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# Battle brewing over Census count of undocumented immigrants

President Donald J. Trump has made it clear he does not intend to allow the undocumented population to skew the representation of states in the halls of congress or elsewhere.

"We will collect all of the information we need to conduct an accurate census and to make responsible decisions about public policy, voting rights, and representation in Congress," Trump said.

The administration's efforts to include questions about citizenship on Census forms has already drawn the ire of many detractors. The focus of these efforts was made crystal clear in a release from the White House this week, where Trump clearly indicated he would not allow non-citizens to affect the apportionment of representatives in the nation's capitol.

"Giving congressional representation and political influence to illegal aliens – people who have blatantly disregarded our laws – would be a perversion of our democratic principles," the White House said in a written statement. "Allowing illegal aliens to be counted for the purpose of apportionment could also create perverse incentives – such as potentially rewarding states that encourage violations of Federal immigration law – that would undermine our system of government."



Immigration issues have been a mainstay of the Trump administration since the day he announced his candidacy. Now, Census policy has intertwined with immigration making Democrats and civic organizations cry foul. (Photo: Samantha Sophia / Unsplash)

The statement went on to say that the Constitution does not specifically define which persons must be included in terms of representation. It merely states they must be apportioned by "what has long been understood to mean the 'inhabitants' of each State."

The backlash from opponents of the president's stance on illegal immigrants was swift and severe.

"This president will stop at nothing to erase this country's people of color from representation in our government," said Nan Aron, president of the Alliance for Justice. "This executive order, issued just days after the president was once again defending the Confederate

flag, is his latest attempt to rig our country to preserve white power.

"Combined with his attacks to make it harder for people to vote, this smacks of a desperate appeal to his base following his unpopular handling of the coronavirus pandemic, economic fallout, police brutality, and racial equality protests. Perhaps Trump believes that the many judges he's appointed with records opposing voting rights and immigrants' rights will uphold his cruel efforts to count people of color out of our democracy, but he will surely lose in a direct fight with the U.S. Constitution."

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Barbara and Leonard Oldums

### People In The News...



Brandon Gilpin



Greg Ellis

NDG Quote of the Week: "Where there is no vision, there is no hope."

— George Washington Carver



## Barbara and Leonard Oldums

(Arlington Chamber of Commerce) Greater Arlington has a diverse and vibrant business community. To coincide with Jackie Robinson Day, the Texas Rangers celebrate the diversity within our community while honoring the legacy of Jackie Robinson. The Texas Rangers Baseball Club and Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation recognize diverse-owned businesses with the Jackie Robinson Business Most Valuable Diverse Partner Award (MVDPA). We are proud to see the Industrial Solutions Company recognized as the 2020 MVDPA.



Industrial Solutions Company is owned and managed by greater Arlington business leaders and active Chamber members Barbara and Leonard Oldums. Together, the couple has helped

grow Industrial Solutions Company. "It is so wonderful that we won the award together," said Owner Barbara Oldums.

Industrial Solutions Company was honored with this

prestigious award for going above and beyond the call of duty to exhibit quality, class and professionalism in all aspects of its business. "It really is a true blessing after all of the hard ups and downs, all of our savings put in, late nights and trying to develop customers as a small business," said Barbara Oldums. She credits her business' success to their commitment to customer service and building relationships. "Even if there is a problem, we don't run away from it. We stay right there with the customer. Sometimes we help them solve problems that we don't even know of, but they trusted us

enough to help us solve the problem that another vendor created."

Vice President & CFO Leonard Oldums explained how the opportunity to work with the Rangers began with providing a limited amount of supplies, but has grown since. Leonard Oldums described how their commitment enables Industrial Solutions Company to succeed and be recognized within the community.

"I don't want to be the best minority business in town, I want to be the best industrial supply company there is period. So what that will cause you to do when you approach it with that

mindset, is put on your business suit and make business presentations in the morning then you come home and put your jeans and t-shirt on to make deliveries. When you do that, you will get rewarded not just as a minority business, but as the best period. I think everyone should shoot for being the best period," Leonard Oldums.

Industrial Solutions' relationship with the Rangers has helped them gain more customers and more relationships within the community. Regardless of whether a firm is a minority or small business, the Oldums stress the importance of building relationships.

## Brandon Gilpin

Actor, dancer, musician and current Morehouse College student, Brandon Gilpin is making his mark on the entertainment industry co-starring as a series regular in Starz' hot new series P-Valley. Adapted from Katori Hall's play Pussy Valley, P-Valley is a provocative hour-long drama series that takes its audience deep down in the Mississippi Delta, to a sparkling oasis in a rough patch of human existence where beauty can be hard to find - the small town strip club. The series takes aim at the stigma often attached to strippers with the



goal of showing their story through the female gaze. The show is currently airs Sundays on Starz.

The atmospheric series P-Valley centers on a little-strip-club-that-could and those that come through its

doors - the hopeful, the lost, the broken, the ballers, the beautiful, and the damned - and shows what happens when people in a small town dream big. In "P-Valley", trap music meets film noir, grit meets glitter, and the church clashes with the erotic. The show delves deep into the complex lives of its characters and the southern culture that surrounds them. Gilpin plays 'Neva Scared', the strip club's underage DJ who is the rhythm and heartbeat of the establishment. A nerdy student by day, he takes on a completely different persona at night as the standout comic relief for the series

which can get dark and gritty. With a long history of hypersexualized images of black women, it was important for Hall - who is also the showrunner - to highlight these women in a different way and the series is in service of those who are marginalized and made to feel ashamed and dehumanized. This includes the character 'Uncle Clifford' who is a non-binary queer black male who identifies with the pronoun of she. With the primary goal of being told with the female gaze, the show also features all female directors.

Born and raised in Amityville, New York, Gilpin

originally started his career as an entertainer at the age of 3 when he began taking dance lessons. He instantly fell in love with performing for others, whether that was creating funny skits or starring on stage in a leading role. In the 10th grade, he started a dance party troupe and his nickname "ShowTimeBrando" was coined. Word quickly spread of his dance parties and bold and fun personality and before long, he had grown a strong social media following. Around this time he also began creating and performing his own music and in 2015, he released his first song "ShowTimeBrando -

Ultimate Dance Challenge" along with a video of him dancing to the song and in less than a week it had over 50,000 views on Facebook. In 2017, he released another original song / dance video "ShowTimeBrando - Senior Anthem 2K17" that he created for his High School Pep Rally which quickly went viral overnight.

Gilpin moved to Atlanta as a theatre and film major at the prestigious Morehouse College where he began auditioning for more professional acting roles. While attending classes, he saw that the BET show

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## Greg Ellis

Today, Monday, July 20, 2020, Texas College named former Dallas Cowboys Defensive End Greg Ellis as the Steers' Head Football Coach. Ellis brings a wealth of experience as both a player and coach in the NFL. Coach Ellis played for the Dallas Cowboys and Oakland Raiders throughout his 12-year career in the NFL; 10 of those years Ellis served as the team captain for both the Cowboys and Raiders. Coach Ellis' leadership experience extends beyond the gridiron, serving as founder and CEO of Play Now Enterprise, a multimedia production company



responsible for the film Carter High, and impactful plays such as Juneteenth and Watchnight.

"We are excited for Greg Ellis to join Texas College as the Head Football Coach. His professional experiences and philosophies as a player, coach,

as well as civic leader, mirror that which our athletic programs are built upon," noted Dr. Dwight J. Fennell, President. "His commitment to ensuring student-athletes not only develop physically, but also intellectually aligns with Texas College's mission. We anticipate Coach Ellis' leadership to greatly benefit our program in a multitude of ways, including student success and graduation matriculation."

Though the Steers will not participate in football this fall, Texas College will maintain the program and field a team for intercollegiate competition next season. With the College moving to online instruction for

Fall 2020, football and other fall sports will still train and meet regularly through a virtual experience.

"I am excited about the opportunity to be the Head Football Coach of Texas College. Since we are not able to play any games this year, we will maximize our virtual capabilities to the fullest," commented Coach Ellis. "I am looking forward to working with all the young men and meeting their families. We have a lot of work ahead of us; nevertheless, we are ready for the challenge to be successful on and off the field. Last, but certainly not least, I thank Dr. Fennell and his staff for entrusting me with this task."

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# 'Trump records could reveal numerous financial crimes'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior Correspondent

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) praised the recent Supreme Court ruling that provides Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance access to President Donald Trump's tax and financial records.

In a live interview on Monday, July 13, with BlackPressUSA, Ocasio-Cortez called the decision "huge," and said the release of the president's records could reveal whether Trump has participated in financial crimes.

"I think opening the door and allowing the New York prosecutor's office to access Trump's taxes is a huge step. From day one of his campaign, Trump was the first to break from that tradition (of unveiling his financial records)," Ocasio-Cortez said during the interview, which included Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes.

"Even before he was president, people were raising alarm bells," Ocasio-Cortez suggested. "The reason we ask for tax and financial records of presidential candidates to be

made public is precisely for this reason. To see if there isn't any indication that a candidate can be extorted or some conflict of interest," she said.

"The fact that the president has hidden it from day one is an issue, and it turns out as time has gone on, he very well may be implicated in crimes. His taxes may further implicate him in the criminality of a financial nature, and that has huge consequences for our governance."

This month's ruling marked the first time that the nation's highest court has directly ruled on a matter involving Trump's financial dealings.

The president has steadfastly refused to release his tax records to the public, and with the election drawing close, Ocasio-Cortez noted concerns have only increased.

"We do have testimony that there is something there," Ocasio-Cortez declared.

She continued:

"While some people may speculate about foreign connections and Russia, ultimately the things he's been directly implicated are financial fraud, tax fraud, and tax evasion. [Trump's

former attorney] Michael Cohen came before a congressional committee and testified that Donald Trump over-inflated his assets for insurance companies, and under-inflated them for taxes.

"Both are crimes, and Cohen indicated that this was done regularly. It could [Trump's] financial crimes are on a scale of tens of millions of dollars. That's enormous, and it could be used as a source to blackmail him. It's a crime, and it's likely one reason he's tried to hide his taxes when he ran."

In an attempt to prevent future candidates and those in office to hide their financial status from the public, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1 last year.

The bill, which Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has thus far refused to take up, would expand access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants.

"It's a sweeping electoral reform bill that could start to chip away at the power of big money and dark money," Ocasio-Cortez stated. "Throughout Trump's

tenure, he has shown that many of the customs that we took for granted were not law."

The congresswoman added that Trump's recent pardons and the commutation of the president's friend Roger Stone raise significant concern.

"It's extremely troubling because the message that Trump is sending to his accomplices is that if you commit a crime for me, then I will let you off the hook," Ocasio-Cortez said.

The congresswoman also made a plea for everyone to fill out the 2020 Census.

"This is so important for our communities, especially for communities of color because we have historically been undercounted," Ocasio-Cortez noted.

"One message that I think is important to get across is that your Census information is completely confidential. It doesn't matter [where you live], if you owe child support, are undocumented, or in debt. None of that information is shared with anybody. It's not only illegal, but it's an immense crime for anyone at the Census to leak personal information. Your information is completely safe and confidential."

## Report showcases actionable climate change solutions for rural areas

By Kayla Bergman  
Center for Rural Affairs

that the committee believes Congress should enact.

A bipartisan committee in the U.S. House of Representatives recently released a comprehensive plan outlining the policy steps needed to address climate change.

The report, "Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America," lays out detailed, actionable climate solutions legislation

Rural America has seen the effects of climate change, with increased extreme weather events and the 2019 devastating flooding in Iowa and Nebraska still fresh on many minds. This report outlines the intersection of climate and rural areas — with rural America being a crucial part of the solution.

Investments in agriculture for climate solutions is a key part of the rural focus in the report. Among the

recommended steps outlined by the committee are: boosting funding for farmers implementing conservation practices that sequester carbon, more support for on-farm renewable energy, and increase support for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers to incorporate climate-smart agriculture into those programs.

Sydney Westphal, a Center for Rural Affairs supporter, was one of many who weighed in on the plan last fall and this spring. She

outlined many actions that Congress could take to support rural America in its efforts to address climate change.

"In order to outreach and deliver technical assistance to the farmers and ranchers interested in conservation practices to lower carbon emissions, USDA NRCS offices need to be fully staffed in soil and technical staff," she said.

The full report can be found at climatecrisis.house.gov.

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# Hotel industry releases Top 5 requirements to travel safely

WASHINGTON, DC – (NNPA) The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) today released the “Safe Stay Guest Checklist” for guests on how to travel safely while also creating a standardized safety experience nationwide. This checklist is part of AHLA’s Safe Stay guidelines, an industry-wide, enhanced set of health and safety protocols designed to provide a safe and clean environment for all hotel guests and employees.

The Safe Stay Guest Checklist includes:

- Require face coverings in all indoor public spaces and practice social distancing in all common areas.
- Choose contactless options, where available, including online reservations, check-ins, and payments.
- Consider daily room cleaning, only if necessary. Ask the hotel about your options.

- Request contactless room service delivery.

- Refrain from traveling if you have, or recently had, any symptoms of COVID-19 or contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.

“The top priority for the hotel industry is the health and safety of guests and employees. Utilizing these best practices, including requiring face coverings and practicing social distancing in public spaces, will create an even safer environment for all our guests and employees,” said Chip Rogers, President and CEO of AHLA. “As an industry, we want every guest to experience a clean and safe hotel no matter where they stay.



*“The top priority for the hotel industry is the health and safety of guests and employees. Utilizing these best practices, including requiring face coverings and practicing social distancing in public spaces, will create an even safer environment for all our guests and employees,” said Chip Rogers, President and CEO of AHLA. (Photo: iStockphoto/NNPA)*

We applaud governors who have standardized the use of face coverings in all indoor public spaces and we urge all lawmakers to help make this a national standard by implementing this requirement in their states. These preventative measures make it safer and easier for Americans to travel while also supporting hotel and tourism employees.”

Statements below from AHLA Member Companies:

**Chris Nassetta, President and CEO, Hilton** said, “Hilton is united with the hospitality industry in prioritizing the health and safety of our guests and employees. We are supportive of the industry adopting consistent guidelines and practices that adhere to public health guidelines, including the wearing of face coverings indoors and in public areas. As part of our Hilton CleanStay program developed in partnership with Lysol and the Mayo Clinic, all Hilton Team Members are required to wear face coverings in an effort to protect all who enter our more than 6,100

properties worldwide.”

**Mark Hoplamazian, President & Chief Executive Officer, Hyatt** said, “At Hyatt, we require face coverings for hotel guests across the U.S. and Canada in order to care for the health and safety of our guests and colleagues. To help enable safe travel amidst the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, we need to come together as an industry and promote clear guidelines, which for the foreseeable future include the wearing of face coverings in indoor public spaces and practicing social distancing.”

**Elie Maalouf, CEO, Americas, IHG** said, “It is critical we take action to protect the health and safety of guests and colleagues to build confidence in travel as the industry begins to recover. IHG fully supports the AHLA Safe Stay program, which complements the protocols in our own IHG Way of Clean, and the new Covid-19 best practices implemented in all of our hotels in partnership with the Cleveland Clinic. Requiring face coverings

in all indoor public spaces across our industry will help create an even safer environment for all travelers and frontline hotel colleagues.”

**Jonathan Tisch, Chairman & CEO, Loews Hotels & Co.** said, “The travel & tourism industry is rooted in partnerships. As an industry we need to work and align together and AHLA’s Safe Stay Guidelines is an opportunity to do just that. As hotel operators and owners, we have a role and responsibility to provide a welcoming, safe and comfortable environment for team members, guests and our communities, and now more than ever we need to ensure we are exceeding expectations in this area.”

**Arne Sorenson, CEO, Marriott International** said, “The health and safety of associates and guests has always been a top priority at Marriott. Part of our Commitment to Clean is that we’re redefining our cleaning and safety standards to align with evolving expert protocols as we all work together to manage the spread of COVID-19. Health guidance is clear on wearing masks and it is a simple step everyone can take when in public spaces of hotels to protect themselves, each other and associates. We’re pleased

to join with the industry to create consistency and collectively support our communities so we all can travel more safely.”

**Jim Alderman, Chief Executive Officer, Americas, Radisson Hotel Group** said, “One of Radisson Hotel Group’s highest priorities is the continued health, safety and security of our guests, team members, and partners. One of the easiest ways to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 is by wearing a face covering, especially indoors. It’s going to take all of us working together,

which is why we stand alongside AHLA in asking our government leaders to help make this national standard by implementing this requirement in their states.”

To further expand the hotel industry’s Safe Stay initiative, AHLA also recently launched COVID-19 Precautions for Hotels, an online course developed in partnership with the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (AHEI) to help hotels train their staffs on the enhanced safety and cleanliness guidelines.

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## Millions of Americans who get health coverage from employers could lose coverage during COVID-19

By Edward R. Berchick  
and Laryssa Mykyta  
US Census

Most Americans receive health insurance through their job or a family member’s job. So, when workers lose their jobs, they — and

their family members — run the risk of losing their health coverage as well.

Previously released estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) show that

about 55.1% of the U.S. population — some 178 million people — had employer-sponsored insurance or ESI in 2018.

A more detailed portrait of ESI gives us a glimpse at

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## Members of the House and Senate administration committees call for the removal of Confederate memorials on capitol grounds

AUSTIN, TX—This morning, members of the House Committee on Administration and the Senate Committee on Administration issued a joint letter calling for the immediate removal of several Confederate memorials located on the Capitol Grounds. In addition, the members call for the renaming of the John H. Reagan State Office Building.

“By maintaining idols and symbols of hate we are

endorsing their body of work as deserving of high honor,” said Rep. Carl Sherman, (D-DeSoto). “It’s time to remove idols of men who did not love all men, nor did they believe that people of color were created equal by God. There has never been a time so right to do what’s right.”

For over a century, these memorials have signaled to visitors, staff and legislators alike, that the State of Texas venerates the legacy of the

Confederacy. By virtue of their placement on state grounds, these memorials are elevated to a reverence reserved for the most righteous of individuals and causes.

“Life size images of men who actually fought to oppress and enslave the entire Black race continue to perpetuate the generational trauma of racism,” remarked Rep. Shawn Thierry (D-Houston). “The time is overdue to correct the

record as we can no longer glorify those who fought to uphold the barbaric practice of slavery.

“As a life-long Texan, and descendant of slavery, I join this diverse coalition of my colleagues in the House and Senate as we call for the removal of threatening Confederate imagery from the Capitol grounds. The goal is clear: We must ensure that every walkway and hallway of our Capitol is viewed as a safe space for all Texans.”



A statue memorializing Texas Confederate soldiers sits in front of the State Capitol in Austin, one of the monuments House and Senate leaders are seeking to remove. (Photo: Mark Loveys / Flickr)

## Dallas lowriders take to the streets for the Census

More than 85 colorful lowriders traveled across Oak Cliff Sunday in the Let’s Get Counted Cruise Sunday, July 12, to remind people there is still time to be counted by filling out the 2020 U.S. Census by Oct. 31.

Starting at Mountain View College, the colorful line of lowriders cruised through Illinois Avenue to Hampton Road to Zang Boulevard, where the group dispersed. Several of the cars then joined the Census Live events on Jefferson Boulevard, where Dallas County Counts! Staff and



Courtesy photo

volunteers—wearing their distinctive uniforms—had set up information booths, music, and free Wi-Fi so families could fill out the Census online form right there and get counted.

The United Lowriders Association and the Dallas County Counts! campaign came together to drive home the importance of everyone taking part in this year’s Census count. The

decennial population count is used to determine the allocation of billions of dollars in funds for such services as health, education, and transportation as well as to establish representation at all levels of government.

This year’s Census outreach is led by local ad agency, ABI. “This partnership is exactly what’s needed to make sure all residents know how important they are to the future of our area,” said Sophia Johnson, President, ABI. “We want everyone to understand that more people means more

money and more power for our local communities and for Texas.”

The United Lowriders Association was established 25 years ago to unite car clubs and solo riders that share the common interest in lowriders and to serve the community by combating the stereotypical image that the general public has of the lifestyle, said Lucy Bocanegra, a member of the ULA board of directors.

She added that the group was excited to contribute to getting more people in Oak Cliff—an area that has

been traditionally hard to count—to respond to the Census.

“We want people in our community to be counted,” said Josie Cortez-Lozano current ULA president. “We want people to know that being counted means better roads, schools and representation. If we do not respond, we will not get things other areas get by responding.”

For information in several languages about the 2020 U.S. Census and to fill out the form online, visit <https://www.2020census.gov>.

## State Bar president under fire for remarks about BLM attire

TALLAHASSEE – Civil rights attorneys Ben Crump and Antonio Romanucci join the voices denouncing recent comments about Black Lives Matter by State Bar of Texas President Larry P. McDougal, Sr. He was elected to the position for 2020-2021, but on July 10, 2020, just days after beginning his role, McDougal created a Facebook post saying an elec-

tion poll worker wearing a Black Lives Matter t-shirt should be removed, and that there was no difference between that shirt and someone wearing a “Make America Great Again” hat. McDougal has since issued an apology video on YouTube, but many attorneys in Texas and across the country say they have serious concerns about McDougal’s views on race.

In addition to the July comments, McDougal is now known to have called Black Lives Matter a “terrorist organization” that “called for the death of not just police officers but also white Americans” in 2015.

At least one director of the State Bar of Texas has called for McDougal to resign, and leaders of the 105,000 member State Bar and the 26,000 mem-

ber Texas Young Lawyers Association have strongly denounced his remarks, saying the organization is united against racism and dedicated to advancing diversity and inclusion in the administration of justice and the practice of law.

“Attorney McDougal’s racist comments about Black Lives Matter are troubling and show an insensitivity to the basic

Constitutional rights of all Americans,” said civil rights attorney Ben Crump of Ben Crump Law.

“Racism has absolutely no place in any leadership role, particularly at an organization like the State Bar of Texas that is responsible for advocating for the rights of all citizens in the state. The law must be color blind, which is clearly a challenge for Mr. McDou-

gal,” said civil rights attorney Antonio Romanucci of Romanucci & Blandin, LLC.

Attorneys Crump and Romanucci independently and as a team have worked to bring justice to many members of the black community who have been victims of excessive force and police misconduct, including George Floyd.

## Sanders’ defense cuts garner support from half of Dem caucus

WASHINGTON, DC -- On Wednesday, Sen. Bernie Sanders’ (I-Vt.) amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to cut America’s \$740 billion military budget by 10% to invest in jobs, health care, and educa-

tion secured the support of 23 members of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

“Today, almost half of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus—23 Senators—voted to cut Pentagon spending by 10% and invest

in human needs. This is far and away the most significant step forward in recent years in addressing our bloated \$740 billion military budget and changing our national priorities,” said Sanders. “We are going to continue

building a political movement which understands that it is far more important to invest in working people, the children, the elderly, and the poor than in spending more on defense than the next 11 nations combined.”

In addition to Markey, Sanders’ amendment was cosponsored by Sens. Warren (D-Mass.), Merkley (D-Ore.), Wyden (D-Ore.), and was endorsed by Senate Democratic Leader Schumer (D-N.Y.). In addition to the

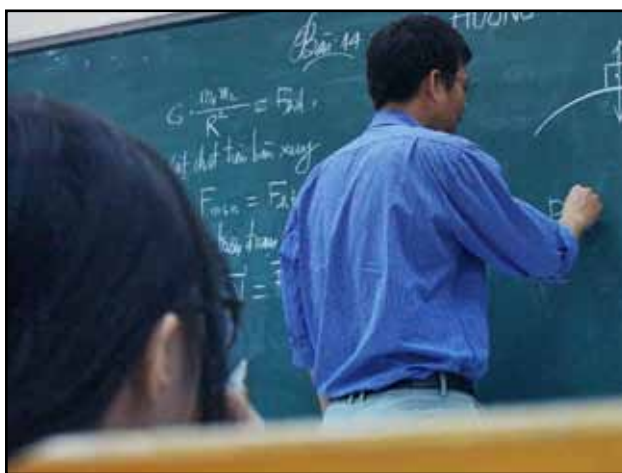
Senate vote, 93 members of the House of Representatives—40% of the Democratic Caucus—voted on a companion amendment introduced by Representatives Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) and Barbara Lee (D-Calif.).

# TSTA sues education commissioner over charter rules, alleging they illegally remove teacher certification, contractual requirements

The Texas State Teachers Association on Wednesday sued state Education Commissioner Mike Morath for adopting charter school partnership rules they say illegally deprive public school teachers of contractual and other employment rights and allow corporate charter chains to operate in Texas without certified teachers.

The lawsuit, filed in state district court in Travis County, seeks a declaratory judgment invalidating the rules and invalidating all district charter contracts that were approved under the rules' provisions.

"In his eagerness to pro-



Tra Nguyen / Unsplash

mote corporate charter expansion in Texas at the expense of neighborhood public schools, Commissioner Morath keeps ignoring one important thing: He is supposed to be a regulator

of charters, not their champion," said TSTA President Ovidia Molina. "Teacher certification and contractual rights are important safeguards ensuring that students receive quality in-

struction in our classrooms. That is why the Legislature enacted those safeguards into law, which the commissioner has illegally disregarded."

In its lawsuit, filed by General Counsel Russell Ramirez, TSTA attacks commissioner's rules that require a school district to give a charter partner taking over a district campus the final authority to hire, supervise, assign and evaluate all of that campus' employees. The TSTA says this requirement violates educators' rights and benefits under several sections of the Texas Education Code, including teacher employ-

ment contracts; certification requirements; teacher duties and benefits; hearings of grievances; and appeals of employment issues to the commissioner.

Under the Texas Education Code, TSTA argues, "Defendant (Morath) may not grant a school campus or district an exemption or waiver of educators' rights and benefits. Defendant is attempting to do by regulation what is prohibited by statute."

"The regulations... threaten to interfere with and impair the legal rights and benefits of (TSTA) members regarding their certification and contractual rights and

benefits," the suit continues.

The rules are "an unreasonable, unwarranted and excessive exercise of the power vested in (the commissioner) and permits the hiring of non-certified teachers to teach and limits the contractual rights and benefits of teachers," it says.

In a ruling last month in an earlier TSTA lawsuit against the commissioner, state District Judge Jan Soifer of Travis County ruled that Morath had violated the law by writing a separate rule that allows charter chains to take over some public schools without first consulting with teachers and other campus personnel.

## Texas governor announces Emergency Education Relief Funding appropriated for Texas higher education due to COVID-19

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott announced this week that the State of Texas will invest \$57 million in federal funds to maintain the state's need-based financial aid programs and keep more students enrolled at their colleges and universities. The investment of federal funds will offset potential coronavirus-related cuts to key state financial aid programs, including TEXAS Grants, Texas Educational Opportunity Grants, and Tuition Equalization

Grants.

The funding comes from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

"As Texas responds to the economic and educational impacts of COVID-19, we want to make sure that students who depend on financial aid continue to receive the support they need to earn their college degree," said Governor Abbott. "This

funding will help keep our students on the path to finishing their education and entering the workforce with knowledge and experience that will help them launch productive careers and attract more employers to our state. These grant programs provide targeted investments in Texas students and in the future of our state."

"Keeping Texas students on track to earn high-value credentials is vital not only for those students and their families but also to help accelerate the state's econom-

ic recovery," said Commissioner of Texas Higher Education Harrison Keller.

"I appreciate the leadership of Governor Abbott and Commissioner Keller and their commitment to our institutions of higher education. Our universities and community colleges are the foundation of our communities. Investing in our colleges and securing financial aid for our students are critical for our recovery from this pandemic and for the economic success of Texas," said Senator

Juan Hinojosa.

"The funding decisions provide necessary resources for our higher education institutions. In order to meet the needs of the Texas workforce, it is imperative that our next generation have more opportunity to continue their training with a robust education system. Critical to that success is ensuring that student financial aid awards remain in tact at a time when Texas families are struggling from the financial fallout of the shut down.

I'm proud to have worked with Governor Abbott and my legislative colleagues on these decisions ensuring that funding is available in these extraordinary times for our children who are the future of our economy," said Representative Giovanni Capriglione.

"These financial aid programs are essential for many of our students. I commend the bipartisan effort to make sure all Texans have access to higher education," said Representative Oscar Longoria.

## WORKERS, from Page 4

those who may be at risk of losing their health insurance in light of recent economic upheaval due to COVID-19.

### Workers in Key Occupations

Recent economic shifts have likely affected workers in certain jobs more than in others. Media coverage has heavily focused on workers in food service and retail occupations who have lost

jobs due to social distancing measures and the closing of non-essential businesses in many states.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in service occupations (which include food service jobs) was 27.1% in April 2020.

While data on how these recent changes have affected coverage within households

are not yet available, we can use the CPS ASEC to examine coverage for workers in these jobs in 2018 and their families.

We focus on the following occupations that are among those affected during the pandemic and therefore most at risk of losing health coverage: food preparation and serving; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; personal care and service; and retail sales.

Collectively, 39.6 million people worked in these jobs in 2018, representing 23.6% of all workers.

Some key findings:

- The majority (55.2%) of workers (about 21.9 million) in one of these occupations had ESI plans.
- Slightly under a third (32.0%) of workers in these jobs were the policyholders. That is, the plan was in their name and their employment (as opposed to their spouse's

or a parent's employment) made them eligible to enroll.

### What About the Children?

In 2018, about 38 million children under 19 years had health insurance through their parents' ESI plan. This represents nearly one-half (49.1%) of all U.S. children under 19.

About 22.8% of children with parents employed in the above occupations (food preparation and serving;

building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; personal care and service; and retail sales) were on a parent's ESI plan. This means that ESI plans with workers in jobs likely affected by a shrinking economy covered 4.3 million children in 2018.

*Edward R. Berchick is senior health demographer at the Census Bureau. Laryssa Mykyta is branch chief in the Health and Disability Statistics Branch.*



## Remember your loved one in NDG Obituaries

It is important where the obituary of a loved one appears. We have been catering to the DFW African American community for more than three decades now. We not only cover the issues, but celebrate the lives and legacies of our local community. Contact [ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com)





# Teens to be honored at drive-by parade for Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program on Monday

While the COVID-19 pandemic is preventing the traditional end-of-summer luncheon celebrating the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program, a drive-by parade will take its place honoring the hard-working Plano teens who participated this extraordinary summer. The parade will be Monday, July 27, at 11 a.m., with Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere, elected officials and employers cheering on the teens on the east side of the Hilton/Dallas Plano Granite Park Hotel under



*Graduates of the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program are normally recognized at a special luncheon upon completion. However, this year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, these students will be recognized in a drive-by parade. (Photo: Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program)*

the porte cochere.

In its seventh year, the program provided 52 Pla-

no public high school students with remote or onsite jobs (or a combination of

both) at top companies and nonprofits for eight weeks (June 8-July 31), working 20-40 hours per week and earning a minimum of \$10 an hour.

But instead of the typical 400-plus guest luncheon and program with key speakers that usually culminates the summer, the students will arrive in decorated cars holding up colorful signs thanking those who supported the program.

With a pep-rally feel, Mayor LaRosiliere and

elected officials, employers and program sponsors will cheer on the interns with cowbells, signs, pom-poms, clackers and more, as high-energy music plays in the background.

During several parade stops, the interns will receive a swag bag with donated merchandise and sundry items along with a box lunch. Masks and social distancing measures will be in place.

The Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program gives outstanding

teens an opportunity to gain real-world experience through employment in a professional workplace.

The program combines Plano's vibrant business community with a nationally recognized school district, connecting motivated high school students with exceptional local companies and organizations. Capital One is the founding and presenting sponsor for a seventh year.

Learn more at [plano-mayorsinterns.org](http://plano-mayorsinterns.org).

## Irving investing in Parks and Recreation options for residents

By Fatema Biviji  
NDG Special Contributor

Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer began the July 16 Irving City Council meeting by proclaiming the month of July as National Parks and

Recreation Month and recognized the various benefits to the City as a result of the services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

On those lines, four of the items on the city's Con-

sistent Agenda related to improvements in this area of the city.

The council is approving \$51,500 for Architectural Design Services from RPGA Design Group Inc. for the Senter Park Recre-

ation Center Renovation Project, Phase IV. This project is federally funded by a Community Development Block Grant. The overall project includes improvements for: parking space and pedestrian acces-

sibility, racquetball courts and card control access, racquetball court showers' accessibility, mechanical room, window enlargements for 2nd floor fitness room, and some wall paint and flooring.

Also approved was an agreement with Lea Park and Play, Inc. for the amount of \$350,000 towards the CDBG-funded West Park Playground

**See PARKS, Page 11**



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**DeSoto**

The City of DeSoto is asking for help in protecting its city workers. To help protect the health and safety of our **sanitation waste haulers**, all household trash must be placed in bags and properly secured. Please do not dispose of loose trash in your garbage can or place it in a crate or box.

**Garland**

The City of Garland has upped the **incentive for homeowners to fix deteriorating sidewalks**.

Garland offers three new reductions to supplement its established 50-50 share of sidewalk reconstruction costs. A property owner who qualifies in all three categories may now bear

as little as 10 percent of the cost of fixing their sidewalk.

In addition to the 50% match, the following reductions in cost may now apply:

- An extra 15% if the property has a homestead exemption through Dallas County records
- An extra 15% if the ad-

dress is in a Community Development Block Grant area as marked by Department of Housing and Urban Development

- An extra 10% if the property owner is disabled according to Social Security Administration records or is age 65 or older

If you have questions about the matching grant

program, call 972-205-2930. City staff will then determine what work is eligible and the estimated cost.

It is the property owner's responsibility, per City ordinance, to keep sidewalks in safe condition. Unsafe conditions include more than two inches of elevation difference between

adjacent sections of sidewalks, cracks of two inches or more and sunken portions that create excessive ponding of water. Property owners are generally not responsible for sidewalks along streets of four or more lanes.

See BRIEFS, Page 9

# IN MEMORIAM: The World Mourns A True Icon and Freedom Fighter – John Lewis 1940-2020

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior Correspondent

Somewhere it's raining. Somewhere the heavens have opened up, reflecting the tears that are falling across the globe as news of the death of civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) spreads.

The legislator, freedom fighter and justice warrior, who was famously beaten, bloodied and arrested in Selma, Alabama — and in other cities across the Jim Crow South — during the struggle for civil rights and racial equality, was 80.

His death came just hours after another the passing of another civil rights icon, Rev. C.T. Vivian, who was 95.

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, and comrade in arms with both Rev. Vivian and Lewis, ex-



*Lewis announced late last year that he had Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. However, stalwart in his resolve to fight until the end, he refused to quit the struggle. "I have been in some kind of fight — for freedom, equality, basic human rights — for nearly my entire life," he said, "I have never faced a fight quite like the one I have now."*

(Photo: Lorie Shaull / Wikimedia Commons)

pressed the devastation he and the world feel at the loss of the two revered giants.

Chavis, like Vivian and Lewis, worked with and was a disciple of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He said the world would miss Lewis's "good trouble," quoting Lewis's famous call to arms. "The Honorable John Lewis was a longtime mas-

ter freedom fighter who set the eternal example of how and why we all should fight for the freedom and equality of all humanity," Chavis remarked.

"May Lewis now have his rest in peace. As for those of us who worked with him and [those] who marched with him, we must keep fighting for freedom and equality

with renewed vigor, courage and energy. Black Lives Matter."

During the NNPA's 2020 Virtual Annual Convention earlier this month, attendees were treated to a free screening of the documentary, John Lewis: Good Trouble, provided by the Census Bureau. Lewis was also a strong advocate for Census registration.

As he'd done earlier to honor Rev. Vivian, former president Barack Obama expressed his sorrow.

"John Lewis — one of the original Freedom Riders, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the youngest speaker at the March on Washington, leader of the march from Selma to Mont-

gomery, Member of Congress representing the people of Georgia for 33 years — not only assumed that responsibility, he made it his life's work," Obama observed.

"He loved this country so much that he risked his life and his blood so that it might live up to its promise. And through the decades, he not only gave all of himself to the cause of freedom and justice but inspired generations that followed to try to live up to his example."

The former president recalled his last meeting with Lewis.

"It's fitting that the last time John and I shared a public forum was at a virtual town hall with a gathering of young activists who were helping to lead this

summer's demonstrations in the wake of George Floyd's death. Afterward, I spoke to him privately.

"He could not have been prouder of their efforts — of a new generation standing up for freedom and equality, a new generation intent on voting and protecting the right to vote, a new generation running for political office," Obama recounted.

"I told him that all those young people — of every race, from every background and gender and sexual orientation — they were his children. They had learned from his example, even if they didn't know it. They had understood through him what American citizenship

See LEWIS, Page 14

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# Motorsports in America: Do Black Lives Matter?

NNPA Newswire Service  
and BlackPressUSA.com

WASHINGTON, DC. — This past Fourth of July, the motorsports world was exploding with action in Austria with Formula One, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway made history by hosting INDYCAR and NASCAR, on the same race weekend.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, and the civil unrest that ensued, each racing series has been in the news with regards to their interest to support the abolishment of racial injustices, racism and police brutality by having their respective sport create diversity and inclusion initiatives to welcome a new generation of fans, industry professionals and sponsors.

But the key question remains unanswered. In the growing economic gains and spheres of public influence of the Motorsports Industry in America, do Black Lives Matter?

The NNPA is the global media partner for the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN), an advocacy and marketing partner of the United Nations, and we had an opportunity to interview an African American leader in motorsports, Chris Miles, Global Motorsport Marketing Advisor and Diversity & Inclusion Strategist for ARDN, as well as principal owner of Starting Grid, Inc., to get his opinion on



*Motorsports has experienced a bit of controversy in regards to African Americans as of late. NNPA sat down with Chris Miles to discuss the direction of one of America's most popular entertainment venues. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

the diversity initiatives happening now in the world of motorsports.

**NNPA:** Chris we are pleased to have the opportunity to speak with you and learn more about what is going on in the world of motorsports with regards to diversity and inclusion, but before we do, please tell us about Starting Grid, Inc.?

**Chris Miles:** Thank you, the pleasure is mine. Per your question, I founded Starting Grid in May of 1994, due to the difficulty I was having securing sponsorship when I was actively participating in motorsports as a race car driver.

I became very frustrated and disappointed with the lack of interest corporate America displayed in sponsoring a Black driver, so I set out on a mission to change that narrative.

Needless to say, for the past 26 years, Starting Grid, Inc. has been singularly focused on pioneering diversity motorsport initiatives for minorities to have an equal opportunity to participate within the

many facets of the motorsports industry through the Millennium Motorsports Initiative, in an effort to "change the face of motorsports in the 21st century."

**NNPA:** So, you originally pursued motorsports as a driver?

**Chris Miles:** I did. My aspirations as a kid, growing up in New Albany, Indiana, was to become the 1st Black driver to qualify for the Indianapolis 500. I had to adjust those aspirations when Willy T. Ribbs

became the first African American to break the color barrier in 1991. I was totally good with it though, because Willy was a racing hero of mine — and I am fortunate to say, he has been a personal friend for over 25 years.

In fact, in 2011, Willy and I created Willy T. Ribbs Racing to celebrate his 20th anniversary of breaking the color barrier at Indy by bringing along the first African American driver, to compete in INDYCAR's Indy Lights championship, Chase Austin.

**NNPA:** Well how and when did you become the Global Motorsport Marketing Advisor and Diversity & Inclusion Strategist for ARDN, and what are you responsible for?

**Chris Miles:** I became connected with ARDN through my business partner, famed Hollywood actor Richard Gant, who

serves as ARDN's Art, Sport and Culture Chair. We are tasked with amplifying the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations General Assembly's International Decade For People of African Descent through various activations utilizing art, sport and culture.

Richard and I first met back in 1998 at the California Speedway in Fontana, California when I was hosting the racing magazine show Inside CART on FOX Sports.

Incidentally, as the host of Inside CART, I became the first African American in the history of motorsports and television to host a nationally televised racing magazine show, which also aired on ESPN in 2000.

Over the years, Richard and I stayed in constant contact with one another in hopes of working together.

In 2004, an opportunity presented itself for me to produce 10 Black History Month vignettes, where Richard provided the voice over narration, for the now defunct SPEED Channel. In 2013, we piloted a STEM education/motorsport science initiative with the 2011 Indy 500 winning team Bryan Herta Autosport and the Gary Community School Corporation.

In 2014, through a partnership with FIFA, we collaborated on the UNAIDS "Protect the Goal" HIV/AIDS global campaign for the World Cup in Brazil.

We introduced the ZERO car, which signified Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS-related deaths, driven by Chase Austin, in the Freedom 100 during the Indianapolis 500 race weekend, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

## BRIEFS, from Page 8

### Plano

Plano needs residents to serve on City of Plano Boards and Commissions. The annual application process is underway. New this year, you can upload a brief video in lieu of a resume. Explore the Boards and Commissions Overview or new Boards and Commis-

sion videos (coming soon) to find the service opportunity that fits you best. Applications are due by Friday, Aug. 28.

The city currently has 18 boards and commissions, residents should check out the board and commission openings list before applying.

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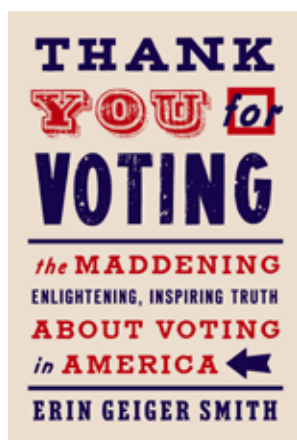
# NDG Book Review: 'Thank You for Voting' is a timely read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The checkmarks marched down the columns like hand-holding toddlers on a daycare outing.

You cast your vote for this candidate. You liked what that guy had to say, and this woman thinks like you. You hope this person wins, and that one, and your civic duty is done. In the new book "Thank You for Voting" by Erin Geiger Smith, you'll see how you got here, and how you may-be almost didn't.

In the earliest days of this nation, the rules for voting were easy: if you were a white male landowner over



age 21, you could vote.

That rule, says Smith, wasn't hard-and-fast: in 1776, Pennsylvania allowed any white male over 21 to go to the polls, and New Jersey allowed land-owning women and free

Black men to vote, too.

By 1807, laws began rolling back, until white male property-owners had the only say in elections again. Black male suffrage was granted after Reconstruction; it took women more than a century to get the vote, which included Black women – though the latter, like their menfolk, continued to be victims of voter suppression until 1965's Voting Rights Act, or later. Some Native Americans could vote in 1924, while others were barred until the late 1950s. Some Asian Americans were kept from the booths until 1952.

Today, says Smith,

Americans have more opportunities to vote in ten years than Japanese citizens get in their entire lives. With such an abundance of opportunities to choose our elected officials, why are voting numbers so low?

Many reasons, she says: convicted felons may or may not be allowed to vote, depending on state of residency. States can set different laws on registration and voter ID issues. Voter suppression and gerrymandering are problems that are in the news right now. People can be apathetic. So how can we ensure that everyone has a voice in our democracy?

We can work toward that goal. We can also model good behavior and vote, vote, vote.

Chances are, you've already made up your mind. You know exactly who'll get your nod in November's election. Now find out how this wonderful right came to be, because the story's quite eye-opening.

"Thank You for Voting" is one of those books you might feel like you've read already but trust this: author Erin Geiger Smith is going to surprise you with factlets, shocking statistics, and stories of outrage and courage. There's lots of history in this book but though

it might seem familiar, it doesn't read like a lecture. Readers may find, however, that the most helpful parts of this book are the explanations of voting issues and suppression tactics, why you should stay as informed as possible, and how you can encourage friends and family to join you on November 3.

"Thank You for Voting" is for readers ages 16-and-up but if you want to co-read with your kids, there's a child's version available, too. You probably already know where you stand on this fall's ballot but just in case, this book checks all the right boxes.

## Sandra J. Evers-Manly elected to 2020 Class of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences

LOS ANGELES -- The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) announced the election and invitation extended by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) to Sandra J. Evers-Manly, to join the 2020 class of new members. Ms. Evers-Manly joins the 2020 class that includes 819 new members.

As word of the announcement spread, it generated enormous excitement and a huge outpour of congratulatory sentiments for Ms. Evers-Manly.

"As a filmmaker who benefited from Sandra's support with an Oscar nomination, I'm elated to see she was recognized by the Academy for her contribution to the art of filmmaking through festivals, workshops and support of emerging filmmakers," stated David Massey, mem-



With more than 25 years of experience in the film industry, Sandra Evers-Manly has made a lasting imprint on both the filmmaking community and the community at large. (Photo: NNPA)

ber of AMPAS and the chief champion of Ms. Evers-Manly's nomination.

With more than 25 years of experience in the film industry, Evers-Manly has made a lasting imprint on both the filmmaking community and the community at large. Her investment of time, talent, and money by developing and producing

film projects, creating audience engagement, youth training in film and assisting both veteran and emerging filmmakers have made her an icon for support and excellence. Some of the accolades include:

"We eagerly welcome Sandra into the Academy. She has been an incredible advocate and voice for in-

clusion and change in Hollywood. Her imprint is on so many of our careers and we can't wait to feel her impact from the inside." Reggie Rock Bythewood, Director, "Biker Boys" & Gina Prince-Bythewood, Director "Love & Basketball"

"Executive producer Sandra Evers-Manly is a game changer. She has worked tirelessly to help promote diversity and positive images of ethnic minorities and women in film. Her groundbreaking BHERC S.E. Manly Film Festival has spawned

a new generation of independent African American filmmakers. Her selection to the Motion Picture Academy is encouraging evidence of the Academy's commitment to

create positive change in our industry." – William Allen Young, Actor-Director

See BHERC, Page 12

### GILPIN, from Page 2

"The Quad" was being filmed on his campus. He headed to the production office and landed himself a job as a production assistant with series creator Felicia D. Henderson as his mentor. He began booking guest roles, including in HBO's "High Maintenance" and

the upcoming MGM film Respect about the life and career of Aretha Franklin. His casting in the upcoming "P-Valley" marks his first series regular role.

Gilpin always wears a smile on his face with the goal of using his talents to unlock happiness and joy in

everyone he comes across. A dream of his is to play the live-action black Spiderman from Marvel's Into The Spider-Verse. In his free time, he loves writing new music and will always be caught wearing Crocs. Whether he is dancing, singing or acting, he aims to be one of the biggest entertainers the world has known.



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# Princell Hair named President & CEO of the Black News Channel

TALLAHASSEE — Princell Hair joins The Black News Channel (BNC) as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the nation's first and only 24-hour news network culturally specific to the diverse views of the Black community, it was announced today by Chairman and interim CEO, J.C. Watts. With the announcement of a new CEO, Watts will return to his role as Chairman. Hair's appointment is effective immediately.

Hair brings a unique background in diverse platforms including general management, experience



*Princell Hair's experience as a news and sports executive is unmatched for its breadth and success. (Photo: NNPA)*

leading a national news network, a regional sports business and several local television news departments. He has reimaged programming lineups in his career discovering new, engaging talent, enhancing linear audience reach and

vastly growing digital user engagement.

Hair grew up in South Florida and started his career there in local news and rose to Vice President of News for the CBS Television Stations group, before becoming the first and only African-American to lead CNN-US as Executive Vice President and General Manager, achieving major ratings growth during key news events including the Democratic and Republican National Conventions plus CNN's Election Night in America 2004. He joined Comcast in 2008 supervising news operations and talent for the Comcast re-

gional sports networks. In 2012, Hair was named Senior Vice President of News and Talent for the NBC Sports Group. He was promoted in 2016 to Senior Vice President and General Manager of NBC Sports Boston, leading the regional sports network to audience growth across all platforms as well as generating several of the network's most profitable years in its history.

"Princell's experience as a news and sports executive is unmatched for its breadth and success. As a programmer he will bring energy and fresh thinking to the Black News Channel," said

BNC Chairman, J.C. Watts. "We are delighted to welcome him and excited to see him build on the foundation we have laid with the launch of the Black News Channel."

"I am grateful to Chairman Watts and the Board of Directors for this opportunity," said Hair. "I'm thrilled to return to daily newsgathering and compelling storytelling at the only 24-hour cable news channel aimed specifically at African Americans and other people of color, as the world responds to a pandemic, systemic racism and an economic crisis, all of which disproportionately

impact the Black audience. I'm equally excited to join and support the talented team of journalists and staff across BNC's platforms as the high stakes 2020 Presidential Race enters the red zone."

Hair received his Masters degree in Business Administration from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Florida International University in Miami, Florida. He is a member of National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and the National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA).

## PARKS, from Page 7

Replacement Project. The project will completely replace the aging playground structures with new ones that are more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Approval of "Change Order No. 2" to the contract with Taurus Commercial, Inc. authorizes \$23,770.64 towards the Georgia Farrow Recreation Center Expansion Project. The Change Order modifies the entry of the parking lot so that 7 mature post oak trees can be saved and an existing light fixture can be upgraded to LED.

MART Inc. was awarded a contract in the total estimated amount of \$135,500.00 for repair of the Irving Flood Control District III Levee which is part of the Campion Trails MacArthur Blvd Extension Project. This project will correct the slope condition of the Irving Flood Control District III Levee which the original contractor left in an unacceptable state. The overall project which added 2 miles to the northern section of Campion Trails and connected the City of Coppell is funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the Dallas County Trails and Preserve Program.

Items relating to School Resource Officers and tourism were also passed unani-

mously.

A third amendment to an interlocal agreement that extends the existing agreement between IISD and the city was also approved in the consent agenda. In this agreement, the City will continue to allow the Irving Police Department to provide School Resource Officers to help maintain the safety and welfare of IISD students and staff at IISD campuses. The extension expires on July 31, 2021. IISD will pay the City of Irving 50 percent of the costs of salaries, health insur-

ance, retirement, workers compensation insurance, and unemployment insurance for two Sergeants and 18 School Resource Officers. The City's portion of the cost is estimated to be \$1,338,717.92, excluding overtime, and is available in the Police Department Budget.

The council authorized an estimated total of \$53,285.56 for tourism advertising via AJR Media Group in various tourism publications. The Irving Arts Center plans to buy advertising in tourism publications such as Texas State Travel Guide, Texas State Event Calendar and

Texas Highways Magazine; AAA Texas Journey; and TourTexas.com.

A public hearing was scheduled for the July 16 meeting to gather input on the Action Plan being worked on by the City to determine how to use federal funds received from the

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, no citizens made comments to the council during this time.

Irving's Community Development and Housing Department receives federal grants annually to help improve living standards

for low to moderate-income persons, to help those at risk for homelessness, and to help those in need of affordable housing.

An Action Plan with allocations will be presented at the next City Council meeting for the City Council's consideration.

**Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36.5-foot Public Lighting Structure Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 8316 Southwestern Blvd., Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75206. 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, p.rees@trileaf.com, 2121 W. Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.**

### 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)

**Call Today!**

**972.665.0170**

(leave message if no answer)



## BHERC, from Page 10

“Yes! Yes! Yes! I am so excited that this pioneer, this supporter, this producer, this keeper of our stories will be a member of the most prestigious club in the world! Congratulations! Your commitment and passion for filmmaking is second to none. I cannot think of anyone who deserves this privilege more than Sandra.”

related Carmen Elly Wilkerson, Director.

“The Academy is made better by your membership. I am humbled and honored to know you. Can’t forget the support to me and my first film.” Kelvin Garvanne, Public Policy Research Board of Commissioners

“The Academy could not pick a better member! Congratulations!” Howard Hobson, CEO at Rattle Radio

“You helped me launch my career and have long been supporting Black and Women’s voices with heart and passion through BHERC and the First Weekend Club! Thank you for supporting my first short film “Sweet Potato Ride” and a source of light, love, and strength to so many filmmakers! I am blessed to know you and so proud of you and happy for you!” Camille Tucker, Co-

Writer The Clark Sisters: First Ladies of Gospel

“What a solid addition to the Academy! They are lucky to have your leadership, vision, creativity, and commitment. Beyond well deserved. Congrats on this new amplified journey of continued impact Sandra!” Melissa Minneci, Senior Manager, Academic Partnerships & Programs

“You have helped the known and unknown in Hollywood reach their goals of becoming writers, directors, producers, actors and executives at the tables so that our voices are heard, and our stories told from our lens. When Hollywood would not come to the aid of Black independent filmmakers, you stepped in and up as Executive Producer.” Mary Jo Miller Associate Director, Digital Manufacturing and Distribution

“I was very pleased to see Sandra on the list. She has been running a showcase for Black filmmakers for a long time and I’m so happy she is being recognized.” Brandon David Wilson, Genius Bastard

In 1995 Evers-Manly founded the Black Hollywood Education Resources

Center (BHERC) — a non-profit organization — that provides educational programs that advocate and empower African Americans in front of and behind the scenes. Programs include several film festivals to help promote, develop, and showcase emerging African American filmmakers including: Sistas are Doin’ It For Themselves, now its 27th year showcasing Black female directors; the African American Film Marketplace and S.E. Manly Short Film Showcase, now in its 26th year; Reel Black Men, showcasing emerging Black male directors now in its 25th year; Doin It the independent Way, monthly film showcase; The Faith Base and Inspirational Film Festival featuring faith and inspirational films and the Diversity Youth Film Festival, dedicated to showcasing the film works of middle school and high school students along with Artistry in Motion which introduces the field of animation to youth.

Evers-Manly has executive produced five short films on the impact of gang violence through an initiative called “Fight Back With Films” to help bring awareness to the impact of Gang Violence. In addition, she was the executive producer

“Texas is in line to gain congressional districts next year and make sure that more federal dollars and more accurate, fair representation is coming to our neighborhoods and communities,” Hinojosa said. “Trump’s latest ploy to have Republicans hold onto power threatens to stop all of it. It is all about fear and power. It is wrong.

“Y’all means all, especially in Texas. Our Constitutional system was designed so that states would fight for the rights of their citizens. Where are Abbott, Patrick and Paxton on Trump’s latest effort to take representation, power and funding from Texas? Make no mistake about it, if Trump is allowed to exclude people from the census count, there is no state harmed more than Texas.”

of the Academy Award-nominated short film, Last Breeze of Summer. In 1998, she established “The First Weekend Club”, a film club formed to support films that feature African Americans both in front of and behind the scenes. This Club attends the first weekend release of a movie, then, encourage other individuals and groups to spread the word and support the movies.

Ms. Evers-Manly served as President of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP for 12 years including overseeing the NAACP Image Awards, NAACP Theater Awards and reports on diversity in the film and television industry. She has provided

testimony on Black images and employment of African Americans in the film and television industry to the US Civil Rights Commission, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the California Assembly.

One of the innovative programs she has created within BHERC is an “invitation only” initiative called “Films With A Purpose” (FWAP) which funds, and executive produces thought-provoking and socially responsible films that bring awareness to current such issues as bullying, aging out of foster care system, homelessness, and key historical events. Through this initiative, she has funded seven short films

and eight documentaries as well assisted with partial funding for nine other films.

In February 2020, Evers-Manly launched BHERC TV a leading world-wide provider of narrative and documentary short and feature films about the African American experience, as well as content from across the diaspora and diverse populations. Offering an affordable streaming entertainment service with paid memberships in over seven countries. BHERC — TV members enjoy a wide variety of genres and languages and may watch as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, on any internet-connected screen.

## BATTLE, from Page 1

The counting of persons for the purpose of establishing an official “population” count reaches further than just the U.S. House of Representatives. It also affects fund allocation for education and other expenditures. Discounting non-citizens could have a bigger impact on predominantly Hispanic communities beyond who they send to congress.

“As we are in the middle of a pandemic, the timing of these developments adds a transparent layer of cruelty to the Administration’s actions,” said Arturo Vargas, CEO of the NALGO Education Fund, a non-partisan group representing Latino public official. “As almost two-thirds of households have already responded to the census, the policy memorandum is as impractical

as it is unconstitutional and would waste billions of taxpayer dollars that have already been spent to carry out the count thus far.

“As the second-largest population group in America, a fair and complete count of the nation’s Latinos is necessary for a successful census. The Administration and Congress must understand that an undercount of Latinos would mean a failed census — a disaster laid at the feet of this President and Administration.”

On the local front, Texas has a larger Latino population than most states; both legal and undocumented. Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa says this is one issue where Texas GOP members should depart from the national leadership.

Crown Castle is proposing to install antennas at a center-line height of 87 feet with a proposed tower extension for an overall height of 96 feet on an existing monopole communications tower within a proposed 10-ft by 10-ft lease area within a storage unit at the following site: 1225 West Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, Dallas County, TX 75006, Lat: [32-58-52.50], Long: [-96-55-0.10]. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Monica Gambino, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, Monica.Gambino@CrownCastle.com, 724-416-2516 within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Crown Castle is also notifying any interested party that believes the proposed action may have a significant impact on the environment that a Request for Environmental Review (Review) may be submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Information regarding the project may be found under file number A1170865 on the FCC website [www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications). The Request must be filed with the FCC within 30 days of the notice being posted on the FCC website. The FCC strongly encourages that all Requests be filed electronically at [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). Requests may also be mailed to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554, ATTN: Ramon Williams. The Request must also be served upon Crown Castle by mailing a copy to 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 ATTN: Legal Department.”



## JOB FAIRS

### On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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

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- GED/High School Diploma
- 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/2NcCtVP>.

### 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 departments 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](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.

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Representative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between \$12 - \$13.50 per hour plus up to \$1.50 an hour in performance pay. The workdays will vary, must be available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with overtime as needed. Must have at least one year of customer service experience.

**NOTE:** As the recent pandemic has caused many changes to the normal operations of businesses and organizations, double-check any events before attending.

### 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](http://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](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org) for their details because of the coronavirus.*

#### July 26, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

#### July 29, 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](http://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

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

because of the coronavirus.

#### July 26

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 glory and honor.

#### July 29

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible 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  
2450 K Avenue #300  
Plano, TX 75074  
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[www.visitf3c.org](http://www.visitf3c.org)

### INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! 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.

#### July 24, 7 pm

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

#### July 26, 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.

#### July 27, 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.lbocchurch.org](http://www.lbocchurch.org)

See CHURCH, Page 14



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## CHURCH, from Page 13

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Check "MOCOP's" website for details of their ser-

vices until further notice because of the coronavirus.

**July 26, 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.

**July 29, 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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Connect to God through Shiloh, Grow in Christ through the study of the Word of God, Serve God through service to each other and the world.

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

**July 26, 8 and 11 am**

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

**July 27, 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).

**July 29, 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  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
www.smbcplano.org

## Death Notices - ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com

**Virdie Goldman**

Born: 01/27/1944

Died: 07/04/2020

Service: Monday, July 13, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Shenika Vontrice  
Freeman**

Born: 12/31/1978

Died: 07/05/2020

Visitation: Monday, July 13, 2020

Service: Tuesday, July 14, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Guy Belvin Futch, Sr.**

Born: 02/22/1938

Died: 07/06/2020

Visitation #1: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Visitation #2: Thursday, July 16, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral**

**Home of DeSoto**

**Keyona Jones**

Born: 4/30/1995

Died: 7/04/2020

Visitation: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Funeral: Thursday, July 16, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Niko Jenohn Webb**

Born: 2/20/2014

Died: 7/04/2020

Visitation: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Funeral: Thursday, July 16, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Shirley Ann Radford**

Born: 4/28/1963

Died: 7/05/2020

Visitation: Friday, July 17, 2020

Funeral: Saturday, July 18, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Margaret Gbenjen**

Born: 7/21/1953

Died: 7/02/2020

Visitation: Friday, July 17, 2020

Funeral: Saturday, July 18, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Donald Von January**

Born: 9/01/1953

Died: 7/14/2020

Visitation: Monday, July 20, 2020

Funeral: Tuesday, July 21, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**Willie James White**

Born: 9/25/1940

Died: 7/13/2020

Visitation: Thursday, July 23, 2020

Funeral: Friday, July 24, 2020

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

**William Davenport**

Born: 12/29/1923

Died: 07/08/2020

Visitation: Friday, July 24, 2020; 2pm-6pm

Funeral: Saturday, July 25,

2020 at 11 a.m.

**Eternal Rest Funeral**

**Home of DeSoto**

**Jerry Broadnax**

Born: 8/19/1951

Died: 7/19/2020

Visitation: Friday, July 24, 2020; 2 pm-6 pm

Funeral: Saturday, July 25, 2020; 11 am

**Eternal Rest Funeral**

**Home of DeSoto**

**Akyree Jones**

Born: 07/30/2001

Died: 07/16/2020

Funeral: Saturday, July 25, 2020; 12 noon

St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, TX 75401

**Eternal Rest Funeral  
Home of DeSoto**

*North Dallas Gazette will publish death announcements "complimentary" on NDG's/Legacy.com Obits Page and in the Newspaper based on space availability.*

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**

## LEWIS, from Page 8

requires, even if they had heard of his courage only through history books."

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), who served more than three decades on Congress with Lewis, declared Lewis' death as one of the saddest days in American history.

"He dedicated his entire life to what became his signature mantra, making 'good trouble.' Despite being one of the youngest leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, John Lewis galvanized and inspired hundreds of his peers to join in the fight for equal rights," Waters said.

"Very few people could have been harassed, arrested more than 40 times, beaten within inches of their lives, and still espouse Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of nonviolence, peace, and love. However,

these principles were core philosophies to John Lewis, and our nation is forever indebted to him for his humble sacrifices," the congresswoman stated.

Lewis routinely credited King and Rosa Parks for inspiring his activism, which he famously called "good trouble, necessary trouble." He also referred to his participation in the civil rights movement as a "holy crusade."

Lewis joined a Freedom Ride in 1961, organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He suffered one of many beatings at the hands of authorities when he and other CORE members attempted to enter a whites-only waiting room at a bus station in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

"If there was anything I learned on that long, bloody

bus trip of 1961," he wrote in his memoir, "it was this — that we were in for a long, bloody fight here in the American South. And I intended to stay in the middle of it."

Lewis was the last surviving speaker from the famed 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The world also will remember Lewis for leading hundreds of people in one of the most famous demonstrations for civil rights ever — Bloody Sunday at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Dr. King once said that, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." In words, deeds, actions, thoughts, influence, practice, and conscience John Lewis was rarely silent about the things that matter. For this reason, and for so many others, his legacy will remain alive forever.

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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# Truth in the Inward Parts



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

“Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place”

(Palms 51:6).

History reveals that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of the Sherlock Holmes popular mystery series once played a practical joke on 12 respected and well-known men he knew.

He sent out 12 telegrams with the same message on each: “Flee at once. All is discovered.” Within 24 hours, they had all left the country!

Each of these men obviously had something to hide. Suddenly, though only in jest, the cover had been pulled away to reveal their true nature - and they fled. Such a lifestyle is not a legacy you want to leave behind.\*

Around 1923, the most

powerful men of the day ruled the world of money: Charles Schwab, president of the largest steel company in America. Samuel Insull, president of the largest utility company.

Howard Hopson, president of the largest gas company. Richard Whitney, president of the New York Stock Exchange. Albert Fall, Secretary of Interior in President Harding’s cabinet. Jesse Livermore, the great “bear” on Wall Street.

Ivan Krueger, head of the world’s greatest monopoly. Leon Fraser, president of the Bank of International Settlements. These men were “movers and shakers,” the kind many people envy and wish to be like.

Yet something went terribly wrong with these men’s lives. Twenty-five years later: Charles Schwab left behind an insolvent estate with debts and obligations totaling 1.7 million. Samuel Insull died of a heart attack in a Paris subway station with 20 cents in his pocket.

Howard Hopson died in a sanitarium. Richard Whit-

ney had just been released from Sing-Sing prison. Albert Fall died at home, broke. Jesse Livermore committed suicide a week after Thanksgiving in 1940.

Ivan Krueger committed suicide and Leon Fraser committed suicide.

Something went wrong during the process of their lives. It began in the inner man. Truth in the inner

man is where the integrity battles are won or lost.

Pray that God allows you to live a life of integrity and honesty before the Lord. Thank God for sending



Tyanna, Philip and David Lott in California among the trees

special people into Christians lives. You can probably think of a few who have meant so much to you and been such an encouragement and inspiration.

Learn to appreciate them and miss the ones who have

left this earth to be with God in eternity. Thank God, for the Holy Spirit, the Great Comforter who fills hearts, lifts spirits, satisfies souls and brings God’s presence into Christians lives; in the name of Jesus.

**NDG<sup>tv</sup>** 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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Our firm is investigating cases where you or a loved one were exposed to Valsartan for at least a year and have been diagnosed with one of the above- mentioned cancers.

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