



North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

Officials looking for answers as winter storm exposes weaknesses in critical infrastructure services

The DFW area, like most of Texas, found itself under a blanket of snow and ice last week. Record low temperatures brought an onslaught of problems to the local population not used to dealing with such temperatures. Driving accidents and busted plumbing pipes were plentiful across the North Texas area.

However, the problem that has drawn the most ire was the loss of power for millions of Texans. The loss of power exacerbated the cold, with many people unable to heat their homes. Warming centers opened up across the state, as some residents saw days without power instead of the expected few hours.

There have been dozens of deaths reported in Texas due to the winter storm, though the exact total is not yet known. There are 66 Texas counties which have met the federal requirements for disaster relief as a result of last week's weather.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, more recently cited under its acronym "ERCOT" has found itself in the spotlight, and answering for why the Texas power grid failed when it was needed most.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott asked for the performance of ERCOT during the storm, as well as the winterization of the Texas power grid to be added as emergency



In an overnight onslaught of winter weather last week, the Dallas area was blanketed with snow and ice, and the ensuing power outages resulted in life-threatening complications for many across Texas. (Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

items in the legislative session.

"The past several days have been beyond challenging, but with every passing hour we are restoring power and water for families across Texas," said Abbott. "We are doing all we can to make it through this challenge, and the state continues to deploy resources and personnel throughout the state. I want to thank the men and women who are working around the clock in harsh conditions to get the power up and running again, and I ask all Texans to keep them in their prayers. Texans should continue to take proper precautions and follow local guid-

ance to stay safe and warm. We will get through this together."

Abbott said he is seeking investigations into the performance of ERCOT as well as reform measures to protect against future occurrences. Following the backlash, several ERCOT board members relinquished their positions this week.

Four members of the ERCOT board of directors have tendered their resignations. The four members received a high amount of attention as they were not even

See POWER, Page 6



Black vaccine hesitation will kill

- See Page 3



Scrub Ball honors unsung heroes of healthcare

- See Page 4



Looking out for female soldiers back home

- See Page 5



Student Entrepreneur Summit planned

- See Page 6



Sundance showcases new talent

- See Page 9



Two great reads on Black identity

- See Page 11



Clarke to speak at Black tech conference

- See Page 12



Sister Tarpley: Twilight's impact

- See Page 15

Inside...

People in the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Hyundai	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	12
Career / Notices	13
Church Directory	13-15
Wells Fargo	16

See Page 2

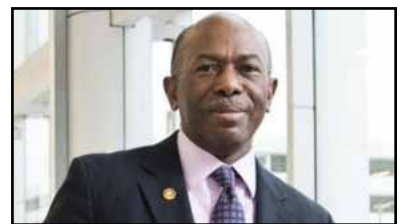


Ayris T. Scales

People In The News ...



Kaatu



Dr. James Hildreth

NDG Quote of the Week: "Just don't give up what you're trying to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

- Ella Fitzgerald

Ayris T. Scales

Walker's Legacy, the largest digital platform for multicultural women in business, has announced that effective March 1, 2021, Ayris T. Scales will be the CEO of Walker's Legacy Foundation and the Managing Director of Walker's Legacy.

Ayris T. Scales has built a strong reputation as a champion of women, entrepreneurs, and underinvested communities in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Scales has nearly 20 years of leadership experience at both the local and national levels address-



ing racial and gender inequities. In 2018, Ayris was appointed by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser to serve as the District's official Chief Service Officer where she led Serve DC, the Mayor's Office on Volunteerism and

Partnerships.

"Ayris has demonstrated herself as a leader at all levels. She is committed to advancing economic opportunities, expanding networks and driving solutions, stated Natalie Madeira Cofield, Founder & departing CEO. "We believe wholeheartedly that she is a phenomenal choice to shepherd the organization into its next era and aid in supporting the organization's advancement and expansion."

Previously, Ayris was the Vice President of Economic Growth and Jobs for World Business Chicago (WBC). She also has the distinct honor of hav-

ing served as the inaugural Executive Director of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI), a flagship organization under President Obama's White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to end generational poverty. She is a sought-after advisor, speaker, moderator, lecturer, and blogger. Her work has been featured in Fast Company, Ebony, Fox, ABC, and NBC news affiliates, Telemundo, Blackher.us, and numerous other publications.

"I am honored to take the helm of this illustrious organization. Advancing entrepreneurship, building

generational wealth, creating a legacy and empowering women economically are what keeps me up at night," said Ayris T. Scales, incoming CEO and Managing Director. There is no greater time than now to uphold the vision of our founder and to amplify the mission of our work."

Scales utilizes a mission-centered approach to generate solutions which has led to transformative public-private partnerships with numerous global brands, as well as innovative policies and initiatives in which she has secured over \$50M in funding, and overseen more than \$100M in grants

and subsidies. Ayris has held leadership roles in Indianapolis, Savannah, Atlanta, Chicago, and Washington, DC.

After 11 years, Cofield departs from the organization to join the Small Business Administration where she has been appointed to serve as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Women's Business Ownership, effective Monday, March 1, 2021.

Walker's Legacy was founded in 2009 as a quarterly women in business lecture series designed to inspire women of all ages to walk into their professional passion and purpose.

Kaatu

At 14 years old, Kaatii—born Anna Katherine—calls the shots. While most young teens spend their free time at the mall, playing video games or watching movies, Kaatii is busy making music that's featured on numerous radio stations and a variety of music industry tastemaker publications.

She's consistently in the studio, writing with artists twice her age, and working on her craft. As collaborator, award-nominated singer-songwriter, Kara Connolly, puts it, "She's playing the guitar, provid-



ing a playlist of reference tracks, selecting sounds, sending mix notes and confirming revisions...Kaatii is the real deal. She's driving the ship." When you think of a 14-year-old singer, what typically comes to

mind is the Disney Channel—Hannah Montana—not the introspective, fearless, alt-rock, indie-pop artist that she is.

After being exposed to music early in life as her mom would take her and her sister to the opera and her dad would play bands like Muse, Radiohead, The Killers and Rush around the house, it was a family trip to Louisiana that inspired her own interest. Kaatii recounts, "We were with family friends and one of them had an acoustic guitar. I had never seen one before and I was mesmerized. I remember sitting in her lap, watching her play,

and pretending I was playing. It was the most amazing thing and one of my most vivid memories. I got my first guitar a week later for my 7th birthday." Her first gig was at a local coffee house in Dallas, TX not long after. Her first original song was written at 11 and she has continued to write on her own and with others ever since.

Although born and based in Dallas, Kaatii's love for travel and commitment to her craft has taken her to music hubs throughout the country like Nashville, Los Angeles, and Austin to work with Grammy-nominated songwriters, mixing

engineers, mastering pros, acclaimed artists, and producers. Recent trips to Los Angeles resulted in another first for Kaatii—the writing and recording of her very first set of songs for worldwide release. Despite only just beginning to release music this past summer, each of Kaatii's first three singles have already amassed nearly 100K Spotify streams as she steadily grows a fanbase of supporters. As Unheard Gems puts it, "Emerging artist Kaatii is proving she is wise and talented beyond her years... Her voice has a sort of confidence and clarity that you might expect

from a more established artist... Kaatii is guaranteed to be an absolute indie pop powerhouse if she keeps up this kind of work."

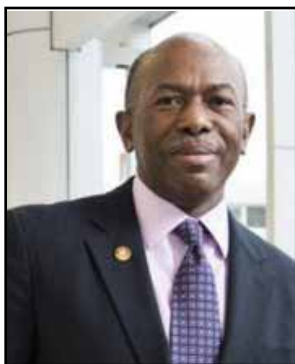
Her latest single, "Dreamland," arriving March 5th, immerses us in the mesmerizing world of her subconscious and is Kaatii's most intimate effort yet. Written about a crush who repeatedly showed up in her dreams, Kaatii's emotionally charged alto, ethereal harmonies and the track's verbed guitars are reminiscent of critically acclaimed indie stars Angel Olsen, Beabadoobee, and Oscar Lang.

Dr. James Hildreth

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Meharry Medical College President and CEO Dr. James Hildreth has been named by President Joe Biden as a member of his COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.

Dr. Hildreth, the renowned immunologist and academic administrator and Meharry's 12th president,



sat on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration board that approved the first U.S.

coronavirus vaccines.

"I am honored to be chosen by President Biden as a member of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force. We are facing one of the largest challenges in the history of our nation," Dr. Hildreth wrote in a statement.

"COVID-19 has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans, and if adequate steps are not taken, this number will continue to grow. As we have seen, COVID-19 does not dis-

criminate, it does not respect borders, and it does not behave according to our timelines," Dr. Hildreth added.

The United States has reported more than 27.2 million cases of the virus, and the death toll is nearing 470,000.

Immediately following his Jan. 21 swearing-in, President Biden issued a national strategy for the COVID-19 response and pandemic preparedness.

"For the past year, we

could not turn to the federal government for a national plan to answer prayers with action – until today," President Biden stated.

He then issued a 200-page report outlining a national strategy to beat the pandemic.

The President called it a comprehensive plan that starts with restoring public trust and mounting an aggressive, safe, and effective vaccination campaign.

"It continues with the steps we know that stop the

spread like expanded masking, testing, and social distancing. It's a plan where the federal government works with states, cities, Tribal communities, and private industry to increase supply and administer testing and the vaccines that will help reopen schools and businesses safely," President Biden remarked.

"Equity will also be central to our strategy so that the communities and people being disproportionately infected and killed by the



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

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.

A Question for Black Americans: Vaccine or body bag?

By John E. Warren
Publisher, *The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint*

Today there is a crisis in Black America that is greater than the Tuskegee experiment itself. That experiment for more than 30 years deliberately used Black men as lab rats to test the effects of syphilis on men infected with venereal disease. It took over 30 years, but the experiments were discovered and exposed. The people conducting those experiments were all White. But some things have changed. One such change is the presence of Black scientists engaged in research affecting Black people.

Today in the case of the development of a vaccine to fight COVID-19, a female Black Scientist named

Dr. Kizmekia Corbett, at the National Institutes of Health's Vaccine Research Center has led the research. She has been the lead scientist in the development

Black people, who are at the greatest risk of dying from Covid 19, have the lowest rate of receiving the vaccine.

of one of the two vaccines currently being used.

But Black people, who are at the greatest risk of dying from Covid 19, have the lowest rate of receiving the vaccine, it appears, for two reasons: one, we have logistical issues of appointment, locations and transportation; and two, we actually have people refusing to take the vaccine in spite of current scientific data developed by a Black scientist that proves the vaccines save lives.

No one is thinking of forcing any of us to take the vaccine if we decide not to. But we should understand that the virus and its developing mutations, which

have taken almost 500,000 lives in the United States alone, appears to come down to two choices: the vaccine or a body bag.

The body bag is what we use to remove the bodies of those who die, regardless of the cause. Those who refuse to take the vaccine should know that you become possible transmitters of the virus, if not affected directly yourself. This means that family and loved ones can die as a result of contact with those

who have not taken the vaccine as a means of stopping the transmission of the virus.

This also means that until such time as we have full vaccinations of the entire country, those of us who have not had the vaccine yet will have to rethink our personal relationships with those close to us who refuse to take the vaccine. Let us not forget that each person has a right to refuse the vaccine, but that right must not get confused with our right to choose to live.

The choice really is between the vaccine and the body bag. We know the body bags will go to those who did not take the vaccines first, but will their refusal cause others among us to die and get a body bag also?

Where is Democracy?

By Jesus Antonio Fernandez Olmedo

Democracy today is only found in bank accounts. If you are an individual who has a large account you are taken into account and you exist but you do not exist. As it has arrived this so positive legacy in its origin of the Greeks.

Today's democracy has blown away with the wind. It's just wet paper.

Institutions today try their best to whitewash what can no longer be whitewashed because it is too dirty or black.

Everything is deeply rotten.

Even today there could be people who were believers in the system and it seemed that they did not realize these obvious realities but in reality it is that these people have some type of economic interest in the gear and they cling to that continually justifying.

Humanity has entered a dark stage where big capital dominates practically every sphere and social sphere.

In the context of the pandemic, there is a paralysis of many industrial aspects generating unemployment, precariousness, problems of all kinds to the most disadvantaged societies.

Inflation, debt, poverty, misery and excuses to make massive layoffs under the Coronavirus. Never in human history has a virus served the ruling classes so well.

So much so that I suspect without much doubt that they will try to reach the slavery of the populations where they have absolute power.

A pandemic in which the hand of the powerful is involved but in which the population as a whole does not react this will become a more or less unbearable world.

A world of slaves in the

society of technology and material "goods".

If you pretend that the young man with a candy is going to be tamed or with a soccer jersey, you are very wrong.

Critical thinking is going to disappear, group organization as well and freedom of assembly, expression in this context, leaving the individual alone and cornered.

They will continue to threaten the populations and nation states that are today very weakened and with practically no capacity for maneuver, and when they feel they lose control they launch another pandemic.

They will constantly sow that threat in the air.

They want frightened and submissive populations.

They are the cause of poverty, death by creating "earthquakes" and planned crises.

All done in a subtle and hidden way so that the en-

emy's face is not seen.

The enemy becomes invisible and thus the ability of some kind of reaction is more difficult.

It acts in a very perverse way and we are today in a war against humanity. It would seem unbelievable that this was the case, but without a doubt history shows that the powerful classes never cared about the vital interests of the people but about their petty goals above all else. There we have the history books for those who want to consult and see reality. Not to continue asleep at least.

One more challenge for humanity as a whole for the so-called homo sapiens who in a short time will have to make decisions without being able to evade them anymore.

By Jesus Antonio Fernandez Olmedo is an independent writer who can be reached at olmedoant@gmail.com.

"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.

Arnold joins effort to vaccinate teachers immediately

Dallas City Councilmember Carolyn King Arnold today called on City, County and State leaders to immediately place Texas teachers on the high-priority list to receive Covid-19 vaccines available from Pfizer and Moderna. Arnold said she believes this is a decision that will benefit teachers and students as well as the Texas economy. She labeled the effort as a GOTV Campaign



Carolyn King Arnold
Council Member, District 4

or Get Our Teachers Vaccinated!

"Teachers are part of the

front-line workforce who should be alongside other essential workers who are in line to receive inoculations," said Arnold. "If we can get teachers back in the classroom and they are comfortable being there, that will have an enormous effect on families who need to feel safe and want their children to feel safe. Putting teachers on the list of eligible recipients now will bring a huge

sense of relief to classrooms and families throughout Texas."

Arnold also noted the "ripple effect" of vaccinating teachers early.

"I think safe school environments are the key to rebuilding the economy, especially for small businesses," said Arnold. "So many workers can't return to their employment until their children are back in the

classroom full-time. Right now, teachers are taking enormous risks to return to a regular classroom. We can remove that risk for teachers, and it will have an enormous benefit for children, families, and the economy.

Arnold praised this week's announcement that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been activated to assist large cities with the vaccination

efforts.

"This should take a huge load off of Austin and Dallas County leaders," said Arnold. "Let's put Texas teachers on the highest priority list for the vaccine. They should not have to make a decision about leaving their beloved profession because they feel unsafe back in the classroom. If we really love our teachers, they should get the vaccine ASAP."

Scrub ball to educate, recognize, and honor unspoken heros in healthcare

A three-day hybrid event designed to educate, recognize, and honor unspoken employees in the healthcare industry will take place June 17-19, 2021 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Dallas, organizers announced this week.

The Scrub Ball is being presented by the Cherry Foundation in collaboration with SIPS Consults and CS Assist. The purpose is to recognize members of the healthcare community that are seldom recognized, with an emphasis on their importance to the industry.

"We just saw a need to expand the appreciation and education for those that are often overlooked, and this is our way of thanking them," said Karen Cherry, founder of the non-profit foundation bearing her name. The in-person and virtual event will offer Continuing Education Units (CEU) to workers, seminars, workshops, scholarships, and an awards



Luis Melendez / Unsplash

gala. Awards will be given out in five categories that acknowledge healthcare workers and employees of hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. Those categories are:

VIVIAN THOMAS AWARD:

Dr. Vivien Theodore Thomas was born in Lake Providence, Louisiana in 1910. In an era when institutional racism was the norm, Thomas was clas-

sified, and paid, as a janitor, even though by the mid-1930s he was doing the work of a postdoctoral researcher.

This award will honor an entry level employee that through hard work and determination worked their way through the ranks and is today considered a leader in the health care field.

PEER AWARD:

An employee who works to create broader under-

standing of the workplace, reduce workplace tensions and frustrations, and helps develop effective peer support roles. Selected by their peers for teamwork, attitude, attendance, and willingness to be a key Team Player.

UNSUNG CHAMPION AWARD:

Someone that provides a great benefit, has done exceptionally good work, has performed some outstanding deed or functions, but has not received the credit or recognition they deserve. Highlights the person that always saves the day and steps up when needed.

SCRUB B. AWARD:

An employee that brings a smile to everyone on the team, always works to boost team morale. Their consistent positive attitude makes a huge difference for the team. They are the first to volunteer and just having them on the team makes all the difference.

THE CHERRY

sasters, the effects of the recent winter storm, and the power failures that followed, disproportionately impacted low income families; which in turn are disproportionately people of color.

The whole episode is leaving many civic leaders and organizations looking for accountability and assurances that the next cold blast will not be a repeat performance from service providers.

HEALTHCARE HEART AWARD:

An outstanding leader who is often recognized as the problem solver. They understand the need for policies and regulations and work hard to comply. Employee displays strong work ethics, are trustworthy, reliable, and admirable. They offer critical thinking and interpersonal communication skills that often eliminate issues before they occur.

Nominations are open starting February 15 through April 1 with forms and instructions available online at www.scrubball.org.

Registration is also limited and may be purchased online through its website. "We want and hope

to bring all of the different elements of what is important in the healthcare industry to one special time and place on an annual basis," said Cherry. She said now that the events have been planned, they will be looking for sponsors to help spread the word and lift the spirits of those on the front line. "This will allow us to say to the many workers that they are really appreciated by all segments of the community."

Several levels that accommodate budgets for inclusion are available. Those interested in sponsorship opportunities are to contact event consultants at sponsorships@scrubball.org or review the categories on its website, www.scrubball.org

POWER, from Page 1

residents of the state. Board Chairman Sally Talberg is a Michigan resident, while Vice Chairman Peter Crampton resides in Germany. Also resigning were Terry Bulger of Illinois; and Raymond Hepper, who lives in Maine.

The resignations were not enough to satisfy Dallas-based U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX30), who vowed to bring

the incident up for further review at the national level.

"These resignations are certainly welcomed," Johnson said. "However, they do not mark the end of our inquiry into ERCOT's failure to prepare its energy infrastructure for extreme weather conditions. It is unacceptable that millions of Texans were left without power for days on end during one of the worst

winter storms in our state's history. The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which I Chair, is examining what happened and will be holding a hearing on the grid failure that was responsible for the power outages. I am committed to working with local, state, and federal leaders to learn more about what went wrong and how we can prevent it from happening again."

As with most natural di-

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

Veteran Women's Enterprise Center: Dedicated to shepherding female soldiers to financial success

The Veteran Women's Enterprise Center (VWEC) is providing business and financial support to women entrepreneurs associated with the military, inclusive of veterans, active duty, reservists, and female military spouses across the nation through education, funding, access to critical technical assistance and vital business resources. The VWEC is laser focused on decreasing the disparity between the entrepreneurial success that exists between male and female veteran business owners.

Upon arriving in Dallas in 2015, Veteran Women's Enterprise Center Founder and CEO VR Small, a United States Navy veteran, discovered a purported number of veteran programs in the DFW area. "One program called Roll Call was being sponsored by the Texas Veteran's Commission in Lubbock, Texas. It was a three-day event that included a ball and educational programs. I called to find out when the event would be coming to Dallas, and after multiple attempts to contact the coordinators, I was finally told they would not be bringing the event to Dallas because they had been unable to



VR Small

identify local support: I suggested they try again. They planned a conference call, which resulted in a team assembled to coordinate the first Dallas Roll Call, and I led the entrepreneur component." Small noted, "Although there were multiple agencies listed online as offering veteran entrepreneur support, they either did not have the personnel or resources to support our program, so I engaged my colleagues at SCORE." The inaugural event was a hit, and attendees of the entrepreneur program continued to reach out to Small asking "what's next?" It was these inquiries that became the driving force for Small's research to determine if there was truly a gap in services for female veteran entrepreneurs.

During this period, the most recent data available was from the 2007 to 2012 Census Survey of Business Owners, reporting women veteran owned businesses grew from 4% to 15.2% of all veteran owned businesses reflecting nearly 400,000 new businesses. However, this rapid growth was overshadowed by the fact that 96.3% identified as non-employers reporting average revenues below \$25K. Small found this data startling, "What my research showed was that while female veterans were starting and maintaining businesses the majority of them were not profitable." In fact, the 3.3% that identified as employers posted receipts over \$10 Billion; yet additional data illustrated, if this segment did receipts proportionate to their size, they should have reported over \$29 billion.

In November of 2016, Small began to formulate the concept for the Veteran Women's Enterprise Center, a national initiative designed to help women veteran entrepreneurs scale for success. The VWEC is not just a center, but it strives to be the center for women veteran entrepreneur's success, supporting long term

sustainable businesses that will fuel our nation's economy. "I remember touring the facility which now serves as the VWEC and initially being offered a cubicle," says Small. "I looked around the space, and politely informed them that I would need the entire space. I had a vision that was much larger than a cubicle."

In January 2017, Small developed a strategic alliance with the Homeless Veteran Services of Dallas, which managed the Veteran Administration property where the VWEC is located. Small strategically planned the renovation groundbreaking on June 12, which had just been officially designated by Governor Greg Abbott on June 9th as Women Veterans Day. The Veteran

Women's Enterprise Center held its soft opening for this model facility and current National Headquarters on November 8, 2018. The VWEC's conference center will feature high-tech interactive boards with touch screen and writable capabilities, state-of-the-art modern co-working spaces with internet access and a café lounge designed to promote a collaborative environment for members to learn, network and grow. "We are excited to have a place for our female veteran entrepreneurs to access the resources they need to succeed," says Small. "Many times, women who served in the military don't recognize themselves as veterans. The VWEC is building an entrepreneur ecosystem where female veteran entrepreneurs

across the nation can self-identify, a place that recognizes the value of their service and potential for business success. Before the VWEC, female veteran entrepreneur services were predominately disjointed, now these entrepreneurs have the opportunity to access all the necessary services and amenities in one centralized location."

She concludes, "For every dollar a male veteran makes, a female veteran business owner is making .07 cents. We must work to ensure women veteran entrepreneurs access their fair share of available business opportunities." The VWEC is dedicated to supporting the full potential of women veteran entrepreneurs as a driving force in our local,

See SOLDIERS, Page 14

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

Teen Dating Violence

A Forum Just for You!
What's Going On!
Go to Eventbrite for Registration

Presented by:
Desoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission
&
South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.

Human Trafficking
A Global Problem

Saturday, February 27, 2021
11:00 A. M. - 1:00 P. M.
Virtual - via Zoom

Prostitution. Servitude. Forced Labor.

Student Entrepreneur Summit planned in New York

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Lorene Cowan admits that she is no stranger to being a student entrepreneur.

She got her start while attending elementary school in Brooklyn.

Her first product was selling her classmates bookmarks she made by cutting up old holiday cards her parents, extended family, and friends of the family had in their homes.

"Needless to say [the bookmarks] sold out every holiday," Cowan fondly recalled.

Recently, Cowan started a business while pursuing a master's degree at Harvard University.

She founded Business Arsenal University, a platform designed to give student entrepreneurs resources to start a business.

On Saturday, March 6, Business Arsenal Credit Repair and Business Arsenal University, in conjunction with Harvard Alumni Entrepreneurs NYC, Queens College, and the HBCU Foundation, will present the 2021 National



The 2021 National Student Entrepreneurs Summit (NSES) and Pitch Competition supports the next generation of student entrepreneurs. (iStockphoto / NNPA)

Student Entrepreneurs Summit (NSES) and Pitch Competition.

The virtual summit, scheduled at noon and streamed over YouTube and Facebook, features a student Pitch competition and includes a panel of successful entrepreneurs and investors sharing their advice on launching and scaling a business.

Entrants in the Pitch competition have an opportunity to win a \$4,000 grant.

The entrepreneur and investor-led panel includes entrepreneurs Danielle Leslie and Jay Alexander Martin and philanthropist Shelton Mercer III.

Celebrity publicist Monique Jackson and CNBC Profit Alum Mr. Cory also will attend.

"If it weren't for those around me that believed in me and the things I wanted to do throughout my life, I wouldn't be in a position to pay it forward now," Cowan, who founded NSES,

stated.

"That's why I created this conference and fundraiser to bring both successful and aspiring individuals together to make a lasting impact in the realm of entrepreneurship," she continued.

The summit supports the next generation of student entrepreneurs, added Cowan, who is also the creator of the TRIBE Method.

She said she was inspired to create NSES because of the support she received from her parents growing up.

"With education and empowerment at the forefront, this summit gives young entrepreneurs a chance to foster mentorship-based relationships with accredited business owners," Cowan

exclaimed.

"Through a series of panels, workshops, and networking opportunities, students receive tips, advice, and guidance on how to start, run and scale a successful business."

As an entrepreneur and a member of the Harvard Alumni Entrepreneurs, Cowan has spoken at colleges on entrepreneurship topics and has trained business owners on how to market and sell more products.

She said the summit's mission is to take student ideas to launch and support the next generation of founders.

"My advice for students looking to start their own business is to make sure they do their proper re-

search when seeking an expert or course to help them start their business," Cowan offered.

"There has been a surge in purchasing 'how-to courses' during the pandemic where many are out of work or afraid they won't find jobs after graduation. More so-called experts are creating courses that teach you how to do something that they have no real experience doing. Thinkific, the largest platform for online courses, stated they'd seen a 221 percent surge in new course creation since the pandemic."

The summit and Pitch competition is open to all students. To register, visit <https://www.businessarsenalinc.com/events>.

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



PRESIDENT'S

President • 1st Vice President • 2nd Vice President

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

In honor of our
67th Anniversary

We are asking for a one-time
\$67 donation toward student scholarships

Your donation is tax deductible

Donate today or by

February 26, 2021

Your contribution can create a future for deserving high school graduates pursuing college!

Zelle: southdallas1954@yahoo.com
PayPal: www.southdallasbpwc.org/donations2.aspx
Check: Made payable to SDBPWC, P O Box 764587
Dallas TX 75376-4587

For more information, contact us at southdallas1954@yahoo.com





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



Keeping watch...



U.S. Navy Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Ryan King, from Arlington, Texas, right, and Fire Controlman 3rd Class Aleq Janson, from Las Vegas, respond to a security alert during an anti-terrorism/force protection drill aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) Feb. 19, 2021. Bunker Hill, part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, is on a scheduled deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. As the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet routinely operates and interacts with 35 maritime nations while conducting missions to preserve and protect a free and open Indo-Pacific Region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brandie Nuzzi)

Murphy urging residents to respond to damage surveys from winter storm

Murphy's emergency management personnel are encouraging residents to report property damage related to this month's winter snowstorm on the Texas Division of Emergency Management's survey.

"This data can assist the state's emergency responders in assessing their response to this event, and in preparing for similar events in the future," said Murphy Fire Chief Del Albright. "The results of the

survey can help us locally as well, giving us the ability to plan and prepare."

The survey is voluntary and does not replace any reporting to insurance companies. Results will be shared with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make the case for federal disaster assistance for individuals or businesses, although the survey will not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

Gaining an understanding of the type and extent

of damage can assist emergency response teams in putting together a plan of action in advance of similar weather events.

Available in English and Spanish, the survey can be taken at Texas Individual Assistance Reporting Tool (TIART) (arcgis.com).

The survey asks for specific information on the location of the residence and includes questions regarding the extent of any damage. Digital photos may be added to the survey to help

illustrate the damage.

Respondents should be able to complete the survey in less than 10 minutes.

At the same time, the City of Murphy is asking residents to complete a survey as well. The local survey, available by visiting the City of Murphy Facebook page, is designed to gauge the level of awareness of City efforts at communicating effectively with residents during the storm.

Carrollton offering relief for water leak repairs

Customers experiencing a break in the plumbing lines and/or fixtures on their private property can request an adjustment by submitting a Certification of Water Leak Repair form including a description of the leak and proof of payment for repairs

within 90 days of the bill reflecting water wastage. The certification form must be submitted to Carrollton's Utility Customer Service Department for determination of eligibility. The resident must submit a Certification of Water Leak Repair form,

receipt for repair from a plumber or receipts for all parts used to perform the repairs if work was completed by the homeowner, and any permits that may have been required in repairing the leak. It is the customer's responsibility to contact Building In-

spection at 972-466-3225 to inquire into any permit requirements. To help relieve some of the financial burden, the City will be waiving all leak-related permit fees for 90 days.

Contact the City of Carrollton for more in-depth information.



**Prioritizing innovations, smart policies and pandemic recovery...
that's energy leadership!**

To learn more about how energy helps your community, visit **CommunityEnergyCenter.org**



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.



The newly redesigned 2021 Hyundai SANTA FE.

A bold reimagining with family fun in mind.

In sunshine, snow, and rain, the redesigned SANTA FE puts all other SUVs in its class to shame. Comfort and safety aside, this tech-forward SUV offers a bold design with a premium and sophisticated interior and exterior that showcases a stylish, rugged elegance. With available features like in-dash Blind-Spot View Monitor, Safe Exit Assist, Ultrasonic Rear Occupant Alert, HTRAC All Wheel Drive and a 10.25-inch full-touch infotainment screen, you can relax, knowing your family is covered and so is your style game, in or out of the city. It's so much better, together.

Preproduction model with optional features shown. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2021 Hyundai Motor America.

Sundance Film Festival 2021: Great American films and award-winners

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

As the Sundance Film Festival 2021 came to a close, the first order of business was handing out awards and saluting films and talent that stood out. American made docs and features were in the mix. Check out these reviews of some of the most noteworthy. Many will be in theaters near you soon or streaming on your TV sets shortly.

CODA (***)

CODA is an acronym for Child of Deaf Adults and is also the premise of this touching fam/com/dra. Ruby (Emilia Jones) is the only hearing person in her Gloucester, MA family. Her non-hearing Dad (Troy Kotsur), a fisherman, and her brother (Daniel Durant) depend on her. Without



Ruby, the deaf men aren't allowed to legally operate a fishing boat. When she decides to join her high school choir, her family, including her mom (Marlee Matlin), feels abandoned and there's strife. This doesn't have the deep drama prevalent in *Sound of Metal* or *Children of a Lesser God*, but it's enjoyable. When writer/director Siân Heder's (Tallulah) script explores the

daily challenges and accomplishments of a deaf family, it thrives. When it ventures into broad comedy, not so much. Fans of the TV show *Glee* will love to hear the students sing and watch teen romance bloom. When the screen goes silent to emphasize deaf people's experience, the film finds its proper depth. A likable crowd-pleaser that happily champions the cultural, so-

cial and linguistic traits of the Deaf community.

Jockey (**1/2)

U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award: Best Actor

Seasoned film fans respect Clifton Collins Jr., the penultimate character actor. He stands out in an ensemble (*Star Trek*) is the consummate co-star (*Honey Boy*), has conquered TV (*Ballers*) and his filmography goes way back (*Dead Presidents*). Given the chance to lead a cast, he has taken home the Sundance 2021 U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award: Best Actor. His showcase is a small earnest film about an aging jockey named Jackson who's been battered by time, wants to ride the next new fast horse but is hampered by physical ailments. Director/writer Clint Bentley gives Collins a stage, and the master actor deliv-

ers a textured, melancholic performance that is a career highlight. The thin narrative is heavy on atmospheric touches and non-verbal scenes, light on viable emotional family drama. Still, Collins impresses with his insight into a man facing his decline. Nice supporting performances by Molly Parker and especially Moisés Arias as a rival jockey and possible relation. Filming (cinematographer Adolpho Veloso) at a live racetrack with real people in some roles ups the reality quotient. This revealing look at an enigmatic sports profession gives Collins a chance to shine—and he is brilliant.

Mass (****)

This is such a cagey, engrossing way to start a story. Circle around the central plot. Start in a suburban church with sup-

porting characters spewing small talk. Introduce a mediator (Michelle N. Carter) who walks away. Put two couples in one room, after a tragedy, which will only be revealed in bits and pieces. It's enough to make audiences' eyes stay glued to the screen. The writing and directorial debut of actor-turned-filmmaker Fran Kranz couldn't be more auspicious. A tragic event has happened. The parents of the perpetrator, Richard (Reed Birney) and Linda (Ann Dowd), and the victim, Jay (Jason Isaacs) and Gail (Martha Plimpton), face off across a table. Sparks fly, emotions boil over, loathing is confirmed. All struggle for ways to end the incessant PTSD that comes from surviving the nightmare of a school

See FILM, Page 11



Hyundai recognizes the value of community. Learn more at HyundaiDiversity.com.

Art by Ronnie Phillips. RonPhillipsArt.com.

Hyundai Celebrates Black Excellence

The journey and societal contributions of African Americans is an epic tale worthy of retelling time and again. Their traditions and rich heritage combine for a legacy to remember. Hyundai is proud to join in on the celebration of Black History, this month and all year long. We salute contemporary Black artists like Ronnie Phillips, who firmly believes that children are the future, stating, "I like the idea of connecting images of present-day Black children to their past as a way of honoring the continuity in our culture." Hyundai and Ronnie Phillips, building upon the past together while constructing a better future for all.

Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2021 Hyundai Motor America.



The United States vs. Billie Holiday is a touching tale told on film

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

It's a major showcase. Viewers can watch the brilliant musical talent Andra Day take center stage as she crosses over into the world of film acting. With the bright lights on her, she summons up an astonishing, all-in, Oscar-caliber portrayal of Billie Holiday. A feat achieved by Diana Ross five decades ago. Same role, similar story. But Day's interpretation of "Lady Day" is decidedly more raw.

Director/producer Lee Daniels has been building up to this moment. Producing strong women's stories (Precious), casting actors in career-changing, award-winning roles (Halle Berry, Monster's Ball) and chronicling African American history (Lee Daniels' The Butler). Now, he's hired Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks (Topdog/Underdog) to adapt "The Black Hand," a chapter from Johann Hari's 2015 bestseller, Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs. That segment of the book focuses on the Feds chas-



Andra Day gave a knockout performance as the iconic singer.
(Courtesy photo)

ing, harassing and arresting Billie Holiday. Seemingly for drug use, more likely for her singing the controversial anti-lynching protest song "Strange Fruit." Parks' touching screenplay, with its strong characters, poignant dialogue and easy to-discern storyline, makes a near perfect blueprint for this ambitious project.

In 1939, the U.S. Congress has failed to pass anti-lynching bills, though the tragic hanging of black men by white mobs is evident. Yet the government finds time to initiate a "war on drugs" policy. That effort is led by Harry Anslinger (Garrett Hedlund, Mudbound), the racist chief

of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (precursor to the DEA). Anslinger is specifically rankled by Billie Holiday's (Day) song "Strange Fruit," a million-selling Top 10 hit: "Those lyrics provoke people."

He laser focuses on the singer and is determined to infiltrate the jazz world she inhabits, deeming it a bastion of drug consumption. Under Anslinger's orders, Jimmy Fletcher (Trevante Rhodes, Moonlight), the country's first black FBN agent, insinuates himself into Holiday's entourage. He flirts, courts, sparks and bamboozles her into a relationship. One that leads to her arrest. She is devastated

by his betrayal. He is on a mission: "My father told me that drugs would be the death of black people."

Wounded and humiliated, Holiday continues to record albums, tour the country and have affairs with women and bad relationships with cads. Her assistants, Roslyn (Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Dolemite Is My Name) and Freddy (Miss Lawrence, Empire), her surrogate family, accompany her. PTSD from an abusive childhood, rape and other ordeals haunt her. She buries her pain in nicotine, heroin and alcohol, leading to addiction, drug busts and prison terms. The incessant misery surfaces in

her vulnerable voice. A vocal quiver that mesmerizes legions of fans—black and white.

The film's style is quite elaborate, which is a blessing and a curse. Costumes by designer Paolo Nieddu (Empire) create dazzling silhouettes. Andrew Dunn's cinematography (Precious) makes the sunlight incandescent in outdoor scenes. Jay Rabinowitz's editing (8 Mile) gives the 2hr 10 min footage a pace that is rarely questionable. While the only music more beautiful than Kris Bowers' (Green Book) score is Day singing from Billie's catalogue ("All of Me") and new

vintage-sounding material ("Tigress & Tweed").

However, Daniel T. Dorance's production design (The Paperboy) and Elise de Blois and Pascale Deshen's set decoration go overboard. Especially in dressing room scenes that look more like a store window at Stickley Furniture than a back room at a club. These are the times when Dunn's lighting produces a soft distracting glow. Add in some superfluous flashback scenes, Holiday's hallucinations and artsy title cards flashing on the screen and the film's

See HOLIDAY, Page 12

"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



Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote
214-238-6855

Website: www.cbsolutionsplus.com

DART CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We recognize the history and cultural significance of African Americans and value their contributions to our vibrant community.



NDG book Review: A pair of books to shed light on identity issues

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Who are you?

That's a question some people never ask themselves: seemingly intuitively, they know the answer at birth and they don't think about it again. Then there are those who struggle with knowing until their last breath. Still others have stories to tell about their search to learn who they are. Read on...

One big secret-not-secret lies at the heart of "Raceless" by Georgina Lawton.

Born after a long labor in a London hospital in 1989, Lawton was the child of a (white) British father and a (white) Irish mother, and with her black hair and deep brown eyes, she "was not the baby they had been expecting." To save face, her conception, the result



Terri Schlichenmeyer

of a one-night stand, wasn't talked about, and her curly hair and brown skin was blamed on a genetic quirk

on her mother's side, end of story. Lawton was raised with love, never questioning anything until four

years ago, when she took a DNA test that indicated Nicaraguan ancestry.

Her father had died by then, and her mother refused to discuss it.

The frustration and the not-knowing sent Lawton on a round-the-world excursion, from Great Britain to Nicaragua to the U.S., South Africa, and elsewhere, in a search for racial identity. This book is the result: a thoughtfully-written, beautifully-told look at Blackness, culture, and love. It's a story that sometimes reads faintly like a travelogue, but one in which the search is not for interesting sites, so much as it is for insight, making this a quietly persistent, personal, and wonderful story to enjoy.

Like Lawton, Rebecca Carroll grew up in circum-

stances that were unique: as a little girl, she was literally the only Black person living in her small New England town. In "Surviving the White Gaze," she writes about a picture-perfect childhood, the beliefs she was raised with, a feeling that there was something amiss, and her ultimate reckoning.

The story of how she was born and entered her family's lives was something Carroll knew from a very early age. Unlike Lawton's family, Carroll's parents never hid anything from her; she was told the names of her birth parents and she knew some of the woman's close relatives so it's a bit of a surprise that meeting her (white) birth mother was rather anticlimactic. Still, that meeting and the subsequent rela-

tionship they forged left Carroll walking a long, fine line between two mothers, and looking for the identity she craved all along.

"Surviving the White Gaze" is good: it's full of nostalgia for anyone over 50 and it perfectly explains the inner turmoil and delicate balance of straddling two worlds while searching for place. Also, though, it's heavily peopled and the number of names you'll need to keep track of can be a challenge. Just beware, and take this thoughtful, thought-provoking memoir as it comes.

Then, once you've devoured these two books, there's good news: in the last few months, many authors have taken this journey of identity and are willing to share, no matter who you are.

FILM, from Page 9

murder. Figuring out what happened is an engrossing group activity for viewers. The taunt, tense screenplay is so tight it could be the foundation for a Tony Award-winning Broadway play. Four excellent actors give the performances of their lives as desperate, weary characters saying things that should never have to be said. Linda divulges this secret about her son: "The love we had was true ... but I raised a murderer."

On the Count of Three (*1/2)

Waldo Salt Screenwriting
Award: U.S. Dramatic

Val (Jerrod Carmichael) and his old buddy Kevin (Christopher Abbott) are eager to end their miserable twentysomething lives. There they are guns drawn in each other's faces. Cocked, locked and ready. Standing behind a strip club at 10:30am. Kev, recently broken out from a mental institution by Val, has had death-fulfillment tendencies dating back years, largely due to trauma: "I've been doing doctors since I

was in foster care." This film, which feigns manic satire but doesn't achieve it, stumbles out of the gate and never recovers. For some reason Carmichael, a comic actor, has decided to mark his directing debut with a misguided script by Ari Katcher and Ryan Welch. This story never shows real compassion for people who contemplate taking their lives, if that was its mission. And since suicide is not a joke, that makes this project's purpose questionable. What's on view lacks a well thought-out progression, insightful performances, astute directing, memorable cinematography or precise editing. Carmichael was a sardonic, smooth-talking and hilarious prick on TV's The Carmichael Show. That was his wheelhouse. Not this.

Rita Moreno: Just A Girl Who Decided To Go For It (**1/2)

Viva Rita! She's an EGOT who deserves every award she's won. With this endearing bio portrait by director Mariem Pérez Riera audiences discover

the person behind the big smile. After Rita Hayworth and before Jennifer Lopez, Moreno was the Latina it girl. The doc traces her humble roots back to Humacao, Puerto Rico, on to migrating to New York City and then Hollywood. Moreno leaves behind her a trail of artistic successes (West Side Story), tormenting lovers (Marlon Brando), lecherous studio execs (Louise B. Mayer) and civil rights demonstrations (March on Washington). Her cred as an activist, humorist and trailblazer is verified by admirers and colleagues: Gloria Estefan, Morgan Freeman, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Mitzi Gaynor. Riera's approach to this memoir is pretty traditional, never innovative. Cinematographer Pedro Juan López points the camera, editors Kevin Klauber and Riera piece together interviews, movie clips and award acceptance speeches. Rita Moreno's glow, as she reveals secrets, speaks her truths and revels in her glory, elevates this very standard bio/doc.

Together Together (***)

Surrogacy can be a minefield. So much so that le-

gal contracts are drawn up to guarantee both parties fulfill their obligations. That's the case in this thoroughly beguiling and intimate story about an older app designer named Matt (Ed Helms, The Hangover and The Office) who hires Anna (Patti Harrison, TV's Search Party), an aimless 26-year-old coffee shop clerk, to be his gestational surrogate. Nikole Beckwith writes and directs this very modern tale, which has an insipid start but becomes increasingly compelling and loving right up until its cathartic ending. Don't try to stay on the sidelines. The story, characters and their journeys will pull you in. The controlling wannabe father gets less off-putting. The nonchalant for-hire mom becomes more forceful and endearing. Their platonic but deep relationship is completely disarming. Helms mines the charm in his character. Harrison, a dead ringer for a tall Salma Hayek, is sweet. Adult viewers should expect to be under the spell of this fetching dramedy for 80 of its 90 minutes.

Wild Indian (***)

So few films chronicle the Native American experience that potential audiences may wish those that are produced are positive and uplifting. In his feature film debut, writer/director Lyle Mitchell Corbine Jr. doesn't let those expectations confine his storytelling. Instead, his cautionary tale about child abuse and its aftermath resonates in a different way.

As a kid Makwa (Phoenix Wilson) was beaten by his dad and found refuge hanging with his cousin Ted-O (Julian Gopal). Then one day, Makwa did the unthinkable, homicide. Their paths diverged after that. As an adult, Makwa (Michael Greyeyes) changes his name to Michael, has moved to a big city and is a successful exec with a wife and kid. No one knows his history, until adult Ted-O (Chaske Spencer), freshly out of prison, tatted up and trying to make amends, locates and confronts him. Michael: "How did you find me?" Ted-O: "Not that hard. I asked around for the fakest f--king Indian I've ever seen."

Corbine Jr.'s heavy tale

warns that cruelty just breeds cruelty and victims. Michael is a ruthless sociopath with a blonde trophy wife (Kate Bosworth). Ted-O is self-destructive collateral damage. If viewers believe in karma, Wild Indian is a real tough sell. Hence the shortcomings of Corbine's script.—it's bleak. On the other hand, his direction is as solid as the cinematography (Eli Born), editing (Ed Yonaitis) and costumes (Matthew Hixenbaugh and Nikki Pelley). Greyeyes interpretation of Michael is eerie. Spencer adds a lot of depth to Ted-O's grief. A shockingly intense, disturbing character study from a promising and talented filmmaker.

For more information about the Sundance Film Festival go to: <https://www.sundance.org/festivals/sundance-film-festival/about>

For a complete list of SFF award-winners go to: <https://www.sundance.org/blogs/news/2021-sundance-film-festival-awards-announced>.

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

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke keynotes the first-ever TechConference 2021, sponsored by Hyundai

Silicon Valley and Silicon Alley come together in an online virtual conference to deliver solutions and the latest trends in digital technology to African American business owners

Zenger News, the world's first digital native news wire, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) which celebrates the evolution of the Black Press in America, announced recently that Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09) will keynote the first-ever

TechConference 2021, sponsored by Hyundai.

"Tech companies that 'crack the code' on ultimately having true, inclusive decision making will win in the end," Clarke told Axios in January. Clarke was recently appointed as Chair of the very powerful Homeland

Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation Subcommittee. She will speak to virtual conference attendees on how the Congress is looking to create more opportunities for Black and Brown businesses across America.

"We are thrilled to wel-

come Congresswoman Clarke as our keynote speaker, she has been such a leader for the Black community and a titan in the technology space and we are eager to learn from her wisdom and experience," said Andre Johnson, Vice President of Distribution for Zenger

news.

"African American business owners need to know more about the digital technologies that are driving America's business, and about the technologies that will be key as we evolve through this pandemic," said Dr. Benjamin Chavis, CEO

of the NNPA.

TECHCONFERENCE 2021 is presented in association with Digital Hollywood (DH). The DH conference platform will allow registered attendees to video chat in real-time with other guests while the conference is going on.

S&T awards minority serving institutions \$446K for research projects

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) announced today that nine faculty members from S&T's Office of University Programs' (OUP) Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) program have been selected to receive a total of \$446,200 in fund-

ing to continue their Summer Research Team (SRT) program for research projects at several DHS S&T Centers of Excellence (COE).

The SRT Program, administered by S&T's OUP, engages early-career faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students in a 10-week research experience.

The program provides opportunities for participants to better understand DHS' mission and research needs, thus fostering critical advancements in DHS' core research areas.

These teams collaborate and conduct their studies at the COEs, which are led by partner universities and

colleges. The COEs are designed around vital homeland security-related topics such as: risk and economic analysis, food and agriculture security, preparedness, the study of terrorism, and information analysis and

visualization.

This program aims to integrate the unique intellectual capital of the nation's MSI community with DHS' scientific leadership in order to enhance and inspire the next generation of

homeland security thought leaders, helping to build a cadre of university students and faculty who are well-qualified, diverse and ready to enter the homeland security science and engineering workforce.

HOLIDAY, from Page 10

heavy-handed style almost stifles any hope of realism. Holiday's life is complicated enough. Overwrought imagery is unnecessary. Less fluff and more attention to authenticity would have taken this production to a higher level. To the high summit where Day's flawless performance dwells.

Vivid, dramatic sequences, like Holiday handcuffed to a hospital bed by the Feds, feel genuine. Moments of spectacle, infigting or posing for photographers feel a bit shallow and TVish. The vacillating between gripping historical bio/drama and syrupy melodrama is something viewers will have to weather. That inconsistency in tone is a small price to pay for watching Daniels pull captivating performances from the entire cast. He gives them room to work their magic, and they don't disappoint.

Supporting actors bring context to Holiday's troubled life: Rob Morgan is super sleazy as her lover turned husband Louis McKay. Ditto Tone Bell as

the abusive nightclub owner John Levy. Natasha Lyonne as Holiday's girlfriend Talulah Bankhead brings an edge to the role. Furlly Mac (Empire) gleams in a pivotal scene that underlines the evils and irony of Jim Crow laws. He's a hotel elevator operator who won't let Holiday ride with him. "No Negroes allowed on this elevator, except me," says the liftman.

Also impressive is Adriane Lenox (21 Bridges) as Mrs. Fletcher, who schools her duplicitous son on the legacy of Holiday, the woman he entraps: "She's singing it for all of us. Ain't no other Negro bold enough to do it!" Hedlund as her Fed nemesis, Lawrence and Randolph as her sidekicks and Rhodes as her love/hate boyfriend all perfectly surround the leading actress in distinct ways. Like planets revolving around the sun.

Day sensitively, meticulously embodies Billie Holiday's spirit. Her raspy, smokey speaking voice aches. She sings like a bird with a broken wing. Her mannerisms and attitude re-

flect a woman who is equal parts streetwise, heroic and aggrieved. She's all facets of Billie. Glamorous. Pansexual. Bossy. Defiant. Playful. Unrepentant.

Day's process for the role is very reminiscent of Halle Berry's approach to her Oscar-winning performance in *Monster's Ball*: Infuse yourself into the character with complete abandonment. If substance abuse, nudity and sex scenes are part of the deal, do it. And, Day's style of acting is similar to that of Naomie Harris and Jessica Lange: Build the character from the inside out, emotionally and invisibly.

Lee Daniels gave a gifted singer a golden opportunity to shine as an actor, and Andra Day was up to the challenge. She leaves nothing to the imagination. Every ounce of her interpretation of Billie Holiday is left on the screen. It's a performance that will touch adult audiences in the deepest ways.

Premieres on Hulu Thursday, February 26, 2021.

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

DEDICATED ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING PROGRAM

EDUCATION, CONNECTION, RESOURCES, FINANCIAL LITERACY

This program is designed to help strengthen the knowledge of Entrepreneurs in the areas of business resources, financial education, business literacy and growth strategies within the underrepresented sectors of Southern Dallas.

Program Includes:

- Completed lean canvas business model
- Dedicated financial coach
- Program mentoring and advising
- Access to convertible grant funds
- Certificate of program completion
- Cohorts meet once weekly for 8 weeks

Applications Open February 1, 2021

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.nteetc.com/apply>
or call
817-618-0229





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/2NcFvVP>.



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.

Honoring Black History Month, 2021

**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 28, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. This Sunday we will have our Black History Program. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

March 03, 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. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster, Chapter 7.

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

**FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTIAN**

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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 28

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.

March 03, 7 pm

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org
www.visitF3c.org

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

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

- Malachi 3:8-10

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

February 26, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm,

(IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.) Christ.

March 01, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

See CHURCH, Page 14



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

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

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415



**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.

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

What's Pete Got to Do with Anything?

Dr. James L. Snyder

If there's anybody that can be conned, it's Yours Truly. It's not so much that I'm stupid; I'm just naïve. I believe when somebody says something, they mean exactly what they say.

So, if you can't swindle me, you might as well hang it up and get a real job. I must confess I often know a certain person is trying to take advantage of me. But, that's another story.

One problem I see is that people are always blaming someone else for their problems. I must confess I do that on occasion, probably more so than I will acknowledge.

To blame someone else for my problem gets me off the hook, or so I think.

I gladly will take credit, but I'm slow in accepting blame. I'm trying to change that a little bit, but it's a

slow progress.

The other day the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were going downtown to do some shopping. I don't always go with her when she's shopping, but sometimes it's necessary.

During these times, I always allow her to drive her vehicle. She has a wonderful red van, and enjoys driving it. I encourage her to drive it, and not because I don't like to drive, or because she's a better driver than me.

If the truth were known, and I keep this a little under the table, I allow her to drive because I am not using the gas in my vehicle when she is driving. I'm not cheap, but I am rather stingy when it comes to money.

She is an excellent driver, and why shouldn't she be? I'm the one who taught her how to drive. Enough

said on that subject.

As we were driving down the main street, several cars swayed in and out of the traffic, and my wife almost hit one.

In complete frustration, she said, "For Pete's sake, what's wrong with people these days?"

Because she was in the driver's seat, I needed to go along with her and keep my mouth closed. There are many times when I need to open my mouth, but I have yet to discover which times. While she's driving, this is one of the times when I keep my mouth closed and my thoughts to myself.

She reiterated this phrase several times to the store and back home again.

I helped take the store items into the house while I kept my mouth closed.

We had supper, and then graduated into the living room to have our coffee and watch a little bit of TV

news. I like to try to keep up with what's going on in the world.

Several stories were just outrageous, and people were doing such crazy things.

It wasn't long before my wife said, "For Pete's sake, what's wrong with people today?"

Okay, I think I've had enough of that, and I wanted to get to the bottom of it without sinking my ship.

"Who," I said as calmly as possible, "is Pete, and what does he had to do with anything?"

She looked at me, gave me one of her stares, and then went back to watching the news.

It wasn't long before another story came across the screen, and she said, "For Pete's sake, doesn't anybody know any different?"

I tried controlling myself. Honestly, I tried. But at this point, it had crossed

over the line, and I said to her, "Who is Pete? And do I know him?"

I tried my best to control any giggle. I looked at her, and she looked back at me with another one of her stares.

"Well, who do you think he is?"

At that point, I was tempted to answer, "Is Pete any relation to Jake?" I knew that I would be in more trouble than I could handle at the time. I sense she was getting a little frustrated, but most of her frustration was in my direction.

To look at me and said, "What are you laughing at?"

I couldn't contain myself at that point. I replied, "I just was thinking of a joke." No sense in showing my hand at this point.

For several days she never used that phrase, at least in my hearing. And I was waiting for it.

I can only hold myself for so long. One night there was a loud noise like gunshots outside, and we couldn't comprehend what it was.

Looking at my wife, I said, "Call Pete and ask him what's going on."

She gave me one of her looks and finally said, "Why don't you call Jake and ask him?"

Finally, we laughed together most heartily. I love it when a joke comes together.

I thought about this for a couple of days. How often we blame people for things I don't even make sense? We really don't want to take personal responsibility for a lot of things.

Thinking about this, I remembered a biblical passage. "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she

See PETE, Page 15

SOLDIERS, from Page 5

regional and national economies.

To this end, the VVEC is setting the standard for best practices engaging entrepreneur women associated with the military, committed to creating impactful programs that drive access to capital and business growth. The VVEC is the leading way in innovative programming

launching the first DFW specific women veteran entrepreneur grant program the "Next Level Business Transformation (NLBT) Cohort." Their NLBT offered as COVID 19 Summer Masterclass Series helped fellows recover, stabilize, and transform their businesses to the next level, so they would not only survive COVID 19, but truly

design a plan to thrive during and beyond the pandemic.

In 2021, the VVEC will offer NLBT Spring & Summer Cohorts with grants available based on funding. They will also launch their "Business & Growth Access to Capital" (BGAC) Loan program funded with a \$20k grant from the American First National Bank and a \$80k match from PeopleFund.

The program will require participation in a Financial First Full Day Boot Camp designed in collaboration with SMU's Hunt Institute and mentoring support

through the life of the loan.

The Veteran Women's Enterprise Center Headquarters are located at 4900 S. Lancaster Road, Dallas, TX 75216. For more infor-

mation on how to volunteer, partner and/or sponsor the VVEC visit, www.veteranwomenssec.org; email info@veteranwomenssec.org or call 214-489-7948.

CHURCH, from Page 13

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 28, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**March 01, 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).

March 03, 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

Twilight signaled a new day for Black education



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Alexander Lucius Twilight (September 23, 1795 – June 19, 1857) was an American educator, minister, politician and husband.

He is the first Black man known to have earned a bachelor's degree from an American college or university, graduating from Middlebury College in 1823.

This did not become widely known until 1826, when Amherst College awarded a bachelor's degree to Edward Jones and claimed that he was the first Black college graduate, which prompted Middlebury College to publicize Twilight's earlier graduation.

He was ordained as a Congregational Minister and worked in education and ministry all of his career.

reer.

In 1829 Twilight became principal of the Orleans County Grammar School. There he designed and built Athenian Hall, the first granite public building in the state of Vermont.

In 1836 he was the first Black person elected as a state legislator, serving in the Vermont House of Representatives; he was also the only Black person ever elected to a state legislature before the Civil War.

Twilight was the son of Ichabod and Mary Twilight, and was born in Corinth, Vermont. His father, Ichabod, was biracial, listed in the 1800 census in the racially ambiguous and complicated category: Others free except Indians.

Alexander Twilight entered Middlebury in 1821 and graduated in 1823. He became a teacher, first in Peru, New York (1824-1828), then Vergennes, Vermont (1828-1829).

He was ordained a Congregational clergyman in



Professor Alexander Twilight

1829, but chose to pursue a career in education. Twilight was appointed Principal of the Orleans County Grammar School in Brownington, Vermont and reportedly built the school building eventually known as the Brownington Academy with his own hands.

He taught in Brownington from 1829-1847. During that period, he served as a representative to the State Legislature in 1836.

Twilight briefly relocated to Canada, teaching in Ship-

ton (1848-1850) and Hatley (1850-1852), before returning to Brownington, where he again taught from 1852-1855.

Twilight has been noted as the first person of color to graduate from an American college, based, in part, on his father's racial identity. Recent scholarship has complicated the history of Twilight's Black identity, without diminishing his achievements as a student and alumni of the College.

Starting around 1802

when he was eight years old, Twilight worked for a neighboring farmer in Corinth. Working from an early age was typical of working-class children of his era.

For the next 12 years he read, studied, and learned mathematics while working in various farm labor positions.

Twilight enrolled in Randolph's Orange County Grammar School in 1815 at the age of 20. From 1815 to 1821, he completed all the institution's secondary school courses as well as the first two years of a college-level curriculum.

In October, 1855 Twilight suffered a stroke which left him partially paralyzed and caused him to retire as principal of the Brownington School. He died on June 19, 1857, and was buried at the Congregational church in Brownington.

On April 20, 1826, Twilight married Mercy Ladd Merrill of Unity, New Hampshire. They remained married until his death, and had no children.

His house and Athenian Hall are included in the Brownington Village Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

HILDRETH, from Page 2

pandemic receive the care they need and deserve."

The President further noted that defeating the pandemic would take Congress providing the necessary funding, and families and neighbors continuing to look out for one another.

He said the country would need health care providers, businesses, civic, religious and civil rights organizations, and unions all rallying together in common purpose and with urgency, purpose, and resolve.

"We will need to reassert America's leadership in the

world in the fight against this and future public health threats," President Biden asserted.

Dr. Hildreth noted that the virus has had the largest impact on communities of color, among Black and brown Americans with underlying health conditions.

"Without our immediate attention and a national, organized effort to fight this virus, we will be dealing with its impact for years to come," Dr. Hildreth remarked.

"As the President of a historically Black medical school that was founded

to eradicate health disparities between majority and minority communities, this work is a focus for me and my institution. I am committed to working with our national leadership to develop cohesive plans that will address these silent killers – illnesses like COVID-19 that impact our most vulnerable populations at alarming rates," Dr. Hildreth stated further.

"We must address the pandemic together. I am confident that President Biden's heightened focus on the pandemic will accelerate testing, treatment and vaccinations nationwide – proven strategies that will

work to mitigate the virus and protect our people.

"I look forward to working with my esteemed colleagues on the Task Force to restore health, wellbeing and stability to all of America."

PETE, from Page 14

gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:12-13).

Blaming others is not a new phenomenon. But, it only gets us into trouble and what started the mess we're in today. Accept the blame and get on with life.

Dr. James L. Snyder is

pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

IRS Problems?
Call Kedra
469.449.9833
Kedra A. Flowers CPA PC
www.IRSsafe.com

Inspiring Body of Christ IBOC
Pastor Rickie G. Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.672.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCHURCH.org
Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

Dream Catcher's Realty
Frieda Porter
Realtor
"If the American Dream is your goal, then I'm your Dream Catcher"
friedabuysnsellshomes@gmail.com
214-208-1243
Ask Me About Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance

WELLS
FARGO

Gigi Dixon on Creating Empowerful Communities.

Black history and heritage start with the Black family, which has always stood for pride, strength and resilience. In the wake of Covid-19, premier civil rights organizations are stepping up to help families facing significant challenges like home and job security. For Wells Fargo leaders like myself, supporting these organizations isn't just about making a corporate donation, it's a personal commitment.

As Wells Fargo's head of External Engagement, I help ensure that people in our communities have equal access to resources and opportunities. As the Vice Chair of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Foundation, I help support the empowering spirit of everyday people working to make a difference, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

To help meet urgent needs in our community, the NAACP developed the "Covid-19 Response: Empowering Community" Program with help from a \$1.35M grant from Wells Fargo. This grant helps to ensure the NAACP has the critical support they need to:

- Nurture and support local residents, representing diverse interests, to become effective leaders able to promote equity and wellbeing in their communities.
- Support the #WeAreDoneDying campaign focused on how communities of color are faring in health, education, economic

opportunity, and criminal justice during the pandemic.

- Humanize Covid-19-related issues through stories from the community, amplifying the voices of local residents.

With so many families struggling right now, we also worked with the National Urban League to help people stay in their homes or secure housing.

As Covid-19 began taking its toll on communities of color, the National Urban League quickly responded with foreclosure and rental counseling with the support of Wells Fargo funding. As a result, between April 1 – October 31, 2020, National Urban League housing counselors helped:

- Stabilize housing for 3,178 renters.
- Assist 764 homeowners to stay in their homes.
- Increase the number of homeless or potentially homeless people obtaining temporary or permanent housing by 80%.

Understanding that Black-owned businesses are the cornerstones of the community, the Urban League's Entrepreneurship Center Program focuses on increasing equity, growth and stability for entrepreneurs. Results through mid-December 2020 show that 12 of their Entrepreneurship Centers (ECs):

- Served approximately 20,300

participants through counseling and training activities.

- Secured \$102.7 million in financing and contracting opportunities.
- Saved or created over 47,600 full and part-time jobs.

Creating more financial equity and opportunity for Black families is why I'm committed to serving organizations like the NAACP and the National Urban League and I'm proud of Wells Fargo's dedication to this shared goal. We encourage you to join us by donating time and/or money to organizations like these to ensure our community remains resilient, innovative and empowering for generations.

Join us in making a difference at wellsfargo.com/empowerful



Meet Gigi Dixon:

Georgette "Gigi" Dixon is a 27-year financial industry veteran and head of External Engagement for Diverse Segments, Representation and Inclusion. Her team helps to ensure that people across Wells Fargo's workforce and communities feel valued and respected and have equal opportunities to succeed.

Gigi, who's also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, resides in Charlotte, NC with her family.

