



North Dallas Gazette

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NDG mourns the passing of long-time editor and friend

For many years now, Ruth Elaine Ferguson has been a conduit of news and information to the African American community, as well as others, through her work as the editor of the *North Dallas Gazette*.

She began as a contributing writer, and earned her way to helm the editorial end of the newspaper. She passed away in the early morning hours of May 18.

Ferguson's friends describe her as a "curator of the written word." She was an avid reader, and was always passionate about learning new things.

She was born on May 22, 1965 in Ethiopia. She came to the U.S. after being adopted and grew up in Garland, graduating in 1983 from South Garland High School before attending Texas Christian University.

Her presence will be missed greatly by her colleagues and co-workers.

"We miss you Ruth... now and forever," said NDG Publisher Thurman R. Jones. "To know Ruth Ferguson was to love her. She had the gentlest personality but she was unrelenting when she became passionate about matters that impacted the communities of North Texas and throughout the country.

"After Ruth became the editor of the *North Dallas Gazette* our paper experienced many accomplishments and milestones. Her pro-



Ruth Ferguson, who began working for NDG in 2005, passed away on Monday, May 18.

found contributions to telling the story from a broader perspective always enabled our audience to see the full perspective versus from the perspective of the community only.

"Ruth was diligent, caring, and trustworthy with everything that she did for *North Dallas Gazette*. When we implemented our social media strategy, Ruth was dedicated to making our content for a broader audience while sticking to the issues. She wanted to tell the news for the other people's perspective and she understood that the important stories often got lost in the shuffle of big media. She was our hero because she cared about our content and what our audience re-

ceived everyday and every week.

"There were many times when we would battle with her to be firmer on the paper's stance on fighting social injustices but Ruth always gently pushed back and reminded us that our issues was bigger and she selectively fought to include media from the mountaintop versus the valley. Ruth was quiet but her laugh is most remembered.

"We will greatly miss you Ruth Ferguson, editor and social media director of North Dallas Gazette 2005-2020."

In addition to her newspaper work, Ferguson was a first admin-

See FERGUSON, Page 7



The new virtual living is a culture killer

- See Page 3



Carter plans huge FW blood drive

- See Page 4



COVID-19 hampers Memorial Day

- See Page 5



TWC phasing out childcare assistance

- See Page 5



DISD staff shines in tough times

- See Page 6



Carrollton honors Public Works responders

- See Page 7



Music industry loses a legend in Little Richard

- See Page 9



Sister Tarpley: Why does God allow evil and disease?


- See Page 15


Inside...	
People In the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Irving / Carrollton / Plano	7
City Briefs	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Career / Obituaries	13
Church Directory	14-15
US Census	16

See Page 2

READERS SOUND OFF!!!
See Page 2 to see what NDG readers are saying about the latest news!

People In The News...

**Jeffrey L. Boney**

**Florence Didigu**

NDG Quote of the Week: "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."
— Langston Hughes

Jeffrey L. Boney

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Contributor

"Jeffrey, unfortunately, your test came back positive for the Coronavirus."

Hearing those words from the doctor, March 27th, shook me to the core.

Was that a death sentence for me?

Was it a coincidence that my mom years earlier had died in the same month of March?

Was this really how my life was going to end?

The news reports I had been watching and reading reported dire results relative to those who had con-



tracted the virus. Death tolls were rising. Governors began searching for beds and ventilators for people who were being impacted by this virus.

Honestly, I felt like the odds were stacked against

me.

The journey for me started with a very slight cough. On March 17th, I started experiencing internal digestive symptoms that I initially assumed was a result of me not eating anything that day. It was a Tuesday, which meant it was Press Day at the Houston Forward Times, where I serve as the Associate Editor. Now, it wasn't uncommon for me to skip breakfast and skip lunch in order to remain laser focused on getting the newspaper done. However, when I started feeling faint, I decided to get something to eat.

I made my way down to the Reggae Hut around 5:30

pm and ordered the oxtails, rice and peas and the vegetables, along with a beef patty and a Kola Champagne to drink. I made my way back down to my office with my plate and I ate a little bit of the rice and peas; a little of the vegetables; and barely ate one of the oxtails, before closing the container and putting the plate in the refrigerator. That was the last time I saw that plate or my office.

The next day, I not only had a continuous loss of appetite, I also had stomach pain and was experiencing heavy and unusual bouts of diarrhea. I even had an episode where I went to the bathroom and while on the

way, I passed out and was disoriented. I woke up lying on the floor in a sweat, trying to figure out what happened to me. I drank lots of water, tried natural remedies and ceased all of my normal activities. None of that worked or changed my situation.

I self-quarantined and self-isolated for eight days – from Tuesday, March 17th to Wednesday, March 25th. During that time, I contacted my primary care physician, who informed me that continuing to self-quarantine was probably the best option at the time, considering the symptoms I was experiencing.

I decided to reach out to

my good friend, State Representative Ron Reynolds to express my concerns about my health status, as well as get his advice on whether he thought I should go through one of the drive-thru testing sites that had recently opened. I desperately wanted to get tested, primarily for my peace of mind, but also because I was concerned for my family. They were still living in the same house as me.

I saw the news. I read the media reports online and on social media. It was clear, based on those reports, that I was not displaying the type of respiratory symptoms that

See BONEY, Page 8

Florence Didigu

WASHINGTON – On April 26, 2020, Florence Nwando Onwusi Didigu, 73, defended her dissertation to earn her Ph.D. in Communication, Culture and Media Studies. Her dissertation and future book titled, "Igbo Collective Memory of the Nigeria – Biafra War (1967-1970): Reclaiming Forgotten Women's Voices and Building Peace through a Gendered Lens," is a reflection of the Igbo women who, like herself, survived the war. Didigu, who is the oldest of five sisters, is graduating from Howard University with her fourth degree



as a prestigious Sasakawa and Annenberg Fellow. She is thankful to have made it across many hurdles.

"In my second year at Howard, and very close to my screening test, I lost my mother and my father with-

in months," said Didigu. "I had to return to Nigeria each time to perform the demanding burial ceremonies for each. I was completely deflated, both physically and emotionally, but I persevered because my father always wanted me to be a 'Doctor.'"

Didigu also battled shingles, which paralyzed the right side of her face and she lost her voice. It was symbolic, because it's her life's work is to elevate more Igbo women's voices. "I was unable to speak clearly; this was the greatest tragedy of all, since I was teaching a sophomore research course! The day I started speaking

again and was discharged from the hospital was a special life moment."

Yet, what she overcame 50 years ago, the Nigerian-Biafra War, a civil war between the Igbo people and the Nigerian government, is one challenge she will never forget.

"The day the Nigerian-Biafra War ended, I, like everyone was wallowing in anxiety and fear about what would happen to us as the vanquished. A very optimistic gentleman came over to me and asked: 'Why are you so sad; can't you see you have survived this terrible war?' I stood up, even though the Nigerian Air-

force was on its last bombing raid, and leaped up in the air in mad glee, repeating to myself and others: 'Yes, I have survived, I am a survivor!' This powerful survival instinct in me, which I call daring, and God's help, are what made me overcome all personal challenges during my doctoral program and get to where I am today!"

She was once a producer and writer at the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), and a broadcast regulator at the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) in Nigeria prior to 2000. Upon graduation, Didigu plans to enter the professoriate and become a book author.

She recently took courses at Howard in the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program. She plans to continue research and scholarly writings, as well as mentoring students to inspire and educate "the future generation that will move this discipline forward and tackle the communications-oriented challenges of the future."

The Howard University Communication, Culture and Media Studies Doctoral Program provides doctoral-level studies leading to the PhD which focuses on communication problems of importance in an emerging digital and multicultural world.

NDG Readers Sound Off...

Texas reopening - proceed with caution

If anyone falls to COVID 19 who prior to this reckless, economy first citizenry be damned, Abbott and his taks force should be held liable.

- Genejon

At some point we need t reopen. The virus will do what it has too before leaving. Quarantine is only a small measure to control it. Yes we should all be tested. We should slowly reopen and have to wear masks etc. people should determine their

own fate if they don't follow precarious. Sink or swim. The media way out f control. The death rate is 1% not 3.4%. Stop Watch g tv and take care of yourself and protect yourself. Sitting at home is now to the answer.

- Ronald Blaha

NO WAY When my 98 uncle is ready to leave his place that is when I will start going to places. He has not left his place since March 29. O really appreciate how his assisted living is helping the elders.

- Tammy Greenberg

No. Not because I think everyone who gets the virus will die or because I want the economy to collapse, but because we don't have enough testing for me to know that I'm not putting others at risk. If everyone clamoring to open clamored as loudly for testing then we wouldn't be in this ridiculous situation.

- Courtney Van Zandt Panatier

Parkinson's Awareness Month – Symptoms & Signs

I was diagnosed of ALS

few years ago, I had severe tremors and difficulty swallowing. I was given medications which helped but only for a short time. So i decided to try alternative measures and began on ALS HERBAL PROTOCOL from Herbal HealthPoint, It has made a tremendous difference for me (Go to w w w. herbal-healthpoint. c o m). I had improved walking balance, increased appetite, muscle strength, improved vision and others

- Michelle Nelson

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This new virtual way of living – it is a culture killer!

By Harry C. Alford
and Kay DeBow

This new way of doing business and living everyday has been caused by the Pandemic – COVID 19. It is a "mass murderer" – destroying lives by the millions worldwide and causing our interaction with one another to be in continuous change minute by minute. Life is so different than it was six months ago. What big mandatory changes are in store for us during the next six months. It seems all we can do is pray. It is out of our control!

Let us think of the entertainment industry. That is going to dry up and fade away. We are supposed to be going to a family reunion this summer in Las Vegas. We guess that is going to be a flop. The casinos will be closed and the hotel space very limited. There will be no tables for us to sit down and gamble. So much for family reunions?

One of the painful changes to our lifestyle is the loss of visiting our grandson. He

is two years old and lives in town. Every weekend we would meet at altering locations. Now all we can do is meet in a parking lot with our cars two yards apart. We get out and wave from a distance. No hugging, holding, and cuddling is allowed. We watch and shout at each other for about twenty minutes and that is it. Then we part for about two weeks at least. This is painful!

Cities that depend on conferences coming to town for additional revenue and interaction are going to have to do without the annual funding that is involved. Washington, DC is a conference center and the biggest conference is usually the Congressional Black Caucus. Well, it was just announced, this year they will have a "digital or virtual" conference. All those travels, hotel, entertainment, eating and dancing venues will no longer be experienced. A Hallmark has just been retired.

Businesses have been forced to close. Many will never reopen. Washington,

DC looks like it is a scene from the movie I am Legend with its streets devoid of cars and sidewalks with no pedestrians.

People have lost their jobs and many that still have jobs, work from home. We have read that pajama pants are selling out. No one needs to buy suits anymore. Children are being home schooled (which is not a bad thing) but parents are overwhelmed.

Another shocker comes from the California State College System. All 23 campuses will not open to the public. Classes will be held in virtual time slots via computers. There will be no college life in the most populous state in the country. Imagine going four years for your college education and never attending a class with your physical presence. The huge campuses will become ghost towns.

How can we go through airports when we cannot come within six feet of another person? How can we sit in a plane or go on a cruise? Going to grocery

stores is like trying to complete an obstacle course. Gone is the formality of a handshake or a hug. This city has become a place full of strangers!

Every time we think of change or hope we understand that phase II of this pandemic is surely going to come in a few months causing havoc and more horror.

The big mystery is how long do we have to suffer? Will things get better or worse? Are we going through Armageddon and don't even realize it? Dear Lord, we pray for answers and solutions to this awful mess we are now in. Our way of life has been turned upside down with no end in sight. All we can do is pray and pray hard!

Mr. Alford is the Co-Founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. Ms. DeBow is the Co-Founder, Executive Vice President of the Chamber. Website: www.nationalbcc.org Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org kdebrow@nationalbcc.org

Old, sick and incarcerated

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Contributor

There were 4623 incarcerated people over 65 in federal prisons during the first week of May. Until May 12, Paul Manafort, Mr. Trump's one-time campaign manager, was one of them. The 71-year-old petitioned the court for release to home confinement because of his age, heart condition, and "fear of coronavirus." Yet the federal correctional institution that housed Manafort had no coronavirus cases, and Manafort had served fewer than two years of his more than seven-year sentence.

I'm not as outraged at Manafort's early release as I am disturbed about the other 4622 elderly inmates, most who lack the resources

and access that Manafort had. Nearly forty percent of those incarcerated in federal prisons are African American, many serving very long sentences for drug-related crimes. Many have some of the same underlying medical conditions and "fear of coronavirus" that Manafort had.

Prisons are a breeding ground for the coronavirus. Prisons are overcrowded with social distancing an impossibility since an average cell, about five feet by five, does not allow six feet of distancing. Recent studies show that the COVID-19 germs from a loud conversation or a cough linger for minutes, sufficient time to infect another person.

Older people don't commit violent crimes (although

they commit financial crimes and perjury). Releasing those over 65 who were convicted of drug crimes and other nonviolent crimes saves money and has little social cost. But incarceration is an economic driver for some communities. In some isolated communities, these prisons are a significant source of employment. Releasing prisoners early may cause layoffs. Is this why we insist on keeping so many people locked up for such long periods?

Parole was eliminated in federal prison in the mid-1980s, allowing "good behavior" only after 85 percent of a sentence has been served. But Manafort, citing "fear of coronavirus," ended up serving less than a quarter of his sentence. Can an old Black man get

the Manafort treatment and serve the rest of his sentence in a cushy condo in Northern Virginia? Manafort had a lot less to fear, at his minimum-security prison, than a Black inmate might.

The inmates aren't the only ones at risk. Correctional officers, lawyers, and visiting family members are also vulnerable. We are so committed to getting a "pound of flesh" from those incarcerated that we refuse to consider the high costs of incarceration.

The coronavirus magnified our nation's inequality. Manafort is out after less than two years' incarceration. Thousands who are old and poor remain incarcerated and vulnerable to coronavirus. Our criminal injustice system is in dire need of reform.

"A Fitting Memorial"
NDG Obituaries

North Dallas Gazette now offers Obituaries and Death Notices specific to our community. Contact ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com for more info.

Carter partners with Justin Boots and Dickies Arena to host blood drive

Justin Boots is partnering with Dickies Arena to support Carter BloodCare, one of Texas' largest blood centers, to host a blood drive later this month. The blood drive, which will occur May 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Dickies Arena's Yellow Lot B, will help support Carter BloodCare this summer, which is typically a challenging time for the blood supply.

"Since 1925, Justin Boots has called Fort Worth home," said Taylor Morton, marketing manager at Justin Brands, Inc. "We're asking those in good health to support their Fort Worth community by giving blood. While a lot of the world is on hold, the need for blood is ongoing. Blood donation is a great way to support our local hospitals,



not just during this pandemic, but throughout the year."

"Carter BloodCare is

privileged to have our name linked to a company that has set the highest standards for more than

100 years," said Dr. Merlyn Sayers, president and CEO of Carter BloodCare. "Donors at the blood drive will know that they are helping patients in our community whose lives depend on transfusion. Justin's commitment is legendary and this blood drive continues that Texas tradition."

The Justin Boots Blood Drive supporting Carter BloodCare will be held at Yellow Lot B at Dickies Arena on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Donors are encouraged to sign up online before arriving, or by calling or texting 800-366-2834.

To arrive at Yellow Lot B at Dickies Arena, donors should turn onto Trail Drive from Montgomery Street or University Drive and enter

the Yellow Lot at Gate 43. Signage will be in place to help direct traffic to the appropriate lot.

Carter BloodCare has also provided these tips to ensure a safe donation:

- Make and keep your appointment. (If you are not feeling healthy and well, please do not attend.)

- In addition to the current social distancing guidelines provided by FDA and the CDC, we will also observe any social distancing guidelines established by our host partners:

- Effective May 25, all donors are required to wear masks at the blood drive.

- Ensure you remain at least six feet from other donors.

- Drink plenty of water before and after donating to ensure you are well hydrated and eat a good, healthy meal at least two hours before your donation.

- Before you arrive on the day of your appointment, fill out your donor questionnaire on your own mobile device/desktop with QuickScreen.

- Please do not bring children and/or pets to blood drives as they are not allowed into the donation area.

Vitas Healthcare offers national grief support services to all Americans, specialty crisis support to front-line healthcare workers

MIAMI, FL (May 19, 2020) — VITAS Healthcare announced today it is launching a nationwide grief helpline on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The nation's leading provider of end-of-life care is opening up access to its nationwide network of bereavement and psychosocial experts to support anyone in the country suffering from grief after the death of a loved one during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The VITAS Grief Helpline also is available to members of the healthcare community who need emotional support related to grief, death and loss as a result of their experiences on the COVID-19 front lines. All healthcare workers can take advantage of an online support event led by experienced VITAS counselors. Those in need may call the VITAS Grief Helpline at 866-800-4707 between 4 pm and 10 pm EDT beginning Tuesday, May 26. They can also visit VITAS.com/helpline. The service continues through May 29.

Front-line healthcare workers should self-identify when they call to be connected with specialized support services.

"As healthcare workers who specialize in support for the dying, we have unique insight into what family members and healthcare professionals are experiencing," said Joseph Shega, MD, senior vice president and chief medical officer for VITAS Healthcare. "We can help the country deal with the widespread feelings of grief and loss caused by this pandemic."

With more than 40 years of experience providing end-of-life care, VITAS has the proven expertise to support people who are grieving, particularly during national tragedies. For example, VITAS provided support for those impacted by the 2016 Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting, the 2018 California wildfires, and school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, and Parkland, Florida.

VITAS' nearly 50 coun-

sors are highly trained grief specialists and their expertise is now available to anyone in need, including a dedicated virtual support group for front-line healthcare workers. Other virtual support groups over the phone and via teleconference platforms are available year-round for general grief, spouses, veterans, LGBT+, young adults, children, Spanish-speaking audiences, and others at VITAS.com/SupportGroups.

"When we saw healthcare workers taking their own lives as a result of the extraordinary tragedies they have witnessed, we knew that it was critical to open our arms to those who were pressed into active service during the pandemic," said Dr. Shega.

The VITAS Grief Helpline is part of a continuum of bereavement services offered by the organization. This includes counseling for the loved ones of a hospice patient during the patient's life and in the months following a death, home visits

from bereavement specialists (chaplains, social workers and volunteers), connection to community grief therapists, and Memory Bears sewn by volunteers using a loved one's clothing or other fabric. More information and grief resources may be found at vitas.com/grief.

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Memorial Day offerings low during pandemic

Memorial Day is one of those holidays everyone usually gets behind. Cities have official observances as well as special events hosted by other governmental agencies. This year however, the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing have conspired to wipe out most of these opportunities for family fun and remembrance (and travel is expected to be way down too).

The Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery is going to observe the occasion. Families and friends of fallen veterans are welcome to come and visit, placing flowers or flags to mark the sacrifices of veterans. There will be CDC guidelines in place to protect the health and safety of visitors and staff.

Carry the Load, an organization which normally

holds a march of posters bearing the pictures of hundreds of veterans into Revershon Park, is still holding their event, only it will be a “drive-thru” celebration. Those wishing to participate are asked to contact Carry the Load through their website to sign up in order to manage the traffic flow into and out of the park.

With the current phase

of reopenings, there are some private businesses which are holding their own events, many of them with social distancing guidelines in place.

With most “official” celebrations canceled, there is still the option of taking the family out for a picnic. Several Dallas area restaurants offering curbside pick-up are also offering Memorial Day specials.

Texas Workforce Commission's childcare assistance phasing out

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will soon begin phasing out the emergency program to subsidize childcare for Texas' essential workers. In March, TWC commissioners authorized \$200 million to local Workforce Development Boards to subsidize three months of child care for essential workers, and to support the higher costs of child care during COVID as a result of smaller class sizes. This effort was intended to help ensure that essential workers who hadn't planned for child care during public schools closures had access to this critical support

service to ensure that they could continue to work and support the COVID recovery needs. TWC also waived the requirement for low-income parents to contribute to the cost of their child's care, known as the Parent's Share of Cost; these parents, if not considered essential workers, have been unable to access child care.

As Texas' economy begins to re-open, TWC will begin phasing out these programs. Essential workers in need of child care during the school year were offered assistance. And, as child care reopens, child care providers are now able to resume services for all

parents in need of child care.

TWC will take the following steps:

COVID Essential Worker Care – TWC began enrolling children of essential workers in April to help address the unanticipated consequences of school closures, and to provide parents with a stop-gap measure to address this unanticipated need. As the school year comes to a close, new applications for this program will end May 20. Applications received on or before May 20 will be processed, and children previously enrolled will continue to receive their three months of subsidized child care.

Parents' Share of Cost (PSOC) for At-Risk Child Care – TWC waived the PSOC for all at-risk families, effective April 1, effectively paying 100 percent of the costs, as TWC continued to pay providers even while children may be absent. Child care facilities are now reopened to all families, and TWC will reinstitute the requirement for parents receiving financial assistance to pay for a portion of their costs for child effective June 1st. These costs may be waived, on a case by case basis, if parents continue to be unable to meet this financial obligation.



Rafaela Biazzi / Unsplash

Texas man charged with \$5 million COVID-relief fraud

A Texas man has been charged in the Eastern District of Texas with allegedly filing bank loan applications fraudulently seeking more than \$5 million dollars in forgivable loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Samuel Yates, 32, of Maud, Texas, allegedly sought millions of dollars in forgivable loans guaranteed by the SBA from two different banks by claiming to have over 400 employees earning wages when, in fact, no employees worked for his purported business.

Yates is charged by way of a federal criminal complaint with violations of wire fraud, bank fraud, false statements to a financial institution, and false statements to the SBA.

“This defendant allegedly sought to steal millions of dollars in loans intended to aid legitimate small businesses grappling with the economic effects of COVID-19,” said Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benczkowski of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. “The department and our law enforcement partners will use all the tools at our disposal to investigate and prosecute frauds against the Paycheck Protection Program.”

“Any time the government provides large amounts of money to the public there are people who will try to cheat the system,” said U.S. Attorney Joseph D. Brown of the Eastern District of Texas. “We encourage lenders to be very careful, and to report suspicious applications. It is a priority of the Department

of Justice to deter and prosecute this type of fraud.”

“The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration will aggressively pursue those who try to use the Internal Revenue Service to facilitate their schemes to defraud coronavirus relief programs,” said Special Agent in Charge Dale Forrester of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration's Cybercrime Investigations Division. “Our successes today would have not been possible without the joint efforts of the Small Business Administration Office of the Inspector General, the Department of Justice and other law enforcement partners.”

“Providing false statements to gain access to SBA's programs will be aggressively investigated by our office,” said Special

Agent in Charge Donald Abram of SBA OIG's Central Region. “SBA OIG and its law enforcement partners are poised to root out wrongdoers in the Paycheck Protection Program and maintain its integrity. I want to thank the U.S. Attorney's Office and our law enforcement partners for their dedication and pursuit of justice.”

“Today's arrest should serve as a strong deterrent to anyone considering exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to enrich themselves through fraud. These individuals have no concern for legitimate businesses whose employees and their families are hurting financially during these unprecedented times,” said Special Agent in Charge Ryan L. Spradlin of U.S. Immigration and Customs Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Dallas. “HSI stands at the ready to utilize its ample investigative mandate to assist in rooting out such unscrupulous individuals, and hold them accountable for their crimes.”

According to court documents unsealed today in U.S. District Court in Texarkana, Yates allegedly made two fraudulent applications to two different lenders for loans guaranteed by the SBA for COVID-19 relief through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). In the application submitted to the first lender, Yates allegedly sought \$5 million in PPP loan proceeds by fraudulently claiming to have 400 employees with an average monthly payroll of \$2 million. In the second application, Yates claimed to employ over 100 individuals and was able to obtain a loan over \$500,000. With

each application, Yates submitted a list of purported employees that he obtained from a publicly available random name generator on the internet. He also submitted forged tax documents with each application.

The CARES Act is a federal law enacted on March 29, 2020, designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One source of relief provided by the CARES Act was the authorization of up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses for job retention and certain other expenses, through the PPP. In April 2020, Congress authorized over \$300 billion in additional PPP funding.

See FRAUD, Page 11

District staff a source of pride in difficult times



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

I continue to be amazed at the work our district employees are accomplishing as we deal with the repercussions of COVID-19. To date, Dallas ISD Food and Nutrition Services has distributed some 4 million meals to district families at meal sites and partnered with DART to deliver meals to hotels serving the homeless. That number speaks for itself. Thanks to all involved!

Teachers and instructional leaders are coordinating at-home learning to encourage students to keep up with their studies, and IT staff are delivering laptops, tablets and hotspots for students who need them. Thank you, teachers and tech support!

We salute our teachers, essential workers and all of our staff for keeping up the good work. We will not let this virus defeat us. The learning goes on.

During this pandemic, the district has named new principals for 19 schools, including Principal Derek Thomas who will serve at Adele Turner Elementary School in District Six.

Welcome to your new post, Principal Thomas. I look forward to working with you.

Learning and achieving has continued despite the challenges of this trying time. I want to congratulate the T.W. Browne Middle School students for their success in the Texas Academic Pentathlon, Region V online competition, held April 25. Browne's 7th graders placed second in the super quiz rankings and third place in team rankings. This year's theme, ironically, was In Sickness & In Health: An Exploration of Illness and Wellness. The pentathlon competition is based around

five subject areas: fine arts, literature, mathematics, science and social science. Job well done, Browne scholars!

Five of our District Six teachers were among the 91 Dallas ISD teachers selected by Donors Choose.org to participate in the "Keep Kids Learning" program. The five received \$1,000 vouchers from Amazon or Walmart to purchase supplies for students. I'm proud of Shawauna Barrett and Latrice London Wright, both of McNair Elementary School, who received Walmart vouchers for student supplies as a part of this initiative. Also, congratulations to Amelia

Blacksher of Atwell Middle School, Emily Hobbs of Moreno Elementary and Dorcas Kassebaum of McNair Elementary, recipients of Amazon vouchers. Thank you, teachers!

With graduation approaching, let me extend congratulations to the Class of 2020, whose members have worked and studied so hard to make it to the end of their high school career, only to see this virus threat rob them of their chance to walk across the stage. Don't be deterred, seniors, nothing can take your achievement away. You have proved that you are strong and resilient, and

you will go on to the bright future that is yours to create. I am sure of it.

One last word: For those who have not responded to the census, it is not too late. If you haven't filled out your census form, you may go online to 2020census.gov to do so. The 2020 Census asks a few simple questions about you and everyone living in your household on April 1, 2020. The survey is confidential and does not ask about immigration status. Remember, decisions about funding for our schools and community are tied to the census count. Don't let our students be left out!

WANTED: Residents to join conversations about racial equity in proposed bond 2020

Dallas ISD's Racial Equity Office (REO) is calling on communities in the city's southern sector to help define what racial equity will look like in Dallas ISD's proposed Bond 2020 package of school and facility improvements. REO has scheduled a series of community conversations to support its Equity in Bond Planning process.

Under the leadership of REO, Dallas ISD has proposed investing \$41 million in 2020 Bond Program funds to create school-community hubs in neighborhoods of color that have faced historic segregation and financial disinvestment. To assess the present-day impact of discrimination on students and families, REO is using a measurement tool called the Community

Racial Equity Office Community Conversations Timeline and Objectives				
	June	July	August	September
Community Engagement 	Interviews and Focus Groups at Spruce and Lincoln High Schools	<u>Workshops</u> Identify Community Needs, Assets, and Opportunities	<u>Workshops</u> Design and prioritize programs for school community hubs	Present Concepts to Board of Trustees

Resource Index, or CRI. Developed by the nonprofit organization, the Child Poverty Action Lab, the CRI is a way of looking at how past discrimination continues to affect communities, families, education, economics and health. REO's Equity in Bond Planning process aims to address inequities in ways that improve student academic achievement and increase opportunities for student success.

REO is proposing to create four school-community

hubs in the neighborhoods served by Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, L.G. Pinkston, and H. Grady Spruce high schools.

To jumpstart the planning process, REO has scheduled virtual community conversations from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, for residents served by H. Grady Spruce High School and Tuesday, June 9, for neighborhoods served by Lincoln High School. REO plans to share with residents their area's CRI data and collect

input from students, families and residents about how the school-community hubs can improve life for students and their families. Future meetings will be held for parents and residents of the Franklin Roosevelt and L.G. Pinkston high school communities.

Leslie Williams, Dallas ISD Deputy Chief of the Racial Equity Office, says staff will spend much of the time in these conversations listening. "We want to hear residents' reaction to the

CRI data and learn how they see the connection of current problems to past redlining and segregation," said Williams. "The bottom line is we want the community to help us help improve student outcomes."

Residents of the Spruce and Lincoln school com-

munities can visit the Racial Equity Office webpage for more information and to register to join the community conversations via Zoom or by telephone. Spanish interpretation will be available, and participants will have the opportunity provide input and ask questions.

Dallas ISD will host virtual grad ceremonies

In order to provide the safest and most secure environment for students, their families and staff, this year Dallas ISD will hold com-

mencement ceremonies virtually beginning May 22.

Efforts will be made to maintain as much of the traditional ceremony as pos-

sible. In addition, all 8,900 seniors will receive customized banners to display at home that recognize them as members of their high

school's Class of 2020.

In total, Dallas ISD will hold 37 commencement ceremonies beginning May 22 to May 31.



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Carrollton honors public works first responders

The City of Carrollton joins the American Public Works Association (APWA) and communities from across the nation to honor those who work in professions that provide and maintain public streets, facilities, and services during National Public Works Week, May 17-23. Public Works plays a vital role in the well-being of the

Carrollton community by maintaining and improving the systems and services crucial to the residents' health, safety, and comfort.

"The City of Carrollton values our community and the role our Public Works' crews play in keeping them safe and functioning smoothly especially during times of crisis," said Public Works Director Jody

Byerly. "The Department's goals during this celebratory week are to increase public awareness of the crews' contributions as well as to enlighten the public about the duties, practices, and goals of these public works professionals."

Public Works keeps a community's rhythm moving by providing an orchestra of infrastructure servic-

es including professionals who manage water, sewer, public transportation, and waste removal as well as those responsible for maintaining public buildings and grounds. Streets, roads, bridges, and public transportation keep residents linked together from driveway to highway, and clean water and sanitation services keep the City healthy.



City of Carrollton

My memories of Ruth Ferguson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The first time I met Ruth Ferguson face-to-face, she was sitting in the back of a room in a restaurant in Atlanta, perched on a stool that was too high for her, legs dangling. Technically, she was my boss and I'd emailed with her before, for weeks, but I was a little afraid of her; I didn't know her well and though she wasn't very tall, her initial demeanor brought her up to about 10 feet of steel.

It was inevitable, I think, that we became friends.

We bonded over books, at first. Talked about them, wrote about them, and shared titles we thought the other should read. I encouraged her to go to New York with us one year, and Chicago another year, and New York again. I looked forward to seeing her each

summer at the Black Press meetings, and we'd make it a point to find a bookstore (or two). She came to Wisconsin – WISCONSIN! – just after Christmas one year because she wanted to see snow. Showed up with a suitcase full of things that almost guaranteed she'd freeze half to death and wouldn't you know? It snowed two days after she got home. Point is, I shipped her bookstore cache back to Dallas for her when she left.

But books weren't all. She told me about her mother, who was stern and fierce and died of Alzheimer's. Her father, a soldier whom she adored. She told me about her adoption, and she hinted that she was a wild teenager. We talked about our dogs, our ideas, the things we hoped to see someday, the places we were going to go. She kept

me up-to-date about issues and people I needed to know, and she taught me.

If you didn't know her, I'm sorry for you. I wish you had.

If you didn't know her, this was Ruth: she was a summer afternoon in a bookstore cafe in Cincinnati, cold drinks, blessed air conditioning, hours of down-time together, the only two customers in the place, and how we talked about nothing, and nothing again. Our friendship was easy. She called me her "book sister." I need a t-shirt for that.

Also: I will never forget

standing at a trade-show booth for a publisher of erotic romances, and while one shirtless man talked with Ruth to distract her, another handed me books, pens, calendars, decks of cards, and other tchotchkes to sneak into her bag, one of every giveaway they had at that booth. At dinner that night, she smirked and said that apparently I was "busy" at the conference, and I almost fell off my chair.

Also: I will never forget the afternoon I'd been telling her what beautiful, flawless skin she had, to which she gave me a "Get outta here!" look... and not a min-

ute later, someone told her "You have such beautiful skin!" (She did. No lie).

Also: I will forever remember her generosity of spirit, her calm demeanor, her sense of joy in the fact that the sun rose every day, the smile that told me she was real and truly tickled at the way life was.

Six hours after I learned that she was gone, I grabbed my phone to text her something I thought she might want to know --- and then I caught myself.

I can't do that anymore. She left, and she left me a piece of her soul to add to my own.

FERGUSON, from Page 1

istrator for St. Mark Baptist Church, a paralegal for Sydney Powell Esquire, an executive administrator for the American Heart Association, administrator for Services of Hope, and Vice President of Social Media Delivered.

There will be a balloon release in honor of Ruth Ferguson on May 22 at 6 p.m. at Flag Pole Hill Park (8015 Doran Cr., Dallas, TX 75201). Attendees are asked to bring purple and teal balloons to be released, and books which will be donated in Ferguson's name.

Policy of Non-Discrimination

The Gate Church North Dallas

The Gate Church North Dallas, Plano, Texas places emphasis on the dignity and worth of all people while the congregation values and embraces diversity. Employment, membership, and participation in any church activity is open to all without regard to ethnicity, race, skin color, national origin, gender, age, disability or religion.

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Dallas

Dallas Public Works is seeking **public input regarding an upcoming hike and bike trail extension project** from Coombs Creek Trail to Margaret McDermott Bridge.

To ensure the health and safety of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Works made the meeting presentation available to view online in place of a public meeting. The presentation contains details and layouts of the proposed design for the trail extension, as well as an estimated schedule for the project's construction



Unsplash

and completion. View the Coombs Creek Trail extension project presentation here.

Public Works will accept written feedback about the preliminary design until May 28, 2020.

Comment cards can be submitted by email to Ryan Wagoner at ryan.wagoner@dallascityhall.com or Chris Turner-Noteware at

christina.turner@dallascityhall.com.

For additional questions about the presentation or the Coombs Creek Trail extension project, please email Ryan Wagoner at ryan.wagoner@dallascityhall.com.

Carrollton

Carrollton's Summer Reading Program (SRP) will run Monday, June 1 through Saturday, August 1 and include age-specific programs for listeners (birth-4), kids (5-8), tweens (9-12), teens (13-17), and adults (18+). Register yourself and your children

at cityofcarrollton.com/READsquared — user-names from last year are still valid. Track reading minutes online or ask about physical reading logs to record books and minutes. Get rewarded for summer reading fun.

Read books. Earn points. Win prizes. Participants may earn points that will be used for purchasing drawing tickets for prize packs or purchasing items from the Prize Store. Earn one point for every one minute read. Earn 100 points and receive one drawing ticket. A Library card is not required, however, it

is encouraged and free for all Texas residents. Specialized programs include age-appropriate prizes and all ages are welcomed to participate.

Plano

Stay in and stay safe, watch or participate in **Plano City Council Meetings virtually**.

Meetings are the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The executive session is at 5 p.m. and is immediately followed by the preliminary open meeting. At 7 p.m. the regular session begins. Review the meeting's agenda (avail-

able Wednesday night) on the city council agenda webpage.

Comment on an item one of these ways:

- Register to speak online by 5 p.m. on the meeting day and attend the meeting through the link provided in your confirmation email. The registration link is on the agenda for that specific meeting.

- Submit comments before the meeting to council-comments@plano.gov by 5 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Watch the meeting live on Facebook or planotv.org.

BONEY, from Page 2

the majority of COVID-19 patients were reported to have been experiencing, such as shortness of breath or having a heavy cough. There were also reports that the only way a person could be tested was if they were elderly or a first responder. I was deeply concerned.

A few days after my call with Rep. Reynolds, I received a call on my cell phone from U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee on Wednesday, March 25th. She had heard I was experiencing a health challenge and asked me some questions. Congresswoman Jackson Lee then immediately informed me that she wanted me to come down to United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC) on Tidwell to get tested right away. I wasted no time. I asked the Congresswoman for the address and immediately got dressed to make my way to UMMC.

As I was driving to the hospital, Congresswoman Jackson Lee told me that she had already spoken to the Chief Medical Officer for United Memorial Medical Center (UMMC), Dr. Joseph Varon, and that he was prepared to receive me and administer the test.

I was so relieved that I would be able to get tested and get a definitive on whether I had contracted the COVID-19 virus or not.

I arrived to UMMC and was met by Dr. Varon. He walked with me inside to the place where I was to be test-

ed, and he immediately tried to put me at ease. I was told by Dr. Varon that my test results would take anywhere from 24-48 hours to come back, so I waited patiently and eagerly.

As anxious as I was to find out the results on the following day, I decided to give it another day.

On that Friday, March 27th, things took a drastic turn for the worse, as it relates to my health. I began to cough, and what I thought would be regular phlegm coming out, turned out to be a significant amount of bright red blood. As this continued to happen, I made the decision to call Dr. Varon and share my update. After hearing my status, Dr. Varon implored me to come to the UMMC Emergency Room (ER) immediately, which I prepared to do.

Before I got off the phone with him, however, he hit me with the update I was anxious to finally receive, but with some news I was definitely hoping and praying not to hear. Dr. Varon informed me that I had tested "POSITIVE" for the Coronavirus.

I was shook. My family was stunned. I am a married father of three. My family is everything.

Upon my arrival, there were two large signs that said STOP. My wife, who had followed me to the hospital, was not allowed inside. I was met by medical staff and they ushered me into a room in the ER.

She stood outside awaiting word. The nursing staff immediately went to work, initially drawing blood and then taking some vitals at the order of Dr. Varon.

As events would unfold, Dr. Varon would turn out to be one of the primary angels of medicine that made the difference relative to my Coronavirus recovery efforts.

One of the first things Dr. Varon ordered his medical staff to do with me upon my arrival to the ER was to do a CT Scan. For those who may not know, a CT Scan is more detailed than a regular X-ray, and allows doctors to see inside your body by using a combination of X-rays and a computer to create images of your organs and other things inside your body.

Of course, I didn't know why a CT Scan was being performed on me at the time, nor did I know what the end result would be. Let me just say that performing that CT Scan on me was the best thing that could have ever happened to me, because it revealed something major that was going on inside my body that couldn't be seen by looking at me from the outside. The CT Scan revealed that my lungs showed a severe case of pneumonia, as well as other issues involving my vital organs that came as a result of the Coronavirus.

It was decided at that moment that I needed to be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) right away. It was then that I realized how serious things were, and it

was the moment that I knew that I was going to have to rely on my faith in God.

On Friday, March 27th, the journey towards fighting the Coronavirus had truly just begun.

Not only did I have a severe case of pneumonia when I entered ICU, my liver and kidneys also needed to be protected from the virus; my heart rate was through the roof; my heart condition worsened and I was headed to the point of potential heart failure; my blood pressure was high; I had a sharp pain in my right side; I continued to have heavy diarrhea episodes; and I still had a loss of appetite. Things were not looking good for me and I felt horrible. I began to wonder if I was ever going to get better.

From the very beginning, I had to rely on my faith in God, as I continued to deal with the mental anguish of being in this Coronavirus-specific ICU area, particularly knowing that there were people around with breathing issues and hearing machines go off all day and night, and as I regularly looked at the news and read reports showing the number of people dying on a daily basis as a result of the virus.

I needed a miracle.

Because I didn't have any respiratory issues, just digestive issues, it caused the doctors to develop a treatment plan for me that was different than other patients they had been treating prior to my arrival to the hospital. Dr. Varon and Dr. Jo-

seph Gathe, Jr. oversaw my care. They created a whole Coronavirus cocktail, which included heavy doses of Vitamin C, which was specific to my treatment. Per Dr. Varon, my case taught them that they must use high dose blood thinners on every Coronavirus patient admitted to the hospital.

After several days, my symptoms began to subside, and my appetite came back in a major way. I longed for my breakfast, lunch and dinner, and couldn't wait to eat it. Dr. Varon eventually informed me that all of my vital organs had returned to normal and that my blood work and vital signs were solid.

Finally, I felt like I was turning a corner and getting better. That was until a second CT Scan was performed, which revealed more shocking and devastating news regarding my health condition.

When the results of my second CT Scan came back, it revealed that I had been diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism in my right lung. A pulmonary embolism occurs when blood clots block the flow of blood to the lungs. A pulmonary embolism can be fatal and life-threatening, which is why Dr. Varon and his team promptly took the necessary steps to address the blood clot and reduce my risk of death. I was immediately placed on blood thinner medication.

I continued to follow the instructions of the doctors until I received that won-

derful news that on Sunday, April 5th, I had made significant and miraculous improvement, and subsequently was being discharged to go home to my family. I was so thrilled, yet still deeply concerned because I still didn't know whether I was still "POSITIVE" with the Coronavirus.

I was concerned about my family and praying they would be fine. Prior to being discharged, I had another COVID-19 test done and was awaiting the results. I self-isolated once again, until I got my second test results. After several days, I got the results and tested "NEGATIVE" for the virus. Because I wanted to be completely sure before interacting with my family again, the doctors administered another COVID-19 test and those results came back "NEGATIVE" as well.

I am forever grateful to God and to everyone who uttered a prayer, shared an encouraging word, providing any resources or sent positive energy my way.

My family and I greatly appreciate each and every one of you. God bless you, and let's do everything in our power to defeat this horrible and vicious COVID-19 virus.

Jeffrey L. Boney is a political analyst and international correspondent for the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com and serves as Associate Editor for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies.

Little Richard, one of the most influential founding fathers of rock n' roll, dies at 87

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Contributor

Richard Wayne Penniman, better known as Little Richard, was one of the most influential singer songwriters in popular music. He was one of the founders of Rock n' Roll in the 1950s and one of the most memorable performers in rock history. Little Richard was born in 1932 in Macon, Georgia.

"Tutti Frutti" (1955), one of Richard's signature songs, became a hit reaching the No. 2 on the Billboard chart. Another hit, "Long Tall Sally" (1956), hit No. 1 on Billboard. "Tutti Frutti" was added to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2010 and cited for its "unique vocalizing over the irresistible beat announced a new era in music". Two of his songs, "Tutti Frutti" and "Good Golly, Miss Molly" were listed on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll.

Little Richard's music was covered by several artists thereafter and his influ-



Little Richard's high-energy performances while playing the piano included dancing on top of the piano, running on and off the stage and throwing souvenirs to the audience. He also dressed flamboyantly onstage. Some of what is taken for granted now in popular music was invented by Little Richard. (Photo: Little Richard performing at the University of Texas Forty Acres Festival in 2007. Wikimedia Commons / Anna Bleker)

ence included The Beatles, who opened for Little Richard as he toured Europe in 1962. He also advised Paul McCartney on his distinctive vocalizations. Little Richard influenced Otis Redding, James Brown, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, John Lennon and Cliff Richard and those influences frequently showed up in their music.

Legend has it that James Brown came up with the Famous Flames debut hit, "Please, Please, Please", after Richard had written the words down on a nap-

kin. Redding started his professional career with Little Richard's band, The Upsetters. Bob Dylan performed covers of Little Richard's songs on piano during a high school talent show with his rock and roll group, the Golden Chords. In 1959, Dylan wrote in his yearbook under "Ambition": "to join Little Richard."

Many Rock critics noted the similarities between Prince's androgynous look and vocal style to Little

See **RICHARD**, Page 12

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Contact the Texas Christian University Army ROTC program at 817-257-6461, email Mr. Smith at army@tcu.edu, or text AJES to GOARMY for more info.



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NDG Book Review: Odetta: A Life in Music and Protest

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The first note had your foot tapping.

It didn't stop until the set was over or the LP needed flipping. The song moved you; those words meant everything. And the singer of those tunes? She was the entire reason those notes were worth listening to. In the new book "Odetta" by Ian Zack, you'll find out why so few know her name.

From the time she was old enough to talk, Odetta Holmes could sing.

She was born on New Year's Eve 1930 to a mother who didn't want her and a father she didn't meet until



she was in grade school. She was a big girl, and always self-conscious of it; on the day she met her father, he mentioned her size, which embarrassed her enough for the story to carry into her

adulthood.

But the big girl had an even bigger talent.

Shortly after her mother remarried and Odetta gained a stepfather and a new surname, money was found for piano lessons. Odetta enjoyed the piano but it was her singing voice that most impressed her teacher, who insisted that the girl have a voice coach. Odetta's school concurred and she was taught to sing operettas and German lieder, instructions that later served her well – although college was where she learned that music and politics together were a powerful force.

Picking up a borrowed

guitar and practicing at hootenannys, Odetta shyly began singing prison songs, spirituals, and then-popular folk tunes and protest songs. As her popularity grew, she became a recording artist, an actor, and a deep inspiration for history's biggest names and folk music's best performers, including Paul Simon and Bob Dylan.

Once, she told an interviewer that she didn't want fame because of the hassle. In the end, Odetta got what she asked for: despite her influential work, she never had a chart-topper or a best-selling record.

The line in the sand could be drawn like this: if you're

a "whatever-music-is-fine" kind of person, then just turn the page. Nothing to see here.

If you consider yourself a major music aficionado and liner-note devotee, though, "Odetta" is your book.

The difference comes in a distinction: Odetta (who professionally used just her first name) never went mainstream despite, as author Ian Zack points out, that her influence peppers music up and down the spectrum over the last forty or fifty years. Casual readers may never have heard of her; Zack shows instead that they've heard her through other art-

ists, and it happened in all the wrong ways. Odetta wasn't a destination, in other words; she was the journey.

Like the life of a not-quite-successful musician, however, "Odetta" struggles. Zack seems to have an odd focus on Odetta's hair, and the point is overly belabored. There are times, too, when this story drags like back-to-back whole notes, and that's no fun.

Still, readers who are truly serious about their music will relish "Odetta" as they grab their headphones and an LP to set the mood. If that's you, consider this book and make note.

North Texas Performing Arts - Academy announces expansion

Plano, Texas – North Texas Performing Arts - Academy announces its expansion to three new campuses in Dallas, Fairview and Frisco. In addition to its headquarters location in Plano, each campus will offer full-time and part-time schooling options for students in grades 6-12. The Academy will be opening its doors to students for their first day back to school on August 24 at all four locations.

"At the Academy, we work to provide a safe, protective and caring environment with class sizes last year averaging just 10.3

students and as few as 50 students on campus at one time," says NTPA Chief Executive Officer Darrell Rodenbaugh. "The Academy offers a less crowded alternative to public or private schools, many of which may be suspending their performing arts programs this coming school year."

NTPA has employed a Task Force of over twenty doctors, attorneys, educators, public health officials and other professionals to implement health and safety protocols for each facility beyond the CDC and State

of Texas guidelines. NTPA will conduct daily health checks, rigorous disinfection efforts, safe social distance and protective mask policies in spacious studios that provide almost 4 times the space per student of a typical public school.

"Our program looks a lot more like a college curriculum and our students are getting advanced studies they would never see in typical high school program," says Mike Mazur, NTPA Academy Head of School who taught at the collegiate level for a decade. "We've built a robust curriculum

and our faculty's credentials look more like what you'd find in a university staff."

"We have been overwhelmed with the interest in our Academy as parents

See NTPA, Page 11



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An easy way to save Texans' health care dollars

The Institute for Policy Innovation today released data from a recent study that showed how state and local governments in Texas can help address budget shortfalls as a result of the coronavirus pandemic by further encouraging their health plans to adopt the use of biosimilars.

Biosimilars are akin to generic versions of brand name drugs, with which many Texans are familiar. Biosimilars are "highly similar" to existing biologics and are approved by the FDA. Biologics are complex drugs that contain living cells usually injected or infused into

the body; they treat diseases such as cancer and arthritis, and are also in vaccines.

"Biologic medicines have enabled important medical advances that have improved the lives of millions of Americans," concludes Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., author of *The Biosimilar Opportunity: A State Breakdown*, released by The Pacific Research Institute (PRI). "Biosimilars should be contributing to these advances by promoting greater affordability of these treatments."

"It's no secret that the coronavirus is decimating state and local budgets in

Texas," said Merrill Matthews, resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation in Dallas. "One way they can help reduce health care spending and make up for some of that budget shortfall is by pushing a more aggressive adoption of biosimilars in their health plans."

Matthews' analysis of the PRI study shows that state and local governments in Texas could save as much as \$22 million if 75 percent of biologics were substituted with biosimilars. "Consider that 90 percent of prescriptions sold in the U.S. are for generics," said Matthews.

"The potential for biosimilar growth is there, and it is promising."

But biosimilars aren't just good for government budgets. Biosimilars are also good for patients. They are, on average, 30 percent lower in cost than their biologic counterparts. And, rapid adoption of biosimilars will introduce more competition in the industry, further driving down costs, increasing innovation and improving patient access to new and different treatments.

"As Texans struggle to emerge from the pandemic, our leaders will need new and innovative ways to

support state and local budgets—without further stressing taxpayer wallets," said Matthews.

"Biosimilars provide the short-term benefit of helping fill budget gaps, while also saving Texans money

and advancing innovation in the long-run. That's what we call a win-win-win."

The full issue brief from the Pacific Research Institute can be found online at www.pacificresearch.org.

FRAUD, from Page 5

The PPP allows qualifying small-businesses and other organizations to receive loans with a maturity of two years and an interest rate of 1 percent. PPP loan proceeds must be used by businesses on payroll costs,

interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. The PPP allows the interest and principal to be forgiven if businesses spend the proceeds on these expenses within eight weeks of receipt and use at least 75 percent of the

forgiven amount for payroll.

A federal criminal complaint is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Trial Attorney Louis Manzo of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney

Frank Coan for the Eastern District of Texas are prosecuting the case.

The Justice Department acknowledges and thanks the SBA Office of Inspector General, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service for their efforts investigating this matter.

NTPA, from Page 10

are looking for alternative educational options during the COVID-19 crisis," says Managing Director, DeAnna Stone. "We are excited to open up applications for three new campuses, expanding opportunities for home school and traditional public and private school students to explore their passion for the performing arts."

The Academy has already seen its students graduate to leading performing arts universities and gain stage and film opportunities. "NTPA - Academy opened our eyes to a whole new world we didn't know existed," says parent Tara Reid whose Academy daughter completed her first paid work on film last summer. "She is learning wonderful new skills and doing something she loves with like-minded students and amazing directors!"

NTPA - Academy campuses offer modern facilities with seven performance

theatres, ten rehearsal studios, 9 dance studios and private practice rooms in almost 50,000 square feet of space. The Academy offers core educational support to satisfy Texas State requirements, performing

arts classes and production experience between the hours of 8AM to 5:30PM.

NTPA will be accepting applications through June. Full curriculum details and informational workshops are available for sign-up at NTPA.org/academy.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot monopole small cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 216 East Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75039; 32° 52' 3.31" N, 96° 56' 23.58" W. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Tyler Sadutto, t.sadutto@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas and equipment at a top height of 32 feet 6 inches on a 32-foot 6-inch utility pole at the approx. vicinity of 4513 Swiss Ave. Ste. A, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75204, Lat: [32-47-53.8974], Long: [-96-46-27.9732]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Beth, b.thompson@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388 ext. 813.*

Investors Liquidation Sale: Laurel Land Cemetery Burial Plot For Sale (one space) Section # 3, Space # 15, Lot # 20



Sunny Ripert / Flickr

Laurel Land Cemetery charges for cost of single plot: \$3995.00
Discount Amount, if you act right away: <\$1500.00> (your savings)

Your Cost: \$2495 (financing available)

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(leave message if no answer)

U.S. Bank offers financial support and demonstrates commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion amid COVID-19 pandemic

(NNPA) MINNEAPOLIS, MN – As we weather the COVID-19 pandemic together, U.S. Bank is here to help. We have developed a single site full of online resources where customers can go to find helpful information regarding their financial needs. Through this online resource and other partnerships, U.S. Bank aims to provide simple, clear information to help individuals and small businesses get through the pandemic and tangible financial assistance to support our communities.

“Our entire team has rallied around each other, our customers and our communities, and it is a tremendous honor to work with them as we fight this pandemic,” said U.S. Bank

Chairman, President and CEO Andy Cecere in a statement on the company’s website. “We stand together, and we are focused on keeping people healthy and safe – personally, professionally and financially.”

At usbank.com/covid-19, customers will find helpful links to manage their finances, as well as information about the financial programs created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help individuals and small businesses – including Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), mortgage assistance, new rules for IRAs and retirement accounts, and the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

As the global coronavi-

rus pandemic upends all aspects of our lives, U.S. Bank is uniting with other corporations and long-standing partner organizations that are representing members of underserved and minority communities to advocate for inclusion among Pan-Asians and other cultural segments.

U.S. Bank joined Ascend, Catalyst, Executive Leadership Council (ELC), Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), National Organization on Disability (NOD) and Out & Equal as a Supporting Company on a COVID-19 response Action Agenda. These organizations are leading champions, connectors and conveners for business leaders and professionals who are

Pan-Asians, African American, Hispanic, women, LGBTQ and persons with disabilities.

These organizations are committed to redoubling on their mission to promote inclusion in these unprecedented times by addressing the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of the low wage earners in our communities are particularly impacted during this public health and economic crisis, while health officials indicate the pandemic has claimed disproportionate numbers of Black and Hispanic lives.

“We’re proud to stand with our peers and these leading organizations to help maintain a sense of community and support at a time when we need to stay

physically apart,” said Greg Cunningham, U.S. Bank Chief Diversity Officer.

U.S. Bank committed nearly \$60 million to employees and communities for COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts. It started with a new Pay Premium Program for front-line employees and a \$30 million investment in communities.

U.S. Bank transforms and expedites community investments in response to immediate COVID-19 needs

U.S. Bank has expedited its annual \$1 million Market Impact Fund grant program in April to provide funding for 30 local nonprofits that are working to respond to the most pressing needs in their communities.

From Los Angeles to Chicago, the grants are being used by nonprofits to support small businesses, maintain safe housing and ensure accessibility to critical human services by the communities’ most economically vulnerable populations. The company is deploying these funds three months earlier than originally scheduled to ensure immediate relief.

“We know how many nonprofits are struggling and we wanted to make sure that our partners know that we trust them to use our grant dollars in whatever way is needed to sustain the life-changing work they do in our communities every day,” said U.S. Bank Chief Social Responsibility Officer Reba Dominski.

RICHARD, from Page 9

Richard.

In 1963, Richard agreed to assist a failing tour effort by The Everly Brothers, Bo Diddley and The Rolling Stones and was given his own TV special after the tour ended.

Little Richard received all the honors possible in music. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of its first group of legendary inductees in 1986. He was also inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Little Richard is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. In 2015, Richard received a Rhapsody & Rhythm Award from the National Museum of African American Music for his key role in the formation of popular music genres and helping to bring an end to the racial divide on the music charts and in concert in the mid-1950s changing American culture significantly.

At the suggestion of Lloyd Price, Little Richard sent a demo to Price’s label,

Specialty Records, in 1955. Producer Robert “Bumps” Blackwell, who worked at Specialty Records, thought Little Richard was Specialty’s answer to Ray Charles, but was told by Little Richard he was a fan of the sound of Fats Domino. In 1955, he recorded “Tutti Frutti” in three takes and it was released as a single in November 1955.

Penniman’s performances, like most early rock and roll shows, resulted in integrated audience reaction during an era of strict segregation in the South. On tours that included groups of music stars, Little Richard and other artists such as Fats Domino and Chuck Berry would allow audiences Black and white to enter buildings via the same door but sit in separate places — but everyone would dance.

Vocal supremacist groups

such as the North Alabama White Citizens Council warned that rock and roll “brings the races together.” The universal popularity of Little Richard killed the myth that black performers could not successfully perform at white-only venues.

Little Richard’s high-energy performances while playing the piano included dancing on top of the piano, running on and off the stage and throwing souvenirs to the audience. He

also dressed flamboyantly onstage. Some of what is taken for granted now in popular music was invented by Little Richard.

Little Richard was ranked eighth on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time and Rolling Stone listed three of Little Richard’s recordings, “The Girl Can’t Help It”, “Long Tall Sally” and “Tutti Frutti”, on their 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

Little Richard was the

third of 12 children of Leva Mae and Charles Penniman. His father was a church deacon and his mother was a member of Macon’s New Hope Baptist Church.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke).

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 37-foot 4-inch Small cell Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 600 Hidden Ridge, Irving, Dallas County, Texas, 75038, Lat: 32° 52' 45.3030" N, Long: 96° 57' 07.9734" W. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Tyler Hufnal, t.hufnal@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78704, 512-519-9388.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct several 36-foot small cell monopole communications towers in the vicinity of Dallas, Dallas County, TX. The locations for the proposed installations area as follows: 5846 Greenville Avenue, 75206, Lat: [32° 51' 23.8306" N], Long: [96° 46' 7.647" W]; 1462 Federal Street, 75202, Lat: [32° 46' 58.3284" N], Long: [96° 48' 1.9692" W]; 2946 Cedar Springs Road, 75219, Lat: [32° 48' 11.2788" N], Long: [96° 48' 20.1312" W]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

JOB FAIRS

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

The United States Army is hiring for over 150 different career fields.

PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES - 1 weekend a month, 2 weeks in the early summer. Stay local. Money for school, healthcare, paid drills and skill training, and up to \$20,000 enlistment bonus.

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Jobs in science, intelligence, combat, aviation, engineering, law and more. Contact 214-406 - 3737

Prerequisites:

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- Between the ages of 17-34
- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit census.gov to apply.

Ongoing City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position. Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCFVP>.

Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All depart-



ments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focused career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A NEW PLACE TO BELONG)

NOTICE: *New You, Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org*

Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the coronavirus.

May 24, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Medita-

tion" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

May 27, 7 pm

You Are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer from 7 to 8 pm as we pray for the world's coronavirus.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,
Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat!

Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

May 24

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glo-

ry and honor.

May 27

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible

See CHURCH, Page 14



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May 4, 2020

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Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs)

Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
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Death Notices - ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

Darlene Collins

Born: 1/16/1944
Died: 5/7/2020

Prepared Place Funeral Home**Dewayne Porter**

Born: 3/19/1987
Died: 5/9/2020

Prepared Place Funeral Home**Clarence Miller**

Born: 10/23/1945
Died: 4/28/2020

Prepared Place Funeral Home**Ahriyia Crockett**

Born: 2/7/2020
Died: 4/28/2020

Prepared Place Funeral Home**Billy Wayne Fagan**

Born: 8/26/1948
Died: 5/4/2020

Services: Thursday, May 14, 2020 (2 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Ray Anthony Bethley

Born: 6/18/1961
Died: 5/2/2020

Visitation: Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 (1-7 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Services: Thursday, May 14th, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Johnny Burkins

Born: 9/20/1954
Died: 4/28/2020

Visitation: Thursday, May 14, 2020 (1-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Services: Friday, May 15, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Keana Betts

Born: 6/4/1980
Died: 5/6/2020

Services: Thursday, May 14th, 2020 (12 p.m.) at House of Refuge
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Million F. Weldeab

Born: 1/12/1975
Died: 5/10/2020

Services: Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 (10 a.m.) at Mekane Selam St. Michael and St. Kidane Meheret Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Deborah Ruth Garrett

Born: 09/30/1961
Died: 05/11/2020

Visitation: Thursday, 05/21/2020 (1-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Services: Friday, 05/22/2020 (11:00 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Home

Sandra Clark Funeral Home**Weldon Richardson**

Born: 10/17/1977

Died: 05/03/2020

Visitation: Thursday, 05/21/2020 (1-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Services: Friday, 05/22/2020 (2:30 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Dorothy Titus

Born: 11/12/1983
Died: 04/11/2020

Visitation: Friday,

05/22/2020 (1-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Services: Saturday, 05/23/2020 (11 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Sandra Clark Funeral Home**James Peoples**

Born: 03/04/1960

Died: 05/14/2020

Visitation: Friday, 05/22/2020 (1-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Service: Saturday, 05/23/2020 (2:30 pm)
Sandra Clark Funeral Home

CHURCH, from Page 13

Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
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MATTHEW 4:19**

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services

until further notice because of the coronavirus.

May 22, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

May 24, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May 25, 7 p.m.

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

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May 24, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

May 27, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD
Senior Pastor and
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075

972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

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IN PLANO
(WHERE COMMUNITY
BECOMES FAMILY)**

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Check "SMBC's" website

for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

May 24, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

May 25, 7 to 8 pm

Every Monday Night
Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary

(Chapel).

May 27, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
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www.smbcplano.org

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Funeral Directors send your customers' Death Announcements to:

Vickie Richardson Steward

Senior Executive / NDG's Obits Department

Cell: 682.408.2322

Email: ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

Why does God allow evil and disease?



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand."

(Psalm 130:3)

One of the most common questions every person wrestles with in life is this: "God, if You are loving, just, and all-powerful, why do You allow good people to suffer?"

Many choose not to believe in God because they cannot adequately explain this question. Evangelist Billy Graham addressed this question in his book *Answers to Life's Problems*:

We do not know all the reasons why God permits evil or diseases.

We need to remember, however, that God is not the cause of evil in this world and we should therefore not blame Him for it. Remember that God did not create

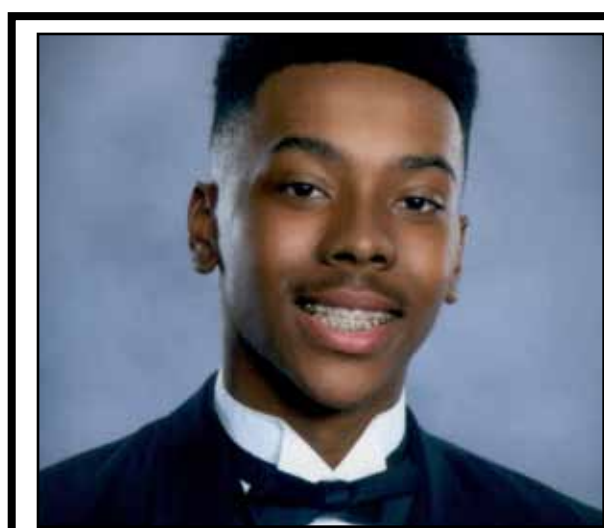
evil, as some believe. God created the world perfect. Man chose to defy God and go his own way, and it is man's fault that evil entered the world.

Even so, God has provided the ultimate triumph of good over evil in Jesus Christ, who on the cross, defeated Satan and those who follow him. Christ is coming back and when He does, all evil will be ended forever and righteousness and justice will prevail.

Have you ever thought about what would happen if God suddenly eliminated all the evil in this world? Not one person would be left, because we are all guilty of sin.

Whenever we suffer, we should remember that the Son of God went before us, drinking the cup of suffering and death to the dregs. Because Christ is fully man and fully God, we know that God understands our fears, sorrows and suffering. He identifies with us.

Most important of all, God the Father has given us the gift of His Son so that



Brandon Miles Hill, a Hebron High School 2020 grad, will be attending Austin College in the Fall

we don't have to die and suffer forever in eternity.

Because Jesus suffered and died for us, our suffering can be made like His - purposeful and meaningful. Evil, suffering and death came into the world when the first man and woman listened to Satan and committed the first sin.

Evil was never part of the Garden of Eden. The moment Adam and Eve crossed the boundary of God's command, evil became the terrible reality of

this world.

There are some questions that will remain unresolved until we are able to meet face to face with God our Creator in Heaven.

God is your Creator and Sustainer, worship Him and lift up your praise up to Him. Thank Him for

showing you things that bind you on this earth. Ask Him to open your eyes that you may always be mindful of what may hold you in bondage. Seek help to resist the things you should.

Ask for help to steer clear

of hazards and to draw strength from God's Holy Spirit when temptations are enticing you. Seek help to break free...and to experience total freedom in Him. Thank Him in the name of Jesus.

NDG^{tv} North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**. Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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The Valsartan lawsuits claim that numerous batches of Valsartan have been found to be contaminated with the cancer-causing substances N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). Our law firm is accepting clients who took Valsartan and have been diagnosed with liver, intestine, colon or colorectal, stomach, esophageal, pancreatic, prostate, NHL or other blood cancers.

WE WILL BE SEEKING DAMAGES FOR YOU

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