

“Happy Valentine’s Day!”



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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 22

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 8- 14, 2024

## BLACK HISTORY

# Black Achievements in the Game of Golf

By Michael Dean



In the game of golf, there is also a history timeline filled with events that were chronicled and have a place in history. Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

The Arizona Republic published a piece titled, “How Black History Month Came to Be” on Sunday that was written by Amaris Encinas of USA TODAY. The article focused on the month-long commemoration created to reflect on the past,

acknowledge the continued struggle for racial justice, and draw inspiration from the achievements of African Americans. Dr. Carter G. Woodson conceived the idea of “Negro History Week” in 1926 and worked long and hard over the years to see

that the week be extended. The week-long event officially became Black History Month in 1976 when U.S. President Gerald Ford extended the recognition to “honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every

area of endeavor throughout our history.” Black History Month has been celebrated in the United States every February since.

In the game of golf, there is also a history timeline

Continue **History** Page 5



## Just Believe: The Super Bowl Soulful Celebration 25th Anniversary Scores Big with 25 Years of Star Power, Dynamic Partnerships, and Unforgettable Performances

Las Vegas, NV - February 7, 2024 - THE SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION 25th ANNIVERSARY

prepares to illuminate screens nationwide for its Silver Anniversary broadcast as a special one-hour program on CBS Television Network\* on Saturday night, February 10, at 8 pm ET/7C. Taped in front of a live audience tonight, Wednesday, Feb. 7 at Pearl Concert Theater, Palms Casino Resort during Super Bowl LVIII week, this milestone event is hosted by the dynamic duo of Cedric the Entertainer and Tichina Arnold, stars of the CBS hit series “THE NEIGHBORHOOD.”

Anchored in the theme of “Just Believe,” the show fea-

tures performances from artists T-Pain, Rachel Platten, and Mickey Guyton, who join previously announced acts Earth, Wind & Fire, Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, Robin Thicke, and The Players Choir in the blockbuster talent lineup.

Resonating with faith, football, and the belief that every obstacle can be transformed into an opportunity for greatness, this celebration of music is also a testament to the power of collaboration between art and corporate goodwill. A diverse slate of corporate and philanthropic partners have joined the broadcast, adding to its depth and meaning with a series of uniquely sponsored segments.

Continue **Super** Page 5

## Born at Parkland during segregation; doctor now medical staff president

*Dr. James Griffin is the first African American to hold the position*

DALLAS – Born in an era of segregation and deep racial separatism, James Griffin’s career came full circle when he became the first African American to serve as the President of the medical staff at Parkland Health, the very place he was born. The recognition comes after more than 40 years of unending devotion to what he believes to be the greatest form of human connection there is, providing care.

As he reflects on his past and where his journey began, born in the same institution decades later he would walk the halls as a respected leader, it’s remarkable to see the path

Dr. Griffin has forged for himself and those who look like him. When he was born in 1958, Parkland was one of the only hospitals in the area where Black women could deliver. Now, serving at that same hospital, the significance of this recognition is deeply personal to him.

“Until I became a second grader, my parents couldn’t vote. So being elected by my peers connects me back to a point in time where people like me did not have a voice,” said Dr. Griffin, chief of anesthesiology services at Parkland and professor of anesthesiology at The University of Texas

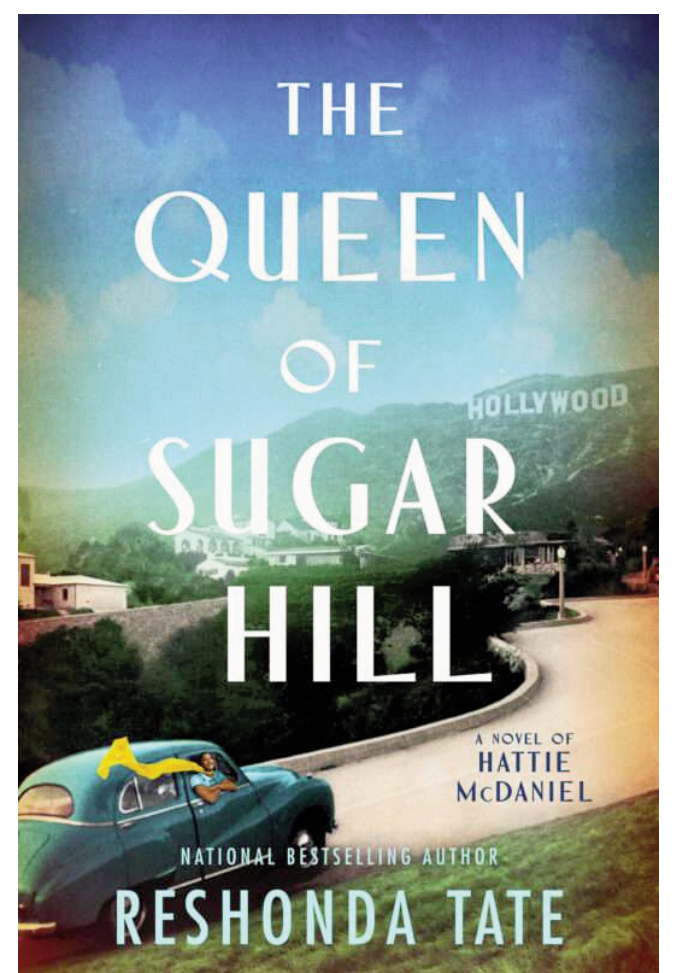


Dr. James Griffin

Southwestern Medical Center. “In order to get here, I had to be voted in by a number of physicians who didn’t look like me. To me that paints a broad picture of where we have advanced in just one life-

time.” At the time of his birth, Parkland had segregated maternity wards. And because there were very few hospitals in the region

Continue **Griffin** Page 3



## The Queen of Sugar Hill: ReShonda Tate Illuminates Hattie McDaniel’s Journey in a Tale of Resilience and Triumph

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Celebrating Black History Month Despite Racial Disparities In America

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

What makes race one of the most talked about topics in the United States of America? Why do some let the color of one's skin stand in the way of their humanity?

If you are African American in this country, race has always mattered. My growing up in the South made race a sticking point in almost everything that you did.

Joyfully and thankfully, we had parents who

believed that we could achieve. We developed our self-esteem from watching our parents at home and in the public square. No matter their social position, they moved with confidence and because of them, we did, too.

East Winston in Winston-Salem NC was the community I lived in as I was coming of age. We had role models that gave us inspiration so that we could have aspiration. Everything we needed for the most part was in our community.

We had schools, churches, and businesses. However, there were some conveniences that we didn't have yet, our parents found a way and made a way.

The foundation they gave us was really a blueprint for success. It has remained with us through our adult lives. One of those assets was a love for educa-

tion.

Our Black History education started in our homes. We learned about men and women in our community who made a difference. Upon reflection now, I know that seeing men like Carl Russell, a Black city alderman and Lester Ervin, a Black fire chief gave me a sampling of what success looked like.

As I progressed in elementary school, I began to quietly wonder why there were only five days (Black History Week) to celebrate the accomplishments of Black people. I wasn't mature enough yet to have asked my teachers about it.

Black History Week became Black History Month in 1976. History shows that the first official observance came from President Gerald Ford whose words established Black History Month.

February was chosen to go along with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

During this month, we honor men and women like Dr. Charles Drew, Senator Carol Moseley Braun, Representative Barbara Jordan and Granville T. Woods. There are countless Black people because of their creativity, perseverance and wisdom that made this nation a better, more enriched place to be.

For example, when we are driving our cars, remember that Garrett Augustus Morgan invented the traffic signal and the gas mask. Dr. George Washington Carver discovered over 300 uses of peanuts and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was the founder of Bethune Cookman College, now University in Daytona Beach Florida.

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## The Queen of Sugar Hill: ReShonda Tate Illuminates Hattie McDaniel's Journey in a Tale of Resilience and Triumph

In her latest work, "The Queen of Sugar Hill," Tate, a seasoned author and managing editor of the Defender Network in Houston, presents a mesmerizing fictional portrait of the trailblazing actress, the first Black person to win an Academy Award for her iconic role as Mammy in the classic film "Gone With the Wind."

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Reaching back to Hollywood's golden age, where dreams were spun under the spotlight and stars were born, bestselling author ReShonda Tate takes readers on a captivating journey through the life of Hattie McDaniel. In her latest work, "The Queen of Sugar Hill," Tate, a seasoned author and managing editor of the Defender Network in Houston, presents a mesmerizing fictional portrait of the trailblazing actress, the first Black person to win an Academy Award for her iconic role as Mammy in the classic film "Gone With the Wind."

"It is fiction based on fact," Tate exclaimed of her extraordinary 55th novel.

As McDaniel graced the stage in

1940 to claim her historic victory for Best Supporting Actress, tears of joy streamed down her face, believing that the moment would be the pinnacle of her career. Little did she know the triumph on that stage would be followed by a series of challenges that would test her resilience and determination.

The months that followed were plagued by what became known as the "Oscar curse." Despite her achievements, Tate reveals how McDaniel struggled to find work in an industry that couldn't see beyond the stereotypical character of Mammy. Caught between two worlds—Black and white—she faced rejection from both sides. "Whites saw only the character she portrayed, while the Black community resented the demeaning portrayal," Tate noted.

Amidst the adversity, McDaniel persisted in her fight to pave the way for other Black actors. Beyond the glitz and glamour of Hollywood, she devoted herself to supporting war efforts, combating housing discrimination, and navigating the complexities of four failed marriages.

"The Queen of Sugar Hill" brings McDaniel's powerful story to life, capturing her unwavering passion for ambition, love, sex, family, friend-

ship, and equality. ReShonda Tate crafts an unforgettable novel that delves into the essence of resilience, dedication, and determination—illuminating what it truly takes to pursue dreams, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

In this narrative, Tate explores Hattie's triumphs and tragedies and sheds light on the steadfast friendships she cultivated with Hollywood luminaries like Clark Gable, Louise Beavers, Ruby Berkley Goodwin, and Dorothy Dandridge. Through Tate's vivid storytelling, "The Queen of Sugar Hill" stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of a woman who, against all odds, left an enduring legacy and paved the way for future generations of Black artists in the unforgiving landscape of Hollywood.

"In bringing to life the inimitable Hattie against the backdrop of her segregated times, 'The Queen of Sugar Hill' introduces readers to the important, inspiring, heart-wrenching story of the legendary actress whose legacy deserves to be fully understood and celebrated," said Marie Benedict, the New York Times Bestselling author of "The Personal Librarian" and "The Other Mrs. Christie."

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## The Colossian Believers' Reception of the Transforming Power of the Gospel

### Colossians 1:1-14

#### Part I

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



As stated in our Introductory Notes, the Epistle of Colossians is one of Paul's prison epistles. The Epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians were written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome in A.D. 61. It was during Paul's ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10, 26) that the gospel had made its way outward to Colosse, a city located on the Lycus River in the Roman province of Asia. The church that came from this effort was primarily Gentile (Colossians 1:27).

Epaphras, who was instrumental in taking the

gospel to the Colossians, had visited Paul and brought news of the church (Colossians 1:7-8). Some of the news was disturbing, for false teaching was threatening the faith of believers. So to combat this issue, Paul presented some sound teachings, especially about the Person and work of Christ. Our text, Colossians 1:1-14, may be outlined as follows:

I. The Beneficial Effects of the Gospel in the Lives of the Colossian Believers – Colossians 1:1-8; II. Paul's Prayer for the Colossian Believers' Spiritual Growth –

Colossians 1:9-14.

I. The Beneficial Effects of the Gospel in the Lives of the Colossian Believers – Colossians 1:1-8

Paul, the writer of this grand epistle, introduced himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ." Paul employed the word "apostle" to denote one who was commissioned directly by the risen Christ (v. 1). Paul also introduced Timothy as a companion and brother, although Timothy was not an apostle. In verse 2, Paul wrote this letter "to the saints and faithful

brethren in Christ which are at Colosse." The word "saints" means "set apart ones" and this term refers not just of mature believers, but of all believers. Thank God that we (believers) have been blessed with God's unmerited favor and have been granted God's peace as a result of experiencing His grace!

Beginning in verses 3-8, Paul began a rather lengthy expression of offering thanksgiving for God's awesome work of salvation in the lives of the Colossian believers. Paul assured the believers in verse 3 that whenever he prayed, he

would offer words of thanksgiving for them. Paul especially offered thanks for the Colossians' reception of the gospel (v. 4). Paul had heard of their "faith in Christ Jesus" which was demonstrated in their love to all believers.

The Colossians' faith and love was also combined with "the hope which is laid up for you in heaven" (v. 5). A believer's hope includes the return of Christ, the resurrection of the body, and the eternal joy of spending eternity in God's presence (1 John 3:2-3). The Colossian believers received this hope when

they accepted the gospel!

In verse 6, the gospel that the believers received had transformed lives all over the world. The gospel was infused with Divine power and made the believers' lives fruitful. In verse 7, Paul spoke remarkably of Epaphras, calling him his "dear fellow servant" and a "faithful minister of Christ." It was Epaphras who brought to Paul a report of the Colossian church. Paul also said that Epaphras had informed him of the Colossians' love in the Spirit (v. 8).

*May God Bless!*

Continued Griffin Page 1

## Born at Parkland during segregation; doctor now medical staff president

that would allow Black patients to deliver in their hospital, Parkland was a significant "social" safety net provider all those years ago, just as it remains today, according to Dr. Griffin.

During that period, Parkland employees both Black and white worked side-by-side, but ate in segregated cafeterias, used segregated restrooms and drank from separate water fountains. A wall existed in the lobby, dividing visitors by race. This ended when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting racial discrimination in employment, publicly owned facilities and federally funded programs.

With the passage of the Civil Rights Act, this brought an end to segregation at Parkland, meaning patients were no longer required to stand in separate lines based on their skin color.

When looking back on the mentors and lessons that helped him arrive at this moment, Dr. Griffin recounted early memories with his own family physician and historical Dallas figure, Dr. George Lee Shelton. In June 1954, Dr. Shelton joined four other men to make history by becoming the first Black doctors to practice at St. Paul Hospital and integrate the facility. "I had a model of what a

physician could look like, and I had no doubt that it could be someone like me," Dr. Griffin said.

When asked what sparked his passion for healthcare, Dr. Griffin answered, "I always knew I wanted to be a doctor, I'm not sure where it came from." Later in life, he found out his father aspired to be a physician as well, but the social construct of the '50s did not allow his parents the same opportunities he had in his lifetime. His parents were educators and education was paramount to him and his sister.

In a way, Dr. Griffin says, education has been the hallmark of his academic career, providing leadership as Director of Medical Student and Resident Education at UT Southwestern for two decades and currently as the Associate Chair of the Admissions Committee at UT Southwestern.

After ending his formal workday comprised of multiple leadership roles and a myriad of responsibilities to both health systems, Dr. Griffin still makes time for the people who matter most, his family. Every day, he visits his 95-year-old mother in the same house he grew up in. "Sometimes it may be for five minutes sometimes it may be hours, but every day I visit her and go back into the community in South Dallas

where I came from."

Dr. Griffin recognizes his responsibility to his patients, knowing that it must be in the context of socially conscious and compassionate care. "Even though we overcame those obvious social barriers we had in the '50s, they still exist and represent themselves differently today. Parkland is still that bridge that makes it possible for our patients to overcome the social, economic and environmental circumstances they were placed into," he said.

And he hopes to continue to engrain that sense of responsibility into his medical staff.

"As a medical staff member, you are not only a leader of clinician and non-clinician members of our healthcare delivery team, but you are also a leader on our campus and our delivery system," Dr. Griffin said in his introductory statement to the medical staff. "Parkland is the foundation of a vibrant countywide healthcare network that consists of many types of healthcare delivery entities. Because of our position in this system, we have received unwavering support from the taxpayers of Dallas County. We earn that support every day and for that, I gladly give each of one of my medical staff members my respect and gratitude."



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## Quinn Minute

# Prehistoric humans

By Rix Quinn

We don't give prehistoric people enough credit. These remarkable folks learned to walk upright, discovered fire, and invented the wheel. Sadly, they made that wheel out of wood, accidentally set it on fire...then had to start over again.

Tribes painstakingly carved mud huts out of the earth. That must have been tough, especially if it rained and the kitchen cabinets flowed into the den.

One day at a hut house-

warming, a neighbor said, "Cave Guy, your home really bores me. Why don't you put some original prints on the walls?"

And Cave Guy said "Footprints? If I could walk on walls, I would defy gravity before it is invented."

The neighbor said, "No, I mean pictures. You know...landscapes, impressionist works, maybe portraits."

Cave Guy then colored his walls with vivid scenes

of ancestors and mythical creatures.

Years later, scientists concluded the paintings told important legends. But Cave Guy – a practical person – realized he'd invented wallpaper.

Neolithic man, as you know, gets credit for building the first neighborhood. He realized if he chased woolly mammoths all the time he'd never get "yard of the month."

Well, pretty soon somebody built a hut next door,

and one neighbor decided to construct a fence to keep their pet lizard in, and the stray sabretooth out.

Yep, thanks to these early settlers, today we've got streets, carpooling, and neighborhood associations.

In fact, if they'd known how to read, write, and medicate correctly, they might still be around today – 10,000 years later – sunning themselves.

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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

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Continued History Page 1

### Black Achievements in the Game of Golf

filled with events that were chronicled and have a place in history. Here are a few.

- 1 In 1896, John Shippen became the first Black golfer to play in the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills where he worked as a caddie at the age of 17. He tied for sixth place and won \$10.00. Shippen is the first Black Golf Professional.
- 2 In 1899, Dr. George Grant, a dentist invented the modern wooden golf tee.
- 3 In 1922, Joseph Bartholomew began his career as a golf course architect by creating a new course at Metairie GC in his native New Orleans. Because of the color of his skin, Bartholomew was never allowed to play the course because of racist practices.
- 4 In 1926, the same year that Black History Week was established, Robert Hawkins held his first tournament for Black golfers and in 1928 he created the United Golf Association which provided a place for golfers who were excluded from PGA events because of the color of their skin.

- 5 In 1939, Clyde Martin was named head pro at Langston, a segregated golf course, in Washington, D.C.
- 6 In 1946, William Powell, with aid from two Black doctors and his brother, began building Clearview GC in East Canton, Ohio. The nine-hole course was opened in 1948 and Powell became the first Black to build, own, and operate a golf course. Another nine holes were added to the site in 1978.
- 7 In 1948, Bill Spiller began his fight against racist practices by the PGA Tour that wouldn't allow Black golfers to participate. That same year, Teddy Rhodes became the second Black golfer to compete in the U.S. Open Championship that was held at Riviera CC in Pacific Palisades, CA.
- 8 In 1956, Ann Gregory became the first Black female to enter the U.S. Women's Amateur.
- 9 In 1957, Charlie Sifford won the Long Beach Open, an event co-sponsored by the PGA and in 1961 became the first Black player to earn a PGA TOUR card after the

- "Caucasian Only" clause was struck from the bylaws. He went on to win the 1967 Greater Hartford Open and the 1969 LA Open, both PGA TOUR events. Sifford became the first Black golfer inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2004 and in 2009 the Northern Trust Open created the "Charlie Sifford Exemption" specifically to increase diversity in the game. Today the event is the Genesis Open hosted by Tiger Woods.
- 10 In 1963, Althea Gibson became the first Black golfer to compete on the LPGA Tour.
- 11 In 1964, Pete Brown became the first Black golfer to win a PGA-sanctioned event, the Waco-Turner Open. In 1970 he went to the winner's circle after winning the Andy Williams Open in San Diego.
- 12 In 1967, Lee Elder earned his PGA Tour card after finishing 9th out of a class of 122 golfers. He began playing the tour in 1968 and in 1974 won his first tour event, the Monsanto Open. After the win Elder received and

- accepted an invitation to play in the 1975 Masters. He was the first Black golfer to be invited. In 1979, Elder was a Ryder Cup participant, another first for the storied golfer.
- 13 In 1975, Calvin Peete joined the PGA Tour and distinguished himself by becoming one of the most consistent golfers ever. Peete had 12 tour wins in his career and led in driving accuracy for ten straight years, 1981-90. His greatest accomplishment was winning the PLAYERS Championship in 1985. Peete was the second Black golfer to participate on the U.S. Ryder Cup Team in 1983 and 1985.
- 14 In 1986, Harold Dunovant established the National Black Golfer's Hall of Fame. That same year, the Minority Collegiate Golf Championship was established to elevate the game for primarily minority colleges and universities because the schools were denied opportunities to compete in NCAA collegiate events.

"To Be Continued."

Continued Super Page 1

Crown Royal, a brand rooted in generosity, will present the "Lifetime of Inspiration" award to former partner, NFL player, CBS Mornings Co-Host and Host of NFL Today, Nate Burleson. Crown Royal will make a meaningful donation of \$25,000 from The Crown Royal Generosity Fund to an organization personally selected by Mr. Burleson. Nate, a symbol of inspiration on and off the field, will receive this prestigious honor presented by football legend Fred Taylor.

Amazon Prime steps forward to present the "New Beginnings" spotlight, honoring Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin. His story of resilience and family triumph will be shared in a powerful segment, reflecting the spirit of overcoming obstacles and finding new beginnings.

C.J. Stroud, rising star from the Houston Texans, will be honored with the esteemed "Faith in Action" Award. This recognition underscores his commitment to philanthropy and community service through the C.J. Stroud Foundation, which has become a force for meaningful change and exemplifies the profound impact athletes can have in creating a better world.

P&G brands play a significant role in shaping the SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION 25TH ANNIVERSARY experience. Leading the way is Febreze, bringing its unique touch to the celebration with an electrifying performance by the legendary Kirk Franklin and the all-NFL Players Choir, featuring the Southern University 'Human Jukebox' Band Drumline. In addition, Febreze proudly collaborates with the talented Howard University alumna designer, Rachel Motley, to create custom-designed cardigans that add a stylish and distinctive flair to the musical experience, ensuring that the performers are "Fresh as Febreze" while on stage. Mielle and King C. Gillette will host a beauty and grooming lounge to get all of the honorees and performers ready for their big moment.

Super Bowl Soulful Celebration will introduce the inaugural "ESSENCE Glass Ceiling Breaker Award presented by Mielle." This award, as part of ESSENCE Black Women in Sports, recognizes outstanding women of color who have shattered barriers in the NFL and will be introduced by Caroline Wanga, ESSENCE Ventures President and chief Executive Officer.

Monique Rodriguez, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Mielle, will present this prestigious award to honorees Dasha Smith and Kimberly Fields from the NFL, and Sandra

Douglass Morgan of the Las Vegas Raiders. These women, excelling in the field of sports, have paved the way for many others. The award presentation is a momentous highlight, continuing Mielle's focus on inclusion and empowerment.

In addition to music, the broadcast highlights partnerships, shared values, and a commitment to uplifting communities. Lexus brings its ethos of blending performance and soulful experiences, becoming a resonant voice in the celebration. Comforting Peanut Butter M&M's will sponsor the "HBCU Spotlight," shining a light on Markquese Bell, a Dallas Cowboys star and HBCU graduate of FAMU.

Vibrant Emotional Health and former NFL player Brandon Marshall, CEO of I Am Athlete, share a powerful message on mental fitness with a call-to-action urging viewers to dial 988 if experiencing mental health challenges. The Huntsman Family Foundation, a Utah-based nonprofit, stands up for mental wellness and eradicating stigma, aligning its mission with a dedicated on-stage moment and message of hope presented by James Brown, veteran sportscaster and host of NFL Today. In this collective moment, the Super Bowl Soulful Celebration amplifies a message of compassion and support.

Disney helped Atlanta Falcons player Calais Campbell and his non-profit Charles Richard Campbell Foundation to create a magical experience, gifting a deserving family with a once-in-a-lifetime vacation to Disney World.

Palms Casino Resort serves as the sponsor for red carpet arrivals, hosted by nationally syndicated radio personalities Willie Moore, Jr. (Host, The Willie Moore, Jr. Show) and Jasmine Sanders (Co-Host, The D.L. Hughley Show) adding an extra layer of glamour to the festivities. PlayersTV and Lionsgate will also play a vital role in supporting and enhancing the evening, contributing to the tapestry of the SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION 25th ANNIVERSARY. For a quarter-century THE SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION has captured the hearts of millions through the shared love of music, faith and the exhilaration of football. Bridging cultures and igniting inspiration, the Super Bowl LVIII sanctioned special brings together NFL players with award-winning artists and acclaimed musicians from diverse genres onto a single stage. The result is an unforgettable evening that transcends boundaries and remains the sole multicultural and inspirational program sanctioned by the NFL

Continue Super Page 6



#### School Local Wellness Committee

Research shows a strong link between a young person's practice of healthy habits, including a good diet and regular physical activity, and an improvement in their overall life outcomes. Research also shows that schools can be places for motivating students to lead healthy lifestyles and staff can be role models for showing students how to adopt and maintain healthy behaviors. When kids are physically active, they perform better academically, have better attendance and their behavior improves.

That's why our school is creating a healthier generation where students, teachers, and staff eat better and move more. We are pleased to share that The King's Academy is expanding its' School Wellness Committee. The purpose of the committee is to bring together representatives from the school and surrounding community who can help us plan, communicate, and implement healthier policies and practices. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 10 am. Please contact Julie Tomko at [office@tkadallas.org](mailto:office@tkadallas.org) if you are interested in attending or would like additional information.

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### Texas Department of Agriculture Free and Reduced-Price Meals Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The King's Academy announced today it will continue its policy to operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This new approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact the following person:  
The King's Academy  
Attention: Dr. Shailendra N. Thomas  
1819 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Dallas, Texas 75215  
sthomas@tkadallas.org

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**

## Black Father-Daughter Lawyer Team Faces Disciplinary Action Amidst Racial Discrimination Controversy

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

An African American father-daughter pair of lawyers, Jerry and Brooke Girley are in the eye of Florida's ongoing racist storm after a judge recommended 30-day suspensions for their vocal criticism following the overturning of a \$2.7 million jury ruling in a racial discrimination case.

In addition to suggesting suspension, Judge Lisa Herndon, presiding over the Florida Bar's disciplinary case against the Girleys, also ordered the duo to attend a professionalism workshop. However, the Florida Supreme Court holds the key to the final decision, with potential penalties ranging from suspension to disbarment.

The Girleys' attorney, David Winker, said his clients planned to request a rehearing, pointing out factual inaccuracies in the reports.

Advocates for the Girleys argue that the looming disciplinary action could have a chilling effect on free speech for lawyers in Florida, where Republicans control the governor's office and both chambers of the state legislature. Jerry Girley previously cited concerns about racial discourse and expression within the state.

The controversy originated from Jerry Girley's representation of a Black doctor dismissed from AdventHealth in Orlando in 2021. Despite a jury ruling in favor of Girley's

client, the presiding judge overruled the decision, contending a lack of evidence establishing racial discrimination in the dismissal.

The Florida Bar reported that Jerry and Brooke Girley publicly criticized the judge's decision, accusing improper conduct within the court system. The Bar argued that their statements, both in interviews and on social media, undermined public confidence in the judiciary and were prejudicial to the administration of justice.

In her reports recommending disciplinary measures, Herndon asserted that the Girleys had violated their oath of admission to the Florida Bar by failing to show respect to judicial officers and making false statements. She argued that the Girleys' claims were not First Amendment-protected free speech, in opposition to their arguments.

Founded in 2007, The Girley Law Firm P.A. focuses on civil rights, criminal defense, and social security cases. Described as a community trust, the firm advocates

for justice and equality for all, irrespective of race, color, or creed.

Brooke Girley, an accomplished attorney and media executive, has contributed to significant victories in civil rights cases alongside her father. Passionate about racial equality, she has served in various capacities, including as an adjunct professor and a media executive in the religious space.

Jerry Girley's background includes service in the United States Navy, civilian employment with the Orlando Police Department, and a dedication to civil rights issues. He is the President and Managing Attorney of the Girley Law Firm and serves as General Counsel for Freedom Ministries Church.

"The state of Florida has a shameful history of discrimination and bias against racial minorities," the ACLU of Florida noted on its website. "Though great strides have been made for equality during and since the Civil Rights Movement, racial minorities still face challenges and discrimination in our state."

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Continued Super Page 5 during the electrifying Super Bowl week. Tickets for THE SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION 25th ANNIVERSARY are on sale now and available to the public via [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). Additionally, to mark this special occasion, exclusive commemorative 25th Anniversary limited-edition merchandise is available via the event's official website

SuperBowlSoulful.com, or on-site at the special taping in Las Vegas, allowing attendees to take home a piece of this historic celebration. Follow us @superbowlSoulful for updates and information. THE SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION 25th ANNIVERSARY is executive produced by Melanie Few, with Valarie Benning Thompson serving as producer. Veteran television creative Leon

Knoles serves as Director, with Grammy-nominated artist Adam Blackstone serving as music director. \*Paramount+ with SHOWTIME subscribers will have access to stream live via the live feed of their local CBS affiliate on the service. Paramount+ Essential subscribers will not have the option to stream live but will have access to on-demand on Pluto TV and CBS.com the day after the special airs.