible vets. So to me, it doesn't matter if I'm starting, if I'm coming off the

bench, if I'm playing the whole game, if I'm playing just 10 minutes," Fudd said. "I'm going to earn my time from what I do in practice."

Wings head coach Jose Fernandez noticed Fudd's increased production and decided to allow her to open the second half of the game on the floor.

Fudd repaid Fernandez's confidence by scoring 17 points in the third quarter alone and making winning plays on the defensive end to give the Wings control of the game.

Will Fudd be a full-time starter moving forward?

"We're headed in that direction," Fernandez said. "I think it showed with her being on the floor and what she did. She started in the

second half."

The Wings' next game is Thursday night against the defending champion Las Vegas Aces at College Park Center.

On the Mavericks side of things, the organization announced on May 19 that it mutually agreed to part ways with head coach Jason Kidd.

Kidd had been the head coach in Dallas since June 28, 2021, and had a successful tenure that featured multiple postseason appearances—including a Western Conference finals berth in 2022 and an NBA Finals appearance in 2024.

"As we evaluate the future of our basketball program, we believe this is the right moment for a new direction for our team,"

Mavericks President Masai Ujiri said. "We have high expectations for this franchise and a responsibility to build a basketball organization capable of sustained championship contention. We will conduct a thorough, disciplined search for our next head coach and continue to evaluate our entire basketball operations staff to ensure we compete at the standard Mavs fans expect and deserve."

According to The Athletic's Christian Clark, five names to watch in the Mavericks' coaching search are Sean Sweeney, Micah Nori, Jon Scheyer, Tiago Splitter and Dawn Staley.

If Dallas truly wants a bold new direction, hire Staley and let's get this party started.

## City Men Cook Celebrates 25 Years of Food, Entertainment and Community with Celebrity Tasters and Family Fun

City Men Cook proudly announces the return of its signature Father's Day celebration as the organization marks 25 years of bringing together food, fellowship, entertainment and community impact in North Texas.

Known as "The Largest Sunday Dinner in North Texas," City Men Cook continues its legacy of uniting community leaders, celebrities, chefs, families and tastemakers for a powerful celebration of culture, service and culinary excellence.

This year's highly anticipated event will feature celebrity tasters including Dallas District 3 City Council Member Zarin Gracey, acclaimed stage and screen actress Ptosha Storey, and

award-winning actress, playwright and Dallas native Regina Taylor.

Guests attending the 25th anniversary celebration can expect:

- Incredible food from community cooks and celebrity chefs
- Live entertainment and music
- Interactive activities for families and attendees
- Celebrity tastings and special appearances
- Community engagement experiences
- Networking with civic, business and media leaders
- Celebrations honoring culture, legacy and fellowship

"For 25 years, City Men Cook has represented the power of community gath-

ering around the table," said Terry Allen, founder of City Men Cook and Vice President of Focus Communications. "This event is about food, but it is also about love, mentorship, culture, family and creating moments that connect generations together."

Allen added that the event continues to serve as a unique platform where entertainment, civic engagement and community empowerment intersect.

"We are honored to have leaders like Council Member Zarin Gracey and talented actresses like Ptosha Storey and Regina Taylor join us as we celebrate 25 years of impact, inspiration

See COOK, Page 11

# Film Review: 'Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu' is Worth the Watch

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*)

“The old protect the young. The young protect the old.” Those prophetic words are also the premise of this Star Wars chapter. It’s perhaps the most visually disappointing film in the franchise. Still, it’s filled with enough commotion to capture and keep action/adventure audiences intrigued and satisfied.

Those old enough to remember the original Star Wars, released May 25, 1977, are in for a surprise. This entry is based on the Disney+ streaming series The Mandalorian. It stars Pedro Pascal as Din Djarin, aka Mando, aka The Mandalorian. He’s a helmeted bounty hunter and warrior living on the edge of the Star Wars world. He’s become the adopted father/mentor of a Baby Yoda, named Grogu, who has Force-sensitive powers. Telekinesis (lifting heavy objects), force shields, force healing and telepathic animal bonding are among his keen abilities as he learns how to survive and fight courtesy of Mando. That’s valuable information for Star Wars devotees who aren’t familiar with the show and are now getting a flash course in integrating the series’ aesthetics into a feature film. The other important factor is that in the great pantheon of Star Wars vehicles, this entry fits somewhere between Return of the Jedi and the numerous sequels.

Those looking for the same kind of visual elegance that was prevalent in some of the later Star Wars movies should look elsewhere. It’s gone. For example, the stunning production



Lucasfilm / Courtesy

design by Rick Heinrichs and gorgeous cinematography by Steve Yedlin that elevated Star Wars: Episode VIII — The Last Jedi are absent. Writer/director/producer Jon Favreau (Iron Man) is the creator/showrunner on The Mandalorian series. He spins this tale alongside executive producer/writer and Lucasfilm veteran Dave Filoni and co-screenwriter Noah Kloor. New team. Different sensibility.

When Mando (Pascal) is tasked with a dangerous assignment by the high-ranking official for the New Republic, Colonel Ward (Sigourney Weaver), his orders are clear and strict. Ward says, “Protect what the rebellion fought for.” Just find the subject of the hunt, Rotta the Hutt (voiced by Jeremy Allen White, The Bear). Bring the subject to the recipients who want him and return to base. The fate of the New Republic depends on it and their enemies, the Imperial Warlords, are looking for them to make a mistake. Mando accepts the restrictions, almost proud that he’s working for the good guys. He sets out on his mission, with his tiny apprentice Grogu, and their sojourn begins.

It’s noticeable from the Ward/Mando hand off scene that there’s way too much dialogue. Some of it banal, like most of the conversations in that aforementioned

sequence. Some occasionally profound. E.g., when Mando gives words of wisdom to his student or Rotta divulges key plot devices. What the script gets right are great character arcs for Mando, Grogu and Rotta. It’s nice to watch them grow. Easy to take these characters to heart and want to see them resurrected in another sequel. So, though the writing is longwinded, it has its finer points.

For the first hour, the visuals look inferior. It feels like the tech crew from the series couldn’t find a way to make their production skills transfer to the big screen. What works on TV is sometimes too obvious on a big screen. Watching Grogu on a massive IMAX screen makes him look like a tiny, stiff troll doll that can’t be manipulated in captivating ways. Other creatures that are Grogu’s height, the Anzellan droidsmiths, reap the same fate. Little kids might think they’re cute. Adults might wonder why a more agile and mesmerizing computer-generated figure wasn’t used.

Some may also question why the spaceship Mando flies looks like a tin cup on a giant screen. Like a little toy. The effect is so tacky and cheap-looking that it becomes off-putting. As is the command headquarters where Ward and her crew gather. With palm trees and California sun, it’s about as

exciting as a mobile home park in Encino and not an intriguing intergalactic command center.

The cinematography (David Klein, The Mandalorian) doesn’t dazzle. The production design (Doug Chiang, Andrew L. Jones) doesn’t astound. The

sets (Amanda Moss Serino) and costumes (Mary Zophres) don’t impress. Oddly Ludwig Göransson’s (Sinners) score, with its overly blaring horns in the film’s initial moments, is a loud, annoying distraction. Almost makes you want to hit the ceiling with

a broom and tell your upstairs neighbors to turn the music down. However, as the film progresses, there are times when the score becomes more subtle, and has its wonderful moments. Fortunately, the photogra-

See FILM, Page 13

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# Dallas Filmmaker Releases New Film 'Rags 2 Riches' on Remy Network & Roku

(EINPresswire.com) -- Filmmaker, writer, producer, and actress Alexis Monét Hunt proudly announces her newest film project, Rags 2 Riches — a cinematic parody drama that blends comedy, romance, friendship, chaos, heartbreak, and triumph into a visually rich storytelling experience. Rags 2 Riches: The Story of Martin & Gina was released May 22, 2026.



of relationships and the realities of building something meaningful from nothing.

Produced under Mone't Motion Pictures, Rags 2 Riches follows the emotional journey of two individuals navigating love, loyalty, personal growth, and the outside influences threatening to pull them apart. Through moments of turmoil, laughter, friendship, and adversity, the film explores the complexities

At its core, the film is a story about transformation — emotionally, spiritually, financially, and relationally. Beginning with two people simply trying to survive life independently, audiences witness their evolution into a powerful unit determined to fight for love, stability,



Youtube

success, and a future they can be proud of.

While the film embraces parody and comedic elements, Alexis Monét Hunt intentionally elevates the storytelling through high-end cinematic visuals, emotionally grounded performances, and striking directorial choices. The

film features dynamic camera movement, intentional framing, layered lighting design, intimate close-ups, and cinematic scene composition that transforms the project into a visually immersive experience.

“As a creator, I wanted to build a story that felt honest, entertaining, emotion-

al, and visually unforgettable,” says Alexis Monét Hunt. “I was intentional about transforming every scene through cinematic lighting, camera angles, movement, and composition in a way that elevated the film beyond the surface. I wanted audiences to not only connect with the story,

but to truly feel the beauty, chaos, intimacy, and evolution of the characters through the visuals.”

The film also highlights the power and influence of friendship — showcasing how community, outside opinions, loyalty, and personal struggles can either strengthen or weaken romantic relationships. Through humor and heartfelt storytelling, Rags 2 Riches captures the reality that love is rarely perfect, but sometimes worth fighting for.

Known for her work both in front of and behind the camera, Alexis Monét Hunt continues building a reputation for creating visually compelling stories centered around authenticity, emotional depth, and culturally grounded narratives.

# Winsome Prime Marks First Anniversary with Performance by Eric Benet

One year after bringing its signature blend of elevated Southern dining and craft cocktails to Trinity Groves, Winsome Prime is proud to be celebrating a milestone in Dallas hospitality.



Courtesy photo

On Friday, May 29, from 8PM to 12AM, the restaurant will host an anniversary celebration featuring a special appearance by Grammy-nominated R&B artist Eric Benét, alongside an evening of music, decadent dinner, curated cocktails and the high-energy atmosphere that has helped establish Winsome Prime as one of Dallas' premiere dining and social destinations.

Since opening its Dallas location at 331 Singleton Blvd., Winsome has quickly established a reputation for pairing refined cuisine with immersive hospitality. Located in the heart of

Trinity Groves, the concept blends Southern-inspired steakhouse fare with a modern supper club experience, attracting tastemakers, professionals, athletes and entertainers from across the nation. The restaurant has received many notable nods within the last year, from “Best Brunch in Dallas” to making the “Hot List” for area dining, as well as a coveted nomination for “Best New Restaurant”.

The anniversary marks a full-circle moment for the

brand, which expanded to Dallas following the success of its Houston concept. Over the past year, Winsome Prime has become known for signature dishes including its Hawaiian Ribeye, Snapper Orleans, Charbroiled Oysters, and Crab Beignets, while also hosting live entertainment experiences, and even more intimate gatherings in its very own speakeasy.

“We wanted Winsome Prime to feel like more than a restaurant,” said co-

owner Rob Wright. “From day one, the vision was to create a space where food, music, culture and com-

munity all come together. Celebrating our first anniversary in Dallas, and doing it with someone as iconic as

Eric Benét, feels incredibly special.”

See BENET, Page 11

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## Second Annual 'Money, Power & Influence Summit' Slated for Arlington This Sunday

A Dallas nonprofit focused on economic empowerment is preparing to convene business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals from across North Texas for a daylong summit centered on wealth-building and leadership.

Black Women's Wall Street, a Dallas-based nonprofit organization, will host its second annual Money, Power & Influence Summit on May 31 at Esports Stadium Arlington. Organizers say the event is designed to address the financial and professional challenges facing entre-

preneurs and working professionals in an uncertain economy.

The summit will feature keynote speaker John Hope Bryant, founder and CEO of Operation HOPE, a national nonprofit focused on financial literacy and economic empowerment. Bryant has advised four U.S. presidents on economic policy and financial literacy initiatives. Since its founding in 1992, Operation HOPE says it has served more than 4 million people and helped direct more than \$4.5 billion in economic activity into underserved

communities.

Bryant's latest book, "Capitalism for All," was released this year. VIP attendees at the summit will receive signed copies and access to a private meet-and-greet following his keynote address.

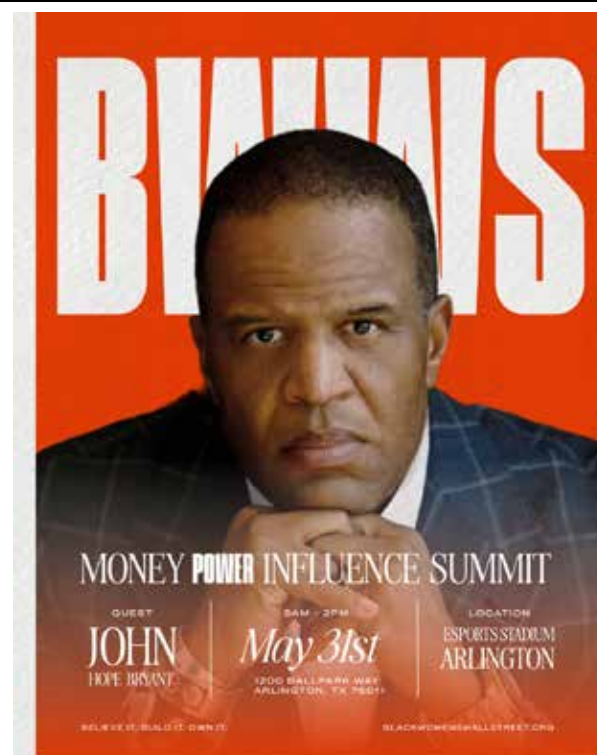
The event will be hosted by Dallas-Fort Worth media personalities Lady Jade and Dr. Rocky 'Rock T' Turner, who will guide attendees through panel discussions and featured conversations focused on money, power and influence.

Sessions will explore topics ranging from ar-

tificial intelligence and cryptocurrency to business acquisitions and access to capital.

Among the featured discussions is "Built to Receive," led by Kadena Tate, which examines how businesses can turn disruption into growth through leadership and organizational structure. Another session, "Ownership, Acquisition & Economic Growth," featuring Richard Chance, will focus on business acquisition as a pathway to wealth

**See SUMMIT, Page 13**



Courtesy Image

### COOK, from Page 8

and unforgettable memories."

Throughout its history, City Men Cook has become one of the region's premier community culinary experiences, attracting thousands of attendees

while supporting nonprofit partnerships, mentorship initiatives and community outreach programs.

The event remains a major annual gathering where attendees can enjoy outstanding food, dynamic en-

tertainment and meaningful activities designed to celebrate the spirit and strength of the community.

For sponsorship opportunities, media credentials, vendor participation or additional event information, visit City Men Cook Official Website.

### COWAN, from Page 2

complishments, Cowan points to the gospel event Fun in the Son as his most meaningful contribution, citing its profound social and spiritual impact. His perspective on success remains grounded in faith, emphasizing purpose over personal gain.

Reflecting on the industry today, Cowan acknowledges its transformation but expresses concern that reggae's foundational messages of social justice and human rights have diminished. His advice to emerging artists is clear: understand both the creative and

business sides of music, commit to excellence, and remain authentic.

At 80, Cowan continues to engage with new projects and initiatives, demonstrating that his influence is far from over. His legacy stands as a testament to vision, resilience, and an enduring commitment to music with meaning.

### BENET, from Page 10

Known for timeless R&B hits including "Spend My Life With You" and "Sometimes I Cry," Eric Benet's appearance adds a nostalgic and soulful element to the evening's celebration.

Guests attending the anniversary affair May 29 can

expect Winsome's signature happy hour from 4PM to 7PM, specialty cocktails, dinner service and celebratory moments throughout the evening from 8PM to 12AM—including Benet's performance. Reservations are strongly encouraged

and can be made at WinsomePrime.com.

Winsome Prime opened in Dallas in spring 2025 and has continued to position itself as a prime destination for upscale dining in one of the city's fastest-growing entertainment districts. For more information, visit WinsomePrime.com.



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

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Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)**

## WEALTH, from Page 1

ership have achieved it, compared to 51% of white Millennials.

- 67% of Black Gen Z and 55% of Hispanic Gen Z aspire to own a business — a rate significantly higher than the 34% of white Gen Z who share that goal.

- 77% of Black Gen Z and 70% of Hispanic Gen Z aspire to build an inheritance to pass on, even though only 18% and 20% respectively expect to receive one themselves — compared to 33% of white and 38% of Asian Gen Z who anticipate getting one.

- 46% of Black Millennials are optimistic about their household's financial future — higher than the 31% of white Millennials — despite having fewer financial resources, lower savings, and significantly less family financial support.

“The gap between financial aspiration and achievement for young and minority consumers is not a matter of motivation. It is a matter of structural access — to family financial resources, affordable credit, adequate income, and the knowledge to navigate a system not designed with these communities in mind. As the United States moves toward a majority-minority future, closing these gaps is not just a moral imperative — it is an economic one,” said Sara Weiss, executive director of JBI and a report co-author.

But homeownership, long considered the foundation for building family wealth, remains out of reach for many younger consumers.

According to the National Association of Realtors,

the nation's average price to purchase an existing home this past April was \$417,700. Regionally, the lowest priced home purchases were found either in the Midwest at \$324,500, or the South at \$366,600. The nation's highest prices homes at \$619,600 were in the West and \$510,800 in the Northeast.

Home affordability was also the focus of a recent New York Times editorial citing the vast differences in the ratio between home prices and median household income. In 1950, the median home price in the United States was \$7,400 — only 2.5 times the median annual household income. “But that ratio began surging in the 2000s. Today the median home costs almost five times the median household income” states

the editorial.

Conventional mortgages, the most affordable and sustainable over the 30-year length of most loans, have the advantage of fixed interest rates, but they require a 20 percent down payment to access the lowest rates available. Few young consumers can independently afford down payments ranging from \$64,900 to \$123,920. Smaller down payments may be available but come with higher monthly payments that include mortgage insurance.

For JBI and CRL, timely and decisive actions geared towards practical solutions are essential to overcome today's financial roadblocks.

“The Gen Z and Millennial respondents in this survey are in the formative years when the foundation for wealth is either built or destroyed,” states the study.

“The consequences of homeownership decisions, saving habits, and credit trajectories being established right now will compound themselves for decades... Thus, the time for structural reform is not after the demographic transition occurs. It is both before and during it.”

Secondly, according to the JBI study, solutions to today's homeownership challenges must incorporate initiatives for consumers at every stage of life:

“Solutions lie in enacting initiatives to fund downpayment assistance at scale for first generation homebuyers, reforming

mortgage policy to expand access, increased funding of small business support and capital access programs in communities of color, uniform adoption of state-sponsored retirement programs that allow individuals access to retirement plans when their employers do not provide them, and a commitment to modernize consumer protections so that they align with the present fintech era. Doing so will prepare us for the America that is coming; failing to do so will leave us stuck in the America that has been.”

JBI designs community-informed research that el-

evates the financial needs, challenges, and opportunities of our increasingly diverse nation to help financial institutions, policymakers and academia effectively design an inclusive financial market for the future.

Just as intentional policies and practices left out communities of color from wealth-building, now is the time to correct course by forging intentional inclusion.

*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).*

## NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

CASE NO.: 24D007480

TO: YOSEL 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)

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

EP.1 Booker T. Washington High School  
EP.2 Martyrs Park  
EP.3 Juanita Craft Civil Rights House  
EP.4 Northern Farmlands  
EP.5 Paul Quinn College - Dallas' HBCU

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

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

Go Here! - Link Also in Bio!  
[youtube.com/@ndglive6056](https://youtube.com/@ndglive6056)

# Gift Card Program Supports Frisco's Historic Downtown Rail District

Purchase a 'BOGO Gift Card' and double your buying power while supporting businesses in the historic downtown Rail District.

Beginning June 1, gift cards will be available on the Yiftee digital gift card app. Download the app from the App store. For example, if you purchase a 'BOGO Gift Card' for \$50 you'll have another

\$50 Bonus Card to spend – or \$100 total. That 'extra \$50', along with gift card fees, is being covered by the Frisco Community Development Corporation (FCDC).

To date, the Frisco Community Development Corporation (FCDC) has invested more than \$1.1 million to support Rail District businesses. More than

130 businesses call the Rail District home.

"The Rail District is entering an exciting new chapter as construction wraps up and downtown Frisco becomes more walkable, connected and family-friendly than ever before," said Chad Brubaker, President, Frisco Community Development Corporation (FCDC). "The FCDC is

proud to support the Gift Card matching program as a way to encourage the community to come back downtown, support local small businesses and enjoy the new atmosphere taking shape through the district."

Bonus Cards are issued while program funding lasts. Once funding runs out, only the standard gift cards remain available.

Bonus Cards expire September 20; the standard gift card never expires.

Use your BOGO Gift Card at participating businesses, which are listed inside the Yiftee Gift Card app. Those businesses are also listed on the webpage [raildistrictfrisco.com](http://raildistrictfrisco.com)

"The City of Frisco and its FCDC launched the 'BOGO Gift Card' last Oc-

tober," said Ben Brezina, Assistant City Manager. "Since then, more than \$950,000 in gift cards and bonus cards have been redeemed."

Gift cards cannot be used for tobacco, vape, or smoke products.

For questions, please call 972-292-5000 or email [Lauren.Williams@friscoedc.com](mailto:Lauren.Williams@friscoedc.com)

## SUMMIT, from Page 11

creation.

Entrepreneurs Emmanuel Ibe and Kassia Ibe will discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on careers, business and income generation during a panel titled "Thriving in the Age of AI." JaCoi James Pugh will

lead a discussion on cryptocurrency and digital assets, while another panel will focus on inclusive banking, economic mobility and long-term wealth-building strategies.

Organizers say the summit comes at a time when

many business owners and professionals are seeking guidance on navigating economic uncertainty, rising costs and shifting workplace dynamics.

Black Women's Wall Street was founded in 2018 by DFW natives JaCoi James Pugh and LaToya Gooden. The organization's

mission is to advance the economic empowerment of Black women through business education, financial literacy and entrepreneurship training.

According to the organization, Black women remain one of the fastest-growing groups of entrepreneurs in the country,

while continuing to face significant economic barriers in business and the workforce.

Tickets for the summit range from \$100 commu-

nity access passes to \$325 VIP packages. General admission tickets include access to keynote sessions, breakout discussions and networking opportunities.

## FILM, from Page 9

phy, lighting, colors, special effects, sets and sense of danger all gel during a fascinating sequence in a Hutt palace. A gigantic albino snake steals the movie from all the actors. In fact, "Dragonsnake" should get top billing. It and its makers deserve that.

Favreau remains a master at staging action scenes even if the action choreography is never as striking as a John Wick: Chapter 4, or the space chases don't compare with those in other Star Wars films. His version of action has a steady rhythm. His direction is helped greatly by editors Dylan Firshein and Rachel Goodlett Katz who stitch together various scenes into a discernible travelogue that holds attention for two hours and twelve minutes. Folks won't be bored. Not at all.

Whatever early apprehensions Star Wars movie fans may have with this new edition will fade during the second hour. That's when there's plenty of well-timed action, enough to entrance all. That said, surprisingly, the climatic action scenes and all the adrenaline they muster still are secondary

the character is a creation of three talented actors. The helmeted Mando is played by two stuntmen with two functions. Brendan Wayne has the swagger walk down pat. Lateef Crowder, a martial artist, handles the fights and tumbling. Altogether, they're the Mando persona. Weaver seems authentic but stiff. Allen's voice as Rotta creates an aura that is stronger than anyone else in the cast. Grogu's voice is provided by David Acord and the magic of Lucasfilm sound. You almost wish it had a more authoritative sound as Grogu becomes braver and more in charge.

Whatever early apprehensions Star Wars movie fans may have with this new edition will fade during the second hour. That's when there's plenty of well-timed action, enough to entrance all. That said, surprisingly, the climatic action scenes and all the adrenaline they muster still are secondary

to the father/son, mentor/student storyline that flourishes at the right time and blossoms fully. In the most cathartic ways. The ending is worth the price of admission. Once Mando asks, "Do we run, or do we

fight?" it's on. Big time.

"The old protect the young. The young protect the old." Keep that in mind.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

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## What If I Don't Want To Act My Age?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Throughout my life, I have often heard people telling other people what they should be or do. I do not know where they get the right to say that about other people.

I first encountered this attitude with my mother. She would often say to me, "Son, you need to start acting your age." At the time, I did not know what she really meant by that.

As far back as I can remember, I have never had any thespian ambitions. From the day I was born, I was always the real me. I never acted like something I was not. How could my mother look at me and tell me to start acting my age? If anyone should know how old I was, it would be her.

I had a hard time handling that until I went to school. At school, I did not know any other kids who were acting their age.

Maybe they did not have a mother like mine.

I lived with it but could never act my age. By the time I figured out my age and learned how to act it, I had another birthday, which pushed me beyond that aspiration. When do you stop aging so that you can learn how to act your age?

When I left home, I got married, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage seemed to have the same kind of ideas as my mother.

Too often she would say, "Why don't you just act your age?"

The first time she said that to me, I was quite stunned.

I don't know how to do all of this acting. I can act like a fool, and I know how to do that quite well. But I don't know how to act my age because I don't know what my age is today. I do know that by the time I understand my age, I'll have another birthday, and I'll

have to start the process all over again.

In all my years, I have never had any thespian training. I wouldn't even know where to start with that sort of thing.

Once, when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Why don't you just act your age?"

I responded, "If you can give me the script I'll study it so that I can act my age."

The look she gave me was well worth my comeback.

But it is true. If I'm going to act my age, I need to have the script, but where do I find that script?

I had one concern: what if she gave me a script and I had to follow it? So far, she hasn't given me a script, so, fortunately, I will not have to act my age.

Recently, I was at the mall for some shopping. After getting my items, I got a cup of coffee and sat down in the middle of the

mall. When it comes to shopping, I certainly don't have the energy. So resting after the shopping is what I do.

As I sipped my coffee, I looked around and watched people come and go. And then that question of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage seemed to pop into my head. I looked at the people and thought to myself, "Are they really acting their age?"

I watched everyone and asked myself that question about them. I could not find anyone that afternoon who really knew their age. If they did know, they certainly were not acting it. The older the person was, the less they acted their age.

What if I get up one morning and feel like I'm 25? Do I then need to act my age, which is 25? I'm sure that would not thrill The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

The next morning, I get

up feeling like I'm 65. Do I then need to act my age of 65? I'm sure that would not thrill The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. In fact, I don't think it would thrill me either. I don't know how to act like I'm limping.

Instead of acting my age, why can't I live my age? The problem with both sides is that we cannot define age. Age is not a number, so they tell us. Embracing who I am feels more genuine than conforming to societal norms.

If I lined up 10 people who are 25, each would act differently from the others. They would all be different, so how can I act my age when I really don't understand what my age is?

Fifteen years ago, on my 60th birthday, I made a resolution to myself that I would have no more birthdays. At 60, I was all I needed to be. I don't need any more age to define myself. If I don't know who or

what I am at 60, I will never find out.

I've decided to never act my age because embracing my true self, regardless of societal norms, brings me more happiness and freedom than conforming ever could.


The great challenge of life for me is always to be true, and it's not always easy. In reflecting on this, I was reminded of a verse of scripture.

"Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

Pondering this verse, I believe my main objective in life is to delight God and not yield to the demands of anybody else.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.*

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## Dwelling in His Secret Place



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

The late Elder Philip White of Love Chapel COGIC and my former pastor brought a powerful and thought provoking message one Sunday that ignited the entire congregation with praises and worshipping for God.

This was not an uncommon occurrence because Pastor White was a teacher/preacher of the Word of God for a long time and his messages from God would cause you to think, evaluate and act upon what God has sent especially for you.

However, what was unusual is that the message that he had prepared to bring, wasn't the message that we received.

At the end of the service Pastor White told me that when he stood at the podium and opened his Bible, God gave him a new title and scriptures; by the reaction of the people, there wasn't any doubt that God had sent His people what they needed.

This is one of many things that I loved about my former pastor; he always allowed the Holy Spirit to lead him.

He maintains that God knows best and he, Pastor White, told Him long ago, "God, where you lead, I will follow."

### WHERE IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE?

--by Elder Philip White

*"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty..."*

#### Psalms 91:1-16

Before a blessing comes, there has to be a preparation — if you expect to get God's blessings, there is something that you must do — instead of putting your trust in man, put your trust completely in God.

When trouble, sickness, and disappointment come; when your friends turn their backs on you, if you dwelleth in the secret place, you are dwelling with God and God is dwelling in you.

Your strength is then made perfect in your weak-

ness. God will instruct you in the secret place.

He will give you revelation (knowledge that is revealed before it happens) in the secret place.

If you dwelleth in the secret place with God, He will show you your weakness, your faults, your troubles, your sickness and your disappointments and He will show you your solution.

When you dwell in the secret place with God, He becomes your habitation. The secret place is a place of protection, devotion, guidance, love, comfort, a safe haven, a shelter in the

storm, a retreat, a sanctuary, and a hiding place.

When you are talked about, lied on, scorned, and misused things won't bother you in the secret place. You can't have inner peace unless you are in the secret place, under the shadow of the Almighty.

Let Satan send his fiery darts to harm you, but when he sends them, don't accept them. God's truth is your shield. His truth will stand, it will hold under any condition.

In the secret place God is your refuge (shelter) and your fortress (stronghold.) No evil will befall you,

neither shall any plague or noisome pestilence (disgusting or dangerous) thing or person will come and disturb you, when you are in the secret place.

You can always dwell in the secret place of the most High and you can abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Daily ask Him, "God what is wrong with me."

Then let Him show you in the secret place.

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

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# Carrollton Wins National Communications Awards

The City of Carrollton's Marketing Services team was honored to win three 2026 Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards for marketing and communications efforts from the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC).

The Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards is a national awards program held each year to recognize superior government communication campaigns/



City of Carrollton

efforts/projects and those who produce them. The work exemplifies the power of clear, creative, and

impactful communication that engages the public.

The City of Carrollton garnered a first-place award for Visual Arts – Graphic Package and a second-place award for Visual Arts – Single Graphic for artwork design and campaign materials promoting the City's annual signature event, the Festival at the Switchyard. The design pays homage to the historic train-based Festival location and is used to create a

consistent style for branding and awareness.

The City also received a third-place award for Reports – Annual Report for its 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report brochure featuring high-quality photographs, summary charts

and graphs, innovative artwork, and fun financial facts in an easy-to-read and well-designed format for citizens. Judges loved that the document showcases positive development and infrastructure updates in the City while providing

the desired financial transparency from the 2024 budget year in an appealing and accessible format.

"It is an honor to be recognized by a prestigious national organization such as NAGC," Marketing Director Kelli Lewis said.

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