Reflections on a long, consequential trial

By Mary Moriarty
Minneapolis Spokesman-Recorder

I was asked by a journalist what the Derek Chauvin verdict means to this city. After pausing briefly, I said, “Everything.” Many, especially in the Black community, have never seen accountability in the criminal legal system for White officers who kill Black men.

Chauvin was convicted, but I believe a guilty verdict is only the beginning because Chauvin is not simply a “bad apple.” In my 31 years of experience as a public defender watching bodycam and listening to my clients, I know that his behavior is the product of a poisonous culture.

During the trial, a prosecutor asked Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo to explain the department’s goal of “serving with compassion.” He responded, “It means to understand and authentically accept that we see our neighbors as ourselves.” He added, “We value one another. We see our community as necessary for our existence.” Of Chauvin’s actions toward George Floyd, Arradondo testified, “It’s not part of our training and it’s certainly not part of our ethics or values.”

One Saturday, about five years ago, I attended a training on implicit bias with 20 officers from the Minneapolis Police Department. Right before we started, a lieutenant at my table made a profanity-laden announcement that this training was a waste of his time. When a facilitator asked what their goals were for the next year, the lieutenant stood up and said proudly, “I want to maintain the warrior mentality because that’s why I became a cop.” That was the moment I realized how difficult it would be to change the culture of the MPD.

This is why I hold two truths: Chief Arradondo’s testimony reflects his authentic values, and the culture change he is seeking. And, culture change will take years and require the participation of policymakers, the courts, prosecutors, and the community. A Chauvin conviction would only be one step along that journey toward true reform.

The Chauvin trial was unique in several ways. Early on, the governor brought in the Attorney General, Keith Ellison, to replace the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office. The attorney general assembles a team of attorneys. The trial was six weeks long and cost $10 million.

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**People in the News**

**Dr. Rochelle Walensky**

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has remained vigilant in the fight against the coronavirus, tracking the different variants of the disease and studying the complications some have found with the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

At the forefront is CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, whose schedule includes regular White House updates and testimony before congressional panels.

Dr. Walensky also led the federal agency this month in officially declaring racism as a public health threat.

On Wednesday, April 21, Dr. Walensky plans to sit for a special interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s (NNPA) “Let It Be Known” live breaking-news morning program.

The NNPA is the trade association for the 230 African American newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

The 7:30 a.m. EST interview will air over several social media platforms, including facebook.com/blackpressusa/videos, youtube.com/c/blackpressusa.

**Sen. Elizabeth Warren**

“Pinkie Promises,” the forthcoming children’s book by Elizabeth Warren, promises to wow young people and kids’ book advocates alike. Speaking to booksellers and librarians, Senator Warren will take the virtual stage at the U.S. Book Show to discuss her Fall 2021 book and her special “pinkie promise” relationship with the young people who supported her candidacy for President in 2020.

“I’ve always been passionate about the role books can play in young lives. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce my first children’s book, Pinkie Promises, to the publishing community at the PW U.S. Book Show,” said Senator Warren, who will be joined by Laura Godwin, publisher of Godwin Books and the editor of Pinkie Promises.

The senior senator from Massachusetts promised to thank all the girls who helped her along the way and stood by her during the Presidential primary during the last election cycle.

The result is Pinkie Promises (Henry Holt, October 12, 2021), an engaging tale of loyalty, female empowerment and political engagement, written by Senator Warren and illustrated by Charlene Chua.

“The U.S. Book Show welcomes Senator Warren as a keynote speaker on the children’s day,” said Krista Rafanello, senior marketing director of Publishers Weekly and the show manager of the U.S. Book Show.

“As a mother and a publishing professional, I know girls benefit from role models—and Senator Warren is a strong, empathetic role model for girls everywhere who aspire to be their own selves and to rise above the status quo,” Senator Warren will speak on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. EDT.

Senator Warren is no stranger to the publishing world, having written 12 books, her most recent being Persist (Metropolitan Books, May 2021). She is an advocate for middle-class and working families and, under President Barack Obama, proposed and was named first special advisor of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In office since 2012, she is, notably, the vice chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus and chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel. Currently she serves on several U.S. Senate committees, among them Committee on Armed Services; the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Committee on Finance; and the Special Committee on Aging.

The inaugural U.S. Book Show is a three-day virtual conference conceived and crafted by Publishers Weekly.

**Dr. Trevena Taylor**

CEDAR HILL - When Dr. Trevena Taylor was looking for a community to begin her career as an educator 14 years ago, Cedar Hill ISD seemed like an obvious choice.

Taylor, who grew up in Dallas, had lived in Cedar Hill since 2000 and has always enjoyed living in the community.

“I like working where I live because I’m truly invested in the community,” Taylor said. “My neighbors are scholars. I see scholars at the grocery store. It’s a good feeling to be part of the community that I serve.”

Both of Taylor’s sons – Joshua and Ashton graduated from Cedar Hill High School in 2011 and 2019, respectively.

Taylor is the Associate Principal and Provost of the Collegiate Pathway, an academically rigorous Pre-K through 12th grade program which concludes with graduates earning an Associate’s Degree from Dallas College, along with their high school diploma.

Taylor appreciates National Assistant Principals Week, which began on Monday and runs through Friday, April 9.

Taylor works alongside Collegiate Pathway Chancellor Heath Koenig on managing both the Collegiate Prep Elementary campus, as well as Collegiate Academy Middle School and Collegiate High School.

“Dr. Taylor is a powerful leader, published author and friend to all people with whom she comes in contact,” Koenig said.

Taylor began her career as a Special Education Teacher at Belt Line Intermediate and then worked as a Literacy Specialist and Interventionist at Joe Wilson Intermediate.

She was the Assistant Principal at Collegiate Prep Elementary when the campus opened in 2015, and then the principal at Waterford Oaks Elementary from 2016-2019.

Working as the Associate Pathway of a Pre-K through 12 Pathway has provided Taylor with the opportunity to see scholars matriculate through their education.

“It’s rewarding to see them in the earlier stages and then come to the high school level,” Taylor said.

Having served as a campus principal, Taylor appreciates the roles that principals have, and she also knows the importance of

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The Verdict, The Nation, and Us

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

The prosecution and its witnesses in the trial made it clear that the issue is not police training, nor is it about anything other than treating people with the respect and dignity the police would expect if they were in the shoes of those who have become their victims. We know that crime does exist, that there are people who must be apprehended and not all can be done without use of force; but those selected to wear a badge and gun must know the difference and must no longer be able to hide behind such legal myths as “qualified immunity” which has excused so much of what so many police officers should be held accountable for.

The verdict is a good start, but let’s not think it solves our problems. In the midst of celebrating, let us keep our eyes on the national war before us which finds Republican legislators at the Congressional and State legislative levels mounting a relentless battle for “voter suppression.”

They are attempting to do to people of color what Derek Chauvin did to George Floyd. Their knee is being placed on our neck of democracy and we cannot breathe without fighting back.

Let’s identify not only those Republican legislators in each state pushing such legislation, but mount people to run against them. At the same time, let us withhold our dollars from those corporations who refuse to stand up and speak out with their dollars against those very elected officials they have funded for so long.

There are still more trials to come. Let’s stay vigilant, for the struggle continues.

Power, Parler, and the problem of Big Tech

By Dr. Brian Drellinger

Over the course of 2020, the previously minor social media application Parler rose to national prominence. The site served as a smaller, right-leaning mirror to Twitter, attracting an audience that included (among others) both U.S. senators and QAnon conspiracy theorists.

That changed after the January 6 attacks on the Capitol, amid allegations that the app had provided a haven for insurrectionist sentiments. Responses were swift and comprehensive. On January 8, Google announced that it was removing Parler from its Google Play Store. Similar notices quickly arrived from Amazon, Apple, and other technology companies.

The app could no longer access most mobile stores for download, authenticate its existing users, or even host any actual content. Any existing posts were lost. In effect, over the course of 48 hours, it functionally ceased to exist.

It is sometimes difficult to assess conservative claims of “big tech censorship.”

On one hand, Parler’s rise to national prominence has not been met. Expectation, they say, clear the role of antitrust laws. At minimum, such changes seem less fraught than inviting the government into the business of judging neutrality.

Perhaps the best of a set of bad options is to reconsider the role of antitrust laws. At issue in all the cases above is the ubiquity of the big tech firms: that decisions by a small group of companies can render information meaningless, unreachable, or invisible. Amazon is at once a premier bookseller, accounting for over half of all American book sales, as well as a nearly $400 billion-a-year general retailer and the provider of a full third of all cloud infrastructure services.

For its part, Google’s parent company Alphabet might simultaneously own the servers hosting a site, the ads running on it, the browser loading it and the physical cables transmitting it—and, of course, the search engine that located it. It controls a plurality of the market in several of these fields. Indeed, Google is already facing multiple lawsuits alleging anticompetitive behavior.

Careful revision of antitrust law might allow opening of these markets, with competition encouraging a range of stances, political and otherwise. At minimum, such changes seem less fraught than inviting the government into the business of judging neutrality.

Dr. Brian Drellinger is an associate professor of computer science at Grove City College. His research interests are artificial intelligence and models of consciousness.

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Researchers test ways to encourage healthier lifestyle in African-American men

By Joy Franklin
For Men’s Health Network

African Americans could expect to live 14.6 fewer years than white Americans in 1900 but the gap between the lifespan of African American men and white men was slightly smaller at 14.1 years. By 2015, the gap for both sexes had shrunk to 3.4 years, based on Centers for Disease Control statistics, though the gap between the life expectancies for African American and white men in 2015 was greater at 4.4 years, indicating that progress in closing the gap has been less for African American men than women.

COVID-19, which has disproportionately affected Black and other minority communities, appears to have reversed the slow progress. CDC projections for 2020 show a gap of 6 years for both sexes, with African Americans’ life expectancy at 72 years compared to 78 years for white Americans. However, the life expectancy gap between African American and white men is projected to be 7.2 years. While there’s been some progress in closing the gap, much more needs to be done to address the systemic causes in society and in the health care system.

Poverty, environmental threats and racism, along with inadequate and unequal access to health care all contribute to health disparities that result in earlier mortality among African Americans. These systemic problems also contribute to individual factors, such as higher rates of obesity and hypertension, that lead to higher rates of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. The good news is that these individual factors can be modified by behavioral changes.

In 2014, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funded a study designed to determine if a program called Active and Healthy Brotherhood (AHB) would help Black men increase their daily exercise in an effort to reduce their risk of chronic disease. The research team also looked at how AHB affected other healthy behaviors and signs of health problems, such as high blood pressure and blood sugar.

Poor diet and lack of exercise that result in obesity and/or hypertension contribute to a daunting list of health destroyers that undermine quality of life. In addition to type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke, these include gait/bladder disease, many types of cancer, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea and mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. Obesity also puts people at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, according to the CDC. In fact, those who are obese, compared to those with a healthy weight, are at increased risk of dying from all causes of mortality.

For the PCORI-funded study, conducted by Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Gramercy Research Group, researchers had hoped to recruit 400 African American men, but were only able to enroll 333 from four North Carolina counties. Those recruited, who had an average age of 51, didn’t exercise often or eat enough fruits and vegetables, or they had diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease. They were divided into two groups.

The AHB group received a basic education session followed by 16 weekly sessions which focused on being active, eating healthy, and managing stress. The sessions included small-group activities that allowed the men to discuss health goals and support each other. After AHB ended, the men received three phone calls to talk about goals and ways to achieve them. A second group received the basic education session and information about improving healthy behaviors, but did not participate in follow-up sessions.

Study participants wore fitness trackers which measured daily exercise and completed surveys about healthy behaviors at the start of the study and at follow-up visits 6 and 12 months later.

Researchers found improved nutrition-related behaviors in the AHB group compared to the control group, but no improvements in daily physical activity. While the study’s findings were limited both because of under-recruitment and because only 218 of the 333 completed the final survey, there is an obvious need to continue this type of research.

Men’s Health Network, reported that a recent survey found that men want to take control of their health. In the survey, 85 percent said they wanted to take charge of their fitness and 84 said they wanted to take charge of their diet and nutrition. The results were not broken out by race. But the survey indicates that this is an area where men want to be empowered.

One conclusion of the study was that race for African American men have been historically been a relatively understudied group, little is known about effective strategies for engaging them in research and improving health-related behaviors. This study contributes to that knowledge.

Hopefully, it will provide useful insight to support further research into ways to empower African Americans to lead healthier lives and continue to reduce the life expectancy gap.

Men’s Health Network (MHN) is a national organization whose mission is to reach men and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation.

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Obama, NNPA, NAACP, Urban League applaud Chauvin verdict, call it a ‘first step’

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Former President Barack Obama joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the NAACP, the National Urban League, and others to applaud the guilty verdicts in the Derek Chauvin case.

For almost a year, George Floyd’s death under the knee of a police officer has reverberated around the world — inspiring murals and marches, sparking conversations in living rooms and new legislation.

“With this verdict, the jury has made an unambiguous declaration that unwarranted use of force against Black people by police is a crime and that Black Lives Matter, said National Urban League President Marc Morial.”

Obama noted that a more basic question has always remained: would justice be done? “In this case, at least, we have our answer. But if we’re being honest with ourselves, we know that true justice is about much more than a single verdict in a single trial,” the former president stated.

“This just requires that we come to terms with the fact that Black Americans are treated differently, every day. It requires us to recognize that millions of our friends, family, and fellow citizens live in fear that their next encounter with law enforcement could be their last. And it requires us to do the sometimes thankless, often difficult, but always necessary work of making the America we know more like the America we believe in.”

The 44th president continued: “While today’s verdict may have been a necessary step on the road to progress, it was far from a sufficient one. We cannot rest. We will need to follow through with the concrete reforms that will reduce and ultimately eliminate racial bias in our criminal justice system. We will need to redouble efforts to expand economic opportunity for those communities that have been too long marginalized. And as we continue the

TRIAL, from Page 1

bled a legal team the size of a professional basketball team to prosecute a case with complicated medical testimony, numerous use of force experts, and many community members traumatized after being forced to witness the horrible death of George Floyd. This was also the first criminal case in Minnesota to be broadcast live, not only to Minnesotans but across the world.

I was told by journalists, who have covered the trials of police officers across the country, that this was the most comprehensive prosecution effort they have seen. The state called specialists from every relevant medical field, including a pulmonologist (Dr. Martin Tobin) who was the best expert I have ever seen testify in a trial.

The defense was only able to find one medical expert, a medical examiner, who was cross-examined effectively by the prosecution. During the closing argument, the defense argued that reasonable doubt existed because George Floyd could have died from any number of causes. Relying on reasonable doubt alone, without a coherent defense narrative, is not in a position in which defense lawyers should find themselves.

To establish the cause of death, the state must prove only that Chauvin’s actions were a substantial cause of Floyd’s death, not the only cause. And even if some other factor did contribute to his death, Chauvin is liable under the law if his actions caused a chain reaction (heart couldn’t handle restraint) resulting in Floyd’s death. By calling heart and lung doctors, a toxicologist, two emergency room physicians, and two medical examiners, the state left little doubt, much less reasonable doubt, that Chauvin’s actions killed George Floyd.

The other issue the state needed to address was use of force. As we heard many times throughout the trial, were Chauvin’s actions those of an objectively reasonable police officer? Although the defense requested the “20/20 hindsight” instruction, the judge did not give it to the jury. This is significant because the instruction tells the jury to judge the use of force from the perspective of a reasonable officer at the moment he is at the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.

This language is not required by law, but it was given by the judge in the Yanez case, which may have played a role in the acquittal of the man who killed Philando Castile. That instruction makes it more difficult for the jury to second guess a police officer, but the Chauvin jury did not hear it.

During the closing argument, the state argued that this was a prosecution of Chauvin, not the police. The following statement in reaction to the guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin Trial: “In these types of trials, the criminal justice system has historically failed Black families, further perpetuating and validating white supremacy within institutions. Today, however, there is a small incremental step toward accountability.

We hope this guilty verdict begins to show that white supremacy will not win. White supremacy has no place in democracy, especially one that is supposed to guarantee us our freedom to live. But let us also be clear that this still does not bring our loved ones back. We do not get George Floyd back. His daughter and family have to grow up without him. His family continues his legacy through the George Floyd Memorial Foundation. And Black Lives Matter will continue to call for abolition because we ultimately believe abolition will ensure the freedom of Black people.”

BLMGNF will continue to work toward abolition and Black liberation— one where Black people across the diaspora thrive, experience joy, and are no longer defined by their struggles. We will continue to heal the past, re-imagine the present, and invest in the future of Black lives.

Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation (BLMGNF), released the following statement in reaction to the guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin Trial:

Some in the community were angered by this approach because, by adopting this theory, the state essentially argued that Chauvin was a “bad apple.” I’ve written above that I don’t believe in the “bad apple” theory, but from a strategic perspective, the state was more likely to get a conviction by not taking on the additional burden of condemning the entire Minneapolis Police Department, or law enforcement in general.

“From a technical and substantive perspective, this was not a well-tried case. The defense had no single theory and violated most of the rules we are taught about cross-examination. Most of all, the defense made arguments and statements that were offensive.

During closing, the defense talked about Mr. Thomas Yanez, the 31-year-old man who talked to Floyd as Chauvin was squeezing the life out of him. Mr. Yanez, the defense said, had a third-grade education. This was, as the judge put it, the result of the state, Mr. Milam’s shoes as he walked by because they may have seen their reflection. This was such an important day in his life, that he polished his shoes to perfection. But the defense chose to talk about his entirely irrelevant level of formal education.

This was right up there with trying to goad Donald Williams into becoming an “angry Black man” in court, describing the compassionate people who tried their very best to help Floyd as some kind of angry mob that distracted Chauvin from concentrating on George Floyd,” and the descriptions of Floyd as big and high on drugs (another big, scary Black man who might suddenly exhibit superhuman strength.) The defense made this argument even after we all saw the Cup Food’s video of Floyd laughing, dancing, hugging, and enjoying what would be the last minutes of his life.

As angry as I’ve been by the defense’s appeal to racist tropes, maybe this trial can be used as a teachable moment for White Minnesotans who wonder why living here is so hard for our Black community members. Imagine, for a moment, the races of everyone involved in this case reversed. How might the events of that day have unfolded differently?

If we are to move forward in a meaningful way after the murder of George Floyd, Minnesotans must grapple with that question with open hearts and minds. Like the Minneapolis Police Department, we need culture change. Wouldn’t now be a good time to start?

(Editors’ note: The beginning paragraphs of this story were edited to reflect the guilty verdict as it was handed down during press time.)
U.S. Supreme Court sounds ready to pay student athletes

By Lauren Victoria Burke

NPNNA Contributor

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh called the NCAA's practices "disturbing."

"The antitrust laws should not be a cover for exploitation of the student-athletes. To pay no salaries to the workers who are making the schools billions of dollars on the theory that consumers want the schools to pay their workers nothing," he said, seems "entirely circular and even somewhat disturbing," Kavanaugh said. On March 30 the U.S. Supreme Court heard the case of NCAA v. Alston, which is a class action case, first filed in 2014. The NCAA is an organization with over 1,000 member colleges and universities. As millions are made from the talent ion college athletes and colleg- ers pay millions in salaries to coaches, college athletes remain unpaid. Under the NCAA's rules, paid athletes become ineligible to play sports.

The main plaintiff in the case is Shawne Alston, a former West Virginia University running back, who says he and other athletes were exploited. The business of college sports, which includes millions in television contracts and sponsorships, resulting in a world of lucrative payouts for everyone other than the players, may have met its match at the U.S. Supreme Court. Several court members sounded skeptical of the NCAA's arguments that the current set up is fair. A federal district court in California gave athletes a victory. It ruled that the NCAA could not limit income to athletes.

"It just strikes me as odd that the coaches' salaries have ballooned," said Associate Justice Clarence Thomas. "They're in the amateur ranks, as are the players," Thomas added.

"Why does the NCAA get to define what 'pay' is?" asked Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

"Antitrust laws should not be a cover for exploitation of the student-athletes, so that is a concern, an overarching concern here," added Associated Justice Kavanaug.

Judge Sam Alito went even further. Alito said athletes, "face training requirements that leave little time or energy for study, constant pressure to drop out of hard majors and hard classes, really shockingly low graduation rates. Only a tiny percentage ever go on to make any money in professional sports."

"So, the argument is they are recruited, they're used up, and then they're cast aside without even a college degree. How can this be defended in the name of amateurism?" Alito added.

If the questions and comments from members of the Court were a guide change could be coming soon. The argument over whether "student athletes" should be paid has gone on for decades with the NCAA arguing that pay would mean the end of the "student" athlete. But with the level of revenue that colleges and universities make from athlete performance it is becoming increasingly difficult to argue that arrangement is nothing more than big business that benefits from revenue from a never-ending unpaid workforce.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke607@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Dallas ISD is looking to expand early learning to children prenatal to three

(Dallas ISD) With data showing that prenatal to three-years-old is a critical period in a child’s educational development, Dallas ISD is launching an effort to connect young families with high quality early learning opportunities.

District leaders briefed trustees on April 8 on Project Legacy 2050. Along with the coalition of partners and places that offer childcare would be more accessible to low-income students of color, particularly in communities at a higher disadvantage.

District leaders have begun conversations with community partners, superintendents from districts in Dallas County and urban school districts to form a coalition to support Project Legacy 2050. The coalition will advocate, support and mobilize high quality early learning for children prenatal to three through services and resources needed for their early development, including housing, transportation, health, and childcare.

Administrators are aiming to have finalization an action plan for Project Legacy 2050 in the winter.

FLOYD, from Page 5

African American history

American Apartheid and racism that continues to be clearly manifested by racially-motivated police brutality," Chavis added. He continued:

"The Black Press of America has always stood for equal justice. Today, we reaffirm the importance of the Black Lives Matter Movement and the necessity for the Black Press to continue to be an advocate for freedom, justice, and equality."

Derek Chauvin has been found guilty of murdering George Floyd, I will continue to say the names and fight for all those who have died or been injured senselessly by law enforcement," Congressman Beatty stated.

"Breonna Taylor, Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo, Andre Hill, Casey Goodson, Jr., Tamir Rice, and George Floyd were all killed by police," the congresswoman added. "And today, we remember their pain and their pain is why I am here today."..."
Old rivalries resurface in Dallas City Council elections

The City of Dallas is headed toward another municipal election, and there is no shortage of candidates vying for the existing seats. Races feature the current members of the council, with the exception of three who are not seeking reelection. The ballot also features former councilmembers coming back to try to reclaim their spots.

Dallas residents who are not familiar with the candidates are urged to confirm their district and research the candidates running to represent them. With the pandemic, candidates have not had the same opportunities to reach out to voters as in past elections.

The largest race, in terms of potential candidates, is the seat currently occupied by Adam Bazaldua in Place 7. Bazaldua won the seat in the last election after running once unsuccessfully. The seat was held by Kevin Felder at the time, who lost to Bazaldua following controversy which included being indicted on charges of allegedly hitting a scooter rider and leaving the scene.

Felder is back, and looking to regain the seat, along with six other candidates which include Donald Parish, Calvin D. Johnson, Tramonica Brown, Walter “Change” Higgins, James “JT” Turknett and Israel Varela.

In South Dallas, another seat which has seen some tumultuous campaigning in the past has Carolyn King Arnold fending off four challengers for her seat in Place 4. Arnold returned to her former seat on the council after being defeated by Dwaine Caraway in 2017. However, Caraway found himself in legal trouble over a bribery scandal, causing a public fallout which ultimately resulted in the disbanding of the Dallas County Schools entity that oversaw transportation needs for local schools. Arnold now faces challengers Maxie Johnson, Lelani Russell, Matt Canto and Johnny Aguinaga.

Another councilmember who has been out and back into office is Tennell Atkins in Place 8. Atkins termed out of the council after eight years in 2015, then sat out the two years minimum and returned to the Dallas City Council in 2017. Atkins faces Subrina Lynn Brehm, Davante “Shawt” Peters and Lakalya London in the May 1 vote.

In Place 3, Casey Thomas is running in his fourth election, the maximum he can serve without sitting out at least one term to run again. He is challenged by Ibrzy Foster in the May 1 election.

In West Dallas’ Place 6 the current councilmember, Omar Narvaez, also faces a past councilmember in Monica R. Alonzo. Alonzo served for six years on the Dallas City Council before being ousted by Narvaez in 2017. Narvaez staved off a return effort from Alonzo in 2019. In addition to Alonzo; the seat is also being sought by Earl D. Thomas, Tony Carrillo and Johnny Aguinaga.

Councilmember Adam Medrano is leaving his position at the end of this term, and there are five candidates lined up to succeed him (that is, after a sixth withdrew earlier this month). Jennifer Cortez, Jesse Moreno, Sana Syed, Raha Assadi and Michael Fetzer have all filed to fill the vacant seat.

Places 1 and 14 on the council had been sources of energy in the past when they were held by Scott Griggs and Philip Kingston, respectively.

Griggs ran unsuccessfully for the mayor’s seat, and Chad West was elected to fill the position. West now faces challenges from Gerdán Sánchez, Stephanie A. “Skye” Kyle and Giovanni “Gio” Valderas.

David Blewett ousted Kingston in a contentious race in 2019 to take the Place 14 seat at the horse shoe. He now faces challengers of his own in Paul E. Ridley and Elizabeth Viney.

Jaime Resendez ran successfully in 2019 to claim the council seat in Place 5, despite detractors pointing to his exit from the school board on an address issue. He has three challengers in the upcoming vote; Ruth Torres, Yolanda “Faye” Williams and Terry Pennykins.

In Place 9 which encompasses the White Rock Lake area, Paula Blackmon will attempt to hold on to her council seat and ward off challenges from Judy Kumar and John Botefuhr.

Places 10 and 12, like Thomas’ district, are rarities with only two candidates in the race. In Place 10 B. Adam McGough will try to hold off Surrano Keith Baldeo on May 1. In Place 12 incumbent Cara Mendelsohn faces challenger Elva Curl.

The remaining two seats -- in Places 11 and 13 -- are open as Lee Kleinman and Jennifer S. Gates are not seeking reelection. These districts incorporate areas of central North Dallas. Place 11 candidates include; Jaynie Schultz, Hosanna Yemiru, Barry Wernick and Candy Evans.

Place 13 candidates include; Ryan M. Moore, Da’On Boulanger-Chatman, Gay Donnell Willis, Leland R. Burks and Mac Smith.

U.S. House prepares historic session on reparations legislation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, April 14, plans to hold the first-ever markup of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act.

The 10 a.m. session on Capitol Hill will help advance legislation first introduced about three decades ago that establishes a commission to examine slavery and discrimination in the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

“Why is this significant now to have a markup in this historic moment in our history? The bill was introduced a year after the Civil Liberties Act that provided reparations for our Japanese-Americans, and we as African Americans supported it,” Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas) said during a news conference with African American media members.

“The bill would allow the country to finally confront the stark social disparities occurring in the African American community today and provide solutions,” Jackson-Lee, the bill’s lead sponsor, stated.

The historic markup of H.R. 40 is intended to continue a national conversation about how to confront the brutal mistreatment of African Americans during chattel slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and the enduring structural racism that remains endemic to America society today added House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY).

“Long after slavery was abolished, segregation and subjugation of African Americans was a defining part of this nation’s policies that shaped its values and its institutions,” Nadler remarked.

“Today, we still live with racial disparities in access to education, health care, housing, insurance, employment, and other social goods that are directly attributable to the damaging legacy of slavery and government-sponsored racial discrimination,” Nadler remarked.

“The creation of a commission under H.R. 40 to study these issues is not intended to divide, but to continue the efforts commenced by states, localities and private institutions to reckon with our past and bring us closer to racial understanding and advancement.”

While a specific monetary value on reparations isn’t outlined in the bill, it does focus on investigating and presenting the facts and truth about the unprecedented centuries of brutal enslavement of African people, racial healing, and transformation.

The bill would fund a commission to study and develop proposals for providing reparations to African Americans.
Two seats contested in Irving City Council election

By Breanne Holley
NDG Contributing Writer

This year there are four candidates from Irving in the May 1st Election. To start with there is Mosa Sunil for City Council Place 4. He is a 2002 graduate in Electronics from Coyne America College, Chicago and has been married to his wife Priya since 2001. They have three children together. He has been a longtime resident of the City of Irving running a successful business and providing jobs to the community.

Sunil says his policies will “support solutions for the neighborhood improvement and ensure opportunities for community dialogue.” He “wants to promote small business by providing jobs and ensure social justice and development by providing equal opportunities to citizens and promote healthy lifestyles. (sumilmosafiringv Irving)”

Phil Riddle is running for Place 4 as well and was re-elected to the Irving City Council in May 2018 for his second term. He is a longtime resident as well, graduating from Irving High School in 1967 and then earning a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology from the University of Texas in 72. He had successful career with the Irving Fire Department for 32 years starting in 1978 and then retired as a captain in 2010. Riddle is married to his wife Pat with three children who attend school in the Irving School District. His online bio states, “Riddle is the chair to the Public Safety Committee and serves on the Community Services Committee and the Transportation and Natural Resources Committee. He is also the council liaison to the Housing and Human Services Board.”

David Palmer is running for his third and final term for Irving City Council, Place 8. He emphasizes infrastructure for the City of Irving and supports the road to the future program for better roads for the city. He has an undergraduate degree in accounting a law degree and a Master’s in Business Administration. He runs a company in Irving with 53 employees. He says he wants to rework the healthcare system in Irving with changes to deductibles, copays and prescriptions—domestic and international—that successfully bridged divisions by race, class, gender and national borders by first focusing on justice for all.

The essay and the Project’s mission draw on the work of a diverse cadre of activists and movement—domestic and international—that successfully bridged divisions by race, class, gender and national borders by first focusing on justice for all.

“The most important principle of transnational solidarity is recognizing common humanity,” says Countess, the Project’s founder and director. While that sounds simple, she says, it requires dispensing with the belief that our struggles in the US are wholly unique, when in fact, communities all around the world are confronting the same or similar issues. “We’re not trying to persuade folks in Atlanta or Minneapolis to shift their gaze to look at how they can influence US national policy around a country in Africa. Rather, I’m saying to folks in Los Angeles or Atlanta, of course your economic inequality struggles have local dimensions. But they reflect global problems that require an international perspective, so let’s share information and strategies.”

Countess said the Project, which she launched in January 2020, is running for the only seat that is available to him this election cycle. He believes that he is an asset to the city because of his leadership experience in organization and churches of over 35 years.

He has experience as a municipal employee and Grand Prairie firefighter. He has rehabbed homes in the Bear Creek community and believes affordable homes can be built in Irving. He says he could live anywhere he pleases but has chosen Irving as the home for his family. He intends to help with crisis of homelessness in Irving and that there needs to be a plan to respond to the humanitarian need and believes he is the best candidate to meet that effort.

WASHINGTON, DC — As the United States confronts the multitude of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a bright spotlight has been placed on the already gap- ing inequalities that disadvantaged people by race, class, gender, or birthplace are not free until all of us are free. While that sounds simple, she says, it requires dispensing with the belief that our struggles in the US are wholly unique, when in fact, communities all around the world are confronting the same or similar issues. “We’re not trying to persuade folks in Atlanta or Minneapolis to shift their gaze to look at how they can influence US national policy around a country in Africa. Rather, I’m saying to folks in Los Angeles or Atlanta, of course your economic inequality struggles have local dimensions. But they reflect global problems that require an international perspective, so let’s share information and strategies.”

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Transnational Solidarity: Linking local issues and global problems

The commission’s mission includes identifying the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, forms of discrimination in public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and lingering adverse effects of slavery on living African Americans and on society.

“Since its introduction in 1989 by the late Chairman John Conyers, and now through its continued introduction, H.R. 40 has galvanized governmental acknowledgment of the crime of slavery and its continuing societal impact,” Jackson Lee maintained.

“The markup of H.R. 40 by the Judiciary Committee is a major step toward the creation of a long-overdue national commission to study and develop reparation proposals. Through this legislation, we will finally be able to confront the stark societal disparities occurring in the African American community today and provide solutions. “By passing H.R. 40, Congress can also start a movement toward the national reckoning we need to bridge racial divides. Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation — and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.”
Kristy Fercho on Increasing Black Homeownership

Over this past year, home has never been more important. Safe, affordable housing has long been one of the most common aspirations for all Americans, and the principal way most families build wealth in this country. Yet, obtaining this goal remains more difficult for people of color.

The racial homeownership gap is as large today as it was during the days of segregation, with the white homeownership rate roughly 30 points higher than Black households. New Urban Institute analysis shows that the gap may continue to grow absent intentional action. This has lasting implications: when one generation misses the wealth-building opportunities of homeownership, successive generations feel the impact as well.

For me, this is personal. As a Black woman and the Head of Wells Fargo Home Lending, I am passionate about growing Black homeownership and providing access for those shut out of the American dream.

I’m proud to have a leadership role at Wells Fargo as we take action to increase Black homeownership. We’re doing this by incorporating low-down payment financing options and closing cost credits available through offerings like our new Dream Plan. Home™ programs; diverse, in-market sales teams ready to provide access and support; collaboration with non-profits that understand local markets and more. These efforts are part of our $60 billion commitment to growing Black homeownership. Wells Fargo is also investing $50 million in Minority Depository Institutions to empower diverse communities.

Housing stakeholders must work together to close this gap, bringing unity to this urgent moment, and I have seen firsthand the great work underway not just by lenders, but also advocates, policymakers, and others. In addition to leading Home Lending for Wells Fargo, I’m also the chair-elect of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) board of directors and the leader of an affordable homeownership working group within the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency’s Project REACH, which promotes financial inclusion through greater access to credit and capital.

For the MBA, one of our goals is to drastically increase affordable homeownership in the next two years by working with member companies and policymakers to take action now. As the Biden administration takes shape, our mission is to drive consideration of policy actions focused on housing, such as first-time homebuyer credits and FHA reforms.

Project REACH convenes stakeholders from government, financial institutions, nonprofits and more to tackle the structural barriers that have contributed to the racial homeownership gap. Removing these barriers to financial inclusion will help millions of people, previously left out of the system, gain access to more opportunities for themselves and their families.

Even as we work together to address barriers to homeownership, there are steps potential homebuyers can take to ensure they are best positioned to reach their goals.

- **Build your savings:** Trim unnecessary expenses and reduce any outstanding debts.
- **Find a qualified lender:** Compare different lenders and their loan offerings to find the right fit.
- **Do your homework:** Learn about your property value and equity, mortgage payments, first-time homebuyer programs and down payment assistance.
- **Know your borrowing power:** Get pre-qualified or pre-approval to find homes that fit your budget.

We all have a role to play, and while none of us can break down these barriers alone, if we are united in our pursuit, we can make a huge impact together.

For Wells Fargo’s homeownership resources, visit: myfirsthome.wf.com

Meet Kristy Fercho:

Kristy Fercho is Executive Vice President and Head of Wells Fargo Home Lending. Fercho oversees one of the nation’s leading combined home lenders and servicers, funding one of every twelve loans and servicing one of every eight loans in the country. She leads a team of more than 25,000 mortgage professionals in sales, operations, servicing, capital markets, portfolio management, and related business, risk management, and supporting functions.
Elections and the actions of lawmakers do have consequences. And because of a new voter suppression bill signed into law by Gov. Brian Kemp, Major League Baseball has announced it would move its potentially lucrative 2021 All-Star game from Atlanta.

“Just as elections have consequences, so do the actions of those who are elected,” Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms wrote on Twitter.

“Unfortunately, the removal of the @MLB All-Star game from GA is likely the 1st of many dominoes to fall until the unnecessary barriers put in place to restrict access to the ballot box are removed,” the mayor stated.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred decided on Friday, April 2, after Major League Baseball Players Association executive director Tony Clark and some prominent players and managers expressed doubts about attending the game. Last month, Kemp signed Republican-led legislation that disenfranchises voters of color. As reported recently at BlackPressUSA.com, moving the game from Atlanta could cost the city and local counties as much as $200 million in revenue.

The host Atlanta Braves were expected to operate their stadium at total capacity for the game. Events surrounding the mid-summer classic would have meant a windfall for the local economy.

“Over the last week, we have engaged in thoughtful conversations with Clubs, former and current players, the Players Association, and The Players Alliance, among others, to listen to their views,” Manfred said. “I have decided that the best way to demonstrate our values as a sport is by relocating this year’s All-Star Game and MLB Draft.”

U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Georgia) expressed hope that MLB would reconsider moving the game because of the economic impact it could have, mainly because the pandemic has crippled most businesses.

“Businesses and organizations have great power in their voices and ability to push for change. I respect the decision of the players to speak out against this unjust law,” Sen. Warnock stated. “It is not the people of Georgia or the workers of Georgia who crafted this law. It is politicians seeking to retain power at the expense of Georgians’ voices. And today’s decision by MLB is the unfortunate consequence of these politicians’ actions.”

Sen. Warnock continued: “It is my hope that businesses, athletes, and entertainers can protest this law not by leaving Georgia but by coming here and fighting voter suppression head-on, and hand-in-hand with the community. Additionally, the urgency to pass federal voter protection laws grows every day, and I will continue to be a leader in that fight.”

As first noted by CNBC, Georgia’s new law adds guidelines around mail-in ballots, voter registration and provides state officials more authority around how elections are operated. “Major League Baseball fundamentally supports voting rights for all Americans and opposes restrictions to the ballot box,” Manfred said.

“In 2020, MLB became the first professional sports league to join the non-partisan Civic Alliance to help build a future in which everyone participates in shaping the United States. “We proudly used our platform to encourage baseball fans and communities throughout our country to perform their civic duty and actively participate in the voting process. Fair access to voting continues to have our game’s unwavering support.”

**“We All Must Go Home To Glory”**

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Perot Museum offers up Thursday night event for the grown-ups

Looking for a fun date-night destination or a unique spot to connect with friends after work? Want to peruse the Perot Museum of Nature and Science sans kids? Do you like live music, breweries and curious-minded adults? Then don’t miss Thursdays on Tap happening weekly at the Perot Museum!

From 6-9 p.m. each Thursday (rain or shine), the adults-only event gives grown-ups exclusive after-hours access to explore all five levels of the Museum including, for a limited time only, The Science of Guinness World Records® exhibition. Outside, ticket holders can enjoy local food trucks, craft beer and wine, live music and games.

The Science of Guinness World Records exhibition dives into the marvels of GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS holders and the science (and secrets) behind their triumphs. Learn what it takes to crash through these seemingly impossible ceilings and the scientific principles that explain their feats.

Play the largest Pac-Man video game, get physical with reaction competitions, speed drumming, basketball and a dance-a-thon, check out the world’s smallest handmade chess set, and much more. Thursdays on Tap tickets – which include admission to the Museum and The Science of Guinness World Records exhibition – are $15 for members and $25 for non-members.

Guests must be 21 years of age with valid ID. Alcohol and food will be available for sale. Masks or face coverings are required except while eating and drinking. Guests may enjoy food and drinks outdoors while enjoying live music. Please drink responsibly.

Since the Perot Museum is operating at limited capacity, tickets are expected to go fast. For details and to purchase tickets in advance, go to perotmuseum.org.

Self-parking is available in the main Museum parking lot, behind the museum, on Broom Street from the Museum.

New Asian fusion restaurant – Anju – celebrates Grand Opening in Uptown

The Uptown community will soon get to celebrate an Asian-American culture cultivated through a culinary and mixology experience unlike any other when Anju officially opens its doors on Friday, April 23!

Restaurant group One Esca purchased City Council Bar and revamped the 3,000-square-foot restaurant’s interior and exterior, transforming it into Anju – an all-new elevated Asian street food concept. Anju began serving its creative mixology selection and shareable plates and dishes highlighting flavors from China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Thailand to guests a few months ago as a way to test its menu and train its staff.

Now that all renovations and menu updates are finished, the Asian fusion restaurant is ready to make its highly anticipated debut at 2901 Thomas Ave. in Dallas! As a restaurant whose name means “creative dishes consumed with alcohol,” it only makes sense that Anju makes its grand opening celebration the perfect night out complete with delicious food and drinks.

On Friday, April 23, from 9 p.m. to midnight, guests can visit Anju and enjoy complimentary passed appetizers, drink specials, a live DJ and a step-and-repeat banner with a pola-roid camera. Plus, attendees can enter for a chance to win a brand new Toshiba 32” Class LED HD Smart FireTV Edition TV!

“Our team can’t wait to officially introduce Anju to the Uptown community,” said One Esca Owner Michael Elam.

Global, from Page 8

ary, is focused on strengthening existing ties and making new links to forge transnational alliances between local economic justice activists in the United States and Africa. The Project’s primary issue focus is working to end corruption and tax injustice by linking local struggles and global problems and promoting mutual solidarity between Africans and Americans. Initially, the Project will publish a series of essays as part of a Transnational Solidarity Playbook, exploring transnational topics including racial, environmental, and climate justice, as well as women’s rights, LG-BTQ+ rights, and workers’ rights. The series is based on the premise that progressives must increase their “capacity and join forces across national borders, defeat authoritarian regimes and movements based on hate, and find the strength to build a future based on common humanity and justice for all.”

The first essay is set against the backdrop of the anti-Apartheid and African liberation movements of the 60s, 70s, 80s, and early 90s, culminating in Nelson Mandela’s release from prison and the ushering-in of democracy in South Africa. In both the Playbook and the focused work on tax justice, Countess says, the Project aims to provide information and analysis that is both thoughtful and actionable. The goals include influencing public discourse and contributing to reflection among progressive activists involved in grassroots organizing and policy advocacy.

We’re helping Dallas rebound. This is part of how we come back.

Find out how to get a COVID-19 vaccine at www.parklandhospital.com/covid19vaccines
NDG Book Review: ‘The Son of Mr. Suleman’ is one not to miss

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The sins of the father shall be visited upon the son.

That’s what’s said, that a son pay for his father’s misdeeds, but maybe the old man didn’t intend to leave a negative legacy. Maybe he tried his best, but something went wrong. Maybe, as in the new novel “The Son of Mr. Suleman” by Eric Jerome Dickey, Pops meant well.

Adjunct Professor Pi Suleman didn’t want to be at his employer’s event. He had better things to do, better places to be than a room at UAN, but his boss, the white woman who hired him, the wife of a powerful judge, demanded that he be there or else.

Like a fool, he’d taken gifts from her, things given in what he understood was an effort to make his job easier. She was helpful to him but it came with a price: whenever she wanted to sexually assault him, she did, and when she threatened to say that he was to blame, there was little a Black Man from Memphis could do.

Meeting Gemma Buckingham was the only good thing to happen at that UAN event.

She was one of the most beautiful women Pi had ever seen, this child of London and Africa, and he wanted to know her better. Even when she mentioned that she was a fan of his father, a man who impregnated Pi’s mother and then disappeared, a famous man, a writer Pi had never met but hated, Pi still wanted to know Gemma Buckingham.

She was coy with him, teasing him with information and curves. She was apparently well-off and she didn’t care that Pi wasn’t yet tenured, didn’t have the salary he needed, drove an old car. Yes, she had secrets—but then, so did he and the white one who was blowing up his phone with demands and traps and tricks was the secret who was going to pay...

Five years after his death, new music arrives from Prince

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Five years after his sudden death, the icon Prince’s estate is releasing brand new music that is sure to excite his still loyal fanbase.

The new “Welcome 2 America” CD marks the first time Prince’s estate is releasing never-before-heard music from the megastar’s famous Paisley Park vault.

Fans got a preview on CBS’s Minutes, and Prince’s longtime guitarist, Brown Mark, sat for a special interview with the Black Press at 7:30 a.m. EST on Thursday, April 15.

The 12-track disc was recorded in 2010 to accompany a tour of the same name but never released.

The estate plans to debut the new music on July 30.

“Welcome 2 America” is a document of Prince’s concerns, hopes, and visions for a shifting society, presciently foreshadowing an era of political division, disinformation, and a renewed fight for racial justice, “Prince’s estate noted in a statement.

Never a big fan of social media, Prince sings about how superficial social media could be, corporate monopolies in music and reality television.

On the title track, Prince sings: “Welcome 2 America, the land of the free — home of the slave.”

Prince fans know that track is reminiscent of his 1985 song, “America,” from his “Around the World in a Day” album.

In that song, the Purple One sings: “Aristocrats on a mountain climb, making money, losing time/Communism is just a word, but if the government turn over, it’ll be the only word that’s heard/America, America/God shed his grace on thee/ America, America Keep the children free.”

Songs from the new CD include “Running Game (Son of a Slave Master),” “Born 2 Die” and “One Day We Will All B Free.”

Prince also sings about “Distracted by the features of the iPhone/Got an application, 2 fix Ur situation.”

During the “Welcome 2 America” tour, which lasted for three years beginning in 2010, Prince performed over 80 shows. The estate doesn’t explain why he never released the accompanying CD.

Prince died on April 21, 2016, at the age of 57.
2021 Fair Housing: Restoring HUD Rules and Revenues

Nearly $9 billion boost in discretionary funds to support CDBG, homelessness

By Charlene Crowell

Although the month of April is annually observed as Fair Housing Month, the reality for Black America and other people of color is that housing has not significantly changed since the 1968 federal enactment of the Fair Housing Act. Its enactment came seven days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who had strongly advocated fair and open housing.

But 53 years after an historic enactment, race and place remain the determining factors of who is allowed the opportunity to build wealth, as well as to share wealth’s financial advantages across family generations.

What makes this year’s observance more hopeful are renewed efforts by both President Biden and Congress to correct decades’ long denials of full access to the American Dream.

For the first time in more than four years, the nation’s President committed his Administration to the active pursuit of fair housing. Beginning with a memorandum coinciding with his inauguration on January 26th, President Biden directed the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to “as soon as practicable, take all steps necessary to examine the effects of” the Trump Administration’s 2020 repeal of two key housing rules issued by the Obama Administration: the 2013 Disparate Impact Standard and the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

On inauguration day, the U.S. Senate had not yet taken action on many cabinet-level agencies.

“This is not only a mandate to refrain from discrimination,” stated President Biden on January 26th, “but a mandate to take actions that undo historic patterns of segregation and other types of discrimination and that afford access to long-denied opportunities.”

The “disparate impact” standard for proving discrimination helps to ensure that lenders, insurers, government and others covered by the 1968 Fair Housing Act to analyze their policies and eliminate those that disproportionately hurt certain groups without justification. Similarly, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) legally requires that federal agencies as well as recipients of federal funds to actively address and work to eliminate housing discrimination and segregation.

“Systemic discrimination continues to limit housing opportunity for Black and Brown communities and stunts our country’s economic growth,” said Nikitra Bailey, Executive Vice President with the Center for Responsible Lending.

“Reinstating the original Disparate Impact AFFH rules will move us closer to achieving a more just society where everyone has access to opportunity. Moreover, given the large amounts of federal funding subject to the AFFH requirement being distributed, there is an urgency to restore the rule’s obligations on jurisdictions.”

Only a month after her March 13th U.S. Senate confirmation, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge acted on the President’s direction and announced steps to restore both fair housing rules gutted by the Trump Administration. HUD has submitted the rules to the Office of Management for regulatory review. Once OMB completes its review, the revised rules will be published in the Federal Register.

As much as fair housing regulations are needed, adequate funding to support HUD programs determine how many low-and-middle-income people can actually receive housing assistance.

On April 9th and exercising presidential authority for discretionary spending, $68.7 billion was awarded to HUD for fiscal year (FY) 2022. This nearly $9 billion increase above 2021 funding levels will boost revenues for programs delivering direct services. All of these monies are bonus funds that will be augmented by other funding made available through the annual budgetary process.

“President Biden’s FY22 discretionary funding request turns the page on years of inadequate and harmful spending requests on local initiatives that empowers HUD to meet the housing needs of families and communities across the country. I am particularly pleased that the request proposes more than $30 billion to expand housing vouchers to an additional 200,000 low-income families,” noted HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge.

The bulk of these funds are dedicated to expanding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program by $3.8 billion. CDBG is one of the department’s most valued programs and has benefitted over the years from bipartisan support due to its focus on local solutions to expand housing, particularly for the elderly housing illus. Similarly, $3.5 billion in discretionary revenues will be dedicated to resolving homelessness.

After more than a year of challenges wrought by COVID-19, the risk of losing housing looms even larger today. Preserving affordable housing and homelessness prevention are key pulse points for many local communities.

Other HUD programs that will expand due to the discretionary funding include: Housing Choice Vouchers, also known as Section 8 housing that augments monthly rental cost in the private housing market and serves low-to-moderate income families; and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program that serves elderly and persons with disabilities with permanently affordable housing.

Fair housing is also emerging as a priority item on Capitol Hill lawmakers. On April 13th, the U.S. Senate Banking and Urban Affairs Committee convened a hearing entitled, “Separate and Unequal: The Legacy of Racial Discrimination in Housing”. Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown’s opening statement as committee chair set the tone for the forum.

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said recently, we cannot change our history,” noted Sen. Brown. “But we can learn from it, and we can build a fairer future – one that brings us closer to making our founding ideals real for everyone. Fair housing took longer to pass through Congress than voting rights, desegregation of public spaces, and even equal opportunities for employment.”

Expert testimony provided startling data and calls for changes that will make real the promises of fair housing.

Testifying on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., Richard Rothstein, its Senior Fellow Emeritus, candidly assessed America’s lack of fair housing and the consequences of it. Since its founding in 1940 by the late Thurgood Marshall, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, achieve racial justice through litigation, advocacy and public education. In housing, LDF works to combat racial segregation and promote racial integration and opportunity.

As an example of federal discriminatory practices, Rothstein cited the example of Levittown, a mass-produced post-World War II suburb of 17,000 homes that sold for $7,990 with a 0% down payment for veterans. Despite the guarantees of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly known as the G.I. bill, Black veterans were denied loans and suburbs remained all-white.

This discrimination was long sustained, even though the G.I. bill guaranteed a range of benefits to veterans that spanned education, unemployment, and loans to purchase homes, farms or businesses.

“Despite the homeownership boom in the 1950s and 1960s, which sent homeownership rates in the U.S. from 30 to 60%, 98% of the loans approved by the federal government between 1934 and 1968 went to white applicants,” testified Rothstein. “By guaranteeing affordable mortgages for white families and excluding Black families or limiting Black families to purchase in less economically advantageous neighborhoods, the government created, encouraged, and reinforced intense residential racial segregation throughout the nation,” continued Rothstein. “White flight,” or the creation of white suburbs, was also undergirded by massive federal investments in the construction of the interstate highway system. The federal government often took possession of homes and land in Black communities by claiming eminent domain in order to construct highways as physical barriers between white neighborhoods and areas with a large presence of African Americans or communities of color.

Also testifying at the Senate hearing was Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance, the country’s only national non-profit civil rights agency dedicated to sharing wealth’s financial advantages across family generations.

For the 411 in the community, go to www.northdallasgazette.com

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Unequal workplace power deprives workers of the ability to protect themselves and receive fair compensation

(Economic Policy Institute) Two new reports released as a part of EPI’s Unequal Power project show how unequal bargaining power sabotages workers’ ability to protect themselves and obtain adequate compensation for the risks they face on the job.

The first report, “Death by inequality: How workers’ lack of power harms their health and safety,” demonstrates how employers retain considerable power over their workers’ abilities to protect themselves from injury, illness, and death, despite constraints created by the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act of 1970. Workers are at the mercy of potentially dictatorial employers when it comes to deciding when—or whether—to use the bathroom, to refuse to perform particularly hazardous tasks, or to obtain appropriate medical care for occupational injuries.

The deficiencies in the OSH Act and its implementation have become starkly obvious during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the report. Under the OSH Act, one way for workers to protect themselves from occupational hazards like COVID-19 is to notify their employers and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the hazards they face. The act requires OSHA to perform an inspection if a worker or a worker’s representative files a signed written complaint, but despite having received 9,160 COVID-related complaints by the end of September 2020, OSHA had closed more than 80% of those cases and had opened only 199 complaint inspections and only 996 COVID-related inspections in all.

Further, many workers who have complained about the lack of protection from the virus have faced discipline or termination for expressing concern. And OSHA’s whistleblower provisions, which involve lengthy federal court proceedings and do not give workers a right to sue their employers on their own, have proved woefully inadequate to help these workers.

The second report, “Risk without reward: The myth of wage compensation for hazardous work,” illustrates how lopsided employer power prevents most workers from obtaining adequate compensation for the inherent health risks they face at work. The authors find that the free-market view that workers are fully compensated by higher wages for the risks they face on the job and that markets alone are sufficient to ensure this outcome do not stand up to scrutiny.

ANJU, from Page 11

Michael Kim. “With our elevated street food dishes and one-of-a-kind Asian-style drinking experience, Anju is really a concept unlike any other in the area. The vibe can be whatever you make it—a fun night out on the town, a chill weekend brunch, a place to watch a sports game or your favorite local place to stop in several times a week. Whatever ambiance you’re seeking, Anju is it. We can’t wait for Dallasites to join us in celebrating our grand opening as we show Uptown just how incredible Asian and American dining and drinking traditions can be when they’re brought together.”

Anju’s menu features chef-favorites, such as Karaage Chicken and Drunken Noodles, as well as popular items like Angus Dumplings, Pork Belly Bao Buns and Wasabi Fried Rice, all at an approachable price point. For those interested in a unique Asian-style drinking experience, Anju’s bar offerings include traditional Asian beverages like Soju and Somaek, in addition to classic American cocktails. As the new go-to destination for Asian-American culture, guests can savor an Asian spin on the classic American brunch with items like Chicken and Waffles, Anju Benedict and Morning Threesome.

The restaurant’s exterior boats a remarkable 2,000-square-foot revamped patio, as well as a modern, Asian-inspired interior. TV’s line the walls of Anju, giving locals a relaxed spot to watch sports games.

Anju will be open Monday through Thursday from 4-9 p.m., Friday from 2 p.m. to midnight, Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Happy Hour will be served Monday through Friday from 2-7 p.m., and the brunch menu will be available Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HUD, from Page 13

ties like healthcare facilities, grocery stores, green spaces, and bank branches. But communities of color are more likely to have hazardous and toxic waste plants and more polluted land, air, and water.”

“When you look at our residential and lending patterns, we are a century behind where we need to be… The bias in our markets is not a bug but a feature. They were built that way and intended to operate in a discriminatory fashion. They will continue to do so until we make systemic and cultural changes,” concluded Rice.

In other words, race is the bedrock of inequality in America because neighborhoods of color are more likely to have poorly resourced schools and fewer amenities like healthcare facilities, grocery stores, green spaces, and bank branches. But communities of color are more likely to have hazardous and toxic waste plants and more polluted land, air, and water.”

City of Irving to host Minority Women owned business workshop 4/27

The City of Irving will host a Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise “Partnership Process and Checking Your Pulse” workshop at 2:30 p.m. on April 27 via ZOOM.

The upcoming workshop will focus on:
- City of Irving procurement processes.
- Tips for professional development.
- Resources to help you and your business thrive during the pandemic.

The city encourages everyone interested to register online.

For more information contact The City of Irving’s M/WBE program administrator Ammunique Love at (972) 721-3753 or alove@cityofirving.org.
MAY 1, 2021 GENERAL ELECTION
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES
COUNCIL DISTRICTS / BALLOT ORDER

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

**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:


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

**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 - 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

**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.

**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/2NcCfVP.

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

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www.garlandpurchasing.com

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The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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Performing Concrete Street Paving in the Metroplex Area

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Great Possessions

“God that we would never
sult in possessions from
the reality of our faith re-
knowledge. When we have
come free. These possess-
sions symbolize the spirit-
ual possessions we receive
when we come out of being
slaved to those things
that have hindered us all
our lives. These possess-
sions are to be shared with
others so that they also can
know how they might be-
come free.

What has God freed
you from that allows you
to share your possessions
with others? Share what
God has done in your life
with someone you work
with today and someone
you know in your commu-
nity. It may be the posses-
sion they need most in their
life.

God, who created man-
kind in Your image, You
made a colorful world of
people! As I stop and
watch and reflect on the
people I see, I notice that
everyone is unique. Some
times I’m frustrated by
other’s personalities and
actions; other times I am
amused.

The fact is, though we
were made in Your image,
You gave each one of us
a will of our own and You
instilled different gifts,
personalities, and potential
within us. How boring it
would be if we were all just
alike! The “spice” of life is
made up of all those differ-
ent people, with different
ideas, and various contri-
butions.

Thank you for caring
enough that we are not your
puppets, but are unique in-
dividuals, each called to
fill special places in your
great plan for our lives. I
pray that you will keep my
eyes open, my mind alert,
and my will in tune so that
I will use all you have giv-
en me-gifts, personality,
skills, desires--to the best
of my ability, for the edi-
fication of the saints, reach-
ing the lost, and glorifying
you.

Please forgive my past
failures and empower me
today for all you want to
do through me. In the pre-
cious name of Jesus, our
Savior.

WORKERS, from Page 14

“The profound shortcom-
ings of occupational safety
and health (OSH) perfor-
mance in the United States,
brought to vivid light by the
current pandemic, are attrib-
table to too little public in-
tervention in labor markets,
not too much,” said report
coauthor Peter Dorman,
professor emeritus of politi-
cal economy at Evergreen
State College.

“Unregulated markets
have failed to ensure safe
working conditions and
health equity. Millions have
suffered health as well as
economic consequences,
including raising the bottom
end of the labor market to
acceptable levels of wages
and productivity, revamp-
ing labor laws to encour-
gage unionization, rebuilding
the occupational and public
health infrastructure, and
taking assertive action to
combat discrimination on
the basis of race, ethnicity,
and immigrant status.

Great Possessions

Great Possessions
YOU CAN DISTANCE AND STILL BE SOCIAL.

Get vaccinated when it’s your turn.

COVID doesn’t have to keep us from connecting with the crew. Vaccines are here. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we need to keep playin’ it smart. Mask up, socially distance, and avoid indoor gatherings with people you don’t live with. We can still stay close – even when we’re miles apart.

Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus