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# Voter Suppression. The Birth of Apathy.

By Allen R. Gray  
Dallas Area African American  
Newspaper Publishers

It is difficult to determine where the line between voter suppression ends and voter apathy begins. What is certain, though, is that the line of demarcation between the two has been blurred by decades upon decades of interference from damning schemes that strip Black Americans of their legal right to have a say when it comes to elections.

Know that voter apathy for Black voter apathy is not innate. It is instead a psychological implant that has been nurtured over time and has evolved over generations due to the many mutations of the poll tax. The poll tax wasn't born during post-Civil War Reconstruction, though. The concept of the poll tax dates to the time of Cleopatra's Egypt, and essentially all conquering nations since that time have used a "head tax" or capitation to sustain its government and fund wars; but Americans during the 19th century took the poll tax to a whole new level.

During the period of Reconstruction, when newly freed slaves gained the right to vote, various forms of the poll tax became a lot more creative than guessing the number of jelly beans in a mason jar. The Grandfather clause, for instance, said that you could only vote



As election season draws near, it is as important as ever that African Americans know — and practice — their power in the voting booth. (Photo: Element5 Digital / Unsplash)

if your father voted. Which meant that all former slaves were left out. Then there was the literacy test, which asked that you be able to read (literature supplied by election officials) before you could vote. Blacks were asked to read complex legal documents, while whites were asked to read literature with simple sight words. The voting dilemma became even more compounded when we consider that only people who qualified to vote prior to the Civil War, or whose ancestors qualified to vote were allowed to cast ballots during elections. This requirement eliminated an entire nation of newly freed slaves. White men, of course, were exempt from the rigors of poll

taxation in any form. These methods of suppression towards Blacks sustained well into the early 1900s.

The monetary poll tax, which is perhaps the most infamous of all poll taxes, often ranged anywhere from \$1.50 and greater per voter. That doesn't seem like much by today's standards—but when you consider that in 1905 the average Black family earned around \$3 per week, sirloin steaks were 10 cents a pound and the homes sold for approximately \$3,500—potential voters were forced to decide whether to vote or feed their families.

These insidious measures worked

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EnJunaya Canton

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JB Yowell



Carol E. Wise

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man."  
— Frederick Douglass



## EnJunaya Canton

By Ben Stevenson  
U.S. Bank for NNPA

It's been an exciting couple of years for EnJunaya Canton, owner of Zuhuri Beauty; a skin care line originally created for African American women. Based out of Los Angeles, EnJunaya has been rapidly growing her company for the past few years and is constantly thinking about how she can take it further.

Started in 2006, Zuhuri Beauty was born out of a desire for cleaner, healthier skincare products. After



seeing transformative results from starting an organic and vegan diet, EnJunaya realized how much of a difference that healthy, natural ingredients can make.

The realization got her

thinking about skincare. She had a background in chemistry and some knowledge about the industry, so she took a leap of faith and started Zuhuri Beauty. EnJunaya has grown Zuhuri quickly and consistently over the past few years. She sells direct online, including Amazon, and through a handful of retailers. She has also been featured in Macy's and Walmart.com.

But, like many small business, Zuhuri Beauty was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was an incredibly tough time, and EnJunaya spent long hours

trying to maintain the business in addition to trying to find funding to help her keep it running.

She was able to receive the money she needed through PACE (Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment), a community development corporation that focuses on areas including entrepreneurship and economic inequity in diverse communities throughout Los Angeles.

"I had gone to every program that had existed [and got rejected]," said EnJunaya. "I found PACE and they said, 'We are going to help you.'"

PACE received grant funding from U.S. Bank's \$1 million Market Impact Fund to support their business counselors who are working hard to help small businesses who were impacted by COVID-19, like Zuhuri Beauty, with relief and recovery efforts.

"COVID-19 has disproportionately affected minority-owned small businesses. Since mid-March, PACE has received more than 1,300 inquiries from small business owners requesting \$140 million in financial assistance," said Kerry Doi, President & CEO of PACE. "We are

grateful to U.S. Bank for once again stepping up and demonstrating their commitment to providing relief to Los Angeles' vulnerable and minority-owned small businesses."

This funding has helped EnJunaya to weather the storm during COVID-19 by keeping her part-time staff and continuing product development. She said it's about more than just the financial support – it's about supporting her vision.

"PACE and U.S. Bank have been amazing to me,

**See CANTON, Page 16**

## JB Yowell

Regardless of what industry you work in, if you live in Texas the oil industry has a big impact on your life.

The oil industry has had a bumpy road in the past few months. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the industry was hampered by a price war launched between Saudi Arabia and Russia. In Texas, problems in the oil industry have an economic impact on the whole market.

Serial entrepreneur and radio show personality, JB Yowell, will be launching CrudeWords radio show



and podcast, which is a culmination of Yowell's 20 years experience in the oil business and educating listeners on the ins and outs of the oil and gas industry.

JB Yowell or Jeremy Yowell, he goes by both

names, started his path in the oil business in 2001 working for an independent oil and gas operator as a fundraiser. Throughout his many years in the business, Yowell has encountered the oil business from all facets, including creating two oil companies from the ground up and selling his last company, Yohawk Energy, in early 2017 to Harris Energy Partners. "The oil business, by nature, is a speculative industry. Unless familiar, someone could easily get involved in the wrong deal with the wrong people, which is why CrudeWords will be the go-to resource for anyone who wants to

participate in oil and gas opportunities. The more informed you are the better your decisions will be," says JB Yowell.

Yowell, along with Correspondent Host, Brett Kroh, of Kroh Exploration, will be interviewing oil and gas executives, personalities, investors, geologists, and engineers, along with a variety of industry titans, which should make for informational and entertaining content. Yowell recognizes the oil business has had many highs and lows which will be discussed on CrudeWords along with practical experience Yowell has had in the industry,

which gives the program more validity.

When asked what has been his single high and single low thus far in this industry, Yowell replied, "My most memorable high was the first load of oil I made from the first oil well I bought called the Meridith, located in Young County, TX. My low was when I got a call from the Texas Securities Board about a deal I was a consultant on with Woodland Resources, learning that the CEO didn't properly disclose his prior troubles with the SEC. We got slapped with a cease and desist/unregistered broker citation. After their

investigation, they quickly realized I had nothing to do with the organizational side of the offering. I was removed from the investigation and cooperated with them. Luckily, Woodland Resources settled and no criminal or bad actor judgments were issued. However, it sucks to have your name tied to something that was out of your control."

CrudeWords will be broadcast on AM and FM radio stations across the country along with hosting a podcast. Please visit [www.crudewords.com](http://www.crudewords.com) to learn when the first episode airs and which guests will be on the show.

## Carol E. Wise

Carol Wise, Executive Vice-President/Chief Operations Officer at Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), has been named a 2020 Women in Business honoree by the *Dallas Business Journal*.

The prestigious award is given annually to influential women who go above and beyond in their business and community, and who will continue to impact the business landscape for years to come.

"Carol continues to exemplify for all of us the drive and dedication to serve both our communities across North Texas, as well as the employees here at DART," explained



Gary Thomas, President/Executive Director at DART. "Through her leadership and guidance, most especially her work on the 5-Star Service Initiative and the Transit Operations Academy, Carol has inspired a culture of positive change and innovation that ensures we always place

the needs of our customers first."

With more than three decades of transit knowledge, Wise leads the agency's Operations, Bus, Light Rail, Maintenance, Materials Management, Mobility Management and Transit Police departments.

Wise will be recognized at a luncheon on Wednesday, August 19 in Dallas.

DART operates local and express bus routes, as well as light rail service, to Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Richardson, Rowlett, Plano and University Park.

DART is currently in construction of a new Silver train line in the north of

the service area. This area is currently seeing tremendous growth in employment, population and activity centers.

DART is reviewing vehicle design packages including engine and cooling system performance reports and interior layout, and has received 150 of 164 total vehicle submittals, through August 5, for a scheduled vehicle design completion date of September 2020.

The Silver Line's equipment maintenance facility is currently at a 65% level of design.

DART has forecasted the Silver Line at 5,630 daily boardings at the beginning of revenue service anticipated in March 2023.

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## No Bridge too Far — Remembering Congressman John Lewis and the Fight Still Ahead

By Ray Curry  
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

*"The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."*

— Congressman John Lewis

This month marks the 55th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), one of the most powerful pieces of civil rights legislation in our history. The passage of the VRA into law was the result of decades of struggle and sacrifice and was truly a shining moment in our history.

Unfortunately, the struggle to ensure that all Americans have the right and opportunity to vote not only continues today, we have actually suffered significant losses on this front over the past decade. Some of the most critical protections of the VRA, designed to remove legal barriers at state and local levels that prevented African Americans from voting, were essentially gutted by a devastating 2013 Supreme Court decision. With one stroke of the pen, the Court set us back decades and created an environment where we've seen numerous court challenges to voting rights and other legal measures designed to further weaken the protections of the VRA. All resulting in suppression of African American and minorities participating in the process.

Add to this the fact that many states are imposing strict voter ID laws, cutting voting times, restricting registration, and purging voter rolls. These efforts have kept significant numbers of eligible voters from the polls in recent elections, hitting all Americans, but placing special burdens on racial minorities, poor people and young and old voters.

Adding to these now restored obstacles are new impediments — polling places consolidated in ur-

ban areas to make lines longer (and scarier given the poorly contained reach of the deadly coronavirus) and attempts to throw shade on mail-in ballots. Despite the fact that the evidence shows us that absentee voting is safe and secure.

**Time for Good Trouble**

It comes to this: Americans are being cut out of the process by other Americans. A great victory, fought for on bloody streets and across bloody bridges, a score settled and signed into law all those years ago has been compromised in the courts. Time to despair? Nope. It sounds to me like it's time again for some good trouble.

Good trouble was what American hero and Congressman John Lewis called the struggle for this all-important right of every American. Lewis, a Democrat from Georgia, served in the House of Representatives from 1987 until his death last month, spent decades working as an organizer and activist, was a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and original freedom rider. He helped organize the March on Washington in lockstep with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and A. Phillip Randolph. He walked into a beating from Alabama state troopers who cracked his head bloody and gassed him along with hundreds of marchers in the cause of voting rights on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965.

He witnessed and rejoined in the passage of the VRA alongside his fellow freedom marchers and years later, would have to see the Supreme Court decimate the act. Lewis knew that the court's decision would reopen the door to voter suppression, but he refused to give in to defeat.

Here is what he had to say about our struggle: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week,

a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

**Now, It's Up to Us**

So, I say we cannot afford to let go of making good trouble. When U.S. Senator Doug Jones of Alabama said at Lewis' memorial service, "It is the young among us in Alabama and across this nation who can heal what we have failed to heal in our lifetimes, no matter how hard John tried," Senator Jones made note that Lewis had been heartened by today's young activists.

"He confidently looked around and said, 'All is well,'" said Jones. "It is time for the torch to be passed. It is time for me to let go."

That torch, brothers and sisters, is for us.

And I would say we have taken hold of it. Today you are seeing it in our protests against police brutality and racism. People standing up for their inherent civil rights. For the right to live, to move about, to vote. You see the numbers and the strength and the outrage.

Today you are seeing it in the House of Representatives, which most recently passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bill intended to restore the vote to Americans — mostly Black, Latino, and Native Americans — who were disenfranchised by the 2013 decision.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act restores the full protections of the original, bipartisan Voting Rights Act of 1965. It also creates a new coverage formula that applies to all states and addresses measures that have historically been used to discriminate against voters.

**A time for action, not despair**

Predictably, full passage has been stalled in the Senate, but "our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year," right? We are fighting the long fight and making good

trouble. And we need to see the numbers and the strength and the outrage at the polls.

In a few months, we will be voting in one of the most important elections of our time. You need to make your voice count. Make it count in spite of those who would stop you. Voting is necessary to make the real change we need in this country. We must unite and come together to elect leaders who are committed to reform and to working people. The only way to do that is to vote.

More than 30 states have approved ballot initiatives to allow absentee voting without an excuse. Check out your situation in your state and however you choose to vote, please make your voice heard this November.

Those who read my column know that I am a union man. I can say unequivocally as far as the UAW is concerned, we are not new to John Lewis' fight. For decades, the UAW has fought alongside freedom marching men and women to ensure that individual rights are honored.

At a time when far too many eligible voters are wrongly turned away from the polls — or simply don't have access to them — we must rededicate ourselves to increasing participation among eligible voters.

John Lewis said at the 1963 March on Washington in front of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and UAW President Walter Reuther, "I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete."

In that idea, Congressman Lewis is still right here standing before more bridges that need crossing. Only by voting, can we get to the other side.

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# How misinformation, federalism and selfishness hampered America's virus response

By Michael Ollove  
Stateline, an initiative of  
the Pew Charitable Trusts

COVID-19 has scrambled the meaning of American exceptionalism.

For a century or more, the United States has been a beacon of hope and strength to the rest of the world. But its response to the pandemic, many public health experts say, has been uniquely hapless, ineffective, undisciplined and selfish. By some measures, the United States has handled the health crisis as badly as any country has.

Although the United States represents only 4% of the world's population, it accounts for a quarter of all COVID-19 cases and 22% of all deaths.

The country whose military and economic might won the Second World War, and whose confidence and technological wizardry planted the first human being on the moon, now finds itself as a reverse role model during the worst public health crisis in a century.

"The U.S. response — I exaggerate not — is a textbook example of how to do it wrong," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

To be sure, some American states, particularly in New England, have fared better than others, but that only reflects the disjointed



Thom Massat / Unsplash

national response, epidemiologists say.

Relatively successful countries such as Denmark, Germany, Senegal and Thailand have put out messaging that is clear, consistent and transparent. They have implemented nationwide policies guided by science rather than politics. And above all, they have exerted strong national leadership.

"The first thing I would say is that they have had a national policy," Schaffner said. "That is also the second, third and fourth thing. They had a national policy. That national policy was decided on very quickly and it was communicated clearly and consistently and based on public health principles."

Community spirit has proven stronger elsewhere than in the United States, say some health policy experts.

"One of the things that strikes me about the rest of the world compared to the U.S. is there is much more

of a community sense," said Dr. Krutika Kuppalli, vice chair of the Infectious Diseases Society of America's Global Health Committee and an infectious disease doctor who has worked in Asia and on Ebola in Africa. "The U.S. is much more about 'I' than 'we,' whereas in other countries it's more 'we' than 'I.'"

"In a pandemic, the thing has to be about 'we' not 'I.'"

Anna Petherick, a researcher at the School of Government at the University of Oxford, which analyzes government COVID-19 responses, said Americans show a lot of skepticism toward government directives.

"There are good things about that attitude, but it doesn't serve the country well at a time of crisis when you need to coordinate, when you perhaps need to give up personal freedom for the collective good."

South Korea and the United States both recorded their first cases Jan. 20, yet

South Korea has held its outbreak level to 30 cases per 100,000 people, compared with the U.S. figure of 1,655 per 100,000.

Last week, New Zealand had gone 100 days without detecting a single example of community spread of the virus before encountering an outbreak that prompted the government to postpone the general election for a month. The United States surpassed 5 million cases and 160,000 dead around the same time, with cases mounting in six states and high transmission rates prevailing in more than a dozen others.

Countries such as South Korea and Denmark have removed nearly all coronavirus-related restrictions. In the United States, authorities in numerous hotspots have either had to pause or roll back reopening some businesses. Hundreds of public health experts and medical professionals have signed on to a letter calling for a national shutdown now, in the sixth month of the pandemic.

"If our response had been as effective as South Korea, Australia, or Singapore's, fewer than 2,000 Americans would have died," their letter asserts.

"We could have prevented 99% of those COVID-19 deaths. But we didn't."

Last week, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner defended the Trump administration's strategy. In an interview with CNBC, he said the administration led by overseeing the procurement, production and distribution of masks, ventilators and other resources.

"With regards to a national strategy, the job of the federal government was

to get the resources that the country needed," said Kushner, who is also the president's son-in-law.

"You heard all these hysterical reports about doctors on the front lines not being able to get masks, not having enough ventilators, you had governors requesting a lot more ventilators than they needed, and again, every patient in America that needed a ventilator got a ventilator, President Trump distributed them properly," Kushner said.

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## September blood donors eligible for free McDonald's Combo Meal

Local McDonald's owner/operators and Carter BloodCare are partnering to host over 50 blood drives at McDonald's locations throughout North Texas this September. All donors who give blood during the month of September will receive a voucher for one free medium lunch or dinner Combo Meal redeemable at McDonald's restau-

rants in Greater Dallas-Fort Worth, Tyler and Waco. The partnership comes at a crucial time for the community blood supply as the work-from-home lifestyle continues.

"Blood drive sponsors are harder to find since their businesses, schools or houses of worship are social distancing or not allowing visitors inside," said Dr. Merlyn

Sayers, president and CEO, Carter BloodCare. "More than 500 blood drives have canceled since March, or postponed indefinitely. It is important that blood collections mirror the diversity of patients that visit area hospitals. Blood drives provide that support because they can take place most any-

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# Low-income voters can impact American elections says Poor People's Campaign report

By Pamela E. Ice

This week, the Rev. William J. Barber, II and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC), released a report they hope will change how American politicians build their platforms and the issues they address as they campaign. Titled *Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans: Changing the Political Landscape*, the report, researched and written by economist and Assistant Professor of Social Work at New York's Columbia University, Robert Paul Hartley, makes a few startling observations about poor and low-income eligible non-voters.



Hartley reports that, "In the 2016 presidential election, there were 138 million voters out of 225 million eligible voters. Twenty-nine million of these voters were poor or low-income and there were an additional 34 million poor or low-income people who were eligible, but who did not vote."

Hartley calculates that non-voting low-wealth

people had the potential to change the outcome of the 2016 election if only candidates had bothered to address poor people's issues in their campaigns. Rev. Barber says, "Not only is it immoral to ignore poor and low-income people, not only is it economically [foolish], it is political suicide to ignore them in 2020." The PPC is cur-

rently waging concentrated voter registration drives in Texas and across the nation to get non-voting poor people prepared to vote in person or by mail in the November 3 election. The implications for this Fall's candidates are clear: Ignore the issues of poor and low-wealth people in the next three months at your peril.

The issues of poor and low-wealth people include "health [care], jobs, wages, food, [and clean] water," according to Shailly Gupta Barnes, in the report's foreword. Denita Jones of Dallas agrees, "My government is failing me and millions like me. We need higher wages, better workplace protections, lower rents, access to quality affordable health care, and

fresh healthy food. Real freedom means not having to choose between your health and your rent." Jones continued, "This [Covid-19] crisis just takes the Band-Aid off a wound that has been festering for too long. It's time to apply some UV light and disinfectant to the wound of inequality in this country."

Another person involved with the PPC, Lauren Simmons who lives in Houston's Third Ward says, "Covid-19 has impacted our community physically, financially and emotionally. I have seen it up close and personal because I tested positive. I'm not surprised how poorly our [Texas] leaders have handled this issue, especially considering that we have the most

uninsured people in this state." Simmons added, "I'm also disturbed by the push to have children [and] school employees return to campuses that were already underfunded and ill equipped pre-Covid."

Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, a member of the Texas PPC Steering Committee and co-chair of the Dallas Poor People's Campaign noted that the report indicates that "the issues of poor people should be front and center in terms of discussions of those seeking to win in November."

*Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans: Changing the Political Landscape* can be found at [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org).

## Dawoodi Bohras to observe Ashara Mubarak at home in 2020

The Dawoodi Bohras of Dallas - Ft. Worth are preparing to observe Ashara Mubarak - one of the most significant events in the Bohra calendar - at home this year as all members of the faith continue to comply faithfully with local COVID-19 restrictions.

Every year, Dawoodi Bohras throughout the world - including those living in Dallas / Ft. Worth - place great importance on Ashara Mubarak, a ten-day period of spiritual reflection and education at the beginning of the Islamic year that commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Husain ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Mohammed



SAW. This year, Ashara falls between August 19 to 28.

Murtaza Sardharwala, representative for the Dawoodi Bohra community of Dallas - Ft. Worth, said, "Normally, many Dawoodi

Bohras from this area gather with thousands of others across the globe at a city chosen for the occasion by our leader, His Holiness Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, to listen to his sermons. It's a most significant oc-

casion. This year will be different, but no less important, as we instead observe Ashara Mubarak at home with our families, following prayers and sermons online, just as we did during Ramadan in May."

Delivered over nine days, sermons during Ashara Mubarak explore themes of humanity, justice, sacrifice, forgiveness and kindness - all qualities that manifest themselves in the tragedy that befell Imam Husain and his companions in Karbala, Iraq, and that offer extremely important lessons for today.

During this period, Bohras would normally gather each day for shared

meals after the sermons, and members would vie for the honour of hosting them. This year, due to current restrictions, cooked meals will be made in community kitchens and sent to all Bohra homes, a program commonly known as 'Faiz al-Mawaid al-Burhaniyah.'

Murtaza continued, "While we cannot travel or gather at our masjid (or mosque) this year, we will be taking time off from work and students will take leave from classes in order to participate fully and observe the sanctity of the occasion. And we shall be decorating our homes with banners bearing verses from the Quran

and the names of Prophet Mohammed SAW and his family in order to recreate the spiritual ambience of the masjid where we would normally congregate. We will certainly do our best to observe the occasion while keeping ourselves and those around us safe."

While Dawoodi Bohras look forward to a time when they can congregate as a community at their local masjid in Irving, until that day comes they continue to pray and observe religious duties according to local regulations, keeping themselves and neighbors safe, and playing their part in the fight against COVID-19.

## Democrats celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Tuesday marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which gave women the right to vote. The efforts of suffragists began during the 1850s, but went on the backburner during the Civil War, but in 1869 the National Woman Suffrage Association was established, giving the

movement new momentum. Co-founder Susan B. Anthony later was jailed for trying to vote, and today is commemorated on a special \$1 U.S. coin.

"Today is a day for all of us to celebrate equality and how far we've come and how far we still have yet to go," said Texas Democratic Party Vice Chair Dr. Carla

Brailey. "Today is about the suffragettes who championed the 19th Amendment. The Black women who marched during the Civil Rights movement. The women who faced all odds to build a better country for all of us. Many of them, their stories never even told."

"Today is also about us

continuing their fight.

"We're on the verge of making history. Kamala Harris is set to become not only the first woman vice president but also the first woman of color. Women are powering the Democratic movement and we're about to elect many Texas women to office in November. From the statehouse to

the White House, we need representation that reflects who we are: diverse in every way, from all walks of life.

"Texas Democrats will never stop fighting for women and equal rights for all. From advocating for equal pay, to expanded paid sick care leave and maternity leave, to fighting

to protect our reproductive health, the Texas Democratic Party is committed to keep up the fight of our suffragettes past. We've come so far and have so far yet to go. We'll get closer to reaching the heights that so many women have fought and sacrificed for in November when we win up and down the ballot."

# Leaders are Learners, Inc: Lessening the summer slide through enrichment

By Jacquinette D. Murphy  
NDG Special Contributor

The looming COVID-19 global pandemic and the necessity of social distancing did not stop Leaders are Learners, Inc., a non-profit based in Cedar Hill and founded by Brandy Jones-West, Ph.D., from hosting their second Summer Leadership Camp. West and her team pivoted the in-person camp enrichment program model to host a virtual experience for fifteen youth ages 9-13 years old.

The programs developed by the camp are dedicated to lessening the summer slide by offering engaging projects and activities centered around a 5-point focus on social justice, academic enrichment, movement, leadership, and social/emotional learning.

As a former classroom teacher who also held several roles as a K-12 administrator, Jones-West is currently a clinical professor in the Teaching and Learning Department at Sam Houston State University, LL Inc. She shared the necessity of



Kaiden West took first place in the competition with a presentation on the Little Rock Nine. (Courtesy Image)

enrichment programs like Leaders are Learners, Inc, that develop out-of-school academic-based programs dedicated to helping youth bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world.

“As a teacher, I noticed that there were a lot of lessons students was not receiving from the curriculum, such as leadership and soft skills. These are skills that I feel students still need to be successful,” said Jones-West as she shared

the vision and inspiration for the camp. “I am really into experiential learning, field trips that get children out of their houses, schools, and neighborhoods to do and learn new things. You do not know how big the world is until you get out there and experience it.”

For three weeks, the young campers learned online together with certified teachers, engaged in several, skill-building activities and contests for three hours per day. Then, they worked in-

dependently to complete academic enrichment projects, to research and practice for two culminating camp contests, the camp spelling bee, and the culminating poetry oratorical presentations.

According to West and the camp attendees, one of the most memorable components of the camp included a book study and leadership discussion on the Clinton Twelve, a nonfiction story about 12 African-American students who integrated Clinton High School in Ten-

nessee in 1956.

Themed the Promise of Change, the youth took a virtual walk through the pages of African American history during the final poetry oratorical contest, as the campers presented their research and knowledge gained about leaders and changemakers that helped to reshape society, such as the Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, The Little Rock Nine, Clara Ward, The Jim Crow Laws, Brown vs. The Board of Education and others.

The top three presentations selected by the judges based on research, visuals and presentation tone, were as follows: Kaiden Stewart West - First Place (118 points) for his The Little Rock Nine presentation, Brenyae West - Second Place (117 points) for her presentation on Brown vs. The Board of Education and Jasmine Simpson - Third Place (110 points) for her presentation on The Jim Crow Laws. These winners received cash awards sponsored by the North Dallas Gazette of \$100, \$50, and

\$25, respectively.

Jones-West shared that she was impressed by the participation and preparation of the students and glad that did not cancel this year's learning excursion. An opportunity for which Simpson and the camp attendees made plain that they were grateful to have.

“It allowed me to learn in a different way. This is new to all of us because we are used to doing this in-person and now we are doing it all online,” she said as she and the other campers gave two thumbs to state their satisfaction for the camp content, its organizers, and to the new friends that they made.

The campers also participated in the Dallas City of Learning (DCOL), an education initiative and online platform sponsored in part by Big Thought and designed to help students discover new interests, develop skills, and earn recognition for learning achievements.

Learn more about this organization and its out-of-school programs via its website [leadersinc.org](http://leadersinc.org).

## U.S. Department of Education launches space mission challenge for high school students

WASHINGTON — Building on the Administration-wide commitment to expand student interest in the booming science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, the U.S. Department of Education today launched CTE Mission: CubeSat, a national challenge to inspire students to build technical skills for careers in space and beyond. High school students from across the country are invited to design and build CubeSat (cube satellite) prototypes, or satellites that aid in space research, bringing space missions out of the clouds and into the classroom.

“This is such an exciting



way to rethink education and get students engaged in hands-on learning in the growing aerospace and technology fields,” said

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. “I look forward to seeing the innovative prototypes students develop and hope this challenge inspires our next generation of American space explorers.”

Investors predict that space will be the next trillion-dollar industry, and as missions in space continue to expand, so do the career opportunities. This multi-phase challenge offers high school students across the United States the chance to build CubeSat prototypes while learning creative, collaborative, and technical skills for 21st century careers.

Schools interested in en-

tering CTE Mission: CubeSat should form a team and submit a mission proposal by 5:59 p.m. ET, on Oct. 16, 2020 — no in-person collaboration or prior experience with CubeSats is required. The online submission form asks for school information, a team profile, a project proposal, and anticipated learning outcomes. Curated educational resources are available to students and teachers online in the CTE Mission: CubeSat resource hub. To learn more, schools can join a virtual information session on Sept. 1.

Up to five finalists will be selected to receive prizes and participate in Phase

2, which runs from January to May 2021. Finalists will have access to expert mentorship and additional virtual resources as they build CubeSat prototypes and plan flight events to launch their prototypes. The Department understands that due to current conditions, schools will need flexibility to safely collaborate when designing and building prototypes during the challenge. The Department looks forward to the creative solutions in the mission proposals it receives as challenge entries.

Each finalist will receive an equal share of the \$25,000 cash prize pool, as well as satellite devel-

opment, hardware, and software kits. Challenge sponsors include Arduino, Blue Origin, Chevron, EnduroSat, LEGO Education, Magnitude.io, MIT Media Lab, and XinaBox.

“Developing a CubeSat prototype is an opportunity for students to learn competitive skills and explore a wide range of careers in space — or their own communities,” said Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education Scott Stump. “Through CTE Mission: CubeSat, we aim to bring students new learning opportunities to build valuable technical skills for in-demand and rewarding careers.”



### Remember your loved one in NDG Obituaries

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# Irving cancels Special Bond Election on \$560 million in proposals

By Fatema Biviji  
NDG Special Contributor

The City of Irving held a Special City Council Meeting on August 13, 2020. In an unexpected turn of events, a motion was put forth to pass an ordinance cancelling the Special Bond Election that was originally to be held on May 2, 2020, and subsequently postponed to November 3, 2020. The Ordinance was passed by City Council in a 5-3 vote (one member abstained) resulting in the cancellation of the Special Bond Election that was to be held on November 3rd.



Road improvements were among the bigger items on slate for a bond election which the City of Irving recently cancelled. (Photo: Zoi Palla)

On February 13, 2020, City Council voted 8 -1 passing an ordinance calling this bond election to be held on May 2, 2020. On March 3, 2020, the Governor declared a state of emergency in response

to the Covid-19 pandemic. On March 31st, the City Council postponed both the Regular Municipal Election and the Special Bond Election to November 3, 2020, in accordance to the Governor's proclamation.

The bond package, in its current version, consists of 12 proposals that voters can vote on individually. This is different from past bond elections in which voters could only vote "yes" or "no" on the entire bond package.

Bond proposals total over \$560 million and include nearly \$70 million in

inflation costs. In the past, bond proposals have not included funds for inflation. The current proposals include:

\$207,800,000 for road improvements, \$9,200,000 for the City Hall campus, \$10,200,000 for general government facilities, \$1,300,000 for Human Services offices and facilities, \$29,930,000 for police facilities, \$5,770,000 for the animal care campus, \$34,300,000 for firefighting facilities, \$78,300,000 for parks and recreation facilities, \$10,700,000 for the City's fiber optics and IT

related needs, \$20,200,000 for libraries, \$3,000,000 for the Irving Arts Center, and \$152,700,000 for joint fire and police public safety facilities.

The question now looms whether the bond proposals will get back on the ballot. According to citizen bond task force committee vice-chair, Sharon Barbosa Crain, "It will require a council action to call a bond election for May. We don't know yet if the council will leave the propositions as they are or will change some of them."

## DALLAS ISD ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



New Start Date  
**September 8**



No Fair Days  
**October**



New Holiday  
**Thursday, November 3**



9-Week  
**Grading Periods**



Last Day of School  
**June 18, 2021**

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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Plano**

Efforts are underway to approve a **budget for sustaining Plano's Excellence**. Last month City Manager Mark Israelson presented the 2020-21 Recommended Budget and Community Investment Program (CIP). See these documents online. Key Budget Figures

- Proposed Combined Budget of \$604.7 Million
- Tax rate of 44.82 per \$100 of assessed property valuation (must be certified) Budget Calendar Ahead
- Monday, Aug. 24 – 1st Public Hearing on the Tax Rate
- Monday, Sept. 14 – Adoption of the Operating

Budget and CIP, and set the Tax Rate

- Thursday, Oct. 1 – New Fiscal Year begins under newly adopted Budget

Please review the Recommended City Budget and Community Investment Program. Send your questions about the Budget to askplano@plano.gov. Answers

will be posted every Monday at [plano.gov/recommendedbudget](http://plano.gov/recommendedbudget).

**Richardson**

The Richardson Health Department plans to **ground spray** one area beginning Tuesday, Aug. 18, weather permitting, in order to help prevent the spread

of the West Nile virus. The decision to spray comes after City Health Department workers were notified that a trap located within the subject spraying location returned mosquitoes that tested positive for carrying the disease.

For more information on Richardson's mosquito

abatement program, please visit [www.cor.net/mosquito](http://www.cor.net/mosquito).

Weather permitting, spraying will occur according to the following schedule: Tuesday, Aug. 18 and Wednesday, Aug. 19 on Arapaho Road south to Spring Valley Road and Coit Road east to Cottonwood Creek.

## Trump administration ramps up efforts to dismantle Post Office

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior  
National Correspondent

President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to dismantle the United States Postal Service or re-vamp the agency in a way that has angered Democrats and others who said it's a tactic to prevent mail-in voting for the upcoming election.

The CARES Act passed in April authorized the postal service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the Treasury Department for operating expenses if it's determines that, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the post office would not fund operating expenses without borrowing money.



*Slowdowns at the post office have reportedly also resulted in seniors receiving their medications late and other important mail like social security checks. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)*

"They have withheld that money. They have broken the law," Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass told BlackPressUSA during a livestream interview last month. Other Democratic lawmakers, including Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), and Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), also told

BlackPressUSA that the president is trying to dismantle the postal service.

Trump has steadfastly opposed funding the postal service.

Despite recently voting with his wife by mail in a Florida primary election, the president said he's against mail-in voting.

"Trump is not stupid. He

knows if there is a decent-sized turnout in this election, he loses," Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) wrote on Twitter. "He and his friends believe they can suppress the vote by destroying the post office. We aren't going to allow that to happen."

Several postal workers have reported the removal of sorting machines at postal facilities and the removal of sidewalk mailboxes.

Postal officials reported that in the last week, the agency had removed letter collection boxes in at least four states: New York, Oregon, Montana, and Indiana.

Postal workers in at least three states – West Virginia, Florida, and Missouri – have received notification that retail operating hours also face

reduction.

Removing mailboxes had become a practice along marathon and parade routes since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, however, the latest removals are believed intentional and strategically coordinated to impact the election.

In response to the removal of mailboxes and a slowdown in the delivery of mail, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) sent a letter to the Postmaster General on Aug. 7. New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver (D), Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin (R), Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D) and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) joined in

signing the letter.

"State and local election officials are busy planning for the November general election, and many expect an increase in the use of absentee and mail ballots, along with other election-related mailings," the state officials wrote.

"We view the [United States Postal Service] as a vital partner in administering a safe, successful election and would like to learn more about any planned changes around USPS service due to COVID-19, preparations for increased election-related mail, USPS staffing levels and processing times, and other pertinent issues."

The postal service has

**See USPS, Page 0**

## Governor moves to block 'defund the police' efforts in the Lone Star State

Amid the protests and conflict around the country regarding police conduct, there has been a movement among many activists and groups to "defund the police." The idea has seen widespread support from some sectors of the country, with others having a very vitriolic response to the concept.

On Tuesday, Texas Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference where he emphatically rejected the idea of taking funding away from police departments. He also said he would be introducing legislation to counter any attempts to defund police departments in Texas. With this proposal, any city that defunds its police department will have its property tax revenue frozen at the current level.

"Part of our job as state leaders is to ensure the safety and security of all

Texans, and we will not allow this core function to be undermined by cities that seek to defund and dismantle law enforcement agencies that have a sworn duty to protect our communities," said Abbott. "Defunding the police puts Texans in danger and invites lawlessness into our cities, and cities that endanger their residents should not be able to turn around and raise more taxes from those same Texans. I strongly urge the Texas Legislature to take up this important issue next session to protect their constituents and ensure law enforcement have the resources and support they need to protect their communities."

The remarks have been met with opposition from some quarters, but Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson is withholding judgement on the issue for now.

"I would want to see the actual legislation before I comment directly on Governor Abbott's proposal because 'defunding' means different things to different people," Johnson said. "But generally, I believe it should be up to voters to hold their local elected officials accountable for their budgetary decisions, which should reflect the people's priorities."

"My top priority as mayor is keeping the public safe. Dallas has had unacceptable increases in violent crime in the past few years, and that has disproportionately affected our underserved communities. People need safety and stability to thrive. To that end, it's imperative for us to invest in a highly trained and well-led police department that emphasizes community policing. I am also committed to exploring policies

that reduce our dependence on police officers to solve society's ills.

"I personally believe we should look to defund the bureaucracy by redirecting

portions of highly compensated government executives' salaries back to taxpayers or to programs and services that help make our communities stronger. With

limited resources, we must act responsibly and produce a budget that focuses on safety, service, and equity for our residents and businesses."

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# African Film Festival, Inc., launches new website with digital archive and streaming service

African Film Festival, Inc. (AFF), the premier U.S. presenter of African cinema, has unveiled its new streaming platform and digital archives at its online home, [africanfilmny.org](http://africanfilmny.org). The portal to the Continent includes more than 800 profiles of directors from across the diaspora, from veterans like Ousmane Sembène, Safi Faye, Souleymane Cissé and Tunde Kelani to emerging talents like Mamadou Dia, Nuotama Bodom, Abba Makama and Mariama Diallo as well as more than 1,000 film profiles, and interviews, articles, reviews, photographs and more. The New York City-based organization — currently celebrating its 30th anniversary — has also launched AFF Digital, the organization's new streaming service offering a curated selection of films.

"This challenging, paradoxical moment we find ourselves in forces us to be apart, while we find ourselves more connected and plugged in to the incredible talent in the diaspora more than ever," said AFF Founder Mahen Bonetti, a longtime champion of African cinema. "The pause in our programming has allowed us to realize a long-held desire to bring online our treasure trove of never-before-seen content as a resource



A scene from *The African Who Wanted to Fly* by Samantha Biffot, now available on AFF Digital

for creatives, scholars and laypersons yearning for African culture, and to add something significant to the virtual conversation.

The site's archives include highlights of 26 years of AFF's signature program, the New York African Film Festival (NYAFF), with star-studded opening nights, panel discussions, filmmaker interviews and more, featuring the likes of entertainer Harry Belafonte; writer Wole Soyinka; actors Danny Glover, Lauren Hutton and Iman and the late Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee; and musicians Salif Keita and the late Hugh Masekela.

The new streaming platform AFF Digital kicks off with Alexander the Great Stole My Nose (Channel Surfing) by Lion Ayodele and Mbas mi by Joseph Gai Ramaka (which depicts an episode in Albert Camus'

The Plague, refashioned as an expression of the universal) in a program titled Two Artists Respond to the Times. In addition, audience favorites such as the feature documentary *The African Who Wanted to Fly* by Samantha Biffot, and the short films *Meokgo* and *The Stick Fighter* by Teboho Mahlatsi, *Hello, Rain* by C.J. Obasi and *dance-dance/REvolution* by Mark Freeman will also be a part of the inaugural slate. The service is free until September 30, after which a nominal fee will be charged. Films featured will be changed frequently.

The new site's store offers a collection of a popular feature from its former site, DVDs of African and diasporic film classics such as Paulin Vieyra and Mamadou Sarr's *Afrique Sur Siene*, Euzhan Palcy's *Sug-*

*ar Cane Alley*, Sembène's *Black Girl*, Charles Burnett's *Killer of Sheep* and Oliver Schmitz's *Mapantula*. More than 50 films are available for purchase for one's home collection.

Bonetti created the reimagined site along with AFF Program Manager Dara Ojugbele, AFF Office Manager Colleen Ndemeh Fitzgerald, Marketing Consultant Tafadzwa Chiriga and Web Designer Zainab Aliyu. The organization will continue to release footage of interviews, articles, reviews and feature and short films as it digitizes additional materials throughout the year and beyond.

The new site is made possible with the generous support of Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund and the New York Community Trust. AFF programs are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New

York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, Bradley Family Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Domenico Paulon Foundation, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, NYC & Company, Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Manhattan Portage, City Bakery, Black Hawk Imports, Essentia Water, South African Consulate General, National Film and Video Foundation, Motion Picture Enterprises, Inc., Paso Almonds, Isokan Collective, Hudson Hotel and Royal Air Maroc.

For more information, visit [www.africanfilmny.org](http://www.africanfilmny.org) or follow is on social media on Facebook (@africanfilmny), Twitter (@AfricanFilmFest) or Instagram (@AfricanFilmFest).

For 30 years, African

Film Festival, Inc. (AFF) has bridged the divide between post-colonial Africa and the American public through the powerful medium of film and video. AFF's unique place in the international arts community is distinguished not only by leadership in festival management but also by a comprehensive approach to the advocacy of African film and culture. AFF established the New York African Film Festival (NYAFF) in 1993 with Film at Lincoln Center.

The New York African Film Festival is presented annually by the African Film Festival, Inc. and Film at Lincoln Center, in association with Brooklyn Academy of Music. AFF also produces a series of local, national and international programs throughout the year. More information about AFF can be found on the Web at [www.africanfilmny.org](http://www.africanfilmny.org).

## USPS, from Page 8

sent letters to warn 46 states that it could not guarantee all mail-in ballots cast for the November election would arrive in time to be counted.

Some states, like Maryland and Virginia, received a "heightened warning" that the postal service could not meet state-mandated deadlines.

In response, a large group of protesters staged a "noise demonstration" on Saturday,

Aug. 15, outside of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's home in Washington, D.C.

The demonstration was organized by the direct-action group "Shut Down D.C."

The organization said they believe DeJoy is "dismantling" the U.S. Postal Service in favor of President Donald Trump's reelection. They said his ac-

tions contribute to voter suppression.

"DeJoy has fired or reassigned much of the existing USPS leadership and ordered the removal of mail sorting machines that are fundamental to the functioning of the postal service. Meanwhile, mail delivery is slowing down under other decisions made by DeJoy, such as eliminating overtime for postal workers," the organization wrote in a statement.

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## R&B fusion artist, physician and musician V. Tiarra releases 'Digital Love'

R&B Fusion Artist V. Tiarra was a featured performer/artist at the 2020 Blue Gala hosted by the Miami-Dade Democratic Party. Just as she is releasing her next new song, "Digital Love," V. Tiarra performed "Batter Up" an ode to the many societal and social issues US Citizens face, while politicians "politick" and use their constituents for their own political power, financial gain and divisiveness of their own citizens.

V. Tiarra, Dr. Venis Wilder by day, is a Medical Director in Fort Lauderdale, FL, a Duke University Alumna and Harvard Medical Graduate, she has decided to return to South



Florida to serve her community and wants to spread her message: Become active politically, socially and in your community for the change you desire, and don't abandon your rights, especially the right to vote.

"I have always thought

of doctoring as something that occurs both inside and outside of the walls of the exam room - many of the health problems patients come to see me about are a result of larger social issues," she says. "So, I feel that sharing messages

through music that address these issues is a way to affect a larger number of people than I could see one-on-one in my office."

As a physician on the front lines of battling COVID-19, especially in the current epicenter of South

Florida, V. Tiarra by day is committed to serving her community and patients.

V. Tiarra has been featured in countless publications, including but not limited to, The Sun-Sentinel, Medium, The Hype Magazine, and Rive Video. Further, V. Tiarra partners with Headcount, a non-partisan organization that uses the power of music to register voters and promote participation in democracy.

Attend V. Tiarra's upcoming Labor Day Weekend event, Year of the Woman: Power Hour Celebration, to celebrate the progress, power and further encouragement needed to support the lives and well being of women of color.

It's a movement... "Batter Up!"

V. Tiarra came to life in 2018. She found her way back to music after a long break, by first pursuing a career in medicine as a physician. She currently works as a Medical Director practicing in South Florida where she can support her hometown and current community. Music has helped V. Tiarra heal from illness, and helped her find her true inner voice. Her style is a smart and soulful R&B/hip hop/pop mix. V. Tiarra loves to write lyrics that reflect on the social conditions of the world, ranging from politics, money, feminism, to love. She was born and raised in South Florida.

## FW Symphony Orchestra welcomes two world-renowned artists

Due to travel disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (FWSO) announced two changes today to the artist roster for the fall season. After 16 years since his last FWSO performance, piano soloist Stewart Goodyear will be joining the FWSO's

first Symphonic program scheduled for Sept.18-20, and Roderick Cox will have his debut with the FWSO as a guest conductor for the second Symphonic program, Oct. 16-18.

"Both are extremely impressive artists, and we look forward to providing the North Texas commu-

nity with the opportunity to experience their exceptional talents in person," said Keith Cerny, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

Goodyear is an accomplished young pianist as a concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist and

composer. He received his training at The Royal Conservatory, Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School. He performed with the FWSO in 2004, in addition to more than 20 of the major orchestras around the world.

Cox is a German-based American conductor who

has gained international acclaim for his performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera and Philharmonia Orchestra (London). He attended the Schwob School

of Music at Columbus State University as well as Northwestern University.

For more information about the FWSO's upcoming performance season, please visit [www.fwsymphony.org](http://www.fwsymphony.org).

## Joshua Crumbly releases new single and video

On Tuesday, bassist, composer, and bandleader Joshua Crumbly released a new single and video titled "Reflection." The video was directed and edited by Alan Be, and filmed by Drew Robinson. BuzzBandsLA described it as "a song whose warm keys (courtesy of David Cook) and restrained percussion glow with hope, despite what dominates the headlines every day."

"I was in a very pensive mood with everything going on in the world and wrote this song while the news was playing in the background," Crumbly says. "The progression allowed me the space to brood in my thoughts and feelings as well as brought me to a more hopeful place the more I played it. The video is meant to symbolize holding on to that small glimmer of light and finding one's own belief that



Alan Be

we are going to get through this. I think there's been a tremendous focus on the 'rage' and similar emotions of this time, but not enough on the moments of unity worldwide. The protest photos/footage is from all over the world: Netherlands, Manchester (UK), NYC, and Los Angeles. The global awareness & togetherness as well as family has given me something to hold onto. Maybe we'll all truly see ourselves in one another one day. I hope to have captured the 'bittersweetness' of the time but also hopefully convey an uplifting message, both

sonically and visually that leaves room for your own 'Reflection.'"

Earlier this year, Joshua released his debut full-length Rise -- the album earned acclaim from Hypebeast, Indieshuffle, Jazziz, WBGO, Earmilk, No Treble, Exclaim!, Glide, Ones to Watch, and The FADER, who said Rise features "explosions of synths mixed with a driving drum pattern that has the dusty texture of a jazz lounge." Crumbly has recorded and toured with a staggering list of genre-blurring artists including Kamasi Washington, Lizz Wright, Stefon Harris, Ravi Coltrane, Anthony Wilson, Terence Blanchard, and Leon Bridges. The music on Rise manages to draw inspiration from all of those artists, melding into an uncategorizable but eminently inviting sound. "My goal is to write songs that can be performed at rock festivals

or jazz clubs or concert halls," Crumbly insists. "I come from a very diverse musical background and believe that this album has something for everyone."



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# Unemployment compensation is taxable; Have tax withheld now and avoid a tax-time surprise

WASHINGTON – With millions of Americans now receiving taxable unemployment compensation, many of them for the first time, the Internal Revenue Service today reminded people receiving unemployment compensation that they can have tax withheld from their benefits now to help avoid owing taxes on this income when they file their federal income tax return next year.

By law, unemployment compensation is taxable and must be reported on a 2020 federal income tax

return. Taxable benefits include any of the special unemployment compensation authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted this spring.

Withholding is voluntary. Federal law allows any recipient to choose to have a flat 10% withheld from their benefits to cover part or all of their tax liability. To do that, fill out Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request (PDF), and give it to the agency paying the benefits. Don't send it

to the IRS. If the payor has its own withholding request form, use it instead.

If a recipient doesn't choose withholding, or if withholding is not enough, they can make quarterly estimated tax payments instead. The payment for the first two quarters of 2020 was due on July 15. Third and fourth quarter payments are due on Sept. 15, 2020, and Jan. 15, 2021, respectively. For more information, including some helpful worksheets, see Form 1040-ES and Publication 505, available on IRS.gov.

Here are some types of payments taxpayers should check their withholding on:

- Unemployment compensation includes: Benefits paid by a state or the District of Columbia from the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund
- Railroad unemployment compensation benefits
- Disability benefits paid as a substitute for unemployment compensation
- Trade readjustment allowances under the Trade Act of 1974
- Unemployment assistance under the Disaster

Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974, and

- Unemployment assistance under the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 Program

Recipients who return to work before the end of the year can use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator to make sure they are having enough tax taken out of their pay. Available only on IRS.gov, this online tool can help any worker or pension recipient avoid or lessen their year-end tax bill or estimate the refund they want.

In January 2021, unemployment benefit recipients should receive a Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments (PDF) from the agency paying the benefits. The form will show the amount of unemployment compensation they received during 2020 in Box 1, and any federal income tax withheld in Box 4. Taxpayers report this information, along with their W-2 income, on their 2020 federal tax return. For more information on unemployment, see Unemployment Benefits in Publication 525.

## BLOOD, from Page 4

where.”

A majority of Carter BloodCare's first-time blood donors come from blood drives, hosted by sponsors, rather than visits to the donation center locations. On average, 600 to 800 patients rely on trusted blood transfusions daily, and hospitals rely on blood donors to provide the blood. Each blood donation has the potential to save up to three lives. Carter BloodCare is also offering COVID-19 antibody testing on successful donations, for a limited time. Donors can retrieve their results within one to two weeks through a secure portal on the blood center's website.

“Blood is essential to our local hospitals and their patients, and it's important for us to come together as a community to help fulfill this need,” said Chuck O'Reilly, local McDonald's owner/operator and president of the McDonald's of North Texas owner/operator co-operative. “We're partnering with Carter BloodCare to transform McDonald's parking lots into blood donation centers to make it easier than ever to donate. As a thank you, we're also treating donors to a McDonald's Combo Meal on us.”

The partnership will kick off at the Globe Life Field in Arlington with the Texas Rangers from Septem-

ber 1-3 and will continue throughout the month, including dozens of blood drives in McDonald's parking lots throughout North Texas. For a full list of September blood drive locations and dates, please visit [www.carterbloodcare.org/summer-blood-drives/](http://www.carterbloodcare.org/summer-blood-drives/). A list of blood drives taking place at McDonald's restaurants can be found at the bottom of this release.

“All of us at Carter BloodCare are indebted to the McDonald's Owner/Operators of North Texas for their unstinting support of our community blood program,” said Dr. Sayers.

“The recognition that your famous brand the golden arches brings to our blood drives is immeasurably valuable.”

Appointments are strongly encouraged to help manage the flow and avoid crowding. Walk-in appointments will be accepted, and donors will check in upon arrival to be directed to a designated waiting area until space is available. To reduce wait time and contact at your appointment, the medical questionnaire can be completed in advance, the day of your donation, through the Carter BloodCare app or by online access at [qs.carterbloodcare.org](http://qs.carterbloodcare.org). Donors will see a Carter

BloodCare bus in the parking lot when they arrive at McDonald's for the blood drive.

The safety of blood donors and Carter BloodCare staff members is top priority. All blood drive setups will comply with Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

social distancing, sanitation and pre-screening procedures to provide a safe donation experience for donors and staff. Face coverings will be required and must be worn by donors and staff at all times. In addition to these procedures, Carter BloodCare's routine health

screening includes asking if a donor is feeling well and healthy. If you have any symptoms of illness, including cold or flu, you should not give blood. Blood donors are also routinely screened for temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure, and hemoglobin.

**Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct 36-ft small cell monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 2764 North Houston St., Dallas, Dallas County, TX, 75219, Lat: [32-47-32.1612], Long: [-96-48-38.9442]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.***

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# Liftfund's Women's Business offering free emotional wellness coaching for business owners amid the stress of COVID-19

As part of their COVID-19 Business Resiliency Program, LiftFund Dallas/Ft. Worth Women's Business Center recently rolled out a free emotional wellness program for female entrepreneurs to help them cope with the stress and transitions related to the current global pandemic.

Led by emotional wellness doctor, Dr. Lawana Gladney, the WBC's Emotional Wellness Program teaches business owners tips and techniques on how to maintain emotionally healthy business practices through the pandemic so they can thrive post-pandemic.

"The majority of the time,

women are juggling home, family, and business which alone, stretches the bounds of emotional health and self-care," said Dr. Gladney. "Now, we have the added challenges of a global pandemic that has reshaped all of our lives and challenged us to the core of our emotional being. It is critical during these unprecedented times that women are given strategies that will encourage, empower, and energize them to move forward in the midst of this uncertainty. I am determined to help women to manage their emotions and stress in this chaotic time and come through with more strength, determination, and peace."

The Emotional Wellness Coaching Program on How to Cope with COVID is a program designed to support female entrepreneurs as they manage through crisis and lead their business into recovery.

"There is lots of anxiety as we all try to adjust to this new way of life," said Holloway. "The Women's Business Center's emotional wellness program with Dr. Gladney has added more wellness tools to my belt. I don't know of any other program like WBC's that supports business owners in every aspect needed, including mental and emotional wellness. It has helped me increase the amount of self-

care time I carve out for myself when business, family, husband, or even dinner is calling my name and pulling me in different directions."

The Emotional Wellness program is part of the COVID-19 Business Resiliency Program created by LiftFund DFW Women's Business Center.

Funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration through the CARES Act, the COVID-19 Business Resiliency Program is designed to help businesses navigate through the pandemic, recover quickly, and thrive post-pandemic. The program is offered free of charge but North Texas business owners must apply at

www.covid19reliefsupport.com.

To qualify, businesses had to close due to safety mandates, had to operate remotely and suffered a loss of 15% or more revenue or are struggling to reopen. From one-on-one business assessments and recommendations to help securing funding, the WBC's Business Resiliency program addresses all the pressing concerns of business owners during this uncertain time. They have helped more than 200 business owners of North Texas businesses stay afloat with these resources.

Other program offerings include:

- COVID-19 Business

Assessments & Recommendations

- COVID-19 Business Continuity Planning

- Industry-Specific Trainings and Educational Resources

- Recovery, Resiliency, Restarting Survival Guide

To date, LiftFund DFW Women's Business Center has served more 1055 clients and helped them gain access to more than \$3 million dollars in funding. In addition to its DFW location, LiftFund serves the entire state of Texas and is the host of the San Antonio Women's Business Center. For more information or to enroll for any of these services, visit covid19reliefsupport.com.

## VOTER, from Page 1

to suppress the Black vote for more than a century, despite legislation that mandated otherwise. The "Reconstruction Amendments" attempted to rectify Blacks' right to vote. The 13th Amendment (1865) freed the slaves; the 14th Amendment (1866) gave Blacks citizenship. (The Black Codes, laws aimed at oppressing Blacks, were also enacted in 1865.) The 15th Amendment (1870) outlawed discrimination in voting rights but it had no penalties for violating of those rights. So, in 1870, the Enforcement Act attempted to give teeth to laws that had bark but no bite.

After decades of protest and civil unrest, the House passed the 24th Amendment in 1962 eradicating the poll tax for federal elections. Then the landmark Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 that sought to secure Blacks' right to vote unencumbered. Yet, voter suppression in some form lingered, nonetheless. In 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections also rendered the poll tax unconstitutional for state and local elections. Yet, as recently as 2013, that same U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Shelby v. Holder that states had the right to do things like limit

early voting and require voters to show photo IDs.

The spirit of Jim Crow laws has proven to be that revenant who can mutate and transform depending on the climate and circumstance. While in the past voter suppression was much more obvious, today's systemic racism has a more covert means of undermining the voting rights of targeted demographic groups.

Today, we would be hard-pressed to find the Ku Klux Klan at polling places burning crosses and crops to turn voters away, but contemporary methods of suppression have proven to be just as effective acts of violence. Here are some contemporary tactics used to turn voters away from election polls:

- Voter ID requirements allow election officials to use false claims of rampant voter fraud to justify strict requirements like a photo ID, or laws requiring a physical street address discriminate against minorities groups that are more likely to have P.O. Box addresses, such as Native Americans living on reservations.

- Lack of language access, where election officials refuse to translate materials or offer language assistance (as required by law), which suppresses the

voting of Asian Americans and Latinos.

- Voter roll purges, claims to remove duplicate names, the names of the deceased, or the names of convicted felons. The purge actually deletes the names of millions of eligible voters and disproportionately effects communities of color.

- Polling place closures/consolidations, where election officials have closed thousands of polling places, largely in communities of color. Recently in Chicago's Cook County alone, which has the largest non-Hispanic black population in the country, 95 polling places were either closed or moved.

- Lack of funding for elections, demonstrated its affect when during the 2000 presidential election in Florida there was failure in the recount process, flawed ballot designs, and voting machines that overheated and failed.

- Provisional ballot requirements, if a voter's eligibility is in question they may use a provisional ballot to be counted until eligibility is confirmed. However, localities determine how many provisional ballots are printed, which meant that in certain localities far less were printed than were actually needed.

- Reduced early voting, early voting is essential to

hourly workers who don't have expendable time, because of work or child care obligations. Recently, time apportioned to early voting has been drastically cut which negatively affects communities of color.

- Reduced regular voting hours, negatively affects low-income workers, who don't have the convenience of arriving to work late or taking extended midday breaks; or who are strapped due to childcare arrangements.

Other means of suppression are poorly trained volunteer poll workers, partisan election administrators, and the creation of at-large local offices to dilute the minority vote.

These tactics of voter suppression have proven to be particularly fruitful in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and especially Texas. In the wake of this century-long onslaught on voter suppression a toll has been taken on Black voters.

In 1890, the qualified Black voters registered to have their voice heard was at 90 percent. By 1940, only 3 percent of qualified Black voters were registered. Today, less than half of all registered Black voters regularly participate in elections. Although, if Blacks have someone they feel is worth voting they have shown to

be less apathetic.

With Obama on the ticket in 2008 and 2012, the number of Blacks that voted rose tremendously. Yet when they needed to vote the most in 2016, Black voter turnout fell drastically. And eight percent of the Blacks that did vote that year voted for Trump. Political districts with a relative low percentage of registered Blacks voting is routinely high, compared to districts with a greater percentage of registered Blacks where the voting is repulsively low; and Black women tend to vote more than Black men.

Since 1865 to the present, the provocateurs of this most insidious scheme have done a most commendable job of implanting the spirit of apathy deep within the psyche of African American voters—while the victims have proven to do very little to assuage its effects.

There is, however, a ray of hope for the minority voters. From 2014 to 2018 Blacks have had the highest voter turnout upsurge of all demographic groups, with an increase greater than 18 percent. The status of Black voting isn't what it used to be 20 years ago, but it surely isn't what it was in 1890.

The issue of Jim Crow being dead has been greatly overstated. He has merely changed his name to systemic racism, a more covert

method of depriving citizens seeking to be heard at polling places. If ever there was a time to shake off the effects of the psychological implant know as apathy, the time is now.

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### 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](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](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)*

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

**August 23 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 26, 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,  
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## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

vices until further notice because of the coronavirus.

**August 23**

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 20**

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](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)**



# Out to Pastor: What It Was, Was a Peach Tree

Dr. James L. Snyder

For some reason, this week, I had been thinking of my maternal grandfather. I was named after him, and therefore we had a connection.

As a young boy, I would spend a month, every summer at my grandparents. They lived up in the mountains of Pennsylvania in a long valley. My grandfather was a farmer, and his primary income was his dairy cows. He taught me how to milk cows, and he did it the old-fashioned, hands-on way.

As a farmer up in the mountains of Pennsylvania,

he was very adept at growing things.

One day he came home and in his truck were four little bushes. At least they looked like bushes. I helped him plant them on the left side of the driveway. I never saw my grandfather so happy in all his life.

I asked my grandfather what we were planting, and he simply said, "Peach trees."

The next day a friend of my grandfather stopped in and saw the "bushes" along the driveway.

"Hey, Jim," the friend said, "what's that there that you planted?"

Grandfather just looked

and said, "Peach trees."

The friend laughed and looked at my grandfather and said, "We don't grow peach trees here. And they don't even look like a peach tree." And he continued laughing.

It wasn't long before everybody in the valley was making fun of his "peach trees."

The rumor developed that they were not, but my grandfather was simply trying to fool everybody. After all, he was like that.

A year later, I was back at my grandparents during the summer, and several people would stop, look at those peach trees and asked

my grandfather, "Jim, where are those peaches?" Then they would laugh at him and drive on. Nobody believed any peaches would grow on those trees. After all, they looked like small bushes.

"Where's them peaches," people would ask as they would drive by and stop for a moment. "I want a peach."

My grandfather would smile, and it didn't seem to bother him that he was the point of many a joke throughout the valley.

Then I went up on the fourth summer, and to my surprise, those peach trees had peaches all over them.

Everybody would stop by and ask my grandfather for a

peach.

My grandfather would smile and say, "Those peaches aren't ready to pick yet."

When they left, he picked a peach from the tree, gave it to me, and told me, "Here's the first peach from my peach tree." I ate it and boy was it delicious.

Day by day, he would take the peaches off the tree, and when people would stop, he would tell them, "They ain't ready to pick today." Then they would drive away.

Within a week, all the peaches were harvested from the trees.

Then the fun began. People would stop by and ask, "Where's those peaches?"

My grandfather would stare back and say, "What peaches?"

Then he would laugh as they drove away.

He said to me, "Don't let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do." And he walked away, smiling.

As I was thinking about him today, I thought of the Scripture; "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

If you know what you're doing, do it to God's glory, and don't let men distract you.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL.*

## 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.

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**- Malachi 3:8-10**

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

**August 21, 7 pm**

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

**August 23, 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 24, 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

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**August 23, 8 and 11 am**

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

**August 24, 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 26, 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.

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# Faith Proved Genuine



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*"Even one of their own prophets has said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.' This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth"*

(Titus 1:12-15).

In December 1983, The Princeton Religion Research Center published a landmark survey conducted for The Wall Street Journal by the Gallup Organization. The researchers measured a wide range of moral and ethical behaviors, such as calling in sick when not sick.

Cheating on income tax and pilfering company supplies for personal use. The results were disappointing, to say the least.

But what the researchers found most startling

was that there was no significant difference between the church and the unchurched in their ethics and values on the job.

In other words, despite the fact that more and more people were attending churches, churches seemed to be having less and less of an impact on the moral fiber of their people, at least in the workplace.

To quote the researchers: "These findings will come as a shock to the religious leaders and underscore the need for religious leaders to channel the new religious interest in America not simply into religious involvement but in deep spiritual commitment."

"Either these are not the gospels, or we're not Christians," said Thomas Linacre, Henry VIII's doctor and Renaissance thinker, after given the four gospels in Greek. Linacre recognized a great disparity between those who proclaimed Christ and how they lived their lives.

If our faith life is not validated through our behavior then one must question if we even have a genuine relationship with Christ. The

apostle Paul didn't like what he saw in the believers on the island of Crete.

They proclaimed Christ with their mouth, but their behavior looked no different than those who did not claim Christ. Pray that your faith is "proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:7-8).

Time and grace heals our wounds, but time is not always a friend. What about friends who have not heard God's words of life? What if they were to die today? I should know how short

life can be. I've lost loved ones and friends who were young.

Accidents and sudden illness can take away a life quickly. Cancer, diabetes, aneurysms, and catastrophic events, like Covid9 can change a person's health and life in a moment. Ask God, why do you fear opening your mouth?



Councilman Young Sung and Sister Tarpley at a Korean Radio Station interview.

Ask for help to be bold, to speak God's words of truth and life to those you love, your family and friends, before time runs out. Ask for help to be a living testimony for God. Ask for help to stir up the Holy

Spirit within you and the gifts God has given you to minister to others, to reach a dying world, to share God's love and His hope for the future.

Don't forget to thank God in the name of Jesus.

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

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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**VALSARTAN LAWSUIT**

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

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# NDG Book Review: 'The Truths We Hold: An American Journey'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

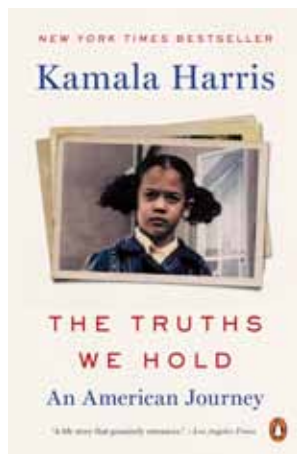
It starts early-on.

At first, it seems spontaneous: parents who enjoy their interests naturally display those passions to small children who are dragged along for the ride. The child observes and absorbs until one day, parental interest becomes child's obsession. And in "The Truths We Hold" by Kamala Harris, that's how a politician is made.

Supporters can almost see the trajectory in the history: Kamala Harris's parents, both highly educated immigrants, instilled a sense of independence in their daughter and both remained supportive of her choices, even as they divorced. Harris's mother, especially, gave Harris lessons in strength and activism through an upper-middle-class childhood with ballet and piano lessons alongside marches and protests.

Says Harris of her mother, a breast cancer researcher, "... she was determined to make sure we [Harris and her sister] would grow into confident, proud black women."

Harris describes her community – the women and men who helped raise and



educate her – with obvious affection, saying that "the seed was planted very early on," and she knew that she wanted to be a lawyer and to make a difference in the lives of others.

"When activists came marching and banging on the doors," she says, "I wanted to be on the other side to let them in."

By the time Harris had finished law school, her sights were set on working "for the people." She focused on the prosecution of child molesters, sexual predators, and rapists. On her way up the career ladder, she continued to advocate for the poor, for women and children, and for the rights of LGBTQ people and immigrants. She worked for the reduction of recidivism, for Americans in need of health care, and

for consumers and homeowners.

Says Harris, "In the years to come with all the challenges to come, we cannot lose sight of who we are and who we can be."

As biographies by famous people go, "The Truths We Hold" is a refreshing surprise, in that there's very little look-at-me name-dropping. Author and assumed Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris mentions people because of work or family ties, not to impress. Remarkably, she also writes of her friendship with Beau Biden.

The other interesting thing about this memoir is that readers will not see laid-out plans for the future: remember, this book was likely written at least two years ago and Harris presumably had no crystal ball. Instead of plainly-stated plans, what she offers "is a collection of ideas and viewpoints and stories..." Readers are left to see passions between the lines, and can draw their own conclusions.

sions.

Aside from this, there's plenty of biography which, again, is not filled with esoteric names-and-dates but with things that are relevant to the story of who Harris is and how she sees this country. That makes "The Truths We Hold" easy to read, if not a bit long in the achievement department, but not uninteresting.

If you'd like to know more about the woman who may sit in the Vice President's chair next January, read it now, while it's early-on.

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in all areas. Money is one part it, but what's more is when you know people really believe in you, even when you're not believing in yourself."

After going through countless trials and tribulations to get where she is today, EnJunaya understands the risks that come with starting your own business. In 2016, she quit a six-figure job to go work at a cosmetics store to learn the skills she knew that she'd need to be successful with her business.

For the first-generation college student with two master's degrees, that leap of faith led to an abrupt

lifestyle change, including replacing her BMW with a \$2,000 well-used Acura. Now, EnJunaya's bet on herself is starting to pay off, with Zuhuri sales growing at a 50% clip for the past four years.

EnJunaya said she hopes to inspire other entrepreneurs of color to take action for themselves and to pursue their passion. In fact, she also offers coaching services to help them do so.

"You have to do it – this idea isn't going to die in you, it will irritate you forever. So, try to have this voice in your head that keeps saying 'Just do it.'"