



North Dallas

Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

Congressional Black Caucus elects Executive Committee for the 117th Congress

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

U.S. rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) will chair the Congressional Black Caucus for the 117th Congress.

The announcement came as the CBC embarks on its 50th anniversary as the voice of Black America in Congress.

Along with Congresswoman Beatty, the CBC announced a new executive committee that begins in January.

Rep. Steven Horsford, who represents Nevada's 4th district and currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, Budget Committee, and Natural Resources Committee, will serve as 1st Vice-Chair of the CBC.

Rep. Brenda Lawrence, who represents Michigan's 14th district and currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Oversight and Reform Committee, was tapped as 2nd Vice-Chair.

Rep. Frederica Wilson of Florida's 24th district, who currently serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the House Education and Labor Committee, where she chairs the



Texas' own U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (at right, during a May 25 Memorial Day commemoration in Houston) will serve as the Parliamentarian for the Congressional Black Caucus in the next session. (Photo: Charles Spirtos / Flickr)

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee, was elected as Secretary of the CBC.

Rep. Hank Johnson, who represents Georgia's 4th district and currently serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the House Judiciary Committee, where he chairs the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, will take over as Whip.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, who represents Texas's 18th district and currently serves on the House Ju-

diciary Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and the Budget Committee, will serve as Parliamentarian.

Next year marks 50 years for the CBC, which outgoing Chair Rep. Karen Bass of California called 50 years as a champion for bold, progressive ideas in Congress.

"Fifty years of making a seat at the table and building a pipeline for those to come, and 50 years as the 'Conscience of the Congress,'"

See CBC, Page 11



Exploiting prisoners for profit

- See Page 3



When will the vaccine reach Blacks?

- See Page 4



The challenge of distant learning

- See Page 6



Carrying on a caring tradition after a loss

- See Page 7



'Billie' tells the story of a music icon

- See Page 8



Revisiting an underrated masterpiece

- See Page 9



The road to recovery from student debt

- See Page 12



Sister Tarpley: You're different

- See Page 15

Inside...

Hyundai	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
People in the News	5
Education	6
Features	7-8
Entertainment	9
NDG Bookshelf	11
Marketplace	12
Career / Notices	13
Church Directory	13-15
Cadillac	16

See Page 5



George Hunt

People In The News ...



Mimi G.



Lt. Richelle Magalhaes

NDG Quote of the Week: "It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it."

- Lena Horne



**The 2021 TUCSON,
it's like dancing in
the streets.**



**#1 Compact SUV
in Initial Quality**
-J.D. Power, 2020

With a bold design and advanced technology, it has smoother moves than others in its class. Built for comfort and depended upon for reliability, this is an SUV that busy people like you can count on. Just relax and let the music play. The Tucson is better at its best.



Options shown. For J.D. Power 2020 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2020 Hyundai Motor America.



P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

“Do what you say you are going to do ... when you say you are going to do it.”

Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:marketing@northdallasgazette.com
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com
www.twitter.com/NDGEditor
www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette
www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette
www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette

STAFF**Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum
1933-2009**Religious / Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley
("Sister Tarpley")**Chief Editor Emeritus**Ruth Ferguson
1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

Published by

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Interim Editor

David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

Senior Account Executive

Nina Garcia

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations**Contributing Writers**

Fatema Biviji
Jackie Hardy
JacquINETTE Murphy
Dwain Price
Terri Schlichenmeyer
David Wilfong

**Visit North Dallas Gazette Archives**

Go to northdallasgazette.com and click on the navigation tab at the top of the page that says "ARCHIVE"

"Dallas' most respected publication in the minority community"

North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Stopping the exploitation of prisoners and their families requires more comprehensive solutions

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President and CEO
National Newspaper
Publishers Association

The year 2020 brought renewed global focus to issues of social justice in America. Racial disparities and inequities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic to the killings of George Floyd and so many other of Black and Brown Americans at the hands of police officers have all contributed to the evolving social justice "reckoning" across the nation.

As part of this long overdue redress about institutional and systemic racism, renewed attention should also be focused on the many injustices within the U.S. correctional system. Black and Brown Americans are disproportionately imprisoned in the United States.

Much of the public outrage has been directed at the officials who have been unable to prevent the fatal spread of COVID-19 in jails and prisons throughout the country. But in addition, there were too many governors who were unwilling to reduce prison populations by releasing individuals who posed no threat to public safety. As a result, nearly 200,000 incarcerated Americans have been infected as of November 2020 according to the Marshall Project.

Among those that find themselves in the crosshairs of the growing critical scrutiny are a group of specialized telecommunications companies.

These companies provide two connected services to the corrections industry: communications tools that people in jails and prisons use to connect with family and people on the outside (telephones, but also modern devices like

digital tablets); and security and investigatory tools built into the communications tech, which help correctional agencies monitor for criminal activity.

On the surface, these may appear to be both good things. The problem, however, comes in how these products are paid for. See, it's not the correctional agencies that pay for these services – companies charge for every call made, but it's the families and friends of the imprisoned making the calls or accepting the calls that end up paying those bills.

It obviously costs money to build, install, maintain, and secure this technology. But, not all or even most of this money that is paid for those services goes to the telecoms themselves.

What most people do not know is that the government takes a cut of the revenue – in many cases, the lion's share. For example, in 2018 incarcerated individuals in Connecticut paid \$13.2 million for phone calls. Nearly 60% of that money went to the state.

Because of this model, the cost of making a call or sending an email from a correctional facility can be much higher than on the outside. And these costs can vary widely from state to state. In 2019, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, the average cost of a call from a jail in New Jersey cost \$1.26, while that same call in Arkansas cost \$14.49.

At least one of these companies, Securus Technologies, appears to have taken this criticism to heart. In 2017, Securus was acquired by Platinum Equity, which is headed by Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores. At the time, many of us would have reasonably assumed that a private equity firm would simply extract

as much value from the company as possible and then sell it at a profit.

But that's not what Gores did. Instead, he appears to have undertaken an effort to change some of the problematic business practices that have long plagued the correctional telecom industry. At the beginning of this year Gores brought in a new CEO for Securus, who committed to lowering their prices and improving the services they provide to incarcerated Americans.

According to company updates, Securus has so far reduced the average cost of calls by 30%. It has renegotiated lower rates with 56 correctional agencies this year. It has been offering free calls and other communications to incarcerated individuals impacted by the pandemic – over 30 million to date.

Was that enough? No. Far from it. But it was an important start, and one that no other company in the prison telecom space has so far matched. Yet Gores appears to have been singled out for criticism by a group of advocates for the incarcerated. Sometimes even those with good intentions can find themselves caught up in the systemic problems of the correctional industry.

Those attacks came to a head this year when critics demanded that the LA County Museum of Art (LACMA) remove Gores from its board. They called him a "prison profiteer," despite the fact that – as the LA Times notes – Gores had pledged 100% of his personal stake in Securus to helping reform its operations.

LACMA eventually bowed to pressure and, to avoid further friction, Gores resigned his seat. This is exactly an example of the consequences of poor

judgment in public advocacy that does not actually help bring relief to the families of the mass incarcerated. Did LACMA improve the life of a single incarcerated individual by doing so? It did not.

To be clear, the prison telecom industry remains in need of serious reform. We need to hold Securus and other telecoms accountable for changing their harmful business practices. But if we want people to do the right thing then we need to acknowledge when they actually strive to do the right thing.

Individuals who have been sentenced to prison for a crime are already paying their debt to society. They should not also be forced to pay to help plug holes in the budget of a local warden or sheriff.

State and county officials need to stop collecting "commissions" on these services, and where possible they should contribute public funds to reduce the costs of these communications tools for incarcerated Americans.

While our democracy remains politically, socially, and economically divided, we all have just witnessed the transformative power of the vote by millions of people who care about the future of our nation.

Ultimately, correctional telecom companies depend on contracts from state and local corrections agencies. The heads of those agencies are appointed by elected officials. Criminal justice reform was on the national ballot.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles www.TheChavisChronicles.com & dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

"A Fitting Memorial"
NDG Obituaries

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

Will the Black community get shut out from COVID vaccination?

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The first wave of coronavirus vaccines should reach the public this week, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommending that all adults receive the vaccination in 2021.

While the CDC said there should be enough doses for as many as 20 million people to receive vaccination by the end of December, health officials expect a much larger supply in the coming months.

Still, with a justified distrust of unproven vaccines, and a perceived limited participation by African Americans in clinical trials that lead to the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, many question whether African Americans will accept vaccination.

Others are also concerned that, even if the Black community generally accepts the vaccine, would doses be available.

"I'm guessing white folks will be first in line," Monica Roderick, a Temple Hills, Maryland mother of four, opined.

"One of the reasons I shudder when I hear people talk about how Black people are still suspect because of the Tuskegee Experi-



Health care workers and patients in long-term health care facilities are first in line. According to guidelines, senior citizens and those with high-risk comorbidities and essential workers are next. After that, state and local government officials will determine who next receives a vaccination. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

ment and other vaccines that ended wrong is because it tends to give other folks the greenlight to leave us out," Roderick said.

She continued: "This virus is the worst thing the world has seen in 100 years. It's too important not to consider the vaccine, especially since most people affected by the coronavirus are Black and Brown."

Putting whether the Black community can trust the vaccine aside, the next controversy on the immediate horizon is whether African Americans will have access.

The initial supply certainly will overwhelm demand, CDC officials said. The federal government plans to distribute the vaccine in phases.

Health care workers and patients in long-term health care facilities are first in line.

According to guidelines, senior citizens and those with high-risk comorbidities and essential workers are next.

After that, state and local government officials will determine who next receives a vaccination.

So far, most states have yet to develop a concrete plan.

The outline reportedly provided suggested no explicit details about reaching marginalized populations like the Black community who have suffered the most.

"I'm looking at social media, and I'm seeing [Former President] Barack Obama saying he'll take

the vaccine on television, and I'm shaking my head," said Tonia Everhart, a Northeast, Washington, D.C., nurse.

"First, understand that Obama isn't necessarily the most trusted voice in the Black community, and he's not a doctor.

"While I understand what he's trying to do to encourage participation and eliminate fear, our community needs Black medical professionals, trusted voices, to say it's okay to take the vaccine and then we need to be assured that we are not going to be left behind when the vaccine

becomes available," Everhart demanded.

Health officials agreed.

"You need that deep community engagement to strategize and inform what needs to be done, community by community," Eric Toner, a senior scholar with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, who was the lead author for Johns Hopkins' Covid-19 vaccine allocation framework, told NBC News.

That means engagement of local leaders, from pastors to principals, to reach hesitant individuals, he said, adding that such strategies are particularly key to

reaching historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities.

"That is a public health priority not only for ethical and moral reasons but because that's where a lot of the transmission of the disease is happening," Toner added.

"It's absolutely true that we can't reach them solely through public messaging," Toner continued.

"States need to be working now to create the relationships in those communities with trusted leaders to encourage people to seriously think about getting vaccinated."

DART IS DOUBLING DOWN FOR YOUR SAFETY

**HAND SANITIZER
AND MASK
DISPENSERS**

**UV LIGHTS +
MISTING UNITS**

**AIR
PURIFICATION
SYSTEMS**

**EPA-APPROVED
CLEANING
SOLUTIONS**



Got Questions?

**Ask
DART**

DART.org/ASK

**Let us
hear
from
you!**

If there are any news,
events or anything
else we need to know
about, give us an
e-mail at:
editor@northdallas-gazette.com

CASH TODAY!!!

Fair Price Offer For Oil and/or Gas Royalty
Small "NET" Revenue Interest



No Matter How Small

Fax Information To:
972-509-9058

Call:
972-665-0170
(Leave Message)

Email:
inquiries1909@gmail.com

George Hunt

Renown Memphis-based African American artist George Hunt passed away on Friday morning. He had been suffering from health issues for some time and was 85 years old at the time of death.

Hunt was a highly accomplished artist, twisting the influences of such masters as Pablo Picasso with his upbringing in the Deep South to create a very unique style. His fans likened his efforts to recording the Blues on canvas.

The subjects of his works were often pop culture figures, with emphasis on peo-



ple from the music scene like B.B. King. However, Hunt was definitely a product of the civil rights era, a theme which also found itself woven into the fabric of Hunt's work.

Hunt was born in Lake

Charles La. before moving to Hot Springs, Ark. He played football for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff before transferring to the University of Memphis to pursue his interest in art.

Hunt was married for more than 60 years to Marva Hunt, who survives along with his daughter and two grand-children. He lost his son two years ago at the age of 54.

The art world, as well as the African American community are mourning the loss of a great talent, who will not only be remembered; but will serve as an inspiration for future generations of artists.

(A tribute from the Water Kours Gallery) Few artists have had the impact that Hunt had in his lifetime, not only in art, but also in civil rights and blues music. These areas of human interest are prevalent in his art work as he recognized and uplifted their interconnectedness.

As a man of humble beginnings and creative potential, George collected few accomplishments that many could only dream. Such honors included, his work depicting the Little Rock Nine (shown above) being added to the permanent art collection of the White House during the

Clinton administration and later commissioned as a U.S. Postage Stamp.

Officially recognized by the United States Congress (2003) as the Official Artist for the 'Year of the Blues', Hunt's works are showcased in numerous museums, institutions and homes. The themes of equality, justice and passion are brought to life through his use of color and texture, while creating a mosaic of pieces that capture the human emotion like a window into his memories.

While many of his pieces are inspired by his past, such as "Cafe Blues Night,"

other pieces are rooted in civil rights and the American Blues experience, which sometimes depicted injustices, but always served as a reminder of every-day moments. Reflecting the joy found through passion and expression, his message remains one of history, vibrancy and hope.

Waterkolours celebrates not only his life and his legacy, but especially the friendship our gallery had with him. We know he rests now in peace, but thank the Hunt family for the blessing of sharing their gift with the world - George R. Hunt.

Mimi G

From being a homeless teenage single mother to making millions, Mimi G built a thriving fashion empire through the Covid pandemic with her online sewing tutorials.

As the world's now #1 sewing influencer with millions of subscribers and social media followers along with appearances on national television, Mimi G defied all odds to emerge as the leading DIY fashion/sewing influencer.

"If you would have told me just four years ago that my hobby would turn into a full time thriving busi-



ness and blog I would have called you a liar," Mimi says.

She shows people of all ages and levels how to make their own cool clothes and fashion accessories with her tutorials at

MimiGStyle.com. Mimi G can also has a new Holiday and gift sewing projects, from stocking stuffers to warm winter accessories. Mimi G makes it accessible for anyone to create their own homemade Holiday gifts.

At the height of the COVID pandemic, Mimi G released a tutorial on how to sew a face mask, and in a day that video got more than 2 million views.

Mimi G's life is a truly inspirational rags-to-riches story. She is known by her for making sewing hip and accessible through her online sewing school SewIt-

Academy.com, the only online sewing and design school focused on teaching anyone to sew at their pace at an affordable price.

Her videos on DIY sewing, self-empowerment, and lifestyle have propelled Mimi G from blogger to internet sensation.

The mother of four is a champion of women, but before that she was the victim of sexual abuse as a child, a teen runaway, a homeless teenage mother, and a domestic violence survivor.

However, the story of Mimi is not in her challenges, it is in her triumphs.

She had a knack for seeing a design on the runway and being able to recreate it herself, for someone that was struggling financially, this was something that helped set her apart - career wise and in important meetings. As her blog took off, her viewers were drawn to her hip and cool approach to sewing. In a field where sewing could seem archaic, she was making it fun and exciting.

What started off as a hobby in her Los Angeles home in 2012, blossomed into an international brand with daily engagement of more than 2.1 million fol-

lowers across her social media platforms, 12 million-page views annually, and 1 million unique visitors per month on her blog.

To date, Mimi G has collaborated with more than 350 brands such as Target, Google, Macy's and many more. She has won many awards and has been featured in many highly-regarded fashion, style and lifestyle magazines.

In her "spare" time, she is a highly sought-after public speaker, and has interviewed celebrities like Gwen Stefani, Jennifer Aniston as well as other popular online influencers.

Lt. Richelle Magalhaes

NAPLES, Italy - Lt. Richelle Magalhaes, a native of Bedford, Texas, serves at U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAF).

Magalhaes is a medical service corps officer responsible for leading Navy healthcare teams and providing high-quality medical care for sailors, marines, servicemembers and their families.

"I do the same thing the Public Health Departments do but for the Navy and



Marine Corps," said Magalhaes.

Magalhaes, a 2001 Trinity High School graduate and

2006 University of North Texas graduate, joined the Navy 10 years ago for a multitude of reasons.

"I wanted to be a part of a team, to travel and see the world, to give back to my country, and to further my education," said Magalhaes.

The NAVEUR-NAF area of responsibility covers approximately half of the Atlantic Ocean, from the Arctic Ocean to the coast of Antarctica, as well as the Adriatic, Baltic, Barents, Black, Caspian, Mediterranean, and North Seas. It

covers all of Russia and Europe and nearly the entire continent of Africa. It encompasses 105 countries with a combined population of more than 1 billion people and includes a landmass of more than 14 million square miles.

"This job is forcing me out of my comfort-zone, but allowing me to grow as a naval officer," said Magalhaes.

According to Magalhaes, the values required to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Bedford.

"The Navy is just as di-

verse as my high school and I love learning about people of other cultures and backgrounds and also teaching other people about mine," said Magalhaes.

Though there are many ways for sailors to earn distinction in their command, community and career, Magalhaes is most proud of her decision to join the Navy in the first place.

"I am just proud to be here and serve my country with honor, courage and commitment," said Magalhaes.

As a member of the U.S.

Navy, Magalhaes, as well as other sailors, know they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance.

"The Navy has taught me to stay on my toes," Magalhaes said. "There will always be curve balls and no day is the same as the last. It's taught me to be flexible and to adapt and overcome when the going gets tough. Serving in the Navy means the world to me."



Winnifred "Wini" Cannon

"THY WILL BE DONE"
ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

214-706-3058

wc@cannonlg.com

Visit our website at

www.cannonlg.com

The challenges Black America faces with distant and virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic

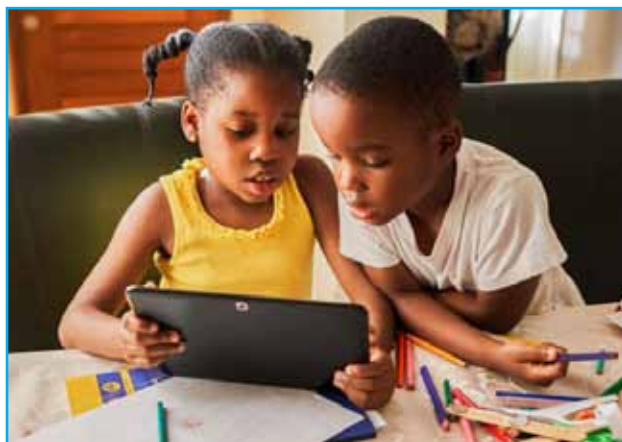
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Students, teachers, parents, and administrators face ever-rising challenges as the coronavirus pandemic continues to force changes in how young people receive their education.

The challenges are particularly pronounced in the African American community, where access to the internet, working parents, and a haphazard learning model have undermined pre-pandemic gains.

Education experts have agreed that when students of color in underserved schools must go to blended or fully remote learning models, the digital divide gets broader, more profoundly affecting them.

Their school attendance plummets, along with their understanding of the curricula, their motivation to learn, and subsequently



"If a child is in a lower socioeconomic category, then they are less likely to have high-speed internet or a device to use even to access the lessons. I know the Philadelphia School District had to get a grant to purchase tens of thousands of Chromebooks and the like." (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

their grades.

"The digital divide again doubly impacts these students, as it completely stops our tutoring with almost all of our school partners," said Richard Kaplan, the executive director of IvyTutorsNetwork.com, a New York City Department of Education-approved vendor that teaches students in multiple underserved public and charter

schools in the Bronx, Harlem, and Bedford Stuyvesant.

"Given that the schools are struggling to pay for and provide the most basic teaching during the pandemic and, further, administrators now lack the budget for outside tutors, we have been unable to help.

"We are no longer allowed in the classrooms for health reasons, and the

students – many of them homeless – lack reliable Internet connections or suitable devices for effective remote sessions," Kaplan remarked.

"For some, fully remote actually means they might as well be in Tahiti or Timbuktu, inaccessible to effective teaching and all but forgotten."

The distance learning scheme or the online classes method of teaching are good strategies in reducing physical contact and helps limit the spread of the virus, asserted Lewis Keegan, owner and operator of SkillScouter.com, which aims to help potential students find their learning paths via online learning platforms.

"However, the solution might not be as inclusive, especially for people of color in other parts of the world," Keegan observed.

"This is because not everyone is privileged for

such amenities. Some areas across the globe are still not introduced to the concept of the internet," he said.

Keegan continued:

"Aside from this, having devices such as laptops and phones for learning are not cheap and easily accessible. Because of this, more practical options are chosen by parents like spending their money in food and sustenance, rather than education."

As the pandemic shuts most people in for what promises to be a long, cold, and socially distant winter, families are suffering, offered Dr. Karen Aronian of Aronian Education Design LLC.

"Without a doubt, people of color are our most vulnerable populations. Special-needs education students in isolated rural communities, those who are homeless, and food insecure, are in dire education straits," Aronian stated.

She noted that some reports have revealed that the pandemic has forced students to lose as much as 50 percent of their academic growth in math, at least 30 percent of ELA, and perhaps a full school year of academic growth in some cases.

"Strain, struggle, and hardship abound in communities of color, which carries over into family life and lack of hope," Aronian continued.

"Children's education becomes secondary to the basic needs of a home and family. The traditional in-person school has been, for many children, a respite from home life, family problems, and dysfunction. Without school, education has fallen off the radar in homes where survival is first, and education is a much lower rung during COVID times."

See DISTANT, Page 15

Ford Law Career Academy aims to increase diversity in legal profession

DEARBORN, Mich. – With the singular mission of bringing diversity to the practice of law, Ford Motor Company – with the support of its philanthropic arm, Ford Motor Company Fund, and Henry Ford Learning Institute – has developed the Ford Law Career Academy.

The four-year program is being piloted in two metro Detroit high schools, with an innovative curriculum designed to fill a void by exciting, inspiring and empowering students of color to explore law careers.

"I know what it means to have strong mentors in my life, and I want that same experience for today's students of color," said Alison Nelson, a lawyer at Ford counsel and a program

champion. "We have a responsibility to work toward diversity, inclusion and racial equality.

"I am the proud product of Detroit public schools, was the first child in my family to graduate college and was the first to become a lawyer," she added. "I want more children of color to consider the law profession."

Ford Law Career Academy, created in cooperation with educators and Ford's legal office, introduces students to a range of practice areas. The program gives them the tools to take the first steps in developing the skills, mindset, knowledge and networking all lawyers need for success, and in turn will help increase the

diversity of people within the field. In addition to the company's own lawyers, attorneys from law firms that work for Ford will support the academy through coaching, mentoring and internships.

Ford is collaborating with two charter schools serving Detroit-area youth – Henry Ford Academy and University Preparatory Academy High School – to pilot the program. Students begin elective coursework as freshmen and progress through four years of learning that includes law theory, mock trials and field training with law firm partners. The program culminates with a senior thesis-type project, with graduates prepared to go on to pursue a

formal prelaw curriculum at the university level, ideally followed by law school. Henry Ford Academy is launching a slightly modified program this academic year, while University Preparatory Academy High School will introduce the program in fall 2021.

Right now, African Americans make up more than 13 percent of the U.S. population, but only 5 percent of lawyers – the same as 10 years ago – according to the American Bar Association. With educational achievement directly correlated to economic empowerment, rounding the curve to improve economic status within African American communities is challenging.

"Our team wants to help

change that," said Nelson. "As the U.S. works through a long overdue reckoning on race, we believe now is the time to act, and the law is where so much of real change happens.

"Ford wants to be a changemaker, by making the law accessible, representative and welcoming to children of color who otherwise may never have considered entering this field or believed it was closed off to them," she added.

By creating greater access to law-related education, Ford Law Career Academy is constructively engaging in the ongoing battle for racial and social justice. Putting students of color on a path to economic empowerment can contribute to low-

ering barriers to entry across the professional spectrum and help lead to a more just society for all. Encouraging students to become aware of and passionate about the law will fundamentally change the practice at all levels. In turn, more diverse racial, ethnic and cultural perspectives can help assure a broader range of voices, including the Black experience, is heard and will matter in the eyes of the law.

Nelson said that programs at the pilot schools aren't the end goal. Ford is already working to identify additional high schools across the country to scale and replicate the program with the goal of having a national presence as quickly as possible.



Remember your loved one in NDG Obituaries

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



Continuing the legacy of community giving

By Jacquinette D. Murphy
NDG Special Contributor

Continuing its 39 year legacy of caring for the community, the Helping Hand Outreach ministry of the Full Gospel Holy Temple Church is preparing to serve thousands this December at the annual Christmas Meal giveaway on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 9 a.m. This will be the first time the event happens without its founder, Dallas Humanitarian Dr. Shirley Murray, who died in October at age 88.

"We must make sure that this is the best year yet in honor of Dr. Shirley Murray," said First Lady Daniele Murray who is now leading the Helping Hand organization along with her husband Apostle Herman Murray Jr., who oversees the entire Full Gospel Holy Temple Church corporation. "We want to honor her legacy. She built this outreach program from the ground and worked tirelessly until



A worker prepares a bulk giveaway of food as part of the Helping Hand Outreach ministry. This will be the first year the organization operates without its founder. (Courtesy photo)

her passing to ensure it was successfully able to serve thousands each year. This year will not be an exception."

The Helping Hand serves the community throughout the year and has already served numerous families since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. They want to ensure that individuals and families have a healthy, wholesome Christmas dinner. The event will be contactless and allow patrons to drive-thru to receive their meal items placed in their

trunk.

Dr. Shirley Murray started the Helping Hand Outreach ministry in 1981 through her desire to help those in need, homeless and underprivileged. She ensured that those in need had access to food, clothing, shoes, toys and even household items. For many years, Dr. Murray and her team of volunteers worked for months to prepare and stock the Helping Hand, also known as the store with no cash register. People came from miles away, brought their fami-

lies, and had lines of people wrapped around the building.

"This was her baby. Sometimes she would leave home early in the day and work well into the night for months each year to ensure

that the one-day giveaway was phenomenal. After the giveaway, she was able to continue to serve people throughout the next year," said Lady Murray. "I do not know where she got the energy, but she made this

event dynamic each year. I honor Dr. Murray and the work that she put into this."

For many years, Lady Murray sat alongside Dr. Murray as she led the Help-

See GRANT, Page 15

We Buy Houses ... Fast!



- Pretty Houses
 - Ugly Houses
 - Divorce
 - Inheritance
 - Problem Tenants
 - Need Repairs
 - Vacant House
 - Fire Damage
 - Estate Sale
 - Behind on payments
- CALL 972-665-0170

Together We Can Find A Solution



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SITE



CommunityEnergyCenter.org will Educate the Public about Energy Empowerment among Diverse Communities

Diverse communities not only will be shaped by an evolving energy sector, they will shape it. Our new website – CommunityEnergyCenter.org – welcomes perspectives from commentators and journalists from publications in diverse communities to promote a deeper understanding of how energy and economic matters play a role in daily life. This new content hub will educate diverse communities to explore job opportunities and participate in the energy sector's growth and vitality.

Visit www.communityenergycenter.org to learn more.



The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

Film Review: 'Billie' is a visual journey of a cultural icon

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

She had an enigmatic presence. A unique, restrained voice with distinctive phrasing. Wrote and sang the iconic protest song "Strange Fruit." That's her. Billie Holiday. Lady Day. Died too young and now a faint memory.

Eleanora Fagan was born on April 7, 1915 in Philadelphia and died July 17, 1959 at the age of 44 in NYC. Her legacy is clear, though the facts of her existence are not. Even her autobiography *Lady Sings the Blues* (1956) is a bit sketchy.

In the 1960s, journalist Linda Lipnack Kuehl attempted to reconstruct Holiday's life journey with a bio book. She spoke to friends, family and associates amassing 200+ hours of interviews and 125+ au-



Michael Ochs Archives / Getty Images

dio tapes, only to die mysteriously before she could finish her project.

Documentarian James Erskine (*Battle of the Sexes*) and producer Barry Clark-Ewers helm this ambitious bio-doc and gathered, edited and assembled the communiqués from Kuehl's source materials into a fairly evocative portrait. A non-fiction film

resembling a visual/audio album. One with her photos, footage, performances and recordings propelled by conversations that backtrack to Holiday's turbulent life.

Hearing first-person recollections from Holiday's cousin, Charles Mingus, Tony Bennett, Sylvia Syms, Count Basie, a former pimp and FBI agents who tracked

her drug deals is quite sobering. Viewing images of her on 16mm and 35mm videos, masterfully colorized by the Brazilian artist Marina Amaral, adds an intense you-are-there aspect. The depths of the filmmakers' dedication to this project are best evidenced in the still photographs from Holiday's last stage performance. It's almost as if Lady Day is stepping out of her grave at St. Raymond old Cemetery in the Bronx to tell her own story.

For fans, learning how the ultimate jazz singer crafted songs like "God Bless the Child" and "Strange Fruit" is a revelation. Hearing how she suffered sexual abuse, dabbled in prostitution and succumbed to drugs and alcohol makes you wonder how she even survived for four decades. A cousin attests, "Billie turned tricks when she had

to." Holiday laments in her torch song "Fine and Mellow": "My man, he don't love me. Treats me awful mean. He's the lowest man. That I've ever seen."

Discovering how Holiday adopted her singing style adds to her aura. Louis Armstrong's trumpet was her model: "I always wanted to sing like an instrument," declared Holiday. And she did, from the proscenium at the Apollo theater, recording studios with Benny Goodman, the front of Count Basie and Artie Shaw's big bands and world-renowned Carnegie Hall.

The revealing footage also notes the indignities Lady Day faced (couldn't stay in white hotels, forced to darken her skin), her mercurial bisexual love life and a childhood that left her tormented. A parallel subplot centers around the

biographer Kuehl's ambiguous death, which involved her falling or jumping out a window. Two women. Two tragedies.

A feature film (*Lady Sings the Blues*), countless books and other documentaries have plowed this same turf. But credit writer/director James Erskine, colorist Marina Amaral, editor Avdhesh Mohla, music supervisor Kle Savidge and cinematographer Tim Cragg for making this a visual journey of great distinction. A unique remembrance of a remarkable but ill-fated chanteuse who sang the truth.

In Select Theaters and Available on TVOD Nationwide on December 4, 2020.

Visit *NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com.*

An Important Message from Medicare

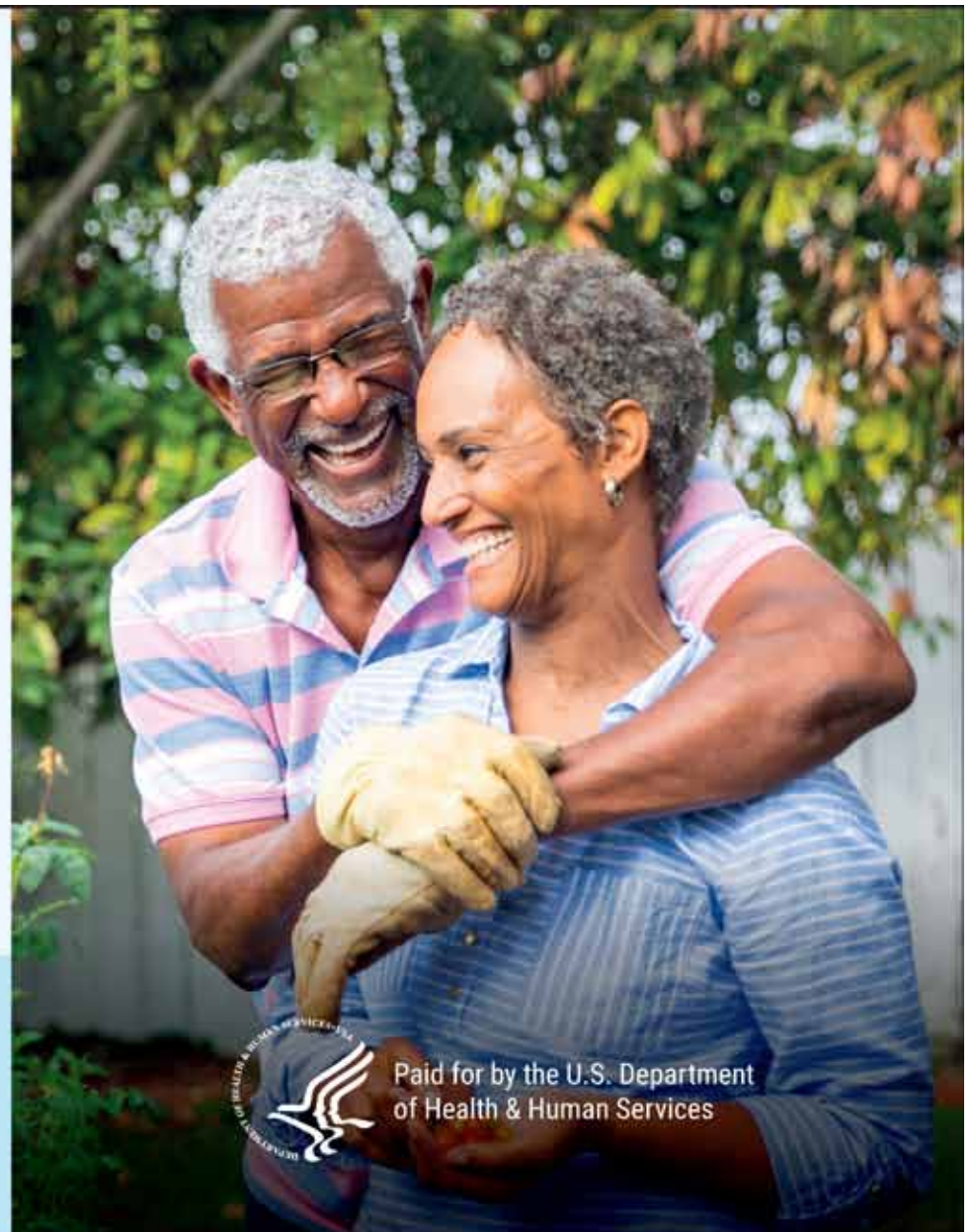
Getting your flu shot is more important than ever.

Flu shots are covered by Medicare.

The flu can have serious complications, especially for people with diabetes, heart disease, and other medical conditions. Getting your shot can help you stay healthy, protect others, and stop the spread.



GET YOUR SHOT NOW. IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
See your doctor, pharmacy, or other local providers.



Prince's 'Sign o' The Times': A timeless masterpiece

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

"In France, a skinny man died of a big disease with a little name/by chance his girlfriend came across a needle and soon she did the same..."

That's how one of the greatest albums in history opened.

The title track to Prince's "Sign o' the Times" was greeted by critics and fans alike: pure excitement.

Thirty-three years ago, with hit singles like "You Got the Look," "Adore," "Housequake," Prince did the unthinkable.

His "Sign o' the Times" outperformed on every level, "Purple Rain," and "1999." In short, "Sign o' the Times" was a certifiable masterpiece.

It was Prince's "Thriller," his "Sgt. Pepper," or "Mona



His "Sign o' the Times" outperformed on every level, "Purple Rain," and "1999." In short, "Sign o' the Times" was a certifiable masterpiece.

Lisa."

And, what sets Prince apart, no one thought Michael Jackson could top Thriller, and even the King of Pop knew he never exceeded his best. No one expected the Beatles to beat "Sgt. Pepper," and they never did.

And, indeed, Leonardo da Vinci couldn't replicate the artistic genius of the Mona Lisa.

Prince twice topped what

many believed was his artistic crescendo. Many thought the Minneapolis-born superstar would never top the 1999 album he released in 1982.

Less than two years later, he did as "Purple Rain" was released and topped the charts worldwide.

With hits like "When Does Cry," "Baby I'm a Star," and "Take Me with You," Purple Rain became the first to win Best Album

Grammy and Best Original Score Oscar.

A groundbreaking tour and blockbuster film followed the release of Purple Rain.

After releasing "Around the World in a Day" in 1985 and "Parade" in 1986, to little excitement (compared to "Purple Rain"), critics and some fans opined that Prince had reached his creative peak.

Then came "Sign o' The Times."

The opening song and title track begin with a convincing bass and synthesizer and approval from Prince, "Oh Yeah," he screeches before launching into a tour de force of artistry.

The entire album is ear-candy.

On "U Got the Look," Prince, with a guest from Sheena Easton, sings, "Here we are folks/ The dream we all dream of/ Boy versus girl

in the World Series of love/ Tell me, have you got the look?"

On "Housequake," he rocks: "We're gonna shake, we're gonna quake/'Cause we got the baddest groove that we could make."

Turning to his sexual side on "If I Were Your Girlfriend," Prince pleads: "If I was your girlfriend, would you let me dress you/I mean, help you pick out your clothes before we go out? Not that you're helpless But, sometimes, sometimes those are the things that bein' in love's about."

Then, on "Hot Thing," he demands:

"Hot thing, maybe you should give your folks a call/Hot thing, tell them you're going to the Crystal Ball/Hot thing, tell them you're coming home late if you're coming home at all."

And, on one of the most memorable love songs ever

written, Prince introduces "Adore."

On that track, Prince croons: "Until the end of time, I'll be there for you/ You own my heart, and mind/I truly adore you/ If God one day struck me blind, your beauty I'll still see/ Love is too weak to define, just what you mean to me."

"Boys are cocky. Sign O' the Times was an album made by a grown man," Susan Rogers, Prince's sound engineer from 1983 to 1987, told the BBC.

"The charts had moved on, and hip-hop was taking over. There was a world outside his door; there was restlessness; there was curiosity; there was the Aids epidemic," Rogers recalled.

[Writer's note: Take a break from the pandemic and do yourself a favor and revisit "Sign o' the Times." You'll be glad you did].



Family Caregiving

Get the Family Caregiving Support You Need, When You Need it.

Your caregiving journey can be challenging in all kinds of ways.

At AARP Family Caregiving, we're here to help you get answers, connect with other family caregivers and find local resources close to home. So you can take care of what matters most. To learn more, visit aarp.org/caregiving.

/(facebook) @(twitter)





Dallas, let's take care of this together!

If you, or someone close to you, have been impacted by COVID-19, as a City of Dallas resident, you have access to

HEALTH AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

- Testing sites
- 24-hour information line
- Food and grocery assistance
- Mortgage, rent or housing aid
- Family caregiving support
- Unemployment resources



VISIT dallascityhall.com/covid19 OR CALL 214-670-INFO

NDG Book Review: 'My Life in the Purple Kingdom'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You had every intention to stand still that night.

Nice try. Your shoulders were shimmying ten seconds after you stepped to a beat, left foot, right foot, through a wall of thump that came from speakers taller than you. You stopped, and it was as if your behind had its own mind. In those days, you couldn't stop dancing, and in "My Life In the Purple Kingdom" by BrownMark with Cynthia M. Uhrich, one man couldn't stop guitaring.

Before he was even old enough for school, Mark Brown decided that he



wanted to be a guitar player some day. Growing up in Minneapolis, he remembers listening to the radio because the family didn't have a TV, but he was thrilled to hear music by "people who looked like me..." When

television finally came to the Brown household, seeing musicians on the small screen solidified his dream.

By then, Brown was eight years old, and because his mother didn't have money to buy him a guitar, he figured he'd have to earn the money himself. Ultimately, that led to a well-earned instrument and work-for-lessons from a proprietor of a local music store but Brown struggled with school and patience. Once transferred to a new area school for his own good, he found a way to play and it helped his self-confidence.

Success, though, was an uphill road. Racism was

a problem with local bars and clubs then, and getting a toe on-stage took effort, which Brown was willing to put forth to make himself a rock star. He was still in high school, still held down outside jobs and interests, and yet he found time to rehearse with the series of bands with which he performed.

It was at one such rehearsal that someone said there was a phone call for him. That was unusual so, intrigued, he took the call and answered curtly.

Prince was on the other end of the line...

Reading "My Life in the Purple Kingdom" feels

somewhat like attending your high school class reunion: there's always that one guy there who made it big but rather than quietly accepting kudos, he feels the need to humble-brag instead. His story is interesting and you can't resist it, but you really could do without the faux bashfulness.

Indeed, according to his own book, author BrownMark (who changed his name while with Prince), worked himself ragged to be a professional musician, and that perseverance should be lauded. Despite storytelling irritations and cutesy-purposeful misspell-

ings, this memoir could be a real inspiration to someone with dreams.

While the story (with Cynthia Uhrich) is mostly about BrownMark's life, there's enough Prince here to attract Prince fans. Just beware that although there's a happy-ish ending to this book, its author isn't generally complimentary to his former boss and for that, and because Prince isn't alive to offer contradictions, "My Life in the Purple Kingdom" could be somewhat controversial. Still, if you're a concert-goer, nostalgic, clubber, or you need motivation, you should have every intention to read it.

CBC, from Page 1

said Congresswoman Bass, adding, "On behalf of the entire Congressional Black Caucus, congratulations to the members of the Executive Committee for the 117th Congress."

In 1971, thirteen Black Members of Congress organized their efforts to help improve Black people's conditions in America and around the world.

Though small in num-

bers, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) founders understood their responsibility for the millions of voices they represented, Congresswoman Bass noted.

"That responsibility drove them to speak up and

speak out against injustice wherever they found it — from Apartheid in South Africa to voter suppression, economic oppression, racial violence across the country," she said.

Under the leadership of Chair-elect Beatty, the

Caucus will enjoy its largest membership in history, with a record 57 Members forming a body as diverse as the nation.

"After four years under one of the most racist and repressive regimes in modern history, the CBC has

an enormous opportunity under the Biden-Harris Administration to restore faith in our democracy and show Black Americans the power of their vote," Bass said.

"We look forward to the work ahead on behalf of Black America."

The Most Important Factor in Your Family's Education is YOU

Give your family the best chance for success by supporting their education at home and at school.



Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, sticking to a schedule, partnering with teachers and administrators, utilizing culturally sensitive best practices, and tapping into local resources are just a few of the ways that you can support distance learning at home and keep your family on track for educational success.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.NNPA.ORG/EDUCATION

© 2020 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



A road map to relieving America's \$1.7 trillion student debt

By Charlene Crowell

Although the year 2020 has been dominated by continuing news coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic's rising death toll that has now claimed the lives of nearly 300,000 Americans, it is not the only challenge facing the nation. Amid rising unemployment and food insecurity, an estimated 45 million Americans struggle at the same time with the crushing weight of more than \$1.7 trillion in student debt.

A disproportionate amount of this financial burden is carried by Blacks and other borrowers of color. These racial disparities in student debt cannot be ignored: massive debts delay, if not deny, wealth-building opportunities for Blacks and others who believe that higher education remains the bridge to a financially secure future.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting recession one of every four student loan borrowers was in either default or serious delinquency. Black student experience default at a much higher rate (37.5%) than their peers who are Latino (20%), or White (12.4%), according to an independent report by the Brookings Institution. Even after 20 years of loan repayments, the typical Black borrower still owes 95% of the original cumulative balance.

A new research report, jointly released by the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), outlines the financial toll taken by this unsustainable debt and pinpoints remedies to systematically address the crisis.

In part, the report states: "Pursuit of education in America should not be such a high stakes gamble... Borrowers who took out loans to access an education should not have those debts follow them to the

grave."

Entitled, Road to Relief: Supporting Federal Student Loan Borrowers During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond, the report encourages President-Elect Biden to keep his campaign promise to cancel significant amounts of student debt among his first executive actions taken on his first day of office, and specifically recommends:

- Across-the-board debt cancellation. All federal student loan borrowers (including PLUS loan borrowers and those with commercially- or institutionally held loans) should have their balances reduced. This ensures that the benefits of cancellation reach the most vulnerable borrowers and spurs economic recovery;

- Clearing the books of bad debts. After cancellation, the federal government should clear the books of debts currently held by borrowers that have been in repayment for longer than 15 years, debts that have been in default for 3 or more years, and debts held by borrowers who have been receiving federal means-tested benefits for 3 or more years;

- Restoring limitations on collections. Federal student loans should have common-sense consumer protection standards. Guardrails should include a statute of limitations, preventing the seizure of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Social Security benefits, limitations on the amount that can be seized, and limits on how long creditors can involuntarily collect. Student loans should also be dischargeable in bankruptcy; and

- Making repayment truly affordable and budget-conscious. All borrowers on an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan or more than 30 days delinquent at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic should be auto-enrolled in a new IDR plan, the Affordable Budget-Conscious (ABC) repayment plan,

that sets monthly payments based on no more than 8% of discretionary income above 250% of the poverty line.

"Taken together, these steps will ensure that all federal borrowers, accounting for over 90% of the outstanding student loan balances, receive substantial relief... Public investment, not reliance on loans, should once again be the foundation of how we pay for higher education," states the report.

"The federal government must stop borrowers from continuing to drown in student debt by a system that has been inequitable and broken for decades," continued Yu. "Abusive debt collection practices seize critical funds, such as Social Security and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and with no time limit on collection these practices can follow borrowers to the grave."

Ashley Harrington, CRL's Federal Advocacy Director and Senior Counsel spoke directly to the racial equity implications.

"For many, especially Black and Latino borrowers, repayment has been too onerous and too long, preventing them from achieving financial security even under normal circumstances," noted Harrington. "Short-term payment suspension alone will not help struggling borrowers who have lost their jobs or who were already in default or serious delinquency before the public health crisis started."

"To address our current recession and stimulate economic recovery, we urge President-Elect Biden to immediately follow these simple steps and prevent further financial devastation for vulnerable borrowers and communities," added Harrington. "The time to cancel student debt and provide student borrowers with significant relief is now."

While student loan debt cancellation and the other

proposed reforms would provide much-needed relief to borrowers, it would also bring the opportunity to redirect these dollars to better participate in the nation's economy. Starting a business or transitioning from renters to homeowners are but two examples of ways to build wealth and financial security.

Other major research reports have also connected lengthy student debt and its restrictions to economic mobility and lifetime wealth-building. Research has established that student debt can prevent borrowers from buying homes, starting businesses, going to graduate school, and even starting families.

For example, a 2019 research report by Brandeis University's Institute on Assets and Social Policy found that after 20 years of student loan repayments, the median debt of White borrowing students has been reduced by 94

percent— with almost half holding no student debt— whereas Black borrowers at the median still owe 95 percent of their cumulative borrowing total.

"It is clear that in the context of existing inequalities in wealth and assets by race/ethnicity, the privatized system of higher education financing serves to further exacerbate the racial wealth gap among young people," states the Brandeis report. "It has saddled young borrowers of color, particularly Black borrowers, with debt that creates economic insecurity for decades and limits new wealth-generating opportunities such as homeownership."

Despite noble contributions and achievements, there is no doubt that as a people we continue to be financially short-changed. Now as we approach a New Year and a new White House, systemic changes are both needed and pos-

sible.

Cancelling student debt and reforming the repayment system are vital for Black borrowers and communities.

But targeted actions in other areas of concern are also necessary before this and future Black Americans can secure financial stability or build wealth. An even longer road map to relief – beyond student debt – must address other root causes of the racial wealth gap. Access to affordable credit - including safe and responsible mortgage loans- and an end to all forms of predatory lending are representative of these 'other' reforms.

Lifting the trillion-dollar debt of student loans is an important first step to financial equality.

Charlene Crowell is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 1, 2020

Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- **Finishers (Paving)**
- **Pipelayer (Underground)**
- **CDL Drivers (Haul Truck)**
- **Loader Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Form Setters (Structures, Paving)**
- **Laborers (Structures, Underground)**
- **Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)**
- **Paving Machine Operator (Earthwork)**

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

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

**Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.**

**Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com**

JOB FAIRS

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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

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

FULL TIME OPPORTUNITIES - Full time hours with off time and weekends just like regular jobs. 30 days paid vacation per year. Money for school, free healthcare, paid skill training, and up to \$40,000 enlistment bonus.

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

Prerequisites:

- GED/High School Diploma
- Between the ages of 17-34
- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Ongoing Census Bureau

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

Ongoing City of Dallas

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

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/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 departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

#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 focussed career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

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

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

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

December 6, 9:45 am

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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.

December 9, 7 pm

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus.

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

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

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.

See CHURCH, Page 14



GARLAND
TEXAS MADE HERE

**Attention Suppliers of Goods,
Services and Construction**

Review Competitive Opportunities at
<https://garlandtx.ionwave.net>

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415



IRVING
TEXAS

**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND
REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUE A CAREER AS A POLICE
OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- ...and more

REGISTER ONLINE TO TAKE
THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT
CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM

www.cityofirving.org

The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Maid Needed

**\$20.00 per hour
3-6 hours a week
LBJ & Preston
area**



**Please call 808.888.9941
Ask for Mr. Katz**

Have Land You Need To Sell?

We Buy Land

No Commissions. No Fees.

Get Your Fair Cash Offer!

- Vacant House
- Estate Sale
- Fire Damage
- Behind on payments

**CALL NOW
972-665-0170**

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150

Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637

www.tiseopaving.com

Performing Concrete Street Paving
in the Metroplex Area

We Accept Subcontracting Bids
For All Public Works Projects
in the Dallas Area.

We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Equal Opportunity Employer

GIVING, from Page 7

ing Hand efforts. In recent years, she was asked to share some innovative ideas to help increase engagement. She presented the idea for the Annual Grocery Games, which is now a highly popular food drive that brings in enough food donations to feed thousands of families. She partnered with Apostle Herman Murray to be opposing team captains, creating a fun, friendly competition amongst the organization's supporters. The grocery games created

such a stir that allowed the Helping Hand to provide food throughout the year.

As Lady Murray reflects on the vision and sheer weight of the baton she now holds, she says the only thing to do now is to continue to accelerate the impact of the Helping Hand Outreach ministry in the community.

"When you have seen how tightly woven to this outreach, Dr. Murray was and how hard she worked to provide for people whom

she did not know, we have to keep it going," shared Lady Murray. "You do not let something dynamic fizzle, you keep it going and that is what we are going to do."

She continued "Dr. Murray went for broke. She did everything in her power to make sure that she showed the love of God. She wanted people to feel loved and be blessed. She gave until she went home to be with the Lord and this what I am going to do. Our fuel for this year is to make Dr. Shirley Murray proud of what we

are doing with the Helping Hand."

Lady Murray desires to see the Helping Hand continue to thrive and the community to know that the organization is there to support their needs even aside from providing food for the holidays.

"When we give the groceries, we want to promote the love of God. We are a church that love people, and want to see the whole man satisfied. We want the community to know that we are here and care about them whether or not they are a

member," said Lady Murray. "At the end of the day, everyone needs Jesus. I believe that the love of God and a full belly can take care of just about everything."

Lady Murray realizes the positive impact that technology will have on these efforts advance the work of the Helping Hand. In previous years, donors would meet at local retail stores and incorporate a lot of fun and competition into buying large quantities of food to donate. This year, with the pandemic and the call for social distancing, the Help-

ing Hand was unable to hold the annual grocery games and instead is allowing donors to contribute electronically via the church's website www.fght.org and mobile app.

Those that are in need can pick up donated items at the Full Gospel Holy Temple Church located at 39727 West LBJ Freeway on December 19th at 9 a.m. The event will be contactless, and guests can simply drive-thru and have the dinner baskets placed in the trunk. Registration is not required.

CHURCH, from Page 13

ry and honor.

www.theship3c.org
www.visitF3c.org

December 9, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287

**INSPIRING BODY OF
CHRIST CHURCH,
Let's Go Fishing!
MATTHEW 4:19**

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

- Malachi 3:8-10

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

December 4, 7 pm

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

December 6, 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.

December 7, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday

School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 8 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

**SHILOH MBC
IN PLANO
(WHERE COMMUNITY
BECOMES FAMILY)**

Connect to God through Shiloh, Grow in Christ through the study of the Word of God, Serve God

through service to each other and the world.

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

**December 6,
8 and 11 am**

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

**December 7, 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).

December 9, 7 pm

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

Cemetary Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

- Inherited plot and can't sell it?
- Bought plot years ago and your plans have changed?
- Singles space or Side by Side spaces is okay.

We will make you a "cash offer" on your cemetery plot today! If you get voice mail-leave message phone number and information on cemetery space. We will get back to you

**Call Us Today!!!!!!!
972.665.0170**

"We All Must Go Home To Glory"

Question: *Why saddle family members with the cost of your burial / cremation?*

Homegoings should reflect on your life and legacy.

It Is Smart To Call ... **COMBINED BENEFIT SOLUTIONS**



- Pre-Need Insurance (Burial / Cremation)
- No Physical Examination Required
- Pre-Need Funeral Policies Start At \$9.95 Per Month
- Peace Of Mind Knowing Your Loved Ones Are Not Burdened With This Obligation

Vickie Richardson-Steward

President / Licensed Agent



CombinedBenefitSolutions
changing the way we look at life

Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote

214-238-6855

Website: www.cbsolutionsplus.com

You're different



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

(2 Corinthians 12:9)

The story is told of a man in Switzerland who was visiting an acquaintance that he had met briefly almost ten years earlier at a Christian conference on the island of Cyprus.

They had stayed in contact over the years as the man had become a big fan of TGIF and had the devotions translated into German. He had felt led

to make the trip from Germany, where we had been attending a conference.

The man was sitting in the kitchen talking with his friend when his friend said, "You are different. There is a different spirit about you than when I met you ten years ago on the island of Cyprus. I have to admit, I thought you were a bit aloof," I confessed to him. "Hmm, you know Harry; I thought the same about you." We both chuckled at our observations.

There was a difference in both of us because something dramatic had happened in both of our lives. Harry was a very successful businessman in Switzerland and was running a family business when things went very wrong.



The picture of the Week is Mr. Kenneth Edward Jones, Sr. with his grandson Chance Jayden Thompson at a grandparent function before the Coronavirus came to town.

He had lost millions as a result. Although Harry's fortune was not totally wiped out, it impacted him greatly. It brought a humility and new found trust in God that had not been there before.

The man had a similar story. He had gone through a seven year "pit experience" in which he had major losses in family, business and personal income.

Now, that they were both on the other sides of their

"pits." They could recognize something in each of them that had resulted from their experiences. There was a level of humility that was not there before.

It reminded the man of a statement a friend of his had made years earlier: "Beware of any Christian leader who does not walk with a limp."

Sometimes, God will create circumstances in our lives to create humility and greater dependence upon Him. It is because God works greater through weakness than strength.

The man is known to tell others, "You can get humil-

ity voluntarily or involuntarily. It is much easier if you get it voluntarily.

Ask God to search your heart and to let you know if there is any wrong motive within you. To help you to serve Him with wholehearted devotion, a pure heart and a willing mind. Ask Him to forgive you of your sin and cleanse you anew today.

Then, ask for mercy and for Him to bathe you in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Finally, ask Him to receive all of the honor, glory and the praise for His wondrous works, in the precious name of Jesus.

DISTANT, from Page 6

The pandemic has especially been tough on marginalized communities, including those with special needs, added Lisa Lightner, of A Day in Our Shoes, an organization that advocates on behalf of special education.

"I have been chatting with all kinds of families, including Black and Brown families. Here is some of what I'm seeing. The challenges that these families are facing aren't necessarily due to their skin color — but because their skin color makes them much more likely to be in another category of marginalization," Lightner proclaimed.

"For example, lower socioeconomic status or non-Native English speakers. If assignments and instructions are not being provided in the parents' native language, then there is much less parent participation and follow up for school and assignments," she stated.

"If a child is in a lower socioeconomic category, then they are less likely to have high-speed internet or a device to use even to

access the lessons. I know the Philadelphia School District had to get a grant to purchase tens of thousands of Chromebooks and the like."

According to a recent Duke University panel at the school's Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity, many Black and Brown individuals face challenges that affect their and educators' ability to resume in-person education safely.

The panel concluded that the issue is a double-edged sword because wealth inequity also makes it harder for these communities to learn remotely.

The average Black household in North Carolina, where the panel convened, is about \$800,000 less in net worth than the average white home.

According to the Public School Forum of North Carolina, 72 percent of Black and Brown students in the state's public schools have parents who lack secure employment, compared with 21 percent of white students.

That equates to lower-

wealth households having had less access to opportunities for higher-quality education and access to post-secondary studies, education officials said.

Further, Education Week reported that in-person learning yields superior educational outcomes for primary and secondary students — and that the pitfalls of virtual instruction are especially pronounced in minority communities and those living in poverty.

School districts around the country that are strapped for cash have found it increasingly challenging to tackle the learning barriers minority students disproportionately have experienced during the pandemic.

"The reality is in many economically distressed counties, over 60 percent of families don't have reliable internet access, and that disproportionately affects students of color. In one of my counties, over 70 percent do not," said Alex Beene, an adult and high school teacher in Tennessee.

"And while I try to supplement those households with additional packets and materials, it's just not the

same. It's impossible to attend daily classes and submit assignments digitally if you can't even connect to join the conversation," Beene remarked.

"Many families of color also lack adequate nutrition and a culture of learning in the home. When schools are closed down, not having access to school lunches or educators that motivate students to go higher academically can have lasting effects that will stretch on long after the pandemic."



IRS Problems?

Call Kedra

469.449.9833

Kedra A. Flowers CPA PC

www.IRSsafe.com



Inspiring Body of Christ

Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.672.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCHURCH.org

Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm



Dream Catcher's Realty

Frieda Porter
Realtor

*"If the American Dream is your goal,
then I'm your Dream Catcher"*

friedabuysnsellshomes@gmail.com

214-208-1243

**Ask Me About Down Payment and
Closing Cost Assistance**





MAKE A STATEMENT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD

THE 2021 CADILLAC ESCALADE. NEVER STOP ARRIVING.



Cadillac

©2020 General Motors. All rights reserved. The marks appearing in this ad are the trademarks or service marks of GM, its subsidiaries, affiliates or licensors.