



North Dallas

Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

Biden signs executive orders aimed at tackling racism in America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Joe Biden signed a series of executive orders that his less than two-week-old administration hopes will be a catalyst to tackling America's long-standing race problem.

Biden's action focused on equity and included police and prison reform and public housing.

"America has never lived up to its founding promise of equality for all, but we've never stopped trying," President Biden wrote on Twitter just before signing the executive orders.

"I'll take action to advance racial equity and push us closer to that more perfect union we've always strived to be," the President proclaimed.

Within hours of taking the oath of office on Jan. 20, President Biden signed 17 executive orders to reverse damaging policy put forth by the previous administration.

Throughout his campaign, President Biden pledged to do his part in the fight against systemic racism in America.

One of the Jan. 20 executive or-



One of the Jan. 20 executive orders charged all federal agencies with reviewing equity in their programs and actions. (Photo: The first portrait of Joe Biden as president of the United States. The White House / Wikimedia Commons)

ders charged all federal agencies with reviewing equity in their programs and actions.

President Biden demanded that the Office of Management and Budget analyze whether federal dollars are equitably distributed in communities of color.

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the President reinstated a policy from the Barack Obama administration that prohibited military equipment transfer to local police departments. The President noted the disturbing trends he and the rest of the country

reckoned with in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others.

The order prevents federal agencies from providing local police with military-grade equipment, which was used by Ferguson, Missouri officers after police shot and killed an unarmed Michael Brown.

The previous administration reinstated the policy to allow federal agencies to provide military-style equipment to local police.

See BIDEN, Page 2



What is returning to 'normal?'

- See Page 3



Dallas reaches out to latinos on vaccination

- See Page 4



DISD, Paul Quinn partner on new school

- See Page 6



Virginia doctor calls for new cabinet seat

- See Page 6



Cicely Tyson passes away at age 96

- See Page 9



Delta to debut documentary on Black icon

- See Page 11



Barber calls for healing of wounds

- See Page 14



Sister Tarpley: Celebrating Black History

- See Page 15

Inside...

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| People in the News | 2 |
| Op/Ed | 3 |
| Health | 4 |
| Community | 5 |
| Education | 6 |
| Features | 8 |
| Entertainment | 9-10 |
| Marketplace | 11-12 |
| Career / Notices | 13 |
| Church Directory | 13-15 |
| NDG Bookshelf | 16 |

See Page 2



Chukes

People In The News ...



John Boyd, Jr.



Cmdr. Christian Rivera

NDG Quote of the Week: "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."

- Rosa Parks

Chukes

One of the nation's most dynamic artists in mixed media, painting, and sculpture, Chukes marks Black History Month with a moving collection inspired by the recent cases of police-involved violence that ignited mass civil protests across the nation. Titled "Identity Theft," the collection is a combination of the artist's revolutionary vision and his love of soul and jazz music.

Born in Vallejo, CA and raised in San Jose, Chukes began creating artworks at a very young age. Although he attended California College for the Arts and Clare-



mont Graduate University, he considers himself to be a self-taught artist. Chukes' works with a number of mediums including clay, bronze, wood, and other materials to create exaggerated expressions of the



Statute of Limitation by Chukes

human form. While placing emphasis on the body, Chukes incorporates color (through a secret technique) giving his sculptures a rich smooth texture and a surreal identity.

"I concentrate on capturing emotional sensations

of the body rather than its physical presence. Females play a strong role in my creation. I believe there is a magnificent sensitivity in women unlike anything I know and capturing this sensation gives my work meaning."

Chukes' work has appeared in many galleries around the world - from the Boribana Museum in Senegal, West Africa, to the Hearne Fine Art Gallery in Little Rock, Arkansas, to the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. His work has also been featured in Oprah Winfrey's O Magazine. Collectors of his art include the likes of Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

advertising mogul Carol H. Williams, and actress CCH Pounder.

"There are times when the artistic voice needs become so loud the ears of the world can no longer ignore its cries," Chukes said. "I began working on this body of work during the beginning of 2016. I initially created this work as a protest toward the televised brutality and killings of Black people and people of color. These killings were not only happening here in America but throughout the world. As I look back at my own history, as well as researching world history, I reflect on what I have been taught about myself and

other darker-skinned people of the world. The work in this exhibit is my artistic representation of what happens when people or nations of people are stripped of their indigenous identity and re-taught a history that historically filters the truth and presents an incorrect version of past and present injustices. This filtered history, as I call it, is being used against us as a weapon of self-destruction. I believe the Identity Theft exhibit will increase the volume for positive change that the world needs to hear."

To learn more about Chukes and view his portfolio, visit his website: <https://chukesart.com/home.html>

John Boyd, Jr.

Stop by John Boyd Jr.'s 1,300-acre farm in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, on any given day—especially in the early morning hours—and you're bound to catch him perched atop his Case International 7150 tractor, looking toward the horizon as he rolls up and down the rows of his meticulously planted soybean, wheat and corn crops.

With every forge ahead, John, a fourth-generation farmer, delves deeper into a sense of solitude and serenity—what he calls "being at one with nature and with God." Those who know



him well say this is where he thinks best; it's his happy place, a source of peace and his own little slice of heaven on earth. These moments of quiet contemplation, amid the crisp morning air and a chorus of chirping birds,

best embody his pure love for working the land.

"There's no telling what's going through his mind when he's on that tractor," says Tony Whittingham, who has called John a friend and confidant since they met in ninth grade in the halls of Park View High School in South Hill, Virginia. "He's one of the smartest people I know—he really thinks on a different level. The best way for me to describe him is that there's an edge to his thinking. He's different and he has a heart for people and a sincere love for family."

That side of John, friends and colleagues agree, is of-

ten eclipsed by his public persona as a businessman, outspoken civil rights activist and the founder and president of the National Black Farmers Association. His role with the NBFA frequently lands him in the national spotlight.

John, 55, was born in Brooklyn, New York, but he came to embrace the slower pace of rural life—albeit reluctantly at first—after his parents moved the family to Virginia. John was 13, a middle school student. "If you don't want to work hard, don't be a farmer," he says. "But if you want gratification from your work—you know, from see-

ing that crop grow to seeing it harvested and going to the combines—it's the most rewarding occupation that you could do as far as clean, healthy work."

Known for his husky voice, hearty laugh and an affinity for cowboy hats (the bigger the better), John founded the NBFA in 1995. Today the organization—which advocates for equality in farming—boasts a robust membership across 42 states. John says he has committed his life to fighting for Black farmers everywhere.

Like his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him, John is a farmer

through and through. In fact, his great-grandfather, who came to America in shackles as an enslaved man, eventually managed to purchase his own land—no small accomplishment in the post-Civil War South. Family legend has it that each night he slept with the deed to his farm underneath his pillow.

John spent nearly 15 years as a chicken farmer and also managed tobacco crops before settling on the beans, grains and cattle that he and his wife, Kara, who shares his deep love for the land, raise on their farm in

See BOYD Page 4

Cmdr. Christian Rivera

Guam (Feb. 2, 2021) Sofia Rivera, daughter, places a combination cover on her father, Cmdr. Christian Rivera, the officer in charge of Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, Det. Guam, from Grand Prairie, Texas, as he promotes to commander during a promotion ceremony at Konetzni Hall. NSTCP, Det. Guam, provides training for multiple Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 and submarines deployed throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kelsey J. Hockenberger)



BIDEN, from Page 2

Like Obama, President Biden has said he also would attempt to eliminate the government's use of private prisons where unspeakable abuses of inmates — mostly those of color — reportedly occur almost daily.

President Biden also issued a memo that directs the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to promote equitable housing policies with the executive orders.

He also signed an order to establish a commission on policing.



Winnifred "Wini" Cannon

"THY WILL BE DONE"
ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

214-706-3058
wc@cannonlg.com
Visit our website at
www.cannonlg.com



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

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy
Breanne Holley
Jacqueline Murphy
Dwain Price
Terri Schlichenmeyer
David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

Senior Account Executive

Nina Garcia

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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.

Back to Normal? What's Normal?

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Contributor

I got my first COVID vaccination last week. No big deal, an achy arm, but otherwise, just like a flu shot. The young lady who administered the shot smiled and said, "after you get your second shot, you can get back to normal." I wanted to ask her what was normal, but the man in line behind me seemed impatient, so I smiled and made my way out of the store.

I thought about it all the way home, though. What's normal? I don't think crowding thirty or forty young people into a classroom is normal. I don't believe that food lines snaking for blocks is normal. I don't think that high Black unemployment rates are normal. I don't think the wealth gap is normal.

I don't think that more than 400,000 people dead is normal. The inability to formally mourn our departed loved ones isn't normal. Crazy white people storming the Capitol surely isn't normal. And conspiracy theorist, Marjorie Taylor Green, is so far away from normal that she is on the in-

sanity spectrum.

In the ten months since the pandemic hit, we have seen changes in our communications, our employment, our economy, and more. Many of us, reasonably, yearn for the "normal" days when we could sit at a restaurant and have a meal, go to a play or a concert, invite a bunch of folks over to gather. But we should ask ourselves what was normal about our normal. In other words, were we so comfortable in our world that we didn't look outside our world? We can't miss the food lines now, but there were food lines, too, a year ago. We are focused on disparities now, but those disparities aren't new. Does back to normal mean accepting the inequities and absurdities of life as it was?

Somebody tweeted that "Rona was a disruption, and she is an opportunity." I embrace that sentiment (though I had to do a double-take at "Rona" and pray that nobody chooses to name their child after this virus). This virus is an opportunity for us to scrutinize what we consider normal and how we need to change it.

Let's start with education

and the achievement gap. Students who come from low-income families don't have the same academic support that others do. They often don't have the technology to do virtual learning or the support to work through their assignments. Too often, their parents are essential workers—nurses, bus drivers, grocery store workers. Do we ever take a look at the people who serve us and notice that they are disproportionately Black and Brown? When we see them do we wonder about their facts of life, about their challenges, or do we know the status quo as "normal"?

Is it normal for teachers' unions and mayors to be so far apart? If we want students back in their classrooms, why can't we vaccinate every teacher and school worker? But the conflict between teachers and elected officials, especially in Chicago, calls for a national conversation with educators, students, and parents. We've heard from everyone but students in this conversation. What are they thinking and feeling? Is any of this normal?

We never saw mask-

wearing as standard, and even now, with more than 400,000 dead, some fools refuse to wear them. But here's the real deal—vaccine or not, I'll likely be wearing double masks until the end of the year, and so should you. People who have had the vaccine have still tested positive. They still need to wear masks and wash their hands frequently. But too many have made mask wearing a political statement. Our non-mask-wearing former president contracted COVID and got priority treatment and had access to the drug Regeneron, which is not available to the general public. And he still won't wear a mask, emboldening his sycophants.

I really don't know what is normal anymore, but I am sure that if 2019 was normal, we must embrace the abnormal. Or we need to define the new normal as safe, fair, and equitable. As my anonymous tweeter said, "Rona" is an opportunity for us to check ourselves and maybe get it right.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author. She can be reached at juliannemalveaux.com.

National Hospital Worker 'Day of Action' urges HCA to put patients and caregivers above profits

NASHVILLE — On Wednesday, February 3rd, hospital workers represented by SEIU mobilized in cities across the country in a national day of action protesting against the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). Workers held major union actions, marched, and leafleted patients outside HCA hospitals as they organized for safe patient care standards, PPE access, and living wages during the nation's worst public health crisis in a century. The protests come one day after HCA revealed year-end profits of \$3.754 Billion - a pandemic profit increase of \$249 Million from last year.

HCA is the country's largest hospital chain and operates numerous hospitals and emergency rooms throughout the nation. Despite this, healthcare workers believe HCA continues to put profits ahead of patients and frontline workers throughout the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when the corporation is reaping billions of dollars in profits from their care. Despite the pandemic, HCA cut their supply costs by \$112 Million in the last year - as their frontline healthcare workers decried lack of access to PPE.

More than 442,000 people in the United States

have died due to COVID-19. This Day of Action focuses on HCA's failure to protect patients and workers from avoidable exposure to COVID-19 and patients' reports of surprise medical bills despite HCA earning hundreds of millions in profits from each of its hospitals during the pandemic.

For instance, HCA owns debt collection firm Mediacredit, which has blitzed Colorado patients with aggressive collection lawsuits. HCA and the parent company of HealthONE, was recently reported to have prices that were 275.8% times greater than

Medicare rates, on average. In June, HCA made waves for threatening to pink slip thousands of frontline healthcare workers amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, even though it has made hundreds of millions in profits. HCA is also facing a lawsuit for allegedly "recklessly" facilitating COVID-19 spread.

HCA Healthcare (NYSE: HCA), a Fortune 100 company based in Nashville, TN, has 280,000 employees, 185 hospitals, and 2,000 sites of care (i.e. surgery centers, freestanding ERs, urgent care centers, physician clinics) in 21 US states and the United Kingdom.

"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.

The City of Dallas makes a strong push for COVID-19 vaccination among Hispanic residents

The City of Dallas and La Alianza DFW held a panel with Dallas Latinx Leaders to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Hispanic residents on Feb. 28.

The panel was held in Spanish with English captioning. The discussion is still available for viewing online (bit.ly/DallasPanelDeVacunacion).

To learn how to register for the vaccine, residents can visit the City of Dallas website and view the Vaccination FAQs. A

limited number of vaccines have been allocated by the State to the City of Dallas to inoculate 5,000 people from the Dallas County waiting list who are eligible individuals (currently groups 1A &

1B), registered with Dallas County and invited by City of Dallas to make an appointment.

Those who are eligible to receive available vaccines will get a call from 615-846-XXX to confirm. Residents are advised not to ignore this call and do not forward the confirmation link or they risk having their appointment canceled and being turned away.

For information about the vaccine, testing, and other COVID-19 resources, residents may visit DallasCityHall.com/covid19 or 214.670.INFO.

Residents can sign-up to receive SMS messages for City news and updates. The City of Dallas Office of Communications, Out-

reach and Marketing has launched a new text message alert system that allows the community to receive news updates directly to their mobile phones.

The text alert system, which is being administered through GovDelivery, will be a way for the City to provide important information for a variety of situations including City facility closures, event cancellations and important updates regarding the City's response to COVID-19.

To subscribe, residents can text DALLAS NEWS-ENG (or DALLAS NOTICIAS for Spanish speaking subscribers) to 468311. The service is free, but standard text messaging and data rates may apply.

THE CITY OF DALLAS PRESENTS

SPANISH COVID-19 VACCINATION PANEL

Dallas Latinx leaders unite to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Hispanics. Presented by the City of Dallas and La Alianza DFW, a grassroots organization advocating for healthy Latinos. The panel will be in Spanish with English captioning.

JANUARY 28, 2021 3 P.M. bit.ly/DallasPanelDeVacunacion

MODERATOR

JAIME RESENDEZ
Council Member, District 5
City of Dallas

PANELISTS

DR. ELBA GARCIA
Commissioner, District 4
Dallas County

DR. MAYRA JIMENEZ THOMPSON
Hispanic Wellness and Preventive Care, UT Southwestern Medical Center

JULIA DELEON
Nurse Practitioner
Los Barrios Unidos

NUBIA TORRES
Director of Immigration & Legal Services, Catholic Charities

FRANCISCO DE LA TORRE
Consulate General
of Mexico

City of Dallas LA ALIANZA

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

Visit dallascityhall.com/covid19 or call (214) 670-INFO to find COVID-19 vaccination info and more.



BOYD, from Page 2

Baskerville, Virginia.

"Ever since we were kids, that's all he's ever done. In ninth grade and all through high school—you know, Future Farmers of America and work on the farm," says Tony. "Multiple generations of his family have been involved with farming. At the end of the day, that's all he knows."

It's back-breaking work. But, John insists, it's also the most fulfilling—so much so that he's tried for years to convince his adult sons, both in their 20s, to commit to taking it over one day. ("To pass along that family legacy would be a lifelong dream," he has said.) Thus far it has been a losing battle. They, like many in the younger generation, aren't sold on the profession. John says that this heartbreaking reality fuels his longstanding crusade to attract young people to the field; it's an effort he says he'll maintain until he takes his last breath.

Los Angeles-based film and television producer Jeff Brick worked closely with

John during the filming of *The American Farm*, a 2019 History Channel docuseries that featured the Boyd family. Jeff says he has no doubt that John will persevere.

"John Boyd is a force of nature. There is never a problem that is too difficult for him to take on and ultimately overcome," says Jeff. "He has dealt with constant adversity in his life and career since the beginning, but wakes up every morning unfazed and ready to attack a new day. He's an indefatigable advocate for Black farmers in the United States, a hard worker, a devoted family man, shrewd and smart." If John's unconventional credentials are any indication, Jeff is right.

John Boyd Jr. is not your average farmer. Not many people, let alone farmers, can say they've met—and met with—numerous United States presidents, vice presidents and representatives. He has also testified before the House Committee on

Agriculture and was once vetted as a contender for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. It's all part of what he considers his calling in life: a pointed and purposeful mission to fight for equality and justice on behalf of Black farmers who, as a group, have long been marginalized and pushed out of the industry due to racial discrimination. John says this is the central reason he founded the NBFA and why, more than 25 years later, he remains very much hands-on and the primary face of the organization.

"I have to help educate, especially Black people, in this country. Land ownership and the ability to produce your food are two of the most powerful tools that you can possess—second only to devoting your life to Jesus Christ," says John. "The ability to own land and grow your own food is a very, very powerful

tool."

He continues: "My grandfather used to say, 'If you don't have any land, you don't have any power. If you don't have any food, you're bound to starve yourself to death.' And this was a man with a third grade education."

John has been particularly vocal about federal loan discrimination—the fact that, for generations, Black farmers have been shut out of the USDA's intricate system of subsidies and federal farming programs that can be the lifeblood of successful farming operations. And he says he has experienced it firsthand, starting in the 1980s when he was repeatedly denied USDA loans for which he met the criteria. That experience opened his eyes to a backlog of unresolved discrimination cases filed against the agency.

The issue is so close to his heart that he

once hitched up two mules, aptly named 40 Acres and Justice, and drove his wagon 280 miles from Virginia to Washington, D.C., to draw attention to it. With the NBFA's support, a longstanding class-action racial discrimination case filed against the USDA on behalf of Black farm-

ers resulted in a \$1.15 billion settlement that Roll Call deemed "the biggest Congressional victory in history for Black farmers." John also helped drum up support for a follow-up: the passage of a federal law in 2010 that ensured all settlements would be awarded to eligible recipients.

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

The Dallas Foundation announces nine recipients of Women’s Philanthropy Institute 2020 grants

The Dallas Foundation, the first community foundation in Texas, is proud to announce the recipients of the Mary M. Jalonick Women’s Philanthropy Institute 2020 grants. The Women’s Philanthropy Institute granted \$150K to nonprofit organizations that have made a tremendous impact throughout North Texas during 2020. In addition to After8toEducate which received the largest award, a \$50K grant, eight additional nonprofits each received a grant of \$12,500 including: Agape Clinic, Aspire, Shared Housing Center, Vickery Trading Company, Bonton Farms, Interfaith Family Services and Vogel Alcove.

“The Women’s Philanthropy Institute is a critical part of The Dallas Foundation’s mission in investing in tomorrow’s Dallas,” said Matthew Randazzo, CEO



of The Dallas Foundation. “Through this program, women philanthropists are inspired and empowered to become confident and engaged donors. This year’s members could not have picked a more timely or impactful organization to support than After8toEducate, and we are thrilled to support them with these funds.”

Founded by Dallas entrepreneur Jorge Baldor, After8toEducate is the first all-encompassing program

to support unsheltered high school youth in Dallas. With more than 4,000 homeless students in Dallas Independent School District (DISD), After8toEducate brings together community resources to reduce the number of unsheltered young adults and foster self-sufficiency. The organization offers an umbrella solution to allow unsheltered high school students to develop academically, emotionally and socially.

The Women’s Philan-

thropy Institute was established by The Dallas Foundation in response to an expressed interest by women donors who wanted to learn more about their community and its needs. Based on the belief that first-hand observations provide a better view of the community, The Dallas Foundation created this program to meet women at every stage of their philanthropic journey, while connecting them with the needs of the community and the organizations addressing those needs.

“The Women’s Philanthropy Institute is proud to support After8toEducate and their mission to reduce homelessness with our city’s youth,” said Julie Diaz, Vice President of Philanthropic Partnerships at The Dallas Foundation. “Each of the nonprofits who received funding this year is making a monu-

mental impact across North Texas, and the Women’s Philanthropy Institute was honored to learn more about each of their missions throughout the year.”

The Women’s Philanthropy Institute typically visits four to five nonprofits in the Dallas-area each year. Following each visit, members learn how to strategically evaluate a nonprofit, including a review of financial documents and organizational structure, led by The Dallas Foundation’s Chief Impact Officer. At the end of the year, the group votes on which agency will receive the largest grant from the Mary M. Jalonick Women’s Philanthropy Institute Fund held at The Dallas Foundation. Grant money is raised by contributions from members. In the past five years, more than 200 women have participated in Women’s

Philanthropy Institute program and activities, granting more than \$15.5 million to the community through the Institute and their personal giving.

“After8toEducate is incredibly thankful to The Dallas Foundation’s Women’s Philanthropy Institute for this grant and their investment in Dallas’ unsheltered youth,” said Jorge Baldor, After8toEducate Founder and Board Chair. “These funds granted by The Women’s Philanthropy Institute will help us continue to provide resources to more than 4,000 homeless students enrolled in Dallas Independent School District, guiding them to healthy and productive lives.”

For more information about The Dallas Foundation and Women’s Philanthropy Institute, please visit www.dallasfoundation.org.

Common Cause Texas issues new report detailing alleged voter suppression and complications in 2020 Texas elections

The 202 presidential election marked a milestone in voter numbers in the U.S., but a Texas non-profit says turnout could have been better in the Lone Star State.

Common Cause Texas, which bills itself as a non-partisan working to “put power back in the hands of the people,” issued a report on Feb. 2 citing problems encountered at the polls. It also lauded the efforts of individual volunteers who assisted voters above and beyond the call of duty, and makes recommendations on how to make voting better in the future.

The group says Texas is particularly difficult when it comes to voting, and voiced concern over recent language used by the governor which they believe fore-shadows further tightening of voting restrictions.

“Once again, Texas

ranked close to last in turnout nationally not because Texans are more apathetic than other Americans but because Texas makes it harder to register and vote than any other state,” said Common Cause Executive Director Anthony Gutierrez. “As we release this report highlighting how hard it is to vote in Texas, Governor Abbott made clear he intends to make it ever harder. Our Election Protection work is vitally important precisely because we live in a state that goes out of its way to erect systemic obstacles between Texans and the ballot box.

“This past November, it was thrilling to see the same energy and excitement that produced high turnout also result in us having a record-breaking number of volunteers. Though it is important to remember high turnout does not mean the elec-

tion was without problems. Looking forward, we intend to expand our program into more parts of the state and work harder to have volunteers at the polls for all elections, not just the major ones.

“Judging by Governor Abbott declaring ‘election integrity’ an emergency item, we anticipate having to fight a number of voter suppression bills in the legislature and we stand ready to fight to protect the voting rights of every Texan.”

Common Cause volunteers handled a wide array of voter issues on election day, including one volunteer securing an emergency ballot for a patient in emergency care battling the coronavirus.

Common Cause Texas is advocating for more grassroots participation in future elections. It also says elections should be declared

federal holidays.

Another issue needing to be addressed according to the report is the proliferation of disinformation online.

“Election protection volunteers are obvious advocates for pro-voting reforms at every level of government,” the report reads. “We are committed to empower-

ing our volunteers to be engaged grassroots leaders of a pro-democracy movement in their community.”

More information can be found at lettexasvote.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

| Game # | Game Name / Odds | \$ | Official Close of Game | End Validations Date |
|--------|---|------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2268 | Royal Winnings - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.94 | \$10 | 2/5/21 | 8/4/21 |
| 2145 | Multiplier Spectacular - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48 | \$20 | 2/11/21 | 8/10/21 |
| 2227 | \$1,000,000 Golden Riches - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.52 | \$50 | 2/11/21 | 8/10/21 |
| 2177 | Bonus Break the Bank - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29 | \$5 | 2/19/21 | 8/18/21 |
| 2264 | Merry Magic - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.85 | \$10 | 2/22/21 | 8/21/21 |
| 2226 | \$250,000 50X Cashword - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.55 | \$10 | 3/1/21 | 8/28/21 |
| 2215 | Route 66™ Road to \$1,000,000! - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.12 | \$5 | 3/24/21 | 9/20/21 |
| 2128 | Wild Cash Multiplier - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.75 | \$5 | 3/24/21 | 9/20/21 |
| 2231 | 50X Fast Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25 | \$5 | 3/24/21 | 9/20/21 |
| 2237 | Super Loteria - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77 | \$5 | 3/24/21 | 9/20/21 |

Tlottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2021 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

TSTA: House Bill 3 didn't solve the school funding and educator pay problem; more school funding is urgent

By Ovidia Molina
President Texas State
Teachers Association

If Gov. Abbott thinks that House Bill 3 solved the school finance and teacher pay problem in Texas, he is sadly mistaken. House Bill 3 was a good start, but the governor and the Legislature must do more. Despite the extra funding provided by the Legislature in 2019,

the average teacher pay in Texas and the average spending per student still lag woefully behind the national average.

According to the latest survey by TSTA's affiliate, the National Education Association, the average teacher pay in Texas in the 2019-20 school year was \$57,091, more than \$6,500 below the national average of \$63,645. And Texas trailed the na-

tional average of \$14,254 in spending per pupil in average daily attendance (ADA) by an estimated \$2,839 per child, drawing on Texas' own budgetary data.

To keep Texas schools and teachers from falling even further behind, the governor and the Legislature must do more than maintain the spending levels of House Bill 3. They must increase that funding level

because the needs of educators are greater than ever as a result of the pandemic. To help, lawmakers can tap into the \$11.6 billion Rainy Day Fund.

For starters, the state must keep all our districts fully funded, at least year's levels, for the remainder of the spring semester, regardless of attendance losses over which districts have little control during a health

emergency.

Our teachers and other school employees have responded heroically to this crisis and are still waiting to be given the priority they deserve for a COVID vaccination. At personal risk, they have protected students, kept them fed and reinvented teaching options, all at significant additional costs to districts. Our state's economic recovery depends

on our public school system, and our school system depends on our still underpaid teachers and support staff.

With the pandemic still raging, TSTA also urges the state to let school districts close in-person instruction, without losing state funding, if local health and school officials believe that is necessary to protect the health and safety of students, educators and their communities.

Dallas ISD announces partnership with Paul Quinn College to launch new secondary International Baccalaureate school

A press conference on Wednesday morning formally announced that Dallas ISD is partnering with Paul Quinn College, an HBCU, to open a school that will operate under the International Baccalaureate model (IB) in southern Dallas.

The press conference announced that the new school, which is enrolling students right now for next school year, will be named after Frederick D. Haynes, the leader of Friendship-West Baptist Church, national activist and trustee for Paul Quinn College.

"This for me is something that I cannot find words to express my appreciation for," said Haynes, who was joined at the press conference by his wife and daughter.

Superintendent Michael Hinojosa said the new school at Paul Quinn will build on efforts by Dallas ISD to partner with colleges and universities.

"We've had partnerships with SMU, Texas A&M Commerce and UT Southwestern, but we have not had a partnership with an HBCU," Hinojosa said. "And now we have a partnership with an HBCU right here in our own back-



Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa (left) and Board Member Maxie Johnson (right) were on hand to introduce the new IB school concept and partnership at a special press conference held on Feb. 3. (Photos: Dallas ISD)

yard: Paul Quinn College."

Trustee Maxie Johnson at the press conference said the school will have a big impact on an underserved community in Dallas.

"Educational inequity leads to poverty and poverty leads to violence," Johnson said. "What you are witnessing today is the school board addressing the inequities in southern Dallas."

Paul Quinn College is a private, faith-based, four-year, liberal arts-inspired university that has stood in Southern Dallas since 1872. This is the only institution that has received the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) accreditation within the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

Innovative opportunities

The school will be a 6-12 Transformation School, operated under the International Baccalaureate model (IB).

The IB model focuses on teaching students to think critically and independently and how to inquire with care and logic. IB's internationally-renowned programs and curriculums are implemented in over 5,000 schools globally every day, in over 150 countries around the world.

Christopher Barksdale, who has served as the principal of the Young Men's Leadership Academy at Fred F. Florence Middle School, will serve as the school's principal.

Dallas ISD Transformation Schools offer specialized academic programming, similar to Magnet



Schools, but they do not have academic entry requirements. These schools

do not have attendance boundaries; any student can apply to attend a Trans-

formation School no matter where they live. Students are selected for enrollment through a randomized lottery, and transportation is provided within district boundaries.

The new Dallas ISD school operating in partnership with Paul Quinn College is now accepting applications for students entering sixth- and seventh-grade next school year. Families can apply by visiting www.dallasisd.org/choosedallasisd and filling out the online application.

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



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



Plano ISD teens can now apply for Mayor's Summer Internship

Qualifying Plano ISD sophomores and juniors can apply now through March 1 for the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program. Presented by Capital One, the competitive "learn-and-earn" program connects students from Plano's award-winning and nationally recognized school district with some of the area's top corporations and nonprofits. The eight-week paid internship program – offering remote and on-site placements, or a combination of both – runs June 7-July 30 (although some start dates are flexible). Students earn a minimum of \$10 per hour working 20-40 hours per week. Only the first 400 applications will be accepted, so students are encouraged to apply early to avoid being waitlisted.

Entering the eighth year of the program (and marking his last year as mayor), Plano Mayor Harry LaRo-



Brad Neathery / Unsplash

siliere reports that students reap invaluable benefits from being immersed in the professional workplace. Although most internships were virtual last year due to the pandemic, interns still had an opportunity to observe company operations, network with upper-level management, learn the do's and don'ts of working remotely and gain exposure to a wide array of careers that will help propel them onto the path of attaining a college degree and beginning a career. This year, Mayor LaRosiliere hopes to increase the number of

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students in the program, as well as students who will be first-generation college students.

Mayor LaRosiliere and Plano ISD Superintendent Sara Bonser will announce the 2021 internship program during a virtual kick-off Thursday, Feb. 25, at 11 a.m. Interested businesses may participate by registering via email to vicki@vwaitgroup.com by Feb. 24, at 5 p.m.

And with COVID-19's arrival in North Texas nearly a year ago, the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program and its devoted business and nonprofit partners are fully prepared to safely provide summer jobs, offering a hybrid of remote and on-site jobs with strict safety protocols enforced in the workplace.

To qualify, students must complete an online application, which includes two

short essays. Additionally, applicants must be a sophomore or junior at a Plano ISD high school; have a cumulative 3.0 GPA (minimum) and solid attendance record; be 16 years of age by June 7, 2021; be eligible to work in the United States; and be able to work the entire eight weeks of the internship from June 7-July 30 (or dates determined by the employer).

In addition, students must attend the rigorous Intern Prep virtual event on Saturday, March 20 – focusing on resume development, interviewing, business communication, professional dress and personal goal planning – to be eligible for the Job Fair on Thursday, April 22, which is expected to attract dozens of employers. Selected students will receive a formal job offer via email in May. If chosen, students will then complete two days of Intern Enrichment

and Orientation June 2-3, when business soft skills, networking, teambuilding and work-readiness topics will be addressed. A Community Service Day will be held this summer, when interns come together and give back in a meaningful way.

The program culminates with the newly elected mayor hosting an end-of-summer luncheon honoring the interns and employers on Monday, July 26, at Hilton Granite Park.

In addition to presenting sponsor Capital One, Plano ISD is a major partner and JPMorgan Chase is the Job Fair sponsor. (They also are underwriting 20 interns in the technology and healthcare industries and the nonprofit sector.) Other program sponsors are Atmos Energy, Bank of America, Boeing, City of Plano, Dallas Mavericks, FedEx Office, Granite Properties, Liberty Mutual, NTT

DATA Services and Oncor. Companies are encouraged to sign up at planomayor-sinterns.org, so that more students may be selected.

Deadline for businesses and nonprofits to sign up is April 15.

Businesses and nonprofits – big and small – are encouraged to sign up and hire one or more interns. Businesses may also underwrite an intern at a nonprofit or government agency, or become a program sponsor. Companies pay a \$500 program fee for each intern that covers training and enrichment activities, the Job Fair and the luncheon ticket.

Details and the online application are available at planomayorsinterns.org. For student-related questions, contact Mary Peltier at mary.peltier@vwaitgroup.com. Companies interested in signing up may contact Vicki Wait at vicki@vwaitgroup.com.



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.

Virginia doctor leads the call for creation of a 'Secretary of Equity'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

An honest and comprehensive reckoning with America's racial history and enacting solutions to address it is perhaps the transcendent issue of our time, argues Janet Murguia, the president of UnidosUS, a D.C.-based advocacy organization.

"The path forward may be difficult, complicated, and contested, but it is essential to pursue," Murguia remarked in a news release where she and other advocates form the Racial Equity Anchor Collaborative.

The collaborative is the foremost diverse coalition of national, racial justice, and civil rights organizations representing and serving more than 53 million people in the U.S.

The group calls on President Joe Biden to create an office within the White House to coordinate efforts to reduce racial inequality in all its forms.

Shortly after his Jan. 20 swearing-in, President Biden issued an executive order to advance equity and support for underserved communities.

The President had pledged to do his part in the fight against systemic racism in America, and his executive order charges all federal agencies with reviewing equity in their programs and actions.

President Biden has demanded that the Office of Management and Budget analyze whether federal dollars are equitably distributed in communities of color.

The coalition argues that the new administration also should establish a White House Office on Racial Equity and Inclusion.

The office would coordinate the full range of federal agency efforts to advance racial equity, centered on the administration's promise to confront systemic racism and heal the "soul of our nation."



Dr. Ebony Hilton says that based on vaccinations with known race/ethnicity, the share of vaccinations among Black people is smaller than their share of cases in all 16 reporting states and smaller than their share of deaths in 15 states. (Photo via NNPA)

"The vision of the position is to use objective information and analytics to create and support a culture of inclusion and belonging where individuals from all diversity dimensions, racial and ethnic identities, ages, nationalities, social and economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religious, political and ideological perspectives, and physical and mental abilities, are able to thrive and be actively engaged."

- Dr. Ebony Hilton

Murguia declared that creating such office is "a crucial first step toward ensuring that our country lives up to its core shared value of equal opportunity for all Americans."

The coalition is not alone in pushing the Biden administration to create an office responsible for racial equity.

Dr. Ebony Hilton, the medical director and co-founder of GoodStock Consulting, LLC, and an anesthesiologist and critical care physician at the University of Virginia, has started a change.org petition for the Biden administration to create and appoint a "Secretary of Equity."

Comparable to a Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer of an organization, the Secretary of Equity would serve as a catalyst to initiate equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) assessments and policies while le-

veraging best practices and resources across various federal agencies, Dr. Hilton wrote in a letter on behalf of GoodStock Consulting.

"The vision of the position is to use objective information and analytics to create and support a culture of inclusion and belonging where individuals from all diversity dimensions, racial and ethnic identities, ages, nationalities, social and economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religious, political and ideological perspectives, and physical and mental abilities, are able to thrive and be actively engaged," her letter continued.

The importance of the position is underscored by Covid-19 statistics, which show that African Americans are disproportionately affected by the virus. Data also show that access to the vaccine is eluding the Black

community.

According to statistics compiled by the independent nonprofit KFF, which focuses on national health issues, as of January 19, 2021, over 12 million COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across the country.

To date, race and ethnicity vaccination patterns appear to be at odds with who the virus has affected the most, KFF reported.

Based on vaccinations with known race/ethnicity, the share of vaccinations among Black people is smaller than their share of cases in all 16 reporting states and smaller than their share of deaths in 15 states.

For example, in Mississippi, Black people account for 15 percent of vaccinations, compared to 38 percent of cases and 42 percent of deaths, and, in Delaware, 8 percent of vaccinations have been received by Black people, while they make up nearly a quarter of cases (24 percent) and deaths (23 percent).

In Pennsylvania, just 3 percent of those vaccinated are Black.

"As vaccine distribution continues, ensuring racial equity will be important for mitigating the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on people of color, preventing widening health disparities, and achieving broad population immunity," KFF officials wrote.

Dr. Hilton noted further that the Secretary of Equity would provide strategic and programmatic leadership for diversity and inclusion initiatives that advance diversity as a critical component of federal and local policies.

"This position will lead a team of Equity Officers that sit within these targeted federal agencies to assess the existing and potential disparities specific to that agency and its respective industries – greater than racial disparities and within all diversity dimensions," Dr. Hilton noted.

"As mentioned, this position would work across various agencies with specific interest and collaborative partnerships with the agencies that directly impact the social determinants of health like the

Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Treasury, the Small Business Administration and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau."

Regarding establishing a White House Office on Racial Equity and Inclusion, the National Urban League President Marc Morial also noted his support.

"Even before 2020 exposed our pandemic of a deadly triple disease and economic hardship and racial unrest, America was a nation that still had only begun to grapple with the legacy of white supremacy," Morial stated.

"Establishing a White House Office on Racial Equity and Inclusion is our best hope of nurturing that awakening and achieving our true potential."

Watch Dr. Ebony Hilton's interview with the Black Press at Facebook.com/BlackPressUSA, Twitter: @BlackPressUSA, and YouTube.com/BlackPressUSATV.

"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



Combined Benefit Solutions
changing the way we look at life

Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote
214-238-6855
Website: www.cbsolutionsplus.com

Cicely Tyson, a legend who portrayed African Americans with dignity and strength, dies at 96

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Contributor

Actress and model Cicely Tyson, a legend of the stage and screen whose roles showcased the lives of famous African American women died on January 28 in New York at 96. Tyson was a much respected and revered artist. Her acting was replete with authenticity and her portrayals won her many dedicated admirers. She was also famously married to another legend, Jazz trumpeter Miles Davis from 1981 to 1988.

Tyson iconically portrayed Kunta Kinte's mother in the epic television mini-series "Roots" in 1977. She played Coretta Scott King in the 1978 NBC mini-series "King." She also portrayed Harriet Tubman, in "A Woman Called Moses" (1978) and in 1994, she won an Emmy for her portrayal of Castalia in the mini-series, "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All." Her roles spanned decades and include theater, television and feature films. Tyson stressed the importance of portraying the lives of African Americans with dignity — regardless of whether the character was rich or poor.

Tyson recently finished her memoir which was



Cicely Tyson, pictured with Wintley Phipps (left) and Larenz Tate (right). (PHOTO: Dream In Color Photography / NNPA)

promoting at the time of her death. Her new book is called "Just as I Am." The autobiography spans over seven decades of Tyson's career and life experiences. Praise for a life well lived flooded in for Tyson.

"In her extraordinary career, Cicely Tyson was one of the rare award-winning actors whose work on the screen was surpassed only by what she was able to accomplish off of it. She had a heart unlike any other—and for 96 years, she left a mark on the world that few will ever match," wrote President Barack Obama after hearing the news of Tyson's death.

"So saddened to hear my friend #CicelyTyson has passed—one of the most profound, talented and celebrated actors in the industry. She was a serious actor, beautiful & spiritual woman who had unlocked the key to longevity in the way she lived her life.

Forever all my love and respect," wrote Congresswoman Maxine Waters on the actress.

"My heart is truly broken. Yesterday, we lost not only an iconic award-winning actress who distinguished herself in theater, film and television, but a true pillar of African American culture," said Melanie Campbell, President of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

Her death was announced by her longtime manager, Larry Thompson. At the time of this writing, funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

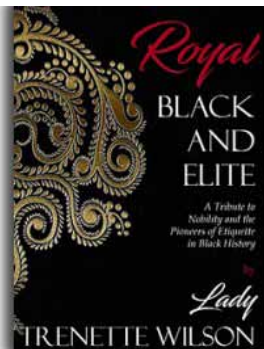
Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

New book and virtual exhibit honors little-known Black nobles, elites and etiquette pioneers

In the midst of Black History Month and with the recent swearing-in of the first African American as Vice President, Trenette Wilson ("Lady T"), etiquette expert and social historian, agrees that Americans have much to celebrate, from these modern triumphs to those long-forgotten heroes in our history. She has announced the release of her all-new history book,



Royal, Black and Elite: A Tribute to Nobility and the Pioneers of Etiquette in



Black History, and a virtual

See WILSON, Page 10



This shouldn't be
how we say hello
...or goodbye.

It's our reality right now. But it won't be if we do what it takes to beat COVID-19. Vaccines are coming, but until enough of us are vaccinated, we all still need to wear our masks, stay at least six feet from others, and avoid indoor social gatherings. The more we slow the spread, the faster we'll return to normal hellos ... and fewer goodbyes.

Learn more about vaccines and slowing the spread at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



Brought to you by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

'The Little Things' is better than ordinary, but not greatness

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

A young blonde woman drives down a deserted California highway at night, alone. A mysterious car drives alongside her, passing, then stopping in the middle of the road. She freaks. She's scared. The big car and her sedan play cat and mouse. Terrified, she drives to a closed motel looking for help. No one is there. No one hears her cries for help. She runs. A man hunts her, weapon in hand. Could he be the serial killer that's paralyzing Los Angeles and confounding the LAPD?

That's the dire setup for this 2h 7 min crime/drama/thriller, a film that doesn't break new ground and fails to invent an innovative, distinguishable or memorable murder spree. Yet within the confines of the genre, it nails basic elements enough to keep crime fans engaged until its reveal-after-reveal-after-reveal ending. Theatergoers may get restless, but HBO Max streaming viewers will be content.

Writer/director John Lee Hancock (The Highwayman, The Blind Side) wrote the script 30 years ago, hence the 1990 time period, the old cars and clothes. Influenced by buddy cop



Denzil Washington and Jared Leto star in *The Little Things*.
(Courtesy photo)

movies of the era, Hancock teams up two disparate officers of the law who are eager to stop the grisly murders of young women by a homicidal maniac. Layers and layers of missed opportunities and close calls augment that premise. The killer looks smart, elusive. The cops committed but floundering.

As a director Hancock is not in a rush. There is very little action, car chases don't break the speed limit and if you're looking for exciting fight scenes, it's not that kind of party. He gives the lead actors room to explore their characters, toy with each other, savor the tangy dialogue and establish their identities. Tension grows as they get mired in head games and confounding dilemmas during their search for that big breakthrough.

In the fall of 1990, Sheriff's Deputy Joe "Deke" Deacon (Denzel Washington) leaves Kern County, in Central Valley California, headed to Los Angeles to retrieve bloody boots, evidence for a trial. As he walks into an L.A. police station, some greet him, some look askance. That's what happens when you return to your old workplace after leaving under murky circumstances.

The 60ish and gray-haired Deke butts heads with a press-hungry young Homicide Detective Jim Baxter (Rami Malek, *Bohemian Rhapsody*). The upstart is in the midst of having Deke's truck towed, as it's blocking his car. It's an awkward introduction. The detective is trying to solve a string of murders, and his efforts are going nowhere.

When he learns laconic, confidant Deke was once a successful gumshoe in the department and involved in a similar case years ago, he cozies up to him. The old guy and young apprentice unite, digging, surveilling, interrogating and deducing. Evidence leads them to appliance repairman Albert Sparma (Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyer's Club*). He's a long-haired, tall skinny man with buggy eyes. Looks like a weasel, thinks like a fox. Is it him?

The growing bond between Baxter and Deke exposes key differences: 1.) Experience: At a crime scene young Jim tries to school his elder: "Things have changed a lot since you left." Deke: "Still gotta catch him right?" 2.) Approach: Baxter questions Deke's intimidating methods: "Your old pal (a crook under investigation) said you broke his jaw." Deke: "Gotta kiss a lot of frogs to catch your prince." 3.) Lifestyle: One is a lively young family man. The other is estranged from his relations.

It looks like Washington finds great pleasure creating the Deke character, molding its persona and slowly revealing a history filled with mystery and regret. Grimaces, inflections, head turns and cagy smiles... It's all a

calculated effort by a great actor to bare every inch of Deke for his audience. He does it with a craftsmanship that is nearly unmatched. Leto makes a mercurial and scary suspect. Never overdoes it. Just temptingly evil enough. While Malek plays the needy investigator in a more understated way, never matching the masterful, thoughtful interpretations rendered by Washington and Leto. The supporting actors, from Natalie Morales, Terry Kinney and Chris Bauer to the very focused Michael Hyatt, play off the leads appropriately.

Highway scenes, and there are plenty, have hints of David Lynch as shot by cinematographer John Schwartzman (Seabiscuit). Production design by Michael Corenblith (The Blind Side) creates a '90s aura, but why are so many rooms and hallways green? Why do interrogation rooms and crime scenes look like obvious sets? The clothes, courtesy of costume designer Daniel Orlandi (The Blind Side), wisely blend in and don't stand out. Editor Robert Frazer (The Founder) knows when to trim. And yes Thomas Newman's (1917) musical score adds atmosphere, but the playlist leans too heavily on obvi-

ous songs. Etta James's "At Last" is not the only mesmerizing tune in her arsenal. Pick another.

Yes there are convoluted moments in this police story and missed opportunities: Deke going for coffee just as Sparma sizes up Baxter and invites him for a ride in his shiny crabgrass green Chevy: "Come on in, what are you scared of?" Threats from a commanding officer that the detective could be pulled off the case by the Feds have a tinny ring. One of the pursuers getting flummoxed and adhering to commands no cop would follow, is nonsensical. And why not give the serial killer a catchy name? It did wonders for the "Zodiac Killer" and "Son of Sam."

There are scenes that will be etched in viewers' minds indefinitely. Most are in the fairly astonishing finale, when it looks like the hunter could be captured by the game. That's when a flurry of evocative images, surprising twists and deceptive performances make this whodunit better than ordinary. Better, but never extraordinary.

In select theaters and on HBO Max January 29th.

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

WILSON, from Page 9

"royal" tour.

"Did you know that blacks were royalty and part of elite society throughout America and the world? Way before 'Bridgerton' there were royals like, Duke Alessandro di' Medici, Florence, Italy's only duke of African descent, Josephine Beall Willson Bruce, America's first black socialite, and Maxine Powell who served as Motown's 'Maven of Etiquette' and many others. They worked tirelessly on critical issues such as abolition, the right to vote, and equality in business.

That is why I wrote Royal, Black and Elite, a new book featuring the profiles of 26 little-known nobles, black elites, and wealthy businesspeople from the 3rd Century to the 1900s. These were real people that paved the way for us today," she continued.

Wilson refers to Netflix's new period piece, *Bridgerton*, written by Emmy winner, Shonda Rhimes who gave the world their first glimpse at a Black queen sitting on the throne of England. "As exciting as that show is, what most people don't know is that Queen Char-

lotte, the queen featured in the drama is arguably England's second queen of African descent," said Wilson, an award-winning author and founder of the National Association of Urban Etiquette Professionals (NAUEP), the largest etiquette association in the nation serving urban communities.

"My goal in writing this book is to take readers on a discovery of their royal roots found in the heritage of black men and women who are often obscure in Black History, but who were the forerunners of our modern-day rights," Wilson explained.

"One of the highlights of

Royal, Black and Elite is the discussion about Black royalty in Europe, the rise of the Black bourgeoisie, and the impact of etiquette on Black communities. The online pictorial exhibit features photographs of Black royals, elite Blacks in business and arts, etiquette pioneers, and Black aristocracy during the turn of the century and beyond," continued Wilson.

For more information about Royal, Black and Elite or for media inquiries and interviews, please contact Miriam Glover at 214-701-5352 or at news@urbangirlz.org, or call the NAUEP national office at 800-291-6492.

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@northdallasgazette.com

'Building Atlanta: The Story of Herman J. Russell' documentary to be featured by Delta Air Lines starting in Black History Month

ATLANTA (BlackPRWire) – On your next Delta Air Lines flight, if equipped with seatback in-flight entertainment, you'll have the opportunity to view 'Building Atlanta: The Story of Herman J. Russell', a documentary film about the inspiring life and legacy of Atlanta businessman and founder of one of the country's largest Black-owned commercial real estate development and construction firms, H. J. Russell & Company. Delta is bringing the film onboard as part of all new content on Delta Studio, its in-flight entertainment platform, beginning this month. The nearly hour-long film features interviews with notable Atlantans who knew Herman J. Russell well. Here is a 60-second trailer of the film.

"As Atlanta natives, we pride ourselves on telling stories of some of the most consequential figures in our city's and state's history through film, and it was particularly rewarding to be able to create a documentary about an Atlanta icon who quietly and fearlessly did so much to help create the Atlanta we know today," said co-director, David Duke of Living Stories Film & Video. "We are excited to have, for the first



Herman J. Russell (Courtesy photo)

time in our filmmaking history, a film that Delta customers will get to see and learn about the amazing life and legacy of Herman J. Russell, one of Atlanta's most prolific business leaders who truly helped inspire and shape not only Atlanta's skyline, but also helped integrate a multicultural, partnering workforce in our hometown."

Herman J. Russell, who founded Atlanta-based H. J. Russell & Company in 1952 and Concessions International, LLC, in 1979, is known for helping to build the Atlanta skyline as it's seen today as well as for shaping the airport dining experience for travelers throughout the country and the U. S. Virgin Islands. However, his beginnings were humble. The Great Depression was a challeng-

ing time for most Americans, but particularly for a young African-American boy who was born in 1930 in the segregated South. As early as the age of 8, Herman J. Russell was inspired to build and own real estate, and to be his own employer. Through working with his father and watching how he ran his plastering business, he felt the urgency and necessity to create jobs during the difficult economic times, and that is when his entrepreneurial spirit was born, which lasted throughout his life until his passing in 2014. That entrepreneurial spirit was passed on through his legacy to his children and grandchildren.

"As humble as he was, I think he would be thrilled that a movie about his life would air on Delta flights around the world," said

Herman J. Russell's son, Michael B. Russell, CEO, H. J. Russell & Company. "We are grateful Delta is interested in featuring his story onboard to inspire an even larger audience."

"Our family felt it was important to document the legacy of our family patriarch in film for generations to enjoy and be inspired by, as we were all of our lives," said Herman J. Russell's daughter, Donata Russell Ross, CEO, Concessions International, LLC. "When we embarked on this family project, we never dreamed his life would be made available to be seen on television, let alone by millions of Delta customers."

"In the 1980s, Delta had the foresight to put a Black-owned company and a white-owned company together, H. J. Russell & Company and Holder Construction, to build the company's headquarters," said his son H. Jerome Rus-

sell, Jr., Chairman of the Board, the Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (RCIE). "The documentary is also the inspirational back story on which RCIE is being created to grow Black entrepreneurship. The two men who built Delta's headquarters grew up two miles and two worlds apart in segregated Atlanta and came together through business opportunities to do great things to uplift our city and country."

'Building Atlanta: The Story of Herman J. Russell' will be airing on Delta Studio until May 31, 2021 and will be featured within the airline's "Must See Documentaries" spotlight collection. Those who won't be flying in the coming months can also enjoy the film on H. J. Russell & Company's YouTube channel. The documentary originally aired in February 2020 on ATL PBA. An interview with the filmmak-

ers can be found on the H. J. Russell & Company "We Build: The Podcast" here or on other podcast platforms.

'Building Atlanta: The Story of Herman J. Russell' was created in coordination with the Russell family by Emmy Award-winning father and son co-directors, David and John Duke of Living Stories Film & Video. "We met Mr. Russell when we interviewed him for our documentary on former City of Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen," said John Duke. "As we worked on Mr. Russell's own story, we quickly saw that he built more than buildings; he built relationships. The trust, confidence, and lasting friendships he established enabled a new generation of Black entrepreneurs to move into the mainstream. Herman Russell helped to make real the legacy of a city too busy to hate."



**Ed Bell
Construction
Company**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

February 1, 2021

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)**
- **Laborers (Structures, Underground)**

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**

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build two (2) monopole small cell communication towers in the vicinity of Dallas County, TX. The heights and locations for the proposed installations are as follows: 37-foot 4-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of 4814 N O'Connor Rd, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75038, Lat: [32° 51' 51.7104"], Long: [-96° 56' 59.4594"]; 37-foot 4-inch tower at the approx. vicinity of 4748 N O'Connor Rd, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75026, Lat: [32° 51' 47.9946"], Long: [-96° 57' 2.556"]. Public comments regarding potential effects from these sites on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Abby, a.mckay@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

The NFL's 2021 opportunity to diversify team ownership

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

As we approach the 55th NFL Superbowl next Sunday in Tampa, Florida amidst the continued national spread of COVID-19, I believe that the time has come for the close-knit group of team owners in the National Football League (NFL) to take the necessary steps to open the door to African American business leaders who hope to join that exclusive club of owners.

Given the large number of outstanding African American players today on NFL teams and the growing racial and ethnic diversity of NFL fans and supporters in all the cities where NFL teams are located, the ownership of NFL teams should begin to become as diverse as its fan and support base. Today, nearly 70% of NFL players are African American but there are no African American NFL owners. I see this as an opportunity for the leadership and owners of the NFL.

I speak not only as a fan of professional football but also as someone who has a direct interest in helping the NFL fulfill its laudable and historic commitment to building a diverse and equitable league for play-



Today, nearly 70% of NFL players are African American but there are no African American NFL owners. (Photo: iStock-photo / NNPA)

ers, coaches, owners and the thousands of others who make professional football one of the most popular sports in the world.

Indeed, the NFL recently became a trusted partner and sponsor of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), which represents 230 African American-owned newspapers who deliver news to our communities across various platforms, including print, digital and social media formats.

Our member publications cover the news, sports, entertainment, and culture pertaining to our excellence of performance in all aspects of human endeavor in the United States and throughout the world. And the NFL's sponsorship will help enable our media properties to continue serving

our communities at a tumultuous and confusing time when there is a great need for honest and accurate reporting.

For that support, we at NNPA are profoundly grateful.

But there is more that could be done to advance the cause of social justice, particularly on the question of opening the NFL's Owners Club to African Americans.

We have a unique opportunity to address this matter, given that America is focused on the inequalities in our culture – from economy to the delivery of health care – that the pandemic has laid bare for all Americans to see.

In this context, the NFL, a sports business giant, should begin taking steps toward diversifying the ranks of NFL team owners. More than that, the league should leverage the current debate about social justice to ensure greater diversity and inclusion in all aspects of American corporate life.

It does appear that the NFL is slowly making some progress on the hiring of African American and other persons of color in the top executive positions of NFL general managers and head coaches.

I know, for example, that Rod Graves, former general manager of the Arizona Car-

dinals and current executive director of the Fritz Pollard Alliance, is working hard on this issue of inclusive executive hiring. Brother Graves is to be saluted for his consequential work.

I am also aware that overall, Troy Vincent, the NFL's executive vice president, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell have stated their resolve and commitment to social and racial justice, and as well to leading the NFL forward on the issues of diversity and inclusion. We wish them well.

Yet, if I have learned anything during my long 60-year career in civil rights

and in the freedom struggle in America, it is that the issue of equity requires ownership and investment in order to sustain social transformation.

I also know that if given the genuine opportunity from the NFL fraternity of owners, there are African Americans who are financially endowed and desirous to become NFL team owners. One such person who comes to mind is Robert F. Smith, the chairman and CEO of Vista Equity Partners who in 2019 pledged to donate \$34 million to pay off loan debt for 400 students who graduated More-

house College that year.

But there are plenty of other capable African Americans whom the NFL can tap for those positions. The point is that if the league makes this a priority, the opportunity is here to open the doors of this elite club to people from historically underrepresented groups.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer & Host of The Chavis Chronicles on national PBS TV network. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

PUBLIC NOTICE: Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot monopole small cell Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 4955 Regent Blvd, Irving, Dallas County, TX 75063, Lat: [32-56-12.88], Long: [-97-0-46.5]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1158815.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704 512-519-9388.*

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

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/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>.

Ongoing 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.

On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

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.

February 7, 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.

February 10, 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.

navirus.

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!

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

February 7

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

February 10, 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.

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."
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.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 39-foot monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 2142 Maple Routh Connection, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201; 32° 47' 36.0384" N, 96° 47' 55.4244" W. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: [Trileaf Corp, Tyler Sadutto, t.sadutto@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.](mailto:t.sadutto@trileaf.com)

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

Barber calls for healing wounds in inaugural prayer service

Both the new president and vice president have the personal experiences with the breaches in America that will help them heal the country's wounds, Bishop William J. Barber II said in the sermon he delivered as part of the Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service.

"The breach is when we say 'one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all' with our lips while we see the rich and the poor living in two very different Americas.

And every now and then, a nation needs breach repairers to take us forward," Bishop Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, said during the recorded sermon.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris invited Bishop Barber, president and senior



In his sermon, Bishop Barber said the nation cannot accept that 140 million Americans were poor or low-income even before the pandemic. (Photo via NNPA)

lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and minister of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, North Carolina, to deliver the homily during the interfaith service hosted by the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

President Biden knew the breach of economic struggle in his childhood and the breach of a broken heart, while Vice President Harris has known the po-

litical and social breach of racism, which tried to place a breach between her intelligence and the school she could attend, Bishop Barber said.

Bishop Barber, who also is a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, noted prophet Isaiah's conviction that "We don't have to put up with things as they are. We can contradict the breach with every prayer,

every policy, every sermon from every pulpit, and every call to the people."

"No, America has never yet been all that she has hoped to be. But right here, right now, a Third Reconstruction is possible if we choose," he said.

The Poor People's Campaign is a movement of people who also know the nation's breaches with state activists and leaders who organize around an agenda that includes a living wage, health care for all, union rights, paid sick leave, housing and just COVID relief.

When then-candidate Joe Biden joined the Moral Monday Mass Assembly on the voting power of poor and low-income people in September front of over 1 million viewers, he vowed that, "ending poverty will not just be an as-

piration, it will be a theory of change — to build a new economy that includes everyone, where we reward hard work, we care for the most vulnerable among us, we release the potential of all our children, and protect the planet."

In December, more than 30 leaders of the Poor People's Campaign, including poor and low-income people, economists, public health officials, clergy, organizational partners representing millions across the country, met online with members of the Biden-Harris domestic policy team.

The Poor People's Campaign also released 14 policy priorities for the first 50 to 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration, including the establishment of a permanent president council to advocate for its

agenda.

In his sermon, Bishop Barber said the nation cannot accept that 140 million Americans were poor or low-income even before the pandemic.

"We must address the five interconnecting injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, war economy, and the false distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism," he said.

"These are breaches that must be addressed, and, according to the text, repairing the breaches will bring revival," Bishop Barber said. "If we the people, with God's help, repair the breach, revival and renewal will come. Weeping and mourning may endure in this night of our discontent, but joy will come in the morning."

Oh, the Daze of My Life

Dr. James L. Snyder

When I was young, my mother was quite a fan of a soap opera called "The Days of Our Lives." I remember the title but I never would watch something like that. However, my mother enjoyed it and so what's

there to complain about.

As I was thinking of it, I felt that I should remember the days of my life. But, instead of "days," I need to put in the word "daze," which more clearly represents my life.

At times, I wish I was 16 again because I was

the smartest person in the world. I knew everything; all you had to do was just ask me.

When I got older, I realized that there were a lot of things I did not know. Like one of the FBI directors said, "I don't know what I don't know." I relate to that

statement.

Looking back, I must confess that my life has been primarily in a daze. At the time, I did not realize it. It wasn't until recently that I realized how much of my life was in a daze.

As a veteran husband, I've come to know how

much of a daze I have been living in. It does not bother me what I don't know. It has never been an issue with me as far as I can remember. Then, of course, my memory is in a daze.

It occurred to me this past week. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked

me a question when I came in the door from a day at the office.

"Have you seen how much my pineapple tree has grown?"

I did not know where to start with this one. I just

See DAZE, Page 15

CHURCH, from Page 13

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.

February 7, 7 pm

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

February 7, 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.

February 8, 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 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.

February 7, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**February 8, 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).

February 3, 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

Cemetery 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**

Celebrate Black History Month, 2021



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

When Carter Goodwin Woodson, established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public.

The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

For those interested in the study of identity and ideology, an exploration of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH's) Black History themes is itself instructive.

Over the years, the themes

reflect changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the Black community.

The changes notwithstanding, the list reveals an overarching continuity in ASALH--our dedication to exploring historical issues of importance to people of African descent and race relations in America. --Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University

The 2021 theme is the "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity"

Carter G. Woodson was born in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875, the son of former slaves Anne Eliza (Riddle) and James Henry Woodson.

His parents were both illiterate and his father, who had helped the Union sol-



Carter G. Woodson
Father of Black History Month

diers during the Civil War, supported the family as a carpenter and farmer.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson (December 19, 1875–April 3, 1950) is known as the father of Black history and Black studies.

He worked tirelessly to establish the field of Black American history in the early 1900s, founding the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and

its journal and contributing numerous books

Woodson a graduate of the Berea College Class of 1903 and also known as the "Father of Black History," was born in New Canton, Fluvanna County, Virginia, during the American Reconstruction.

Raised in a literate family among school teachers, Woodson left New Canton to join his two older broth-

ers working in the coal mines of Huntington, West Virginia, at the age of seventeen.

He was the fourth of nine children born to parents who had been enslaved. As an African American boy growing up in central Virginia during the late 19th century in the Reconstruction Era, Woodson had few educational or employment opportunities.

Woodson founded The Journal of Negro History in 1916 and began Negro History Week (later Black History Month) in 1926, earning him the nickname "The Father of Black History."

The son of enslaved African Americans, Woodson earned an undergraduate degree at Kentucky's Berea College in 1903 and then another at the University of Chicago in 1907.

Woodson was an African-American historian, author, activist, and professor. He is fondly remembered as the "Father of Black History," as he initiated the annual celebration of the 'Negro History Week.' In the 1970s, it turned into a month-long observance.

Woodson became the first and only individual of slave parentage to earn a Ph.D. in history.

DAZE, from Page 14

muttered something like, "that's really amazing, isn't it."

When I said that, she stared at me with one of "her stares."

I'm quite familiar with that stare, and so I knew I was in trouble, but I did not know the trouble I was in or why.

I just flashed a smile in her direction and tried to walk past her, but nothing of the sort happened that way.

"You didn't know," she said with both hands on her hips, "that I planted a pineapple tree in our front yard. Did you?"

Well, she got me there. I could not tell a pineapple tree from a tomato plant when it comes right down to it. That's how much of a daze I am in.

With that information, she took me outside to where the pineapple tree was and showed it to me.

"See," she said, pointing at the pineapple tree, "there is the pineapple tree."

Now my daze is getting cloudier.

I need to understand what to do when my wife catches

me in such a dazed position. How in the world do I get out of such a predicament?

"That's a pineapple tree," I said with as much glee in my voice as possible. "That is an amazing tree. You've done a great job with that tree. You must be thrilled."

I stopped to catch my breath because I didn't know where to go from there. I had no idea what I was saying and no idea if she understood what I was saying.

I paused and glanced in her direction and got my answer.

She said, "That is my favorite plant that I've ever planted. It looks so wonderful. I can't wait to see it grow even bigger."

With that, she smiled one of those smiles that told me I was out of trouble, at least for this moment.

We then walked back into the house, and both of us were happy but for different reasons.

I'm not sure how long she had that pineapple tree planted in our front yard, and I was afraid to ask be-

cause it may have been weeks or months. I wasn't going to spoil a moment by expressing the level of my dazement.

Later on, as I was drinking coffee in my chair, I got to thinking about something very serious. What other areas of my life are a daze?

I could ask my wife, but then I would learn more about my daze then I needed to know at the time. One daze at a time is enough for me to handle. I'm really not ready to find out how much I don't know at this point in my life. It may be too overwhelming.

Or, I could start paying attention to my life each day. That is a challenging task, but maybe it is something I need to do. Every day I should ask my question, "What don't I know today?"

Maybe I shouldn't do it every day; maybe I should do it once a week. Or thinking more along that line, maybe I should do it once a month.

If I could learn once a month what I don't know, I think my life would increase in a positive direction.

In my Bible reading for the evening, I read what

David said. "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am" (Psalm 39:4).

If I know myself from God's perspective, that will be one step in receiving from God what he wants me to have.

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



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 (BOC)

www.IBOCCHURCH.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**



NDG Book Review: Great reads for kids during Black History Month

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

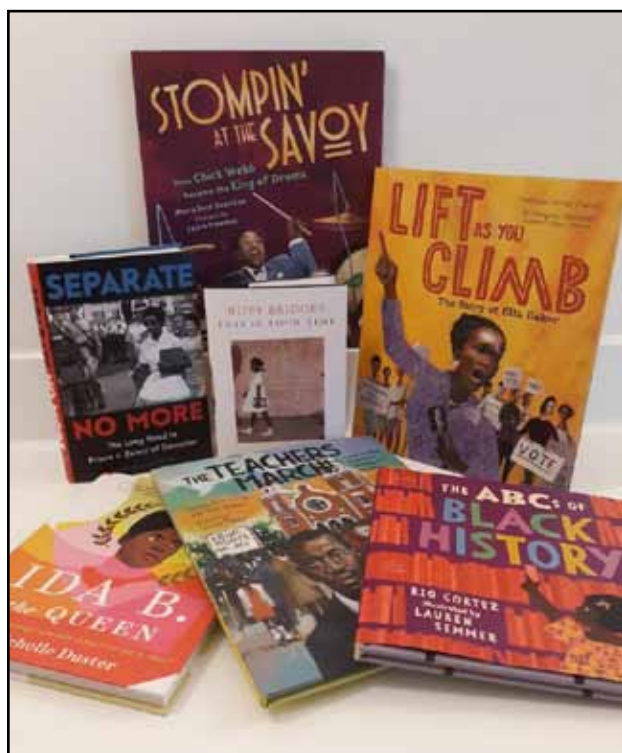
When you're a kid, there are so many things to learn.

Someone has to teach you your A-B-Cs, and to count to a hundred. You have to learn to tie a knot and set the table and stay safe.

And this month, you should learn more about Black History, and that can be fun with these great books...

For the littlest reader ages 3 to 5, "The ABCs of Black History" by Rio Cortez, illustrated by Lauren Semmer is a great way to start the lesson. This most fundamental book includes holidays, cities, people, and music that forms the base of Black History, in colorful drawings and a format that's fun.

Slightly older kids ages 4 to about 7 – those who still love picture books – will want "Stompin' at the Savoy" by Moira Rose Donohue, illustrated by Laura Freeman, which is a book



Terri Schlichenmeyer

about the life of famed drummer Chick Webb; or "Life As You Climb: The Story of Ella Baker" by Patricia Hruby Powell and R. Gregory Christie, the tale of activist Baker and her inspirational work.

Also look for "The

Teacher's March! How Selma's Teachers Changed History" by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace, illustrated by Charly Palmer. It's the story of Reverend F. D. Reese and his co-workers in Selma, Alabama, in 1965.

For middle graders, "This is Your Time" by Ruby Bridges is a quick but impactful book, perfect for Black History Month. Bridges, of course, is a Civil Rights worker and this is the story of her life, and the day she was six years old and was escorted by federal marshals, a little Black girl heading to a white school. Her tale will inspire young readers to help create justice in their classrooms and neighborhoods.

Also for older kids ages 12 and up, "Ida B. The Queen" by Michelle Duster looks like it might be a storybook.

The truth is that it is a story – it's a bunch of stories, in fact – first, of Ida B. Wells, crusader, writer, and suffragist, but not just her.

The book is also about the people she inspired, the singers, lawmakers, in-

ventors, thinkers, and others. Keep in mind that this is a big book, with lots of side-bars in a skinny cover; having a bookmark and notebook nearby might be handy.

And finally, for high school readers, "Separate No More: The Long Road to Brown v. Board of Education" by Lawrence Goldstone begins more than 100 years ago with a landmark ruling on education for Black citizens and ends with another one that turned the first one upside down.

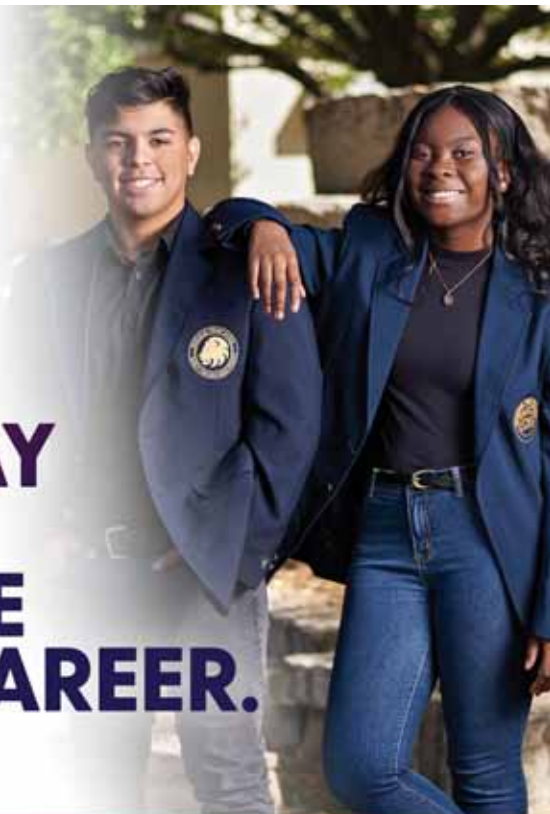
Not just a story of an event, though, this book also looks at the people involved: judges, parents, teachers, politicians, citizens, and students who merely wanted to go to school.

If these books don't quite fit your child's interests, ask your librarian or bookseller for ideas. There's sure to be a book that you and your child will love to read and share because, when it comes to Black History, there's really so much to learn.

Follow us on INSTAGRAM!
@northdallasgazette



**P-TECH:
OUR
PATHWAY
TO FREE
COLLEGE
AND A CAREER.**



APPLY TODAY!



DALLAS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



DALLAS COLLEGE

dallasisd.org/PTECHEarlyCollege

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

2021 VIRTUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 12 & FEBRUARY 19, 2021

THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ONLINE

FEATURING:

DR. MICHAEL W. WATERS, PASTOR & AUTHOR

REV. RICHIE BUTLER, PROJECT UNITY

EMMA RODGERS, DALLAS CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

JILES KING, SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

BANDAN KORO AFRICAN DRUM AND DANCE ENSEMBLE

CHEF ART WILSON

TOO GEAUX CATERING

AND MORE!

PRESENTED BY:

FY20-21 #77



VISIT WWW.DALLASMLKCENTER.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.