

“If there’s no struggle, there is no progress!”

~ Frederick Douglass ~



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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 1

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 14 - 20, 2023

A farewell to Holmes

BY ANASTASIA REED



Photo Courtesy: Dallas ISD

There is no place like Holmes’

Those words are more than just a slogan painted on a wall inside John Lewis Social Justice Academy at Oliver Wendell Holmes. For Kayla C., her formative years are being shaped by a school with a rich history.

Kayla remembers walking into the orange brick building with teal windows on Kiest Blvd. to start the

sixth grade. The following year, she and her classmates were relocated to a different building. The “Holmes” they knew would soon be demolished and rebuilt as part of the Bond 2020 program.

Now an eighth grader, Kayla returned to the building where she began her middle school years for a final walkthrough.

“I miss this old build-

ing,” she recalled. “I miss the big walls and large hallways. And I’ll always remember that this is where I met my best friend.”

Kayla joined hundreds of alumni, former and current teachers, and current students in signing their names and special memories on walls, lockers and desks during the Farewell to Holmes event held in

August.

The walk down memory lane was bittersweet for those in attendance who, like Kayla, made lifelong connections at Holmes.

“A flood of memories came to me when I walked in,” said former student Adrian Foster. “This is where I met my forever friends. Me and my

Continue **Holmes** Page 2

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy Faces Pressure to Pursue Impeachment Inquiry Against President Biden

By Stacy M. Brown

As expected, the return of Congress to Capitol Hill is kicking off with the House of Representatives doing former President Donald Trump’s bidding as Speaker Kevin McCarthy reportedly agreed to move the request of the far-right MAGA wing of the Republican Party’s time-wasting and taxpayer-wasting money impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden.

Trump, the four-times indicted, twice impeached former president whom a

civil jury found responsible for sexually assaulting a journalist, has sought retribution against the Biden administration since Trump’s resounding election defeat in 2020. That defeat led to an attempted insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, which resulted in the deaths of several police officers and an angry mob of Trump loyalists storming the building and threatening to hang Trump’s Vice President Mike Pence and then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.



Photo Credit : NNPA Files

Police have arrested more than 1,100 people, and hundreds are already in prison with sentences stretching as

long as 22 years. Earlier this year, a grand jury indicted

Continue **Pursue** Page 2

Former Dallas ISD athletic director John E. Kincaide dies at 90

Kincaide was the first Black athletic director in Dallas ISD history.

John E. Kincaide, the first Black athletic director in Dallas ISD history, died Tuesday, the school district announced. He was 90.

No cause of death was given.

A memorial service is being planned to take place at Ellis Davis Field House. Details are pending.

Kincaide worked for Dallas ISD for 38 years as a teacher, coach, principal and administrator. He was the district’s executive director of athletics from

1976 to 1993. When he took over that role, DISD had 42 schools competing in athletics.

DISD named a football stadium after him in 2005, with John E. Kincaide Stadium sitting in the Jesse Owens Memorial Complex. The stadium is used for football, soccer and track and field.

Kincaide worked as a teacher in DISD at Joseph J. Rhodes Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School, and he

coached at Booker T. Washington and J.N. Ervin High School. He coached football, basketball and track and field and was the head football coach at Ervin.

Kincaide is inducted in the Prairie View Interscholastic League Hall of Fame and the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame. He served as the athletic director at Paul Quinn College in 1995 and was the interim president of the college in 2005.



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Dallas CBD-Fair Park Links Multimodal Study

Thursday, September 21, 6:00 pm
South Dallas Cultural Center
3400 S Fitzhugh Ave, Dallas, TX 75210

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and local community partners, as part of the Dallas CBD-Fair Park Links study, are evaluating transportation issues facing the area and potential solutions. This study of multimodal transportation links connecting Downtown Dallas through Deep Ellum to Fair Park will take into account how these areas are linked, considering new designs for IH 30 and IH 345. NCTCOG is inviting the public to attend the first public meeting for the Dallas CBD-Fair Park Links study. Your input on transportation issues and solutions is important to this process.

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language translation, call 817-695-9284 or awilson@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made. Para acomodo especial por discapacidad o para traducción de idioma, llame al 817-695-9284 o por email awilson@nctcog.org al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión. Se harán adaptaciones razonables.

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Continued Pursue Page 1

Trump for his alleged role in the insurrection. Along with his other felony indictments, Trump faces a staggering 91 charges that could fetch more than 800 years in prison if convicted on them all.

Political watchers view the impeachment inquiry as an attempt to appease the far-right MAGA wing of the Republican Party and its influential figurehead, Trump, who has relentlessly sought retribution against the Biden administration since his decisive electoral defeat in 2020. As the House reconvenes for a disruptive fall agenda, McCarthy plans closed-door meetings with lawmakers throughout the week, including discussions on the Biden impeachment. Simultaneously, he faces the daunting challenge of passing legislation to avert a federal government shutdown

by the end of the month.

"We've got a lot of work to do," McCarthy, a Republican from California, acknowledged. A Trump ally, McCarthy finds himself again at a political crossroads, trying to balance the demands of his conservative base while avoiding internal dissent. The decision to move forward with a Biden impeachment inquiry ahead of the 2024 election is looming, especially with Trump emerging as an early frontrunner for the Republican nomination. However, some remaining moderate lawmakers within the party are vocally opposed to impeaching a Democratic president. The Biden administration has dismissed the impeachment push as a politically motivated endeavor. "Speaker McCarthy shouldn't cave to the extreme, far-right members who are threatening to shut down the government unless they get

a baseless, evidence-free impeachment of President Biden," White House spokesman Ian Sams stated. "The consequences for the American people are too serious."

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, characterized the effort as an attempt to "boost Donald Trump's campaign by establishing a false moral equivalency between Trump — the four-time indicted former president."

For McCarthy, the delicate balancing act continues. He must tread carefully to address the demands of the MAGA wing, as his ascent to the Speaker's seat came after an arduous 15 rounds of voting. Under House rules, McCarthy's MAGA wing can call a vote at any time to attempt his removal from office, making his political position all the more precarious.

Continued Holmes Page 1

girlfriends have been close for over three decades."

Foster also attended the event to support her former classmate and current school principal, Sharron Jackson. Principal Jackson's journey symbolizes the connection

the school fosters.

Having been a student in 2015, she returned to the school to serve as principal. "The best thing about getting a new facility is knowing that the community will have a renewed sense of pride," said Principal Jackson.

Although the current location is temporary and the façade will soon change, the school continues to create a legacy while embracing its iconic past. The new campus will serve over 800 students, providing more opportunities for the next generation of Tigers.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

A MARVELOUS PICTURE OF THE INTERVENTION OF GOD'S GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Having shown the spiritual blessings of God's plan in redeeming those in Christ (chapter 1), Paul now reveals the marvelous steps by which God worked to bring this plan into reality (chapter 2). Ephesians 2:1-10 may be outlined as follows: I. The Need for the Intervention of God's Grace – Ephesians 2:1-3; II. The New Life that God's Grace Brought – Ephesians 2:4-10.

I. The Need for the Intervention of God's Grace – Ephesians 2:1-3

From the outset, before Paul builds on the dramatic intervention of God's grace, he depicts mankind's condition before that intervention. Ephesians 2:1 tells us that we were "dead in trespasses and sins." To be "dead in trespasses and sins" means that we had no

spiritual life whatsoever because of sin. Man's problem is not one that can be remedied by human effort or intervention, for one who is spiritually dead has no potency or power to make improvements.

Before God quickened (made alive), we were unsaved – "dead in trespasses and sins." We were spiritually dead; however, we were very much alive physically! We were individuals having no communication with God. We were spiritually separated from God! Having discussed our unregenerate condition before the intervention of God's grace, Paul will detail our depraved conduct in verses 2-3.

Existing in the realm of "trespasses and sins," we conducted ourselves "according to the course of

this world, according to the prince of the power of the air" (v. 2). We conformed to the prevailing character of the world, being influenced by Satan in rebelling against God. We were dominated in our evil actions by Satan, the "prince of the power of the air." We were being acted upon in an atmosphere dominated by the power of the evil one, Satan (St. John 12:31; II. Cor. 4:4). Satan's influential power that prevails in the world is described as "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (v. 2). Satan is the evil spiritual being who influences and energizes all those who are disobedient to God.

In verse 3, Paul reminded us that before the intervention of God's grace, we conducted ourselves

according to "the lusts of the flesh." The word "lusts" can refer to any intense or strong desire. Those living according to fleshly lusts give themselves over to a lifestyle of following sinful passions (Galatians 5:19-21). In this lifestyle of sin, we fulfilled or practiced (v. 3) those desires of the flesh. The way we thought (our minds) was controlled by our unregenerate nature! We were "children of disobedience (v. 2) and children of wrath (v. 3) for we certainly deserved God's wrath! Paul had just given us a grim picture of our spiritual condition before the intervention of God's grace! We indeed had a sordid past in contrast to our present condition of being in Christ!

II. The New Life that

God's Grace Brought – Ephesians 2:4-10

Against the background of our depraved and lost condition, Paul reveals the richness of God's mercy and "His great love wherewith He loved us" (v. 4). Although we were spiritually dead in our sins, God has made us alive "together with Christ" (v. 5). God has made a stupendous change in our lives. Only grace accounts for the change from what we once were to what we now are in Christ! Amen!

Along with giving us a new life, God has "raised us up together" (v. 6) with Christ and has seated us "together in heavenly places in Christ." Brothers and sisters, we have gone from having no life to possessing the resurrection life of Christ and an inheritance of reigning with Him forever (Rom. 6:5; Rev. 3:21). What a stupendous change that has taken place in our lives!

In verse 7, God has an ultimate goal in bringing us from death to life! That goal is to openly display "the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ

Jesus." This display will take place "in the ages to come," no doubt referring to eternity or maybe during the Millennium. In eternity, the marvelous grandeur of God's grace will be displayed to all creation by redeemed saints. Church, we have a marvelous future awaiting us!

In verses 8-9, our eternal salvation rests entirely on grace without any other motivating factors. Grace is the basis of our salvation, faith being the means through which it is brought about. Trusting in Christ's shed blood at Calvary for the forgiveness of sins brought us eternal life. We did not merit salvation by our works (v. 9); therefore, we have no reason to boast.

Finally, in verse 10, we are God's masterpiece, created by Him "in Christ Jesus unto good works." After salvation, even the good works that we do as believers are not works we can take credit for. They are not really our works at all; they are works that God "hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (v. 10).

May God Bless!

58 YEARS AND COUNTING

Longtime Dallas broker among Texas's first Black license holders



Photo Credit: **Billie Scott** (Facebook)

Billie Scott is still repaying the favor. In 1964, Scott couldn't afford the closing costs on his first home; his agent helped pay the costs for him.

A few months after moving in, Scott learned his agent had cancer. "I went to see him and I told him, 'I will keep it going, Doug.' I wanted to help people get homes just like he helped me."

Scott got his real estate license in June 1965. In those days, there were very few Black licensed real estate agents in Texas. He remembers meeting only

one or two other Black agents, and they had started after he did.

Scott faced challenges in his new profession. "I had a lot of problems trying to show properties because people didn't think I should be showing properties to Black clients," he says. "I told the sellers, 'Show it or take it off the market.'" Scott's pastor knew civil rights leader A. Maceo Smith, who worked at the Dallas HUD office, and at times Scott had to call Smith to advocate on his behalf.

Scott joined a new

Century 21 franchise in Dallas in 1969 and began teaching new agents. Marketing to your sphere of influence, building a referral network, establishing rapport before asking for your clients' business—he was promoting these techniques decades ago. "I have always put my advertising out there. I told people at church and everywhere I went. I still do. I carry my cards and wear my buttons to let people know I'm a REALTOR®," he says.

In the late 1970s, he joined the Dallas chapter of the Texas Association of Real Estate Brokers. The Dallas chapter has been working for equal opportunities and civil rights for Black consumers, communities, and real estate professionals since 1957, and the state and national associations since 1947. Scott became a lifetime member and served in leadership roles, including Dallas board chairman. He loves building up future leaders.

Scott founded his own brokerage, Good Morning Real Estate, in 1990. He's concentrated on residential and investment sales throughout his career, but he's added commercial real estate work during the last 15 years. One of his latest

projects is securing funding for a subdivision near Waxahachie.

He co-wrote his memoirs, *The Billie Scott Story*, and hopes to write a sequel about what he's learned in real estate. "In my book, I write that you should never, never, never quit. And I hope to see you at the top."

People are at the center of his approach to real estate. He once told a friend he hasn't "sold" a property in 30 years. Rather, he coaches his clients to sell the property themselves. He's just there to help them through the process.

"I love real estate because I love people so much," he says. "I encourage people. You're building equity when you own your home. You can borrow against it to send your kids to college or if an emergency comes to you."

He says he's enjoyed every bit of his real estate career. He's still making deals and mentoring agents to this day. "Today, I only have three agents because I'm trying to cut down. I'm 88 years old. I tell them that REALTORS® don't retire. I'm going to do this until I die."

This article first appeared in the Texas Realtor August, 2023.

Essay: Fifth Ward, Houston, 1952 — One Girl's Story

Continued RUTH Part 2

Our house was typical for the area: it had a parlor, dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, and one bath. This pragmatic and efficient layout would be replicated in all of our Houston houses: my parents had a bedroom, and all the girls crowded into the other bedroom, two a bed. There was no lawn to speak of and merely the hint of a porch that extended the available working and leisure space of the small house. Still this house was evidence of improvement in our family's fortunes: an indoor bathroom, a kitchen with running water and a modern range, and a separate dining area bespoke a luxury I could not previously imagine.

Although we had been allowed to roam the fields in Grapeland and Latexo freely, our parents quickly determined to curtail our freedom once we moved to Houston. We might as well have been confined to a jail cell. The chief reason for their caution may have been the proximity of Lyons Avenue, notorious for its drinking and carousing. However, with the number of residents in our compound, they needn't have worried; many were attentive to our movements. The crowded lot that accommodated Elbert and his family, the Floyd Hicks house, and the rooming house bordered the train yard. For some reason, the noise of the trains did not unsettle me; new to city noises, I relished the hum of activity and the blus-

ter of freight trains. I also drew comfort from the fact that our compound included nineteen family members: Elbert and Erma and their three children; Floyd's family of four; my brothers in the rooming house; and the six of us in our house.

In addition to the three Hicks siblings who lived on this lot, another child of Miss Rosa Lee Hicks (Elbert's mother-in-law) was intertwined with our family. Nora had married my uncle. Aunt Nora had a bombastic personality. Big and brash with a raspy voice, she always spoke as if she was talking to someone at a great distance. Her imposing figure and protruding stomach matched her forceful spirit. Capable of issuing warnings with such vehemence that children would quickly scurry to follow her directions, she was an almost mythic figure. I found it odd for my brother and sister to have married the Hicks twins and for another of their siblings to be my aunt.

Erma Mae was much smaller in stature than her older sister, Nora, and far more refined. Next to my former teacher Miss Ida Mae, Erma Mae had the greatest influence on me when I was in grade school. Although Erma Mae was from Grapeland and had been shaped by the farming culture, her belief that she deserved the best life could offer set her apart from other women I knew. Had the

Continue Ruth Page 5



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FDA Approves Updated COVID-19 Vaccines Amid Rising Cases and Hospitalizations

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved updated COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech in response to the surge in cases and hospitalizations. Both manufacturers have reported that their vaccines demonstrate effectiveness against the currently dominant EG.5 strain in the United States.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, an independent expert group advising the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will now assess the safety and efficacy of these updated vaccines and provide recommendations for their deployment. Following approval by the CDC director, the vaccines will be available for administration.

The advisory group plans to convene immediately, suggesting that the vaccines may soon be accessible at select pharmacies and healthcare facilities.

Health authorities have emphasized the urgency of vaccination once the shots

become available. The new release coincides with a late summer surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations and growing concerns over the potential impact of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus, in the upcoming fall and winter seasons.

Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, underlined the importance of vaccination in protecting against severe COVID-19 consequences.

"The public can be assured that these updated vaccines have met the agency's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality. We very much encourage those who are eligible to consider getting vaccinated," Marks stated in a news release.

Dr. Dan Barouch, director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, noted that despite an increase in infection rates

and hospitalizations, the rates of severe disease, hospitalizations, and death are still significantly lower than in previous years.

Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, highlighted the significance of this decision, especially with COVID-19 cases on the rise again. He said that nearly all individuals aged six months or older in the U.S. are eligible for this season's COVID-19 vaccine, even if they have not been previously vaccinated.

The updated vaccines are approved for individuals 12 and older, with emergency use authorization for those aged six months to 11 years. The bivalent Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use in the United States.

According to the FDA, babies and young children from six months to four years who have not been vaccinated can receive three doses of the updated Pfizer/BioNTech shot or two doses of the updated Moderna booster. Those who have been previously vaccinated will follow specific dosage guidelines. For those five and older, a single dose of the updated vaccines is recommended at least two months after their last COVID-19 shot, irrespective of previous vaccination.

Stéphane Bancel, CEO of Moderna, emphasized the critical role of updated vaccines in protecting the population during the peak respiratory virus season. "COVID-19 remains a leading cause of death in the U.S. and poses a significant

threat to vulnerable populations, particularly as we enter peak respiratory virus season," Bancel stated.

The mRNA vaccines have been adjusted to combat the XBB.1.5 Omicron subvariant of the coronavirus and related strains.

The FDA anticipates that COVID-19 vaccine compositions may need annual updates, similar to seasonal influenza vaccines.

Dr. Ugur Sahin, CEO and co-founder of BioNTech, stated, "Our goal is to provide people worldwide with COVID-19 vaccines that are adapted to circulating virus variants or sub-lineages."

The updated vaccines, administered in a single dose, are expected to be available at no cost to those in need.

Novavax's updated COVID-19 vaccine has not yet received FDA authorization but is currently under review for individuals aged 12 and older.

Under the Affordable Care Act, most insurance plans cover the total cost of vaccines, eliminating co-pays for insured individuals. The uninsured or underinsured can access the vaccine at no cost through the CDC's Bridge Access Program, a temporary initiative set to conclude by December 2024.

Officials noted that this is the first instance of vaccines being provided through the commercial market. According to CNN, during a Pfizer investor call in October, officials estimated a potential list price of \$110 to \$130 per single dose for adults.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW



The Changing Face Of Tennis Is More Diverse And Has More Role Models

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

The term, role model has been around for a long time. We hear or use it almost daily. We have it as a permanent part of our lexicon.

It begs the question, how do we become what we want to be? How are we influenced by the people we see or hear about what they do. While there is great merit in hearing about it, I would suggest that seeing someone doing it is a stronger influencer.

Each of us took a different route to the game of tennis. The common denominator is that we love the game. It has allowed us to make new friends and to renew old friendships. Tennis wasn't popular in my neighborhood as most boys were playing basketball and football. I began playing tennis because it was a different sport and required a different type of athleticism and thinking.

I started playing tennis with my dear friend, William Earl in Winston-Salem NC. We had no formal instruction. Our goal was simply to get the ball over the net. That was a fun time for us.

Over time, I played high school tennis and was able to receive a tennis scholarship to Johnson C. Smith University, an HBCU in Charlotte NC. We played teams like Hampton Institute, now University, Howard University, Tuskegee University Northwestern University and Purdue University.

Arthur Ashe who I would later meet was the only role model that I had as an African American male tennis player. During those early years, I was able to meet one of his tennis supporters, Dr. Robert Walter Johnson from Lynchburg VA. Dr. Johnson was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Opportunities were limited for African Americans playing tennis back in the day. Resources, instruction and the social climate of the day were all factors in our not gaining access to the game of tennis.

That was yesteryear and opportunities for African Americans have increased greatly. Coaching and sponsorships have increased dra-

matically, and the results have been outstanding. We know there have been tennis champions of color in our recent history and there will be more.

I watched with pride and joy as Coco Gauff won the women's singles title at this year's Western and Southern Open. What was also joyous for me was that two African American women, Taylor Townsend and Alycia Parks won the women's doubles title as well. This comes shortly after Clervie Ngounou, a young African American girl from Washington DC winning the Jr. Wimbledon girls' singles title.

Opportunities only come through exposure. The tennis landscape is changing and becoming more inclusive. I have been around tennis for a long time and to see how the sport has evolved is gratifying.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are working within the USTA community. The programs and initiatives are more intentional and will become more sustainable. Partnerships and alliances with organizations

like the ATA and HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) will pay dividends in years to come. Additional partnerships with city recreation centers and public parks have the potential of identifying players who can gain access to training and resources.

Increasing the diverse pool of talent is a goal for all of us interested in diversity, equity and inclusion. Community tennis organizations and NJTLs (National Junior Tennis League) can serve as vehicles for this realistic and attainable goal.

As important is the opportunity to increase the number of diverse volunteers within our sport. As our memberships in state associations continue to grow, we must recruit, train and retain tennis ambassadors and officials. Umpires and linespersons will be needed.

Having different voices at the leadership table will enhance the collective voice of the United States Tennis Association. DEI efforts by USTA Southern continue to



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

be recognized nationally and emulated by other sections.

Our signature US Open which ended last week was one for the history books. Coco Gauff won the women's singles championship. At 19 years of age, she is the youngest

American to win the title since Serena Williams. The diversity of players, coaches and volunteers was exciting to see. We have come a long way and the future is bright.

Tennis for life is more than just an expression as it takes us on a journey filled with hope and opportunity.

Continued Ruth Page 3

times permitted her a fair chance for a professional career, she would surely have grasped it, so strong was her desire to rise to the middle class and beyond. In that era, few Blacks from Grapeland would have dared to be so explicit about their aspirations, but Erma proudly revealed her goals to all. She spurned laziness or excuses of any kind and insisted that hard work and ambition could overcome the discrimination that seemed to paralyze others. She was especially adamant that her children set high goals, remain in school, and become responsible and independent. Her pride and pragmatic spirit would later have a significant impact on my outlook. I began to follow her exhortations about what girls' lives could be: independent, useful,

respected. I especially took to heart her insistence that education could lead to the kind of life I could be proud of. My working hard in school was no doubt a result of her insistence on how important this would be to me. She was right.

At the time we moved to Houston, Mama had seen very little outside of East Texas. Devoted to her one remaining brother and two sisters in Grapeland, she saw them as often as she could, but she took no time to make friends outside the immediate family. In many ways, she was temperamentally suited for a simpler time. Indifferent to modernity, she would have been a contented frontier woman, settling new land isolated from well-populated areas. She was devoted to family and fueled by a few basic principles: be fair, respect others, and live a godly life.

Elbert, on whom she had depended so often for assistance with the other children, was now but a few steps from our home, and his presence must have been reassuring to her. In addition, Wilford was finally back home from the war in Korea and living in the rooming house in front of us. If Elbert was the son on whom Mama relied for good sense and stability, Wilford was the son she treasured for his kind and giving nature. With both boys living on Lee Street, she was comfortable that the move to the city could work. What I did not know was that she had been diagnosed with severe kidney disease and had already lived well beyond the years the doctor had predicted for her. She must have been comforted by the thought that if her health eroded, we younger ones would be safely near her most trusted and

mature children.

As I settled into the neighborhood, gradually learning my way around, Elbert and Erma's oldest daughter, my niece Elma, became my daily companion. Born a month before me, she would be in my class at school. Starting second grade at nearby Atherton Elementary School, I knew that her presence would make me feel less out of place, and I was grateful for her company. Being a child of the city, she spoke properly, dressed well, and was liked by those I found so intimidating. I had the air of a country child, in manner, in speech, and, of course, in dress. I was still wearing the cotton sack dresses my mother had made, while Elma and other children in Houston wore enviably mass-produced store-bought clothes. Their clothes were also made of

finer fabric in bright colors with complementary trimmings.

I knew that Elma was prettier and more refined than I. This was underscored one day, soon after I arrived in the city, when I heard children's voices at my brother's house and ran over, planning to join in the play. As I approached, I recognized Elma talking about someone with another girl from the neighborhood, and my instinct told me to slow down and listen before revealing my presence. I was taken aback that they were talking about me and my sisters and how ridiculous we looked in our country clothes. Having a sense of how others viewed us made me cling even more to Elma's example as we went off to school together.

Thick, crude plaits protruding in different directions, ill-fitting shoes that

gave me a strange waddle, and the home-made dresses that I wore repeatedly made me the object of laughter. I was anxious to learn how to imitate the behavior, appearance, and speech of these children who were making fun of us. Elma offered the best example of what I should strive to become. Not only did she have her parents' good looks and the poise one would expect of Erma Hicks's oldest daughter but, even at age seven, she had an aura of confidence. She was expected to succeed in anything she tried. I envied everything about her. Being aunt and niece in the same class made us a noticeable duo. Teachers had a tendency to compare us, stoking our competition but pointing out that Elma was the star.

Continue Ruth Part 3
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EDITORIAL PAGE

What Factors Are Involved In When And If We Should Retire From The Workforce?

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

Being able to retire has always been a part of the American dream. This long held belief was passed on to me in my early years of growing up in North Carolina.

I saw senior citizens who once worked for a living retired and happy being at home. I thought to myself this must be a good life. They would share stories with us as children about the good old days. I found them to be both funny and interesting.

During the early years of my working life, I never really thought about retirement. I was too busy providing for myself and later, my family. One of the old school talks that I

listened to intently was that it was important to save some money.

Plainly said, you shouldn't spend more than you make. That message resonated with me, so I began a conservative spending lifestyle. I was fortunate to have had some role models in my life who taught me about savings, stocks and retirement accounts.

It also helped that I had parents who gave me the foundation about spending and saving. That foundation was layered with a neighborhood who had people in it who practiced those habits.

Upon reflection, I cannot really say when I initially thought about retirement. What I did begin to realize was that I was getting older, and I didn't want to work forever.

So gradually, I started planning for retirement. I didn't have a retirement specialist like many people do today. I reviewed my debts and projected retirement funds and decided to retire.

As I neared retirement, I wanted to do it on my

terms. As the song lyrics go, I wanted to do it my way. I didn't want anyone to tell me when to go or how to go. Humbly I say that when I did retire that I still had a high degree of competence, compassion and commitment.

It was simply time to close one chapter and to begin another while I was still in my right mind and physically able to do so. You have similar sentiments if you are in a certain age group.

An important part of my retirement planning was to think about what I wanted to do when I retired. I knew I couldn't sit at home and have nothing to do.

If there is one piece of advice that I can give anyone considering retirement is to find something else to do. Something else doesn't necessarily mean being paid for it. Whatever you choose to do, let it be non-stressful.

Remember, you had enough stress while you were working. When we were in the hustle and bustle of work, we had schedules to keep and appoint-

ments to make. Now we don't.

As I am approaching overtime in my life, I realize that having a certain quality of life is important physically and mentally.

Another piece of wisdom that I picked up was that there will always be another dollar to chase and another job that you think you can do.

Every day, we hear about Social Security not being as strong as it once was. If we believe the economists, it will not be the staple that it was back in the day. If you have been around for a while, you do have some empathy for those just starting their careers. Being financially literate and watching the economic trends should be on their to-do list.

Retirement is not what it was as it has become a tricky business. It may be a good idea to think about developing a retirement plan because of this ever-changing economic climate. Be prepared and plan early. Find some friends who have similar goals and dreams. You can help each other.

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Quinn Minute

Goldilocks and the bears

By Rix Quinn

What's the real meaning of the fairy tale about Goldilocks?

To be frank (although Frank is not my name), "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" is more confusing than a stop sign on a roller coaster track.

First, you gotta accept that a bear family owns a fancy two-story deep in the woods. These beasts wake one morning, choose porridge instead of other animals, then go

for a walk while it cools.

Obviously, rich bears buy quality products like silver claw clips, and expensive fur shampoos. So, why would they leave an unlocked door to tempt intruders?

In walks Goldilocks, possibly a destructive truant with great curiosity, a huge appetite, and narcolepsy.

First, she samples some mismatched chairs. She finds one too hard, one too soft, and the third

just right...so she breaks it. What is that about?

Next, she tastes the first porridge, and finds it too hot. The second bowl's too cold. Why? Who cooked this stuff, anyway?

But the third bowl's just right, so she devours it faster than a hyperactive cannibal gulps ladyfingers at a tea party.

Bloated and sluggish, she wanders upstairs. She tries Mom's and Pop's twin beds (they sleep sep-

arately, like on old black-and-white TV shows), then passes out in Junior's bunk.

About this time, the bears return. They find her asleep, shake her awake, and scare heck out of her. She races out. The bears forget to get a name and address, so they can send a bill for the busted furniture.

This story is too scary for me, because I fear any beast that considers me part of a food group.

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Trump's Latest Controversial Rally Stokes Concerns for America's Future

By **Stacy M. Brown**
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Former President Donald Trump has once again grabbed the national spotlight with a fiery rally in South Dakota, where he unveiled a disturbing vision of America's future if his fervent supporters catapult him back into the White House. In a dystopian speech that echoed themes of division and fear, Trump accused President Joe Biden of orchestrating a massive indictment against him, labeling it as election interference.

With unmistakable overtones of racial tension, Trump's rhetoric targeted immigrants, migrants, and people of color, reigniting concerns about the direction of his political ambitions. The former president, indicted four times and impeached twice, has recently faced civil responsibility for sexual assault. His Trump Organization was also found guilty of fraud in New York.

At his latest rally, Trump aimed at Democrats, accusing them of allowing an "invasion" of migrants at the southern border and attempting to revive COVID-19 "hysteria." This stark speech painted a grim picture of a potential second Trump presidency that could pose even more significant challenges to the rule of law. "The former president's tendencies toward authoritarianism could make the 2024 election a profound choice," CNN's Stephen Collinson wrote following Trump's South Dakota speech.

Trump's view that the Oval Office grants him unfettered powers raises concerns about his potential behavior if reelected, particularly regarding his alleged attempts to overturn the 2020 election results by intimidating local officials. He turned the spotlight away from his actions, characterizing legal accountabil-

ity as a threat to democracy. "We're either going to go one way or the other, and if we go the other, we're not going to have a country left," Trump warned his South Dakota supporters, promising unity, and justice if he returns to power.

The ominous tone follows a March rally where Trump positioned his 2024 campaign as an avenue for "retribution" against perceived enemies, intensifying the autocratic undertones of his campaign and causing deep concerns for voters and adversaries.

Critics who once dismissed Trump's belligerence as mere performance are reevaluating their stance in the face of substantial evidence presented in criminal indictments. The indictments allege that Trump misused his presidential authority to undermine the election and used social media and public appearances to intimidate judges and potential jurors ahead of his trials.

Trump's comments about using presidential power to launch investigations against political opponents, made with a sarcastic tone at the rally, are alarming given his history of following through on threats. His belief in almost unlimited constitutional power is evident in his pending indictments for election interference and handling classified documents. As Collinson noted, Trump railed in his speech that the cases filed against him would "allow" him, if re-elected, to call his attorney general and order an investigation into his political adversaries. "Indict my opponent, he's doing well," Trump said, implying that was exactly what Biden had done.

His legal troubles are an ongoing concern as Trump seeks to avoid prosecution by returning to the White

House. Numerous reports have surfaced suggesting he aims to reshape the federal government to root out disloyal career employees, furthering his agenda to consolidate power.

Trump's divisive track record on racial issues has also come under scrutiny, with past controversies ranging from discriminatory housing practices to the infamous Central Park Five case, where he called for the execution of wrongfully accused Black and Latino teenagers. As noted by PBS and others, Trump has used racist language against Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Black man, calling him an "animal." He called Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis "a rabid partisan," and paid for an ad that falsely claimed Willis was involved in a romantic relationship with a gang member she prosecuted.

"This is who Donald Trump is," Cliff Albright, executive director of Black Voters Matter, a voting advocacy group, stated in August. "He's been this way all his time in public life." The former president's response to his latest indictment appears consistent with his strategy of relentless attacks, often infused with racially charged language. While not employing explicit slurs, Trump's speech refers to a dark history of dehumanizing Black individuals, drawing criticism from experts and observers.

"He's taking that historical racialized language that was offensive and insulting, and the subordinating of Black persons, applying it in a contemporary space and really bubbling up that history," Bev-Freda Jackson, a professor in the school of public affairs at American University, told PBS earlier this year.

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