



North Dallas

Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com



Supporting
'The Least of
These'

- See Page 3



Biden opens up
vaccines to all
adults May 1

- See Page 4



Dems call out
GOP voter
suppression

- See Page 5



UT song
tradition
under fire

- See Page 6



New film doc
details AKA
history

- See Page 7



Film Fest
highlights
Black talent

- See Page 9



BATC presents
pulitzer
playwright

- See Page 11



Sister Tarpley:
Be patient for
God's plan

- See Page 15

See Page 2

People In The News ...

Garland candidates, NAACP look to the future in panel discussion

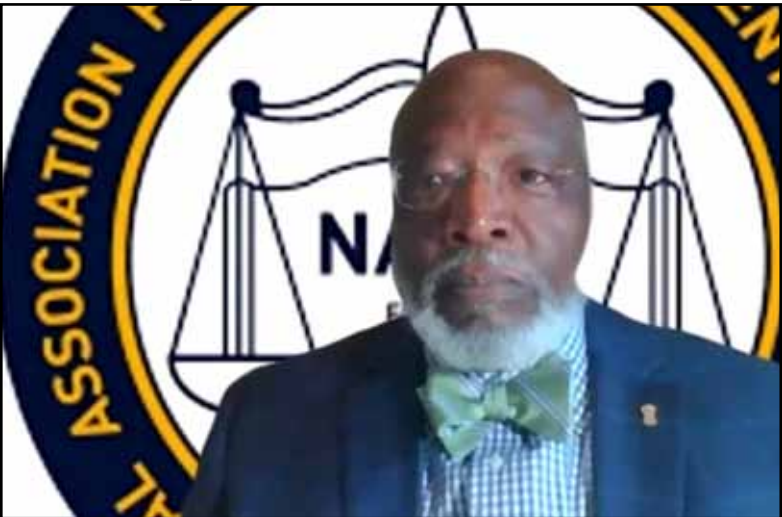
By Breanne Holley
NDG Contributing Writer

How do we see potential growth in our communities of North Dallas? What should our focus be and most importantly where do we wish to see ourselves in the future?

Some of these were questions that were addressed in a March 25th candidate panel with the NAACP for City of Garland Mayor, City of Garland City council Member, and Garland ISD Trustee.

Many of these questions pertained to the effects that Covid-19 has had on the community as well as how best to address the issues that face black students in the school system. If there is one thing that we can all benefit from in North Dallas as well as the rest of the country right now it is reform in how we treat our BIPOC and how we help them in their "pursuit of happiness."

One question that was posed to the uncontested candidates in the panel was the criteria that would be used in the economic development of the city of Garland? Would it be the voices of the residents or simply the funds of the city of Garland? John Grimley believes that, in order for the city to grow effectively, 95% of that should be based on what the people have to say. This does make sense as your community is your people.



Dale Long moderates a virtual panel discussion with Garland candidates seeking office. The event was hosted by the Garland NAACP. (Zoom screenshot)

Jeff Base felt like it should be a balance between what districts need the funds as well as the people's voices.

Evan, a bright young eighth grade student posed another question to the candidates, and it was "what reasons do you believe non-residents will come to Garland to spend their money." Of course, tourism and outside money can definitely help any city grow.

Angie Whitney says that the mom and pop businesses, Firewheel mall, and the golf park and some good places for nonresidents to visit and enjoy Garland. As a matter of fact she had been coming to Garland since before she moved there permanently.

John Grimely had a different approach to the question and suggested that, "yes we do have Firewheel mall but also that it can be outshined by less savory shopping centers that could definitely use a bit of cleaning up. Work with what we have and shoot for better."

Jeff Bass says "Downtown has a lot of variety and he would like to use the Bond program to help it develop even better."

He said Firewheel town Centre is managed by Simon properties but "poorly" and he would like to get it out of his hands.

The candidates all have good ideas and different visions and tr-

See GARLAND, Page 11

Inside...

People in the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Advertising	7
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	12
Career / Notices	13
Church Directory	13-15
NDG Book Review	16

See Page 2



IS1 Philip Burrow



Jarren Small



Monika Watkins

NDG Quote of the Week: "And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am."

- Michelle Obama

IS1 Philip Burrow

By Glenn Sircy
Center for Information
Warfare Training

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (IS1) Philip Burrow was named the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) 2020 Sailor of the Year, March 19.

"I'm honored to announce that IS1 (IW/EXW/SW/AW) Philip A. Burrow was selected as CIWT Headquarters Sailor of the Year for 2020," wrote Capt. Marc Ratkus. "Selecting only one to represent the headquarters is an extreme-



ly challenging process, as each nominee clearly exceeded every expectation in personal and professional execution of assigned duties in support of our vital mission. IS1 Burrow will now move on to compete at

the Domain level in the upcoming weeks. Well Done Shipmate!"

An Arlington, Texas native, Burrow has served in the Navy for nearly 13 years and stationed at CIWT onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station for close to two years.

Other assignments include two tours at Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center, USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), U.S. 3rd Fleet and Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School.

As a CIWT intelligence specialist rating training manager, he is respon-

sible for the oversight of 23 enlisted and four officer course supervisors in the analysis, revision, and development of 27 information warfare courses, training over 4,000 Sailors during this period.

He was also selected by CIWT's N72 training leadership to manage the project to update the Intelligence Specialist (IS) Rate Training Manual (RTM)—an update that was the most significant effort given to the IS RTM in over 10 years.

Additionally, he serves as the CIWT assistant domain master training specialist coordinator, CIWT MTS

coordinator, assistant command fitness leader, sexual assault prevention and response victim advocate.

"Our CIWT Sailors truly are the best of the best, and Petty Officer Burrow is a superb example of the outstanding Sailors serving in today's Navy," said CIWT's Command Master Chief Francisco Vargas. "His dedicated efforts are indicative of today's Navy team of world-class enlisted leaders molding fleet-ready Sailors for the Navy the nation needs."

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's most relied upon assets, Burrow and other CIWT Sailors

and staff serve as a key part of the information warfare community in its mission to gain a deep understanding of the inner workings of adversaries and developing unmatched knowledge of the battlespace during peace and wartime.

"Our job as training managers provide impactful and relevant curriculum to new accession, fleet returnee and cross-rating Sailors across our "A", "C", "F" and "T" schools," said Burrow. "Currently, we are preparing to develop new curriculum for the Senior Enlisted Maritime Intelli-

See BURROW, Page 12

Jarren Small

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Jarren Small, the Houston-based visionary, philanthropist, and entrepreneur, is proving that legends do live.

The Prairie View A & M University graduate named his nonprofit, "Legends Do Live," which focuses on equipping and funding disadvantaged youth and communities through workshop programs and community engagement.

Small and his co-founder Douglas Johnson already



have quite the track record, particularly with a popular program called "Reading With A Rapper (RWAR)," that has caught the attention of companies like Microsoft, and hip-hop icons like

Meek Mill.

Now Small and Johnson are partnering with the iconic Beats By Dre, allowing the men an opportunity to provide quality resources for a new RWAR Digital program set to rollout this Fall.

"We are looking at doing a free beta phase of the program this summer in up to seven cities," Small, who has formed relationships with mayors, members of Congress, school districts, and others, stated.

Initial rollout plans include multiple cities.

Reading With A Rapper was created to relate Eng-

lish Language Arts (ELA) with socially conscious lyrics, video content, and technology.

Small noted that through the platform, "we can relate and uplift our youth socially and academically to skills necessary to thrive in secondary and collegiate level courses."

"We break down the lyrics to show the figurative language center structure in grammar and all through that song and you're going through and you're listening to it while you watch it and then the rapper comes in to talk about why it's important to read," Small explained.

"They get to understand why certain language is used and further the conversation. The program took off when we did 30,000 students between New Orleans, Atlanta, and Houston, and we closed a deal and have had some success working with Roc Nation and Thurgood Marshall Scholars from the My Brother's Keeper Program."

Small said one of the biggest pop-up events occurred when rapper Meek Mill agreed to participate.

"He was in town talking to boys who were on probation, and he came in and gave them Puma Reform

Shoes," Small recalled. "When I told him about it, he agreed to stay an extra day and he gave all the kids shoes and everyone was so excited."

Teachers and educators everywhere have expressed excitement about the Reading With A Rapper program, Small said.

Creating lifelong readers will ensure and promote academic success through adulthood, according to Small and Douglas. The men point to statistics that reveal students in secondary education struggle to understand the basics of literature,

See SMALL Page 4

Monika Watkins

Local Dallas filmmaker, Monika Watkins, is featured in Panavision's Voice X Vision social series. The video went live Friday, March 26, 2021 and showcases her upcoming animated film, "Dabney: From Selma to New York." The animated film is a true coming-of-age story about civil rights activist and Tuskegee Airman, Dabney Montgomery.

Panavision, the world-



class provider of end-to-end solutions that power the creative vision of film-

makers, is partnering with Denton Black Film Festival Institute (DBFFI) on the Voice X Vision social series. The series is building on the commitment that Panavision has made to uplift and support the Black community.

DBFFI Institute exists to address under-representation in film and media by giving Black stories an audience and Black creatives a platform. Sharing culture and building community are its goals.

"Over the course of 2021, our focus will be on content dedicated to educating and inspiring current and aspiring content-creators," the DBFFI notes on its website. "We will begin by implementing two initiatives: a franchise of social videos highlighting Black stories and a series of virtual/in-person workshops for Black filmmakers."

The Denton Black Film Festival is the brainchild of Harry Eaddy, festival director, and is presented by the

Denton African American Scholarship Foundation. In 2014, Harry Eaddy approached two staples of the Denton community — Cheylon Brown and Meshia George — with a unique idea to bring an event focused on Black cinema to the region. Together, the trio began dreaming up an event that would evolve into the festival thousands enjoy today. Not long after Eaddy and his fellow founding organizers began collaborating, the Denton

African American Scholarship Foundation came onboard as the festival's founding sponsor.

Filmmaker, Monika Watkins, has produced award-winning documentaries focusing on Black history that have screened in film festivals across the country. She earned a B.A. in TV & Film from UNT and is currently a film instructor at Media Tech Institute and on the Board of Women in Film Dallas. www.monikawatkins.com.



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

Contributing Writers

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

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.

Prophetic Politics and Black America: 'What will you do unto the least of these?'

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
NNPA President and CEO

If it were not for the Black Church in America, our long struggle for freedom, justice, equality, equity, and empowerment would not have made the progress that has been accomplished over the past 500 to 400 years. I speak in the tradition of my Presbyterian great-great grandfather, The Reverend John Chavis (1763-1838) in North Carolina and The Reverend Nat Turner (1800-1831) in Virginia.

Depending on when you define the beginning of the international Transatlantic Slave Trade will give you a deeper insight on why the religious, political, and historical perspectives of people of African descent still matter in the United States and across the African Diaspora in 2021.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his theological genius, courage, and prophetic utterances, challenged all of us when he clearly stated, "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Black church leaders uphold the tradition of speaking truth to power.

It is, therefore, a reaffirmation of my faith in the oneness of God and the oneness of humanity that I must join to publicly support my African American clergy leaders in Washington, DC and across the nation who dare to remind even some of our own local African American elected officials that we all should stand for helping those among us who are less fortunate, poor, homeless, malnourished, imprisoned, returning-from-prison, and destitute.

To that end, a group of distinguished African American clergy leaders and other community lead-

ers on March 9, 2021 sent an urgent letter of concern to The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, DC Ward 7 City Councilmember and former Mayor of Washington, DC. I consider Vincent Gray a friend that I have admired over the past years.

The ministers expressed their strong objection to an effort that Councilmember Gray is leading to terminate the contract of the service provider currently running the short-term housing program at The Horizon in Ward 7.

As the letter points out,

While we live in the richest nation in the world, we cannot afford to lose sight of our mutual civic and moral responsibilities to be our "brothers' and sisters' keepers."

that program has been delivering an essential service to families in desperation and facing homelessness. And the social service provider that the city entrusted to provide this essential service, CORE DC, has been lauded by city officials as a dedicated and ideal partner.

It is therefore troubling that anyone would want to end this, particularly since the program is a bedrock of stability for those most in need, as well as a transformative centerpiece of Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's effective fight against poverty in the nation's capital city.

The ministers argue that Councilmember Gray's effort has nothing to do with the exemplary services CORE DC continues to provide. Instead, the ministers say this is all driven by Councilmember Gray's opposition to a completely

unrelated project involving the federal government's plan to contract CORE DC to provide critically needed reentry services for men returning home from periods of incarceration in federal prison.

We hope that is not, in fact, what's unfolding, particularly at a time when a pandemic has exacerbated the desperation of individuals who are on the economic margins of society, but the ministers are nevertheless adamant in their plea.

"The effort to dismantle this program is troubling

officials should never rise to the occasion to permit a turning of backs on the poor and the homeless. In other words, those who are privileged to make decisions that will impact the quality of life of others should always be concerned about the least of those among us.

All of the major metropolitan areas in the United States are facing the challenges of homelessness and poverty. While we live in the richest nation in the world, we cannot afford to lose sight of our mutual civic and moral responsibilities to be our "brothers' and sisters' keepers."

The following biblical scripture reference should apply to all urban public policymakers: "What you do unto the least of these, you do also unto me." That is why I use the term "prophetic politics" as the act of political decision-making as a reaffirmation and practice of one's faith and commitment to serve all of humankind fairly and justly.

The Black Press of America grew out of the Black Church 194 years ago with the publication of Freedom's Journal in New York City in 1827 by John Russwurm and The Reverend Samuel Cornish. We knew back then as we know today that we must continue "to plead our own cause" to demand freedom and equality. This also means that we are obligated to plead with each other to treat one another fairly and equitably as well.

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

enough on its own," the ministers write. "But it is even worse in light of the fact that you have openly – and at times inexplicably – taken a hostile stance against CORE DC regarding the organization's plans to open another facility in Ward 7, a residential reentry center for returning citizens."

I am hopeful and prayerful that Councilmember Gray will respond affirmatively and will heed the requests of church and community leaders to support CORE DC and The Horizon residential facilities in Ward 7 to continue to offer critically needed services to DC's homeless and those returning citizens from prisons and jails.

There will always be political differences among elected officials. Yet, differences of opinion about public policies among elected

"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.

Biden to direct states, tribes and territories to open vaccinations to all adults by May 1

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Just hours after signing into law his massive \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, President Joe Biden addressed the nation and announced the implementation of his next phase of a national strategy to put the pandemic in the country's rear-view mirror.

The President declared that he would direct states, tribes, and territories to make all adults eligible for the coronavirus vaccine by May 1.

In his first prime-time address since taking over the Oval Office, President Biden proclaimed a goal of getting the nation closer to normal by the July 4 holiday.

"If we do our part, if we do this together, by July 4, there's a good chance you, your families, and friends will be able to get together



The Administration promises to more than double the number of federally run mass vaccination centers, run by FEMA, the U.S. military, and other federal agencies in partnership with states, to ensure that we reach the hardest-hit communities in this historic effort.
(PHOTO: whitehouse.gov)

in your backyard or in your neighborhood and have a cookout and a barbecue and celebrate Independence Day," he noted as he stared firmly into the television camera.

Speaking from the East Room of the White House, President Biden said returning to normal requires everyone to continue wearing face coverings, social distancing, and getting vac-

inated.

More than 529,000 Americans have died since the pandemic began, and nearly 30 million have contracted the virus.

"We all lost something," the President declared.

"A collective suffering, a collective sacrifice, a year filled with the loss of life. In the loss, we saw how much there was to gain. An appreciation, respect and

gratitude," he uttered.

In his first hours in office, President Biden launched a comprehensive strategy to defeat the pandemic. He noted that in the seven weeks since the Administration has delivered more than 81 million vaccinations and more people can visit their loved ones again.

"There is more work to do," the President reminded viewers.

He promised that the White House COVID-19 Response Team has concluded that the accelerated vaccination efforts will enable prioritized vaccinations that will prove far enough along by the end of April that officials could lift all eligibility restrictions at that time.

The President offered a ramped-up effort to create more places for people to get vaccinated, enabling officials to reach those hardest hit and most challenging to reach.

Over the next six weeks, the Administration will deliver vaccines directly to up to an additional 700 community health centers that reach underserved communities, increasing the total number of participating community health centers across the country to 950, White House officials said.

The Administration also will double the number of pharmacies participating in the federal pharmacy program, making the vaccine available at more than 20,000 pharmacies in locations convenient to all Americans.

Pharmacies are also directed to expand mobile operations into the hardest-hit communities to reach more people.

The Administration promises to more than double the number of federally run mass vaccination centers, run by FEMA, the U.S. military, and other federal agencies in partner-

ship with states, to ensure that we reach the hardest-hit communities in this historic effort.

"Finding light in the darkness is a very American thing to do," President Biden said.

He also used the national platform to denounce racism and hate crimes against Asian Americans, whom the previous Administration targeted as the cause of the pandemic.

"There have been vicious hate crimes against Asian Americans who've been attacked, harassed, blamed, and scapegoated," President Biden remarked.

"At this very moment, so many of them, our fellow Americans, are on the front lines of this pandemic trying to save lives and still are forced to live in fear for their lives just walking down streets in America. 'It's wrong, it's un-American, and it must stop.'"

SMALL, from Page 2

which increases their disinterest in that important skill.

Further, more than 8,000 students quit high school every day, drastically limiting their potential and ability as strong members of the workforce.

"If a community is disadvantaged and we help to improve its educational system, more families and businesses will move there," Small said.

Reading With A Rapper is an 8-week program designed to involve students in an interactive learning experience with relatable innovative tools and metrics, Small wrote on his website.

Using the local school district's digital platform, students receive digital assignments from RWAR that correlates with common core English Language Arts and Reading standards.

This, Small offered, en-

gages students using relatable elements.

The lessons assist students in making real-world connections, literary comprehension skills, and writing development.

Each assignment partners with a lesson taught by the assigned district instructor digitally. The scripted RWAR lesson plans are provided to assist the teacher with giving students the needed guidance.

The program consists of two lessons each week, and all are done virtually. At the conclusion of the program, a video conference is held with an artist and students involved.

"The program is geared toward students of all learning levels and social demographics," he continued. "Students will be given an opportunity to relate real world concepts to literature

and writing."

Now, with the Beats By Dre partnership, Small said the program will become available through major streaming platforms.

Using noise canceling headphones, students will be able to quietly listen to the music that is being studied and focus on every lyric presented, Small wrote.

"Balance is key, students will only use the headphones when instructed and must remain in the classroom during use," he said.

He noted that millennials tend to revolve around technology.

"If you change the environment, you change the student," Small articulated. "We believe through creative lighting in the room, students will be able to gain a sense of calmness and drive to participate in the RWAR curriculum."

RWAR will curate a

pop-up experience where selected students or adult audiences will interact with a featured artist and brand for an intimate session where the artist breakdown his or her song. The artists will engage in an in-depth discussion about their music and the importance of reading and writing.

"So now the lesson plans and how they interface with the teachers and how they interface with the artists will all be on one thing," Small proclaimed. "Now, we will have streaming in education. We have just transcended something that's never been done before."

He further exclaimed that Legends Do Live looks to change today's urban landscape by fostering a generation of higher social awareness, strong intellectual pursuits, and constant economic success.

Every individual pos-

sesses the ability to make a difference in this world, Small said.

"Our goal is to merely motivate our people to use their gifts, live life to the fullest, and leave a lasting

legacy. For we understand that if we dedicate ourselves to the advancement of our generation, we will not only be remembered, but we will never die. We will be legendary."

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

GOP bills passing in Austin deemed 'voter suppression' by Dems

AUSTIN -- Despite widespread condemnation from voting rights advocates and testimony from over a hundred Texans, Republicans passed Senate Bill 7 through the state Senate Committee on State Affairs late on March 29. What Democrats and many others call the "voter suppression bill" now heads to the full Senate for a final vote.

"Texas Republicans are hellbent on cutting Texans off from their right to vote, and the reason is simple: they know that if every eligible voter has the chance to make their voice heard, we will vote them out," said Texas Democratic Party Vice Chair Dr. Carla Brailey. "Senate Bill 7 is a disgrace that echoes the Jim Crow-era voter suppression laws targeting Black and Latino communities, as well as voters with disabilities. This is an outrage, and every concerned Texan must act right now to call on our state senators not to pass this damaging bill into law."



Arnaud Jaegers / Unsplash

"What Texas Republicans are doing falls right in line with what Republicans are doing around the country -- trying to shut down the voices of Americans. This past week, Georgia passed voter suppression legislation so blatant it would be laughable if it weren't so tragic. When the Georgia governor signed this bill into law, he had a portrait of a former plantation hanging behind him in the background. You don't need to read between the lines to see who Republicans are targeting. The hate is there for all to see."

"If Texas Republicans pass these heinous bills, Texans will know exactly who is trying to silence

them -- and we will only get louder. No matter what barriers Republicans push through, we will crawl over broken glass to make our voices heard at the ballot box. We will not be silenced."

"As President Biden said of the new Georgia law, 'If you have the best ideas, you have nothing to hide.... Let the people vote.' Our vote is our voice."

SB7 has been widely condemned as the latest in Texas Republicans' voter suppression efforts. The bill includes provisions that would make it harder to vote by mail, reduce early voting options, and require voters with disabilities to show a doctor's note be-

fore receiving a mail ballot -- moves Democrats call extremist that would in practice add a poll tax for voters with disabilities and disproportionately limit ballot-box access for voters with disabilities, Black and Brown voters and working Texans.

The bill's author, Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), did acknowledge SB7 would put significant barriers between voters with disabilities and the ballot box and indicated he would be open to amending the bill to reduce those barriers, but the Committee passed the bill in its current form anyway.

"The Committee heard hours of testimony Friday evening about the harmful impacts SB7 and other bills would have on Texans, especially people of color, voters with disabilities, veterans and working Texans," Texas State Senator and State Affairs Committee Member Beverly Powell. "What I didn't hear was a compelling case for the problem these bills solve

or the Texans they would help."

"These bills will not help Texans -- they will make it harder for Texans to take part in the democratic process and harder to have a say in shaping their communities and future. I urge all Texans to get involved in fighting for their right to vote."

Texas Democrats and a coalition of voting rights advocates have been fighting on all fronts to stop a rash of such Republican legislation from being passed in the Texas Legislature. Earlier this week, Democratic state senators forced a delay on this bill. On Thursday, after Republican Rep. Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) shut down the testimony of Texans on SB7's corollary in the House, House Bill 6, voting rights advocates and Democrats organized to host a citizens' hearing, so that people who had driven hours to provide testimony could make their voices heard. Texas Democrats, advocates, and ordinary

Texans again testified at the state Capitol Friday on the ways SB7 will disproportionately harm ballot-box access for Texans with disabilities and voters of color.

"Republicans could not be bothered to act when Texans were freezing in their homes last month and losing loved ones to COVID-19 this past year," Texas Democratic Party Voter Protection Director Rose Clouston. "But when it comes to stopping Texans from voting, Republicans are firing on all cylinders. The legislature was out of session throughout all of 2020, but Republicans stayed at the Capitol until nearly midnight last night to strip Texans' right to vote. Republicans know the writing is on the wall, and they are trying to cling to power the only way they can: by stopping voters of color, Texans with disabilities, working people, and young Texans from voting. But the GOP will not stop us from making our voices heard. We won't let them."

Why we should support statehood for Washington, D.C.

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

Once again, the idea of Statehood for the District of Columbia has not only come before the U.S. Congress, but has also passed the House of Representatives. Most of us know that the 700,000 plus residents of D.C. have lived under taxation without representation, the very thing that was at the heart of the Boston Tea Party of 1773. That event objected to the British taxing the colonists on tea when they had no representation in the British Parliament. While the original idea for creating D.C. as a District was that no state would house the national capitol, that idea should not have survived the right of the people of the District of Columbia (DC) to have representation since they pay taxes.

D.C., like Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam as U.S. Territories

should be granted statehood in this enlightened age, if desired. The major opposition to D.C. statehood is the fact that such a state would be granted two U.S. Senators and possibly two Representatives in the U.S. Congress. The Republicans opposed statehood because those two senators would most likely be Democrats. That would change the balance of power in the Senate, as we saw with the State of Georgia electing two Democratic senators this year.

In every state, "we the people" should be taking a very close look at all our Republican elected officials. It has become very clear that those persons have betrayed their oath of office in which they swore to "protect and defend" the Constitution of the United States. Well, that Constitution contains the Bill of Rights. It contains the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which promised "equal protection" under

law, and the right to vote and the obligation to defend America "against all enemies, foreign and domestic". With the guiding language of that document, there is no reason that every Republican in the U.S. Congress should be voting against the interest and will of the people they are supposed to represent.

Statehood for the District of Columbia should not be an issue. On April 26, 1982, D.C. convened the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention which held twenty-eight drafting sessions and met through May 27, 1982, formally shaping a Constitution that was submitted to the Congress, but never approved. The fact that a Constitutional Convention was held and a Constitution was drafted as required under the Enactment Clause of the U.S. Constitution certainly meets the requirements of Statehood. It should also be noted that our own late Publisher,

Gerri Warren of the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint, was a resident and elected Delegate from Ward VI of the District of Columbia to that convention. She was also the one who offered the motion to name the new

state "the State of New Columbia"

This is a year in which we as African Americans and Black people now citizens of this great country, must work harder than ever before to protect democ-

racy and our rights which are now under so great an attack. Yes, we need to be concerned about D.C. Statehood and lobby our elected members of the Congress to make this a reality

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

Controversy stirs over UT decision to keep 'The Eyes' playing

Texas Black lawmakers, civil rights leaders, University of Texas students, and alumni held a joint news conference on Monday, March 29, 2021, to denounce the University of Texas's decision to keep "The Eyes of Texas" as its official song.

The news conference occurred in the Speaker's Committee room in the Texas State Capitol. It highlighted concerns with the university's decision to keep the song many see as racist, and a list of student demands.

"According to the Eyes of Texas committee report, they believe they can redefine what the song stands for by acknowledging its history," said Anthony Collier, student body president at the University of Texas School of Law. "You can't redefine racism. Acknowledging racism is fine, but it's far from sufficient. It's not enough to acknowledge racism. We must abolish racism."

"UT seems to think that because the song's lyrics are not 'overtly' racist, that there's no harm, no foul," said Gary Bledsoe, Texas NAACP President and alumnus of UT and the UT Law School. "It's unconscionable that UT officials have not thought about the



For more than a century, students at the University of Texas have joined in singing "The Eyes of Texas," during sports events and other gatherings. But lately the song's origins have come under heavy scrutiny by civil rights activists. (Photo: Jaycentex / Flickr)

matter from the impact on Black people – that the song is mired in the racist tradition of minstrel shows and blackface-wearing white students. We will continue talks, so they understand the impact and facts -- that minstrels were performed to degrade and mock African Americans as a form of entertainment for white people. That is as racist as it gets."

State Representative Ron Reynolds, Vice-Chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, stated, "I am disappointed in the university's decision but heartened by the commitment that the young students have shown. They are simply asking for a racism-free environment so that they can be fully integrated as students. Removing the song is not too much to ask. If the song is

changed, no one is harmed."

Judson Hayden, a Junior at UT and President of the Black UT Band members, criticized the university for attempting to justify keeping the song with their Eyes of Texas committee.

"What was made abundantly clear to me and in my discussions with other members of the Black community was it felt very much so that the university was gaslighting us to believe the song was somehow acceptable," said Judson Hayden. "For months the university said, 'We're going to view this from a third-party lens.' ... But that's not what happened. In my opinion, they cherry-picked information and had evidence to support a narrative they already wrote."

Judson also expressed concerns for his safety and

other band members' safety should they refuse to play the song at sporting events.

Zion James, a sophomore at the University of Texas and the parliamentarian for UT's Black Student Alliance gave a list of demands for the school at the press conference on behalf of the Black UT community:

- Immediate retirement of "The Eyes of Texas"
 - Allocation of more financial aid and scholarships to Black students
 - Creating more affordable housing
 - Appointment of more Black professors and teacher's assistants
 - Required training on race, anti-racism, and UT's racist history
 - Increased transparency between UT administration and students
 - Adopting equitable and inclusive practices in recruitment, selection, and promotion of UT faculty
 - All buildings named after people with racist histories be renamed for people who have worked to make the UT community more equitable
- "The Eyes of Texas," UT's official alma mater

tune and unofficial fight song, debuted at a minstrel show where white students likely wore blackface. William Prather, the university president who coined the phrase, said he took it from Confederate leaders who used similar language to inspire troops during the Civil War.

The Eyes is set to the tune "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

"I've Been Working on the Railroad" is a deeply offensive and racist folk song Princeton students used in 1894 to insult black railroad and levee workers.

Students began challenging The Eyes in recent years. About a decade ago, UT basketball players refused to sing it after learning the song's history. A couple of years ago, the UT student government debated the merits of The Eyes. During the summer of 2020, a wide-spread movement of students and athletes protested and petitioned the university to remove the song.

In response, students say hundreds of alumni and donors wrote to UT-Austin President Jay Hartzell de-

manding he keep the song. According to Collier, at least 75 donors threatened to stop donating to UT and several alumni used racist language toward students who are opposing the song.

President Hartzell announced UT would keep the song. He established a committee to "research the origins and meaning of UT's alma mater and to suggest ways for the university to move forward with greater inclusion and equity." The report provides a detailed history of the song's use on and off-campus but protesters say did nothing to alleviate student and alumni discomfort with what they see as a racist origin for the song.

The committee set up by the university said the song was not specifically racist, though they concede it did come from a student minstrel show.

"These historical facts add complexity and richness to the story of a song that debuted in a racist setting, exceedingly common for the time, but, as the preponderance of research showed, had no racist intent," the report read.

Dallas ISD Special Education Department to host transition fair for students April 13-15

(Dallas ISD) The Dallas ISD Special Education Department is excited to announce the upcoming Special Education Transition Fair 2021, taking place April 13-15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. This event will focus on helping families of students receiving special education services prepare their child for life

after high school.

The three-day fair will feature guest speakers and interactive activities that target key topics and areas of support to ensure families are knowledgeable of resources needed for students to reach lifelong goals.

Day #1-April 13th: GET

READY

- Vocational and Information Sessions

Day #2-April 14th: GET SET

- College, Career, and Military Readiness

Day #3-April 15th: GO

- Agencies and Resources
- Register at DISDTransitionFair.eventbrite.com.

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



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

**‘Essential’ takes on a whole
new meaning with COVID.**



Get vaccinated when it's your turn.

I'm an essential worker, because everyone needs food. You know what's essential for me? Not getting COVID. And it's a virus that keeps changing. Vaccines are here. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we still need to mask up, stay 6 feet apart, and avoid crowds. Whenever I see that, there's a smile behind my mask.

Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus

'Twenty Pearls' AKA documentary shows the vision and impact of Black college women

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

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is the nation's first sorority for Black college women. Founded on the campus of Howard University in 1908, nine visionary women created a sisterhood committed to serving the African American community and elevating issues impacting women and girls. Forty-five years following emancipation and in the face of great racial and gender discrimination, these young women decided to become the change they wanted to see, creating an influential sisterhood and legacy that is culturally relevant today.

Critically acclaimed documentary filmmaker Deborah Riley Draper brings the complex story of the nation's first Black Greek Letter sorority to the forefront in the documentary, *Twenty Pearls: The Story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®*. *Twenty Pearls* premieres Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m. EST on Xfinity Comcast's Black Experience on Xfinity, becoming the first original film for the media company's Black content hub. The Black Experience is led by Keesha Boyd, executive director for multicultural video and entertainment at Comcast NBCUniversal.

Produced by Coffee Bluff Pictures, Deborah Riley Draper's production company, *Twenty Pearls* takes viewers on a journey into the lives of Black women creating change at a critical moment in American history. Draper, an award-winning documentarian who is also a member of the sorority, takes pleasure in being able to tell this universal story about the women who founded an organization that is still making change today.

"The reach of Alpha Kappa Alpha into American so-



ciety is at every level," says the NAACP Image Award nominee. "When you get a mammogram, get a scholarship to further your education, attend an HBCU among many other good things, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha have had something to do with it," says Draper, who pledged the sorority as an undergraduate at Florida State University. Draper considers it a privilege to make this documentary. "It's an honor to elevate the stories of Black women who have influenced American society using the tools I know and love."

While *Twenty Pearls* is clearly a passion project for Riley, it is also in line with the type of historical work the storyteller creates as a celebrated documentarian. In 2016, *Variety* Magazine named Draper to its "2016 Top 10 Documakers to Watch" list. Draper's 2016 documentary, *Olympic Pride, American Prejudice*, which tells the untold story of 18 African Americans who defied Hitler and Jim Crow in 1936, was a 2017 nominee for the NAACP Image Awards Outstanding Documentary Film and qualified for the 2017 Academy Awards.

Draper's debut documentary film *Versailles '73: American Runway Revolution* is the first intimate look at the infamous Palace of Versailles fashion show fundraiser, which catapulted the American

ready-to-wear to global prominence. In the film, Draper centers the narrative on African American models like Pat Cleveland, Norma Jean Darden, Alva Chinn and Charlene Dash, who made fashion history while changing the industry simultaneously. Draper's work goes beyond documentaries, with advertising campaigns for Lamborghini, Coca-Cola Classic, FedEx and Adidas. She has earned two regional Emmys, a Gold Effie award and several American Advertising Awards and is currently in pre-production on a number of fictional films. With all of the projects Riley could have done, particularly following the critical success of *Olympic Pride, American Prejudice* and *Versailles '73*, the documentarian decided to tell the story of nine Black women at an HBCU whose vision helped uplift the Black community and make the world better for women and girls in the process.

"I chose to tell this story because it is an important story about this country," says Draper. "In this documentary, we see the evidence of the 113 years of the impact of AKA in all aspects of American life and that is a story that needs to be told."

The timing is right as America is in the midst of a contemporary civil rights movement that saw the rise of the nation's first Black and South Asian woman to

the Vice-Presidency, Kamala Harris, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. who pledged as an undergraduate at Howard University.

Executive Producer and Alpha Kappa Alpha member Kimberly Esmond Adams believes anytime is the right time to tell this type of American story. "This story talks about the role that a group of college women, who were still finding their way in the world, yet were intelligent enough to understand that the world was bigger than them and

they could do something concrete to make it better for everyone." "In many ways, the story is universal because any number of groups can relate to that challenge," adds Adams. "This film teaches you about American history, the significance of the entire Divine Nine [historically Black fraternities and sororities] and HBCUs, the importance of community, the oneness of purpose and how you can leverage these connections to make life better for everyone."

Narrated by Tony award-winning actress and Alpha Kappa Alpha member Phylicia Rashad, *Twenty Pearls* tells the story of this trailblazing organization founded to serve and uplift the African American community through narration, interviews and archival assets. The first-feature-length documentary on an African American sorority, shows viewers the impact of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® on the Harlem

Renaissance, World War II, NASA, Civil Rights, Women's Rights and HBCU endowments. Interviews include Alpha Kappa Alpha International President and CEO Dr. Glenda Glover, Vice President Kamala Harris, Miss Universe Ireland 2019 Fionnghuala O'Reilly, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Fierst and many more.

The coming together of the film was "fortuitous," says Adams, who pledged as an undergraduate at Howard University. She remembers having a conversation with Dr. Glenda Glover, the national president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and current president of Tennessee State University, an HBCU in Nashville, about wanting to make a film that memorialized the importance of the sorority and HBCUs. "Thankfully we have a president who is a visionary

See AKA, 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



CombinedBenefitSolutions

changing the way we look at life

Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote

214-238-6855

Website: www.cbsolutionsplus.com

2021 Pan African Film Festival: A fine collection of Black cinema

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

Movie fans attending the 29th PAFF could watch its choice programming on a streaming app or computers, versus making the annual pilgrimage to Los Angeles. The setting is different, but the usual array of international African diaspora films is still impressive. Check out these four festival films that are on view from February 24th to March 14th at paff.org and in theaters near you in the future.

41st & Central: The Untold Story of The L.A. Black Panthers (1/2)** If you want to know the real story of the Black Panthers, ask 'em. That's what documentarian Gregory Everett did. Through vivid recollections by L.A. Panthers who survived to tell the story, he reconstructs the history of a social/political party that left its mark on the City of Angeles and black history.

Legendary members (Elaine Brown and Kathleen Cleaver) share insightful anecdotes. Less known members (Roland Freeman and Wayne Pharr), who have survived jail sentences and LAPD gun battles, relive both their ups and downs like elders telling folk tales to a village.

Before the L.A. chapter was founded, police routinely brutalized African Americans, with impunity. After their rise, which was born out of oppression, channeling anger and fueled by righteousness, po-



lice and the militants were at war.

Panther commanders, like Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter and John Jerome Huggins, learned their leadership skills running gangs: Slausons, Gladiators, Del Vikings.

The main differences between the Oakland, CA branch and the SoCal branch is that the brothers down south were strapped and knew how to shoot. Carter: "If you ain't thinking lead, you're already dead." The chief difference between the Panthers organization and its cultural counterpart US (aka US Black People), led by Maulana Ndabezitha "Ron" Karenga (creator of Kwanzaa), was that Bunchy's approach was defense and Ron's was art.

Toss in into the mix J. Edgar Hoover's machinations, informers, strife with police and student groups taking over and it's no wonder the powder keg exploded. The commentary on Blacks migrating from the South to Los Angeles and the racism they encountered in hous-

ing and treatment is illuminating. Everett's directing/producing style is no-frills, tons of photos, footage, candid interviews and the truth as he knows it.

In this historical doc, the hardcore spirit of a doomed but significant revolution finds a resting place. Unapologetic, fiery and significant. This non-fiction film chronicles a past that is very relevant in the present.

African America (1/2)** The bridge between Africa and America grows shorter every day. In this very modern tale of two continents, South African director/writer Muzi Mthembu conjures up a female protagonist, Johannesburg resident Nompumelelo (Phumi Mthembu), who stands on the precipice of marriage to her fiancé.

She has already undergone a traditional nuptial, the commercial more modern one awaits. In the interim, she discovers a letter of acceptance to Juilliard from 2009, that her deceased father hid from her for nearly a decade. Finding the missive motivates

Nompumelelo to embezzle, fly from Joburg to New York and attempt to fulfill her dream of being an opera singer. Fortunately for her, she meets a young man named Jaquan (Anthony Goss, TV's Ghosts of Fort Greene), her flawed angel.

Acting on instinct. Choosing ambition over customs. Living out secret dreams. Expressing dissatisfaction: "None of this is what I want." All of it makes the bride-to-be's impulsive behavior attractive.

That's the strength of Mthembu's script; it holds your attention until she resolves her issues. And she has plenty. The screenplay's weaknesses are melodramatic moments that don't fit when realism would have sufficed. Production elements (cinematography, music, sets, editing) feel just about right for an indie film. All performances are fine. Muzi Mthembu's creation is so pure and affecting in its development and execution that some audiences may assume a woman wrote and directed this touching cold-feet bride's story. He should take that as a compliment.

Firestarter (*)** In the U.S., choreographers like Alvin Ailey (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) and Arthur Mitchell (Dance Theater of Harlem) fused culture, race, ethnicity and social issues together in their choreography and performing arts.

In Australia, Artistic Director Stephen Page, in collaboration with his brothers

composer David Page and lead dancer Russell Page, accomplished that same feat with his internationally renowned Bangarra Dance Theatre. Founded in the 1980s, the troupe was born out of artistic brilliance and a need to express thoughts and feelings about the Pages' proud aboriginal heritage. The social/political/racial implications of being indigenous people in a country dominated by white Australians are fundamental to them and on display.

Similarities between Page's awareness of oppression and the self-esteem issues his brothers faced mirror the experiences of Ailey, Mitchell and African American life. The dance on view is expressive and often breathtaking. However, it's the evolution of first nation people who have withstood forced assimilation, the kidnapping of their children and attempts to breed blackness out of the general population that is truly astonishing. Says one brother: "We carry trauma." Co-directors Wayne Blair and Nel Minchin stick to the basics: archival footage, newspapers articles, past and current interviews.

What sets this enlightening and emotional doc apart is its high level of consciousness. The 65,000-year-old culture of Aboriginals survives because visionary artists like Stephen Page leave behind a deep footprint that claims history, notes issues and projects empowerment for the next generation. This

crucial story, about an all-indigenous dance company and its mission, has been well told and preserved by thoughtful filmmakers.

The Water Man ()** Actor David Oyelowo (Selma) makes an odd choice for his directing debut. It's a script (Emily A. Needell) that centers around a family in which the mom (Rosario Dawson) is terminally ill and the father (Oyelowo) and son (Lonnie Chavis, TV's This Is Us) don't get along. And so, the boy sets out on a journey to find the Water Man, a forest creature with magical powers, in hopes that the monster can heal his mom.

It's a far-fetched fantasy kids' drama, told from a young boy's point of view. Though Oyelowo's direction is decent, the story never takes you to that special place and the son's venture into the forest rarely feels adventurous. Sightings of Bigfoot are too brief. Special effects are limp at best.

The cast is earnest and the tech elements (musical score, cinematography, editing) are solid enough to make the movie coherent, but not much more. The only line of dialogue that stands out is dad's admission: "I would take a short life with your mother rather than a long one without her."

For more information about PAFF go to: <https://www.paff.org>

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

Part II of Hoover's 'Hero' book series for young adults released

Jerald L. Hoover is an award-winning multifaceted author that seeks to use the pen to change the world, one person, at a time. He has garnered success and multiple accolades over the years, awarded Best New Male Writer of the Year by the Literary Society in Virginia in 1993 for his novella My Friend, My Hero. He was also listed as a bestselling author among black writers from 1994 – 1996 in various

African American publications and was awarded the WritersCorp Award by President Bill Clinton in 1995.

Following the relative success of the first part of his series for young adults, Hoover's newest entry into the fray, "He Was My Hero, Too," shares many of the same themes.

Hoover is known for his creative contributions to both literature and entertainment, especially in the

world of sports. For young adults, the goal of the four-part Hero Book Series is to inspire readers to make a positive change in their communities and the world in general.

While some may argue that young people don't read books, the opposite is more true. Among the fastest growing and most successful genres in the world of publishing is books for teens and young adults, par-

ticularly, young adult fiction.

Spurred in part by the success of general audience titles like, "A Series of Unfortunate Events," by Lemony Snicket and "A Wrinkle in Time," by Madeleine L'Engle (which were each produced as a film), the category includes books by African American authors that explore themes familiar to Black teens.

Similar to the arguments

over whether success is the result of socialization or opportunity, in literature the discussion centers around whether heroes are born or shaped by their circumstances.

Regardless of the side of the fence that one sits, it is difficult to argue against the fact that there is a hero in everyone. At least that is the premise that Hoover explores in this series.

While few of us are able

to identify our "superpowers" and live up to our true potential, Hoover sees his hero's journey as inspiring millions of people in different parts of the world to be the best they can be and to each make positive change in the world in their little way. This philosophic outlook is what inspired him to write, "My Friend, My Hero," the first book of The Hero Book Series.

See HERO, Page 10

Bishop Arts Theatre Center to bring two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright's work to Dallas audiences

Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC) is partnering with Portland, Oregon's Profile Theatre to bring the audio version of Lynn Nottage's *Mlima's Tale* to Dallas audiences.

Ms. Nottage is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, one for her script *Ruined* in 2009, the other for *Sweat* in 2017. Production dates for the audio play will run April 12 – May 8, 2021, and can be accessed on the BATC website. The cast and crew

are made up of artists from around the country including Keith Randolph Smith whose Broadway credits include *August Wilson's Jitney, Fences, The Piano Lesson, and King Hedley II* to name a few. Other cast members include Treasure Lunana, Ithica Tell, Delphon "DJ" Curtis, Jr.

The play tells the provocative story of Mlima, a majestic elephant trapped in the clandestine international ivory market. Beginning in a game park in Ke-

nya and traveling around the world to a billionaire's penthouse in the West, this audio play tracks the trajectory of Mlima's tusks through real-life consequences of animal poaching. Mlima's phantom follows close behind marking everyone involved as complicit in his demise.

BATC's Artistic Director, Teresa Coleman Wash comments, "I feel like we're re-imagining what the American Theater can look like on the other side of this pandemic.

I'm deeply grateful to Josh Heicht, Artistic Director at Profile Theater for his willingness to partner with us in this way." Wash further adds, "My primary goal in this moment is to keep artists employed and engaged with our theatre."

On Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., BATC will host a Behind The Curtain Q & A on Facebook Live with some of the creatives from the show and Chris Corpus, Conversation Programs Manager from

the Dallas Zoo, to further contextualize issues raised in the play. The number of elephants have decreased significantly over the last decade, and they could be mostly extinct by 2030. An estimated 100 African elephants are killed each day by poachers seeking ivory, meat, and body parts, leaving only a few hundred thousand remaining.

Tickets for the audio play are available for purchase now at <https://bishoparts-theatre.org/theatre-series/>.

Individual tickets are \$14 each and family viewing tickets are \$28 total.

Nestled in the heart of Dallas' Oak Cliff community, the Bishop Arts Theatre Center is an award-winning, multidisciplinary arts organization.

Founded in 1993, the mission of the organization is to cultivate a diverse and vibrant arts community while creating opportunities for local and emerging artists through performances and education.

National Museum of African American Music opens in Nashville

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

From the hymns of slaves in the 17th and 18th centuries to hip-hop artists' powerful message in the 20th and 21st centuries, African American artists have created and influenced generations of music lovers.

When Elvis Presley sang "Hound Dog," he knew he had to pay homage to the African American Blues Legend Big Mama Thornton, who did it first – and better.

"A lot of people seem to think I started this business," Elvis famously remarked.

"But rock 'n' roll was here a long time before I came along. Nobody can sing that kind of music like colored people. Let's face it: I can't sing like Fats Domino can. I know that."

From rock and roll to blues, jazz, and hip-hop,



[The guitar] will be placed temporarily in the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) in Nashville, where visitors can view this smashed guitar – with its neck and fretboard still intact – for themselves. (NNPA)

music is as much the African American way of life as the afro was Black people's style in the 1970s.

Finally honoring that history, the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) has opened in Nashville, Tenn.

According to a news release, it's the only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the many music genres created, influenced, and inspired by African

Americans.

The 56,000-square-foot institution contains more than 1,500 artifacts, objects, memorabilia, and clothing from Black artists.

Complete with state-of-the-art technology, the museum contains seven galleries.

Each is designed to share a different narrative and a unique perspective on Black music and history.

"NMAAM is complete,"

NMAAM President and CEO H. Beecher Hicks III declared in a news release. On Feb. 23, Hicks appeared on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's "Let It Be Known, Breaking News" broadcast to share insights on the new mixed-use downtown development at Fifth and Broadway.

"We have been preparing for this day for more than 20 years, but this museum has actually been more than 400 years in the making," Hicks remarked.

"We look forward to welcoming music lovers from around the world to this magnificent cultural experience."

Because of Covid-19, a limited number of visitors currently are allowed inside the museum.

Masks or face coverings are required for entrance, and guests are requested to remain socially distant, officials said.

Once the pandemic ends,

tickets will be made available for purchase on the museum's website for designated timeslots that allow for new tours to start every 30 minutes, museum officials determined.

Displays at the museum include interactive exhibits and such iconic items as "Lucille," the guitar played by B.B. King, and a kimono worn by Alicia Keys.

Captured in a film overview at the museum's "Roots Theater," are the traditions of West and Central African cultures before slavery.

The Rivers of Rhythm Pathways, the "central spine of the museum experience that features touch panel interactives and an animated timeline that links American history and American music history," officials described on the museum's website.

A "Wade in the Water" gallery may prove popular among visitors as it explores African hymns.

The gallery connects African cultures' religious music and later African American spirituals and hymns, including highlighting Mahalia Jackson, Shirley Caesar, Thomas Dorsey, and others.

The "Love Supreme" gallery dives deep into the history of jazz and explores the careers of legends like Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, and others.

The "One Nation Under a Grove" gallery relays Motown Records and Soul Train's stories, while "The Message" gallery explains the origins of hip hop.

"We hope visitors will enjoy learning about the expansive roster of groundbreaking artists who have influenced some of today's biggest hit-makers," said Allen Schrott, senior director of Music Products for TiVo/Xperi, a museum partner.

For more details about the museum, visit www.nmaam.org.

HERO, from Page 9

The idea that started on October 17, 1983, has turned into a blueprint for millions of youths worldwide. In "He Was My Hero, Too," Hoover continues to draw upon his own life's experiences to create real-world lessons to help guide teens along their roller-coaster journey to life and success. Each book in the

series also has a curriculum component which includes a Student Success Guidebook, Teacher's Edition, Pre- test Assessments, and Unit Assessments.

For more information about "He Was My Hero, Too" and the rest of the Hero Book Series, please visit – www.TheHeroBookSeries.com/books.



Jerald Hoover

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

Walmart's issues annual open call for locally-made products

The application process for Walmart's eighth annual Open Call is now open, and the company invites Texas entrepreneurs dreaming of landing their products on Walmart shelves and online to apply for the opportunity to meet with Walmart buyers on June 30, 2021, via virtual pitch meetings.

The deadline to apply for participation in this year's Open Call for products made, grown or assembled in the United States is April 30. The application and additional information about the event are available via this link.

On March 3, Walmart announced a new commitment to spend an additional \$350 billion on items made,



Dollar Gill / Unsplash

grown, or assembled in the United States. It's estimated that this spend will support more than 750,000 new American jobs. Walmart's Open Call is one way in which the company supports this commitment.

The June 30 virtual event will include similar programming to last year. In addition to one-on-one pitch meetings with Walmart merchants, participants will have an opportunity to hear directly

from Walmart executives at the hour-long kickoff of the event. Smaller breakout sessions will be available throughout the day where suppliers can learn more on valuable topics and about resources available to them.

"Open Call is like watching the American Dream play out in real time," said Laura Phillips, Walmart senior vice president for Global Sourcing & US Manufacturing. "You see on full display the spirit and energy of new ideas and the hope of what could be – founded on creativity, hard work, and self-belief. It's inspiring. Walmart's announcement earlier this month to spend an additional \$350 billion on products

made, grown or assembled in America makes Open Call even more exciting and important. We know how much this opportunity means to small businesses, and we can't wait to see the new product submissions from potential new suppliers."

This year's Open Call attendees could secure opportunities that range from promoting products in a handful of stores in local markets to supplying products to hundreds, even thousands, of Walmart stores, Sam's Clubs and online.

"Walmart makes it easy – they really do," Henry Johnson, who owns Le'Host Hair & Wigs

with his wife, Haith, said about their experience at Walmart's 2020 Open Call.

"They sent us a video that they send to everyone who's going to present to buyers and said, 'This is what we're looking for.' ... We found out what was important to Walmart as a company, in the community. What's important to Walmart is their customers. To us, our customers are No. 1. So, when we saw that was the mindset of Walmart, we knew it was a good marriage."

Earlier this year, Walmart began expanding Le'Host products into some 300 stores across the Southwest and Southeast regions of the United States.

← GARLAND, from Page 1

ly do want to see better for their community. As with any community the idea of moving forward and never stagnating is the goal. Another question was how to make sure Garland does not encounter the problems that other communities have and that ended being geared towards law enforcement.

Whitney feels that emotional intelligence is important when it comes to law enforcement being presented with a variety of situations. She says that she "will have the opportunity to coach them one on one to really help with that."

Grimely believes a re-evaluation of disciplinary actions is needed and better training. He says simply avoiding an issue does not work and that we could all benefit from better trained law enforcement.

All of candidates agree that the best way right now to communicate concerns and really get in touch with the people of Garland is through the social media but also to not forget the value that face-to-face conversations really has. Covid has made social interaction very difficult and people need not forget that often the best way to get to know

how someone feels is to be able to see their face. People are made to be social not to be isolated.

The homeless population has definitely been a highlight as well and one question that stuck out was the idea of not just a homeless shelter but a state of the art homeless shelter that truly helps the homeless population get on their feet and back into the community.

Whitney proposed not just a roof over their head but a place that provides "mental health care, food, and showers" for the homeless to get to the root of the problem and truly help them. Definitely a really good way to put our money back into the community and make it healthy.

When it comes to the local school system a very important question that was posed by Evan to the Garland ISD trustee candidates that also seemed to resonate with a number of social issues presented in America today was "How shall we deal with the disproportionate discipline of black students and their white counterparts? Not only that but why does it happen?"

It did not seem to be an easy question to answer,

and there wasn't much to be said on the subject.

It was disheartening in a way but also something that had no easy answer and perhaps even made some uncomfortable. There is hope that, despite how uncomfortable the question may have made some, there will be a solution. There is no denying that there is a heavy imbalance in how BIPOC have been treated when it comes to disciplinary actions. The question extended into how best to prevent black males from dropping out of high school as well as helping black and Latino children perform at the same rate as their white and Asian counterparts.

Robert Selders, one of the trustee candidates made the observation that "being able to consistently provide resources" is the first step. Not only that but "broadband access in areas where it is not" is also needed. Developing communities so that all children are able to get the best education possible is definitely a priority especially with the way Covid has made it a lot harder to have people gather for classes. Remote learning is good but being able to have options as well as effective remote learning is important as well.

Daphne Manor, a GISD trustee candidate, definitely had an insider's take on how children learn as well by having children of her own going through public, private, and charter schools. She made the observation that there is no "one size fits all" way for children to learn. That is very true people are different and learn differently and that should be taken into consideration when teaching as well. A good example is auditory versus visual learners.

Edward Moore, a candi-

date with 15 years of service in the community as well as someone who has been through the police academy also had ideas in regards to assets that were expendable and in regarding people's access to utility providers when posed with the question. He mentioned that during the recent winter storm although the city did come through it well, it was not prepared and needed to address how to distribute power and electricity. Giving people an educated choice on providers for their electricity

to prevent bills in the thousands during a situation like that is important. He said it wasn't laid out well and needs to be stabilized. Edward Moore highlighted that "we need to know our budget."

Altogether many of our candidates had very good ideas on how to help the city of Garland develop. There was a lot of out-of-the-box thinking and assessment of deep issues and how to make things better. There is much to look forward to in the coming election.

Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to construct several small cell monopole communication towers in the vicinity of Dallas, Dallas County, TX. The heights and locations of the proposed towers are as follows: 36-ft tower at the approx. vicinity of 526 N. Pearl St. 75201, Lat: [32-47-7.296], Long: [-96-47-38.5404]; 36.5-ft tower at the approx. vicinity of 2909 Cityplace West Blvd. 75204, Lat: [32-48-22.9644], Long: [-96-47-42.9504]. Public comments regarding the potential effects from these sites on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days of publication to: Trileaf Corp. Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35 Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704. 5125199388.

Another HBCU receives multi-million donation from Honey Bear Project

(Black PR Wire) WIL-BERFORCE, OH – After nearly 75 years, Central State University (CSU) will be breaking ground this month on a state-of-the-art turf football field, courtesy of nearly a \$1 million donation from HBCU Field of Dreams, through the Honey Bear Project.

HBCU Field of Dreams is an initiative started by NFL Hall of Famer Wil-

lie “Honey Bear” Lanier, to raise \$50 million over the next 3 years to install state-of-the-art playing surfaces at nearly 3 dozen HBCU football stadiums. Through the efforts of the Honey Bear Project, Lanier hopes to level the playing field for students attending HBCUs.

Lanier, who attended Morgan State University, was saddened by the state of Virginia Union

University’s (VUU) 113-year-old football field. Lanier motivated to revitalize the field, partnered with FieldTurf, a Tarkett Sports Company, the world leader in artificial turf. This fall the VUU Panthers will charge on to their new turf field.

Tara Owens, the athletic director at CSU, said Lanier’s generosity came at the right time

as the university was contemplating spending nearly \$1 million in improvements on its athletic field, including its football and track fields.

Owens echoed Lanier’s sentiment that having a modern, up-to-date athletic facility in college sports is more than a vanity project for HBCUs like CSU. It is an all-around wise investment that can offer re-

turns far beyond a sporting facility’s improved aesthetics.

“We believe these upgrades will help us in our recruiting efforts while providing our current student-athletes with a quality facility to practice and compete,” she said. “These facility upgrades also will create new revenue streams through facility rentals, and we look forward to

hosting local, regional, and national events.”

Owens said the renovation is expected to be finished by September of 2021. At that time, CSU will launch a special grand opening in honor of its new field and partnership with the HBCU Field of Dreams.

For more information about HBCU Field of Dreams log on to www.honeybearproject.com

AKA, from Page 8

and planted the seed for this project to tell our story and the story of HBCUs,” says Adams. Shortly thereafter, Adams was invited to attend a short film screening at BronzeLens film festival in Atlanta and was so moved by the film, she talked with the director afterwards. The director was Deborah Riley Draper. The rest you can say is history. “This film started with a seed planted by Dr. Glover. To see something go from an idea and crystallize into a film that is going to be distributed on every platform in the country is amazing. We made a

movie,” chuckles Adams.

Twenty Pearls tells the universal and historic stories that surround the founding of the sorority and also the intimate stories of some of its members. Dr. DeRetta Rhodes, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, who is featured in the documentary, was excited to be included in the film because of the importance the sorority holds in her life and the community, says the HBCU alum. “I am a legacy member. I watched my mother pledge grad chapter when I was 15 and I knew I wanted that shared

experience with her,” says the EVP/Chief Human Resources Officer for the Atlanta Braves Organization. “When you think about the impact our sorority has had in this country with various civil rights and social justice movements, the fact that many dynamic Black women are a part of that legacy of service is also powerful,” adds Rhodes.

Twenty Pearls endeavors to add the voices of Black women game changers to the national narrative, that are often suppressed. “In this film, we see the evidence of the 113 years of AKA in all aspects of our American society,” adds

Draper. “In many of our classrooms, we are required to learn a version of American history that is presented to us. We are now well aware there are other parts of our history that have been omitted, minimized and in some cases completely eliminated from the narrative which does not serve us well,” says Adams.

“Until we learn to embrace the contributions that all of us have brought to this nation, we’ll never realize the fullness of who we can be as a country.”

Twenty Pearls premieres Friday, March 26, 2021, at 8:00 PM (EST) on Comcast Xfinity Black Experience

and Comcast Xfinity platforms, xfinity.com, XfinityFlex internet and Xfinity Mobile. The premiere will be followed by a virtual conversation with the cast and crew. The documentary will be available nationwide On Demand, starting March 30 on all other cable systems. Check your local cable guide for channel information.

To learn more about “Twenty Pearls,” visit

www.aka1908.com.

This article was written by Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D., founder & editor-in-chief of The Burton Wire. Dr. Burton is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and appears in the documentary “Twenty Pearls: The Story of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Follow Nsenga on Twitter @Ntellectual or @TheBurtonWire.

BURROW, from Page 2

gence Analyst Course. I enjoy visiting the schoolhouses and interacting with the instructors and students. It’s the perfect way to see firsthand the effects the work that is completed at CIWT has across the information warfare domain.”

These Sailors and staff have a tremendous responsibility in creating warfighting options for fleet commanders and advising decision makers at all levels as they serve worldwide aboard ships, submarines and aircraft and from the National Security Agency to the Pentagon.

“IS1 is one of the most extraordinary, dynamic, and highly-capable intelligence leaders I have had the privilege of working with throughout career,”

shared Senior Chief Intelligence Specialist Rob Morris, Burrow’s leading chief petty officer.

“His pioneering efforts drove the training of an entire enlisted rating and intelligence officers. IS1 Burrow’s commitment to leading, mentoring, and driving the future of Sailors is unmatched, and he exemplifies the meaning of an intelligence professional and sustained superior performer.”

With four schoolhouse commands, a detachment, and training sites throughout the United States and Japan, CIWT trains over 22,000 students every year, delivering trained information warfare professionals to the Navy and joint services. CIWT also offers

more than 200 courses for cryptologic technicians, intelligence specialists, information systems tech-

nicians, electronics technicians, and officers in the information warfare community.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 37-foot 4-inch monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 5226 O'Connor Blvd Cell, Irving, Dallas County, Texas 75039, Lat: [32-52-11.5896], Long: [-96-56-19.9680]. 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, Abby, a.mckay@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 30-foot monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 2216 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75207, Lat: 32° 48' 10.2744" N, Long: 96° 49' 52.0746" 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."

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.

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

bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the Coronavirus.

April 4, 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.

April 7, 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 8. Dial in Phone # 346 248

7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 ship.org 4741.

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
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.

Office Manager

BS in Management or Business.
2 yr exp. in real estate investment firm. Exp. to include investment analysis/research, property valuation, forecasting, acquisition, and tax. Proficiency in Buildium software. Job Loc: Allen, TX
Send resume to Apollo Realty, Inc., 700 Central Expressway S Suite #400, Allen, TX 75013.

Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to construct a 43-foot Monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 1834 Elm Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201, Lat: [32-46-54.9], Long: [-96-47-47.39]. Public comments regarding the potential effects from these sites on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days of publication to: [Trileaf Corp. Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com](mailto:h.jordan@trileaf.com), 2550 S IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, (512)519-9388.

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

Ants, Ants, Ants, Where's the Uncles?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I have learned in my life that the small things are the ones that get you down.

You would think the big things are the ones to steal most of your time. But those big things call attention to themselves from the very beginning. You know they're there, you know you have to do something about it, and so you do.

The little things in life, usually unnoticed and ignored, cause most of the problems.

Everybody has their definition of what a "small problem" really is.

A small problem for me is finding the pen I need for a particular project. I have a different pen for each project, and I don't like to mix them up. Someone in the family thinks it's crazy for

me to have that kind of a problem. But everybody is crazy in some way.

Another small problem for me would be finding the right book to do some research for the day. Believe me, that small problem can become a huge problem towards the end of the day.

But then there is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

She never met a problem she can't fix and fix right away. No problem, in her mind, goes without being fixed right now.

Sometime this year, we will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. For 50 years, I have lived with her, and I have learned some things about her.

For example, when something isn't working right, she stops whatever she is doing and fixes it,

and if it can't be fixed, then it really isn't broken.

This is quite different from me. There is nothing I can fix. If it isn't broken, I can't even fix it. That's why we make an excellent team.

There is nothing I can't break and there is nothing she can't fix. What a team we make.

There is nothing too big that she cannot fix and fix right away. I've always appreciated that, and I can't imagine how much money we have saved by not hiring fix-it people to come and fix something.

The truth be known, I never noticed anything is broken until after my wife fixes it. What would our home be if she wasn't around?

But then recently I discovered something new about her.

My wife and her daughter and granddaughter spent three days doing some thrift store shopping in St. Augustine. That meant I was in charge of the house for three days. I still don't understand why she left me in charge for that long of a period, but I don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Anyway, I was in charge, and I tried to be as careful as possible, so I wouldn't get into any trouble. However, someone in the house dropped some cat food by the door as they fed the cats. I'm not at liberty to reveal that person's name.

I never encountered any problem those three days and enjoyed myself; at least, I thought I was enjoying myself.

My wife came home on a Thursday, and that night we went to bed, and early

the following morning, as I was shaving, I heard a loud voice coming from the kitchen area.

"What are you doing in here?"

I almost cut myself shaving, thinking we had an intruder, and I better get out there to see what's happening.

When I got to the kitchen my wife was at the door, looking down with some can of spray in her hand, yelling, "Get out of here and never come back."

I did not know what she was talking about or who she was talking to. As I got closer, I looked down at the floor, and much to my surprise, there was a whole colony of ants that had invaded her kitchen. I have never seen so many ants in all my life.

I was afraid to ask what I

could do because she probably would've told me.

I try supporting her for the next hour as she was getting those ants out of her kitchen. Most of them did not survive. When she was done, I thought that would be over, and we could get on with our life. After all, an ant is a tiny thing and, to my mind, easily disposed.

By afternoon, I had forgotten all about that morning incident.

We went to bed that night, as usual, thinking everything was okay.

The following morning as I was in the bathroom shaving, I again heard her screaming, "You're not back again, are you?"

I had forgotten about yesterday, so I ran out to the kitchen to see what was

See ANTS, Page 15

CHURCH, from Page 13

Saving You a Seat!

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

April 4,

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.

April 7, 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.

April 2, 7 pm

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

April 4, 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.

April 5, 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.lbocchurch.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.

April 4, 8 and 11 am

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

April 5, 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).

April 7, 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

Be Patient, God Has Something Better For You



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

On a mountaintop, three trees dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first tree looked at the stars and said, "I want to hold a treasure; be covered with gold and filled with precious things. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world."

The second tree looked at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world."

The third tree looked at the valley below where busy men and women worked in town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all.

I want to grow so tall that when people look at me, they'll raise their eyes to Heaven and think of God. I'll be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed; the rain came, the sun shone and the trees grew. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful, it's perfect for me." With a swing of his ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold a wonderful treasure!"

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong, it's perfect for me." With the swing of his ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters," thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings."

The third tree's heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to Heaven.

But the woodcutter never looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swing of his ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter



fashioned the tree into a feed trough for animals.

The tree was not covered with gold nor filled with treasures. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for farm animals.

The second tree smiled when she was taken to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and weak to sail an ocean, or even a river; instead she was taken to a lake.

The third tree was con-

fused when the last woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard.

Many days and nights passed; then one night, starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feeding trough. Suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the boat quietly sailed on the lake.

Soon a thundering and

thrashing storm arose. The tree shuddered; she knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the storm; the tired man was awoken. He stood up and said, "Peace, be still!"

The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And the second tree knew he was carrying the King of kings.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were taken from the woodpile. She was carried through an angry jeering crowd. The soldiers nailed a man's hand to her;

she felt ugly, harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. This was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you don't get what you want, sit tight, be patient and be happy because God has something better to give you!

ANTS, from Page 14

going on in the world.

There at the door, my wife was looking down and yelling and spraying something, and I noticed it was the ants again.

"I told you not to come back again!"

They were back again, and for the next few days, they returned every morn-

ing. Eventually, my wife had her way, and the ants disappeared. I have no idea where they went, but I'm hoping they don't come back again, or they will be in real trouble.

During the day, I happened to think of the Bible verse that said, "The ants are a people not strong,

yet they prepare their meat in the summer" (Proverbs 30:25).

Ants are so little, and yet they can create such a big problem if not taken care of. Where are the uncles?

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 jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Church Happenings

is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the *North Dallas Gazette*. To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact: religion@northdallasgazette.com



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: 'Comeback Season' highlights an unlikely friendship

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

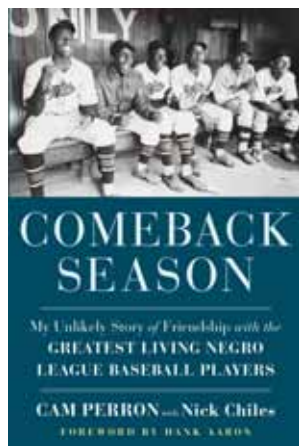
Your teeth got a good workout.

Yep, as a kid, you wanted those certain hard-to-find, favorite-player baseball cards but you didn't want to be wasteful. Because you'd do anything to get the cards, you spent your change, hoped you'd be lucky, and you chewed a lot of gum. In the new book "Comeback Season" by Cam Perron (with Nick Chiles), though, the best things don't come in a pack.

It all started with coins.

When Cam Perron was a little boy, his grandfather introduced him to coin collecting by taking young Perron to a local Massachusetts flea market, where the boy learned that collectible things had stories behind them. That got him fired up about antiques, comic books, baseball cards, and music memorabilia.

At about the time he en-



tered middle school, Red Sox fever hit his hometown just outside Boston and he talked his mom into indulging his love of Red Sox memorabilia. One day, the collector in Perron took notice of baseball cards for Negro League players, and his curiosity led him to research the stories behind the League; individual players caught his fancy and, with the eagerness of the 12-year-old he was, the white boy from Boston picked up the phone and called to talk with Black

players that were many decades older than he.

Astoundingly, Perron became friends with those men, and he began making a name for himself among Negro League players for finding information they thought was lost forever – information that brought recognition, reconnection and, for some of baseball's most talented, financial refuge.

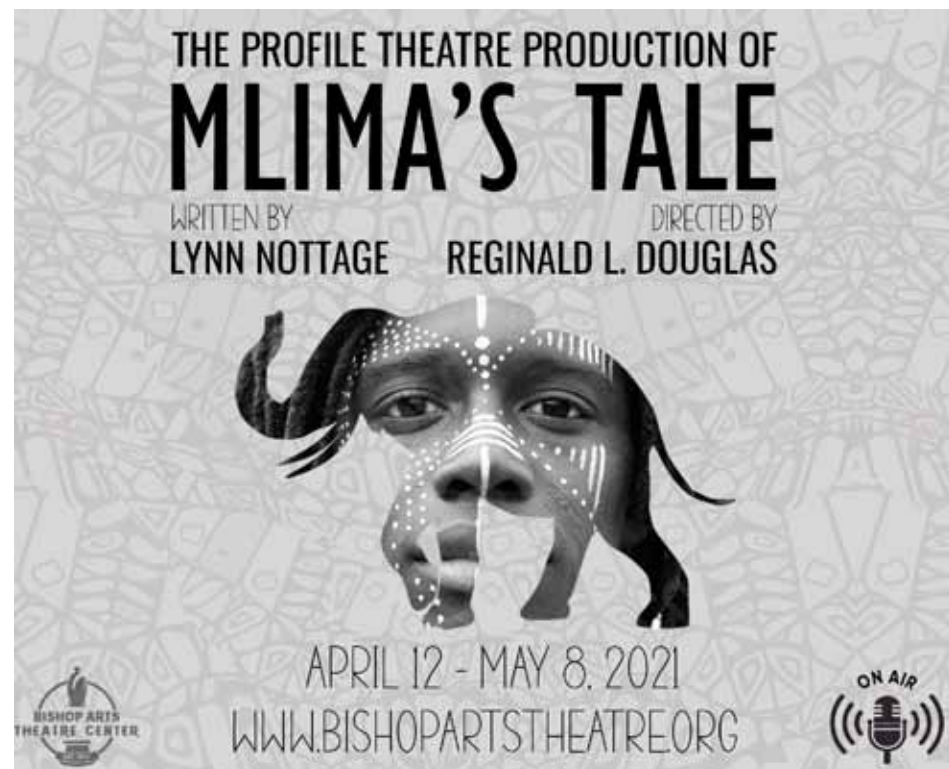
"Comeback Season" is a good book that speaks to the heart of every former little boy with a fist full of baseball cards and an eye on a good deal. Hobbyists will completely understand what author Cam Perron says about the "hunt" and why it's almost the best part of collecting, and his tales of accumulation will thrill anyone who's relished the nail-biting anticipation of finding that one thing in a surprise place.

The big appeal of this book, though, starts when

Perron quiets himself and lets Negro Leaguers talk. Readers who come to this book to learn about Black baseball players in the Jim Crow era are treated to remembrances from these men, in their own words,

and their stories and their heartfelt appreciation just can't be missed. Perron includes a brief-but-helpful history of Negro League ball early-on but really, look for the players' personal tales.

This book reads faster than a one-two-three inning and, aside from a couple of very minor profanities, it's safe for a teen baseball fan. So find "Comeback Season," play ball, and you'll show a lot of teeth.



STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

Virtual, In Person or Hybrid...
your child's success depends on you.

As a parent, you have to be involved in your child's education to make sure he or she has everything they need to succeed.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.NNPA.ORG/EDUCATION

© 2021 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

