

Dedicated to  
the Spirit and  
Service of God

N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African-American Newspaper

RALEIGH, N.C.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

## Smith Helps Raise \$10M For History-Making Law School

Will Smith has been using his star power to help raise money for St. Thomas University Law School, which has just been renamed after civil rights attorney Ben Crump.

On Wednesday (February 8), the Fresh Prince joined Crump in Miami at the dedication ceremony for what is now known as the Benjamin L. Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University. The rapper and actor said it was an honor to be a part of the ceremony.

"Ben has been an absolutely spectacular friend and guide, and that's why it was important for me to be here with him today," Smith said after taking the podium alongside Crump.

"There are very, very few people in the world with a heart like this; so it is my deepest honor and my deepest pleasure to be here to support and to show some love. Congratulations on this historic honor."



In order for the school to be renamed, a \$10million campaign was launched to raise funds for scholarships aimed at law students enrolled at St. Thomas University. The campaign received several large donations, including \$1million

from Truist Bank and \$1.5million from an anonymous donor.

According to TMZ, Smith, alongside George Clinton and Bishop T.D. Jakes, donated a large confidential amount.

Renamed during Black History month, the Benjamin L.

Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University is the first law school in the U.S. to be named after a practicing Black attorney.

The only other law school in the country that's named after a Black person is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, named in honor of the United States Supreme Court's first Black Justice and Crump's personal hero.

Crump, referred to by some as Black America's attorney general, has taken on many high-profile cases during his time in law. He's represented the families of Trayvon Martin, George Floyd, and most recently, Tyre Nichols, the Memphis man who was beaten and killed by police officers last month.

In other Will Smith news, the Philadelphia-born star recently reunited with Martin Lawrence to announce plans for a fourth

installment in the Bad Boys action franchise.

Sony Pictures confirmed to Variety that Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah are both on board to direct Bad Boys 4. The duo also directed 2020's Bad Boys For Life, which served as one of the final blockbusters at the box office before the pandemic swept the globe.

Bad Boys For Life raked in \$426.5 million at the worldwide box office 25 years after 1995's Bad Boys original collected \$141 million globally.

On the music side of things, Smith was supposed to be a

part of the Grammys' 50th anniversary Hip Hop tribute performance last weekend but backed out, according to Quest love.

The Roots drummer, who curated the all-star spectacle, revealed to Variety on the 2023 Grammys red carpet on Sunday (February 5) that Smith had initially agreed to dust off his Fresh Prince persona and join the celebration.

However, Quest explained that the 54-year-old was forced to drop out to due obligations with Bad Boys 4.

## The First Black Woman Elected To NC Superior Court Seat Dies at 71

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Retired Mecklenburg County Judge Shirley Fulton, who made history as the first Black woman elected to a Superior Court seat in North Carolina, died on Wednesday at age 71.

Fulton died at a Charlotte rehabilitation center from complications related to gall bladder cancer, according to Noell Tin, who was a law partner with Fulton.

A South Carolina native who graduated from Duke University law school, Fulton worked as an assistant Mecklenburg County prosecutor before being appointed in 1987 to a District Court judge seat. She was elected to Superior Court in 1988, and served later as a senior resident Superior Court judge.

Fulton left the bench in the early 2000s and went into private practice. She became a founding partner of the law firm called Tin Fulton, Walker and Owen. She was deeply involved in the Charlotte community, including court reforms, public housing and schools, according to The Charlotte Observer, which first reported her death.

"Lots of people will remember Shirley as a trailblazer, but her legacy is going to be all of the contributions that she made to improve the community," Tin said in an interview.

Tin said Fulton's funeral service is Sunday at Johnson C. Smith University.



## NASA Celebrates Blacks And Space Achievements At Smithsonian Event

In eighth grade, Leland Melvin was a part-time janitor at a Virginia bank to make some extra cash for his family.

Melvin, who later became a pro football player and one of NASA's Black astronauts, recalled once greeting a senior bank official while cleaning the bathroom, in the late 1970s. "He looked through me like I wasn't even there, like I was a ghost," Melvin told a Smithsonian Institution audience Friday (Feb. 10).

The livestreamed event from the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. celebrated "the legacy of achievement, connection, and knowledge of African Americans at NASA" for February's Black History Month. Several speakers repeated this mantra: "Black history is American history."

Melvin was so devoted to science as a child he once accidentally created a minor but "incredible explosion" in his mother's living room with a chemistry set, he told the high school audience. So he had one big takeaway from that interaction at the bank to share: "I said to myself, 'I never want to have someone feel like I felt.' I said, 'I will continue to rise. I won't let a person like that influence me or keep me from rising.'"

Black History Month is a time for Americans to reflect on the successes and challenges the African-American population has faced over the centuries, from enslavement to discrimination to



NASA astronaut Victor Glover celebrates completing the first Black astronaut long-duration mission after returning to Earth on SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule Resilience on May 2, 2021. (Image credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls)

"Jim Crow" laws that enforced racial segregation. Numerous societal issues continue to hurt Black people today in fields as diverse as education and housing.

The speakers at the Smithsonian acknowledged these issues while also pointing to drive, talent, community-building and other traits that unite African Americans and indeed, all of humanity. "We need to know Black history because it is one important facet of our story," current NASA astronaut Victor Glover said.

Glover made it to NASA after

a lifetime of curiosity, encouraged by his parents; he was born out of wedlock, he explained, but both his father and mother wanted him to pursue education. Then he saw a shuttle launch on television when he was about 10 years old, in roughly 1985 or 1986. "That was the first time that seed was planted," Glover said, of the interest in science that led him to Naval aviation and eventually, the astronaut corps.

"All of us should be able to celebrate these accomplishments," Glover added, "no matter what you look like, no matter how old

you are, or where or when you come from. It's our story. That's why and we should take ownership of it."

Glover was the first long-duration Black astronaut in space in 2020-21, a far overdue milestone given NASA has been occupying the International Space Station permanently since 2000. NASA is working on fixing historical inequity issues in the agency like this.

To take a few examples: Black women engineers and mathematicians now known as "Hidden Figures" paid key planning roles in the early astronaut space program of the 1960s while facing segregation and discrimination. Black male astronaut Guion "Guy Bluford" was first to fly at NASA in 1983, 22 years after the first agency white male. Then it took until 1992 to fly the first female African-American astronaut, Mae Jemison, and until 2022 for Jessica Watkins to be the first Black woman on a long-duration mission.

Fortunately, things are changing. "When I first started at NASA, especially as a female engineer and especially as a Black female engineer, there were not a lot of people that looked like me," said Vanessa Wyche, now director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. She joined NASA in 1989.

Having more people of diverse backgrounds, Wyche emphasized, is "a part of our mission."

(See NASA, P. 2)

## GOP Election Tactics No Surprise To Wisconsin's Black Voters, Community

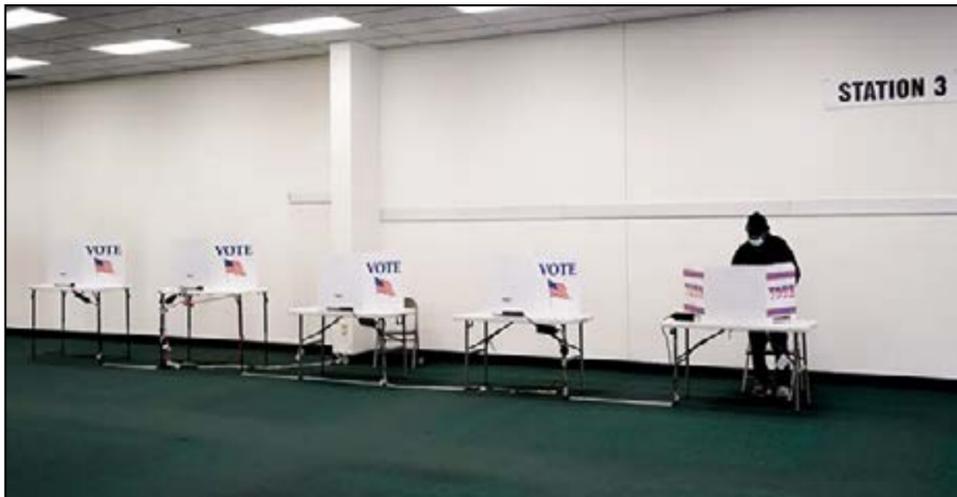
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Recent revelations about Republican election strategies targeting minority communities in Wisconsin's biggest city came as no surprise to many Black voters.

A Wisconsin election commissioner bragged about low turnout in predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods during last year's elections. Weeks later, an audio recording surfaced that showed then-President Donald Trump's Wisconsin campaign team laughing behind closed doors about efforts to reach Black voters in 2020.

Many people who voted this past week in the state's primary election said they had long felt targeted by Republicans. The difference now is the public display of strategies that at best ignore the priorities of Black voters and at worst actively look to keep them from voting.

"It's a plan that they devised and carried out with quite a lot of precision," said lifelong Milwaukee resident Dewayne Walls, 63. "It's a repeatable pattern that's going to continue to happen over and over as long as they have that plausible deniability and as long as they have the power in Madison" — the state capital.

Walls and other Black voters



said they are tired of the countless hurdles that disproportionately try to keep them from being heard at the ballot box. Voters said their experiences with the GOP have been as voices to silence, not to win over.

"The Republican Party needs a lot of work. All of them need to actually step into our shoes, go in our neighborhoods, work our jobs,

do the things that we're doing on a daily basis and see how they feel about what's going on once they experience it," said Valeria Gray, 59.

She described the relationship between Milwaukee and much of the rest of the state as one divided by race.

"It doesn't look like it's gonna ever go anywhere," she said.

Voting rights advocates for years have accused Wisconsin Republicans of pushing policies to suppress voters of color and lower-income voters. Many such policies centered on the Democratic stronghold of Milwaukee, home to nearly 70% of Wisconsin's Black population.

(See GOP TACTICS, P. 2)

## The Highest-Earning Ethnic Group In The US Help Their Homeland



By Susan Appe

Univ. of Albany

Members of the Indian diaspora living in the U.S. are being urged to step up and channel money back to the homeland during a 24-hour charitable drive.

On March 2, 2023, the first India Giving Day will take place. The plan is to encourage U.S.-based donors, especially the nation's 2.7 million Indian immigrants and the roughly 1.3 million U.S.-born Americans of Indian origin, to give to Indian causes in unison.

As a scholar interested in the role that charitable donations play in international development, I expect this fundraising drive to raise millions of dollars for India-supporting nonprofits.

The campaign's organizers will raise money to fund projects that will improve education, health care and gender equality and meet other important needs in a country with 228.9 million people living in poverty, according to the 2022 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index — more than anywhere else in the world.

A nonprofit alliance The India Philanthropy Alliance, a coalition of 14 U.S. nonprofits that fund development and humanitarian projects in India, is coordinating the event. Its members already raise a total of almost US\$60 million annually in the U.S. Their goal is to amass more funding collectively by holding an annual single-day push.

Although the alliance will welcome donations from anywhere and anyone, its main focus is to encourage Indian Americans and Indian immigrants who live in the U.S. to support its members, such as CRY America, a children's rights nonprofit, and Sehgal Foundation, an organization promoting rural development in India.

Giving days, 24-hour campaigns to raise awareness and donations for specific organizations and causes, have become more common in the U.S. over the past 15 years. There are many for schools, hospitals and many other kinds of organizations but Giving Tuesday is the most popular. Held on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, it raised over \$3 billion for a wide array of causes in 2022.

All told, Indian Americans give an estimated \$1 billion annually to charity.

(See INDIA GIVING DAY, P. 2)

## INDIA GIVING DAY

Continued from page 1

There is the potential for even higher sums being raised from the many very rich Indian Americans – a long list that includes actress Mindy Kaling, Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, economist Amartya Sen, Microsoft CEO and Chairman Satya Nadella – and the entire Indian American community.

That's because Indian Americans are the nation's highest-earning ethnic group, and yet they give away a smaller share of their income than the U.S. average.

The alliance aims to see Indian American giving triple to \$3 billion, with some of that total funding development and humanitarian projects in India. India's government has also been vocal about wanting Indian Americans to contribute more toward India's development.

Giving to the homeland

India Giving Day is an example of diaspora philanthropy – giving back to one's homeland, often by pooling resources with others who share the same heritage. This giving can be in the form of money, or time spent volunteering for a cause. It has also been called homeland philanthropy, migrant philanthropy and refugee philanthropy.

A common way that immigrants and people whose parents or grandparents immigrated to the U.S. send money back to their homelands is through remittances – dispatching money across international lines to family and friends to help them get by. Total remittances globally grew 5% in 2022 to \$626 billion. The flows to India increased much more sharply, shooting up 12% to \$100 billion.

## Official: Black Man Killed By Louisiana Police Was Unarmed

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — A Black man was unarmed when police in Louisiana fatally shot him in the chest last week after he ran away from a domestic disturbance call, authorities said.

The federal prosecutor in Shreveport, U.S. Attorney Brandon Brown, said Tuesday he's keeping in contact with state police, which is the agency investigating the shooting.

Alonzo Bagley, 43, was killed outside a Shreveport apartment complex on Friday and no weapon was found on or near him, Col. Lamar Davis, the superintendent of Louisiana State Police, said at a news conference Monday.

The Shreveport police officer who shot Bagley, 23-year-old Alexander Tyler, has been placed on administrative leave, Davis said.

Bagley was killed after two officers responded to a call around 10:50 Friday night to what Davis described as a "domestic disturbance" call, without providing details.

Bagley went through a bedroom onto a balcony, jumped to the ground and ran, Davis said. The officers chased him.

"Upon rounding a corner of the building, Officer Tyler observed Mr. Bagley and fired one shot from his service weapon, which struck Mr. Bagley in the chest,"



Davis said.

"Both officers immediately began to render first aid," Davis added. Bagley was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The family has hired a Louisiana attorney Ronald Haley.

"Our office will walk through this process with the Bagley family, to ensure transparency and accountability," Haley's firm said in a statement posted Monday on Facebook.

Haley's other high-profile clients include the family of Ronald Greene, a Black motorist whose 2019 death in state police custody in north Louisiana prompted lawsuits and criminal

By Thomas Dee

Stanford University

Student learning took a big hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just how much is only becoming clear nearly three years after the World Health Organization declared the pandemic and nearly all U.S. public schools pivoted to online instruction for at least several months in March 2020.

However, the data guiding the nation's efforts to help kids catch up does not generally include the students who experienced the most dramatic learning disruptions.

Nationwide testing results released in the fall of 2022 re-

vealed that the reading and math performance on standardized tests of students who were in fourth and eighth grades in the U.S. in the 2021-2022 school year declined by historic amounts.

This dramatic evidence of learning loss has mobilized federal, state and local education leaders. The federal government has allocated US\$122 billion to support state and local efforts to help students "catch up in the classroom."

Public school districts are using these resources to fund tutoring and extended learning time. And researchers are assessing the effects of these investments on standardized test scores.

However, these efforts do little to identify or target support to the children whose learning environments were most disrupted by the pandemic. This is especially so for the youngest students, who aren't yet old enough for most standardized testing.

Enrollment decline and the 'streetlight effect'

During the pandemic, public school enrollment in grades K through 12 fell by 1.2 million students. These declines were concentrated among kindergarten students and in schools that offered only remote instruction.

Similarly dramatic enrollment losses among even younger learners erased a decade of progress in boosting preschool education enrollment.

These declines indicate that the pandemic caused students to miss instructional time or undertake disruptive school switches, often in their developmentally critical early years.

However, school officials list early-childhood programs among the least popular use of available federal funds and provide no indication of targeted academic-recovery efforts for younger or truant students.

This is an example of what scholars call the "streetlight effect," in which people focus their attention on easily visible evidence – such as the test scores available for older, currently enrolled students – rather than other relevant data that are more obscured and harder to identify.

And long lags in national data reporting mean little is yet known about the learning environments of the disproportionately young children whose families avoided public schools during the pandemic. Currently, official federal statistics do not even provide basic data on private school or home-school enrollment beyond 2019.

Where the kids went

My research, done collaboratively with The Associated Press and data journalists at Stanford University's Big Local News, addresses this issue.

For our analysis, we gathered state-level data on public, private and home-school enrollment for

the school years from 2019-20 through 2021-22. We also used U.S. Census Bureau estimates to identify the school-age population in each state over this time period. These combined data provide insights into where the students who avoided public schools went and what it means for the nation's academic-recovery efforts.

Complete data aren't available in every state, but we have good data on more than half of the school-age population in the U.S. at the onset of the pandemic. These states also experienced public school enrollment declines that are representative of the national trend.

Some students, particularly the youngest, clearly turned to private schools during the pandemic. In the 34 jurisdictions with available data, private school enrollment grew by over 140,000 students between the 2019-20 and 2021-22 school years. However, this increase only explains a modest amount – roughly 14% – of the corresponding decline in public school enrollment.

A more surprising finding is the robust growth of home-schooling during this period. An early Census Bureau survey reported that home-schooling increased soon after the pandemic began. Our data show this initial increase endured into the 2021-22 school year when most public schools returned to in-person instruction.

## Students Walk Out After Told To Limit Black History Program

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — More than 200 students walked out of class at an Alabama high school after they say they were told by school leaders to omit certain relevant events from an upcoming student-led Black History Month program.

However, school officials have denied the allegations even while acknowledging the need for students' concerns to be heard.

Students told WBMA-TV they were ordered to leave out major historical moments, including slavery and the civil rights movement, from the program scheduled for Feb. 22 at Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa.

The students were told they "couldn't talk about slavery and civil rights because one of our administrators felt uncomfortable," said Black History Month Program board member J'Niyah Suttles, a senior who participated in Wednesday's walkout.

She said the direction from a school administrator left her hurt.

"My protector from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. — for you to tell me I can't talk about something that is dealing with my culture is very

disturbing, it's very confusing," Suttles said.

Fellow Hillcrest senior Jada Holt expressed similar emotions.

"Why am I being censored about my culture, something that is rooted in me? Why can't I talk about it? History is history and it's already been made, and it can't be erased," she said.

Senior Jamiyah Brown, who helped put the program together, organized the walkout, which lasted about an hour.

"Without our history we are nothing. Without teaching our youth where we come from, how can we move forward?" Brown said.

Tuscaloosa County Superintendent Dr. Keri Johnson, in a statement, denied allegations that an administrator told the students to leave out historical elements.

"It is not true that faculty or staff told students that slavery or the civil rights movement could not be part of the program," Johnson said. "When several community members heard this and contacted Hillcrest High administration out of concern, administration explained to them that this was false information

that was circulating."

Johnson said the school system supports the students' right to peacefully demonstrate.

"A number of our Hillcrest High students have concerns about the culture within their school. We care deeply about our students, and it is important that their concerns are heard. We are putting together a plan to make sure our students feel heard, so that we know the right steps to put in place to ensure all students know that they are valued," Johnson said.

The president of the Tuscaloosa Branch of the NAACP, Lisa Young, said the alleged direction was a disgrace.

"I don't know how you can talk about Black history in this country without talking about slavery or the civil rights movement," Young said.

She said she has asked to meet with Johnson but has yet to be given a date.

Young said she was "angry and part of me feels like we failed our students. We want to see what we can do to assist them, and make their school a safe place."

## NASA

Continued from page 1

Diverse teams, she said, "are better able to solve problems because we're doing it with different mindsets. Those are some of the changes that I've seen."

Clayton Turner, the first African American to serve as the director of NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia, said success in recruiting for diversity comes from not only constant commitment, but from starting the process early.

On Turner's first day at work as director in 2019, he says he was actively recruiting—to three- and four-year-olds. "We talked about the solar system, and I was a sun. They were the planets," he said. "I spun, they spun, they laughed, then we fell."

But from there, the conversation did—in all seriousness—turn to an age-appropriate discussion about coding, thermodynamics, engineering and aerospace, he recalled.

"No, I have not lost my mind," Turner continued. "There are actually books for that. I held a ball, and I dropped it. A three-year-old, I asked her why the ball fell, and she said, 'Because it's not a balloon.' And then she told me why the balloon went up."

Turner turned to the high school audience and added: "I'm eager to talk to as many of you as I can. That's our recruiting. All of us. All 17,000 people at NASA are looking for you to come join us. NASA is an amazing place. But it is not an impossible place. We need you to come join us. We need you to come and join our industry partners. We need you in academia. Because what we want to do is reach for new heights, to reveal the unknown, for the benefit of humanity."

charges against law enforcement officers.

Brown, the federal prosecutor, said he has also contacted the FBI and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division about the shooting. He did not say whether there would be a federal investigation.

"I am encouraged by the fact that the investigative response and the federal and state collaboration pertaining to this incident has been swift and efficient," Brown said.

Davis said police had numerous interviews to do and were still analyzing evidence from the scene. They will review recordings from officers' body cameras and in-car cameras. Those videos will eventually be released publicly. "We do not have a hard date, but I will tell you as soon as we can release it we will release it," Davis said.

"I'm asking the community to remain patient as we continue to conduct a very thorough investigation," Davis said.

The Shreveport police department said Monday that they had asked state police to investigate the shooting and referred all questions to the state agency.

## GOP Tactics No Surprise—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Those claims were reinforced by an email sent to about 1,700 people in December from Bob Spindell, a Republican member of the Wisconsin Election Commission. He said Republicans "can be especially proud" of depressed midterm voter turnout in predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods in Milwaukee, a heavily Democratic city.

Spindell later said his email was meant to convey the steps Republicans took to counter Democratic messaging in the city.

The Associated Press then obtained an audio recording of a meeting in which the head of Trump's 2020 Wisconsin campaign team talked with staff about their efforts to reach Black voters: "We ever talk to Black people before? I don't think so," the campaign official said to laughter.

Dwayne Morgan, 59, called it "the same old, same old" for the GOP in Milwaukee. "They're trying to get us not to vote. They're trying to wipe away the history," he said.

Republican-drawn legislative maps adopted last year dilute Milwaukee's influence and nearly guarantee a Republican majority in the Legislature. That's despite statewide races routinely being decided by narrow margins and Democrats winning the major statewide offices, including for governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

The Republican-controlled Legislature enacted strict voter ID laws in 2011 under then-Republican Gov. Scott Walker. Since his first term began in 2019, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers has vetoed more than a dozen GOP-backed bills that would make it harder to vote. Those include ID requirements for older and disabled voters who are indefinitely confined, limits on when and where absentee

ballots could be collected, and prohibiting election officials from filling out missing voter information.

Nonetheless, Republicans have prevailed in the courts, using lawsuits to outlaw ballot drop boxes and deny election clerks the ability to fill in missing information on the envelopes containing mail ballots. The Wisconsin Supreme Court's conservative majority, which is at stake in this year's election, has routinely ruled in favor of Republicans on consequential voting decisions.

That adds to a host of reasons Black voters in Milwaukee have increasingly felt as if their votes don't matter. The city has some of the worst racial disparities nationwide in health care, education, wealth and incarceration.

Low-income residents, who are disproportionately Black, already struggle to meet basic needs. Confusion over new election rules or limited options for when and where they can vote further discourage voting, said the Rev. Greg Lewis, founder of Souls to the Polls Milwaukee.

"Suppression is not just a few things," he said. "It's not just, not being able to vote without IDs. It's not just, not being able to take your ballots to the drop box. It's not just language barriers. It's all those things together."

For Barbara Bryant, 76, "all the extra steps" were the biggest barrier to voting. But she wasn't going to be deterred from participating in this month's primary. This past week, amid a snowstorm, a poll worker helped her from her car and into an early voting location.

Bryant said she has preferred voting early in recent years so poll workers have time to explain any new rules, but she has seen inaccessible voting sites and the removal of drop boxes discourage other older adults from voting.



Wisconsin Republicans told the AP they have been trying for a decade to make inroads with Black and Latino voters in Milwaukee.

The state party opened its first office in downtown Milwaukee in 2019, specifically with the goal of reaching out to Black voters. The focus is on engaging them in conversation, rather than meeting typical campaign metrics such as knocking on a certain number of doors, said Mark Jefferson, the state GOP executive director.

He said the party is not trying to suppress votes, but to chip away at the support for Democrats in those communities.

"People are listening when they haven't before," Jefferson said. "I think we've learned a lot. I think we are cutting into Democrats' margins, albeit faster currently in the Latino community and the Hispanic communities. But we're also cutting into margins on the north side of Milwaukee, as well. And that's because we are more in touch than we were."

Angela Lang, executive director of Milwaukee-based Black Leaders Organizing Communities, wasn't worried about Republicans gaining a foothold with Black voters. She said the GOP's priorities are fundamentally at odds with what most Black voters in Milwaukee want.

But Lang said she was concerned about the precedent that could be set by Republicans so openly talking about strategies to lower turnout.

"It's incredibly dangerous, because when one starts, then people just feel more emboldened," she said.

Several Black voters interviewed at the polls said they had seen little activity from Republicans in the city and described the GOP outreach center as more of a showpiece for the party.

"I don't think they ever come down here to try to reach us at all," said voter Damarion Wright, 36. "I mean, you barely see a Republican in Milwaukee — come on, now."

## The Carolinian

(ISSN 00455873)

1504 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25308

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Periodical Postage Paid at Raleigh North Carolina 27611

Warrenton Address: P.O. Box 536

Warrenton, NC 27589

Postmaster

Send all address changes to:

The Carolinian

1504 New Bern Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27610

PUBLISHED SIX TIMES MONTHLY  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year .....\$45.00

Payable in advance. Address all communications and make all checks and money orders payable to The Carolinian.

Founded by P.R. Jervay, Sr. in 1940

The Carolinian Newspaper, Inc. of Raleigh

Publisher ..... Adria Jervay

Production Manager ..... Howard Barnett

Sales Consultant ..... Paul R. Jervay, Jr.

Circulation Manager ..... Andrew Alston

Jervay Agency, National Advertising Representative

www.TheJervayAgency.com

Member:

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

National Newspaper Publishers Association

HUB Certified MWBE

The Publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy.

Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of the newspaper.

Phone: 919-834-5558

e-mail: info@caro.news

www.caro.news

Facebook: TheCaroNews

Twitter: TheCaroNews

# Business & Finance

## Supreme Court Might Have Easy Outs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court soon could find itself with easy ways out of two high-profile cases involving immigration and elections, if in-

deed the justices are looking to avoid potentially messy, divisive decisions.

Off-ramps in those cases could prove attractive in a term with

no shortage of big cases that could divide the court's six conservatives and three liberals. Affirmative action, voting rights, gay rights and student loan forgiveness also are on the agenda for a court that is less than a year removed from overturning nearly 50 years of constitutional protections for abortion and seeing a significant dip in public confidence.

The Biden administration provided one possible way out for the court this week. A legal fight over turning away immigrants at the border because of the coronavirus pandemic, under a provision of federal law known as Title 42, is about to become irrelevant, the administration said in a court filing Tuesday.

That's because the administration recently announced that the public health emergency that justified the quick expulsion of immigrants will expire on May 11.

"Absent other relevant developments, the end of the public health emergency will (among other consequences) terminate the Title 42 orders and moot this case," wrote the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar.

The use of Title 42 began during Donald Trump's presidency and continued after Joe Biden took office. It has been used millions of times to quickly turn away migrants at the border.

Title 42 is at the root of a Supreme Court case that the justices in December put on a fast track, with arguments set for March 1. At issue isn't the use of

Title 42 itself but the question of whether a group of Republican states can insert themselves into a lawsuit over the policy. The states support keeping it in place. If it ends, they say illegal immigration will increase and they argue their interests aren't represented in the case.

The court could still rule before May 11, though that would be faster than usual. It's also possible the policy's end date will be pushed back beyond that date. But if the public health emergency ends as planned and the justices do nothing until then, the case could end without a decision.

When the court agreed to take the case in December, the justices were split. Five justices wanted to wade in and four justices — the court's three liberals and conservative Neil Gorsuch — said they would not have gotten involved in the first place.

The other case the court could dodge involves a closely watched elections issue and comes out of North Carolina. Last week the state's top court ordered a new look at the case.

Republicans in North Carolina have asked the justices for a ruling that could leave state legislatures virtually unchecked in making rules for congressional and presidential elections. Such an outcome would for the first time validate what is known as the "independent state legislature" theory, which would dramatically enhance the power of state lawmakers over elections for president and Congress at the expense of state courts.



## Large Fire Battled At NC Industrial Facility

DUDLEY, N.C. (AP) — Firefighters responded to a large-scale fire that engulfed at least 30 acres early Saturday at the National Salvage and Service Corp. industrial site in Dudley, North Carolina.

The Goldsboro News-Argus reports that firefighters from 23 departments responded to the fire, which was first reported at about 1:27 a.m.

"The caller said when they saw it, it was three stories high," said Joel Gillie, Wayne County spokesman.

No injuries were reported but two homes off Genoa Road, in the vicinity of the fire, were evacuated to ensure the safety of residents.

"We ended up evacuating two homes just out of precaution," he said.

The cause of the fire is unknown pending an investigation, Gillie said.

"We're waiting to hear on that," said Tim Rushenberg, spokesman for National Salvage and Service Corp., which recycles railroad ties at the site. "We want to know what happened as much as anyone else."

The company, which employs a staff of four at the Dudley site, recycles railroad ties in coordination with railroad companies, including CSX, which operates the railroad near the industrial site.



## BHN VR Center's Soft Launch Is Big Success

This year, the Black History Month kickoff for AMPTV's Black Headline News was celebrated virtually thru the, 2023 Black History Month Virtual Reality Experience ...

Black Headline News Cohort members, Rina Risper, publisher of The New Citizens Press and Dana James, publisher of Black Iowa News, welcomed the "virtual reality" (VR) experience as they talked about the "Black Press Experience" with featured guest publishers, Charlene Rhinehart of Chicago Southsider and Kenneth Miles of the Trenton Journal.

VR technology, summarized from the online Oxford dictionary, is a computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional image or environment that can be interacted with in a seemingly real or physical way by a person. This can be done using external apparatuses or via computer simulated 3D VR simulations for easy-eye viewing—no equipment needed.

Risper and James complimented budding publisher, Rhinehart, for her swiftness in gaining an online digital audience so fast.

Rhinehart is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Financial Journalist and former Ms. Corporate America. She's a Chicago-based media personality who had appeared on many podcasts, panels and platforms. She had also interviewed hundreds of celebrities, community influencers, entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, and high-net-worth individuals who have revealed their secret to success. Rhinehart has published thousands of articles and has worked with various organizations, including Investopedia, Black Enterprise, The Motley Fool, Black Doctor and American Express.

Launched in August 2021, Chicago Southsider is on a mission to unlock the best of Chicago's South Side. Within the first 12 months, they accumulated over 5,500 subscribers who were ready to explore the best of Business, Beauty, Books, Brunch, and Beverages on Chicago's South Side.

Chicago Southsider's top priorities include:

- Expanding our reach to over 25,000 residents
- Employing content creators from the South Side of Chicago
- Changing the narrative of Chicago's South Side by highlighting the best of what our community offers

Risper and James reviewed the astonishing endeavors Miles has been able to accomplish through all trials and tribulations.

Miles is a dedicated publisher in New Jersey whose work has appeared in the New York Times Syndicate, Interview, Black Enterprise, Industry, Paper, The Source, and WBGO.org. Miles has managed award-winning film director Jerry Lamothe and has handled public relations for actress and producer Tami Roman. Miles holds a BA in Broadcast Journalism from Bloomfield College and mentors students from the Young Entrepreneurs Academy in Newark. Miles is currently working on his memoir and an e-book about event production.

The Trenton Journal is an independently owned and operated multimedia platform that aims to address the information gaps and amplify voices in New Jersey's capital city through solutions-based journalism. The Trenton Journal is the recipient of the NABJ Black Press Grant and the NJ Civic Consortium grant to help train local community residents to tell their stories.

The discussion centered around the accomplishments and challenges the Black press seem to collectively endure, from lack of funding from local sources to lack of supportive community understanding.

After featured publishers, Rhinehart and Miles, Risper and James invited publisher and executive producer, Julia Dudley Najieb to join the candid discussion about their own current experiences in publishing—print and online. The riveting discussion highlighted such issues as: gatekeepers, legacy grand standing, and political pressures. James, Risper and Dudley Najieb also commented on solutions to these issues, letting the community know how they, too, can support the Black press.

## 3 Days After Opening, First Black-Owned Wine Bar In Arizona Closes

TEMPE, Ariz. — Just three days after the first Black-owned wine bar in Arizona celebrated its grand opening, it was forced to close after being hit by an alleged drunk driver.

The Chic Chef 77 wine bar opened on Wednesday, Feb. 8, on East Apache Boulevard in Tempe. Around 2:25 a.m. on Saturday morning, an alleged drunk driver struck the building, destroying a part of the patio and damaging windows.

"I was at home sleeping when it happened. I got a call around six o'clock this morning. And it was continuous phone calls," said Chic Chef 77 owner Nik Fields.

No one was at the bar when the crash occurred and no one was injured in the incident. Fields arrived back at the restaurant in the morning after talking to the police.

"When I saw it, it was just tape everywhere, there was glass everywhere. My property management company was cleaning up all the glass and everything, it just looked like a mess," she recalled.

Fields said that the driver fled the scene after the crash, but police later arrested them.

"I feel devastated. I feel severely impacted financially. This is Super Bowl weekend. We opened two days ago. And

this was supposed to be a special time for us to open not to mention it's Black History Month. So we had jam-packed events for the entire weekend," she shared.

"These are opportunities that we can't get back. So for someone to be so, you know, irresponsible not to be able to control their liquor or to hold their liquor. I just want them to know it doesn't only impact me - It impacts my customers. It impacts me financially it impacts me... mentally. It's like when you're in a headspace that you're going to start this business and it's halted not by your own fault, but by someone else's, it's a little bit harder to swallow," Fields added.

Fields also pointed out that her employees would also be impacted financially, possibly even losing thousands of dollars in tips over the Super Bowl weekend.

While it was a big blow to Fields and her staff, she is happy that no one was hurt. If the crash would have occurred several hours earlier, there would have been 20 or more people on the patio where the car struck the building.

"I hope this was an eye opener to them to know, not to drive drunk, but also how your actions again impact other people



negatively," Fields said of the drunk driver.

Tempe police said officers were able to locate the suspect and place him under arrest for hit-and-run and DUI.

No exact date is set for when Chic Chef 77 will reopen, but Fields is hopeful that it will be soon. "We're thinking positive that we can open within the next few days or so," Fields said.

## High Earners Also Living Paycheck-to-Paycheck

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA

In 2022, the economy proved as volatile as ever, with less disposable income and greater unpredictability.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, inflation in the United States peaked at 9.1 percent in July 2022 and dropped to 7.1 percent by November 2022.

A new study found that more people are having to spend all their income on necessities, and they are counting on their next salary to meet the costs they'll incur until then.

Researchers discovered that many people of higher socioeconomic status have had their first taste of living paycheck to paycheck this year.

While researchers found that most paycheck-to-paycheck consumers can pay their bills on time, one in every five Americans still require assistance to make ends meet.

Research conducted by Pymnts.com and LendingClub Corp. revealed that by the end of the year, 64 percent of American customers (166 million individuals) will be living paycheck to paycheck.



That represents a rise of 3% from a year ago, or 9.3 million additional people in the United States.

Almost 8 million of them made \$100,000 or more per year.

By the end of 2022, 51% of people in that income bracket reported that they were living paycheck to paycheck, up 9% from the year before.

U.S. consumers, especially those who must spend every dollar they earn each month to meet their financial obligations, have been hit hard by inflation and economic uncertainty in 2022, as the authors of "The Paycheck-to-Paycheck Report: 2022 Year in Review" detail.

This study analyzed consumers' responses to the ongoing financial pressures of an ever-changing economic landscape by drawing on PYMNTS' series of 12 unique

reports, conducted in collaboration with LendingClub and released each month from January to December — and representing insights from a total of 45,700 U.S. consumers.

The researchers determined that living paycheck to paycheck is currently the norm in the United States.

Over the past year, the percentage of consumers living paycheck to paycheck fluctuated, and while it is now comparable to a year ago, it is up 11 percentage points from a low in April 2021.

Although people of all income levels have felt the pinch, the percentage of high-income people living paycheck to paycheck has increased significantly in the last two years.

From July 2021 to November 2022, the percentage of high-

income customers who reported living paycheck to paycheck increased from 34 percent to 47 percent.

While 6.8% of consumers making above \$200,000 report living paycheck to paycheck and having trouble making ends meet, 10% of those making between \$150,000 and \$200,000 and 12% of those making between \$100,000 and \$150,000 admitted a similar financial situation.

The report revealed that consumers with lower incomes are more likely to require bill payment assistance.

When asked why they were having trouble making ends meet, 18% of middle-income consumers and 33% of low-income consumers said it was because of their income level.

Lydia Boussour, senior economist at EY Parthenon, told MSN that "consumer spending prospects are unclear." She claimed that consumers' discretionary spending will be low this winter because of rising costs, depleted savings, and growing reliance on credit.

The decline in stock prices and property values will have a "negative wealth effect," exacerbating these dynamics.

## Classifieds



### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Franklin County out for bid: C-C11520 ACM Abatement and Demolition. The bid opening is scheduled for: Wednesday, 3/01/2023. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/AGENCY/PDF/15185200.pdf>



### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Davidson County out for bid: C-C11521 ACM Abatement and Demolition. The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 3/02/2023. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/AGENCY/PDF/15185000.pdf>