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Southern Black Mobilization Leads Historic Wave of Minority Turnout

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Despite widespread voter suppression, discrimination, economic hardship, and immigration fears, minority communities across the country demonstrated record-breaking civic engagement and determination to fight for political representation and systemic change. (Iago Yoshimi Seo / Unsplash)

At an American Community Media briefing last week, journalists from Black, Latino, Asian American, and Native American communities came together for a roundtable discussion concerning hopes and fears and other factors motivating voter turnout.

The spotlight centered around Black mobilization, particularly in the American South, where the election became a battleground over civil rights and political representation.

Despite an environment of fear and voter suppression, Americans came together surrounding the election, expressing determination and a strong interest in civic participation.

Mandana Kumar of San Jose and publisher of India Currents described a toxic environment in the Silicon Valley with hate directed at the diverse Indian community there.

In the Arab community, Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab American News, described similar and unprecedented hatred toward Arab and Muslim Americans.

Despite the tense environment, the desire for participation has been very, very strong overall in New York, added Rong Xiaoqing, a reporter for the Chinese-language Sing Tao Daily. Early voting was 70% higher than the previous mid-term elections.

"Like many people, they realized that these were very consequential elections," noted Xiaoqing. They

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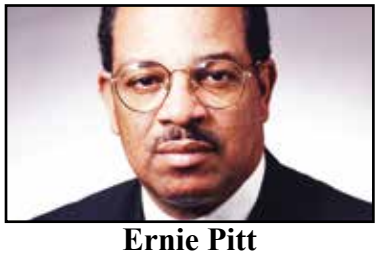
People In The News ...

Kailynn Weaver



Ernie Pitt

NDG Quote of the Week:

"Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face." - Carol Moseley-Braun

Restoring the Checks and Balances

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Cannabis' Links to Emergency Room Visits

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An HBCU Med School Revs Up in NOLA

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Jubilee Hosts 'If Scrooge Was a Brother'

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Sister Tarpley: You Want Me To Do What?

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Kailynn Weaver

By Christine Won
PVAMU

PVAMU

Prairie View A&M University Honors student Kailynn Weaver remembers it was almost 11 p.m. when she opened the email that would carry her from The Hill to Oslo, Norway, as a Nobel Peace Ambassador.

The PVAMU senior is one of 25 U.S. honors students selected for the Partners in Peace (PiP) project, a collaborative global initiative between the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) and the Nobel Peace Center (NPC) in Oslo.

"I felt extremely ecstatic and grateful when I received the acceptance letter," she said, adding she celebrated with her sister when she found out. "It was hard to go to sleep with all of the excitement I felt."

The program recognizes honors students "for their passion in personal leadership development for the purpose of civic engagement."

Selected students are participating in a semester-long virtual course through Oslo New University College this fall, a new component of the Partners in Peace program.

Led by Honors College Dean Dr. Quincy C. Moore III, PVAMU is completing a PiP project that will be recognized on the Nobel Peace Center website in November.

Building on Investments

A senior majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish, Weaver serves as this year's co-chair of the PVAMU Honors College. She is also the event coordinator for the Tri-Beta Biological Honors Society and is involved with the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice, Purple Jackets, and Bakers for a Cause.

She first learned of the opportunity through an announcement Dr. Moore made on the Honors College message board.

"The prospect of bringing forth the initiatives of the Partners in Peace program to the local PVAMU campus and Waller County community interested me the most," Weaver said. "I love to seek out opportunities to uplift and improve my community, and I find it so cool that a national entity like the NCHC wants to invest in, support, and encourage scholars to do exactly that."

In a letter to PVAMU President Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande congratulating Weaver and the University, NCHC President Dr. Daniel M. Roberts wrote that the Nobel Peace Ambassadors "will build on the investment made in them to invest in Prairie View A&M University."

Think Globally, Act Locally

Weekly virtual sessions, under the mentorship of Dr. Henrik Syse, former vice chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee and professor at the Oslo college, focus on the work of Nobel Peace Laureates.

The course will include in-person sessions at the 2026 NCHC Conference in New Orleans, from November 12-14, culminating with celebrating the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize awards in Oslo, from December 7-12.

At the heart of the experience is a "think globally, act locally" project celebrating the work of the 2026 Nobel Peace Laureate. As Nobel Peace Ambassadors, participants pledge to lead the project on their campuses and in their communities — for Weaver, on Prairie View's campus — beginning spring 2027.

"I hope to implement a project on Prairie View's campus that will far exceed my time here as a student."

That desire to create a lasting impact reflects what drew Weaver to the program in the first place.

"Without the courage and sacrifices made by those who promote the greater good, such as the Nobel Peace Laureates, I believe there wouldn't be a society that stands today," Weaver said. "Especially in the realm of academia, no one achieves greatness alone, and I think that is what

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Ernie Pitt

By Derwin L. Montgomery
WS Chronicle

WS Chronicle

On Sept. 5, 1974, the first front page of the Winston-Salem Chronicle made a declaration in type large enough to occupy much of the sheet: "We Salute All the People of Winston-Salem."

The paper cost 20 cents. Below that greeting were reports about a professional association admitting its first Black members, a new principal, an A. Philip Randolph Institute chapter and a small-business workshop. Even a dispute over a noisy rooster found room.

It was a statement about whose lives deserved attention. A Black community newspaper could confront exclusion and still have space for a neighbor's complaint. It could insist on justice without surrendering the ordinary details of living.

Ernest H. "Ernie" Pitt, the journalist and publisher who helped turn that first issue into The Chronicle, died of natural causes Friday morning, Oct. 23. He was 80. More than five decades after its debut, the newspaper remains part of the community record he helped build.

His achievement was not simply keeping a business open. It was sustaining a place where Black Winston-Salem could make its arguments, recognize its children, question its institutions and find evidence that its experiences belonged in the news.

That work required reporting and sales calls, deadlines and payroll, allies and arguments. Pitt's life also included imprisonment, public controversy, faith and a consequential reversal in federal court. An honest remembrance must hold those facts together without letting any single chapter erase the rest.

Before the newspaper

Pitt's understanding of public life did not begin in a newsroom.

In a 2013 Chronicle column, he recalled attending the March on Washington as a 17-year-old Dudley High School student. He and a friend wore new sport coats, his blue and his friend's gold. They had already participated in demonstrations against segregation in Greensboro; Pitt remembered being arrested for trespassing during a protest.

He described hearing Martin Luther King Jr. as life-changing. But the column was not a comfortable anniversary celebration. Looking back after 50 years, he saw segregation and unequal treatment that had not disappeared.

"Fifty years is a long time, but apparently not long enough," he wrote.

His route to journalism was not direct. Born in Raleigh and raised in Greensboro, Pitt graduated from Dudley High School in 1964 and briefly studied architecture at North Carolina A&T. He then joined the Army and served in Vietnam from November 1964 to December 1965.

In 1970, Pitt was convicted on felony drug charges involving marijuana. He spent two years in state prison, where he earned an associate degree through Rockingham Community College. After his release in 1972, he attended UNC-

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We Can Restore Checks and Balances on Trump

By Emil Amok Guillermo
Oakland Post

Rapper Nikki Minaj is the latest high profile political tool of Donald Trump. The president recently remarked on the Afro-Trinidadian singer's backside, praising her "beautiful ass."

Is this what passes as an appeal for the Black vote? But Trump is an equal opportunity offender.

At recent rallies, Trump made homo-erotic comments about Republican men and their butts, like when he referred to Ohio Senator John Husted's as a "pile of muscle." But shouldn't Trump be talking about the real issues?

Gas prices are now higher than they were under former President Joe Biden. Inflation is higher than when Trump took office, while he has redecorated the White House and already spent over $200 million on gold filigree. At least 3 million people have been kicked off of Medicaid or Obamacare because of Trump-backed legislation in Congress.

The country needs a change in how Trump does business. We need a strong independent Congress in both the House and Senate that will be our voice to stand up to ideas like a 'forever war.' Or tariffs against friend and foe.

This is the important math of the day: Democrats need 218 seats for a majority. Four more needed than their current 214. The latest Cook Report shows Democrats could gain 12-22 House seats.

But you still need the Senate, where Republicans have 53 members and the Dems have 47.

To have control, Dems would need to beat the tie breaker vote cast by VP J.D. Vance. Democrats need to get to 51 and that means four Senate victories on Nov. 3.

Of the key states politicos are watching, North Carolina and Georgia look blue. Can they get two more from toss-up states like Alaska (Mary Peltola?), Maine (Troy Jackson?), or Ohio (Sherrod Brown)? Observers are talking about two races in particular: Texas and Michigan.

In Texas the Talarico/Paxton race is fascinating. State legislator James Talarico is a choir boy compared to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton—whose rhetoric and record suggest he would be more amoral than Trump.

Then there's Michigan, where Abdul El-Sayed is running against Mike Rogers.

The Black vote has wavered there, with some high-level Black pols coming out against El-Sayed on Fox News. Trump has also called El-Sayed a "jihadist and a terrorist."

Born in the U.S., El-Sayed is a highly educated Rhodes Scholar, and a physician. The "model minority" is a terrorist? But like all people of color, he gets othered. Assumptions get made. His skin color and his religion make him a terrorist.

What about local issues like the billionaire tax in California. Prop. 40? I hate direct legislation by propositions because the proposals are usually flawed and can't be worked out easily—like if legislators actually did their job in the state house.

But taxing billionaires more has to happen on the state and federal level. Prop 40 is a start. Even if it's one time and goes mostly to health care. It's a start toward fairness.

Whatever you say. Just vote. Now. Early. Don't wait.

Emil Amok Guillermo is a journalist, commentator and comic monologist. See him on his micro talk show: YouTube.com/@emilamok1

Originally published by Oakland Post

Texas Voters Choose a New Direction

The Texas Democratic Party

Texas voters made their voices heard. With 70% of the votes counted, James Talarico has been elected United States Senator, and Gina Hinojosa has been elected Governor of Texas. Democrats are also on track to secure a majority in the State House.

These results mark a significant moment for Texas. After years of increasingly divisive political rhetoric, Texas voters have chosen a different direction, one focused on the issues that affect their everyday lives and on finding solutions to the challenges facing families and communities across our state.

We are especially proud to see South Texas turn blue again. From the Rio Grande Valley to communities across the region, voters showed that South Texas remains an essential part of the Democratic coalition and an important voice in the future of Texas. Democrats are proud to have earned the trust of voters by showing up in their neighborhoods, workplaces and schools, listening to their concerns and engaging in conversations about the future of their families and communities.

Texans turned out in strong numbers during the early voting period, with more than 7.75 million ballots cast, a 41% increase over 2022 and nearly 31% more than in 2018, reflecting the scope of the work carried out at the state level. These figures underscore the importance of investing in the mobilization of volunteers and voters, and in building lasting relationships with communities throughout Texas.

The Texas Democratic Party congratulates Senator-elect Talarico, Governor-elect Hinojosa and every

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Cannabis Involved in Most Substance-Related Emergency Visits Among Teens and Young Adults

(Newswise) — A large national study analyzing emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to alcohol or cannabis use across the U.S. has found diverging age patterns: Among people who presented to the hospital for a substance-related problem, cannabis was involved in the majority of visits by adolescents and young adults, while alcohol predominated among older adults.

Led by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, the study appears Nov. 4 in The American Journal of Psychiatry.

Better awareness of changing patterns of harm from these substances could help clarify the risks involved in using them, according to the investigators, led by Kevin Y. Xu, MD, an assistant professor of psychiatry at WashU Medicine.

For example, the risks of cannabis use are often oversimplified and underestimated in popular media, according to Xu, especially considering the increasing potency of cannabis products readily available for purchase. The new study could help doctors provide better, more nuanced and individualized information to their patients and help them make more informed decisions around the use of alcohol and cannabis.

"In general, we have seen that cannabis use is trending up and alcohol use is trending down; but until now, we haven't had high-quality data tracking what kind of use is causing immediate harm — emergency room visits and hospitalizations," Xu said. "Understanding age differences in high-risk use is critical for being able to offer effective and meaningful care for people at different life stages."

Sara Moser / WashU Medicine

The researchers analyzed de-identified patient data from large health insurance databases, including commercial insurance and Medicaid. The analysis included more than 1.3 million individuals ages 16–64 who had at least one substance-related emergency care encounter between January 2016 and December 2023. The total number of substance-related encounters in the dataset exceeded 5 million. The data included ER visits related to opioids, stimulants and other addictive substances, along with alcohol and cannabis. The data were analyzed by age group: 16–18, 19–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54 and 55–64.

Shifts in substance harms by age

Among adolescents ages 16–18 who had a substance-related emergency visit or hospitalization, 84% had at least one encounter involving cannabis — the highest of any age group — compared with 19% among adults ages 55–64.

Young adults between 19 and 24 years old had the greatest increase in the proportion of encounters involving cannabis over the eight years of the study — approximately 1.8 percentage points per year. The proportion of teen encounters involving cannabis rose by about 0.8 percentage points per year over the study period, and older age groups changed very little.

Xu noted that the increased potency of cannabis products available in recent years can make it easy to consume far more THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, than in the past. One recent study suggested that cannabis use disorder becomes more likely with use above roughly 40 milligrams of THC per week in adults and 30 milligrams per week in adolescents.

According to Xu, the high potency of cannabis products poses particular risks for adolescents and young adults, who are going through critical periods of brain development. Heavy adolescent use has also been associated with increased risk of psychotic symptoms, although most people who use cannabis do not experience these problems.

While many people consume cannabis regularly without needing emergency care, the study found concerning increases in cannabis-related hospital admissions involving psychosis and severe vomiting among younger people.

Notably, when the researchers looked only at hospitalizations where cannabis was the primary reason for admission, the trend among adolescents declined — suggesting that while cannabis is increasingly present in acute care encounters, it may not be the sole driver of hospitalization, which often involved other substances or co-occurring psychiatric conditions.

The study counted any emergency visit or hospitalization where cannabis appeared anywhere in the diagnosis list, so the visit itself could have been for something else entirely, such as injury in a car accident, a psychiatric crisis or an unrelated medical problem. Nearly half of cannabis-related encounters in the study also involved at least one other substance, though the researchers did not analyze which specific conditions were listed as the main reason for admission.

Despite overall downward trends in alcohol use in the U.S. over the study's time period, the results showed that emergency care and hospital admissions due to alcohol use remained high and tended to increase with age.

Among adolescents, 33% had an alcohol-related encounter, and this percentage rose steadily with each older age group.

Among the oldest group, ages 55–64 years, 70% had an alcohol-related encounter.

The steepest increase of any trend in the study was in alcohol as the primary reason for hospitalization among adults ages 25–34, which rose 3.6 percentage points per year.

The research team included first author Jacob T. Steinle, MD, now a clinical fellow in the department of psychiatry at Mass General Brigham. Steinle initiated and led the study as a resident in psychiatry at WashU Medicine along with co-author Suraj Shankar, MD, now a fourth-year psychiatry resident. Both were able to contribute to the study through the Psychiatry Residency Research Education Program (PRREP), which is funded, in part, by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and co-led by Nuri B. Farber, MD, a professor of psychiatry; and Alecia Vogel, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of psychiatry.

"There are many lingering questions to answer, especially about understanding why substance use-related harm patterns vary so greatly across the lifespan," Steinle said. "We plan to continue our research, building upon these foundations so that clinicians can better inform each individual patient and the public at large around the risks of substance use."

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Historic Milestone: America's Next Historically Black Medical School Earns Preliminary Accreditation

(Black PR Wire) NEW ORLEANS – A pioneering chapter in medical education begins today for the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine, which has received preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for U.S. programs granting medical doctorate degrees. With this milestone, the College of Medicine will begin recruiting students in coming weeks for its inaugural class starting in 2027, advancing the vision for America's next historically Black college of medicine.

The only HBCU college of medicine in the Gulf South, the College of Medicine brings together two trusted New Orleans institutions: Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health. It builds on decades of collaboration in education, research, and healthcare, reflected in initiatives such as the Ochsner-Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research, Xavier's Physician Assistant Program, and its Genetic Counseling Program. Xavier contributes a century-long legacy of excellence in STEM education, was named a top HBCU by Forbes and is a leading institution in sending African American students on to medical school. Ochsner is a leading academic health system that brings more than 80 years of experience in caring for the communities it serves, with more than 60 years of training residents and fellows and 17 years of excellence in medical student education. Ochsner was named no. 1 hospital in Louisiana by U.S. News and World Report for 15 consecutive years. Together, Xavier and Ochsner have created a model that connects rigorous academic preparation with real-world training and a shared commitment to improving health outcomes for all.

"This is a historic moment for Xavier University of Louisiana, for New Orleans and for the future of medicine in this nation," said Reynold Verret, Ph.D., president of Xavier University of Louisiana. "For a century, Xavier has demonstrated what is possible when academic excellence is joined with a profound commitment to human dignity and service. The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine is a bold extension of that legacy. We are not simply opening the doors of a new medical school; we are expanding who will have the opportunity to become a physician, strengthening the communities those physicians will serve and helping to shape the future of healthcare for generations to come. Preliminary accreditation brings us to a moment envisioned through years of work, partnership and resolve, and it affirms Xavier's enduring belief that education can transform not only individual lives, but the health and well-being of our nation."

Addressing national physician workforce challenges

The opening of the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine brings an HBCU medical school to a region facing significant healthcare workforce challenges. The National Health Resources and Services Administration projects the United States could face a shortage of more than 141,000 physicians by 2038.

Louisiana is among the states most affected, with 60 of Louisiana's 64 parishes federally designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Graduates from HBCU medical schools, which train nearly 70% of the nation's Black physicians, are more likely to serve communities with the greatest healthcare needs.

Preliminary accreditation follows years of planning and collaboration. The

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had concerns that were much more urgent than before."

With Supreme Court decisions affecting redistricting and voter rights, Black voters were particularly fired up, breaking previous records for turnout.

The rolling back of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and redistricting are big concerns in Black districts, noted Dr. Edelia J. Carthan, contributing writer for The Mississippi Link and CEO of Carthan Enterprises, LLC.

Noting that Mississippi has the highest percentage of Black residents in the nation, Carthan noted that no Black individual has held a statewide office there since Reconstruction.

And while the state sent two Black men to the U.S. Senate in 1870, no Black person has held a Senate position there in 140 years. The deficit can be traced back to the Mississippi Plan of 1875 and the state's 1890 Constitution, explained Carthan, which used the Ku Klux Klan and violent intimidation to strip Black officials from office.

"Intimidation surrounding civic participation is still a problem here in Mississippi," Carthan noted.

She pointed out that the state's political leadership rejected federal healthcare funding, leaving 250,000 residents completely without insurance, while food deserts and high grocery prices in the state have left families struggling to thrive.

While the fight for civil rights fueled Black turnout, other minority communities echoed similar sentiments. Although people vote for a number of reasons, the national mood that seems to dominate is "anything but Trump, added Nestor Fantini, co-editor of HispanicLA.com, yet ironically, Trump is not on the ballot," he said.

In California, economic survival was the primary driver for Latino voters, said Fantini, a Colorado Latino Agenda study finding 76% of Latinos registered to vote in California are very worried about keeping up with bills, with 40% even cutting back on grocery spending.

With gasoline at over $6.30 a gallon, health insurance premiums that have doubled, and water and power that has gone from about $250 to $600, noted Fantini, the economy seems to be generating more interest to get out and vote.

On top of money worries, in Los Angelos, a city dominated by immigrants, there are added fears and tensions surrounding immigration; this, as 64 people have died in ICE custody since January 2025, he noted.

Most people are worried about deportations because it really affects our community and our businesses, agreed Xiaoqing. In Chinese-concentrated areas like Sunset Park or Flushing, a lot of restaurants don't have as many customers, and long distance buses don't have as many people.

While some conservative Chinese support the current policies, many are fearful of recent immigration policy extremes, as WeChat and other platforms show photos of immigrant caravans and other fear-invoking images, said Xiaoqing.

Native American voters also faced threats to sovereignty. Lori Ann Edmo, editor of Idaho's Sho-Ban News, highlighted community turnout driven by worries over proposed federal budget cuts to tribal programs and a proposal to eliminate racial and ethnic identification categories from the U.S. Census.

In September, the Latino Community Foundation found that more than 65% of California Latino voters worried that ICE would show up at voting centers. On the other hand, there is determination not to be intimidated.

"We all know that fear can silence people," said Kumar. On the other hand, there is a determination not to be intimidated.

Yet, a concern doesn't always translate into voting. Some people are deeply engaged in policy discussions, but they aren't eligible to vote. Others are eligible but are unsure their participation even matters.

Participation takes many forms whether it's following policy, sharing information, attending meetings or even encouraging others to vote, she added. But, it's all civic engagement.

Ultimately, yesterday's record-breaking turnout proved that when systemic forces attempt to weaponize fear, minority communities respond with a unified demand for structural change.

Future Forward Raises More Than $17,000 to Help CFBISD Students Thrive

By Terry Allen

Chad Hunter, CFBISD Executive Director of Advanced Academics, addresses the audience. (CFBISD)

Doug Burnside CFBISD Educational Foundation Board Chair and Victor Johnson, Executive Director. (CFBISD)

L to R Anna Buford Chad Hunter Jonathan Cartray Tiara Tucker Karla Hardaway front. (CFBISD)

Sometimes, helping a student move forward starts with something as simple as a meal or a pair of shoes. That message came into focus at Future Forward, where more than 60 business and community leaders gathered to invest in students across Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD.

The invitation-only fundraiser brought together leaders from Carrollton, Addison, Farmers Branch and Irving, raising just over $17,000 as of this writing. The funds will help address students' negative meal balances and support the CFBISD Educational Foundation's Impact Now and Innovative grants, which help educators bring learning opportunities to their classrooms and campuses.

With 62.42% of district students identified as economically disadvantaged, the need is real. So is the opportunity for this community to make a difference.

One of the evening's most meaningful moments came when Liz Binion, director of Student Services and head of The Giving House, shared the story of students who arrived at a track meet wearing Crocs and slides. Without appropriate athletic shoes, they faced disqualification before they could compete.

When Binion learned what was happening, she brought athletic shoes for each student. They were able to participate, and her response helped restore their confidence and morale.

Think about that. These students had shown up ready to try. What stood between them and an opportunity was a pair of shoes. Someone recognized the need and acted. That is what community support looks like when it reaches the people who need it.

Foundation Executive Director Victor Johnson led the evening, with dinner provided by Ollis Wright, owner of Savoree Kreationz. Participating district and foundation leaders included Kristen Hess, Chad Hunter, Jonathan Cartray, Pat Enlow and Board Chair Doug Burnside. Community partner and commercial real estate agent Al Mahesh helped plan the gathering.

Guests learned how CFBISD educators are preparing students with practical skills, innovative learning experiences and pathways to careers—and how the foundation helps address needs that traditional public education funding cannot always cover.

As the CFBISD Educational Foundation celebrates 30 years, Future Forward offered a reminder that strong schools need people willing to invest their time, relationships and resources.

The students in these classrooms will become our employees, entrepreneurs, neighbors and community leaders. We all have a stake in whether they have what they need to succeed.

You do not have to have a child enrolled in CFBISD to help open a door for one. Visit CFBGiving.org to support the work.

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makes academia a thriving sector."

Extension of Calling

Weaver aspires to become a physician-scientist, and she sees the program as an extension of a calling that already shapes her undergraduate years — mentoring peers, serving her community, and pursuing biological research.

"When I am a physician-scientist, I will still have that same duty of service to all, especially the underserved; it's just that I will have a few more degrees and professional licenses behind my name," she said. "In my academic and professional journey thus far, I have learned that the greatest leaders are the ones most willing to serve."

She credits PVAMU with stretching her sense of what she could do.

"I have had so many in the Prairie View network who have pushed me to take on roles and tasks I originally didn't think I would have the capacity to achieve," she said. "But in that pushing, I have developed so many skills that have increased my capacity for leadership, advocacy, and service."

Weaver, who has traveled to Mexico and the Dominican Republic for leisure, said she is eager to go abroad this time for education and leadership — and to carry Prairie View A&M with her.

"I am humbled to be a part of a population of Panthers to carry the Royal Purple and Gold to new environments, and to show others the product of a PV education," she said.

Local Modern Woodmen Members Honor Hometown Heroes for Their Service to Low-Income Seniors and Veterans

Local volunteers in North Texas and City of Denton were recently recognized for countless hours of service to the community, especially low-income vulnerable seniors and Veterans during a Modern Woodmen of America member event recently.

(Left to Right) Gabby Beebe, Modern Woodmen Rep; Nilsa Harris, Hometown Hero and Event Co-Chair; Katrina McPherson, Hometown Hero and Event Co-Chair. (Courtesy photo)

Katrina McPherson; Service Coordinator Fairoaks of Denton and Administrator for Leona's Angels; Nilsa Harris, Founder of Holiday Cheer for Seniors and Board Member for Fairoaks of Denton; Dorrie Reeves, Advisory Committee for Fairoaks of Denton and Holiday Cheer; Mikayla Mitchell, Advisory Committee for Fairoaks of Denton and Holiday Cheer; Erin Caston, Nurse Navigator for Reliant at Home Hospice and Officer for Dementia Friendly Denton County; Pastor Chris Pope of Gracepointe Church in Denton; Connie Kneuper, retired RN (yet not retired); and Leona Driver, Owner of Leona's Angels Home Care and Leona's Helping Hands Care Homes, were honored through Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero program for their numerous volunteer hours, community service, and helping vulnerable low-income Seniors and Veterans connect to resources and services that they were finding impossible to do on their own.

As part of the Hometown Hero program, members of the Modern Denton and North Texas Chapters under Regional Director Timothy Smith, presented certificates and $100 award grants to be donated to the charitable organizations of the honorees' choice. Fairoaks of Denton and Holiday Cheer for Seniors were both selected to receive these monies which will be used to further the mission of both of these organizations to serve our vulnerable seniors and Veterans to connect them with much needed resources and services.

"Volunteers form the foundation of a strong community," says Katrina McPherson, local Modern Woodmen volunteer leader. "Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero program gives us the chance to thank those who selflessly give their time to make our community a better place by serving our precious seniors and Veterans in need."

Coordinated by local Modern Woodmen members, the fraternal financial services organization's chapters and youth service clubs provide opportunities for members to take part in social and educational activities and volunteer projects to meet local needs.

For more information or to get involved, contact Jana Smith at 940-382-5676.

Modern Woodmen was founded in 1883 as a fraternal benefit society. The organization supports members, families and communities with a unique blend of financial services, fraternal programs and local-impact opportunities. Learn more at www.modernwoodmen.org.

RTC Invites Public to Help Drive the Future of North Texas Transportation at November Public Meeting

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) invites residents to provide input on transportation updates and funding initiatives during a hybrid public meeting at noon on Monday, Nov. 9.

The meeting will be held at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) offices, 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington. Those unable to attend in person can view the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogNov26. North Texans can also participate by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 2384. Public comments will be accepted through Tuesday, Dec. 8.

RTC staff will provide information on the North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicle Call for Projects, in which $55.4 million is available for public and private fleets to replace existing heavy-duty vehicles powered by gasoline, diesel, propane and natural gas fuel. Staff will also present the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan results, where the latest application round has selected 97 locations to receive a total of $62 million in federal funding to increase Direct Current (DC) fast-charging access in North Central Texas.

Next, staff will spotlight the City of Aledo's request for assistance in paying for city utility relocations associated with the FM 1187 widening project under development by TxDOT. Finally, information on the Regional Rail Crossing Inventory Database will be presented on more than 1,500 public at-grade crossings in the 12-county area, sourced directly from the Federal Railroad Administration.

Residents planning to use transit to attend the meeting can take advantage of $6 round-trip rides from the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG via the Arlington Transportation app, which can be downloaded at ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand. For special accommodation related to disabilities or language interpretation, call 817-695-9109 or email kcadena@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Cowboys Fail to Finish and Let Another Win Slip Away

By Jamal Baker
NDG Sportswriter

NDG Composite

The Dallas Cowboys failed to produce their first two game winning streak of the season after falling to the Arizona Cardinals 33-30 in a disappointing overtime loss at AT&T Stadium.

The Cowboys gave up 27 points in the second half and in no way played complementary football during the game's key moments.

"It was a tale of two halves, for sure," head coach Brian Schottenheimer said. "What I told the guys is we obviously have to learn to finish in all three phases. We had a chance to do it a lot of different ways. Got to get stops on defense. Had a four-minute opportunity that we didn't seize to try to put the game away. Had a chance for a long field goal before the end of the first half. I think it's all three phases, it really was a tale of two halves. And the second half was not good enough. When you have people down, you've got to finish them, and that's the most disappointing thing."

During the Schottenheimer era as head coach, Dallas has only stacked back-to-back victories once and he has yet to find an answer as to why the team hasn't been able to go on runs.

"That's a tough question to sit here and answer," Schottenheimer said. "At the end of the day, I'm disappointed that we did not finish better in the second half… You've got to put teams away when you're in that position, and we certainly did not do that in all three phases…"

"It's frustrating. But there's an answer, there's a solution, you've just got to keep looking for it. Again, first half, came out of the first half feeling good. Talked about it at halftime with the guys. And the second half, we didn't execute the way we need to in all three phases."

Sitting at 3-5 on the season, the Cowboys must find a way to string together consecutive wins as time is running out to find answers to questions their head coach doesn't have solutions for.

"It's frustrating," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "You want to stack wins. You want to show that you can put back-to-back days ahead. People tell me often, good game this or that. I go, 'yeah, we got to do it again.' What's in the rearview mirror doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. It's what's in front of us."

"We can check the side mirrors here and there. But, we've got to focus on what's important now, this moment, this play, this game. And if you do that, you have the chance to stack wins. We didn't tonight. That's what's frustrating about it. We had the opportunities to put them away on offense. Obviously, defense had opportunities to stop them and we just didn't get any of it done as a team."

Although Dallas just suffered one of their most disappointing losses thus far this season, the reality of the NFL is that they must move one and prepare to face a desperate Indianapolis Colts team this Sunday.

SCHOOL, from Page 5

College of Medicine was formed through a partnership between Xavier and Ochsner in 2024, earned candidate status in October 2025 and hosted an LCME survey visit in June 2026. Following its review, the LCME determined the College of Medicine had met the requirements for preliminary accreditation, allowing it to start recruiting students for its inaugural class in summer 2027. Applications will be available through the American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) in the coming weeks.

"Together, we have created a transformational college of medicine where future physician leaders will be prepared to pursue excellence with purpose, embrace innovation, and respond to the evolving needs of patients and our communities," said Leonardo Seoane, M.D., FACP, president and founding dean of the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. "This milestone builds on Xavier University of Louisiana's incredible legacy of preparing leaders who serve and a history of academic and clinical excellence at Ochsner Health. By bringing together the strengths of two mission-driven institutions, we are creating opportunities for future physicians to make a lasting difference across Louisiana and beyond."

Investing in New Orleans and the Gulf South

Students will be taught the science and practice of medicine while gaining a deep understanding of health in the context of a person's life and community. Through interdisciplinary learning, compassionate patient care, and direct experience with experienced clinical teams, they will develop the practical skills, leadership abilities, and understanding needed to serve communities in New Orleans, the Gulf South, and beyond.

"Our partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana is grounded in a shared belief that education, opportunity, and service can transform lives and provide our communities stellar healthcare for generations to come," said Pete November, president and CEO of Ochsner Health. "Today, we celebrate far more than the opening of a college of medicine. Together, we are investing in our communities to drive economic development and create a model of excellence that translates world-class medical education into better health outcomes, greater opportunity, and a lasting legacy of impact for the people and communities we serve."

Located in New Orleans' growing BioDistrict, the College of Medicine is expected to generate significant economic impact locally and statewide. By 2040, its operations are projected to contribute $152.5 million in economic impact across Louisiana, including $122 million in New Orleans, while supporting more than 1,185 jobs statewide. Physicians trained by the College are projected to contribute an additional $2.9 billion to the U.S. economy by 2040.

CHOOSE, from Page 3

Democratic candidate who earned the confidence of voters tonight. We are grateful to the thousands of volunteers, organizers, campaign staff and supporters who worked throughout this election and to the millions of Texans who participated in our democracy.

This election was powered by Texas Together, a $40 million statewide coordinated campaign led by the Texas Democratic Party, the campaigns of Talarico, Hinojosa and Lt. Gov. candidate Vikki Goodwin, and Texas Majority PAC, along with countless congressional, legislative and judicial candidates and Democratic clubs from one end of the state to the other. Texas Together supported candidates, county parties and allied organizations across the state. With more than 30,000 volunteers engaged and 88 staff on the ground, the effort worked to reach millions of Texans in all 254 counties. This historic investment in organizing and community engagement is part of our long-term commitment to building a stronger Democratic coalition in Texas.

The results of this election provide momentum for our work moving forward. The Texas Democratic Party will keep building on this by strengthening our organizational infrastructure statewide. We thank the thousands of volunteers, organizers and supporters who made this campaign possible. This is just the beginning.

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Jubilee Theatre Presents 'If Scrooge Was A Brother,' A Twist on a Holiday Classic

FORT WORTH — Jubilee Theatre will bring a fresh, vibrant spin to the holiday season with If Scrooge Was A Brother, a lively musical reimagining of Charles Dickens' beloved A Christmas Carol. In this urban reimagining of Dickens' classic tale, the ghosts and characters draw inspiration from icons of Black culture, bringing a fresh perspective to a familiar story. Blending the timeless themes of generosity, redemption, and the spirit of Christmas with the richness of Black culture and contemporary holiday music, this production offers audiences a festive theatrical experience filled with humor, heart, and soul.

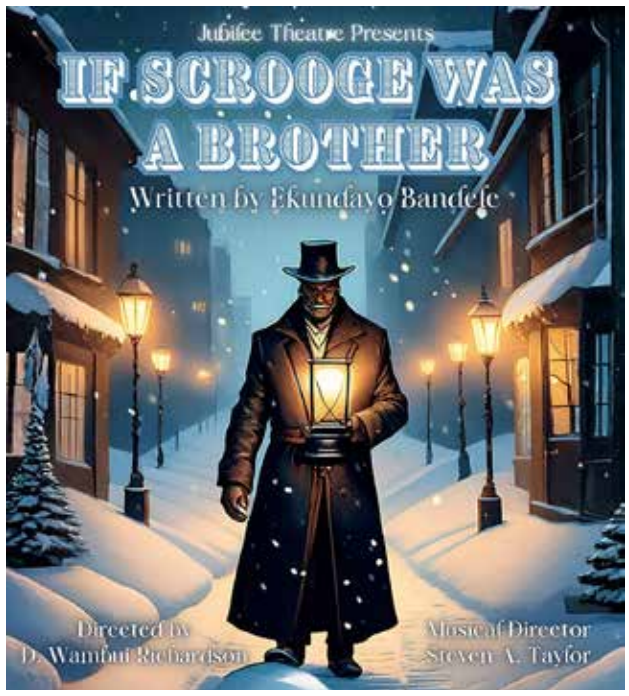
Running November 27 through December 20, 2026, at Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth, If Scrooge Was A Brother follows Eb Scroo, a hard-hearted businessman determined to collect every debt owed to him before Christmas nightfall. As the holiday approaches, the residents of his community face mounting desperation, with the threat of imprisonment, a Christmas without presents, and the possibility of going without a holiday feast. With the clock ticking and the spirit of the season hanging in the balance, Eb Scroo's demands set the stage for a journey that challenges the meaning of wealth, compassion, and community.

Directed by D. Wambui Richardson, written by Ekundayo Bandele, and featuring musical direction by Steven A. Taylor, this production features holiday songs with a modern twist. If Scrooge Was A Brother promises to deliver an unforgettable holiday experience that honors the traditions of the season while presenting a distinctly fresh and culturally resonant take on a timeless classic.

If Scrooge Was A Brother invites audiences to rediscover what makes Christmas meaningful and reminds us that the greatest gifts are not measured in money, but in the love, kindness, and generosity we share.

Tickets and additional production information are available at jubileetheatre.org.

Founded in 1981, Jubilee Theatre produces and presents theatrical works that reflect the African-American experience. Through high-quality performances and educational outreach, Jubilee Theatre fosters community, cultural awareness, and artistic excellence.



Texas Organizations Demand Action, Call on Elected Leaders to Deliver Meaningful Change

(Sierra Club) The people have spoken. Our air, our water, our land, and our lives are not for sale.

Billionaire donors like Elon Musk and data center CEOs tried to buy this election, but the power of organized people is stronger than the power of organized money. For 30 years, Texas prioritized the fossil fuel industry, big tech billionaires, and polluting corporations over the needs of everyday Texans, leaving our schools, parks, roads, hospitals, and electric grid radically underfunded. But no more.

Texans deserve a future where our families are safe and healthy, our land is protected, and we can afford to live. For years, Texans have worked to make that future possible. We call on Texas' newly elected leaders to meet this historic moment with the energy and bravery that honors that work. It's time to show the world what Texans are made of.

The Texas Legislature, led by Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa and Lt. Governor-elect Vikki Goodwin, along with all other elected members of the Texas House and Senate, have the power to create meaningful change for our state. We call on them to prioritize legislation that:

• Invests in a 21st century energy economy that lowers our bills and creates good-paying, family-supporting jobs without sacrificing what's important to Texans.

• Creates meaningful accountability for dirty industries that pollute and waste our water, poison our air, harm our families, and raise our utility bills.

• Strengthens local control and brings the public into decisions that directly affect their communities.

It's time for Texas leadership to be accountable to those who elected them - and deliver on campaign promises that united Texans under the singular idea that we deserve better.

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter
Panhandle First Coalition
Texas Center for Policy Studies
Climate Cabinet
Commission Shift Action
Public Citizen
Air Alliance Houston
Progress Texas
Bayou City Waterkeeper
Coastal Watch Association
Save Our Springs Alliance
Women's March
Coalition for Responsible Environmental Aggregate Mining (CREAM)
Houston Climate Movement
Third Act Texas

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: editor@northdallasgazette.com

Fort Worth Becomes a Cultural Mecca for Sparks Resilience Weekend

Jazz, Film, Entertainment and Muhammad Ali's Legacy Took Center Stage

By Stephanie Ward

FORT WORTH — Fort Worth became a cultural gathering place this week as the second annual Sparks Resilience Awards Gala & Conference brought musicians, filmmakers, entrepreneurs, educators and emerging talent together for four days of performances, recognition and industry conversations.

Jazz vocalist Kimmie Horne helped set the tone Thursday evening, October 22, at McDavid Studio, across from Bass Performance Hall in downtown Fort Worth.

And Horne showed up and showed out.

Dressed in a shimmering black gown, the international performer treated an audience of 200 to an evening of jazz, scatting and improvisation. A great-niece of legendary entertainer Lena Horne, she brought her own musical personality to the stage and became a crowd favorite.

The evening also celebrated people whose contributions have reached far beyond the stage.

Among the honorees were Erskine Hawkins III, music director for R&B superstar Babyface; Greer Christian, an executive, entrepreneur and board leader; filmmaker Arthur Muhammad; and Dr. Michael Thompson, a technology pioneer and entrepreneur.

Jazz vocalist Tatiana "LadyMay" Mayfield was also featured in the gala program.

The celebration recognized the legacy of the late Erma C. Johnson Hadley, who broke barriers as the first woman and first African American chancellor of Tarrant County College.

Together, the honorees represented contributions across music, filmmaking, technology, business, education and community leadership.

By Friday, the spotlight had shifted to Texas Wesleyan University, where entertainment professionals shared practical advice with aspiring filmmakers, writers, musicians and entrepreneurs.

Dr. London Williams led a discussion about adapting books for film, offering insight into how written stories can move to the

See SPARKS, Page 11

Courtesy photo

A Story of Friendship Beyond Differences Takes Center Stage in Fort Worth Opera's 'Scalia/Ginsburg'

FORT WORTH — At a moment when civil discourse feels especially important, Fort Worth Opera invites North Texas audiences to consider the possibilities of friendship, civility, and human connection through music and humor. On November 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ridglea Theater, Fort Worth Opera will present the North Texas premiere of Derrick Wang's Scalia/Ginsburg, a sharp-witted comic opera inspired by the unlikely real-life friendship between U.S. Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

One of the most talked-about contemporary operas of the past decade, Scalia/Ginsburg has earned widespread acclaim since its 2015 debut for its wit, warmth, and surprising emotional depth. Despite their opposing judicial philosophies, Scalia and Ginsburg shared a genuine friendship rooted in mutual respect, lively debate, and a shared love of opera. The late Justice Ginsburg herself called the work "a dream come true," while OperaWire praised it as "the kind of opera that should be everywhere."

Blending political satire, legal arguments, and musical references to the operatic tradition, Wang's work transforms the justices' relationship into an unexpectedly moving theatrical experience. Rather than asking audiences to agree, Scalia/Ginsburg explores how people with fundamentally different perspectives can maintain meaningful relationships without abandoning their convictions.

With early voting underway in Texas, the production offers a timely cultural conversation about disagreement, empathy, and the importance of connecting across ideological divides.

The North Texas premiere features Metropolitan Opera and Broadway performer Jennifer Zetlan as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and award-winning tenor Peter Scott Drackley as Antonin Scalia. Powerful lyric bass Andrew Simpson appears as the Commentator, a quick-witted narrator who frames the action with comic precision.

The production is directed by celebrated American director, writer, and producer Audrey Chait and conducted by Stephanie Rhodes Russell, Resident Conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Associate Professor and Music Director of Opera at the University of North Texas. Additionally, the ensemble features musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth, continuing a valued artistic collaboration into the 2026–2027 Season.

Balancing humor with emotional depth, Scalia/Ginsburg demonstrates how opera can engage with contemporary issues while entertaining audiences. As Opera Today described the work, it is a "perfect… jewel," offering a distinct perspective on the ways friendship and mutual respect can endure even amid profound disagreement.

See OPERA, Page 13

Kulur Group Reopens 'Are You D.O.P.E.?' Applications for Minority and Women-Led Tech Startups

(Black PR Wire) HOUSTON, TX – Kulur Group, the 2026 African-American Marketing Association Agency of the Year, today announced the return of its flagship initiative, the "Are You D.O.P.E.?" program. Applications are open through December 15, 20206 at kulurgroup.com/dope.

Launched in 2023, the program addresses a common challenge for founders: building a brand that matches the ambition of their technology. Through strategic messaging, storytelling and marketing audits, Kulur Group helps founders clarify their value, sharpen their positioning and communicate their impact.

"Minority and women founders are building companies that deserve to lead the market. Their brands should carry that same ambition," said Nicholas Love, CEO of Kulur Group. "We created 'Are You D.O.P.E.?' to help founders make the value of what they're building unmistakable, so customers, investors and partners see the opportunity as clearly as they do."

Past participants include Hayti, founded by Cary Wheelous, who highlighted the difference in his experience working with Kulur Group.

"I've trusted other people in the past to work on similar projects, but the results with The Kulur Group were completely different," said Wheelous.

What Makes a Brand D.O.P.E.?

The program seeks challenger brands that embody four principles:

D - Dare to Disrupt: Brands actively challenging status quo industry models.

O - Opportunistic with Intent: Brands seizing growth purposefully and strategically.

P - Possibilities through Partnership: Brands built on collaborative momentum.

E - Executing Change: Brands delivering tangible, positive societal or market impact.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify for the program, prospective applicants must meet the following criteria:

• Operating business located and registered within the United States.

• Minority or woman-led enterprise, requiring at least one minority or woman founder/cofounder.

• Publicly launched product or active beta product currently collecting real-time user feedback.

• Proprietary technology integrated directly into the core product architecture.

• Original intellectual property or significant improvement on existing market solutions.

(Note: Consultancies and agencies are ineligible unless applying with a standalone product line.)

Award Packages and Program Timeline

Following the review process, Kulur Group will select two winning companies to receive brand support services:

• Grand Prize Package: Brand Messaging & Story Development alongside three tailored marketing audits

• Second Place Package: Brand Messaging & Story Development paired with one audit marketing audit.

Companies may choose audits covering SEO, website user experience, digital advertising, GA4, social media or email marketing

Services for the selected winners will begin on January 11, 2027.

Submissions

Applications must be submitted at kulurgroup.com/dope by December 15, 2026. Selected applicants will be contacted directly for discovery interviews.

SPARKS, from Page 10

screen. Filmmaker Arthur Muhammad discussed taking a project from script to screen, while other presenters addressed storytelling, creativity and navigating entertainment careers.

Saturday's keynote speaker, Maryum "May May" Ali, daughter of boxing legend Muhammad Ali, brought the conference to a close with personal stories about her father.

She spoke about the compassion he demonstrated toward strangers, his Muslim faith and the price he paid for opposing the Vietnam War.

Ali urged attendees to use their talents and creativity to speak against injustice, reminding them that everyone has a voice, whether or not they occupy a national stage.

The gathering was organized by Sparks Entertainment under the leadership of Dr. Brendalyn Jackson, whose vision brought together established professionals and aspiring artists for recognition, education and conversation.

For one October weekend, Fort Worth's cultural spotlight extended from the jazz stage to the film industry, from technological innovation to social justice, and from today's creative talent to the legacy of Muhammad Ali.

Courtesy photo

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Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

PITT, from Page 2

Chapel Hill and graduated in journalism in 1974. Gov. Jim Hunt later pardoned him.

That history matters to the man he became. His life did not follow a straight progression from promise to achievement. Education, second chances and the decisions of people willing to help him were part of the foundation beneath the publisher's title.

A story nobody would publish

Pitt repeatedly located the newspaper's beginning in a reporting assignment that could not find a publisher.

As a UNC student, he investigated why Black graduates of North Carolina Central University's law school were passing the bar examination at much lower rates than their counterparts elsewhere. In a later interview with UNC Media Hub, he recalled receiving an A for the work but finding no newspaper willing to print it. The experience helped convince him to start a newspaper himself.

The Chronicle was not Winston-Salem's first Black newspaper. Earlier publications, including Clarence E. Irvin's Post in the 1930s, belonged to a local Black press tradition that preceded it. Pitt's contribution was to establish a durable new institution in that tradition, not to invent the need for one.

Nor was it a solitary undertaking. The newspaper's own mastheads credit Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye with establishing it in 1974.

Elaine Pitt, his former wife, work was central to its survival. In his 41st-anniversary column, Pitt remembered her coming to Winston-Salem on weekends while pursuing doctoral work at UNC, helping sell newspapers and typeset copy. He also recalled encouragement from a woman he identified as Dr. Greene at Winston-Salem State and practical support from local businessmen Frank Murrell and Carl Russell Sr.

His account of the early newspaper was full of jobs that would ordinarily belong to different people: publisher, reporter, editor, advertising salesman and circulation manager. He also printed and delivered the paper.

The origin story is more useful with those people left in it. Institutions may take on the personality of a forceful founder, but other people do the work that allows them to last.

Pitt continued working as an education reporter in Greensboro while building The Chronicle. The 2022 profile reported that advertising accounts eventually made it possible for him to devote himself to the newspaper full time in 1978.

As the business grew, Pitt bought a printing press and moved the operation from Trade Street to North Liberty Street. The investment gave a weekly community paper more than an address; it gave its reporting a place and equipment to keep going.

Recognition was only part of the mission

The archives show a newspaper that did more than celebrate achievement.

On one editorial page in August 1992, The Chronicle pressed for scrutiny of police handling of the Sheila Epps McKellar case, urged support for Black-owned businesses and challenged redistricting that would weaken Black voters' influence. The police editorial distinguished demands for reform from a blanket attack on police.

These unsigned editorials show the range of the newspaper he led: public accountability, economic participation and political power belonged on the same page.

That willingness to question authority could also turn inward. Former editor Allen Johnson recalled in the UNC Media Hub account that the paper examined whether prominent Black churches were doing enough for the community. Pastors criticized the coverage. Serving Black readers did not mean granting the Black establishment an exemption from reporting.

The Chronicle's early attention to Darryl Hunt remains an important part of that record. Wake Forest's archival inventories preserve the trail: handwritten notes from Johnson's 1984–85 interviews with Hunt, a February 1985 Chronicle article questioning the case and an October 1985 report on civil-rights lawyers handling his appeal.

The record places The Chronicle among those asking questions in the early years of Hunt's case. That work belonged to a larger effort by Hunt, his lawyers, community advocates and other journalists.

The newspaper continued following the people affected by contested convictions. In 2014 it reported Hunt's advocacy for Kalvin Michael Smith. In 2016 it covered students from Salem College, Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State organizing around Smith's case. Justice coverage connected generations rather than ending with an anniversary photograph.

There was also the work that rarely becomes a national headline. A June 1996 issue put practical church-fire protection alongside a young woman's service as a congressional page and a YMCA youth event. Danger, public service and childhood achievement could share space because they shared a community.

The children and the people doing the work

Pitt understood that being noticed could matter, particularly to young people who were not already stars.

Robert Wynn, a co-creator of the junior-varsity basketball tournament that became associated with The Chronicle, recalled Pitt joining as a sponsor after its first year. Wynn and Ike Howard had developed the event for players left outside the varsity showcase.

According to Wynn's 2017 account, Pitt wanted families in the stands and prices they could afford. Accommodations for larger families followed. The point was not only who won; it was who could participate and who could watch.

The paper's first sports editor, Robert Eller, helped make that attention a regular practice. He covered junior-varsity athletics and Winston-Salem State, wrote his Black on Sports column and earned awards for the newspaper.

When Eller died in 2015, Pitt gave those awards to Eller's family. A Chronicle report recorded his intention to leave the places where they had hung on the office wall empty in Eller's honor.

That is a revealing detail in a career often summarized through trophies. The recognition belonged to the person who had earned it, not only to the institution whose name appeared on the work.

The newsroom's later accomplishments also had names attached. In March 2016 The Chronicle received the North Carolina Press Association's first-place news-coverage award that recognized, among other work, local reporting after the Charleston church massacre. The paper had covered vigils and asked residents about their own fears of attending church. Photo recognition included its National Black Theatre Festival coverage.

The account credited Todd Luck, Tevin Stinson, Erin Mizelle, Tori P. Haynesworth, Ron Rogers and managing editor Donna Rogers. A founder's legacy includes the journalists whose work he made room for and the readers they served.

Pitt also spoke to children about the purpose of the profession. During a 2016 visit by fourth- and fifth-graders from the Winston-Salem Jack and Jill chapter, Pitt described the newspaper's role in challenging the mistreatment of people without power. The young visitors saw a newsroom as a place where questions could become public work.

Wellcome Care Group Launches Behavioral Health Platform for HBCU Students at AfroTech 2026

Company also recruiting Black and Brown clinicians at conference

(Black PR Wire) Wellcome Care Group today launched Wellcome, a digital behavioral health platform that connects students at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with licensed clinicians who understand their culture and experience. It debuts at AfroTech Conference 2026, the nation's largest gathering of Black tech talent, at the George R. Brown Convention Center through Nov. 6.

Services include virtual therapy, substance use counseling and recovery aftercare, psychiatric and crisis referrals, care coordination and peer support. Care coordinators, supported by Wellma, an AI-powered assistant, help students find clinicians and stay connected to care; licensed professionals make all treatment decisions.

"Millennials and Gen Z are opening up the conversation about behavioral health, but we still have work to do to end the stigma in Black and Brown communities," said Jack A. Brown, founder, chairman and CEO of Wellcome Care Group. "College students have helped lead some of the most important movements in our history. It is time for a behavioral health care revolution in our communities, and HBCU students can help lead it. Through Wellcome, we want to turn that openness into access to care, and help students carry that change home to their families and communities."

Among U.S. adults with a mental illness, 38.5% of Black and 44.1% of Hispanic adults received treatment in the past year, versus 57.9% of White adults, according to the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Suicide deaths among Black Americans have risen more than 50% over the past decade, according to CDC data, and Black professionals make up only about 5% of the U.S. psychology workforce, according to the American Psychological Association.

Adults who went without needed care most often cited cost (61.4%), not knowing where to go (44.9%) or not finding a clinician they wanted (43.2%). Wellcome answers all three with clear monthly pricing, guided care coordination and culturally matched clinicians.

Wellcome addresses academic stress, anxiety, depression, discrimination and belonging, and works alongside campus counseling centers. Outreach will engage student organizations, Divine Nine and Latino Greek-letter chapters and alumni networks to challenge stigma.

Wellcome is also recruiting clinicians at AfroTech. Licensed therapists, counselors, psychologists and psychiatric professionals can visit the booth or apply at wellcomeyou.com.

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OPERA, from Page 10

Opening-Night Reception and Special Events

Fort Worth Opera will offer audiences additional opportunities to engage with the creative team during opening weekend. On Friday, November 13, a ticketed opening-night reception will take place at Texas A&M University School of Law, located at 1515 Commerce Street in Fort Worth.

The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., with composer-librettist Derrick Wang scheduled to speak at 6 p.m. The reception concludes at 7 p.m., ahead of the evening's 7:30 p.m. performance.

A pre-performance conversation with the composer will take place before each show, giving audiences an opportunity to learn more about the opera, its creative process, and the themes it explores.

Meet-and-greet opportunities with the artists will also follow both performances in the lobby. These post-performance receptions are generously sponsored by Cantey Hanger LLP.

Through its blend of comedy, music, and a remarkably human story, Scalia/Ginsburg offers more than a portrait of two influential public figures. It invites audiences to consider what becomes possible when disagreement does not have to mean division, demonstrating how the arts can create space for dialogue, understanding, and connection.

To learn more or explore Fort Worth Opera's 2026–2027 Season, visit fwopera.org or call the Box Office at 817-731-0726.

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My Life Is One Day At a Time

Dr. James L. Snyder

DWG Studio

Sometimes I look back over my life and try to remember what we call the "good old days." From my birth to now, I have lived 27,500 days. That is a lot of days.

Sometimes I think it would be interesting to remember every one of those days.

I can't even remember all of my birthdays. I know I had them because I'm still alive today. Sometimes I think it would be interesting to remember my very first birthday. I wonder what my parents got me for that first birthday.

Some days stand out more than others do. For example, I remember very clearly the day The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I got married. I'll never forget that day. Other days stand out in my memory.

Recently I've been thinking it is a waste of time to focus on the past. Nothing in the past can be changed or improved. If I went back and tried to correct one mistake I made, I'd probably make two other mistakes in the process. Not worth it.

At my age, I am concentrating on living one day at a time. Yesterday's gone, and tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. So my focus is on today. I'm going to live today as though it was the last day of my life. Whenever I get up, I never know if it will be my best day or my worst.

With The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, it is a different story. Her great obsession is planning her days. She plans a whole year, including all the holidays in the coming year. Of course, she carefully schedules doctor visits. If she didn't do that, I probably would never see my doctor again.

When I get up in the morning, I really don't know what will happen during the day. I try to think about what I need to do that day and keep it to a minimum.

Now that I'm retired, I don't have to get up and go to some committee meeting. I can crawl out of bed, go to my office, and work in my pajamas. I never thought retirement would be so much fun.

I need to be careful because if I decide to go to Wal-Mart, I need to change out of my pajamas into my workday clothes. There was a time, I will not explain, when I forgot to do that. Actually, when I went, I fit in with everybody else.

This past Monday I needed to go to the post office and pay my annual fees. I had no other appointment, so I just drove to the post office, went in, and paid my fees.

As I walked out, I heard a horn honking. I didn't know where it was, but as I walked toward my truck, I realized it was my truck making all that noise, and the headlights were also blinking. Something was wrong with my truck.

I got to my truck, got in, put the key in, and the horn stopped honking, and the headlights stopped blinking. I had no idea what was going on. Sitting behind the wheel, I sighed a very deep sigh, and then started the engine. It actually started right up.

I put it in reverse, and it just drifted backward very slowly. I pressed the brake, then put it in gear, pressed the pedal, and nothing happened; it kept drifting backward. I finally stopped and tried putting it in reverse, and it just drifted backward. I couldn't get it to go forward, and I couldn't stop it from drifting backward.

I had no idea what was wrong with my truck.

I tried calling AAA, but my phone wasn't working very well. I tried to call The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, but my phone still was not working. I walked back into the post office. I was able to call my daughter and tell her what was going on, and asked her to call her mother for me.

I then called my mechanic, told him my problem, and he said he would come over to meet me right away. We were only a couple of miles apart, so it didn't take long.

I was standing outside my truck waiting for him, and finally he came.

He asked what was wrong, and I tried to explain; then he got in my truck, turned the engine on, and everything worked. He could drive it forward and backward. Nothing seemed to be wrong. Everything worked fine.

He told me to take it to his garage where he worked, and they would check it out for me.

I wasn't sure I could make it to the garage, but I finally did. They had my truck overnight, and when I went back the next day, they told me they found absolutely nothing wrong with it.

That sure made me look like an idiot there in the garage.

Of all the days in my life I would like to see repeated, this surely isn't one of the

A verse of scripture came to mind. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

I can't change yesterday, and I cannot predict what tomorrow will bring. I need to focus on today and trust God to help make today a day to remember.

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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 some 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 disciplined.

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**.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in November 2016. It has been edited for space. Sister Tarpley passed away on May 10, 2024. We keep her words alive in our print edition every week.)

NDG Book Review: 'Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview and Other Conversations'

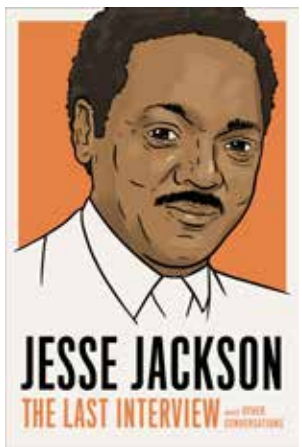
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Business as usual.

Nothing new here. Same old, same old. Yeah, sometimes, the status quo is good: an even-keel feels safe, even relaxing, smooth as glass. Ten again, there's no forward movement on a calm river. You need a little shaking-up, as in the new book "Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview" with an introduction by Al Sharpton, or nothing ever changes.

Even as a young man, Jesse Jackson was "a force of nature."

He was a speaker at a young age, and could command crowds with his voice



alone. He built Operation Breadbasket for Dr. Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conerence, to organize funds and volunteers. Later, he took Operation PUSH to Chicago, and held rallies on Saturday mornings to mobilize the Black community there. He was a mentor, a man of God, and he was willing to take on any injustice he saw.

He was also an in-demand interviewee in the years after Dr. King's assassination.

In November 1969, he spoke to Arthur Kretchmer for Playboy magazine. He said then that there was a "war" between Black America and white America, and that this country seemed to be under a "police state" for Black men. He spoke against the elimination of Black studies in colleges and universities, and he railed against a governmental "lack of understanding" of problems facing Black businesses.

"The perverted idea of manhood coming from the barrel of a gun," Jackson said, "is what keeps people from understanding nonviolence."

In an interview with Tony Brown and Diahann Carroll for Black Journal in January 1975, Jackson blamed America's economic woes on "the superrich not being taxes properly" and the "monopolies" created by it.

In 1983, he told Ronald Smothers of The New York Times that "the Justice Department is not committed to justice." In 1989's Eyes on the Prize II, he talked about the real possibility that we "will have an African American as nominee of a party, indeed, as president of the United States of America…"

Do all these things sound familiar, like they were torn from the headlines just yesterday? That deja vu feeling will hit again and again as you read "Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview."

It helps, for further clarification and framing, to refer to the introduction by the Reverend Al Sharpton. There, Sharpton writes about the day he met Jackson, and the many times their lives and work intersected. He underscores the importance of Jackson's activism and his work for Civil Rights over the years – and that's where this book becomes amazing.

Jackson's words, as gathered here, make him seem like a man with a crystal ball, peering at the problems of the future, to offer guidelines for them. Readers may be astounded that the old saw is correct: the more things change, the more they stay the same.

This slender collection may make you look for more of Jackson's interviews, so hone your search skills and get to work. In the meantime, "Jesse Jackson: The Last Interview" is a most unusual book

Michael Shiner: The Enslaved Man Who Wrote His Way into American History

By Tamara Shiloh
Oakland Post

Long before African Americans could freely tell their stories, Michael G. Shiner was quietly documenting history.

Born into slavery in 1805 in Piscataway, Maryland, Shiner became one of the most remarkable eyewitness chroniclers of nineteenth-century America. His writings preserved more than five decades of Washington, D.C., history, providing an extraordinary perspective on slavery, freedom, labor, and the nation's transformation.

He was born to William Pumphrey Jr., whose family owned property in Maryland and Washington, D.C. Around 1812, Shiner was brought to the nation's capital, where he eventually worked at the Washington Navy Yard. Although denied the educational opportunities available to White

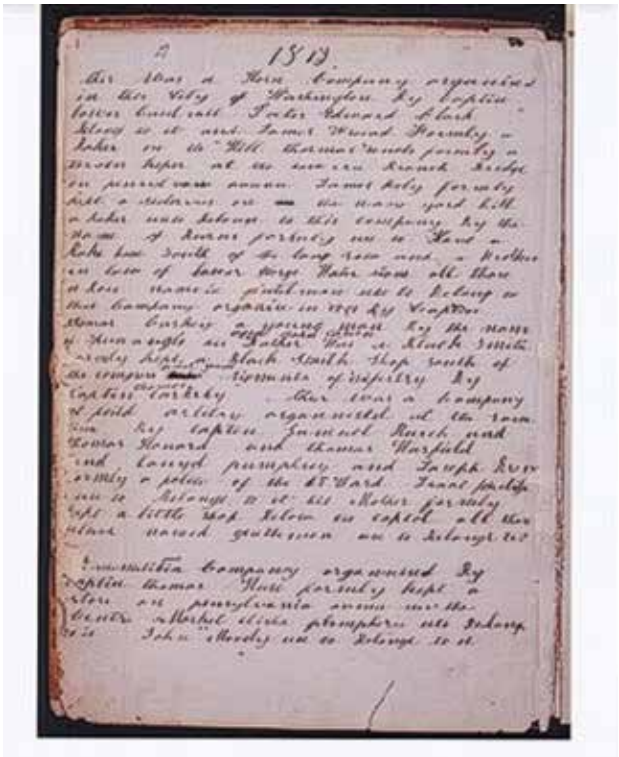


Image via NNPA

Americans, he learned to read and write, likely through religious instruction at Washington's First Presbyterian Church.

His literacy became a powerful instrument of historical preservation. Beginning with recollections of events in 1813, Shiner recorded significant happenings in a handwritten journal he called his "book." His observations included the British invasion of Washington during the War of 1812, particularly the burning of the Capitol and other government buildings in August 1814. His descriptions captured the fear, destruction, and confusion surrounding one of America's most devastating wartime attacks.

However, his writings extended far beyond military events.

In 1828, Thomas Howard, chief clerk of the Washington Navy Yard, acquired Shiner and hired out his labor. He worked in the Navy Yard's paint shop, observing the everyday experiences of enslaved and free workers. His diary documented ship launches, workplace accidents, labor disputes, racial discrimination, and political developments.

One of his most heartbreaking experiences occurred in 1833 when slave traders threatened to separate his family. His wife, Phillis, and their children faced the possibility of being sold away. Through determined intervention and assistance from influential individuals, Shiner obtained their release from enslavement.

He petitioned for his own freedom in 1836 and subsequently lived as a free man. By 1850, census records identified him as free, living with his second wife, Jane, and their children.

His writings continued through the Civil War, documenting the changing political landscape and the struggle for African American freedom. His manuscript also revered the Emancipation Proclamation, demonstrating the importance of this historic declaration to someone who had personally experienced enslavement.

Following the Civil War, he became active in Republican politics and advocated for African American rights. His remarkable memory and detailed observations made him a respected figure throughout Washington.

Shiner died of smallpox on January 16, 1880, at approximately seventy-five years old.

Today, his 186-page manuscript, The Diary of Michael Shiner Relating to the History of the Washington Navy Yard, 1813–1869, is preserved at the Library of Congress.

What makes his achievement extraordinary is that an African American laborer, once considered property under American law, became an invaluable recorder of the nation's history.

Shiner never achieved fame during his lifetime as a writer. Yet his determination to document the world around him ensured that future generations could understand American history through the eyes of someone who experienced both slavery and freedom.

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