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'I just want my baby home' says distraught mom of unarmed Black man killed by police

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Katie Wright, the mother of the 20-year-old African American man shot and killed by police a short distance from a Minneapolis courtroom where former cop Derek Chauvin stands trial for the murder of George Floyd, is searching for answers.

Wright, and a frustrated community that still has not wrapped its head around Floyd's very avoidable murder, said there was no reason for officers to shoot Daunte Wright, Sr.

"My son was 20-years-old," Katie Wright reminded journalists and community members, just hours after her son's fatal police encounter.

"He got pulled over for having air fresheners in the car that I just gave him," she forcefully explained. "All he did was have air fresheners in the car, and they told him to get out of the car."

Brooklyn Center police officials claimed officers pulled Wright over for a traffic violation.

The incident occurred at about 2 p.m. in the 6300 block of Orchard Avenue in Brooklyn Center.



Katie Wright said as officers pulled her son over, he called her. "I heard someone say 'Daunte, don't run,'" she recalled.

Police officials said Wright, the father of a one-year-old son, had an outstanding warrant.

When they attempted to arrest him, Wright retreated inside his vehicle.

"One officer discharged their firearm, striking the driver, and the vehicle traveled several blocks before striking into another vehicle," authorities wrote in a statement, which failed to address why police shot the unarmed Wright.

A female passenger in Wright's vehicle reportedly suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

"People in the Twin Cities, especially young Black people, are outraged by the police killing of Daunte Wright," Mel Reeves, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder editor, declared.

The Spokesman-Recorder, one of the 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies represented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), has continued to cover the trial of Chauvin, who faces multiple counts of murder in the death of Floyd last May.

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Touting the American Rescue Plan

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Bernice A. King

People In The News ...



Loni Love



T-Ronn Hicks

NDG Quote of the Week: "You're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day."

— Marian Wright Edelman

Bernice A. King

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Fifty-three years after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, the slain civil rights icon's legacy is easily seen in how his daughter has continued to fight for many of the same causes.

Bernice A. King joined the children of late civil rights champions the Rev. C.T. Vivian, and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, in blasting voter suppression laws that have cropped up since the



2020 election.

In a letter, King, Al Vivian, and John-Miles Lewis took issue with corporate leaders who have done little or nothing to back up comments their businesses have

made supporting racial equity.

The trio said those corporations have "disrespected" their fathers.

"Rather than sowing seeds to provide democracy the greatest chance to grow today and prevail tomorrow, legislators are attempting to transport us back to the shameful period of American history when mass voter suppression for communities of color was the law of the land," King, Vivian, and Lewis, wrote.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican, signed into law legislation that imposes new ID requirements

for mail-in voting and limits ballot drop box availability.

The law also gives voters less time to request and return a mail-in ballot, and it prohibits anyone from giving food or water to those standing in line to cast their votes.

The new law represents the state's response to President Joe Biden's victory in Georgia in November and Democratic Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff winning run-off elections in January.

Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and others have either condemned the new

voting restrictions or have issued social media statements expressing concern.

Reportedly, when Delta Air Lines ended its association with the National Rifle Association, Republican lawmakers removed a tax break from their tax reform bill that would have saved the airline \$40 million.

But King said that should not frighten businesses from making the right choice.

"Corporate leaders have the greatest influence in Washington and on our state legislators," King told Forbes. "They pay lobbyists and invest in campaigns. They need to use their le-

verage—their lobbying leverage—on Capitol Hill and at the state level."

On the evening of April 4, 1968, an assassin's bullet tore through King while he stood on the balcony of his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

King, who was 39, arrived in Memphis to support a sanitation workers' strike. The civil rights leader had repeatedly expressed concern about economic inequality and went to Memphis because of how poorly the city treated African American sanitation

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Loni Love

This year's graduation celebration at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) will be extraordinary! Not only will PVAMU hold its first in-person commencement since the pandemic for its spring Class of 2021, but the university will also hold a recognition event for its Class of 2020. The university has selected two national figures to deliver inspirational messages to the graduates.

PVAMU alumna and award-winning comedienne Loni Love has been tapped as the ceremony orator for the university's



2020 Recognition Ceremony on Friday, May 14, in Panther Stadium at 7:30 p.m. In addition, Love will receive the rarely awarded Presidential Medal. It is given to individuals who have achieved signifi-

cant accomplishments and whose actions model for our students what can be attained with hard work, self-confidence, and a commitment to high achievement.

Not only is Love an EMMY and NAACP Image Award-winning co-host of "The Real," but also a proud graduate of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering at PVAMU. The Detroit native is another example of Prairie View Produces Productive People.

Love's voice, image, and perspective can be found across all media platforms, from her nationally syndicated "Café Mocha" radio

show with rapper Yo-Yo to reality TV as a guest judge on RuPaul's Drag Race, to executive producing "Little Women Unfiltered: Atlanta." Love also has a growing list of movie-acting credits.

The two-time best-selling author is also well known for her philanthropic commitment, including being an ambassador for Former First Lady Michelle Obama's When We All Vote, as well as the NAACP, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Girl Scouts, and the United Negro College Fund, to name a few.

In addition, Dr. Michael

Eric Dyson has been selected as PVAMU's 139th Spring Commencement Convocation Speaker, which takes place Saturday, May 15, 2021, in Panther Stadium at 8:30 a.m.

Loni Love is an EMMY and NAACP Image Award-winning co-host of The Real. The Real is a one-hour nationally syndicated talk show airing daily on Fox stations with a second run on BOUNCE TV. The show is now in its seventh season and has featured a variety of high-profile guests from Vice President Kamala Harris, former First Lady Michelle Obama, Idris Elba and more.

Loni also currently co-hosts the GRACIE Award-winning weekend radio show Café Mocha with rapper YoYo. She has interviewed a variety of A list guests such as President Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama as well as superstars like Fantasia Barrino Taylor, Patti LaBelle, John Legend, Tyler Perry, Jam & Terry among many others. Café Mocha is the only nationally syndicated show of its kind that was created exclusively BY and FOR women of color. on over 35 stations incl The show is broadcast on over 35 stations including SiriusXM Channel 141.

T-Ronn Hicks

LEWISVILLE — Community leader T-Ronn Hicks just published his third inspirational book. "Succeeding When Others Don't Want You To" will give readers the tools they need to achieve their goals and make their dreams a reality.

The book will help everyone win at life. In it, author T-Ronn Hicks, aka SimplyBadd, provides in-



formation that has changed the lives of thousands.

A victim of bullying

when he was young, Hicks has helped countless others navigate their journeys.

Hicks said, "I seek to inspire others to view bullying in the community as a personal problem that everyone needs to solve. If it weren't for a mentor who stepped in, I believe that I would not have accomplished all that I have today."

In 2016, Mr. Hicks had a vision "if I can coach young men and women for all minorities to look inside

themselves to use the gifts and tools to problem solve, set goals, achieve them, believe in themselves to release that incredible person they desire to see in themselves and share with the rest of the world", our communities would be this amazing place to live.

Lewisville ISD took the risk, and it's has paid off in major ways.

Hicks created the Stop Bullying Our Purpose (S.B.O.P.) program and serves as an inspirational

coach to diverse students, preparing them to deal with situations by teaching them strategies in his mentoring program known as Game Changers.

Game Changers helps youth overcome academic or behavioral challenges by looking within themselves, finding their inner greatness and creating a plan to bring out that inner greatness so they can succeed in their lives after school and beyond.

Hicks has received four

proclamations of appreciation for his work at combating bullying from local, county and state governments; twice received humanitarian awards for his efforts and has been nominated for CNN's Heroes Community Leader Award, Steve Harvey's Community Leader Award and National Life Group's LifeChanger of the Year.

"Succeeding When Others Don't Want You To" is available on Amazon or SimplyBadd.com.



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The American Rescue Plan expanded access to health care

By Colin Allred
U.S. Rep. TX-32

North Texans are finally getting much needed help from the American Rescue Plan, the relief package Congress passed in March to help our country recover and end the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this plan, we set out to meet the extraordinary circumstances of this moment by passing historic legislation that would put shots in arms, money in pockets, kids back in school, and folks back to work. The plan features a range of provisions aimed at providing relief, like free vaccines, enhanced unemployment benefits, small business loans, aid to states and cities, and relief checks.

In a health crisis like this with so many losing their jobs, it was also critical that we made sure Americans could get access to quality, affordable health care. That's why we included provisions in the American Rescue Plan that lower health care costs and increase access to give families peace of mind as we

fight COVID-19.

Congress dramatically expanded subsidies to help millions of folks afford coverage and now, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the American Rescue Plan strengthens the Affordable Care Act and will help 1.3 million people without insurance finally get covered. Additionally, the bill will provide 6 million Americans the ability to sign up for a health plan with no monthly premium charge. Millions more will now finally gain access to financial help through health-care.gov by ensuring that no one will pay more than 8.5% of their income on their premium.

Texas has one of the highest uninsured rates in the country, with one of every four Dallas County residents going without health insurance. In addition, Texas has yet to expand Medicaid, leaving nearly a million Texans without the care they need, which is critical especially during this pandemic and particularly hurts Black and Latino Texans.

Everywhere I go, North Texans tell me that health care is their top concern, which is why I've made it my top priority in Congress. On my first day in office, I led the effort in the House of Representatives against a Texas lawsuit seeking to undermine the Affordable Care Act. Now, with a new Congress and President Joe Biden, we have put an end to the cynical sabotage of Americans' health care and we are ready to move forward.

There is so much work to do to make health care more affordable for every American, and we took a big step forward with the passage of the American Rescue Plan.

Thanks to the plan, a family of four earning \$40,000 would go from paying a \$136 premium for their health care, to nothing. A family of four making \$90,000 would see their premiums decrease by \$200 a month. The plan also incentivizes states like Texas, who haven't expanded Medicaid eligibility, to do so and provide critical care to those who need it, espe-

cially our most vulnerable communities.

Additionally, the American Rescue Plan provides a 100% federal continuation health coverage subsidy, also known as COBRA, through September 1, so those who have lost their jobs or lost their health care due to reduced hours because of the pandemic don't lose their health care.

As someone who was raised by a single mother here in North Texas, I can imagine how stressful this time has been for many working families, compounded by so much uncertainty. But I hope that if you need health care, you can take advantage of the new Affordable Care Act provisions in the American Rescue Plan and worry about one less thing as we all work to end this pandemic.

Please visit healthcare.gov to sign up and choose a plan that works for you and your family. The special enrollment period ends August 15, 2021. My office is here to help North Texans navigate this process so visit allred.house.gov to learn how to get in touch.

Don't hesitate to get the COVID-19 vaccine

By Eric Johnson
Mayor of Dallas

We are now more than one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a menace to our communities.

According to national, state, and local data — data that I pushed Dallas County to report early in the pandemic — people of color experience higher infection and mortality rates.

But the end is in sight thanks to vaccines. All three approved COVID-19 vaccines — Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson — give us a shot to beat this pandemic.

The vaccines are effective in protecting us and preventing the spread of

the virus. However, this effectiveness can only be achieved if enough people are vaccinated. That's how we get to herd immunity.

I understand the hesitance of some. Historically, African Americans in our country have been abused in the name of science, which was actually pseudoscience.

It is likely that the apparent speed at which the vaccines were developed has contributed to questions of safety and clinical due process. But based upon the words of clinical scientists and available evidence, the expedited process in the development of the COVID-19 vaccines under Operation Warp Speed does not suggest that the vaccines skipped any scientific veri-

fication protocols involved in its production and clinical trials.

Our current health system has institutional checks and balances to ensure the safety of pharmaceuticals distributed for nationwide and global use. For COVID-19 vaccines, these same checks and balances were applied in the evaluation process to ensure the vaccine's safety. The clinical trials consisted of diverse groups of people. And post-trial, the vaccines proved just as effective and safe among Blacks and Hispanics when compared to other groups.

Yes, receiving the vaccine could make your arm sore or even make you feel ill for a day or so. But this short-term issue is far better

than COVID-19, which has killed more than 500,000 people and counting across the country.

I am urging you to get the vaccine for your own safety and for the safety of your community. Let's rid ourselves of this menace and get our lives back so we can focus on giving ourselves and our neighbors a real opportunity to thrive in the years to come.

Residents who are age 50 and older are now eligible to receive the vaccine in Texas. Anyone who is over 16 with serious underlying health issues is also eligible. To register for the vaccine, visit DallasCountyCovid.org or call 1-855-IMMUNE9 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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

COVID-19 Testing and Black America

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

The COVID-19 pandemic across America and throughout the world is still a serious danger to public health for all communities, but especially for African American and other people of color communities. African Americans are still disproportionately negatively impacted by this deadly virus.

This is why more COVID-19 testing for Black America is so important in 2021: African Americans comprise 13% of the U.S. population, but more than half of all COVID-19 cases, and nearly 60% of all COVID-related deaths in the U.S., were in cities with large Black populations. Now that federal-government approved vaccines are



Photo via NNPA

available, it does not mean that COVID-19 testing is no longer needed.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is very concerned about the current state of health disparities and inequities that are realities for the majority of African Americans. Facts, data, and truth about the pandemic are vital to our future.

According to a recent study by the Pew Research Center, a majority of Black Americans (61%) now say they plan to get a CO-

VID-19 vaccine (or that they've already received one), compared to only 42% in November, 2020. As trust increases, we need to also increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations and testing in our communities to create better health outcomes.

The Black Press and the Black Church are two fundamental trusted institutions in our communities. We are pleased to learn about a new emerging partnership with Black church leaders which is creating

greater access to much-needed COVID-19 testing in our communities. A partnership between Quest Diagnostics, Choose Healthy Life and the United Way of New York City is bringing COVID-19 testing and education to Black communities in cities across the U.S., and they are working with trusted voices in Black churches to increase participation.

The pandemic has also made it even clearer that Black Americans need access to additional resources to take control of their health. In Chicago for example, Black residents make up 30% of the population but account for 70% of COVID-related deaths, and the majority of Black COVID-19 patients who have died in Chicago also had underlying health conditions, like respiratory problems, hypertension,

high blood pressure, and diabetes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, heart disease is the leading cause of death for Black Americans, and Black people experience risk factors that contribute to heart disease like high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol more often and earlier in life compared to White people. Thus, overall healthcare testing is needed throughout Black America.

Getting tested for important health issues – and understanding the results – empowers people to make informed and sometimes critical healthcare decisions. In fact, 70% of medical decisions are based on results from diagnostic tests. Because there aren't always obvious symptoms of a health issue, testing is one of the most effective ways to identify health

concerns that may need to be addressed.

Quest Diagnostics is committed to creating partnerships with others to increase access in Black and other underserved communities. It's time for the entire healthcare system to step up with similar commitments – with access to treatment and preventative care – to help Black communities move past this pandemic on an even ground with White America. Access, testing, and equity are keys to achieving and maintaining good health for all.

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 weekly across the United States.

DeSoto votes in favor of 'Ban-the-Box' policy for job hiring

Tuesday night, in a 6-1 vote, DeSoto City Council approved a Ban-the-Box policy joining the City of Austin, 36 states, and over 150 cities and counties in implementing hiring policies that aim to give everyone a fair chance at employment. "Ban the Box" refers to the policy of removing the conviction

history check-box from job applications. If employers must ask about convictions, they can ask later in the hiring process.

"Ban-the-Box is a commonsense policy that aims to remove job barriers for people with records," said DeSoto City Council Member Candice Quarles.

"DeSoto is joining hun-

dreds of other cities and counties in implementing this policy to shift hiring practices so that we focus more on qualifications and less on something that happened in the past. These policies are good for the economy, workers, families, and public safety."

When asked about Senate Bill 14, the sweeping

preemption bill to be heard on the Texas Senate floor today, Quarles said, "In a time when so many are trying to economically recover from this pandemic, we need to find more ways to increase access to work. I'm proud of our City for passing this policy and I hope our State Legislature understands the positive

impact this will have for our people. Bills like SB 14 don't only inhibit local governments, but they punish Texans who are just wanting to get back on their feet."

Pastor Marcus King, Senior Pastor of Disciple Central Community Church in DeSoto spoke in favor of

the policy during the meeting.

"No human is Jesus," said Pastor King. "All who have an offense, have a story. We should give them a fair chance to write a new chapter with Ban-the-Box. They have served their time and we shouldn't make them serve more."

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"Wright was unarmed, and there is no apparent or logical reason why Brooklyn Center police would have shot him during a traffic stop," Reeves remarked.

Al McFarlane of *Insight News* also expressed concern about the latest incident.

Insight News also is a member of the NNPA.

McFarlane said his newspaper is monitoring the matter and he also plans to discuss it on his "Conversations with Al McFarlane" radio program that airs at 1 p.m. daily in the Twin Cit-

ies.

Katie Wright said as officers pulled her son over, he called her. "I heard someone say 'Daunte, don't run,'" she recalled.

Wright said her son's girlfriend answered the phone when she called back.

"He got out of the car, and his girlfriend said they shot him," Wright uttered as her voice trailed. "He got back in the car, and he drove away and crashed, and now he's dead on the ground. Nobody will tell us

anything. Nobody will talk to us. I asked them to please take my son off the ground, he's been there since 1:47 this afternoon."

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said he would closely monitor the situation as National Guard troops arrived to quell potential conflict between police and a still-on-edge community.

"Gwen and I are praying for Daunte Wright's family as our state mourns another life of a Black man taken by law enforcement," the governor tweeted.

As frustrated individuals from the community shout-

ed and chanted their displeasure with police, officers donned riot gear, fired flashbangs, and sprayed chemicals on protestors who marched toward the Brooklyn Center Police Department headquarters.

"He was only 20 years old, and he didn't deserve to be shot and killed like this," Katie Wright demanded. "I don't want all of this, all of this. I just want my baby home. That's all I want is I want him to be home. I don't want everybody out here chanting and screaming, yelling, I just want him home, that's it."

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ACLU hosts a conversation on systemic equality in Texas

By Breanne Holley
NDG Contributing Writer

“What the people want is very simple, they want an America as good as its promise,” (says the quote from Barbara Jordan) and that is our mantra for the work that we do here at ACLU,” said Darryl Ewing as he introduced a Wednesday evening discussion on systemic equality in Texas with a quote from a famous Texan herself.

Ewing highlighted the work to be done on preventing House Bill 6 and Senate Bill 7 from become law as he says they would further suppress votes in communities of color. Ewing mentions that the two “a” words for brining change to Texas are aspiration, the big vision that all see for Texas that will create a better Texas. The other word is action which is backed up by aspiration. He adds that the big picture must be put into action.

At the start of the program a survey had been posted that had some surprising results and it involved three questions.

Do you believe you have a basic understanding of racial justice?

What does a racially equitable Texas look like for you?

What are some of the barriers that are keeping you from being fully engaged?

The results were that a lot strongly agreed they had a basic understanding of racial justice and that dismantling laws and policies and stopping voter suppression were among what was needed for a more equitable Texas. Most said they would become more active if they had more information about the campaign.

Rebecca Robertson hosted the two panelists who are leaders and had a lot to say about systemic equality. Gary Bledsoe, President of Texas State Conference of NAACP Units, who chairs the NAACP criminal justice committee as well as a lawyer himself, and



Element5 Digital / Unsplash

former County Clerk Chris Hollins of Harris County, Texas, lawyer, activist and community leader.

Robertson posed the first question to set the tone on the importance of voting in America in general and Bledsoe opened the discussion with a powerful answer “... if I got a guy wearing a sheet and a hood out there trying to stop me from voting I need to understand that I need to be voting, it is intuitive. It is essential for citizenship, to have a voice.” At the state capital “it is a desire to maintain power, what is being undertaken is an effort to create an apartheid regime ... It is about making the white majority powerful throughout.”

Hollins said, in Harris County of Houston, the goal was about making sure all 2.5 million people could cast their vote and be heard that they could cast the votes safely during the pandemic and that their votes counted. He says the voter suppression laws that are being proposed are taking rights away from Americans. He said voters should not accept that as politics as usual. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. He believes if you are citizen and have that right to vote you should be able to exercise it and it should be easy, no poll tax or intimidation should prevent that.

“How do these voter suppressions tactics target people of color the most?” asked Robertson.

Bledsoe mentioned that there has been a problem with poll watchers who disrespect African Americans at the polls. What these laws

do is make the poll watcher outside the jurisdiction of the elected official. They were ugly and nasty to voters and voting officials. One thing that was happening was people would go in without a mask during the pandemic and get up closer to African American voters. He suggested this one now says they have a right to kill you, that’s what this law says. The poll watcher provision is designed against the African American community, as a provisions that prohibit voting after 9 p.m. or assisting a voter.

Hollins added on to Bledsoe’s remarks, saying “there long standing election law in Texas saying you can’t bring cameras but now poll watchers and poll watchers only can bring in cameras, saying people can bring firearms into the polls ... There are aspects of these bills that say if you bring someone to help you vote they would have to fill out additional paperwork identifying yourself.”

How will it impact urban communities as opposed to rural communities? The density of bipoc people in urban communities is more than rural communities. These laws will affect those more, according to Bledsoe. There are various barriers such as public transit that affect the accessibility of voting in urban communities.

“There is still time, though short, to be able to do whatever we can to put pressure on state legislatures to do the right thing,” Bledsoe said “Because of the consequences they will face otherwise. This is why corporations have gotten

involved.” He urged listeners to put their voices out there as social media connections amplify these messages.

Bledsoe says what is fundamentally true is that the people who are in control won’t listen to organizations, and that there is a specific group of people that they listen to. Ever since the election of president Obama in 2008 there is a nucleus of people, 10% of the electorate so upset they believe that there are problems with illegal immigration and the ascendancy of the African American vote and president Obama. Those are the kind of people that would be upset if the legislation voted to say they respect black veterans. Anything related to black or brown people they would oppose.

A question presented was “Is it time to get rid of the Electoral College?”, and Hollins said yes, it is time because it sets up minority rule.

The conversation did move on to policing and Hollins, who comes from a family of police officers, began that discussion. He says his father, who was a police officer, even had to have a talk with him on what to do if he is stopped by a police officer and be-

hind the wheel of a vehicle; what he needed to do to not be assaulted by a police officer. He mentions how traffic stops are used intentionally to try and entrap minorities. With his work with state and local uniformed agencies, he hears from the blue lives matter crowd “don’t let everything be ruined by a bad apple and such.”

There are so many good cops and bad ones too and the problem is when the good ones are defending the bad ones. Well intentioned officers who don’t have proper training can also end up shooting unarmed people of color. Hollins added that just because a person is a good guy or gal doesn’t mean they need to be a police officer.

“Not everybody is cut out for that,” Hollins said. “There needs to be much more rigorous in the selection training and accountability of our police officers.”

Bledsoe said that after seeing the murder of George Floyd in full view in front of the world, the things that African Americans have been saying for many years has been shown to be true. Bledsoe is a lawyer who has even represented police officers and yet in his experience says that

although he has had good police officers help him, he has also had guns pulled on him for no reason. He says the fundamental issue with policing is the culture intended to proliferate a biased system, some say an extension of the old plantation idea; a way to have control over African Americans. The code of conduct in blue silence allows for any kind of conduct against an African American to be upheld even against the Latino community.

Hollins said, “A number of police forces have an independent oversight lore. In Houston those recommendations have no teeth whatsoever. They have no authorities but need to have some authorities to hand down penalties for officers that are involved in wrongdoing.”

He talks about how we should be policing and protecting our own to catch these wrongdoings.

In regards to police reform Bledsoe mentioned that, “Since we know that individuals are getting involved in police departments that are biased that members of hate organizations we need to have a way of actually looking at that. There are departments that

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Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year finalists



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Kudos to Seneca Denman, of Boude Storey Middle School in District 6, who has been named a finalist for Teacher of the Year. Dedicated to the middle grades, Ms. Denman is in her fifth year at Boude Storey. She has been recognized as a distinguished teacher under the Teacher Excellence (TEI) and Teacher Incentive (TIA) initiatives, and has guided her students to make double-digit gains on local and state social studies assessments. Best wishes, Ms. Denman, and congratulations to all our Teacher of the Year finalists! As we all know, teachers are our most important school-based re-

source.

District Is Hiring Bus Drivers

Dallas ISD's Student Transportation Services Department is hiring bus drivers in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. Drivers must be at least 21 years old. Candidates with or without a commercial driver's license (CDL) are invited to apply. The district will provide on-the-job training for the accepted candidates who do not have a commercial driver's license. Those interested can apply at www.dallasisd.org/careers.

Finishing the Year Strong

District high schools are urging seniors to return to in-person classes beginning April 12 to #FinishTheYearStrong. Campuses are planning senior events to let students enjoy some of the normal senior year experience they have lost to CO-

VID. Parents should know that the schools will continue to require social distancing, masking, plexiglass and temperature checks to keep students and staff safe.

Time to Learn

Nearly 40 Dallas ISD schools have adopted an "intersession" calendar, which extends the school year to start at the beginning of August and end in late June, adding five weeks for select students to gain more personalized attention. In District 6, these schools are: William Hawley Atwell Law Academy and McNair, Turner, Brashear, Carpenter, Tolbert, Russell and Thornton elementary schools. In addition, Boude Storey Middle School is among schools adopting a "school day redesign" calendar, which extends the school year to start at the beginning of August and end in late June for all stu-

dents, teachers, and staff. This calendar gives teachers more time to prepare, as well as more time for student enrichment.

Mental Health Symposium

If COVID-19 has stressed you out, know that help is available. Dallas ISD's Mental Health Services team offers FREE mental health support for students and families. Students, staff, parents and community members are invited to join us virtually Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the Mental Health Matters Virtual Symposium. To register, visit www.mentalhealth-mattersdallas.com.

Kimball Hoops Greatness

Congratulations to Kimball's Boys Basketball team junior guard Arterio Morris, who was named the 2021 all-area boys basketball player of the year

by The Dallas Morning News! Shoutout also to the whole team for being state championship finalists. Although they didn't win their overtime game, they gave it their best, coming within one point, and I am so proud of them!

Carter Cowboys Are Winners on the Track!

Congratulations to the Carter Girls and Boys Track & Field teams! They are both 12-4A District Champions!

Congrats to Carter Golf Coach Cynthia Calahan and both the Boys and Girls Carter golf teams for winning the 2021 12-4A District championship. Special shoutouts to Sherlyn Flores, who placed 1st in the girls' individuals; Adia Larzeia, 3rd place in girls' individuals; Jelani Rogers, 1st place in the boys' individuals; Glen Veasley, 2nd place in boys' individuals, and

Semaj Maston, 3rd place in boys' individuals. Go, young golfers!

Dallas ISD seeks to increase presence of Latino male educators

As part of an initiative aimed at recruiting teachers who represent the students they serve, Dallas ISD is launching a campaign to hire 10 Latino male professionals next fall and put them on the path toward becoming licensed teachers who will lead classrooms. This initiative follows in the footsteps of a similar program launched last year to hire 12 Black male teachers to serve at high-priority campuses. Interested applicants must have a bachelor's degree in any field and a GPA of 2.5 or above. Latino men interested in applying to the program may email their resume to futureteacher@dallasisd.org.

ACT-SO opportunities available through the Garland NAACP

The Garland NAACP is looking for students interested in furthering their future career opportunities through the ACT-SO program.

ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to stimulate, improve and enhance academ-

ic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. Students can select up to three competitions from a total of 32 offerings in STEM, Business, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Culinary Arts.

Students interested in

participating in NAACP ACT-SO must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a citizen of the United States or hold a permanent resident visa card.
- Must be enrolled in grades 9-12 at the time of application

- Must be an amateur (having not received wages for professional services) in the categories of competition.
- Must compete in a local ACT-SO competition in order to qualify for the national competition.

Interested students should contact Joyce Miller at the Garland NAACP via email at garlandtxactso@gmail.com. More information can be found at www.texasact-so.org.

KING, from Page 2

workers.

One night before he was killed, King delivered his final – some say prophetic – speech. "We've got some difficult days ahead," the resolute King preached.

"But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop ... I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

The letter, authored, in part, by Bernice King, high-

lighted the icon's statements about overcoming racism.

"Evil cannot permanently organize. It bears within it seeds of its own destruction," the letter states.

The children of the three civil rights icons went on to

state:

"This belief undergirds our abiding faith in America, even as legislators in Georgia and 39 other states attempt to root our nation in the oppressive weeds of yesterday through a new generation of Jim Crow voting laws."

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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

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

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

April 18, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morn-

ing Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

April 21, 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 4741.

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

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"THE SHIP" We are
Saving You a Seat!**

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

April 18,

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 21, 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
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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 16, 7 pm

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

April 18, 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 19, 7 pm

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

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

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

of the coronavirus.

April 18, 8 and 11 am

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

April 19, 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 21, 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

ACLU, from Page 5

are doing that such as one in Oregon that has been doing that for a while, their psychologist thinks they have screened out a large percentage of the applications who were bigoted and etc. That is another thing we really need here.

"Where should we be putting our resources for systemic equality?" Rebecca asked the panelists, a question from the Q&A section.

Hollins said that "to secure equality in this country we need free and fair elections plain and simple."

Bledsoe said people should join towards pushing for racial reconciliation commissions on a local level, all of these issues could be enveloped when local authorities come and sit together whether they be far left or far right.

Robertson ended the conversation by thanking Bledsoe and Hollins for their wisdom and insight into these system equality

issues, adding they need everybody to get involved

and share things that can be done, COVID safe, to get involved in the issues discussed. Shape the cam-

paign.

More information on this and other ACLU issues is available at aclutx.org.

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct several 37-foot 4-inch small cell monopole communications towers in the vicinity of Irving, Dallas County, TX. The locations for the proposed installations area as follows:
520 E Las Colinas Blvd, 75039, Lat: [32° 51' 40.158" N], Long: [96° 55' 53.526" W]; 681 E Las Colinas Blvd, 75039, Lat: [32° 51' 40.644" N], Long: [96° 55' 43.6044" W]; 3881 N O'Connor Rd, 75062, Lat: [32° 51' 16.25" N], Long: [96° 57' 2.00" 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, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.**

Comcast commits to investing \$1 billion to reach 50 million low-income Americans with tools and resources to succeed in digital world

On the 10th anniversary of its Internet Essentials program, Comcast announced it would invest \$1 billion over the next 10 years to help further close the digital divide and give even more low-income Americans the tools and resources they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world. The announcement coincides with the release of a 10-year Progress Report showing that, since 2011, the company, working in collaboration with its network of thousands of nonprofit partners, has connected a cumulative total of more than 10 million people in America to broadband Internet at home, the overwhelming majority of whom were not connected prior to signing up.

Comcast's \$1 billion commitment will include investments in a number of critical areas, including: additional support for its ongoing Lift Zone initiative, which establishes WiFi-connected safe spaces in 1,000+ community centers nationwide for students and adults by the end of 2021; new laptop and computer donations; grants for nonprofit community organizations to create opportunities for low-income Americans, particularly in media, technology, and entrepreneurship; and continued investment in the company's landmark Internet Essentials program. It is estimated that these new commitments will impact as many as 50 million Americans over the next 10 years. In 2021 alone, Comcast estimates students will be able to complete more than 25 million hours of remote learning lessons to further address the "home-



Comcast's Internet Essentials Partnership Program has signed up hundreds of schools, school districts, and other organizations that have come together to help connect tens of thousands of students to the Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo via NNPA)

work gap" at the hundreds of Lift Zone locations that have already opened or will open soon.

"Ten years is a remarkable milestone, signifying an extraordinary amount of work and collaboration with our incredible community partners across the country," said Dave Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Comcast Cable. "Together, we have been able to connect millions of people to the power of the Internet at home, and to the endless opportunity, education, growth, and discovery it provides. Today, we are rededicating ourselves to this mission to ensure that the next generation of students in America has the tools, resources, and abilities they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world."

"For more than a decade, Comcast has been a leader in working with communities to close the Digital Divide through its Internet Essentials program," said Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League. "From its beginning as a pilot program with the Wilmington Urban League to today, Comcast's Internet Essentials program has trans-

formed millions of lives by connecting low-income households to the power of broadband. While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic placed a spotlight on the digital divide, for the past decade Comcast, in partnership with organizations like the National Urban League, has been leading the effort to close the digital divide, address the homework gap, and ensure low-income communities have the necessary digital skills."

"Last year, we partnered with Comcast on a major campaign to encourage Americans to participate in the first-ever digital census," added Rebecca DeHart, CEO, Fair Count. "We are so proud to have partnered with Comcast on this valuable work—connectivity is incredibly essential to civic participation. It gives communities a voice and it enables individuals to take part in the cultural conversations that need to take place in this country. Broadband adoption, just like census participation, can mean the difference between communities growing and thriving or being left behind. For the past decade, the Internet Essentials program has suc-

cessfully helped to narrow these digital divides. We look forward to the next 10 years of Internet Essentials and join Comcast in celebrating this significant achievement."

"Unidos US is proud to have partnered with Comcast for the past 10 years," said Janet Murguía, President and CEO, UNIDOS. "Our vision is and always has been an America where economic, political, and social advancement are realities for all Latinos. Comcast has been a vital partner to bringing this vision to life. Through Internet Essentials, we've been able to connect our communities to the digital tools, skills development, and platforms on which all voices can be amplified. As we celebrate 10 years of the program, we look forward to our continued partnership with Comcast well into the future."

In addition to capturing the total number of connections Internet Essentials has provided, the 10-Year Progress Report also highlights other key metrics about the

program, including having:

- Increased the program's Internet speeds six times, from 1.5 Mbps in 2011 to 50 Mbps today, without ever increasing the price of the program, which has remained \$9.95/month.

- Launched its Lift Zones program, which aims to connect more than 1,000 community centers with free WiFi by the end of 2021.

- Developed an Internet Essentials Partnership Program that has signed up hundreds of schools, school districts, and other organizations that have come together to help connect tens of thousands of students to the Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Offered 60 days of free Internet service to any new Internet Essentials customer who needed to get online during the coronavirus outbreak.

- Expanded the number of languages our Internet Essentials call center agents can speak to more than 240, plus American Sign Language, to help

ensure we break down language barriers that can prevent people from applying or getting online.

- Built up an online learning center that includes more than 200 digital literacy training videos, guides, and reports that are free to anyone to use, including non-customers.

- Developed an employee network of 3,000 Internet Essentials Ambassadors who volunteer their time to help spread the word about the program in their communities.

This new commitment comes on the heels of a series of initiatives announced during the COVID-19 pandemic that reinforced the company's commitment to addressing the digital divide and the homework gap by upping speeds to 50 Mbps downstream without changing the program's \$9.95/month price. The company also continues to offer 60 days of free Internet service to new Internet Essentials customers who sign up before June 30, 2021.

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Vocal excellence hits the road with the OperaTruck

The Dallas Opera (TDO) announces its newest initiative, designed to bring productions of family fare to Greater Dallas communities with OperaTruck, an 18-wheel flatbed “big rig” that has been customized as an outdoor mobile stage, which can accommodate musicians and singers with appropriate distancing in “pop-up” performances.

OperaTruck was generously retro-fitted and donated by Quincy Roberts—a TDO Trustee, TDO Chorus member, and one of D magazine’s “Top 500 Most Influential Leaders”—who is also a trained opera singer, and CEO of Roberts Trucking, the largest African American-owned construction hauler in Dallas.

Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera’s Kern Wilden-



DallasOpera.org

thal General Director and CEO, thanks Roberts for this unique gift, saying, “We are so very grateful to Quincy Roberts for his generosity of time and effort to provide TDO with the OperaTruck, which is helping us create inroads with new local partners, such as local churches and social service organizations. These collaborations will bring live classical music in an unex-

pected way—on a truck!—to engage new audiences and families with the stories we tell through music.”

OperaTruck makes its debut with three new community partners: First United Methodist Church of Heath on Saturday, May 8 at 2 p.m., Trinity Basin Preparatory School on May 15 at 2 p.m., St. Matthew’s Cathedral on May 23 at 3 p.m. OperaTruck

performances feature TDO singers in family-friendly one-act operas: Jack and the Beanstalk and Doctor Miracle. All OperaTruck performances take place outdoors; audiences should bring their own seating.

“It’s a privilege to both support The Dallas Opera and participate with them in performance,” said Quincy Roberts, “which is why providing them with

a creative way to expand their community engagement efforts made so much sense. After a year without live performances, I can’t wait to see the OperaTruck in action in our communities.”

The OperaTruck will also bring performers for private events at the North Texas Food Bank in Plano and Family Gateway in downtown Dallas.

OperaTruck is the brainchild of Kristian Roberts, TDO’s Director of Education, who explains, “The pandemic has been challenging for arts organizations as a whole, but it has also given The Dallas Opera opportunities to become even more bold and creative in our approach to our mission. We have seized this moment to better serve

the community while upholding our commitment to a talented generation of Texas-based singer/actors now developing their craft. I’m extremely proud of the work my team has done, and I am excited to see it help change stereotypes, expectations—and lives.”

She continued, “I cannot thank Quincy enough for his generosity. OperaTruck allows us to present free family-friendly content in a big, big way. And that’s about as Texan as it gets!”

Additional free outdoor performances of Jack and the Beanstalk will take place (without the truck) at the Dallas Arboretum on April 24 at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Rory Meyers Children’s Adventure Garden and at Klyde Warren Park on May 1 at 1 p.m.

Grammy winner launches new music series in DFW next month

FORT WORTH -- Funkytown Agency is proud to announce, in partnership with Downtown Cowtown at the Isis Theater, The Roots of Music Concert Series. The series will debut with two nights of performances, May 7 and 8, featuring a power-packed lineup of some of the top musical talent and artists New Orleans has to offer. Internationally renowned Jazz musician, New Orleans Jazz

Orchestra Artistic Director, and Co-Founder of Funkytown Agency, Adonis Rose will be hosting the series launch event and performing alongside New Orleans greats including Bo Dollis Jr. and The Wild Magnolias, Erica Falls, and James Andrews, among others. The event will also feature a local tie-in with an opening set by Fort Worth’s Big Easy Brass Band.

The special two-day

launch event will mark the official opening of the Downtown Cowtown at the Isis venue and set the stage for what patrons can experience through the coming months and series. Straight from the Crescent City, performers like Big Chief Bo Dollis Jr. and Soul singer Erica Falls will bring powerful performances, sharing deep musical traditions with concert-goers. North Texans will be transported

to the birthplace of jazz with a dynamo lineup of some of the top-performing Jazz artists in the world. Guests will enjoy additional performances from James Andrews, Terrance Taplin, and a special opening night set from Fort Worth’s Big Easy Brass Band.

When asked about the concert series, Artistic Director of Funkytown Agen-



Adonis Rose (Courtesy photo)

See ROSE, Page 10

THE PROFILE THEATRE PRODUCTION OF
MLIMA'S TALE
 WRITTEN BY LYNN NOTTAGE DIRECTED BY REGINALD L. DOUGLAS

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General Motors announces 400 percent increase in ad spending with Black-owned media

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

General Motors, a long-time corporate partner of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), announced increasing advertising spending in Black-owned media by 400 percent.

According to a news release, the company said it would grow spending from 2 percent to 8 percent of its total budget by 2023.

By that estimate, General Motors' advertising spending would jump from about \$45 million to approximately \$180 million.



According to a news release, the company said it would grow spending from 2 percent to 8 percent of its total budget by 2023. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

Several Black-owned media officials recently pressed General Motors CEO Mary Barra for a meeting after determining that the company was not doing enough to promote economic inclu-

sion.

Reportedly, a meeting between Barra, and a contingent led by Byron Allen of Allen Media Group, was postponed.

General Motors officials

said it would be more productive to host a series of meetings involving a more extensive mix of Black-owned media publishers and executives.

"To ensure that our conversations are both substantive and constructive, we are going to postpone [the originally scheduled meeting] and reschedule it into a series of smaller conversations that take place over the next few weeks," GM global Chief Marketing Officer Deborah Wahl told the executives.

"We also intend to expand the dialogue to invite our existing Black-owned media partners currently in the GM portfolio."

For years, the company has been a corporate sponsor to the NNPA, the trade association representing 230 African American newspapers and media companies in markets throughout the country.

Also, General Motors' Chevrolet brand and the NNPA have partnered since 2016 to provide deserving HBCU students with the exciting opportunity to "Discover the Unexpected" about themselves and their communities via a journalism fellowship program.

The Discover the Unexpected Journalism Fellowship (DTU) provides six HBCU students with

scholarships (\$10,000 each), stipends (\$5,000 each), an eight-week fellowship with the nation's leading Black news publications, and the "road trip of a lifetime" in an all-new Chevrolet Blazer or other Chevrolet vehicle.

Each year, a selection of four NNPA Publishers provides the fellows with the opportunity to gain real-world journalism experience during the eight-week Fellowship Program.

"General Motors has been taking steps to deal with systemic racism," said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. "It doesn't happen overnight or in one year."

New book documents COVID-19 impact on iconic music venues

Music is part of the lifeblood of any culture, and the American sound is iconic across the globe. Record companies are credited with spreading the word on musical talent, but for the vast majority of performers, the hallowed halls of local music venues are where the dreams began.

While the tunes filled the halls of these venues for decades, much of it came to a screeching halt with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. For the first time in more than a century, large or even moderately-sized public gatherings became a no-go zone. As a result, the venues went quiet. Unfortunately many of them may not be able to strike up the band again when this is all over with.

'Bring Music Home' (BMH), a first of its kind documentation of the cur-



rent state of U.S. music venues due to COVID-19, has just introduced the first printing of the BMH book. Created remotely over seven months during the COVID-19 pandemic, the book captures the stories of more than 200 music venues in over 30 US cities—with a particular focus on the unsung heroes behind them.

Over 60 independent photographers, producers, designers, and collaborators joined forces to donate

their time to showcase the local venues that are integral to the creative culture of their communities.

Whether it comes from R&B, Soul, Jazz, Alternative or Country; Dallas has been a bright spot on the national music stage for more than a century, and many of these standout venues are located here.

"As you're well aware, Dallas is home to so many of the music venues that make up this country's vibrant music scene, sadly, many of which are now

struggling with the reality of being unable to re-open their doors following COVID," said Megan Cook, one of the book's producers. "As part of our project, we interviewed the people behind the scenes and artists who love local venues like Kessler Theater, Gas Monkey, The Bomb Factory, and more!"

"We collaborated with local photographer, Cory Cameron, to capture the atmosphere of the closed venues and their team who has been devastated by the

indefinite closures."

At nearly 500 pages, this hardback book features venues like Stubb's, Baby's All Right, Tipitinas, The Empty Bottle, Boot & Saddle, The Fillmore, 9:30 Club and more and conversations with artists from Alice Cooper, Dehd, Native Sun, and The Black Angels to Shakey Graves, Khruangbin, Jesse Malin, Hollis Brown, and more.

At \$75 per book, a portion of the proceeds will directly benefit the National Independent Venue Asso-


ciation (NIVA), as well as support over 60 creatives who helped make this project a reality, many of whom were directly impacted by the pandemic.

BMH was co-founded as an independent project by Amber Munding, Tamara Deike, and Kevin W Condon with the support and collaboration of colleagues across music and entertainment. The project has captured iconic music venues and the personalities behind them in more than 30+ cities.

ROSE, from Page 9

cy, Host, and performer Adonis Rose said, "The City of Fort Worth boasts a diverse music scene that has grown exponentially over the last decade. The opening of the Isis Theater will provide a world-class performance space for lo-

cal and international artists and creates opportunities to expose and celebrate Black Music through the Roots of Music Concert Series, at the same time making a connection to New Orleans, the birthplace of Jazz and my hometown."



Goldie Locke

Excel Awards

Both Links are listed below!

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021, 7PM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
[HTTPS://GARLANDISD.ZOOM.US/J/87067798825](https://garlandisd.zoom.us/j/87067798825)

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021, 7PM MIDDLE SCHOOLS
[HTTPS://GARLANDISD.ZOOM.US/J/82197104394](https://garlandisd.zoom.us/j/82197104394)

VIRTUAL EVENTS



MAY 1, 2021 GENERAL ELECTION

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

COUNCIL DISTRICTS / BALLOT ORDER

Council District 1

- 1 Gerardo Sánchez
- 2 Stephani A. "Skye" Kyle
- 3 Chad West
- 4 Giovanni "Gio" Valderas

Council District 2

- 1 Jennifer Cortez
- 2 Jesse Moreno
- 3 Sana Syed
- 4 Raha Assadi
- 5 Michael Fetzer

Council District 3

- 1 Casey Thomas, II
- 2 Irby Foster

Council District 4

- 1 Maxie Johnson
- 2 Lelani Russell
- 3 Matt Canto
- 4 Carolyn King Arnold
- 5 Johnny Aguinaga

Council District 5

- 1 Jaime Resendez
- 2 Ruth Torres
- 3 Yolanda "Faye" Williams
- 4 Terry Perkins

Council District 6

- 1 Earl D. Thomas
- 2 Tony Carrillo
- 3 Omar Narvaez
- 4 Mónica R. Alonzo
- 5 Wendi Macon

Council District 7

- 1 Kevin Felder
- 2 Donald Parish
- 3 Calvin D. Johnson
- 4 Tramonica Brown
- 5 Walter "Changa" Higgins
- 6 James "JT" Turknett
- 7 Israel Varela
- 8 Adam Bazaldua

Council District 8

- 1 Tennell Atkins
- 2 Subrina Lynn Brenham
- 3 Davante "Shawt" Peters
- 4 Lakolya London

Council District 9

- 1 Paula Blackmon
- 2 Judy Kumar
- 3 John Botefuhr

Council District 10

- 1 B. Adam McGough
- 2 Sirrano Keith Baldeo

Council District 11

- 1 Jaynie Schultz
- 2 Hosanna Yemiru
- 3 Barry Wernick
- 4 Candy Evans

Council District 12

- 1 Elva Curl
- 2 Cara Mendelsohn

Council District 13

- 1 Ryan M. Moore
- 2 Da'On Boulanger-Chatman
- 3 Gay Donnell Willis
- 4 Leland R. Burk
- 5 Mac Smith

Council District 14

- 1 Paul E. Ridley
- 2 David Blewett
- 3 Elizabeth Viney



MAY 1, 2021 SPECIAL ELECTION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF DALLAS

PROPOSITION NO. A

Eliminating the Requirement That A Member of a Board or Commission Created by the City Charter be Registered or Qualified to Vote.

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; and Chapter XVII, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the requirement that a member of a board or commission created by the city charter be a registered or qualified voter?

PROPUESTA NO. A

Eliminar el Requisito de que un Miembro de una Junta o Comisión creada por la Carta de la Ciudad sea Registrado o Calificado para Votar.

¿El Capítulo IV, Sección 5; Capítulo XV, Sección 3; y el Capítulo XVII, Sección 2 de la Carta de la Ciudad de Dallas será enmendado para eliminar el requisito de que un miembro de una junta o comisión creada por la carta de la ciudad sea un votante registrado o calificado?

PROPOSITION NO. B

Eliminating the Requirement That a Member of the Civil Service Board be a Qualified Taxpaying Citizen.

Shall Chapter XVI, Section 1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the requirement that a member of the civil service board be a qualified taxpaying citizen?

PROPUESTA NO. B

Eliminar el Requisito de que un Miembro de la Junta de Servicio Civil sea un Ciudadano Calificado.

¿Se modificará el Capítulo XVI, Sección 1 de la Carta de la Ciudad de Dallas para eliminar el requisito de que un miembro de la junta de servicio civil sea un ciudadano calificado que pague impuestos?"



DALLAS COUNTY DATES / TIMES / LOCATIONS

April (abril) 19 – 23

Monday-Friday (*lunes a viernes*)

8a.m. to 5p.m.

April (abril) 24

Saturday (*sábado*)

8a.m. to 5p.m.

April (abril) 25

Sunday (*domingo*)

1p.m. to 6p.m.

April (abril) 26 – 27

Monday – Tuesday (*lunes y martes*)

7a.m. to 7p.m.

LOCATION (Lugar)	ADDRESS (Dirección)	City (Ciudad)	Zip Code (Código postal)
ADDISON FIRE STATION #1	4798 AIRPORT PKWY	ADDISON	75001
AUDELIA ROAD BRANCH LIBRARY - AUDITORIUM	10045 AUDELIA RD	DALLAS	75238
BALCH SPRINGS CIVIC CENTER	12400 ELAM RD	BALCH SPRINGS	75180
BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE "W" BUILDING ROOM W105	3939 VALLEY VIEW LN	FARMERS BRANCH	75244
CARROLLTON LIBRARY @ HEBRON & JOSEY	4220 N JOSEY LANE	CARROLLTON	75010
CEDAR HILL GOVERNMENT CENTER LOBBY	285 UPTOWN BLVD	CEDAR HILL	75104
COPPELL TOWN CENTER	255 E. PARKWAY BLVD	COPPELL	75019
CROSSWINDS HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 104	1100 N. CARRIER PKWY	GRAND PRAIRIE	75050
DISCIPLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH	901 N. POLK ST	DESOTO	75115
DUNCANVILLE LIBRARY ROOMS 1, 2 & 3	201 JAMES COLLINS BLVD	DUNCANVILLE	75116
EASTFIELLD COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS "C" BUILDING	3737 MOTLEY DR	MESQUITE	75150
EASTFIELD COLLEGE PLEASANT GROVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY ROOM 108/109	802 S. BUCKNER BLVD	DALLAS	75217
EI CENTRO COLLEGE – MAIN CAMPUS "C" BUILDING LOBBY AREA	801 MAIN ST	DALLAS	75202
EL CENTRO COLLEGE-WEST CAMPUS COMMUNITY ROOM	3330 N. HAMPTON RD	DALLAS	75212
FIRE STATION #10	4451 FRANKFORD RD	DALLAS	75287
FLORENCE RECREATION CENTER ROOM 102	2501 WHITSON WAY	MESQUITE	75150
FRANKFORD TOWNHOMES	18110 MARSH LN	DALLAS	75287
FRETZ PARK LIBRARY - BLACK BOX THEATER	6990 BELT LINE RD	DALLAS	75254
FRIENDSHIP WEST BAPTIST CHURCH BANQUET HALL FOYER	2020 W. WHEATLAND RD	DALLAS	75232
GEORGE L ALLEN SR COURTS BLDG. MAIN LOBBY - Main Location	600 COMMERCE ST	DALLAS	75202
GRAUWYLER PARK REC CENTER RM A	7780 HARRY HINES BLVD	DALLAS	75235
HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION DALLAS	8080 W PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH HWY	DALLAS	75252
HARRY STONE RECREATION CENTER SMALL ACTIVITY ROOM	2403 MILLMAR DR	DALLAS	75228
HIGHLAND HILLS LIBRARY AUDITORIUM	6200 BONNIE VIEW RD	DALLAS	75241
HUTCHINS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS	321 N. MAIN ST	HUTCHINS	75141
IRVING ARTS CENTER ART LAB, CLASSROOM 1	3333 N. MACARTHUR BLVD	IRVING	75062
IRVING CITY HALL MAIN LOBBY	825 W. IRVING BLVD	IRVING	75060
J. ERIK JONSSON CENTRAL LIBRARY	1515 YOUNG ST	DALLAS	75201
JAYCEE ZARAGOZA RECREATION CTR	3114 CLYMER ST	DALLAS	75212
JOSEY RANCH LIBRARY THE MEETING ROOM	1700 KELLER SPRINGS RD	CARROLLTON	75006
LAKESIDE ACTIVITY CENTER LARGE ROOM	101 HOLLEY PARK DR	MESQUITE	75149
LAKEWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY	6121 WORTH ST	DALLAS	75214
LANCASTER VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY THE MEETING ROOM	1600 VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY	LANCASTER	75134
LOCHWOOD LIBRARY BLACK BOX ROOM	11221 LOCHWOOD BLVD	DALLAS	75218
MARSH LANE BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL	10716 MARSH LN	DALLAS	75229
MARTIN LUTHER KING CORE BLDG MAIN LOBBY	2922 MLK BLVD	DALLAS	75215
MARTIN WEISS REC CENTER SMALL ROOM	1111 MARTINDELL AVE	DALLAS	75211
MOUNTAIN CREEK LIBRARY AUDITORIUM	6102 MOUNTAIN CREEK PKWY	DALLAS	75249
MOUNTAIN VIEW COLLEGE - "E" BUILDING MAIN LOBBY	4849 W ILLINOIS AVE	DALLAS	75211
NORTH LAKE COLLEGE "F" BUILDING ROOM F105	5001 N MACARTHUR BLVD	IRVING	75038
OAK CLIFF SUB-COURTHOUSE THE MAIN LOBBY	410 S. BECKLEY AVE	DALLAS	75203

**Those City of Dallas residents who are in Collin and Denton counties, please access the following website for Collin and Denton counties Early Voting locations, dates, and times:

<https://dallascityhall.com/government/citysecretary/elections/Pages/electionMay2021.aspx>

or call Parris Long, Elections Manager (City of Dallas) at (214) 670-3742.

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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 cen-

sus.gov to apply.

Ongoing
City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator posi-

tion.
Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.
For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcFVP>.

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OAK LAWN BRANCH LIBRARY AUDITORIUM	4100 CEDAR SPRINGS RD	DALLAS	75219
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH THE PARLOR ROOM	7611 PARK LN	DALLAS	75225
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - GP FELLOWSHIP HALL	4729 S CARRIER PKWY	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
PAUL L DUNBAR LANCASTER-KIEST LIBRARY CLASS ROOM A & B	2008 EAST Kiest BLVD	DALLAS	75216
PRESTON ROYAL LIBRARY	5626 ROYAL LN	DALLAS	75229
REVERCHON RECREATION CENTER	3505 MAPLE AVE	DALLAS	75219
RICHARDSON CIVIC CENTER WEST ALCOVE	411 W. ARAPAHO RD	RICHARDSON	75080
RICHLAND COLLEGE-GARLAND CAMPUS MAIN LOBBY	675 W. WALNUT ST	GARLAND	75040
RICHLAND COLLEGE - MAIN CAMPUS - GUADALUPE "G" BLDG. FOYER AREA	12800 ABRAMS RD	DALLAS	75243
ROWLETT CITY HALL ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM	4004 MAIN ST	ROWLETT	75088
SACHSE COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION ROOM A	3815 SACHSE RD, BUILDING E	SACHSE	75048
SKYLINE BRANCH LIBRARY AUDITORIUM	6006 EVERGLADE RD	DALLAS	75227
SOUTH GARLAND BRANCH LIBRARY THE PROGRAM ROOM	4845 BROADWAY BLVD	GARLAND	75040
UNIVERSITY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - CALDWELL ROOM (#120)	4024 CARUTH BLVD	DALLAS	75225
VALLEY RANCH LIBRARY SUITE 150	401 CIMARRON TRAIL	IRVING	75063

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<https://dallascityhall.com/government/citysecretary/elections/Pages/electionMay2021.aspx>

or call Parris Long, Elections Manager (City of Dallas) at (214) 670-3742.

Things to ponder



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

(Editor's Note: This column first appeared on 4/25/20)

Seeing the Works of God - Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord....

- Psalm 107:23-24a

When you were a child, perhaps you may have gone to the ocean for a vacation. I recall wading out until the waves began crashing on my knees. As long as I could stand firm, the waves were of no concern to me.

However, as I moved farther and farther into the ocean, I had less control over my ability to stand. Sometimes the current was so strong it moved me down the beach and I even lost my bearings at times. But I have never gone so far into the ocean that I was not able to control the situation.

Sometimes God takes us into such deep waters that we lose control of the situation and we have no choice but to fully trust in His care for us. This is doing busi-

ness in great waters. It is in these great waters that we see the works of God.

The Scriptures tell us that the disciples testified of what they saw and heard. It was the power behind the gospel, not the words themselves, which changed the world. The power wasn't seen until circumstances got to the point that there were no alternatives but God.

At times God has to take us into the deep water in order to give us the privilege to see His works; as with the coronavirus disease.

Sometimes God takes us into the deep waters of life for an extended time. Joseph was taken into deep waters of adversity for 17 years. Rejection by his brothers, enslavement to Pharaoh and imprisonment were the deep waters for Joseph.

During those deep waters, he experienced dreams, a special anointing of his gifts to administrate, and great wisdom beyond his years. The deep water was preparation for a task that was so great he never could have imagined it.

He was to see God's works more clearly than anyone in his generation. God had too much at stake for a 30-year-old to mess it up. So God took Joseph through the deep waters of



Texas Tre, with the cowboy hat & Tameka Williams, "Be The Change" Organization" and other volunteers at Dan Long Middle School giving away food to the community and registering people to vote in Carrollton, Texas last weekend.

preparation to ensure that he would survive what he was about to face.

Pride normally engulfs such young servants who have such access to power at such a young age. If God chooses to take us into deep waters, it is for a reason.

The greater the calling, the deeper the water; all that you need do is just trust in God's knowledge that your deep waters are preparation to see the works of God in your life.

I did a little house cleaning last week, I threw out Worry - It was getting old and in the way. It kept me from being me, I couldn't do things God's way.

I threw out those Inhibitions - They were just crowding God out. I made

room for my new growth and got rid of my old dreams and doubts.

I threw out a book on My Pass Old Grudges - It's not a good book to read anyway. I replaced it with a new book, called Forgive & Forget. I must take time and starting reading it today.

I threw out my whining and complaining; oh how I treasured them so. Got me a New Philosophy too! I threw out the one that didn't agree with God from long ago.

Then I brought in some new books that's called

I Can, I Will, and I Must. Threw out the words, I Might, I Think and I Ought. Wow, you should see the dust!

I asked, Jesus to helped me to do some cleaning and He added some things Himself; like Prayer, Hope and Faith. Oh yes, I really like His style.

I picked up something special and I placed it at the door-It's called God's PEACE. Nothing will get

me down anymore.

Yes, I got my house looking good-it looks great around this place. For things like Worry, Trouble and Grudger, there's just no place for them.

It's good to do a little house cleaning. Get rid of old things on the shelf. It sure makes things brighter-Maybe you should try it yourself!

Author Unknown



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In Memoriam



(Rick) Richard B. Kilgore II

(Rick) Richard B. Kilgore II was born March 24, 1946 in Danville Illinois and died March 18, 2021 in Dallas, Texas. He moved around the country first to Arizona and then with our parents traveling with the Navy and graduating from Irving high School in 1964. He went to the University of Texas studying journalism and public relations. He then went to New York City area maybe even New Jersey and worked at the soup kitchen children's home and drove a New York City cab before coming back to Austin Texas. He then ran a small cafe on campus until new construction blocked it out.

He then got interested in psychology as a way to help others and received his Masters and PhD in Psychology, from the University of Texas. He worked as a psychologist for many years and developed some new techniques to test middle-management people to determine whether they are to stay in middle-management or be promoted upstream. Sort of the reverse

of the Peter principle. He took up fly fishing and was able to even go grouse hunting with a friend and later even wrote fly fishing articles for the New Yorker and other magazines. He continued to do psychological evaluations at nursing homes for a period of years.

During this period of time, he joined E gullet, an online gourmet cooking chat room that he very much enjoyed. He had always enjoyed cooking and seeking out the perfect cup of tea. He developed his spiritual relationship with St. Michael and all Angels Episcopal church in Dallas Texas where he joined a bible study group and formed a poetry group of several church members. He very much

enjoyed the interaction and meeting with them either in person or later via Zoom. He made friends easily and those friends became long lasting relationships.

His Father, Richard B Kilgore and Mother Claire Jean Kilgore predeceased him. His family consists of his brother Jeff and wife Mary, sister Judith, brother Scott and Wife Durrine. Other members of the family include Adam, Chris, Kelsey Kilgore, and Renee Bland, children of Jeff and Mary Kilgore, Hezekiah Gillies, son of Judith Love and Colin, son of Scott and Durrine Kilgore. There are also cousins in multiple parts of the country from Florida to Tennessee to Ohio to the Midwest, then over to Colorado and on to Arizona. Rick also known as Richard always had an optimistic viewpoint and could look forward to new challenges with determination.

Donations to St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Dallas Texas or Doctors without Borders.



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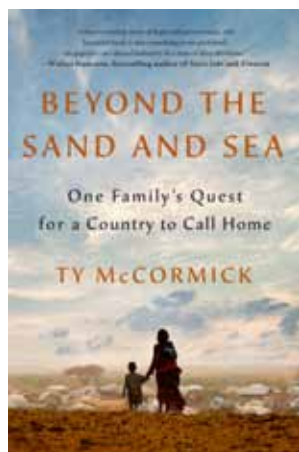
NDG Book Review: 'Beyond the Sand and Sea' is a thrilling read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The brochures have been sitting on your counter for months.

Once, everything was planned: flight times, luggage restrictions, hotel reservations, tickets to the places you wanted to see. The pandemic put a halt to all that but you know you'll take the trip eventually. Maybe this year, maybe in five years. As in the new book "Beyond the Sand and Sea" by Ty McCormick, the journey is worth the wait.

Born in Dadaab, a refugee camp in northeast Kenya, to parents who'd fled



the Somali civil war before his birth, Asad Hussein grew up in a makeshift shack that flooded every rainy season. With no ID, no birth certificate, and no way to legally get either

from Kenya or Somalia, he was a person in-between.

McCormick met Asad "a day or two after Trump announced his travel ban." He was an editor for an American magazine then, assigned to cover Africa when he read an article in New York Times Magazine that was written "by a young man who had grown up in Dadaab." It never occurred to McCormick that the writer was "still... stranded in the camp."

Stranded physically, but not in his mind.

Ever since he was small, Asad had dreamed of getting a good education. As a child, he'd eagerly taken

advantage of whatever formal schooling was offered at Dadaab. He devoured all printed material he could find and he seized every opportunity he could get to learn, becoming largely self-taught. Still, though Asad experienced a discouraging avalanche of educational setbacks in his lifetime, his tenacity attracted supporters and McCormick soon became one of them. It hadn't been easy, but it had finally appeared that a near-miracle was in sight and Asad's dream might be possible in America. With no personal paperwork and no country as anchor, would the travel

ban — "an executive order... that changed everything" — put a stop to the journey?

Open the newspaper, click on the news, and you'll probably hear about immigration in pretty short order these days. You have opinions. Now read "Beyond the Sand and Sea."

Step in, and that sand isn't pleasant: author Ty McCormick writes of its relentlessness, the heat, the squalor of camp and danger of war, a destructive rainy season. Or might sand be a metaphor for grit? Surely, that could be true for the laser-focused Asad, and more so with Asad's tougher-than-steel sister, Maryan,

a woman who threw aside cultural laws to save her family. She's a big presence in this story, and you'll wish it was bigger.

Alas, the sea is choppy and so is the last half of this book. Not to be a spoiler, but it's a whirlwind of Asad's more recent past and his future and despite that it's inspirational, it's also uneven. Pay attention to the time-frame on chapter headings; that helps.

The inspiration, though: don't miss it. Don't pass up a chance to be thrilled. If you need a book that'll make you stand up and cheer, "Beyond the Sand and Sea" is just the ticket.

Multicultural Religious Alliance joins civil rights leaders to demonstrate opposition to proposed voter suppression legislation

A Coalition of Texas Faith Leaders including Texas Impact, Baptist Ministers Union of Austin, the United States Christian Leadership Organization, the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, the NAACP Texas State Conference, the Texas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Texas League of Women Voters, State Representative Ron Reynolds, and other members of the Texas Legislature will be hosting a news conference on the issue of voting rights.

This news conference will announce an interfaith effort to fight voter suppression.

Members of the Faith Community say they recognize the importance of voting and its relationship to self-worth and human decency and, as such, are vociferously opposed to efforts to undermine the voting rights of citizens of color they say is reflected in HB6 and SB7.

The alliance with civil rights leaders and legislators calls these bills existential threats to democracy as well as attacks on voting rights that mirror those of the Jim Crow era.

The event will take place on April 12 at 10 a.m. in the Texas Capitol Speaker's Committee Room. The conference will be available

virtually as well via Zoom (<http://bit.ly/faithleadersforvotingrights>).

Reverend Steven Miller, Founder and CEO of the United States Christian Leadership Organization (USCLO) said, "We are now in very serious and pressing times, but I am pleased to announce that people of different faiths and denominations who are concerned about attempts to undermine voting in the State of Texas are coming together to oppose those attempts."

"All faiths recognize that voter suppression is a basic and fundamental contradiction to their teachings. To stop these oppressive bills,

we need to come together as religious people whether that be Jews, Christians, Muslims, young, mature, conservative, or liberal; to fight against these proposals.

"We are pleased to work with Representative Reynolds, and other members of the Legislature, of either party, who stand with righteousness. So, join us, the Faith Leaders of Texas, the Texas NAACP, and LULAC to help protect the rights of our brothers and sisters who are being ruthlessly targeted by this legislation."

Virtual Speakers

Rev. Steve Miller, United States Christian Leadership

Org, Henderson, TX Imam Khalid Shaheed, Masjid Al-Islam, Dallas

Rabbi David Segal, Religious Action Center or Reform Judaism, Houston, TX Hayley Byerly, University of California - Irvine

Onsite Speakers

Gary Bledsoe, President, Texas NAACP

Dr. Darryl Horton, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Austin Rev. Dr. Carolyn Helsel — Austin Presbyterian

Elder Bee Morehead — Texas Impact

Rabbi Neil Blumofe, Congregation Agudas Achim, Austin

Rev. Chris Harrison, First Presbyterian Giddings

Analuisa Tapia, Chap-

lain, Texas LULAC

Rudy Rosales, State Director, Texas LULAC

Dr. B.W. McClendon, St. James Missionary Baptist, Austin

Jeff Travillion, Travis County Commissioner, Precinct One

Bishop Sterling Lands, Family Life International Fellowship, Austin, TX Rev. Reginald Lillie, Religious Affairs Chair, Texas NAACP

Rep Ron Reynolds, Texas House District 27, Fort Bend County

Elder Bee Morehead, Texas Impact

Ms. Grace Chemeni, Texas League of Women's Voters, Austin, TX

Rep. Rhetta Andrews Bowers elected co-chair of the Dallas Delegation

Austin, TX — State Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers (HD 113) was elected Co-Chair of the Dallas Area Legislative Delegation (DALD). Rep. Bowers was nominated and unanimously voted favorably by her colleagues this afternoon. She will be assuming the role from Representative Victoria Neave. Each legislative session, the members of the DALD select one Democrat and one Republican as joint leaders of the bipartisan



House delegation. Rep. Bowers will serve alongside Representative Angie Chen Button, who is again

the Republican Co-Chair.

The Dallas Delegation is a bipartisan group of 17 members representing Dal-

las County. City of Dallas Mayor, Former State Representative Eric Johnson preceded Rep. Neave as Co-Chair of the DALD.

"It's an honor to be chosen as the Co-Chair of the bipartisan delegation representing Dallas County," stated Rep. Bowers. "I will work diligently to follow in Rep. Neave's footsteps co-leading the DALD and look forward to serving with Rep. Button."

"Winter storm Uri showed us the importance

of local leadership that can work together. Our DALD is composed of members passionate about serving Dallas area residents, communities and businesses. It will be a privilege to co-lead this group of State Representatives. I want to thank the DALD for entrusting me with this responsibility."

Rep. Bowers was elected to serve House District 113 in the Texas House of Representatives on November 8, 2018. She made history

as the first African American elected to represent this district. House District 113 includes all of Sunnyvale and parts of Rowlett, Garland, Mesquite, Seagoville, Combine, Balch Springs, and Dallas.

She is the Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety and serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as the House Committee on Local and Consent Calendars.