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Sifting Through the Digital Noise This Election

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

As midterm elections approach, social media disinformation and unregulated AI tools are spreading misleading narratives, exploiting voter fears, undermining trust in democracy, and threatening voter participation. (DWG Studio)

As communities across America prepare to vote in the upcoming midterm elections, a wave of social media disinformation and unregulated artificial intelligence tools is targeting voters and exploiting fears, as watchdog groups try to maintain information integrity.

"Misinformation has been around for a long time," said Cameron Hickey, journalist, technologist, and CEO of the National Conference of Citizenship." People have always spread rumors or lied outright, but it feels like it's suddenly worse, he said.

As technology advances, making imaging and delivery bigger, faster, and better, claims that once took weeks to travel by word of mouth, now, in a moment, can cover a much wider scale and easily permeate in this divisive political environment.

The fast-moving atmosphere creates what Hickey calls a "civic health problem," where the country's polarization erodes trust in elections and democracy itself. Driven by a profitable attention economy that treats human attention as currency, false narratives are manufactured for profit and political benefit.

The highly profitable engine creates messages that draw us in with

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People In The News ...

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Angela Anderson

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"Just don't give up what you're trying to do. Where there is Love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong." - Ella Fitzgerald

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Fernando Puentes

Princeton High School teacher Fernando Puentes has been named a finalist for the 2026 Kleenex® Heroes of the Classroom Contest. Puentes was selected as one of 10 finalists after a nomination process that saw thousands of entries across the country.

Courtesy photo

Now in its third year, the Kleenex® Heroes of the Classroom Contest, in partnership with Campus Multimedia, recognizes K-12 teachers who make others feel strong, make a lasting impact, and are worth celebrating. After a period of public voting, the winner will be announced in mid-November.

As a Spanish teacher at Princeton High School—named Princeton High School Teacher of the Year and a 2026 America's Favorite Teacher semifinalist—Fernando Puentes empowers his students to see their bilingualism and biculturalism not as barriers, but as invaluable assets that open doors to future opportunities. Puentes creates an environment where every student is valued, setting high expectations while providing personalized mentorship, college application guidance, and FAFSA support that has helped 18 students secure full-ride scholarships and 14 earn half-ride scholarships to higher education.

Puentes meets students where they are with unwavering persistence—whether helping prepare them for AP exam success, supporting a former student returning to achieve her dream of attending college while raising her baby, or founding the district's innovative Bilingual Buddies Program that connects high school and elementary students in language learning and mentorship.

Deeply committed to serving his community through parades, cultural celebrations, and Spanish Club leadership, Mr. Puentes builds bridges between schools and families, teaching every student that their voice matters, their circumstances do not define their future, and their dreams are worth pursuing.

The Kleenex®Heroes of the Classroom Contest features more than $50,000 in total prizes dedicated to supporting both winning teachers and their schools. One grand prize winner, determined by the public vote, will receive a check for $10,000, while their school receives a $5,000 donation and a year's supply of Kleenex® Brand tissues. Nine first prize winners will each receive a $1,000 Costco Shop Card for themselves and $1,000 for their school. Additionally, the nominators of the grand and first prize winners will receive a $1,000 Costco Shop Card.

Public voting will take place from Oct. 8 at 12 PM ET to Oct. 22 at 11:59:59 AM ET.

"Every year, we're reminded just how many teachers are doing extraordinary things for their students and school communities," said Karl Mawhinney, CEO and Founder of Campus Multimedia.

"The Heroes of the Classroom Contest gives communities a chance to shine a light on those individuals and celebrate the lasting impact they have every day. We're proud to help bring their stories to a national audience and give people a meaningful way to say thank you."

To learn more and vote for your favorite teacher, visit HeroesoftheClassroom.com.

Angela Anderson

For job seekers who have submitted countless applications only to hear nothing back, a new platform offers a different possibility: a job offer as soon as the day of the interview. Angela Anderson, an African American female entrepreneur and HR executive with more than 20 years of experience, announces the launch of Hire on the Spot, an online job platform designed to connect qualified candidates with employers ready to hire quickly.

Courtesy photo

The need is urgent. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' September 2026 Employment Situation report, the unemployment rate for Black Americans was 7.0%, versus 3.6% for White Americans. Unemployment among Black women age 20 and older was 6.8%, and among Black men age 20 and older it was 6.0%. These disparities reflect the economic pressure facing families and communities that cannot afford prolonged hiring delays.

"Hire on the Spot has been a passion project and a true testament to my faith," said Angela. "I believe God gave me this business to help our community get back to work. Behind every resume is someone trying to provide for a family, regain stability, or find hope. This is bigger than building a company. It is about changing lives, one hire at a time."

Unlike conventional job boards that can leave candidates waiting for weeks, Hire on the Spot is built to connect job seekers with employers seeking faster hiring decisions. Candidates can register and explore opportunities, while businesses can post jobs and connect with talent. Same-day offers are possible, not guaranteed, and remain subject to employer requirements and hiring decisions.

Angela, who also founded the career development and HR consulting business #1 HR Expert in 2009, is especially committed to helping unemployed and underemployed people, including those in Black and underserved communities. In 2027, Hire on the Spot plans to expand its reach through in-person and virtual job fairs that connect candidates directly with hiring employers.

Need a job or know someone who does? Register at HireOnTheSpot.com

Employers ready to hire can register and post openings at the same site. Those interested in supporting the company's growth can review its Wefunder investment campaign.

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Bring on the Positive Calvary

By Dr. E. Faye Williams

(Trice Edney Wire)—Like Amy Acton, candidate for Governor in Ohio and Dr. Abdul El-sayed for U.S. Senate in Michigan, the Positive Calvary really is coming soon!

Aren't we all tired of the negative past two years we've experienced in the U.S.?

Aren't we tired of the atrocious accusations being thrown around, the filthy language, lies, unending corruption, hatred, racism, sexism, Islamophobia, and bigotry of all kinds.

This election season has been worse than ever! I'm sick and tired of women's names being dragged through the mud—as mine, and others have been out of hate and jealousy. I'm tired of so many people being reluctant to support women. Let's be the ones to stop this

I'm ready to hear in detail what candidates are ready to do to win the upcoming elections and give help to the people in need—and there are a lot of things from which to choose!

My prayer is that candidates will stop bickering and just tell us what they're planning to do to help to bring us out of this abysmal situation we're in now.

Instead of spending so much time being shocked by what the highest elected man in the land is saying and doing, let's concentrate on how to put up guard rails for him when we vote. We already know more than enough about what he has said and done. Let's pledge to elect leaders who've shown they care about the people they campaign to represent. There are a lot of good candidates out there who are being overshadowed by the bickering

Let's not leave everything to elected leaders. As community activists, Get Out the Vote workers, religious leaders and all the good people around us.

Show the way to a better nation to all around us. Let's concentrate on what we are going to do to help people in need. Let's work on plans to make their lives better. Let's pledge to get along with our neighbors at home, and our neighbors in Canada, our friends in Ukraine and stop being led by someone who hangs out with those set on disrupting our system of democracy. Ignore the wrecking balls who are more interested in tearing down monuments and praising themselves, supporting evil with lies and unbelievable positions on good people, those who are destroying our military and using government and our taxes on evil things.

Let's call out corruption, but don't participate in it. Let us ignore lies about good candidates at all levels. Let's support the left out. Jamie Davis, a Black man in Louisiana, is a leading candidate for the U.S. Senate. We don't have to live in Louisiana or be a Democrat or a farmer to support him when you see how much trouble the person running against him is dealing with something people don't want.

We can vote across party lines when that candidate has expressed the good things she/he will work for when elected. Never mind that in this case she has an R after her name. I know Monique Appeaning in Louisiana who worked in my campaign for Congress when she was a very young woman. I missed winning by a few votes to become the first Black woman to represent my home state in Congress. Forty years later, there has still been no Black woman in the Louisiana delegation. Monique has chosen to pick up the challenge and give my hope life so that other young Black women can have hope in refusing to allow any good thing to be beyond their reach

You know right from wrong, so don't be afraid to vote for what's right in a few days. Always promote good. Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Amy Acton deserve your vote if you are in Ohio or Michigan. Yes, you know right from wrong, so do what's right wherever you are.

Based on reporting by Seattle Medium.

Dallas County Democrats to Host Election Night Watch Party Nov. 3

The Dallas County Democratic Party will host an election night watch party Tuesday, Nov. 3, bringing together Democratic candidates, volunteers and supporters to watch election returns and support a slate of candidates seeking to chart a new direction for Texas.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. at Community Beer Co. Taproom & Restaurant, 3110 Commonwealth Drive in Dallas.

The party will provide an opportunity for attendees to gather as election results come in and show support for Democratic candidates across the state.

The Dallas County Democratic Party is the official organization of the Democratic Party in Dallas County, the second-most populous county in Texas. Led by Chair Kardal Coleman and governed by a County Executive Committee of elected precinct chairs, DCDP works to elect Democrats at every level of government, from the courthouse to Congress. The party recruits and supports candidates, registers and turns out voters, trains precinct leaders and volunteers, and runs coordinated campaign operations across the county. DCDP also conducts the Democratic primary elections in Dallas County.

For more information, visit DallasDemocrats.org/26watchparty.

Keep up with the news ONLINE www.northdallasgazette.com

Living Near Water-Pollution Sources Associated with Rare Brain Disorder

(Newswise) — MINNEAPOLIS — People who live near industrial facilities that pollute the water supply may be more likely to develop a rare movement disorder called progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), according to a study published October 28, 2026, in Neurology®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

PSP is part of a group of neurodegenerative diseases known as atypical parkinsonism. PSP shares some symptoms with Parkinson's disease, but it usually progresses much faster and responds differently to treatment.

The study does not prove that proximity to facilities that emit water pollution causes progressive supranuclear palsy; it only shows an association.

"These results suggest that environmental water pollutants potentially play a role in the development of progressive supranuclear palsy," said study author Charlie Weige Zhao, MD, of Harvard Medical School in Boston. "Further studies are needed to confirm these findings, but this is a step forward in understanding what raises a person's chance of getting PSP."

People who lived within about three miles of a facility that emitted pollutants including pesticides, other organic and inorganic pollutants and heavy metals were more likely to develop PSP than people who did not live as close to such facilities. The facilities included wastewater treatment plants, intensive aquaculture, chemical plants and thermal power stations.

DWG Studio

For the study, researchers recruited more than 500,000 people from across the United Kingdom who were then followed for up to 25 years. During that time, 221 people developed PSP. The people with PSP were each matched by age and sex to 10 people who did not have PSP.

Using people's home addresses in 2007, researchers looked at how close they lived to industrial facilities reporting pollutants. There were six types of pollutants: heavy metals, chlorinated solvents, persistent organic pollutants, pesticides, other organic pollutants and other inorganic pollutants. People who had lived at their address for less than a year were not included in the study.

Approximately one-third of the people who developed PSP lived within about three miles of an industrial facility, compared to about one-quarter of people who did not develop PSP.

• A total of 16% of people with PSP lived near a pesticide-polluting facility compared to 11% of those without PSP.

• And 38% of people with PSP lived near a facility with inorganic pollutants compared to 28% of those who did not develop PSP.

• For organic pollutants, the numbers were 36% and 28%. And for heavy metals, the numbers were 38% and 31%.

After adjusting for factors such as age, sex and education level, researchers found that people living near facilities emitting pesticides such as atrazine, simazine and diuron were 66% more likely to develop PSP than those who did not live near the facilities. People living near facilities emitting inorganic pollutants such as phosphorus, nitrogen and fluorides were 60% more likely to develop PSP.

People living near facilities emitting organic pollutants such as benzene, ethyl benzene and toluene were 52% more likely to develop PSP. And those living near facilities emitting heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium were 38% more likely to develop PSP.

Researchers found no association between chlorinated solvents and persistent organic pollutants and PSP.

"We also found some evidence that the risk of PSP decreased in proportion to how far away people lived from the facility as the distance increased to up to about six miles," Zhao said. "There is also evidence that the length of time people lived near the polluting facilities played a role in their risk of PSP."

Zhao emphasized that the overall risk of developing PSP was low, no matter where people lived.

A limitation of the study was that information on participants' job histories was not fully available, so the study did not analyze exposure to pollutants through work. Also, many industrial facilities emitted more than one type of pollutant, so it was not possible to isolate the effects of any single pollutant type.

The study was supported by the Dolce Family Fund for PSP research at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Discover more about brain health at BrainHealth.com, a free public resource from the American Academy of Neurology. It offers a website, podcast, and books, connecting you with trusted information from the world's leading experts in brain health. Follow BrainHealth.com on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

The American Academy of Neurology is the leading voice in brain health. As the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals with more than 44,000 members, the AAN provides access to the latest news, science and research affecting neurology for patients, caregivers, physicians and professionals alike. The AAN's mission is to enhance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor who specializes in the diagnosis, care and treatment of brain, spinal cord and nervous system diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache and migraine.

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Are Young People too Self-Absorbed to Vote?

Gabrielle Miller
NDG Special Contributor

Phil Scroggs / Unsplash

Young Black voters face a range of economic challenges, including rising housing costs, inflation and limited access to well-paying jobs. These pressures may influence their decisions about whether to participate in elections, particularly when they feel their votes do not lead to meaningful change.

In Brazos County, local candidates Wanda J. Watson (D), county commissioner for Precinct 4, and former state representative Kyle Kacal (R), county judge-elect, discussed the economic challenges facing young African Americans and outlined their approaches to employment opportunities, housing affordability and workforce development.

When asked about the biggest economic challenge facing young Black voters, Watson identified employment opportunities and access to the skills required for today's workforce as major concerns. "Jobs are the number one problem for people in the black community, as well as having the specific skill-sets required for so many jobs. Everything is specialized and tech driven." She also acknowledged that there are many trade jobs as well, but access to good paying jobs is still the number one issue. Commissioners don't create jobs, but Commissioner Watson said that it is their duty to see if there is value for the county to bring job fairs and jobs in general over to Brazos County. It's important to ask about internships from these companies as well, as so many companies requires exposure to even be hired. When asking the same question to Kyle Kacal, he said, "The single biggest factor effecting everybody—not just black people, but young people in general—is that they're so consumed with everything in their own lives that they're not realizing the impact that politics have on them." He said that they need to pay more attention to the world around them, and that even though it's not exactly fun or the most interesting thing to listen to, it's still important to understand, because college kids are on a short time limit before they're out into the real world. Mr. Kacal said that young people have the notion of "it doesn't affect me", and that this is a detrimental mindset to have because it does affect them. When asked how his platform plans on addressing these issues, he said that he's always valued including everybody and having an open door policy. He is always eager and ready to meet with people, no matter who they are.

On the topic of how young people feel that standard political promises haven't translated into affordable housing or better jobs, and why should they trust their plan, Commissioner Watson said that the

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social media, keep our attention, and suppress voter turnout through fear. In this system, our own cognitive biases are critical to recognize, explained Hickey.

When people see something that aligns with their beliefs, they are more likely to trust it, he noted. Lies are more believable when people want them to be true.

People are making decisions based on the information they are fed in the midst of busy lives, and they are susceptible, often putting their trust in influencers or outlets because they simply have a large audience.

A primary theme this election cycle is anti-immigrant rhetoric and voting conspiracy theories. For example, false claims regarding widespread noncitizen voting have spread rapidly. The Administration's theories surrounding the risk of non-citizens voting plants doubt in the minds of citizens, while the systems designed to mitigate that risk are not necessarily ones that can be trusted, explained Hickey.

He warned that tools like the federal SAVE system, which checks voter citizenship by comparing information in different federal databases, can be manipulated by federal authorities to target and remove eligible voters. This may happen because information on newly naturalized citizens is not yet included in all federal databases.

Beyond that, that bad actors are using generative AI to manufacture fear directly. Fabricated images circulating on Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok depict Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, intimidating voters at polling stations. This is making outreach difficult for voting rights organizations, and causing people likely to vote to be afraid of going to the polls.

Other campaigns recycle old videos from past election cycles, such as misleading footage alleging that touchscreen voting machines are switching votes in Florida, Texas, and Tennessee, noted Hickey.

The threats take on different forms across diverse communities. In the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, a platform shift has altered how false narratives spread. While the encrypted app WeChat was previously the centerpiece for Chinese-language misinformation, X, formerly Twitter, has become the primary engine.

"Disinformation usually starts with X, but then it gets translated and circled in WeChat groups," said Jinxia Niu, senior program manager of digital engagement at Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA).

Niu noted that roughly 60% of Chinese-language disinformation is directly translated and twisted from right-wing English sources. Anti-Chinese Communist Party influencers on X frequently use claims that the election is rigged to target pro-Trump Chinese audiences. To counter this, Niu's organization tracks misleading accounts.

Voter reliance on AI chatbots like ChatGPT and Gemini for information is spiking, added Laura Zommer, co-founder and CEO of Factchequeado, citing tracking data showing chatbot usage to research candidates jumped nationally from 14% to 25% in a single week.

Among Hispanic voters, that number surged past 30%. However, testing by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue found that these chatbots frequently provide incorrect basic data or sometimes mirror a user's political bias to keep them happy.

Researchers have identified at least 169 AI-utilizing political ads, representing $80 million in spending, Zommer explained, yet 69% failed to disclose the use of AI. Because there is no federal law requiring disclosure, and state rules vary widely, voters are left in the dark. According to research from the University of California, San Diego, 76% of Americans worry about AI-generated fake audio and video.

"The more educated immigrants are, they tend to stay online and spend more time, having more exposure to disinformation," Zommer warned, noting that specialized media literacy is required regardless of formal education. "They are still being misinformed because they have zero training on that."

To counter these problems, Hickey suggests a four-step method to decipher information called S-I-F-T. Developed by Informational Literacy Researcher Mike Caulfield, the method urges caution and diligence when sifting through information.

The S is for "stop," urging people to stop before engaging further when they see something that potentially shifts how they think. The "I" means "investigate the source." Dig in a little before you think about sharing, said Hickey. The "F" is for find better coverage. Look for alternative sources and verify, he said. The "T" means "trace claims" back to the original source.

In the age of AI, he warns, the last two steps can be tricky since AI systems are not necessarily better at discerning what is trustworthy from what is untrustworthy.

Yet, basic strategies like reverse image searches can help voters identify whether an image is legitimate or generated by social media amplification accounts.

With artificial intelligence amplifying fear and exploitation across cultural lines, the defense of the ballot box heavily relies on the media literacy of individual voters. By slowing down to utilize strategic verification tools like the SIFT method, communities can dismantle the profitable engines of manufactured panic and protect their right to participate effectively in democracy.

Dallas College Launches Enterprise Ventures

As part of its Dallas College 2035 vision, Dallas College today announced the launch of Dallas College Enterprise Ventures, a Texas non-profit corporation established by the Dallas College Foundation to enable mission-aligned revenue opportunities, pursue strategic investments and partnerships, and support the institution's long-term sustainability. Dr. Justin H. Lonon, Chancellor of Dallas College, has named B. Michelle Williams as Executive Director of Dallas College Enterprise Ventures.

Through Dallas College 2035, Enterprise Ventures will build a self-sustaining portfolio of ventures and investments across technology, real estate, workforce innovation and other mission-aligned sectors. The organization will serve as a platform for identifying, evaluating and scaling opportunities that strengthen Dallas College's long-term sustainability and extend its capacity to serve students and the region. Revenue generated through these efforts will be reinvested in student success initiatives, workforce programs and community impact efforts across North Texas.

"As we advance Dallas College 2035, we are challenging ourselves to think differently about how institutions create long-term value for students and communities," said Dr. Justin H. Lonon, Chancellor of Dallas College. "Enterprise Ventures gives Dallas College a new mechanism for putting our assets, expertise and partnerships to work in ways that can generate sustainable resources and accelerate innovation. At the heart of this effort is a fundamental question: How can we use the full strength of Dallas College to help more people achieve their potential through education?"

Lonon added, "Michelle brings entrepreneurial experience, strategic leadership and a demonstrated ability to build partnerships and turn innovative ideas into measurable results. Her experience will be instrumental as we establish Enterprise Ventures and explore new approaches to creating long-term value for Dallas College, our students and the communities we serve."

As Executive Director, Williams will lead the development and execution of the organization's strategy, overseeing investments, partnerships and initiatives designed to generate financial and mission-aligned value. She will also work across the business, investment, technology, education and civic communities to identify opportunities that

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For Oak Cliff's Hit Initiative Drives Attendance Gains at Dallas ISD Schools

For Oak Cliff celebrated the Dallas ISD educators helping students get back in the classroom Monday evening, recognizing the teachers and staff behind the first year of its Home Visits, Incentives, and Training (HIT) initiative during the inaugural World Chronic Absenteeism Awareness Day.

The celebration, held at the Dallas Zoo, brought together educators and For Oak Cliff leaders to reflect on the program's first-year results, share what they learned from working directly with students and families, and recognize the people who turned the initiative into measurable change on their campuses.

Launched during the 2025-26 school year with support from Communities Foundation of Texas, the HIT pilot partnered with Albert C. Black Jr. STEAM Academy and Dr. Frederick Douglass Todd Middle School, the two South Oak Cliff feeder schools with the highest rates of absenteeism.

More than 40 staff members were trained through the initiative, with a core team of 16 educators and staff members reaching 286 students and families through home visits. Rather than focusing solely on perfect attendance, HIT uses relationship-building, targeted incentives, and educator training to recognize improvement and help families overcome barriers that keep students out of school.

The first-year results were exceptional! Todd Middle School increased average daily attendance by 8.6%, an improvement reported as the largest attendance increase across Dallas ISD during the 2025-26 school year. The school's accountability rating also improved from a D to a B. At Black STEAM Academy, chronic absenteeism decreased by 9%.

"Chronic absenteeism is rarely about a student or family simply not valuing school. It is often a sign that there is a barrier we have to understand before we can help remove it," said Dr. Shareefah Mason, Director of Cradle to Career Education at For Oak Cliff. "The first year of HIT (Home visits, Incentives, and Training) showed us what can happen when educators have the tools and support to build deeper relationships with families, recognize progress, and respond to what students actually need. As we expand this work, we are building on what these educators learned and the trust they created with their school communities."

Monday's event featured two panel discussions examining chronic absenteeism from early childhood through college and the role community partners can play in improving attendance. The Early Childhood through College panel included Dominique McCain, President and CEO of Educational First Steps; Dr. Charlmaine Lewis, Assistant Principal at A.C. Black STEAM Academy; Umoja Turner, Executive Director of the South Oak Cliff Feeder for Dallas ISD; Erlene Williams, Director of Attendance Intervention Programs for Dallas ISD; and Dr. Macario Hernandez, President of Dallas College Mountain View Campus. The Activating Communities panel included Kevin Malonson, CEO of Dallas Afterschool; Dr. Candace Thompson, Community Philanthropy Officer at Communities Foundation of Texas; and Candace Sledge, Community Impact Manager for the Dallas Mavericks.

The program also featured the moving and illuminating poem "I Know You Want Me There," written by Dr. Shareefah Mason and Carter Jenkins and delivered in a powerful performance by Jenkins, a 10-year-old 5th-grade student.

For Oak Cliff recognized educators and staff from the two pilot campuses with certificates for their work through the HIT initiative. Recipients from Albert C. Black Jr. STEAM Academy were Angela Adams, Josephine Lawrence, Dr. Charlmaine Lewis, Kimberly Mitchell, Christie White, Drew Williams, Jacqueline Sneed, and Olivia Woodard.

Certificate recipients from Dr. Frederick Douglass Todd Middle School were Deana Willams, Latoya Bowen, Deandreia Broadnax, Tonya Dorsey-Dews, Janirra Smith, Kimberly Harrison, Angela Burley, and Shavonn Stearns.

With a remarkably successful first year behind it, HIT is gaining momentum. For Oak Cliff is bringing the initiative back to Black STEAM Academy and Todd Middle School for the 2026-27 school year and expanding to two additional South Oak Cliff campuses, John Lewis Social Justice Academy and Boude Storey Middle School, reaching even more students and families across the community.

The expansion will allow For Oak Cliff and participating educators to build on lessons from the pilot while reaching more students and families across the South Oak Cliff community.

Learn more about the Go To School Initiative, For Oak Cliff, and its work to support students and families: GoToSchoolDallas.com.

Funding Cuts Stifle Mobilization of Rapidly Growing AAPI Voting Block

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

DWG Studio

Asian American and Pacific Islander populations could mean the tipping point during the Midterms, according to recent survey from AAPI Data. With a quick-growing electorate nearing 17 million voters, community organizers are racing to mobilize the complex, predominantly foreign-born population despite changing policy concerns and recent funding shortages.

Data shows 90% of registered AAPI voters say they will vote in the midterms. Since intention and reality often differ, said Karthik Ramakrishnan, founder and director of AAPI Data, a more realistic figure may be the 64% who say they're "absolutely certain" to vote. The numbers mirror the record-setting turnout seen in 2018, he noted at a recent American Community Media briefing.

Mary Lou Akai-Ferguson, whose Asian American Power Network coordinates state-based advocacy groups, said grassroots organizing is already driving major turnout in swing states. Asian Americans early voting in Michigan have already outpaced 2022 numbers.

"With the growth of the AAPI voter community each year, AAPIs have the potential to exceed the margin of victory in these closely contested races," noted Christine Chen, executive director of APIAVote. But that only means that we have to increase participation to make sure that we have a meaningful impact."

Organizers present at the briefing pointed out that the actual number of ballots cast will hinge on how voters navigate a growing number of roadblocks.

Chen noted state-level narrowing of early voting schedules, identification options, and reductions to polling locations in Republican-led areas like Tarrant County.

To counter intimidation and bottlenecks at the booths, APIAVote is running an education hotline at 1-888-API-VOTE and heavily pushing early voting initiatives.

Economic anxiety and language barriers drive the community's politics, with 10% of Asian Americans and 17% of Pacific Islanders living below the federal poverty line. According to a recent AAPI Data report, the communities are now suffering severe deficiencies in housing, healthcare, and groceries.

Further, the vast majority of the AAPI population is foreign-born and thus affected by language barriers. Its limited-English-proficient population has language needs even slightly exceeding the Latino community.

The economic strain present in AAPI communities is compounded by higher education, where nearly one in five Pacific Islander students is enrolled in a for-profit college—more than double the national average.

This financial and social unease is compounded by tensions surrounding immigration. The data indicates 41% of AAPI individuals have or know someone who has begun carrying identification papers out of caution. This figure rises to 53% among South Asian families.

Amidst the tension, community support for hardline immigration enforcement has plummeted. In December 2024, 38% supported deportation of all undocumented residents, but by February 2026, that figure dropped to 29% following coverage of LA immigration efforts.

"We cannot deny that Trump is a polarizing figure," Ramakrishnan said. "He generates turnout just by himself."

Yet, actual partisan outreach remains sluggish. Republican efforts at contacting households have largely stagnated, while Democrats have made marginal progress.

Despite the stakes of this election, community organizations are facing financial challenges to achieving their desired outreach goals. Political advocacy funding has collapsed since 2024 due to philanthropic and corporate fears of political retribution, noted Akai-Ferguson. This has resulted in deep cuts to crucial programs for the community's all-important inconsistent voters.

To navigate the financially restrictive environment, year-round community groups are restructuring their strategies—dropping expensive, late-stage television advertising. Instead, they are training local social media influencers and neighborhood trusted messengers to educate voters, said Akai-Ferguson.

Programs like "Chai and Chat" bring together different generations in neighborhood coffee shops. These meetings bring out down-ballot impacts, like the effects of Georgia's Public Service Commission race on everyday household utility costs.

"So these are the spaces where a community can really ask judgment free and get a deeper understanding of why it's so important to vote, said Akai-Ferguson. It's not enough to just show up to communities in October, put a bunch of ads on TV and say, yeah, go vote."

A lot of our younger voters are looking for spaces to build community with other people, she said.

We are seeing deep political shifts, added Ramakrishnan, as the electorate now identifies as Democrat over Republican by a two-to-one ratio.

Financial distress has resulted in disillusionment among traditional AAPI Republicans on Federal tariffs and the economy, pushing independents and conservatives toward the Democratic column.

Affordability is a top issue, but that affordability means something very different to a Filipino American working in a casino in Las Vegas and a tech worker in Michigan," Akai-Ferguson said.

The impact of early, grassroots organizing is a major focus in key swing states like Michigan, where local organizers are monitoring early voting efforts. For early voting figures, consult official state election bureaus.

Cowboys End Two-Game Skid and Keep Division Hopes Alive

By Jamal Baker
NDG Sportswriter

NDG Composite

The Dallas Cowboys ended a two-game losing streak with a 38-21 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles at Lincoln Financial Field Monday night.

Sitting at 3-4 on the season and picking up a much-needed division win, Dallas still is within an arm's reach of 1st place in the NFC East.

"We say the division's right in front of us, it is as long as we win. If you lose another game, then you're probably checking to see what New York's doing. You're probably watching the other teams more than we should. We've got to win the games, got to win division games," quarterback Dak Prescott said.

Running back Javonte Williams played a pivotal role against a formidable Philadelphia run defense—rushing for a career high 155 yards and averaging 6.2 yards per carry.

"He's a true pro," said Prescott of Williams' impact. "One of the best teammates, the guy that does everything right, a smart football player, and a physical football player. He's a guy you gotta get in a groove, and I think that's probably one of the frustrating things for him in the last couple of weeks, is not getting that chance again and again to get in that groove.

"He can turn some of those two yard runs into six yard runs and so on and, tonight, he had that chance. And when you follow that offensive line, trust them, trust those blocks, that's the product you're gonna get."

The Dallas defense got a huge boost from linebacker DeMarvion Overshown being back on the field after recovering from a hamstring injury he suffered in the season opener against the New York Giants.

Overshown recorded five tackles, one tackle for loss, two pass break ups and an interception in the fourth quarter to set the offense up for a dagger touchdown by Williams.

"Hey, it felt great," Overshown said. "You know, anytime you are on the W side of the win-loss column, it always feels good. But the best feeling about it is just being out here with my brothers, you know? We go through so much in the offseason, grinding with each other in training camp, grinding for each other — the blood, the

See COWBOYS, Page 12

YOUNG, from Page 5

impact on affordable housing is by a broader governmental influence. The real issue comes back to this—good paying jobs. If one is at a job making minimum wage, that impacts on how one is able to pay rent or own a house in general. Bringing higher paying jobs to the community will offset the cost of living. The price of everything is going up, but well-paying jobs are not going up with it. Mr. Kacal was surprised by the wording of "affordable housing" as he thought the new term was "attainable". "If we're going to change America and Texas, people need to be able to afford a home and have a good job, and owning a home is what sets people free from the chains of the government." He said that owning a home and having that pride gives people the motivation to work harder and do more. Once housing began to be unattainable and unaffordable, that's when the distance between the wealthy and the not-wealthy started growing—back in the late 80s and early 90s. When asked why people should trust his plan, he said, "I have a proven record of listening and working with people and always [aiming] on doing what's right. Everyone always has a seat at the table, and our community always does better when all segments of the community are working together."

With the final question of, "If elected, what is the first specific policy you will champion to help young people entering the workforce?" Commissioner Watson brought up the interest in different kinds of companies, such as SpaceX, coming near Bryan/College Station. The elected officials in Brazos County isn't necessarily at the table themselves to speak with the companies about the possibility of internships, but Commissioner Watson hopes that when she's re-elected, she'll be able to sit in on those discussions and speak about issues on data centers that might impact people in Brazos County. She feels that it is her responsibility to bring these issues up, and that she asks those questions out loud, even if she doesn't get the answers that she hopes for. Mr. Kacal said that when going into county government, it's important to help the human resource department at job fairs. He said that they have to let the young people in Brazos County know that there are some good jobs out there, and that there's at least 100 jobs open for work in Brazos County from the health district, all the way down to the Expo Center.

Commissioner Watson had one last thing to say after the interview. "I hope that [young people] will do their due diligence in terms of listening to all the issues that are going to be impacting people on the ballot first, and try to take the time to educate themselves on any propositions, proposals, and anything else, even if it feels like it might not impact them. Voting, particularly in ones on the local level, does impact them. It might not help them afford a house, but there are many things that will impact their day to day lives. Please take the time to look at each candidate and what they're saying. There is no perfect candidate, and not all candidates, contrary to what they say, can do all things. They're limited by the scope of their office, or they're the only person in their political party, and so they may win some, and may not." If all else fails, young people have a voice, and it's important for them to try their best so that certain issues aren't swept under the rug or not addressed at all. "Do your due diligence," Commissioner Watson urged, "and vote! I don't care—please vote."

Top 10 Things to Know for Carrollton's 16th Annual Festival at the Switchyard

CARROLLTON – Celebrate sweet 16 years of the Carrollton Festival at the Switchyard on Saturday, November 7 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., held on the streets of Historic Downtown Carrollton (1106 S. Broadway Street).

Courtesy photo

Top 10 Things to Know:

1. FREE! No entry fee or ticket is needed, and all rides, games, performances, and entertainment are free, including concerts by headliner multi-platinum selling alt rock band Toad the Wet Sprocket with openers Eve 6 and Wheatus. Bring spending money for food, drinks, and shopping.

2. Main Stage Entertainment: All-day entertainment will begin just after 11 a.m. when students from Vivian Field Middle School perform the National Anthem. The group Bird Brains, comprised of instructors from Lark Music Loft, will take the stage at noon, followed by Elias Y Su Orquesta for an energetic salsa, bachata, and merengue performance. In the afternoon, Midtown 10 will pump up the jams by performing chart-topping hits mixed with EDM, hip-hop, and electro-pop, and Texas Female Artist of the Decade Bri Bagwell will return to the Festival stage after performing at the event in 2012. Before the evening's headliner, don't miss the chance to groove along with Talking Heads tribute band Heartbyrne to hits such as "Psycho Killer," "And She Was," and "Burning Down the House."

3. Front-of-Stage Performances: Festival attendees will enjoy performances from local groups beginning just after 11 a.m. in front of the main stage. First up, students from the R.E. Good Elementary Dance Department will perform, followed by dazzling dance routines and spirited steps from the R.L. Turner Lionettes Drill Team. Carrollton-founded group 410 Line Dancers will put on a soul line dance show, and Sidekicks Martial Arts will showcase an athletic spectacle of karate and Brazilian jiujitsu skills. To conclude the day's front of stage performances, Class Act Tap Company will sparkle with terrific tap-dancing talent.

4. Strolling Entertainment: Strolling performers will entertain and delight attendees as they walk, dine, and shop throughout the Festival grounds. Guinness World Record holder David Slick will put on interactive juggling and stilt-walking shows, while hula hoop artist Amanda Slick demonstrates her skills in dance and spin tricks. Cosplay groups Cause to Play and the Avengers Initiative – Lone Star Troupe will be out and about for photo opportunities. With his close-up magic, strolling magician David Knight will make any Festival moment magical. Lastly, don't miss cast members from Downtown Carrollton's very own Pocket Sandwich Theatre in costume from the theatre's production of The Werewolf of London.

5. Rides & Games: In addition to live entertainment, the Festival offers free rides such as bungee trampolines, a zip line, and a giant fun slide, as well as carnival games, a kids' craft area, inflatables, face painting, balloon twisting, caricature drawings, and more. All free! Just make sure to get in line early as the face painting and balloon twisting booths shut down at 6 p.m., and rides and games close at 7 p.m. Attendees can also visit inside the Main Event Plaza, located next to the main stage, to enjoy free arcade games and machines. The whole family can shred guitar on Guitar Hero or enjoy a classic game of pinball before the Plaza closes at 5 p.m.

6. Food Vendors & Shopping Opportunities: Hungry attendees can give their feet

See SWITCHYARD, Page 13

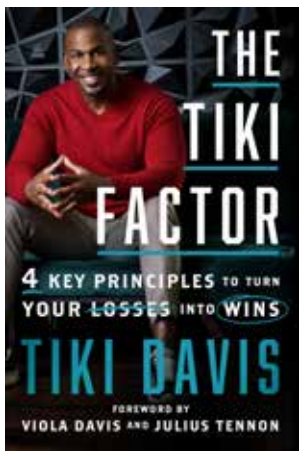
NDG Bookshelf: 'The Tiki Factor is a Rollercoaster Ride, Page by Page

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Pull yourself up by the bootstraps.

That's often the advice given to someone who's down and out and left with nothing. Get ahold of yourself, find your spine, and just do it. Take that first step, be brave, don't accept "no" for an answer. There's all kinds of advice for getting ahead but advice ignores one important thing: as in the new book "The Tiki Factor" by Tiki Davis, you can't pull yourself up by the bootstraps unless you have boots first.

His life, he says, was never anything "normal."



Neither of Tiki Davis's parents completed high school; he wasn't even sure who his father was until he was older. For much of Davis's early childhood, he was shuttled between Artesia, New Mexico and Odessa, Texas, between his mother and his grandmothers. He was almost killed by his mother's customer at age nine; he wore his older brother's raggedy hand-me-downs until he was eleven years old. That was when Davis landed a job so he could pay for his own food and clothing. Even then, he resorted to theft when he needed something he couldn't buy.

Adults pushed him toward sports to channel his aggression and energy, and football became Davis's passion. He set his sights on playing for a specific local high school team, but doing so meant leaving The Flats behind and entering a boys' home, where he found safety in what was left of his childhood. He became a leader, and he dared to dream of college.

But his track to success fell apart when he was accused, arrested, and imprisoned for a crime he could prove he didn't commit. He missed his high school graduation, and job prospects were bleak but he was good at spotting opportunity.

Still, "It seemed every time I took two steps forward," he says, "I was knocked back five or ten."

At the risk of being a spoiler, "The Tiki Factor" is not without an happy ending. You'll find goodness in this story, actually pretty quickly. What you won't find – at least not overtly – are the promised "4 Key Principles."

Those are inside this book somewhere, subtly, probably. Maybe. The good news is, you won't mind if you miss them while you're enjoying this biography, because author Tiki Davis is brutally honest about his early life. And yet, despite every slight and disadvantage, through every denial and hardship, and because of mentors and angels that came when he needed them most, he succeeded, which is a riveting tale. Davis is a businessman now, an entrepreneur, and a philanthropist and, after chapters and chapters of heart-in-your-throat reading, just knowing that might come as a whoosh of relief to most readers.

Perhaps that's where the "Principles" are: in the overall book, hidden in tales of poverty, crime, abandonment, perseverance, inspiration, and leadership. Readers will want to possess a willingness to wait, though, to read between the lines, or at least not fret so much about these cloaked "Principles." Do that, find "The Tiki Factor," and strap in.

The Addison Hosts Two-Day Festival Celebrating Texas Films Nov. 7-8

The Addison Performing Arts Centre is rolling out the red carpet Nov. 7-8 as it hosts the inaugural Addison Full Circle Film Festival, a two-day celebration of Texas filmmaking. .

Created to spotlight Texas filmmakers and strengthen the state's film community, the festival will give audiences the opportunity to discover homegrown talent through a diverse lineup of feature-length and short films produced across the state.

Throughout the two-day event, feature-length films will be shown on The Addison Main Stage while short films will be showcased in the Black Box Theatre. Select screenings will be followed by filmmaker Q&A sessions, giving audiences the chance to learn more about the stories, inspiration and creative process behind the films.

The festival will be complete with pop-ups and unique visuals, including a glowing "Howdywood" sign lighting up the theatre entrance.

For Worley and Williams, bringing the festival to The Addison carries special significance. The two had been collaborating on films for several years when they connected with The Addison Performing Arts Centre Manager Nichole Bedford and began discussing new opportunities for the venue. Together, they developed the idea for a film festival that would create a new platform for Texas filmmakers while introducing audiences to fresh artistic experiences at The Addison.

"We wanted to create an event that showcases the depth of talent across Texas while giving audiences a chance to engage with the stories and artists behind the work," said Andrew Worley, co-founder of Full Circle Films. "It's exciting to bring North Texans a festival created by filmmakers for filmmakers, where everything is truly coming around full circle."

Whether attendees are passionate film buffs, aspiring filmmakers or simply looking for a unique weekend activity, the festival promises two days of compelling stories, emerging talent and a celebration of Texas creativity.

Programming runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Tickets are available for purchase through Eventbrite, with one-day passes available for $15 and two-day passes available for $25.

COWBOYS, from Page 8

sweat, the tears.

"Sitting on the sideline is not fun for me, because I know what we went through. I know the goals that we got, that we want to achieve. Being back out there on the field is a blessing and I know it's going to help us accomplish the goal if we want to as a team."

Defensive tackle and team captain Quinnen Williams also made his presence known by stuffing the stat sheet with four solo tackles, three tackles for loss and a sack.

"I think we're heading in the right direction," Williams said. "I've got to watch the film, and we've got to fix some things, especially as a D-line, especially when we come down to stop the run. I feel like we can do better than that."

Dallas is set to face the Arizona Cardinals at AT&T Stadium on Sunday as they look to get to .500 on the season.

New 'I Want Out' Book Brings Black Authors Together to Share Lessons About the Hidden Costs of Bad Partnerships

Taurea "Vision" Avant, author, two-time TEDx speaker, and founder of Book Profits Club™, is bringing together contributors for I Want Out, a forthcoming collaborative book exploring partnership experiences and the lessons that can help others recognize warning signs, avoid costly mistakes, and make more informed decisions. Their project highlights a difficult conversation: what happens when a partnership built on trust and shared goals becomes a source of financial loss, uneven responsibilities, damaged confidence, or disappointment?

Courtesy

With participating authors including Toni Moore, Dee Tate, and Coach Gayl Benson, the book brings Black women's voices into a conversation about accountability, boundaries, and the courage to speak up. The project is also welcoming additional women and men who want to share their experiences and lessons. Partnership challenges can extend beyond the end of a business arrangement. They can affect a person's reputation, confidence, and willingness to pursue future opportunities. I Want Out is being developed to give contributors a platform to share what they learned, including questions they wish they had asked, boundaries they wish they had established, and decisions that helped them move forward. The project encourages honest storytelling that helps readers examine their own partnerships while respecting each contributor's choice about what to share.

Toni Moore is an attorney and business strategist whose work includes educating entrepreneurs about protecting their brands through trademark knowledge. She brings a business protection perspective to the participating author group.

Dee Tate is an award-winning film producer, multidisciplinary artist, poet, and author whose work explores faith, healing, identity, and becoming. She founded Chicago Production Assistants in 2016, growing a community of more than 7,000 members. Her work encourages people to draw purpose, creativity, and impact from their lived experiences.

Coach Gayl Benson is a Certified Master Life and Cognitive Behavior Coach who helps women challenge limiting beliefs and move toward their next chapter. Her L.I.E.—Let It End—framework guides women in examining the stories they have accepted about themselves and recognizing their power to choose what comes next.

Together, their professional backgrounds bring business knowledge, creative expression, and personal growth perspectives to the project.

Women and men with meaningful partnership experiences are invited to attend an information session to learn about contributing to "I Want Out." Potential contributors may have lessons about trust, communication, boundaries, accountability, leaving a partnership, or rebuilding afterward. The book explores the good, the bad, and the ugly of partnerships, with the goal of helping readers learn from others' experiences.

To register for the information session, visit https://iwantout.collaborationbooks.com.

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Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

MedHaul Wins Prize in AI Health Innovation Competition

(Black PR Wire) Memphis, TN — MedHaul, a digital health company whose technology platform allows healthcare providers to easily and quickly match their patients with appropriate medical transportation, has won WellWithAll's $1 Million WellWithAll Prize Competition, a national competition for AI-powered health tools that are working in people's daily lives now and ready to reach millions more.

On October 15 in Boston, MedHaul took home first place and $500,000 in the competition, selected by an expert judging panel after finalists demonstrated their solutions at WellWithAll's Demo Day at Harvard Business School.

MedHaul / Courtesy

"Winning the WellWithAll Prize is honestly so validating," said Erica Plybeah, Founder and CEO of MedHaul. "When I started MedHaul in 2017, nobody wanted to talk about transportation. Today, health systems have the data showing it's one of the top barriers to care, and they want to help. They just don't know how. This funding will help us keep building our AI care operations layer that helps care teams see when a patient is at risk of missing their ride, and scale our new electronic medical record (EMR) and Uber Health integrations so more patients make their medical appointments and treatments. We're grateful to receive this capital from a partner with an aligned vision and mission, and now more people will get the care they need."

Since its founding, MedHaul has been building healthcare mobility infrastructure and using AI to make transportation coordination more intelligent, responsible, and human-centered. MedHaul's technology and infrastructure streamlines and centralizes medical transportation, providing care teams with a single platform to schedule and track rides – including same-day booking and door-through-door service for frail patients – manage billing, and improve rider and caregiver communication via text messaging and conversational AI features.

MedHaul, which currently operates in 17 states, has already demonstrated measurable results since its founding. Healthcare providers using MedHaul have reduced missed appointments by 25 percent and improved patient appointment timeliness by 52 percent. Fifty-six percent of MedHaul's riders require mobility assistance and 42 percent live in rural communities.

This prize will add fuel to MedHaul's ability to scale its technology platform and infrastructure to reach millions of people who need appropriate medical transportation to reach their medical appointments.

"When people hear AI right now, a lot of them hear fear, all while trust in the systems meant to catch people when they fall is wearing thin," said Demond Martin, WellWithAll Co-Founder and CEO. "What we found is that the breakthrough is already here. The people who have been left furthest behind in our healthcare system deserve tools that meet them where they are, no matter their ZIP code. The Prize puts real weight behind proven solutions so they reach the people the system reaches last, with the power to scale impact for generations to come."

WellWithAll developed the inaugural Prize competition with support from The M&T Charitable Foundation, co-presenting partner AARP, The Boston Foundation, the Kapor Foundation and Craig and Darla Albert.

To learn more about the Prize and its awardees, visit the WellWithAll Foundation site and find a media kit with additional assets here. To learn more about MedHaul visit www.gomedhaul.com.

VENTURES, from Page 6

can strengthen Dallas College while expanding pathways for students and the regional workforce.

"Higher education has extraordinary assets, talent, expertise, infrastructure and partnerships, that can be activated in new ways," said B. Michelle Williams, Executive Director of Dallas College Enterprise Ventures. "Our opportunity is to bring those strengths together with an entrepreneurial mindset: building ventures, investing strategically and developing partnerships that generate new resources for Dallas College while expanding what is possible for our students and the communities we serve."

Williams brings extensive experience in entrepreneurship, innovation, economic development, and strategic partnership development. Throughout her career, she has connected startups, investors, educational institutions, and community leaders to create scalable opportunities that drive growth, foster innovation, and expand access to opportunity.

One of Dallas College Enterprise Ventures' first initiatives is a partnership with Axio, an education technology company developing AI-supported course modernization tools. Through an innovative partnership structure, Dallas College Enterprise Ventures has invested in the company while simultaneously piloting its technology within the college, creating an opportunity to support innovation while exploring solutions that enhance teaching and learning.

The launch of Dallas College Enterprise Ventures reflects Dallas College's commitment to innovative approaches that expand opportunity, strengthen workforce competitiveness, and create lasting economic and community impact for future generations.

The Dallas College Enterprise Ventures Board is composed of distinguished leaders in business, investment and entrepreneurship:

Jim Adams, Board Chair, brings more than 20 years of experience leading family offices and managing investment portfolios, with expertise spanning venture capital, education technology and growth-stage investments. Adams's leadership includes advancing social innovation through nonprofit incubators and accelerators, along with service on multiple government agency boards.

Valerie Freeman, Board Member, is Co-Founder and CEO of BravoTECH and FreemanLeonard, and a co-founder and investor in AnserTEAM and Prime Women Media. A technology executive and entrepreneur, Freeman has built, scaled and invested in companies across technology, banking and women-owned business ventures.

Wendy Lopez, Board Member, is an entrepreneur and corporate executive who built and scaled successful businesses across both the entrepreneurial and corporate sectors. Lopez is a venture capital investor, supporting high-growth companies and emerging innovators.

Original ChopShop Names New Chief Executive Officer

Original ChopShop, the feel good eatery known for customizable bowls, salads, sandwiches and more, has named Kyle Frederick Chief Executive Officer. Frederick succeeds Jason Morgan, who is transitioning from CEO into an advisory role after 10 years leading the brand.

Frederick has been part of Original ChopShop's leadership team for a decade, most recently serving as Chief Operating Officer. In that role, he helped shape the company's operations, culture and restaurant teams. As CEO, Frederick will lead the company as it brings its Feel Good Food experience to even more communities.

"What started as three Shops in Phoenix is now 30 locations across four markets, and I think ChopShop's best days are still ahead," said Jason Morgan, outgoing CEO of Original ChopShop. "I'm proud of everything our team has built over the last 10 years, and I'm excited about where Kyle will take it. I'll be in his corner as an advisor, and I'm ready to watch this team continue to do big things."

During his tenure as CEO, Morgan guided Original ChopShop through significant growth and established the operational and cultural foundation that continues to support the brand today.

Before joining Original ChopShop in 2016, Frederick held leadership roles at Zoës Kitchen.

SWITCHYARD, from Page 9

a rest in one of the Downtown restaurants or enjoy a bite to eat from food vendors offering delicious Festival favorites such as turkey legs, barbecue, tacos, deep-fried Oreos, funnel cakes, and of course, corny dogs. Festivalgoers are encouraged to visit the unique shops that line the Square or stop by the many trendy artisan booths for local jewelry, art, and other trinkets. Maybe even get an early start on holiday shopping this year!

7. Beer Garden: Take a break in the beer garden after visiting one of three bars offered at the Festival for a variety of beer and wine. Several Downtown restaurants also offer mixed drinks.

8. Parking will be extremely limited. Attendees are encouraged to take the DART Silver or Green Line to the Downtown Carrollton Station (regular charges apply; visit dart.org/fares). Handicap parking will be available at 1000 W. Belt Line Road, just east of the Festival grounds and is also available at all DART stations.

9. Prohibited Items: Due to the limited space within the Festival grounds, lawn chairs, skateboards, bicycles, scooters, in-line skates, and coolers are not permitted. Seating areas within the Festival site are provided. Pets, with the exception of service animals for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, are also not permitted.

10. The event will be held rain or shine. Musical acts may be postponed due to inclement weather, but will not be rescheduled for an alternate weekend. If the weather becomes severe enough to jeopardize public safety, the Festival may be closed until conditions improve.

Festival sponsors to date include Bright Event Rentals, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), iHeart Media, Western Extrusions, Dallas Morning News, KDAF CW33, Texans Credit Union, Whataburger, Advance America, Andretti Indoor Karting, Atmos Energy, Avalon Townhome Collection Plano, Clown Around Party Rental, EVIVA Trinity Mills Station, Just4Kids Urgent Care, Leaf Filter Gutter Protection, Oncor, Power Home Remodeling, Republic Services, Springhill Suites by Marriott, Sam Pack's Five Star Ford in Carrollton, Statewide Remodeling, FastSigns of Carrollton, and Lark Music Loft.

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Maybe We Should Go Back to the Horse-And-Buggy Days

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Every Sunday morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I go across town for our ministry at an assisted living facility. We've been doing this for approximately four years now. It's a wonderful ministry we enjoy.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always drives her Sissy Van while I sit in the passenger seat. She prefers to drive because she really doesn't like riding in my pickup truck. I don't blame her, so I let her drive across town. I'm not too fond of riding in the Sissy Van, but I have no other choice. Getting in and out is quite the task.

Last week, as we were going across town, the traffic was horrible. I can't remember when traffic was this bad. It seemed like we were driving bumper-to-bumper all the way across town. Where do all of these cars come from? And why are they on the road on Sunday?

Of course, in this kind of environment, there are many accidents. During the last year, I had 4 friends killed in an automobile accident.

When I was young, people drove on Sunday to go to church. Now, that seems to be off the schedule for most people today. I have no idea where they are going. The important question for me is: why are they driving so crazy?

This week, as we were driving across town, I thought about something from back in the day. We had quite a few Amish people in our community. I even had an Amish friend.

My great-grandmother was Amish but was shunned because she dated an "English" guy, who became my great-grandfather.

As you might know, the Amish do not drive automobiles. They don't have electricity in their homes, or plumbing, or anything like that. They don't believe in that sort of thing. They live a very simple lifestyle.

The most significant thing about the Amish is that, instead of driving an automobile, they drive a Horse-And-Buggy. I remember riding with my friend in a Horse-And-Buggy, and I had a great time.

Thinking about the Horse-And-Buggy community, I realized there were very few accidents. In fact, I can't remember a single accident involving a Horse-And-Buggy.

Compared to automobiles, I'm not sure how many accidents happen each year. I'm sure it's pretty high, and I'm sure many people die as a result of automobile accidents.

But I have yet to hear of somebody dying because of a Horse-And-Buggy accident. I'm not saying it hasn't happened; I've just never heard of it.

What if we went back to those Horse-And-Buggy days? Back to the time when we weren't all caught up with the latest technology available.

Maintaining a Horse-And-Buggy is far cheaper than an automobile. Gas alone can bankrupt a person. Gas is a lot more expensive for a car than the oats and hay a horse eats.

As we were traveling across town, I looked at my wife and said, "Maybe we should get a Horse-And-Buggy instead of this Sissy Van."

She looked at me, then said, "Neeeeeigh."

I didn't mention that again because I understood exactly what she was saying. I'm not going to nag her about that.

It was rather warm that morning, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage turned on the air conditioner and said, "I like air conditioning, don't you?"

As I enjoyed the air conditioning, I understood exactly what she meant. I've ridden in several Horse-And-Buggies, and not one of them had air conditioning. In fact, riding down the road, I was exposed to the weather all around me. Sometimes it was a sweating experience.

Horse-And-Buggy has some advantages, I suppose. But as I thought about it, I realized the advantages of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's Sissy Van are far greater.

Usually, when I rode in a Horse-And-Buggy, it was out in the country, with very little traffic. It just occurred to me what an advantage that is.

Even though the Sissy Van is not my favorite mode of travel, I must confess it has advantages I should learn to appreciate. I thought long and hard about that, then turned to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "I must confess that I really do enjoy your Sissy Van."

She looked at me, then chuckled and replied, "I don't know if you're telling me a joke or setting me up for one of your pranks." Then she laughed some more.

I remember one time going into an Amish store. They had a big book section that I liked to go through. Amish are really into books. The store had no electricity, no lights, and no air conditioning. They did have lanterns throughout the store.

When I found a book, I went up to pay for it, and you will not guess what I saw there.

On the counter was the latest cash register, with all the perks I have ever seen.

When it comes to money, people will contradict their beliefs.

Thinking along this line, I remembered a wonderful verse of scripture.

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

One of the great things in life as a Christian is appreciating other people, not because you agree with everything they do. Finding something to appreciate in everyone's life is a great challenge sometimes. Then I focus on that one area I appreciate. Not everything matters.

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Take the Time to Listen

Sister Tarpley
NDG Religion Editor

When you're facing a problem, the very first thing you should ask God for is His wisdom; not money, not power, not even healing, but His wisdom.

God's wisdom is the key that will unlock every door in your life. It will turn your every failure into success.

Stop wasting prayers begging God for things you think you need and spend so e time instead listening to what He has to say about your situation.

If you've never tried that before, practically speaking, here's what you need to do.

First, you must lay the entire problem before the Lord, not because He doesn't know what you're going through but because laying out your problems helps you. It helps you see things from a more objective point of view.

I remember when I used to take my problems to my father. Somehow, when I was explaining them to him, they began to look different to me.

I would get a new perspective and as I talked, he would point out areas I hadn't considered yet.

Explaining your problems to God, point by point will help you accomplish the same thing.

Second, listen for the Spirit of God to advise you. Pay particular attention to what He says through His written Word.

Most likely, the cares of your problems have choked the Word of God right out of your heart. Mark 18-19. What you need to do is get the Bible and begin to put that Word back in again. Then the Holy Spirit will begin to speak to you through it.

As you are listening, be sure to remain teachable. Be ready to accept rebuke if necessary. Be very honest with God. Look for ways in which you've been wrong and confess them to Him. It's alright.

Those sins won't come as any surprise to Him. He already knows about them. Confession just gives you the opportunity to get rid of them.

Third, act on the wisdom that God gives you. Let go of your own methods and put His methods into operation. Be obedient. If you don't, that wonderful wisdom won't do you any good at all.

As you pray today, set aside your own ideas and start seeking the wisdom of God. It's the only thing that can permanently solve the problems you've been facing. It's truly the most precious gift God has to give. Seek God's Wisdom!

Ponder This. Some Christians do not like to read the Bible for themselves; they prefer to listen to a speaker read when he or she is bringing the message of the hour; they are just not that discipline.

But, if the Christian will not commit to knowing what is in God's Word and then following it, they will fail to know and experience God for themselves.

God's Word is life to the Christian's soul. It provides knowledge that leads to life. The prophet Hosea tells us, *"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thy hast forgotten the law of God, I will also forget thy children."* **Hosea 4:6**

God has given His Word to us and His Word has specific laws and principles that must be followed if we expect His blessing.

King David forgot to follow one of those laws related to the ark. "And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.

When the sons of Kohath were transporting the ark, Uzza innocently reached to steady the ark but was immediately stricken dead when his hands touched the ark of God. Did David know this law or did he simply forget?

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in November 2016. Sister Tarpley passed away on May 10, 2024.)

CITY OF DALLAS

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dallas, Texas has called a bond election to be held within the City of Dallas, Texas on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE.

☐ For
☐ Against

The issuance of $443,000,000 general obligation bonds for public safety improvements and facilities, including fire, police and emergency services; the levying of a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest thereon; the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being $629,618,180.

Early Voting dates and times:

October 19 through October 23	Monday – Friday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm
October 24	Saturday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm
October 25	Sunday	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
October 26 thru October 30	Monday – Friday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Dallas County Early Voting and Election Day locations:
Early Voting: https://www.dallascounty.org/elections/VoteCenters/Early%20Voting%20Vote%20Centers.pdf
Election Day: https://www.dallascounty.org/elections/VoteCenters/Election%20Day%20Vote%20Centers.pdf

Collin County Early Voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:
Early Voting:
https://www.collincountytx.gov/Elections/polling-locations?electionId=75&scheduleType=ev&electionDesc=November%203,%202026%20Uniform%20Election
Election Day:
https://www.collincountytx.gov/Elections/polling-locations?electionId=75&scheduleType=ed&electionDesc=November%203,%202026%20Uniform%20Election

Denton County Early Voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:
Early Voting: https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/1126_EV_Locations_v2.pdf
Election Day: https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/1126-Unconsolidated-ED-Locations-v2.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:
Bilierae Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809