



North Dallas Gazette

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More Than A Vote: How LeBron James is leveraging star power to empower voters

By Alexandria Battle
NDG Special Contributor

The man commonly known as "King James" is bringing his influence to a new arena: the voting one.

LeBron James, current Los Angeles Laker and one of the NBA's most talented and well-known players, has created a new nonprofit voting initiative aimed at protecting the voting rights of Black Americans and other minorities. His new project, entitled "More Than A Vote," involves him partnering with several other prominent figures inside and outside the world of sports to encourage underrepresented communities to bring their voices to the ballot box.

"Change doesn't happen sitting on the sideline," he said on Twitter while sharing the link to the organization's website last month. The words are also front and center on the website itself.

But their goals aren't limited to increasing turnout at the November presidential election—James, Udonis Haslem of the Miami Heat, businessman Maverick Carter, sports analyst Jalen Rose, comedian Kevin Hart and other athletes and entertainers will also be using their considerable influence to combat



Throughout the country, concerns of voter suppression efforts are leading people to both action and protest. (Photo: Michael Fleshman / Flickr)

the rising threat of voter suppression. A fair amount of time will be used to educate new and returning minorities on the history of voting, how to vote now, and what restrictions there are on voting.

Mr. James told the New York Times: "Yes, we want you to go out and vote, but we're also going to give you the tutorial." He mentioned informing minorities of what efforts the "other side" is making to depress voter turnout, though he did not name specific people or organizations for the paper. This may be because the project is meant to be party-neutral. Ultimately, the goal of More Than A Vote is to protect

the Black community and fight racial injustice, myths and misinformation with knowledge and activism.

The former Cleveland Cavalier has practiced what he preaches when it comes to social activism. Prior to this project, he previously helped low-income college students attend the University of Akron by assisting them with tuition, and started the I Promise School in Akron in 2018 to offer a STEM-based education to low-income students in grades one through eight. With these programs firmly entrenched

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COVID-19 threatens Black businesses

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Dr. Fauci on coronavirus' minority impact

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PCCLA looks for public help for benefit of kids

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Imogene McDaniel Harris



Melissa Irby



Natti Natasha

People In The News...

NDG Quote of the Week: "The African race is a rubber ball. The harder you dash it to the ground, the higher it will rise."

— African Proverb

Imogene McDaniel Harris

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) expresses sincere condolences to the family of Mrs. Imogene McDaniel Harris (R.I.P.), the distinguished publisher of the Gary INFO Newspaper (founded in 1963) who passed on July 22, 2020.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO of the NNPA stated, "I have personally known the Harris family in Gary, Indiana for decades. Today, our extended NNPA families of Black-owned newspapers across the nation pause to salute the outstand-



ing memory and legacy of NNPA publisher Imogene Harris. We pledge to keep her spirit alive as we rededicate to continue to sustain the Black Press of America during these challenging times.

Newspaper publisher, educator, community activist, matriarch Imogene Harris, 88, of Gary, Indiana, completed her earthly assignment Wednesday, July 22, 2020 after a lingering illness.

Imogene was born in the city she devoted a lifetime of love to: Gary, Indiana, on November 20, 1931, the child of Lohney L. and Geneva Scott McDaniel. She graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School and briefly attended Hampton Institute (University) in Hampton, Virginia. Imogene continued on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana Uni-

versity, in Bloomington, Indiana.

Imogene joined in nuptial bliss with her soulmate James Templeton (J.T.) Harris, Jr. on September 1, 1951. Their blessed union lasted 51-years until J.T.'s transition to glory in 2001.

Imogene taught in the Gary Public School System for many years, first, at Froebel School, followed by Norton Elementary School as a third-grade teacher, and then she served as Head Librarian at Lincoln Elementary School.

Imogene's calling in life was partnering with J.T. to run the family businesses – Harris Printing Company

(established in the 1950s) and Gary INFO Newspaper (founded in 1963). They diligently produced a publication that became the voice of African Americans throughout Northwest Indiana for more than four decades.

Imogene was a compassionate mentor, sage, and friend to people of all ages. Harris Printing Company and Gary INFO generated opportunities that contributed to the growth of existing Black businesses as well as the aspirations of budding entrepreneurs, writers, photographers, and printers.

From newspaper boys

and girls trying to earn pocket change, to eventual affluent and successful individuals around the nation, "The Shop," as Info's midtown location was affectionately known, was more than a place for workers to hone their craft, it was a launching pad for life.

A lifelong resident of Gary, Imogene was a member of Delaney Memorial United Methodist Church which is now Christ Memorial Methodist Church. Memberships included the Gary branch NAACP, the Gary Urban League Guild, Delta Sigma Theta Soror-

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Melissa Irby

The Collin College Board of Trustees appointed Melissa A. Irby as the college's new chief financial officer at its Aug. 4 meeting.

Irby will serve as the investment officer of the college and as financial advisor to the District President and Board of Trustees. The CFO assures the integrity of financial accounting and reporting and serves as the custodian of all financial records and contracts, except personnel, for the college. Irby will also serve as a member of the district's executive leadership team to plan and implement



programs and services at the college.

Irby worked for Abilene Independent School District for nearly two decades, most recently serving as the district's CFO. Irby holds a

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from McMurry University in Abilene and a Master of Accounting from Abilene Christian University. Irby is also a certified public accountant with the Texas Board of Accountancy.

Collin College has also announced a return to college plan for the Fall 2020 semester that offers students choices on instructional delivery when they return on Aug. 24. The college continues to place the highest priority on the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff and will follow recommendations from the Centers

for Disease Control (CDC), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Office of the Governor and local authorities.

Depending on the course and program needs, students may choose among options ranging from 100% online to 100% in person with social distancing, as well as combinations of online and face-to-face.

Students will choose among available options at the time of registration. Students who have already registered should check their schedule again beginning July 13 to see if their courses have been impacted by these

options.

As a safety precaution, appropriate face masks/coverings are required in all public spaces on our campuses, as well as in classrooms and labs.

Collin College demonstrated an ability to adjust to changes when it moved spring and summer classes online and is prepared with plans to ensure students can stay on track to graduate or meet their educational goals should guidance change from the CDC, state or local authorities.

To register, visit www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/admissions. For information

or assistance, contact admissions@collin.edu.

Collin College serves more than 59,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates, including new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity degrees. The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and workforce development. For more information, visit www.collin.edu.

Natti Natasha

Natti Natasha continues to reap success and recognition. In the midst of a global pandemic, where the world has come to a halt, music continues to flourish and the Dominican singer, even during quarantine, released "Que mal te fue", which immediately trended around the world. At the heels of her latest single success, the Latin superstar celebrates her first nomination for the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs). This year's VMAs will take place on Sunday, August 30, 2020 from the Barclays Center in New York City.

The versatile artist received her first VMA nomination in the category for



"Best Choreography" for "Honey Boo", her video collaboration with successful Latin Pop group CNCO. Recently, Billboard reported that "Honey Boo" was the group's "Fan Pick" as their "Best Female Collab" yet.

As an icon of female empowerment, Natasha has always stood out for giving all

women a voice through her songs.

In a mostly male-led genre, her talent, discipline and consistency have taken her along way, making her an unstoppable force in music. During quarantine, Natti has not sat idly by, helping low-income families in communities in her native Dominican Republic with the Pedro Martínez Foundation and lending her voice to the project "Resistiré" (Dominican Republic) in support of families of musicians there.

In addition, she released "Que mal te fue" under the Pina Records label, a quarantine-inspired track merging Reggae and Reggaeton, which has garnered over 15 million streams on Spotify

and has surpassed the 46 million views on YouTube.

The worldwide trending single follows the success of "Despacio" with Nicky Jam, Manuel Turizo and Myke Towers which peaked garnered prime positions on both radio and sales charts on Billboard.

Natasha was born in the Dominican Republic in 1986. At the age of seven she enrolled in the school of Fine Arts in Santiago, taking classes in singing. Bob Marley and Jerry Rivera are some of her earliest influences. After moving to the Bronx, she met and was signed by Don Omar. She is also an engineer and worked in a makeup factory before her music career took off.

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Without more help, Black-owned businesses might not survive the pandemic

By Eugene Cornelius Jr.

(TriceEdneyWire.com)
- Black communities in the United States not only represent a disproportionate share of casualties from coronavirus, but they have also been deeply affected by the economic impact of the disease. Longstanding racial discrimination in economic and housing policy has increased their risk for exposure to the virus, as well as the resulting financial crisis.

The economic effects of the pandemic on Black communities can be explained by several factors. Almost half of Black-owned businesses are in industries - such as administrative and support services, health care and social assistance and retail - that are bearing the brunt of this pandemic. These industries not only pose a health risk because of the interaction between workers and customers, but they are also especially vulnerable to lower consumer demand due to social distancing measures.

Over 90 percent of small businesses in majority Black communities hold cash reserves of fewer than 14 days, so they are more likely to run out of operating funds when customers stay at home. And the most recently available Federal Reserve data shows that Black business owners are denied loans at twice the rate of white owners, so they are more likely to have

trouble finding capital to survive the pandemic.

In the face of large-scale shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 crisis, there is a clear need for policies to support small business. But the spending programs passed by Congress thus far have ignored the challenges of capital access facing Black-owned firms.

During the first round of funding provided for small businesses, borrowers seeking Paycheck Protection Program loans were required to work with banks already participating in the US Small Business Administration's (SBA) primary loan program, thereby excluding firms that worked with smaller community banks. Moreover, Congress allocated just \$10 million to the Minority Business Development Agency. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, these conditions may have prevented 95 percent of Black-owned businesses from receiving loans.

The second round of small business funding assistance specifically set aside \$60 billion for community banks and credit unions that are traditionally a key source of capital for minority-owned firms. However, the measure did not stipulate that minority-owned businesses would have priority access to those funds.

Addressing these short-term lending gaps is crucial to ensuring that Black-

owned businesses will stay in business long enough to survive the pandemic. But we must also plan for a long-term recovery that emphasizes inclusion. This will require us to remove historic inequities through targeted support for Black-owned businesses and Black workers.

We can begin by taking three key steps:

- First, federal and state governments should enact robust credit enhancement programs for minority borrowers. These programs provide incentives for banks to lend to businesses in low- and middle-income areas, allowing more firms to remain open and refrain from laying off workers. In states with existing loan programs that provide credit enhancement, treasury officials should make loans more flexible, easier to access and increase loan guarantees. In others, where credit enhancement programs do not yet exist, treasury officials should create loss reserve funds and collateral support mechanisms, as well as a marketplace to pair pre-qualified lenders with borrowers in need of working capital. State governments can also authorize one-to-one matches for philanthropic funding to expand the pool of available capital.

- Second, credit enhancement programs should also be used to support place-based investment, with a priority on housing and infrastructure in low-income

areas. For example, officials can increase loan guarantees to support construction of housing for individuals earning from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local average median income, or offer special collateral guarantees for minority-owned businesses with revenues under \$5 million to invest in long-term assets.

- Third, place-based investments should emphasize environmental quality in low-income and minority communities through special support for projects with higher air and water quality standards -including the remediation of outdated water infrastructure. Using federal and state loan guarantees to fund these investments will simultaneously support improvements to the health of minority populations and reduce their vulnerability to future health crises.

As we look beyond the pandemic, these steps are crucial for ensuring the American dream is within reach of minorities across the country. By addressing fundamental inequities in our economic system, we can begin to pave a new avenue toward a more prosperous future.

Eugene Cornelius Jr. is senior director for the Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics. He previously served as a senior official in the U.S. Small Business Administration. This commentary first appeared on CNN.com.

TOP weighs in on Trump cutting Census counting efforts

By Jessica Azua
Immigration Justice Director
Texas Organizing Project

At a time when this pandemic is so clearly showing how the distribution of resources can be a matter of life and death for our nation's Black and Latino communities, it is nothing short of malfeasance for President Trump to abruptly call for Census count-

ing efforts to stop a month early. It is underhanded actions like this that illustrate Trump's blatant disregard for everyone who is not in his preferred demographic.

Trump's handling of the Census count has been as bungled as his response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and communities of color are bearing the brunt of his toxic combination of ineptness, arrogance, and racism.

ism.

We urge Congress to extend the Census counting deadline into next year, ensure that a full count is obtained with a robust door-to-door effort done safely, and forcefully call out the Trump administration for its intentional politicization of this process that is key to determining an accurate distribution of power and money.

TOP will continue its work to inform our communities of the importance of completing the Census. We are so far on pace to hit our Census outreach goal of 50,000 Texans. We will not be deterred by a narcissistic bigot in the Oval Office who fails to grasp the concept of leadership."

For more information on the Texas Organizing Project, visit organizetexas.org.

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Dr. Anthony Fauci discusses the impact and severity of COVID-19 disparities in African Americans

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

During a 30-minute interview with BlackPressUSA that was streamed live over Facebook, YouTube, and www.BlackPressUSA.com, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, spoke of the importance of convincing African Americans to participate in clinical trials. He also said that school re-openings should depend mainly upon the location and the infection rate in a



During a live interview with BlackPressUSA, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and considered by many to be the nation's foremost infectious disease expert, demonstrates the proper way to wear a face mask.

given area.

Fauci also said a viable coronavirus vaccine is like-

ly only a few months away.

"The fundamental principle is that we should try as

best as we possibly can to get children back to school because we know the psychological aspect of that and the unintended consequences for mothers and fathers who may need to stop working, so we should try to get back to school," Dr. Fauci said when asked about the impact of the pandemic on the upcoming school year.

"However, paramount needs to be the safety, health, and welfare of children, teachers, and families," Dr. Fauci added.

"We live in a big country.

Some places have low incidents and can open schools while some are high. Some areas rate of infection is so high where it's not prudent to open schools. You don't want to endanger their health."

A member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, Fauci has at times found himself at odds with President Donald Trump. For example, earlier this year, the president announced that he would withdraw U.S. funding and support for the World

Health Organization (WHO). However, Dr. Fauci told BlackPressUSA that he still maintains a close relationship with the organization.

"I still work closely with the World Health Organization," said Dr. Fauci. "I'm on a weekly phone call with them, and I signed a memorandum of understanding. We're all in with the WHO."

During the interview, which included National

See FAUCI, Page 12

July was Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Awareness Month but increasing awareness of mental illness among minorities should be an all-year effort

by Nsenga K. Burton Ph.D.
NNPA Newswire Culture
and Entertainment Editor

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD) and co-sponsored by a large bi-partisan group to achieve the following goals:

- Improve access to mental health treatment and services
- To enhance and promote public awareness of mental illness and mental illness among minorities.

BeBe Moore Campbell, a New York Times best-selling author, was a fierce advocate of destigmatizing mental health in minority communities, going public with her struggle with raising a mentally ill child. While Moore is best known for her 1992 critically acclaimed novel *Your Blue's Ain't Like Mine*, in 2003, Campbell authored a children's book *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry*, which tells the story of how a little girl copes with a mother battling mental illness. The book won the 2003 National Alliance on Mental Illness Outstanding Literature Award. In 2005, Campbell's bold novel *72 Hour Hold* was released. The book chronicled an African American mother's struggle to save her 18-year-old

daughter from the devastating effects of mental illness (Bipolar disorder).

Campbell, the mother of actress Maia Campbell whose struggle with mental illness has been covered relentlessly by entertainment gossip sites, died in 2006 of brain cancer, before she could see how her activism around this issue planted the seeds that have sprouted this resolution and a myriad of organizations (No More Martyrs, Therapy for Black Girls, Black Mental Health Alliance, National Alliance on Mental Health) and individuals committed to destigmatizing and promoting awareness and treatment of mental health issues in the African American community. The recent explosion of the self-care movement driven largely by African American women, promotes mental health fitness as an important part of overall health.

Interestingly enough, two of July's biggest news stories involved African American celebrities who struggle with mental illness – Kanye West and his quest to become president of the United States on the Birthday Party Ticket, and reality star and singer Tamar Braxton who recently attempted suicide

before the launch of her newest WE TV reality show, "Get Ya Life!" chronicling her life after a tumultuous decade including the rise and fall of her singing career, a high-profile divorce and new romance, motherhood, bankruptcy, public hirings and firings and public feuding with her famous sisters and "The Real" talk show co-hosts.

Despite news reports of Tamar's alleged suicide attempt supported by audio of the 911 call by her live-in boyfriend David Adefeso, WE TV debuted Braxton's new reality show "Get Ya Life!" anyway, showing blatant disregard for Braxton's fragile mental state. Braxton, who also stars on WE TV's Braxton Family Values and co-hosts *To Catch a Beautyician* on VH1, did not look like her "usual self." During the first episode, Braxton met with Executive Producer Mona Scott Young, who had to cajole her into doing the show when Braxton expressed reservations about filming. Braxton in turn asked Young to manage her career since her former husband, who had helped usher her fledgling solo career into stardom, had also dropped her as a client. Braxton seemed like a shadow of her former bold, audacious and

confident self to whom reality fans flocked in her earlier reality career. Braxton admitted she had lost everything and was starting over and it was clear she had the weight of the world on her shoulders. During the show, fans publicly questioned the network and Young on social media about why they would continue the show when the show's star was hospitalized for attempting suicide due to misgivings about the show among other things.

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PCCLA, a long-time child resource in Plano, seeks help from the public

The Plano Child Care Learning Academy (PCCLA) Annual Fundraiser will celebrate 50 years of service to the community and the 107th birthday anniversary of founder, John F. Hightower.

Due to the current environment, the event will be conducted via a live virtual presentation on Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 5 p.m. CST. The live-streaming is available at <https://m.facebook.com/PlanoCCLearningAcademy/>.

This year's theme is "Remembering Our Past, Celebrating Our Present and Embracing the Future."

The keynote speaker will be Mr. Albert Smith, Jr., Group Vice President and Chief Social Innovation Officer, Toyota Motor North America. Other program highlights include presentations by PCCLA Valedictorian/Salutatorian, Executive Director Diana Dues, parent representative Tara Addison and live entertain-



ment by Cedric D'vine. There will be guest appearances by Retired Dallas Cowboy Emmitt Smith, Plano Chief of Police Ed Drain, Collin County Judge Angela Tucker, Plano Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Ricciardelli, Rev. Isaiah & First Lady Linda Joshua, PCCLA Parents Ezra and Deidra O'Neal, and Former Student Tori McCullough.

Through outreach to individuals, organizations, and companies, PCCLA hopes to raise funds to keep the Academy operational, enhance programs and improve facility services. The school is seeking help to reach a goal of \$100,000.

All funds received will be used to benefit the school's children. As the PCCLA is a 501(c)(3), all donations

are tax deductible.

The Plano Child Care Learning Academy (PCCLA) opened in 1970 to serve working families in the historic Douglass community of Plano. The goal was and is to provide affordable child care for working parents in the Douglass and surrounding Plano community.

"In these times of COVID-19 and high unemployment, we are sure you are aware of the financial challenges facing low income families," the school said in a release. "Finding affordable child care to go to work or back to school is a number one issue for working couples and especially single parents (our largest percentage of patrons). PCCLA offers the lowest priced quality child care in the Plano area."

Local, state, and federal funding for child and family services is not a legislative priority right now and continues to be among the

lowest funded budget line items. Therefore, as a non-profit organization, PCCLA depends heavily on donations to continue to provide this valuable service to working families in the community.

"For this reason, we are calling on the Plano/DFW community-minded individuals, organizations, and companies, to help us continue this valuable service," the school said. "All funds and/or in-kind support will be used to sustain and enhance services to the children."

Support can be in the form of:

- Direct financial contribution online during the virtual program or before or after at <http://plano-day-center.square.site/> and click on Support Now to donate. Checks can be made payable to the Plano Child Care Learning Academy and mailed to the above address.

- In-kind services, e.g.,

equipment, materials and supplies needed

- Sponsor Ad for the Annual Fundraiser (August 15, 2020)

- All the above.

"As we are located in your neighborhood, please encourage your family, friends and/or employees to take advantage of our services if needed," the school noted. "Anyone needing child care services can contact the PCCLA Director, Ms. Diana Dues at 972.424.1121. You are encouraged to come and visit the Academy and see how we are building our future community and world through children."

The fundraising Chairperson, Carolyn Hamilton-Evans, can be reached at 214.684.5553, chamevans@verizon.net or Chairman, PCCLA Board of Directors, Ezekiel Vaughn at 214.616.4752, ezekielvaughn@sbcglobal.net for any additional information needed.

Biden unveils campaign commitment to Latino voters

On Tuesday, the Joe Biden for President campaign unveiled Joe Biden's new agenda for Latino communities.

"Joe Biden's plan for our Latino communities is the plan that our families need," said Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa. "For too long, Republicans at all levels of government have undermined Latino success and took our hard work and communities for granted. This is wrong and it has directly led to the struggles including unequal access to affordable housing and lending that our communities face today."

"The coronavirus has made these disparities even worse. Latinos are getting sick and dying at unprecedented rates and our South Texas communities deserve so much more than failed leaders at the federal and state level that don't give a damn about us."

"That's why I couldn't be more proud of Vice Presi-



Texas Democrats are lauding the agenda presidential candidate Joe Biden has set forward for the Hispanic community. (Photo: stingrayschuller / Flickr)

dent Joe Biden's new Latino plan -- a plan that will build back our communities and families even better than before. As President, Biden will ensure everyone is treated with dignity -- no matter their race, gender, identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or zip code."

Latino communities in Texas have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis with more cases and more deaths than any other group in Texas. It is estimated that in

Austin alone, Latinos make up 40% of the population, but account for nearly half of all cases and deaths. Nationwide, Black and Latino Americans make up 55% of all confirmed cases.

Additionally, Hispanic Texans are less likely to have health insurance than their white counterparts and coronavirus has been ravaging predominately Latino communities, particularly in South Texas. Even before the crisis, Donald Trump

has attempted time and time again to steal Texans' land to build a stupid wall nobody wants and waged an all-out assault on immigrant rights' throughout his Presidency.

Texas is 40% Latinx. The success of our Latinx community is the success of

Texas.

Joe Biden's plan to build the Latino community back better than ever before includes:

- Investing in Latinos' economic mobility.
- Making far-reaching investments in ending health

disparities by race.

- Expanding access to high-quality education and tackle racial inequity in our education system.

- Combatting hate crimes and gun violence.

- Securing our values as a nation of immigrants.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1828	Texas Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.96	\$3	7/30/20	1/26/21
2199	88 Fortunes® Overall Odds are 1 in 4.26	\$5	8/27/20	2/23/21
2192	Triple Double 777 Red Hot™ Overall Odds are 1 in 3.56	\$5	8/29/20	2/25/21
2224	\$250,000 50X Cashword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.55	\$10	8/29/20	2/25/21
2178	Money Overall Odds are 1 in 3.43	\$20	9/6/20	3/5/21
2206	Tic Tac Toad Overall Odds are 1 in 4.90	\$1	9/16/20	3/15/21
2207	James Bond 007™ Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	9/16/20	3/15/21
2202	Jumbo Bucks 300X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.89	\$10	9/16/20	3/15/21

Txlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2020 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

AdoptAClassroom seeks to help with cost of needed school supplies

Award-winning non-profit AdoptAClassroom.org and the national off-price retailer Burlington Stores are proud to team up for the fourth consecutive year to help offset the money that teachers spend out of their own pockets each year, to provide much-needed educational materials for their students to learn and succeed. Since the partnership commenced, the campaign has funded nearly 36,000 teachers, supporting more than 900,000 students in underserved communities across the nation.

Now through Labor Day, Monday, September 7th,



Teachers have long resorted to buying the extra school supplies needed from their own money. (Photo: Tim Gouw / Unsplash)

viding essential resources, like distance learning supplies and tools to teachers at schools with high-need student populations within Burlington store communities. Donating as little as

disengaged, often due to lack of critical resources like the Internet. As a result, 45 percent of teachers said that their spending has increased since distance learning began,

with 70 percent mailing or delivering supplies such as worksheets, pens, pencils and notebooks to students' homes to help keep them eager about learning.

"During these unique and extremely challenging times, students still need to learn, and teachers still need to teach. We want students to be able to have access to supplies wherever learning will take place this school year," said Michael O'Sullivan, CEO, Burlington Stores. "We have a long-standing partnership with AdoptAClassroom.org, and we are excited to once again join them in

continuing to support teachers and students in our store communities nationwide."

"This work wouldn't be possible without the amazing support from partners like Burlington," said Ann Pifer, Executive Director, AdoptAClassroom.org. "Their ongoing commitment has made a significant difference for teachers and students nationwide, and only emphasizes, regardless of the unusual times, education continues to be the foundation for success - especially for our underserved communities."

In June 2020, in response to COVID-19, AdoptA-

Classroom.org surveyed U.S. educators to find out how much PreK-12 teachers spend on school supplies in the era of distance learning.

AdoptAClassroom.org received nearly 4,000 unique, completed surveys from PreK-12 teachers at public, private, and charter schools nationwide. The survey found that during the 2019/2020 school year teachers are spending more than ever before, regardless if they are teaching in the classroom or from their homes. To learn more, visit the 2020 AdoptAClassroom.org survey.

DART extends meal delivery to DISD students through Aug. 27

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) buses and operators will continue to make sure students receive the weekly meals they need through August as the Dallas school district works to ensure a safe school start.

Each Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a DART bus will deliver 1,500 meals, enough for 100 families per bus, 15 meals per student, for a total of 4,500 meals weekly for distribution by Dallas Independent School District

(DISD) and DART volunteers.

Families can safely drive through three different sites as the goods are placed in the trunk of their vehicle:

- Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, 5150 Mark

Trail Way, Dallas, TX 75232

- Janie Turner Recreation Center, 6424 Elam Rd, Dallas, TX 75217

- Highland Hills Branch Library, 6200 Bonnie View Rd, Dallas, TX 75241

Since March, DART has

partnered with DISD, Garland ISD and Richardson ISD to deliver meals to students, the City of Dallas to distribute care packages to seniors, with DART paratransit customers to deliver food and medicine, with Catholic Charities to de-

liver meals to Brady Center seniors, and with the Richardson Network of Community Missionaries to transport prepackaged meals to families in need.

Learn more at www.dart.org/dartserves.

NAACP sues U.S. Education Secretary over COVID-19 school money

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

The coronavirus pandemic has focused the nation's attention on the essential role public schools play in families and communities' lives.

The NAACP said it's also exposed severe racial inequalities that continue to plague the country's education system and disadvantaged students of color.

Rather than addressing those problems, NAACP President Derrick Johnson declared that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos "exploited the pandemic to promote her personal agenda of funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools and taking resources away from the schools and the students who need it most."

"We simply can't let this happen. So, we're taking



The lawsuit claims the share going to private schools should have its basis on the number of Title I students attending those schools. DeVos did not follow that rule, the NAACP contends, spelling out that hundreds of millions of dollars in CARES Act funds would immediately divert from public schools to affluent private schools.

her to court," Johnson announced.

The NAACP formally filed a lawsuit in federal court in Washington, D.C., accusing DeVos of illegally changing the rules for allocating \$13.2 billion in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) money to benefit wealthy private k-12 schools.

"Recently, Secretary DeVos issued regulations that would force public school districts to divert federal emergency relief funds from public schools and send them to private schools. By one estimate, over \$1 billion would be lost to private schools under the rule," Johnson declared.

"So, the NAACP filed a

lawsuit along with public school families and school districts across the country, challenging this unfair, unequal, and unjust rule. We'll fight this as hard as it takes - for as long as it takes - to protect our students, schools, and communities."

The NAACP's lawsuit suggests that the CARES Act, which was signed by President Donald Trump earlier this year, says explicitly that local school departments are to distribute the fund based on the number of Title I, or low-wealth students, in a particular school.

Congress allowed CARES funds to go to institutions that depend on tuition and donations because lawmakers said they recognized that some students from low-income families attend private schools.

The lawsuit claims the

share going to private schools should have its basis on the number of Title I students attending those schools.

DeVos did not follow that rule, the NAACP contends, spelling out that hundreds of millions of dollars in CARES Act funds would immediately divert from public schools to affluent private schools.

The controversial education secretary reportedly holds a different interpretation of how local school districts should distribute the money.

Her interim final rule allows sharing the money equally with private schools based on the number of students in those schools, regardless of how many are Title I students.

"The Rule is as immoral as it is illegal," NAACP lawyers argue.

The NAACP filed the

lawsuit on behalf of a group of parents and their children, who are enrolled in economically disadvantaged public schools. The Pasadena, California, Unified School District, and Stamford, Connecticut, School District, joined the NAACP in the lawsuit asking for an injunction to prevent DeVos from immediately instituting her change to the rule.

"In this moment of crushing need for America's public schools, the Rule directs public school districts to divert desperately needed CARES Act 1 funds to affluent students in private schools or face unlawful limitations on the way that those funds can be spent - both in direct contravention of the Act," the lawsuit reads. "The Rule harms American children

See NAACP, Page 7



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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



Irving tackles budget as parking issues reemerge; honors John Boyle

By Fatema Biviji
NDG Special Contributor

July 30, 2020 marked a full day of meetings for Irving's City Council. The day started with a Budget and Strategic Planning Meeting, followed by a Work Session, and ending with a City Council Meeting.

Staff reassured the City Council that they plan to maintain a structurally balanced budget despite the uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 closures. The City was initially expecting a budget shortfall of \$16.6 million when closures began taking a steadfast hold in April. The projection was revised to \$9 million in June, and as of July 17, the City predicts a deficit of \$6.1 million.

The reason for the shortfall prediction being scaled back to \$6.1 million from an initial \$16.6 million is strong online sales tax revenue. Though many traditional brick and mortar store sales have suffered, online sales have increased enough to buoy revenue as 1,000 new vendors were added in June. However, it is unclear how federally-funded stimulus checks may have impacted retail spending and if stimulus is not renewed, how sales tax



City of Irving

revenue may be affected.

Property taxes are another major area of uncertainty as a record number of property tax protests, over 20,000, were filed at the Dallas County Appraisal District. A major source of revenue for the city comes from property taxes and were initially expected to be strong this year. However, with the record number of protests coming from both commercial and residential property owners, the City Manager recommends that the tax rate be maintained at the effective rate of \$0.5941.

While new construction of housing continues to add revenue, commercial growth has come to a complete halt leaving the city with a substantial revenue loss. Through furloughs, vacancies, and reduction of services, the city administration believes it can balance the budget despite the

shortfalls.

During discussion of adding new towing fees to offset operating costs for cars towed by the Irving Police, the topic of parking issues in South Irving reemerged. Councilman Kyle Taylor mentioned that he has received complaints from apartment dwellers whose cars have been towed away from their apartment complexes due to lack of signage and proper warning. He said that their cars are valuable assets, and towing could lead to job loss if they cannot drive to work. Mayor Rick Stopfer also mentioned the complaints he has received from homeowners in South Irving who cannot park in front of their own homes due to nearby apartment dwellers parking there instead. The mayor pointed out how variances have allowed for this situation in which apartments cannot accommodate their

own residents' vehicles and how one-bedroom apartments often need three to four parking spaces. Hence, parking congestion is becoming a real issue for neighborhoods and apartment associations should be approached. The city manager said that this parking / towing issue would be brought back in a future Public Safety meeting.

The results of a 2020 Resident Survey were presented. Highlights of the survey include a high approval rating of 77% on questions about quality of life in Irving. However, Irving got a very low rating of 38% approval with regards to shopping opportunities, with respondents from the zip code of 75060 giving an abysmal 26% approval. Residents also cited complaints of litter along major corridors of 183, Loop 12, and Beltline. Also noteworthy were complaints about feral cats and stray dogs negatively impacting the

appearance and cleanliness of neighborhoods.

During the Work Session Meeting, Code Enforcement director Teresa Adrian updated on the progress of the "Extended Hours" pilot program seeking direction for the future. The pilot began in Feb 2019 after seeking resident input recommending extended hours. Hours were extended Tuesdays to Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only 34 calls were received during the T-Th extended hours and a total of 72 calls were received on Saturdays from the time period of 2/19 till 6/20. She recommended that the Extended Hours pilot be discontinued as C.E. can effectively address issues through their traditional hours while occasionally organizing Saturday and extended hours events as needed. Councilman Allan Meagher mentioned that many residents likely were unaware of Code

Enforcement's extended hours and were probably leaving complaints on the police non-emergency hotline. After some discussion, the City Council reached a consensus to direct Code Enforcement to revert back to their traditional hours.

Finally, the City Council Meeting began with Stopfer honoring the memory of long-time resident and past City Attorney John Boyle who recently passed away. "The City of Irving lost a true statesman and gentleman in this last two weeks in John Boyle," the Mayor stated.

John Boyle was committed to serving the City and the State. As City Attorney, he was instrumental in major water projects and flood districts, Texas Stadium and Valley Ranch. He served in the Texas Legislature for two years in addition to the Texas Historical Society and various other areas including state parks and monuments.

HARRIS, from Page 2

ity, Inc. Betu Nu Chapter (1962). Imogene was recognized by the NNPA and maintained a collegial relationship with the founding members of the (NNPA) that was founded in 1940. Harris was also a founding member of the Lake County Association of Black Communicators.

Her many lifetime accolades included the Drum Major Award presented to her and J.T. by the Gary Frontiers Service Club, for their commitment to eliminate inequality, prejudice, and racism. They also proudly received a Congressional Record from the Hon. Indiana State Repre-

sentative Peter J. Visclosky in 1994 for their commitment to instill equality and justice throughout the City of Gary.

Imogene will be fondly remembered by all for her dedication to excellence, her deep compassion, unswerving principles, thoughtful leadership, devotion to family and community, and loyal friendship.

Imogene is survived by two loving and devoted daughters Temple-Jene Harris Fleming (Joseph) and Gaylyn Harris. The pride of her heart, her five grandchildren, Lavon Robin Fleming, Lateefah

Shariene Fleming, Joseph Harris Fleming, and Terilyn Marshelle Fleming; great-grandson Nathaniel Joseph Williams; sister-in-law Emma Harris (Lorenzo), godchildren Calvin, Dareisia and Cheryl Pruitt, committed goddaughter Djua-na Anderson, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. Imogene is preceded in death by her parents and her sister Levevian McDaniel Benton (Norman).

The family will hold a Memorial Service to remember the life of Imogene at a future date where her transition will truly be celebrated. Arrangements are being handled by Guy & Allen Funeral Home in Gary, IN.

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Online enrollment assistance at schools will begin Monday, August 24, by appointment only.

SCHOOL BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.

Carrollton

The City of Carrollton was awarded the **2019 Exemplary Knighton Award** by the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) for Best Performance Audit in the Extra-Small Shop category for its internal audit report entitled, "2018 Fire Department Overtime Expense Review."

"These types of audits help keep the City's departmental budgeting on track and focus on improving governmental efficiency

and effectiveness," Bob Scott, Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer said. "Overtime for Carrollton Fire Rescue (CFR) is complicated due to the unique shift arrangements, minimum staffing requirements, and the application of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to the fire service. The ability to thoroughly and objectively analyze statistics and situations gives insight into the best practices suited to Carrollton's individual circumstances now and in the future."

CFR is a multi-function emergency and non-emergency department providing various services including fire suppression, medical services, ambulance transportation, incident and specialized rescues, emergency prevention, public education, emergency management, and code compliance.

It employs 161 civil service personnel, five non-civil service personnel, and currently utilizes eight fire stations, one training building, and Fire Administration offices.

Dallas

Dallas Area Rapid Transit is planning to implement **service changes** on Monday, Oct. 19.

DART will host an in-person event at noon Saturday, Aug. 8, and a virtual event at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, to collect public comments regarding the plan. Comments may also be submitted via email.

Garland

The Garland Fire Department has received the American Heart Association's Mission: **Lifeline**

EMS Gold Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

"For the seventh consecutive year, GFD has been recognized by the American Heart Association," said Garland Fire Chief Mark Lee. "There is an elite group of providers who are awarded this Gold Level Award and even fewer to be recognized for seven years in a row!"

McKinney

The Collin County Black

Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a virtual discussion, "Pivoting in a Pandemic" with special guest speaker Tarsha Polk, director of LiftFund Dallas Fort Worth's Women's Business Center. The Zoom meeting will take place on Aug. 13 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Chamber is looking for input on questions for the panelist. To participate, virtual attendees need to register for the event on Zoom. Registration and more can be found by visiting the Chamber website at www.ccblackchamber.org.

Texas entrepreneur charged with spending COVID relief funds on improper expenses including Lamborghini and strip club

A Houston, Texas man has been taken into custody on allegations he fraudulently obtained more than \$1.6 million in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, announced Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian C. Rabbitt of the Justice Department's Criminal Division and U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick of the Southern District of Texas.

Lee Price III, 29, spent the money on luxury items, real estate and personal entertainment, according to the complaint unsealed today upon his arrest. He is expected to make his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sam S. Sheldon in Houston today.

Price is charged with making false statements to a financial institution, wire fraud, bank fraud and engaging in unlawful monetary transactions.

The complaint alleges Price was involved in a scheme to submit fraudulent PPP loan applications to federally insured banks and other lenders. The Small Business Administration (SBA) guarantees the loans for COVID-19 relief through the PPP under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Two fraudulent applications received funding, according to the complaint. Price Enterprises Holdings

allegedly received more than \$900,000, while a loan application listing 713 Construction was approved for over \$700,000. The loan applications allegedly asserted both entities each had numerous employees and significant payroll expenses. According to the charges, however, neither entity has employees nor pays wages consistent with the amounts claimed in the loan applications. Further, the individual listed as CEO on the 713 Construction loan application died in April 2020, a month before the application was submitted, according to the complaint.

Price allegedly used the loan proceeds not for pay-

roll expenses, but for lavish personal purchases, such as expending the loan money on a Lamborghini Urus, a Rolex watch and real estate transactions. He also allegedly spent thousands at strip clubs and other Houston night clubs. The complaint further alleges Price used a portion of the loan money to buy a 2020 Ford F-350 pickup truck.

The CARES Act is a federal law enacted March 29. It is designed to provide emergency financial assistance to millions of Americans who are suffering the

economic effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. One source of relief the CARES Act provides is the authorization of up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses for job retention and certain other expenses through the PPP. In April 2020, Congress authorized over \$300 billion in additional PPP funding.

The PPP allows qualifying small businesses and other organizations to receive loans with a maturity of two years and an interest rate of one percent. Busi-

nesses must use PPP loan proceeds for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent and utilities. The PPP allows the interest and principal to be forgiven if businesses spend the proceeds on these expenses within a set time period and use at least a certain percentage of the loan towards payroll expenses.

A federal criminal complaint is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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Cowboys adjusting to the 'new normal' in season preparations

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and all of the dangers that it entails, many things are different these days for the Dallas Cowboys.

For starters, that summer trip the Cowboys annually took to Oxnard, Calif., for training camp has been scratched. Instead, the Cowboys will hold a streamlined version of their summer camp at their world headquarters in Frisco.

But at least the Cowboys, who start training camp in less than two weeks, will have quarterback Dak Prescott back in the fold. For a year, anyway.

All the off-season drama that unfolded surrounding whether or not the Cowboys would offer their ultra-talented quarterback a feasible long-term contract ended last month with the team signing Prescott to the team's one-year franchise tag contract of \$31.4 million. In layman's term, that means the Cowboys can't



Dak Prescott is back in the fold under the terms of a one-year contract with the Cowboys. (Photo: All Pro Reels / Flickr)

negotiate another contract with Prescott until after the 2020 season, which could put them in a precarious position.

At that time, Prescott can either sign a long-term contract, or take the pain-taking route of signing yet another one-year franchise tag deal that'll pay him \$38 million next season. By not getting Prescott under lock and key long-term wise this offseason, it's a gamble the Cowboys were more than willing to make.

However, Cowboys chief operating officer Stephen Jones steadfastly acknowledged that Prescott remains

in the team's long-term plans.

"I still have nothing but 100 percent belief in Dak and his future here with the Dallas Cowboys and that we can ultimately get a deal done," Jones said. "He's special. As (owner) Jerry (Jones) and I have said, we're 110 percent behind him and ultimately feel like we'll get this done."

Seemingly, the longer the Cowboys wait to put pen to paper with Prescott on a long-term basis, the price of doing business increases. Especially since the Kansas City Chiefs signed their quarterback, Patrick Ma-

homes, to a record-breaking contract extension last month that could invariably pay him as much as \$503 million over the next 12 years, thus re-setting the market for quarterbacks of Prescott's ilk.

Prescott is coming off a magnificent season where he threw 30 touchdowns and finished second in the NFL with 4,902 yards passing yards. In addition, the Cowboys were first in the league in total offense with 6,904 yards, and also manufactured 450 or more yards in seven games.

The architect of that video-game offense was Prescott, a four-year veteran who is generally regarded as one of the game's best quarterbacks. But since he doesn't have any Super Bowl sheepskin to show for the eye-popping

numbers he's produced, his detractors believe not only can he not win the big game, but he can't even get the Cowboys there.

However, that could all change this season since the Cowboys parted ways with long-time head coach Jason Garrett over the offseason and replaced him with Mike McCarthy. Known as a quarterback coaching guru, McCarthy spent 13 years with the Green Bay Packers while coaching quarterback Aaron Rodgers to superstar status.

Overall under McCarthy, the Packers were in the top five in the NFL in points scored on five occasions, and in the top 10 in total offense nine times. They also won the Super Bowl in 2010, the year it was played inside the Cowboys' home at AT&T Stadium in Ar-

lington.

The Cowboys are hoping Prescott will become the benefactor of McCarthy's magical touch. But if it doesn't happen this season, the Cowboys will have to find a way to sign Prescott to another contract during the next offseason.

"We made a lot of progress and you've got to continue to make progress in terms of these types of negotiations," Stephen Jones said, referring to the contract stalemate with Prescott. "We've never had one quite like it."

"But he's got such a great outlook on the Dallas Cowboys (and) on our football team. He's ready to go out and win a Super Bowl, which would only create more value for him (and) more value for the Cowboys."

Dangers in the Car: TxDOT's new augmented reality game urges drivers to never drive distracted

AUSTIN – Despite stay at home orders and less traffic the past few months, Texas has continued to see about the same amount of fatalities on our state's roadways. In an effort to reach drivers more creatively about the dangers of distracted driving, TxDOT has launched a new web-based augmented reality (AR) game that reinforces the importance of paying attention behind the wheel and reminds drivers to keep their heads up. Around 1 in 5 crashes on Texas roads are caused by distracted driving and all of them are preventable.

This new AR game "Dart Those Distractions" is designed to increase awareness about the dangers of distracted driving in an interactive, engaging way that resonates with all ages. Inspired by a classic carnival game, players will throw darts over a car windshield to hit balloons symbolizing driving distractions like eating, programming music or navigation and self-grooming. This is an important reminder that distracted driving isn't just about texting or talking from the driver's seat.

"Every driver and every passenger can be impacted

by distracted driving and one death is one too many," TxDOT Executive Director James Bass said. "We are doing all we can to make sure every Texan knows the dangers of driving distracted. Distracted driving crashes are preventable and we hope this new AR game will help drivers realize there are more dangers than just your cell phone in the car."

TxDOT will promote the "Heads up, Texas" campaign and new AR game through social media, social influencers and digital

See TKDOT, Page 12

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Dallas Children's Theater and partners invite families to a virtual Lunch & Learn Talkback Event focused on children and racism

For those looking for meaningful ways to talk with children about race and racism, but are uncertain on where to begin, children's theaters across the country are committed to providing assistance.

This Friday, August 7 at Noon, Dallas Children's Theater and longtime partners Texas Instruments along with Capital One are hosting a virtual event focused on how to talk with children about race. Access to the virtual event is located at: dct.org/akidsplay.

On the heels of "A Kids Play About Racism," now extended to be available until Aug. 7, the day of the talkback, the event will feature national cultural competence researcher and edu-



Jelani Memory is a black man married to a white woman and they have a blended family of 6 kids and the topic of race comes up often in life and in conversation with the kids, so Jelani wrote a straight-forward book about it called "A Kids Book About Racism." (Courtesy photo)

cator, Anthony Peterson, as well as Jelani Memory, author of "A Kids Book about Racism," and Play Adaptor

and Director, Khalia Davis. Families are encouraged to listen in on the conversation and pose questions online.

"A Kids Play About Racism" was available free via Broadway on Demand all weekend through a collaboration that involved 41 family-focused theaters in the country.

"When I wrote A Kids Book About Racism, I wrote it from my own kids," said Jelani Memory. "I never could have imagined it would have spread so far and wide to thousands of kids all over the world, or turned into a nationwide theatrical event." Now, more than ever, families are eager to participate in the conversation, and do their part to educate. Dallas Children's Theater is proud to be a part of the TYA(Theater for Young Audiences) collaboration that pulled together

to adapt Memory's play and make it available to families everywhere.

Due to popular demand, the 30-minute play will now stream free through August 7 on Broadway on Demand. Kids have said "It was super good!" and "I just really liked the play and I think it describes racism in a real honest way," and "I like the music!"

We are delighted to be able to share this with you for FIVE more days! Recommended for ages pre-K and up, this play explains what racism is, how to know it when you see it, and ideas for what you can do about it.

In addition to Texas Instruments and Capital One, funding to make this effort

possible in Dallas was also provided by The Melinda and Jim Johnson Family Fund and Deborah and Craig Sutton.

Dallas Children's Theater features professional actors performing for an annual audience of 250,000 young people and their families through mainstage productions (9 in the 2019-2020 season), a national -touring company, and an arts-in-education program. As the only major organization in Dallas focusing solely on youth and family theater, DCT builds bridges of understanding between generations and cultures, instilling an early appreciation of literature, art, and the performing arts in tomorrow's artists and patrons.

NFL chief doctor says teams, players must be educated about risks of COVID

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

Following a disastrous reopening by Major League Baseball, where as many as 17 Miami Marlins players and personnel have tested positive for COVID-19 forcing the postponement of several games, the National Football League remains cautiously optimistic as training camps open.

"It's about education and understanding," NFL Chief Medical Officer Dr. Allen Sills told BlackPressUSA.

"I think people are trying to be really thoughtful about this, and I think people do look at risk and risk mitigation in different ways. But I feel like it's the right thing to do, to try to learn to live with this virus."

A big part of the challenge remains findings ways to carry on safely, Sills agreed.

This week the heavy contact sport re-opened camps, but officials have decided not to hold traditional pre-season games to help keep risks at a minimum. All players are scheduled to



report by August 4, but as many as 22 already have opted out of the 2020 season.

The season is scheduled to kick-off on Thursday, September 10.

"Players and coaches [and other personnel] have to make the best decisions for them," Sills stated. The league announced that it has put in place safety measures that include increased sanitizing. Social distancing would be enforcement, including in player treatment rooms, weight rooms, mealtime, and on the playing field.

Reportedly, training camps are equipped with proximity tracking devices that will alert players or staff when they are too close to one other. The device also collects data, making contact tracing easier if someone does become infected with the coronavirus.

NFL players will live in and travel from their own homes, a contrast to the National Basketball Association, which has isolated all teams and personnel at one location in Orlando, Florida.

"If they're around each

other each day, they're going to share risk. They also share a responsibility to each other, which means that they're each making good choices when they're away from the facility," Dr. Sills said.

"We've tracked the CDC risk guidelines, made decisions on which ones put our players at high risk, and players can rely on those risk factors to make decisions about whether they're

going to play or not," he added.

Dr. Sills conceded that much is still unknown

about the basics of COVID-19, so everyone has "to make the best decision for themselves."



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DeSoto takes aim at increasing minority business opportunities

Much has been written about how low the African American unemployment rate had gotten prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but movement toward economic parity for minorities requires business ownership. Black-owned businesses have faced an uphill battle in past years trying to compete with more established white-owned companies in key industries.

The City of DeSoto passed a resolution this week aimed at increasing opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business (M/WBE) and Small Businesses Enterprises (SBE), as well as Historically Underutilized Busi-



This week the DeSoto City Council passed a resolution aimed at increasing minority participation in contracts awarded by the city. (Photo: Cytonn Photography / Unsplash)

nesses (HUB). Collectively these groups are termed as "Diversity Vendors" in a plan which went before the DeSoto City Council on Aug. 4.

The city routinely contracts with businesses such

as land surveying, construction consulting and engineering firms, as well as many others; and according to the plan DeSoto will actively seek to widen its scope of resources in such areas.

According to the plan, the city seeks to reach a 20% Diversity Vendor participation rate with qualifying city contracts and purchases. It will actively "conduct outreach functions to communicate contracting and procurement opportunities to Diversity Vendors." The efforts will be reported monthly to the city council, with comparisons to the stated 20% goal.

City staff will commit to the following steps to encourage Diversity Vendor participation:

- The City will contact at least two (2) diversity vendors on City purchases between \$3,000 and \$24,999.99.

• All formal proposals over \$25,000 shall contain the attachment "Official Proposal Form and Certification for the City of DeSoto Texas" and "subcontractor questionnaire form" to verify from the vendor their current diversity vendor status. The document shall be submitted with each bid proposal.

• The City is a member of the NCTRCA. The agency assists the City of DeSoto in advertising bid opportunities to diversity vendors and certifying DeSoto businesses.

• The City reserves the right to accept diversity vendor certifications issued

by other certifying organizations, or agencies that use the same essential criteria for certification. The City will contact at least two (2) diversity vendors on City purchases between \$3,000 and \$24,999.99.

The city will also support a grant program for Diversity Vendors as well as offering opportunities for increased exposure, training and seminars through membership with NCTRCA. The program is geared toward marketing the City of DeSoto as an economically viable place to do business in DFW and a city friendly to Diversity Vendor participation.

HEALTH, from Page 4

Braxton is not the first reality star to publicly discuss mental illness or to beg the production company to release them from their contract before they harmed themselves. In 2018, Love and Hip-Hop Los Angeles star Moniece Slaughter begged to be released from her contract citing mental health issues and being "on the brink of another mental breakdown." Fans, mostly black women, asked the network to release Slaughter from her contract fearing the worst. Subsequently Slaughter was moved to another franchise while she sought treatment for her mental health issues.

Like Slaughter, fans on social media, pushed back against the network until the network finally decided to suspend the show until September of 2020 in the wake of Braxton's suicide attempt. Since then, Braxton, who added the word "Slave" to her Instagram profile has released a statement on Instagram thanking her fans for their support and calling out WE TV for ignoring her worsening mental health for ratings. Here is an excerpt:

"Over the past 11 years there were promises made to protect and portray my story, with the authenticity and honesty I gave. I was betrayed, taken advantage of,

overworked, and underpaid. I wrote a letter over 2 months ago asking to be freed from what I believed was excessive and unfair. I explained in personal detail the demise I was experiencing. My cry for help went totally ignored. However, the demands persisted. It was my spirit, and my soul that was tainted the most. There are a few things I count on most to be, a good mother, a good daughter, a good partner, a good sister, and a good person. Who I was, begun to mean little to nothing, because it would only be how I was portrayed on television that would matter. It was witnessing the slow death of the woman I became, that discouraged my will to fight. I felt like I was no longer living, I was existing for the purpose of a corporations gain and ratings, and that killed me.

"Mental illness is real. We have to normalize acknowledging it and stop associating it with shame and humiliation. The pain that I have experienced over the past 11 years has slowly ate away at my spirit and my mental."

Braxton who was hospitalized nearly two weeks ago for overdosing on alcohol and pills acknowledged her pain, desire to rediscover her authentic self, continue her journey towards healing and vowed to fight against the

exploitive practices of reality television show production that led her down this path. Subsequently, WE TV has severed ties with the star and will run the show as taped and edited despite Braxton's claims.

Braxton's battle and transparency around her struggles with mental illness is a testament to the extent to which destigmatization has occurred around this issue in society in general and among African Americans in particular.

As someone with family members who suffer from mental illness, I can assure you the family is always worried and traumatized by the waiting and hoping that nothing really bad will happen before the person chooses to get help of allows you to help them. The stress of dealing with mentally ill people and not having the professional tools, social support or financial resources to do so are subjects for another article. Kim Kardashian West's decision to not allow her reality show producers to film Kanye's freefall is an indicator of how much she actually cares for him and their children. The constant abuse she and other women take online when dealing with mentally ill relatives is an indicator of the displaced anger towards women in general and women of color in particular

when they don't appear to be playing the caretaker role in the way society defines it.

Nonetheless, Tamar Braxton's willingness to deal with this issue in the public eye is yet another testament of the strides that have been made in talking about mental

health issues and wellness in the African American community, which is obviously still needed.

As the we move farther into August and 2020, remember to take control of your mental health wellness, seek help if you need it and

don't be shy about letting people know you want and need help.

If you need help or are contemplating suicide, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or online here.

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



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(leave message if no answer)

Civic groups renew call for passage of reparations bill

WASHINGTON, DC — The National African American Reparations Commission is calling on the US Congress to address systemic racism by bringing House Resolution (HR) 40 to a full vote once it reaches the floor.

More than 100 civil rights, human rights, and civil society organizations and businesses announced their support on Tuesday. The federal bill would es-

tablish a commission to investigate the legacy of slavery and its ongoing harm, and come up with proposals to Congress for reparations.

The organizations mobilized under the new campaign “Why We Can’t Wait,” initiated by groups including the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC), Human Rights Watch, the American Civil Liber-

ties Union (ACLU), and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA).

The campaign begins as both reparations and HR 40 have experienced a surge in support, amid the nationwide protests against systemic racism — by far the largest social movement in the US — and an increasing number of local reparations initiatives.

A majority of Americans

now support the creation of the HR 40 commission according to a new poll from Democracy in Color and Civiqs released this week. According to the poll, support for HR 40 jumped 19 percentage points since last year, from 31 percent to 50 percent, and 56 percent of Americans who responded said that Congress is “doing too little” to address racial inequality.

HR 40 was originally

introduced by the late Congressman John Conyers during every legislative session between 1989 and 2017, after which it was reintroduced by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in January 2019.

It has garnered a record number of co-sponsors in the past year amid Americans’ growing concerns about racial justice. The late Congressman John Lewis was among its stron-

gest and most consistent supporters.

“We can’t recover the lives lost to systemic anti-Blackness and heinous racial terror,” the letter to Congress reads. “We can’t undo the trauma that has wreaked havoc on Black communities and bodies. But what we can do is pass HR 40, and its Senate companion S 1083. It is what the moment requires.”

FAUCI, from Page 4

Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Dr. Fauci also demonstrated the proper way to wear a facemask.

“Early on, there was a shortage of masks because we didn’t want to take masks away from health providers who needed them,” Dr. Fauci remarked. “It’s easy to get a cloth mask now.”

Dr. Fauci explained further that, “when there are droplets when someone sneezes or coughs, you [are protected]. You can take it and wash it with soap and water or stick it in the washing machine.”

Addressing the disparities surrounding COVID-19 and other illnesses, Dr. Fauci pointed to many African Americans, Latinx,

and Native Americans occupying essential jobs that provide employees with little — or no — protection.

“On the one hand, there’s a greater opportunity and risk of getting infected, but even as important is that once you get infected, you have prevalence and incidence of co-morbidities that make it more likely you’ll get a severe outcome from the infection,” Dr. Fauci noted.

“Those co-morbidities are like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, and lung disease. It’s very clear that African Americans have a higher incidence, and the reality is that you suffer more.”

The hospitalization rates per 100,000 people are stunning when compar-

ing African Americans and Caucasians, Dr. Fauci proclaimed.

“In many respects, it’s unacceptable that it should be that way,” he said, noting that the hospitalization rate per 100,000 African Americans stands at 247, compared to 53 per 100,000 whites.

“In other words, that’s almost five times the chance of getting hospitalized even though African Americans comprise just 13 percent of the [U.S.] population,” Dr. Fauci observed.

“That’s more than something we need to deal with.”

Dr. Fauci added that there are five fundamental things everyone could do to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

“Wear a mask, avoid crowds of more than 10, keep a distance of at least six feet, locations should

seriously consider closing bars and getting people who go to bars to stop or do it outside, and wash hands frequently either with soap and water or alcohol Purell.”

Clinical trials are vital, Dr. Fauci said.

“We hope that we will have an effective vaccine by the end of the year, which means that as we get into 2021, we want to distribute it for those who could benefit,” he added.

“We need to spend extra effort to protect African Americans, and the way you find out if the vaccine is effective is the enrollment in a vaccine trial. It would be a terrible shame if African Americans stayed away from clinical trials, and they didn’t provide for themselves the vaccine that could protect them.”

Dr. Fauci suggested that

he wears a mask everywhere goes and demanded that doing so shouldn’t be about politics.

“This is about protecting each other. We’re all in this together,” Dr. Fauci said.

“I’m pleased to see that we now have the president talking about wearing a mask where he didn’t before, and the vice president wears a mask everywhere he goes. We’ve got to pull together.”

Whether reinfection of the coronavirus can occur remains somewhat of a mystery, Dr. Fauci explained.

“When you get infected with any virus, generally, when you recover, your body has made a good immune response to recover,” Dr. Fauci noted.

“We know that happens in people who had COVID-19. We don’t know

what the duration of that is. There are varying levels of antibodies in people who recover, and what we’re following is how long they last. Some people find that it doesn’t last very long.”

He continued: “There are other types of immunity that go beyond, and they’re called T-cells or cellular immunity, which may also play a role in protecting people from being infected. Likely a degree of protection is pretty good for a finite period.

“There are no well-documented cases of people actually being re-infected. There have been some anecdotal stories of people recovering who seemed to have gotten infected, but we don’t know. There’s no real hard evidence that’s happening.”

TXDOT, from Page 9

advertising. These efforts are to raise awareness of the game and encourage people to share their results and recruit other players to

dart those distractions. The AR game can be played on any smartphone or tablet by visiting www.dartthose.com or players

can visit the website on a desktop computer to access the game through a QR code. Players should never play while behind the wheel, don’t add another distraction!

TxDOT’s annual “Heads up, Texas” campaign officially launches August 4 and is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that

encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alco-

hol or other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways and #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths.

JAMES, from Page 1

in his home state, it appears that James is now ready to use his star power on a national level.

Unsurprisingly, this initiative is inspired by the recent murder of George Floyd in May by Officer Derek Chauvin and several other Minneapolis police officers. Like many others across the country, James

was profoundly affected by Floyd’s death. The resulting protests stirred his desire to “get out and do a little bit more.” So far, that ‘little bit more’ has included donating \$100,000 to the Florida Rights Restoration Commission (a group started to help ex-felons register to vote and combat rampant voter suppression in Flor-

ida), and partnering with Michigan election officials and NBA teams to identify and prepare large sites (such as basketball arenas) for in-person balloting while observing safety measures put into place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. And along with Michigan and Florida, More Than A Vote has set its sights on increasing voter turnout and interest in battleground states

like Kentucky, Georgia and Wisconsin.

There has been little word so far on whether the organization’s efforts to break down minority voter suppression will extend to Texas, long considered a conservative bastion and known to struggle with maintaining equitable access to the ballot box for all its citizens. But there is no doubt that the interest is there for other

prominent figures in sports. Chiney Ogwumike, star of the WNBA L.A. Sparks and commenter on ESPN, is a Houston native and excited to work in her home state to amplify women and minorities’ voices this November and beyond.

Speaking of James’ initiative, she said, “One thing I love about this is we’re all athletes who are focused on the same goal.... We want

to better society through action, and we do that by voting.”

With any luck, More Than A Vote will provide plenty of opportunities for local celebrities and activists to improve voting access for Dallas Black communities in the lead up to the presidential election and in the years to come. More information can be found at www.morethanavote.org.

JOB FAIRS

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Ongoing Census Bureau

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

Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

Ongoing House of Blues

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



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

On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

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

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

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

August 9, 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.

August 12, 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
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www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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CHURCH HAPPENINGS

vices until further notice because of the coronavirus.

August 9

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.

August 12

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer

See **CHURCH**, Page 14



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Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com**

Out to Pastor: I love a mystery when it's a mystery

Dr. James L. Snyder

Because of the situation we are in these days, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I have spent some significant time watching mysteries. We enjoy a mystery movie.

I have always loved mysteries. I have read all of the Sherlock Holmes stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. I have read the Father Brown stories by G. K. Chesterton. And, don't forget Agatha Christie with Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. What wonderful mysteries created by these authors, and I have enjoyed reading the

books as well as watching the movies based on these books.

I especially like those stories where the mystery is a challenge to figure out until the very end.

That is not the case with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

When people say everybody is equal, they obviously have not met the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. If there is ever a day, I thought I was equal to her, that was the worst day of my life.

No matter what the problem, she can solve it. She solves problems while I, on the other hand, have a talent

for creating problems.

A few nights ago, I got up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, as I normally do 150 times a night. As I left the bathroom, I slipped and grabbed hold of the towel rack on the wall. I do not have to tell you what happened.

There was this loud noise, I crashed to the floor, and then the voice from the bedroom said, "What have you broken now?"

She went to the bathroom, saw the mess I had made, simply shook her head, and went back to bed. The next day, of course, she fixed it—no mystery about that.

Getting back to those movie mysteries.

For example, the other night, we watched this fascinating mystery, "The Midsummer Murders," a British production.

The program began with a murder. The murderer is not revealed at the beginning, and the rest of the program is trying to solve that mystery of who murdered that person.

As soon as I think I have figured it out, I present it to my wife. "That man right there is the one who committed the crime."

No sooner do I say this when across the room

comes a mysterious little chuckle. I know where it's coming from, and so I look at her and say, "Do you think I'm right?" Of course, I'm waiting for an affirmative answer.

"No," she says, chuckling, "it's that lady there in the blue dress."

There was just no way possible that that person could have been the one to commit the crime. None of the evidence in the story pointed to her.

"What do you want to bet?" She challenged me.

"How about a quarter?"

She looked at me, slowly shook her head, and then put

forth this proposal.

"If I win, you will have to give up eating apple fritters for a whole month." That was her proposal.

"And if I win," I said back to her, "I get to eat an apple fritter every day."

We both agreed to those terms, and both of us were smiling.

As we continued watching this mystery, the lady in the blue dress seemed to be out of the picture. The man I picked out seemed to collect more evidence to put him in a sure place of conviction.

I was smiling, and I

See MYSTERY, Page 15

CHURCH, from Page 13

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.

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"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.

Aug. 7, 7 pm

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

August 9, 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.

August 12, 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
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through service to each other and the world.

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

August 9, 8 and 11 am

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

August 10, 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).

August 12, 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

Juan Audrey Franklin
Born: 01/21/1941
Died: 07/25/2020
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

Trini Jackson
Born: 03/24/1970
Died: 07/22/2020
Funeral: Saturday, July 27, 2020 at 11a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

Curlee Watkins
Born: 08/04/1939
Died: 07/21/2020
Visitation: Tuesday, July 28, 2020
Funeral: Friday, July 29, 2020 at 2 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

Zen Santanna Hilton
Born: 07/17/2020
Died: 07/22/2020
Graveside Service:
Wednesday, July 29, 2020;
2PM
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

O. D. Price
Born: 08/27/1944
Died: 07/20/2020
Visitation: Wednesday,
July 29, 2020; 2PM-6PM
Funeral: Thursday, July 30,
2020; 2PM

Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

Grace Humby
Born: 02/03/1945
Died: 07/21/2020
Visitation: Thursday, July
30, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Friday, July 31,

2020 at 2 p.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

John Louis Davis
Born: 03/28/1946
Died: 07/26/2020
Visitation: Friday, July 31,
2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August
1, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Location: Friendship West
Missionary Baptist Church
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

Dennis L. Gladney
Born: 10/28/1945
Died: 07/21/2020
Visitation: Friday, August
7, 2020 from 2-6 p.m.
Funeral: Saturday, August
8, 2020 at 11 a.m.
Eternal Rest Funeral
Home of DeSoto

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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Three Things



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe"

(Ephesians 1:18-19).

Paul's letter to the Ephesians exhorts believers to experience three important things in their spiritual lives that he experienced personally. As a good mentor, he

desires those he is leading to follow his example.

First, God wants you to have the eyes of your heart enlightened in order to know the hope to which He has called you. God has called each of us to a future and a hope. Some do not ever realize the dreams they envision for their lives. Paul prays they will experience this.

Second, God wants you to know there is an inheritance for each believer in Jesus Christ. There are riches to be had – not financial riches – but spiritual riches that are laid up for every saint. As you are faithful to His calling in your life, there will be a reward for your faithfulness.

Third, God desires you to tap into the power that



is available to every believer. Paul often exhorted believers not to look at his persuasive words, but the demonstration of the power of God in his life. He wants you to know this same power is available to you. After all, Jesus said we would do even greater works than He did after He sent the Holy

Spirit to us.

Pray that God reveals the hope that exists inside of you, be encouraged that there is an inheritance awaiting you, and know that you have power that resides in you that awaits those who exercise their faith to release it.

Life sure can be a mess

MYSTERY, from Page 14

would glance at her and see she was smiling back at me.

In the last scene, everything seemed to turn. All the evidence that pointed to my person fell through the floor. Suddenly, the lady in the blue dress appears to be the murderer. Evidence after

evidence piled up in her direction until finally, she was arrested.

"Well," my wife said a little more dramatic than I appreciated, "I guess you're giving up your apple fritters for the next month." Then, she laughed.

I thought about what Solomon said, "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain" (Proverbs 25:14).

I believe the biggest mystery in life is with the person who thinks they know everything.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God

Fellowship. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

sometimes. But over the years, I've learned that often during the worst messes of life, God will do the most work on you. Feel God's presence and experienced His power in these times of need.

Ask God to help you to remember that He is in control and to know when to stop trying to do it all by yourself and let God step in to do His work. Thank God for His strength and love, in the Name of Jesus.

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

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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Pastor Rickie G. Rush

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www.IBOXCCHURCH.org

Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
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NDG Book Review: 'The Shared Room' is a tough, wonderful work

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Sometimes, things change in a minute.

You look, and it's one way. You look again, it's different, and you didn't even see the change happening. You might not like it but that never matters. As in the new picture book "The Shared Room" by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrations by Xee Reiter, that's when it's best just to take a deep breath, roll your shoulders, and move on.

If it were any other winter day in Minnesota, it might've been nice. It was warm enough for the snow



to melt and you could almost see that spring was coming. But inside the house in east St. Paul, there were shadows across a dark fireplace and quiet floors. There was light in the house, but no sunshine.

Pictures hung on the

wall but it was hard to look at them because they reminded the family inside the house that one of them was missing. It had been seven months since the girl with the shiny brown hair and big toothy smile, the happy little girl in a framed picture, had walked into a lake, misstepped, and accidentally drowned.

Nobody had seen it happen and nobody in the family could forget. The mother and the father couldn't even bear to take the sheets off the girl's bed and for seven months, they visited her room and cried once, twice, three times a day.

The house was quiet, except when someone would play a video of the girl on their phone, and everyone watched.

But then, something shifted.

Ever since the youngest brother was born, the oldest brother shared a bedroom with him in the house in east St. Paul. There were four bedrooms, four children and two parents, so there had to be sharing – until the parents asked the oldest brother if he'd like to have his sister's room. He'd have her bed. He would have her dresser and her closet.

But he would never have her back. Would he miss his sister forever?

Is "The Shared Room" a book for children?

You may wonder that after you've read it through once – and you should, to gauge its appropriateness for your child before you present it. It's a lovely story, but it's also deeply, unbearably sad.

While the artwork by Xee Reiter may soften things a bit, author Kao Kalia Yang's tale starts with silence and ends like a grey tattered shawl draped over every page. This profound mourning leaves a heavi-

ness over the story that stays well beyond the final page, and you'll feel it in your chest.

And yet, if you can withstand the pall, there's a sliver of hope inside this book and a reminder that life goes on. It also serves to tell a child that it's best to come to terms with death but that never forgetting is okay, too.

Again, read this book through once before you give it to your 8-to-12-year-old. "The Shared Room" may prove to be too much, too early, too overwhelming – or it may change your child's grieving.

Push back by Republicans after Trump floats idea of delaying elections

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Contributor

With polls tanking and prognosticators openly stating President Trump is likely to lose to former Vice President Joe Biden on November 3rd, the President floated the idea delaying the November 3rd election.

Trump's suggestion lines up with several other comments he has made undermining the legitimacy of mail-in ballots. Massive job loss since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which the Trump White House has offered no sustained plan to confront, has led to a record-breaking 9 percent loss in gross national product.

Over 150,000 Americans have died during the COVID-19 pandemic. Infection numbers continue to spike in many states. No comprehensive federal plan for testing, treatment and funding has been put in place by the Trump Administration. Trump's suggestion regarding delaying the November 3 election arrives after more evidence.

"Never in the history of the country, through wars, depressions and the Civil War, have we ever not had a federally-scheduled election on time. We'll find a way to do that again this



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November 3rd," Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell during an interview with WNKY.

"I think that's probably a statement that gets some press attention, but I doubt it gets any serious traction. I think we've had elections every November since about 1788, and I expect that will be the case again this year," Thune said.

Early on July 30, Trump tweeted, "With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most IN-ACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history. It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???"

What has been less inaccurate are polls and other indicators leading many to believe Trump is staring

into an electoral college and massive popular vote loss. Many fear he may not recognize the legitimacy of the election but few have a specific answer regarding who will enforce his departure if he loses which is followed by a formal change of power at noon on January 20, 2021.

"It has become increas-

ingly clear, at least to me, that the majority of Republicans in Congress and in the White House are an existential threat to this Republic," wrote Princeton professor Eddie Glaude on July 30.

"Over the past 20 years there's been .00006% cases of fraud in all mail-in ballots cast in presidential

elections. Trump wants to delay the election because he knows he has a .00006% chance of winning," wrote Ron Perlman on social media.

"The inability to imagine Donald Trump has always been one of Trump's greatest strengths," said Republican strategist Stuart Stevens who is part of the

anti-Trump Lincoln Project.

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

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