



North Dallas

Gazette

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Dangerous Rhetoric + False Claims = Violence and havoc in cities across America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Donald Trump’s refusal to accept the results of the 2020 election and his and the Republican Party’s dangerous actions and rhetoric are now causing damage that might not easily be undone.

Led by the Proud Boys, whom Trump infamously asked to “stand back and stand by,” Pro-Trump demonstrators wreaked havoc on the nation’s capital over the weekend, clashing with counterdemonstrators at Black Lives Matter Plaza.

The result was several stabbings, at least 23 arrests, and the vandalizing of historic Black churches in Washington, D.C. Two police officers were reportedly injured and transported to a local hospital.

There were other demonstrations and unrest in cities around the nation as organizers of “Stop the Steal,” which reportedly is linked to pro-Trump operative Roger Stone, and church groups urged people to gather for “Jericho Marches.”

Protests also occurred in Georgia, a state where Trump’s campaign has sought to overturn Presi-



The Proud Boys, shown above during a November protest in Raleigh, NC, took to the streets in protest over the affirming of Joe Biden as President-Elect. Violence was reported in many locations. (Photo: Anthony Crider / Flickr)

dent-Elect Joe Biden’s victory, and Mobile, Alabama.

In the Washington state capital of Olympia, local media reported that one person was shot and three arrested after clashes between pro- and anti-Trump protest groups.

The Proud Boys clashed in all-out brawls near the White House, the Supreme Court, and Black Lives Matter Plaza, with D.C. Police using pepper spray to break up several melees.

Reuters reported that about 200 members of the Proud Boys, wearing combat fatigues and ballistic vests, flashed white nationalist hand signals while carrying helmets as they menaced people in the nation’s capital.

While flying to a college football game in New York, Trump directed the Marine One helicopter to fly over the protestors, where he basked in the cheers they heaped upon him.

“This is all because Donald Trump can’t accept defeat,” said

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Mellody Hobson

People In The News ...



Cody West



Natalie Desselle Reid

NDG Quote of the Week: “Living in the moment means letting go of the past and not waiting for the future. It means living your life consciously, aware that each moment you breathe is a gift.” – Oprah Winfrey

WHEN ICONIC MEETS INNOVATIVE
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Online:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com
www.twitter.com/NDGEditor
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Published by

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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.

Foreign policy reset under Biden?

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Contributor

Among the subjects that have been the source of speculation regarding the incoming Biden/Harris administration is the matter of foreign policy. Trump went much further than previous presidents, including George W. Bush, in advancing a unilateralist approach towards the role of the United States overseas. What should we expect under Biden/Harris?

The first thing to be clear on is, ironically, the essence of Trump's foreign policy. Trump has been repeatedly called an isolationist, leading many people to believe that he wanted the USA to withdraw from the world. Nothing could have been further from the truth. What he wanted was for the USA to not be constrained by any international agreements such that it could do whatever it wanted, whenever it wanted. This, by the way, is the essence of "isolationism" in the USA.

Biden is cut from a different cloth. Much like Obama, he has been very consistent in supporting the expansion of global capitalism and particularly what came to be known as economic neo-liberalism. But his approach prioritized a working relationship with other major capitalist powers, though with the operating assumption that the USA would serve as 'chairperson of the board' among the global powers. This approach certainly did not advance peace; in fact, various wars were either initiated or continued under this banner. But it was more predictable.

Biden ran for the Presidency under the banner of restoring sanity and respectability within the USA. While most of us are in favor of both, the Biden/Harris tendency will be to see sanity and respectability as a return to past foreign policies. This will, more than likely, include uncritical support of Israel (and, in this case, politely

ignoring the Palestinians); continued contention with China and Russia; a possible restoration of US participation in the Iran nuclear accord; an insistence on US as the gate keeper of the Western Hemisphere; and more reliable international agreements. It may, also, involve a renewal of free trade agreements. In other words, a very mixed bag and, overall, not one that, on its own, will strengthen a tendency towards justice, even where there are positive elements.

There is much more, of course, but the long and the short of it is that a peaceful and just future cannot be found in the past. It cannot be found in more subtle and 'rational' attempts at US global dominance, nor with the US being part of the global oligarchy dominating the planet. A radical reshaping of US foreign policy must be undertaken not only for the future of the USA, but the future of the planet. We live in a world where the slightest

mistake can set off regional conflicts, not to mention thermo-nuclear war.

For these reasons, not only can we not afford to remain passive about matters of foreign policy. We must take an active approach in pressing the Biden/Harris for something dramatically different. We need, in a nutshell, a foreign policy that de-militarizes; that abandons spheres of influence; that repudiates free trade agreements that undermine the ability of countries in the global South to economically develop; and that emphasizes international cooperation in order to address the environmental catastrophe.

I realize that many of us think that discussions of foreign policy are a luxury. I think that is dead wrong: it is a necessity if humanity wishes to survive the 21st century.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the executive editor of globalafricanworker.com and a past president of TransAfrica Forum.

Don't burst your Christmas bubble

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

We have good news on the way. It seems Pfizer has developed a vaccine with a 95% efficacy rating, and they're rolling it out as we speak. If all goes well, more and more of the population will be vaccinated and protected from the virus that has all but shut down our social lives on a global basis.

But we're not there yet.

Often when I am working I pipe in a livestream of news to keep myself up-to-date on the goings on of the world. And since we live in the Internet Age, I sometimes listen to foreign news sources. Today it was Sky News out of England.

The U.K. is issuing guidelines to its residents,

and referring to "bubbles" to describe the limited number of people who will get together for the holidays. The guidelines in London are that no more than two households should be mixed together during Christmas celebrations. In other parts of the U.K. this is taken a step further by being enacted as a law.

During the same segment, it was reported that more than 100,000 people in the country had already received vaccinations. But the U.K. does not currently have enough of the vaccine on hand to completely solve the problem.

And neither do we.

Unfortunately the news of a vaccine will lead some to believe the crisis is over. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The pandemic is still in effect, and new people are becoming infected every day. The disease only takes a short time to do its damage, and far too often that damage is fatal.

Until enough of the vaccine can be distributed, and it proves to be as good as advertised, we need to be as diligent and careful as possible.

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday season, we should do so in small "bubbles" to minimize the risk of spreading the disease.

There is still plenty of time to contract the coronavirus, and still plenty of time to die from it. Worse yet, there is still time to pass the virus off to a grandparent or another loved one who has a compromised

immune system.

While the medical experts are hard at work figuring out the logistics of spreading immunity throughout the country and around the world, more people are dying from COVID-19 every day.

So we can afford to take a step back and practice a bit of caution this Christmas. If the vaccine turns out to be the solution we hope, there will be plenty of time for big family get-togethers in the year ahead.

In the meantime, recognize the season and share the love online. That's what Zoom is for. Sometimes the greatest act of love is an act of restraint, and this season we need to restrain from being too festive and outgoing. Hang on folks, this too will pass.

"A Fitting Memorial"
NDG Obituaries

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President-Elect Biden announces key members of health team

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden announced key nominations and appointments of his health team, including Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Dr. Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General; Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, COVID-19 Equity Task Force Chair; Dr. Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Adviser to the President on COVID-19, who will also continue in his role as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and Jeff Zients, Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President. In addition, former White House and Pentagon senior Advisor Natalie Quillian will serve as Deputy Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response.

This is a team that looks like America and brings together leaders with deep experience in public health, government, and crisis



Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, one of the country's foremost experts on health care disparities, will serve as the COVID-19 Equity Task Force Chair. (Photo: NNPA)

management. They are experts in their fields who will restore public trust in the pandemic response by leading with facts, science, integrity, and a laser-focus on bringing COVID-19 under control. Together, they will advise President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris on implementing a whole-of-government response to surge testing and tracing to slow the spread of the virus, protect frontline workers, and ensure the safe and efficient delivery of treatments and vaccines at no cost to the American people. And, they will help fulfill the President-elect's

vision of making health care a right — not a privilege — for all Americans, building on the Affordable Care Act to lower health care costs and tackle prescription drug costs.

President-elect Joe Biden said, "This trusted and accomplished team of leaders will bring the highest level of integrity, scientific rigor, and crisis-management experience to one of the toughest challenges America has ever faced — getting the pandemic under control so that the American people can get back to work, back to their lives, and back to their loved ones. This team

of world-class medical experts and public servants will be ready on day one to mobilize every resource of the federal government to expand testing and masking, oversee the safe, equitable, and free distribution of treatments and vaccines, re-open schools and businesses safely, lower prescription drug and other health costs and expand affordable health care to all Americans, and rally the country and restore the belief that there is nothing beyond America's capacity if we do it together."

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris said, "Containing this coronavirus pandemic and opening our economy responsibly require listening to experts and leaders like the ones we are bringing together on this health care team. They are some of America's top physicians, public health experts, and crisis-tested public servants, and they reflect the very best of our nation. This is the team that the American people need and deserve to make qual-

ity, affordable health care available to all and to help make sure safe and effective vaccines — as well as testing and treatment — are free and equitably distributed. President-elect Biden and I will work closely with this team to marshal the full resources and capabilities of the United States of America to save lives, contain this pandemic, and build better preparedness for future pandemics and other health threats."

This diverse and experienced slate of nominations and appointments includes some of the nation's most accomplished problem-solving leaders in crisis management and public health:

• **Xavier Becerra**, the Attorney General of California and a long-time champion of expanding access to health care, is nominated to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services. A former member of Congress who helped drive passage of the Affordable Care Act, Becerra led the defense of the law in the Supreme

Court last month. If confirmed, Becerra will be the first Latino to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

• **Vivek Murthy**, a distinguished physician, research scientist, and former Vice Admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, is nominated to serve as Surgeon General of the United States. He was previously confirmed by the Senate to serve in the same capacity, holding the post as 'America's Doctor' between 2014 and 2017. A trusted national voice on health issues and a long-time advisor to President-elect Biden, he currently serves as co-chair of the President-elect's COVID-19 transition Advisory Board.

• **Rochelle Walensky**, a leading expert on virus testing, prevention, and treatment, is nominated to serve as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has been on the front lines of the CO-

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The African American Wellness Project partners with VNR1 Communications in PSA campaign to combat health disparities in the African American community

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The African American Wellness Project (AAWP) has announced a partnership with VNR1 Communications to release a nationally syndicated Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign on the health issues that disproportionately affect the Black community.

According to a news release, the partnership formed because of healthcare inequities between the African American community and the rest of America.

The PSA's will highlight healthcare issues that disproportionately affect the African American and other minority communities at higher prevalence and severity.

"We are at an unprecedented time in our nation's history. Racism is an omnipresent public health burden," said Dr. Michael LeNoir, one of the nation's top Black physicians and AAWP's founder.

"We believe that health disparities will exist if we allow them to continue and that through partnerships with companies, like VNR1, we can help eliminate disparities in health and healthcare for African Americans," added Dr. LeNoir, a past president of the National Medical Association who also has more than 25 years in broadcasting.

VNR1 counts among the largest PSA and media relations groups in the U.S. with more than 33 years of production and media experience.

Pioneering digital media

distribution systems with Digital PSA Platforms, Digital News Releases, and Digital Thought Leader platforms, VNR1 has created new capabilities for organizations to place multimedia content directly in the hands of clients, the public, and media.

Through this first-of-its-kind partnership, the PSA's will be distributed monthly to 10,000 radio stations and 2,500 TV stations and networks, and it will address critical topics like asthma and diabetes.

"We are extremely excited about partnering with AAWP and Dr. LeNoir to make a difference," said Jack Trammel, president of VNR1 Communications.

"Dr. LeNoir is a respected and trusted voice in the African American community, and this partnership represents what VNR1

stands for, delivering relevant, timely, and needed multimedia content to diverse audiences."

AAWP officials noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and the racial and ethnic divide in America had taken an unprecedented toll.

Inferior housing and economic conditions have caused minority communities to be placed at a higher risk of contracting and dying from COVID-19, AAWP officials noted, citing statistics showing that African Americans are three times more likely to die from COVID-19.

"We are at an unprecedented time in our nation's history," Dr. LeNoir proclaimed.

"Racism is an omnipresent public health burden. At AAWP, we believe that health disparities will exist

if we allow them to continue and that through partnerships with companies, like VNR1, we can help eliminate disparities in health

and healthcare for African Americans."

For more information, visit www.aawellnessproject.org.

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Mellody Hobson

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Mellody Hobson, a Princeton graduate who in 2019 earned the Woodrow Wilson Award, the university's highest honor, was named Chairwoman of the Board of Starbucks.

With the promotion, Hobson becomes the only African American woman to chair a Fortune 500 company.

"I am thrilled and honored to take on the role of chair," Hobson exclaimed. "Over nearly two decades,



I have seen the company continue to elevate and transform its business — adapting to various market environments and evolving consumer trends.

"I look forward to working with the Board and tal-

ented leadership team on accelerating our strategy, supporting our valued partners, and continuing to create significant value for all of our stakeholders."

Hobson, 51, also serves as chairman of After School Matters, a Chicago non-profit that provides area teens with high-quality after-school and summer programs.

Additionally, the Chicago-born businesswoman is vice-chair of World Business Chicago, co-chair of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, and a board member of the George Lucas Education Foundation and the Los Angeles

County Museum of Art (LACMA).

She is a member of The Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees and serves on the Investment Company Institute's executive committee.

Besides serving over 15 years on the Starbucks board of directors, Hobson is the co-CEO of Ariel Investments, LLC, a global value-based asset management firm.

In that role, she is responsible for the management, strategic planning, and growth for all areas of Ariel Investments outside of research and portfolio management.

Hobson also serves as Chairman of the Board of the company's publicly traded mutual funds. Before being named Co-CEO, Hobson spent nearly two decades as the firm's President.

"Beyond Starbucks, she has brought invaluable experience to boardrooms across the nation. She currently serves as a director of JPMorgan Chase," the company wrote in a news release, noting that Hobson is also a past director of Estée Lauder Companies and served as Chairman of the Board of DreamWorks Animation until the company's sale.

In addition to graduating from Princeton, Hobson also received honorary doctorate degrees from Howard University, Johns Hopkins University, St. Mary's College, and the University of Southern California. In 2015, Time Magazine named her one of the "100 Most Influential People" worldwide.

"From the very beginning, I set out to build a different kind of company—one in which all decisions were to be made through the lens of humanity," said Howard Schultz, Starbucks' modern day founder and chairman emeritus.

Cody West

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Cody West is headed from Texas to Washington, D.C. — from Law School to Capitol Hill.

West, a graduate of Texas State University and the University of Houston, earned a two-year fellowship from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) and American Petroleum Institute (API) as an Energy Policy Fellow.

The intensive program equips early-career policy professionals committed to



contributing to public policy with the necessary skills to become the next generation of leaders in public service.

West now embarks on an intensive 20-months policy training and lead-

ership development program, enabling fellows to receive hands-on public policy training as full-time legislative aides and policy analysts.

Fellows receive an annual salary plus benefits.

Participants must reside in or relocate to the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area and are responsible for their travel, housing, and other living expenses.

Most importantly, it allows individuals like West to have an opportunity to decide on a potentially lucrative and meaningful career choice.

"We are impressed with Cody's proven experience

and commitment to supporting entrepreneurship, small business and community development," said Tonya Veasey, the CBCF president and CEO.

Veasey noted that West will work in the office of Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Texas) during his fellowship.

"As he completes the API Fellowship term, we expect Cody will continue to demonstrate this dedication to working with Rep. Veasey to contribute to solutions in the energy sector that help to advance the global Black community," Veasey added.

"I am extremely proud of the accomplished back-

grounds and current contributions of all CBCF fellows."

Organizations like API have revealed a need for increased diversity and for more people of color to innovate and provide their level of expertise in the changing demographics of the oil and gas industry.

"I believe everyone should be granted an equal opportunity, whether that be in energy, finance, or government," stated West, 27.

"Anytime you receive an opportunity to work in any sector, especially for an organization like API that's been around for many

years, that can create an opportunity for everyone to have a chance — and that's very special," West observed.

A Houston-native who enjoys reading the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Black Enterprise, West noted that the two-year fellowship also will afford him the time to determine whether he'll put his law degree to work or pursue politics or oil and gas as part of his future.

"I'd ask myself, 'Is law what I want to do right now?' Going through the fellowship, I hope to de-

See WEST, Page 6

Natalie Desselle Reid

By Nsenga K. Burton,
Ph.D.
NNPA Entertainment
and Culture Editor

Fans everywhere are mourning the loss of actress Natalie Desselle Reid, 53, who passed away December 7 after a quiet battle with colon cancer. Reid, who is best remembered for her breakout role as Mickey in the 1997 comedy B.A.P.S. Desselle Reid



starred opposite Oscar winners Halle Berry (Nisi) and Martin Landau (Mr. Don-

ald Blakemore) as Mickey, a gregarious Southern transplant intent on swindling Blakemore out of his money along with her best friend Nisi.

The Louisiana native and Grambling University graduate had a steady career in film and television appearing in television series Built to Last, For Your Love and Eve. Film roles included the role of Jenny in fan favorite How to Be a Player (1997). Desselle Reid played Drayton Jack-

son's (Bill Bellamy) annoying sister, who was out to thwart her big brother's romantic games. In recent years, Desselle Reid starred in Tyler Perry's video and film Madea's Big Happy Family as Tammy, a sharp-tongued mother and wife who returns home at her dying mother's behest.

Friends, colleagues and fans shared their grief over Desselle Reid's death on social media. Delores Robinson, who managed Desselle Reid's career, made

the announcement of the beloved character actress' death on Twitter.

Robinson is the mother of Holly Robinson Peete, the actress who co-starred with Desselle Reid on the television series For Your Love. Robinson Peete paid homage to Desselle Reid on Twitter, offering condolences to Desselle's family.

Halle Berry joined Robinson in remembering Desselle with a series of Tweets after initially tweet-

ing, "I'm in total shock... completely heartbroken, gonna need a minute. #RIP @NatalieDesselle. Rapper-actress-talk show host Eve and ER's Jason Winston George, who starred with Desselle Reid on the television series Eve, also paid homage to Desselle.

Desselle Reid, who died shortly after being diagnosed with colon cancer, is survived by her husband and three children. Rest in peace.



Winnifred "Wini" Cannon

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Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

The chilly weather is here, and with it some of Dallas ISD's most important rituals are coming up. I am looking forward to the annual MLK Oratory Competition, where elementary students get to show their eloquence in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Students from 11 campuses are now preparing for the semifinals, where judges will select the eight who will share their speeches at the finals, set for 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 15. You can watch the livestream of the finals at www.dallasisd.org. This year's topic for the students' original essays

Campus Teachers of the Year

Dallas ISD been blessed with some wonderful teachers, and here are those named the best on their campuses in District 6:

Keigan Toney – Alexander Elementary School
Michael Johnson – Atwell Middle School
Stephanie Smith – Brashear Elementary School
Herbert Milliner – Browne Middle School
Rochelle Chivers – Carpenter Elementary School
Johnny L. McKenzie – Carter High School
Juandell Parker – Gilliam Collegiate Academy
Youngsun Choi – Holmes Middle School
Ryan Brown – Hulcy STEAM Middle School
Andrea Cawley – Jordan Elementary School
Hannah Williams – Kimball High School
Ariel Sanders Taylor – Lee Elementary School
Dammerjax Jackson – Marsalis Elementary School

Sergio Carrasco – McNair Elementary School
Bertha Aguirre – Moreno STEAM Academy
Paula Matthews – Russell Elementary School
Laura Rodriguez – Stemmons Elementary School
Seneca Denman – Storey Middle School
Takina White – Terry Elementary School
Ty'Andra Pogue – Thornton Elementary School
Maria Johnston – Tolbert Elementary School
Dewayne Thigpen – Turner Elementary School
Tysa Randle – Twain Elementary School
Denise Talabi – Webster Elementary School
Charlotte McKinnon – Weiss Elementary School

is, "How do you think Dr. King's teachings can help us today?" District 6 is proud to have several students in the semifinals:

- Josias Escobar, Thomas Tolbert Elementary School
- Harbert Cortlin, Thomas L. Marsalis Elementary School
- Nikyah Levelston, Ron-

ald E. McNair Elementary School

Community Forum on Learning Loss

To mitigate learning loss caused by the COVID pandemic, my fellow trustees and I are holding community forums to get guidance from families and communities on how to meet this

challenge. I'll be hosting the virtual District 6 Time to Learn Parent Forum at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. Click here to join the meeting.

Turkey Giveaway A Success

I was happy to support Boude Storey Middle School recently with a

\$500.00 donation to their Turkey Giveaway to help feed over 100 families in the Oak Cliff community. Thanks to Principal Rivers and Executive Director Tracie Washington for making the event happen! With support from these school leaders, businesses and partnerships, students and their families were able to have a special holiday with hearts full of gratitude this Thanksgiving Season.

Choose Dallas ISD

The application period is underway for students who want to attend one of the more than 100 Dallas ISD magnet or choice schools. Outreach sessions are scheduled this year to ensure that the parents of Black and English learners get answers to their questions and assistance with applications.

In December and January, the Racial Equity Office and specialty schools' team are holding several virtual workshops to share information about the more than 100 choice schools and the new application for admission. The workshops on Dec. 17 and Jan. 12, 14, 19 and 21 are free and open to all Dallas ISD students. To register, visit www.dallasisd.org/racialequity. For a list of magnets, choice schools and specialty programs offered, visit www.dallasisd.org/choosedallasisd.

Happy Holidays, All!

As this is my last column for this year, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish a safe and happy holiday season for all our students, families and the entire community. Good tidings, everyone!

WEST, from Page 5

fine what I'm passionate about," West asserted.

"Had I started practicing law right away, I may have experienced uncertainty. These two years should help me explore and figure out what I'd want to do for at least the next ten years of my life. This gives me

some flexibility."

West said he sacrificed all hobbies except for reading for undergraduate studies and law school.

He learned about the API CBCF Fellowship during his junior undergraduate year when he came across a solicitation for a CBCF

internship.

When his application was rejected, he said he simply focused on school.

After graduating from Texas State University, he studied law at the University of Houston Law Center, focusing on corporate, securities and tax law.

"For the most part, I began to focus on doing dif-

ferent internships within the U.S. Attorney's Office and Merrill Lynch," West recalled.

"At the same time, I was interested in public policy, so once I graduated, a good friend told me about the CBCF and the two-year fellowship for those who graduate from graduate or

law school. I gave it a shot, and it worked out."

West offered that with the fellowship, he hopes to understand better how Congress and the legislative process operate.

Chiefly, he's interested in learning what goes into crafting laws, how many individuals are needed to

support a bill, and what happens inside Congressional committees.

"By the time the fellowship ends, I hope to be able to explain what actually happens," he said.

He said Reginald F. Lewis, Don Peebles and Robert Smith count among his role models.

Keeping watch...



Airman Samantha Cruz, from Dallas, stows a firefighting hose after a simulated general quarters evolution in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz, the flagship of Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and Pacific through the Western Indian Ocean and three critical chokepoints to the free flow of global commerce. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Charles DeParlier/Released)

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





The all-new Hyundai ELANTRA.

Tech-savvy, sleek and seriously dripping.

Designed for the young at heart, this sleek compact sedan offers a fully integrated tech experience with flavor you can savor right at your fingertips. Imagine a Digital Key that locks, unlocks, and starts your ride along with a 10.25-inch infotainment touchscreen. Mix in Dynamic Voice Recognition that allows you to roll down your windows, pop your trunk, and control the temperature with your voice. Suddenly you have an intuitive, tech-savvy car designed for better living without breaking the bank. Now that's dripping.



Preproduction model shown with optional features. Near Field Communication (NFC) digital smartphone key requires a compatible Android smartphone and an appropriately equipped 2021 Elantra. Not all Android devices are compatible. The Elantra must be equipped with smart key with push button start, wireless device charging, and Audio Video Navigation System 5.0 (or newer) or Display Audio 2.0. Lock/unlock functionality works on driver's door only. See your Owner's Manual for details and limitations. Dynamic Voice Recognition varies by unit. Speak in a normal voice and minimize background noise for best results. See Owner's Manual for details and limitations. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2020 Hyundai Motor America.

Ricky C. McNeal steps down as president of the Garland NAACP

By Gwendolyn H. Daniels

Feeling an obligation to dig deeper and to support his city in a greater role, Ricky C. McNeal stepped down from his position as president of the national award-winning NAACP Garland, Texas Unit. The reason why? He applied and was selected to fill a vacated position on the Garland City Council.



Ricky C. McNeal

After the departure of David Gibbons, former District 1 City Councilman, McNeal explained “A group of community leaders encouraged and inspired me to submit my application.” All pertinent qualifications were easily checked off the list due

to his decades of volunteer service in Garland. The hurdle that he now faced was successfully rating number one among the eleven applicants who interviewed for the position.

President McNeal went through all proper channels

of notifying the NAACP Texas State Conference who contacted the NAACP national office on his behalf. The only task left was notifying the faithful NAACP volunteers whom he served as president and whom he so dearly admires. On December 8, 2020, McNeal held a called meeting with members of the Garland NAACP Executive Committee. He announced his new appointment to the Garland City Council and resigned his position as president, for now!

The saving grace to the NAACP is President McNeal will only serve on the City Council through May 1, 2021, when Garland will

hold its general election and fill the District 1 seat with an elected Councilperson. It is stipulated in the Garland City Charter that a resident serving temporarily is ineligible to run for the Council seat in the very next election.

Ricky C. McNeal is a native of Jonesboro, Louisiana and holds a BS degree in Business Administration from Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. He moved to Dallas in 1987 and met his bride while interning as a new hire at Electronic Data Systems. In 1994, he and his wife, Najeda Flow-ers McNeal, relocated to Garland, became homeowners, and now, after 30 years

of marriage, they have three adult daughters and two sons-in-law: Hillary (Tyler), Hannah (Justin), and their baby girl, Haylea, who is a junior at Midwestern State University. The McNeal’s are devoted members of Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church where Councilman McNeal serves as a deacon and the superintendent of Sunday School.

Once Governor Greg Abbott approves this new Garland appointment, Councilman Ricky C. McNeal will be officially sworn in to represent District 1. In the meantime, he is serving as an ex officio member of the Garland City Council.

As a result of Councilman

McNeal’s new position, the NAACP Garland Unit made several temporary appointments that will remain through April 30, 2021. The Honorable Annie Dickson (former Councilwoman in District 2 and NAACP vice president) moved up to the position of president and Dr. Chonda Williams will serve as vice president and secretary. Larry D. Daniels remains in his elected position as Unit treasurer.

With Councilman McNeal’s longstanding philosophy “To whom much is given, much is required,” the NAACP Garland Unit can rest assured that he is just a phone call away, should the need arise!

South Dallas Club recruits eleven additional members in 2020

By Gwendolyn H. Daniels

The historic South Dallas Business and Professional Women’s Club, Inc. did not allow the raging pandemic of 2020 to interfere with its all-out efforts to recruit new and reclaimed members.

Despite the elimination of in-person meetings and traditional Club programming throughout Dallas County, the organization continued the most difficult challenge of increasing membership electronically, by word of mouth and through their

stellar reputation in the community. Since September of 2019, the South Dallas Club has benefitted from outstanding leadership through Dr. Lindy M. Perkins, president, and innovative recruit-

ment by Gwendolyn E. Hunt, ESQ, the Club’s director of membership.

South Dallas Business and Professional Women will end the year 88 members strong consisting of en-

trepreneurs, educators, government employees, retirees, business owners, administrators of institutions and leaders in fortune 500 corporations. Congratulations to President Perkins, Attorney

Hunt and the Membership Committee for encouraging the Club to recruit the most members this year in the South Central District of the National Association of Negro Business and Profes-

sional Women’s Clubs, Inc. For more information on the South Dallas Club, visit their website at southdallasbpwc.org or their Facebook page at southdallas1954.



Alexis Ford



Brittany Montgomery



Crystal Chism



Erika Howard



Marvette Washington



Mary Proctor



Myyon Hardeman



Phyllis Thomas



Tahirah Samuels



Tammy Walker



Vera Moore

HAVOC, from Page 1

Carol Gray, a Washington, D.C., resident who said she and her boyfriend were “heartbroken” to see Black Lives Matter banners ripped from churches and other sites by the Proud Boys.

“This is so dangerous for a United States Presi-

dent. It’s the bloodiest of all stains America has seen since Jim Crow and slavery for [Senate Majority Leader] Mitch McConnell and all of those Republicans who are backing Trump in his plot to overthrow the government and in his plot to destroy democracy,”

Gray remarked.

Her boyfriend, Rashawn Hilton, agreed.

“As bad as 2020 has been, I don’t think anyone in this country, or around the world, would have ever thought they’d see an American President instigate what might eventually be a civil war,” Hilton offered.

At least 50 federal and state court rulings have upheld Biden’s victory. Most recently, the U.S. Supreme Court – which includes three Trump appointees – rejected a lawsuit filed by Texas and backed by Trump seeking to throw out voting results in four states.

That hasn’t stopped

Trump and many in the GOP from falsely claiming the election was rigged or stolen. Many believe if Trump or GOP leaders would take a stand by refuting the false claims about the election and denounce the Proud Boys and other violent groups, America could return to some politi-

cal normalcy.

“Notice how quiet Senate GOPers are about their Proud Boys white supremacist terrorists trashing D.C. last night and causing chaos with fights, stabbings, and bare [bottoms] on display?” Singer Ricky Davila tweeted. “It’s who they are and who they represent.”

Cowboys chalk one up for the Win column, 30-7 over Bengals

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

For Andy Dalton, Sunday turned out to be one of those triumphant homecomings fit for a king.

Dalton spent his first nine seasons in the NFL quarterbacking the Cincinnati Bengals, but returned to Cincinnati on Sunday and guided the Dallas Cowboys to a lopsided 30-7 victory over the Bengals in Paul Brown Stadium. The win padded the Cowboys' record to 4-9 and kept alive their slim playoff hopes.

With just three games left in the regular season, the Cowboys will be eliminated from the playoff picture if they lose one of their remaining three games against the San Francisco 49ers, Philadelphia Eagles or New York Giants, or if the Washington Football Team (6-7) emerge victorious in one of their final three games against the Seattle Seahawks, Carolina Panthers or the Eagles.

While playing for Cincinnati and setting several of the franchise's individual records, Dalton was a three-time Pro Bowl player and also led the Bengals to five playoff appearances. So, returning to the place where he is so beloved meant a lot to Dalton, who proceeded to deliver for the Cowboys just as he had so many times for the Bengals.

"Yeah, this one was special," said Dalton, who signed a contract with the Cowboys over the offseason. "It feels good to come back to a place that I was for a long time to win. Like I said, it just felt good."

Overall, Dalton complet-



All Pro Reels / Flickr

ed 16 of 23 passes for 185 yards and two touchdowns. That includes a 7-yarder to Tony Pollard that sealed the game with 1:42 remaining.

"This is definitely special for him and I made no bones about it," coach Mike McCarthy said. "He wanted to win this game, and more importantly everybody in this locker room wanted to win it for him."

Dalton was one of three players named as the captain for the Cowboys for Sunday's game, and he also gave the final pre-game talk to his teammates. Those same teammates showered him with water when he entered the locker room after the game.

"I got water thrown on me," Dalton said, "and everybody was excited."

In addition to doling out praises to Dalton, the Cowboys were overly excited about the play of their defense. Much maligned throughout the season for their inability to force turnovers or stop anyone from piling up a bunch of points, the Cowboys actually played like gangbusters in forcing three turnovers on

the Bengals' first three possessions.

And in the Cowboys' world, collecting three turnovers in a game is considered a tsunami of turnovers. Particularly for a team that entered Sunday's contest with a minus 13 turnover deficit.

The Cowboys turned those turnovers into a 17-0 second-quarter lead – their largest lead in any game this season – capped when Dalton completed a massive 15-play, 88-yard drive by firing an 11-yard touch-

down to Amari Cooper. In short, the Cowboys went into Sunday's game scoring just 28 points off turnovers all season, and they added 17 more points before the first half was in the history books.

"Winning the turnover battle was clearly a big part of our victory," McCarthy said. "I think on a number of fronts it was a very gratifying victory, because of just the number of things that went on during the game on the sidelines, particularly on defense."

This turned out to be the fewest amount of points the Cowboys have allowed since they walloped the Miami Dolphins, 31-6, in the third game of last season. Meanwhile, the defense's biggest glory occurred when defensive end Aldon Smith picked up a fumble and galloped 78 yards for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead with 6:05 to go in the first quarter.

It also was the longest touchdown return of a fumble by the Cowboys' player since Greg Ellis ran

a fumble back 98 yards for a touchdown against Arizona in 1999.

"I know that I'm really fast, so as soon as I picked it up I just knew that it was just going to be impossible for me to get caught," Smith said. "Guys were giving me a lot of stuff -- they say I looked like I was slow. But I thought I was pretty fast."

Other than the solid workmanlike play of their defense, the Cowboys didn't really do anything spectacular on offense against the Bengals. They finished the game with just 272 total yards and only 16 first downs, and running back Ezekiel Elliott got bogged down yet again as he collected 48 yards rushing on 12 carries.

"We won that football game and those have been hard to come by this year, so we're going to go celebrate this and go get back to work," Elliott said. "We definitely feel some momentum."

Whatever momentum the Cowboys are feeling, it's the type of momentum

they've been searching for all season as they have yet to do something as simple as win more than one game in a row this year.

"We took a step (Sunday) as a football team," McCarthy said. "We need to build off the way we played (Sunday), the energy we played, particularly the finish."

"It's obviously a fun locker room and definitely a win that we needed."

Next up for the Cowboys is a 12-noon kickoff on Sunday at AT&T Stadium in Arlington against the 49ers. The stakes are high and, when they peel back the curtains, the Cowboys know what needs to be done.

"We did our part (against the Bengals) and we just got to keep focusing on us and keep finding ways to win and we'll see how this whole thing shakes out," said Dalton, who received the game ball afterwards from McCarthy. "The division isn't over yet, and for us we just got to handle our business."



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NDG Book Review: 'Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've got mail. No, real mail, delivered by a carrier in a mailbox outside your door. It doesn't happen very often and it's rarer if there's a letter in those envelopes because everybody you know texts or emails and a hand-written, lick-the-envelope, put-a-stamp-on-it letter is so old-school. Who even writes letters anymore? Author Michael Eric Dyson, that's who, and in "Long Time Coming," you'll want to read them.

"Dear Elijah McClain..." he begins.

When the grief of history



is a part of a burden, the pain of now becomes keener and the action more urgent. "Black death" has been in this country for more than 400 years. We know how Elijah died and the knowl-

edge is unbearable. It's time for a "reckoning."

"Dear Emmett Till," it hurts to know that if you were a boy today, your life could be taken as easily as it was in 1955. Maybe not the same way, but taken nonetheless and the fact that it happens is something most white folks don't see. We need all eyes opened

When George Floyd died, it echoed what happened to you, "dear Eric Garner." You said you couldn't breathe; Floyd said he couldn't breathe. Neither of you were real troublemakers, but both of you called out in pain to the "blue plague," and lost your lives

anyhow.

Why is it that Black women are victims, too, but we don't talk about them quite as much as we do Black men? "Dear Breonna Taylor," there's irony in the fact that you served as an EMT but the city you served gave you no justice after you died. "Dear Hadiya Pendleton," we can't use "cancel culture" as justice. No, "dear Sandra Bland," we must eliminate "white comfort" before we can end the lack of knowledge that contributes to the end of Black lives.

As you may have guessed – especially if you've read any other works by au-

thor Michael Eric Dyson – there's a lot to unpack inside "Long Time Coming."

It starts without preamble, as Dyson dives straight into his series of letters written to Black Americans whose deaths demand a reckoning with racial issues. This abruptness is unusual in a work of nonfiction, and it forces readers to pay immediate attention.

Though there's a lot of repetition from story to story here, each chapter examines a separate aspect of racism by speaking directly to a deceased individual while also referring to another. There's an urge embedded in this, to under-

stand each issue before dismantling it, and to see how it matters. Readers may also find Dyson's choice of subjects to be interesting; there are other victims of racial violence he could've picked, as evidenced by his long list of names, each of which begs to have their own stories told.

Perhaps the most crucial thing about this book, though, is that it's not so much for Black readers as it is for White ones who metaphorically started school late last May. Respectful discussion, soul-searching, urgency: if that's what you need, "Long Time Coming" delivers.

Film Review: 'Farewell Amor' is a movie worth waiting for

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

Absence doesn't always make the heart grow fonder. Sometimes the heart forgets. That's the case in this very observant tale that examines one immigrant family's complicated back story and their questionable future.

Walter (Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, *The Chi* and *Tasmanian Devil*), a taxi driver has been in the states for 17 years, on his own. His dream is to get the proper papers for his wife Esther (Zainab Jah, *Showtime's The Good Lord Bird*) and their teenage daughter Sylvia (Jayme Lawson) to join him. While he works at that task, he keeps himself "busy." Finally, his spouse and offspring journey from Angola to Brooklyn. The



Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, Zainab Jah and Jayme Lawson in *Farewell Amor*.

three nestle into his tight, one-bedroom apartment. They're getting reacquainted. It's an adjustment. Three people. One tiny space. It's a lot.

Though no one verbalizes it, and Esther tries desperately to please her husband, something is wrong. Walter is present physically—not emotionally. Sylvia, though she acts outwardly

like a mindful traditional religious African child, is becoming Americanized. Dancing, disobeying, hanging out with her new buddy DJ (Marcus Scribner, *Blackish*). Secrecy, mixed-feelings and mistrust slowly boil to the surface.

First-time filmmaker Ekwa Msangi's interpretation of the immigrant experience is thoughtful and

revealing. Her observations on separation and reuniting are astute. Her poignant script uses the culture clash between this husband and wife, which was brought on by a long absence, to make her points: Walter brings wine home to celebrate. Esther's reaction: "You know we shouldn't drink." He admonishes her for sending money they need back home to her church. Esther replies: "This money is for God—so he will favor us as we try to rebuild our marriage." She's devout. He has an extracurricular secular life. Their differences are vast. Can they mend?

Exploring that possibility is what propels the narrative through 101 minutes (Jeanne Applegate editor) of friction and soul-searching. Each step of the way, the couple and daughter

learn new things about each other. As they do, audiences experience an everyday example of immigrant life. One that some may feel is too understated and lacking the dramatic peaks and deepest emotions necessary for compelling drama. Others may be satisfied with the affecting moments of tears and joy. All of this proves that Ekwa Msangi's narrative and direction are good, but she has room to grow. Her true potential is on view.

For a low budget film, the cinematography (Bruce Francis Cole), production design (Virginia Hastings) and costumes (Evren Catlin) are fine—but none stand out. The musical score (Osei Essed) fares best when it embraces a contagious Afrobeat vibe.

The ensemble cast never

wavers. Mwine and Jah are certainly believable as the Mr. and Mrs. His portrayal is stalwart and subtle. Hers burns with determination. Lawson, who will appear in the upcoming rebooted *The Batman*, is a treasure to watch. Nana Mensah as Linda, the other woman, finds the needed complexity in the character. Joie Lee shines as the congenial neighbor Nzingha, who is full of sage advice: "Sometimes a king needs his queen to remind him who she is."

Ultimately this family drama is very touching and it finds its path. Wait for it.

In Theaters and on Demand on December 11, 2020

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

HEALTH, from Page 4

VID-19 pandemic response in Massachusetts, serving as Chief of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital and a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

• **Marcella Nunez-Smith**, one of the country's foremost experts on health care disparities, will serve as the COVID-19 Equity Task Force Chair. An Associate Professor of Medicine,

Public Health, and Management at the Yale School of Medicine, she is the founding director of Yale's Equity Research and Innovation Center and co-chair of the President-elect's COVID-19 Transition Advisory Board. Dr. Nunez-Smith will advise the President-elect on a whole-of-government effort to reduce COVID-19 disparities in response, care, and treatment,

including racial and ethnic disparities.

• **Anthony Fauci**, the nation's preeminent expert on infectious diseases and an adviser to six U.S. presidents, will serve as Chief Medical Adviser on COVID-19 to the President and continue in his role as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Among the most trusted figures in the country throughout the pandemic and for decades

prior, Dr. Fauci will remain an essential voice both in informing the public about health risks and safety measures and in helping the scientific community, the Biden-Harris administration, and local officials overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

• **Jeff Zients**, an accomplished public servant widely known for his extraordinary track record successfully managing large and complex initia-

tives, will serve as Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President. Zients previously earned broad acclaim for his leadership of the 2013 HealthCare.gov tech surge and his oversight of the 'Cash for Clunkers' fuel-efficiency program. Zients will advise the president-elect on the implementation of the federal government's COVID response, including managing safe and equitable vaccine distribution, the

pandemic supply chain, and coordination across federal agencies and state and local governments.

• **Natalie Quillian** will serve as Deputy Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response. Quillian, a national security expert and former White House and Pentagon senior advisor, played an instrumental role in coordinating the Obama-Biden administration's interagency response to the opioid epidemic.

OneTen, a coalition of major corporations, vows to hire 1 million African Americans in high-paying jobs

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

OneTen, a coalition of leading executives, said it would work to hire 1 million African Americans into family-sustaining jobs with advancement opportunities over the next decade.

The coalition joined forces to upskill, employ, and advance the hires as a method to chip away at the economic barriers plaguing African Americans.

"This is a moment in time for Americans to move past our divisions to come together and reach our full potential as a nation," Ken Frazier, the chairman and CEO of Merck and a OneTen founder stated.

"Our country's workforce of the future will be an increasingly diverse one," Frazier proclaimed.

"Through the creation of one million jobs for Black Americans over the next ten years, OneTen has the potential to address persis-



iStockphoto / NNPA

tent inter-generational gaps in opportunity and wealth," Frazier remarked further.

In addition to Frazier, other OneTen founders include Ken Chenault, chairman and managing director of General Catalyst and former chairman and CEO of American Express; Charles Phillips, the managing partner of Recognize and chairman of the Black Economic Alliance; Ginni Rometty, executive chairman and former CEO of IBM; Kevin Sharer, a former chairman and CEO of Amgen and former faculty member at Harvard Business School.

Each of the founders serves on the Board of OneTen – Frazier and Rometty serve as co-chairs.

"In this moment when all Americans share an aspiration for greater economic opportunity, leading executives and employers across industries are taking action to make a meaningful, measurable and lasting systemic impact on racial and economic justice and to create a more equitable society," the founders noted in a news release.

OneTen connects employers with talent partners, leading non-profits, and other skill-credentia-

organizations that support diverse talent development.

"OneTen links our companies with the critical work we know we need to do to improve racial equity in America," Rometty added.

"This will not only help our individual companies, but by removing structural barriers that have disproportionately hindered Black Americans from joining the middle-class, it will also help lift all Americans," Rometty continued.

OneTen members include Accenture, ADP, Allstate, American Express, Amgen, Aon, AT&T, Bain & Company, Bank of America, Cargill, Caterpillar, Cisco, Cleveland Clinic, Comcast, Deloitte, Delta Air Lines, Eli Lilly, General Motors, HP Inc., Humana, IBM, Illinois Tool Works, Intermountain Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson,

Lowe's, Medtronic, Merck, Nike, Nordstrom, PepsiCo, Roper Technologies, Stryker, Target, Trane Technologies, Verizon, Walmart and Whirlpool Corporation.

The organization noted that it's looking forward to welcoming additional members, including small and medium-sized businesses, which power the majority of the U.S. economy.

In a statement, the founders pledged that OneTen would work with employers, education partners, and upskilling partners to design educational and employment solutions.

Together, these partners will better develop, retain, and advance diverse and underrepresented talent, more broadly, but with an explicit commitment to hire or promote Black Americans without four-year degrees, the founders added.

OneTen's role in the talent ecosystem will be local, reflecting the workforce development landscape, and focus on reducing exclusionary hiring practices, identifying robust and new talent sources, and ensuring that adequate and equitable career pathways for advancement exist.

In January 2021, the organization will begin working with partner employers to improve workplace inclusivity practices and will connect talent providers to partner employers shortly after that, the founders continued.

"By bringing together a coalition of key leaders and asking them to make long-term commitments, we have the ability to change employment practices and help break down systemic barriers opening the door to full participation in our economy," Rometty said.

DART celebrates the kickoff of the Silver Line construction with a first concrete pour ceremony

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Archer Western Herzog (AWH) commemorated construction of the future Silver Line Regional Rail project with a First Concrete Ceremony on Wednesday, December 16. The event took place near the intersection of Preston Road and the Keller Springs Road, a mile northeast of the future Knoll Trail Station in Dallas.

The ceremony included a long-held tradition by the Walsh Group, parent company of AWH, of placing Miraculous Medals in a project's first concrete pour. A Walsh Group institution for more than six decades, the Miraculous Medal is an oval-shaped depiction

of Mary according to Saint Catherine Laboure's vision. The gesture of placing Miraculous Medals symbolizes an inspiration to successfully complete the job safely and to make it as miraculous as the Medal itself.

The Silver Line Regional Rail Project's primary purpose is to provide passenger rail connections and service that will improve mobility, accessibility and system linkages to major employment, population and activity centers in the northern part of the DART Service Area.

With revenue service scheduled for early 2023, the 26-mile Silver Line Regional Rail Project traverses seven cities between

DFW Airport, Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson and Plano, and includes 10 new stations.

When completed, the \$1.2 billion Silver Line will connect with the Trinity Metro TEXRail commuter rail line at DFW North station providing access to Downtown Fort Worth and various other Tarrant County locales. The line will also connect with the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) A-train commuter rail line providing access to various Denton County locations and DART's Green Line providing access to Dallas Love Field and Downtown Dallas via Downtown Carrollton Station.



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Ongoing Census Bureau

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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/2NcFVP>.

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>.

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#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.

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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 20, 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.

December 23, 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.

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December 20

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.

See CHURCH, Page 14



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Christmas Is More Than Jingle, Jingle

Dr. James L. Snyder

I have been trying lately to remember my first Christmas. I know my memory isn't perfect, but I thought maybe I could bring up some old memories of my first Christmas.

Unfortunately, I couldn't think of a thing about that first Christmas of mine. Of course, it might be that I was only five months old at the time. Still, I tried to remember some of those old

Christmases in the past.

Down through the years, I have celebrated more Christmases than I want to let on. It's not that I'm old; I just haven't died yet.

The thing about Christmas was all the stuff I was getting. The first Christmas I remember, I got a bunch of presents under the tree. None of my siblings had shown up at the time, so I was the focus of several Christmases. That was the essence of real joy.

I thought Christmas was all about me and all I wanted for Christmas and all that would make me happy.

I remember my parents taking me downtown to sit on Santa's lap and tell what I wanted for Christmas. That's what I thought Christmas was all about.

I was a little disturbed when my siblings came on the scene, and Christmas was no longer all about "me." For some reason, they thought they were part

of Christmas. Being the terrific brother that I am, I allowed them to have some of the Christmas time around the tree.

Then I was introduced to the fact that not only was I not the focus of Christmas but now I needed to purchase Christmas presents for my siblings. That was a hard thing to get over. What did they ever do to deserve my Christmas presents?

I finally processed that and discovered giving can

also be fun.

Things went along nicely, and then another thing changed everything in my Christmas activity.

Going to a Bible school up in New York, I happened to meet a young lady. Before I could process everything, I found myself married. How that happens, men have no idea. I had to remind myself that weddings are for wives and not husbands. The husband that allows the wife to plan the wedding is a happy

dude in the end.

When we got married, I did not realize how everything in my life was going to change.

Then came the first Christmas as a married man, for which I wasn't prepared.

That Christmas we spent with my wife's family. At first, I thought the whole neighborhood had come to celebrate Christmas with us. Then, much to my cha-

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CHURCH, from Page 13

ry and honor.

December 23, 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
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"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

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

December 18, 7 pm

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

December 20, 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 21, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday

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

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December 20, 8 and 11 am

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

**December 21, 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 23, 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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"Tell Archippus: 'See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.'"

(Colossians 4:17).

Have you ever driven by a construction project that was half finished but was now abandoned? It is a lasting testimony of someone or a group of people that had a vision, often with significant money invested, but something happened that killed the project.

Why do projects fail to be completed? There could be a number of reasons. There

could have been a failure to raise adequate funds to complete it. There could have been a fall-out among management.

The project could have been simply ill-conceived. Good planning is the key to estimating what it will take to complete a project. "Then the LORD replied: 'Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation waits an appointed time?'" (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

A plan must be conceived, the project and must be clearly written out, write the vision with detailed specifications that identify what will be needed to complete it.

Entrepreneurs have a tendency to conceive proj-



L to R: The Joneses, Christina, the mother, Kenneth Sr., the grandfather, Edward Jr., the uncle with Chance Thompson in front; they are getting ready to do some 2020 Christmas shopping.

ects without estimating the financial and manpower requirements to complete the projects.

Many a project has died because of this trait in entrepreneurs. Great entrepreneurs understand their

need to have detail-people around them that can take their ideas and put the details around them.

These are wise entrepreneurs who have learned to complement their weakness with those who can help

them achieve their vision.

Do you have a vision for a work God has called you to do? Identify what will be needed to achieve success.

Tell the Lord that your heart is moved today for people who just cannot seem to find their place. They feel lost, empty, out of place, floundering.

Some are discouraged; some are depressed; some are anxious; some are hopeful; some are searching; some have given up.

Pray that today will be a day of breakthrough for them. Pray that the right job, the right ministry op-

portunity, the right words, the right whatever it is they need will be there for them today.

Pray that God will open doors and lead them through. Pray for encouragement and guidance. Pray for joy, excitement and blessings of the heart and spirit. Pray for contentment, initiative, passion, thankfulness in their attitudes today.

May they look to God and receive the gifts He has in store for them. And may God, oh a wonderful and gracious God, be glorified. Pray in the precious name of Jesus.

JINGLE, from Page 14

grin, I realized these were siblings to my wife. I don't remember how many there were; I couldn't count them; they were running around too fast.

I never experienced such a Christmas in all my life. The thing about it was we had to purchase gifts for all of the family. I was able to empty Wal-Mart with all of my purchases.

Opening up those gifts, I couldn't remember what I got and who I got it for. But it was the beginning of a different kind of Christmas season than I experienced up to this time.

Then other things began to happen. One by one, children came into our family. Fortunately, we only had three children, unlike my wife's parents, who had somewhere near 100, at least by my calculation.

I eventually discovered that Christmas was not about me at all. There was a major adjustment for me

thinking about the Christmas season. Not being a qualified shopper, I had to rely upon my wife to do all the shopping, for which she is an expert.

It wasn't long before I realized that a Christmas song with the word "jingle" in it meant that I was supposed to spend a lot of my coin for Christmas.

Now, Christmas was not about me, or was it? It was about me paying for Christmas, and the recipients seem to be growing without stop.

I had my parents and my siblings to buy Christmas presents. I had my wife's parents and her siblings to buy Christmas presents. Then, I had my children to buy Christmas presents.

Why, oh, why is it all about "me?"

It took a while for me to come to the right conclusion that Christmas is more than "jingle, jingle." I came to that conclusion when

one Christmas we were celebrating at our home, and our children and grandchildren were all around the Christmas tree opening up presents.

I sat back and just watched. Sure, I got a couple of Christmas presents. But that wasn't what Christmas was for me. I saw my family around that tree and realized that that's what Christmas was all about. Family coming together and enjoying one another.

The "jingle, jingle" was just the door that opens up the family celebration. Thinking about it, I have concluded that all the "jingle, jingle" in the world is worth every moment around that tree.

Then I thought about what the Bible said. "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; be-

cause there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:6-7).

Christmas is all about family. God's family comes into the family through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472, where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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