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DOJ seeks to clean up police departments around the country

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

When U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced that the Department of Justice had opened a civil investigation to determine whether police in Minneapolis engage in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing, the proclamation was met both with cheers and skepticism.

Garland said he would staff the effort with experienced attorneys and other personnel from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota.

He even qualified that the new civil investigation is separate from and independent of the federal criminal investigation into the death of George Floyd that the Justice Department has previously announced.

While the decision received applause, questions remain aplenty, including the goal of the investigation and whether the Justice Department can set policy for local police agencies.

"The goal would be to determine whether a local or state entity is failing to abide by the U.S. Constitution or other federal laws," Caitlin Kizielewicz, a spokesperson for the Crime and Justice Research Al-



Among the policies the DOJ seeks is encouraging is for other officers to step in when aggressive and excessive force is used. (Photo: Claude Robillard / Flickr)

liance, told NNPA Newswire.

The Crime and Justice Alliance serves to inform the public debate on criminal justice issues.

Asked whether the DOJ could set policy for local police agencies, Kizielewicz demurred.

"For the most part, no," Kizielewicz offered.

"But if the U.S. Justice Department develops evidence that a local or state entity like a police department is failing to abide by the U.S. Constitution or other federal laws, it can go to federal court and seek an order of some kind requiring the entity to cease its illegal activity and perhaps implement some measures to prevent its recurrence."

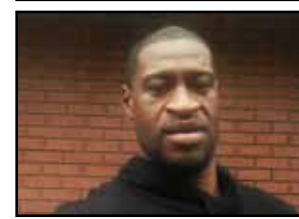
Some of the measures include implementing new policies and training.

"Or it can negotiate an agreement with the entity – called a consent decree – which then may be overseen by a federal court to make sure the entity lives up to whatever it has agreed to do," Kizielewicz stated.

Among the policies the DOJ seeks is encouraging is for other officers to step in when aggressive and excessive force is used.

When Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into the neck of George Floyd and eventually killed him,

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Chauvin verdict only leads to more work

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COVID safety measures lack in prison

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John Lewis Voter Advancement Day planned May 8

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STEM school to open in West Dallas

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Qualified immunity is under question

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EBONY 75th anniversary book released

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Black home ownership key to wealth gains

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Sister Tarpley: A message for Christian mothers

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Renee Montgomery

People In The News ...



Michelle T. Boone



Dr. Starsky Wilson

NDG Quote of the Week: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Renee Montgomery

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent



Renee Montgomery, a two-time WNBA champion and vice president of the Atlanta Dream, has purchased a stake in the franchise and is now co-owner.

Montgomery is the first retired player to own and serve as an executive of a WNBA team.

The superstar and her two partners, Larry Gottesdiener and Suzanne Abair of Northland Investment Corp. take over the team that was

once co-owned by former U.S. Sen. Kelley Loeffler (D-Ga.).

“With the unanimous WNBA and NBA [board] votes, marks a new beginning for the Atlanta Dream

organization, and we are very pleased to welcome Larry Gottesdiener and Suzanne Abair to the WNBA,” Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in a statement.

“I am also thrilled that former WNBA star Renee Montgomery will be joining the ownership group as an investor and executive for the team. Renee is a trailblazer who has made a major impact both in the game and beyond,” Engelbert added.

Selected fourth overall in the 2009 WNBA draft, Montgomery appeared in 364 games. She played in

37 playoff games and twice won the WNBA title as a Minnesota Lynx member.

She matched the WNBA regular-season record with eight made three-pointers in 2018 and notched her 500th career trey in 2019 – making her just the 13th player in league history to accomplish that feat.

Last November, Montgomery proved a champion in another venue: political activism. She joined Stacey Abrams and other women of color to push voter participation and inclusion, ultimately helping President Joe Biden win Georgia and the White House.

Those efforts also led to Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff winning the Senate and grabbing the majority in the upper chamber.

“My dream has come true,” Montgomery declared. “Breaking barriers for minorities and women by being the first former WNBA player to have both an ownership stake and a leadership role with the team is an opportunity that I take very seriously.”

Van Brooks, the founder and executive director of the nonprofit SAFE Alternative Foundation for Education, also praised Mont-

gomery.

“Back in March, at the beginning of the pandemic, we reached out to Renee Montgomery to join our Together, We Can virtual program as a host,” Brooks wrote in an email. (You can watch her class here.)

“She was ecstatic to help because the Virtual Program was created to help people. It provided people of all ages with a fun and educational, social outlet to combat the isolation brought on by nationwide quarantine,” Brooks continued.

“Renee Montgomery-

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Michelle T. Boone

CHICAGO, IL, — The Poetry Foundation is pleased to announce Michelle T. Boone will join the Poetry Foundation as president beginning May 4. The appointment concludes a robust, diverse national search led by Korn Ferry in partnership with a committee of Poetry Foundation trustees and staff members.

Boone brings more than 20 years of professional community, civic, and cultural experience in dynamic leadership positions, both at Navy Pier and with the Joyce Foundation, as well



as during her tenure as commissioner for Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). In her most recent role at Navy Pier as chief program and civic

engagement officer, Boone served on the Executive Leadership Team; her responsibilities included the development and presentation of arts and cultural public programs, festivals and special events; managing the PR/Communications team; and supporting Navy Pier’s diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies and staff engagement.

“We are excited to welcome Michelle Boone as the next president of the Poetry Foundation,” said Caren Yanis, board chair, “We’re confident in Michelle’s organizational and strategic planning skills to

strengthen and sustain audiences for the art of poetry. Our goal is to become an equitable organization that fosters dignity and integrity, builds trust with partners and community members, and sustains and grows resources including Poetry magazine and PoetryFoundation.org. Michelle brings deep experience in organizational management and community engagement. We’re delighted to welcome her to the Poetry Foundation.”

“I am beyond thrilled and deeply honored to be invited to join the team at the Poetry Foundation,”

said Michelle Boone, incoming president of the Poetry Foundation. “Poetry magazine and the work of the Foundation play an important role in serving the poetry community and the broader literary scene at large. I am looking forward to deepening relationships, expanding partnerships, and connecting with bold new, diverse voices in the field in dynamic new ways.

Boone served as Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) under Mayor Rahm Emanuel. During her tenure, she led a team

of more than 80 full-time employees to produce and present more than 2,000 public programs, large-scale festivals, and special events annually; supervised the management of the historic Chicago Cultural Center; led the process for a new Chicago Cultural Plan (released in 2012); and launched the Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015, the city’s first international exhibition of contemporary architecture and design. Prior to that, Boone was a senior program officer at the Joyce Foundation,

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Dr. Starsky Wilson

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



Children’s Defense Fund (CDF), said the schools incorporate “the totality of

CDF’s mission by fostering environments that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves and in their families, schools, communities, country, and the world with hope, education, and action.”

Dr. Wilson noted that students in the program are known as scholars.

“By providing K-12 scholars with rich, culturally relevant pedagogy and high-quality books that

deepen scholars’ understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society, CDF Freedom Schools programs further empowers scholars to believe in their ability and responsibility to make a difference while instilling in them a love of reading to help them avoid summer learning loss,” Dr. Wilson remarked during a live appearance on the National Newspaper Publishers As-

sociation’s morning breaking news program, “Let It Be Known.”

Recent Freedom Schools’ surveys found that 65 percent of scholars liked to read, while 81 percent enjoyed talking about what they read.

Approximately 86 percent reported they read many different kinds of books, 100 percent reported wanting to go to college, 98 percent reported they could achieve their goals, and 89 percent said they believed

they could make a difference.

The CDF outlined the following behavioral benchmarks:

- Seventy-seven percent of scholars reported they were willing to listen to different opinions.

- Sixty-eight percent of scholars said standing up for what they think is fair.

- Sixty-three percent of scholars said that they could solve problems without

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Chauvin Is Guilty. Our work is cut out for us

By Ben Jealous

Just a few days have passed since Derek Chauvin's conviction in the murder of George Floyd. But the images from that moment are seared in our memories forever: the murderer, led away in handcuffs. The Floyd family, Philonise Floyd speaking through tears, at the microphones after the verdict. The crowds outside the courthouse erupting in cheers when the verdict was read.

Our gratitude for this measure of accountability is soul-deep. And now we ask ourselves, will things really be different this time? The answer is that they can be, if we seize this moment.

Washington has sent encouraging signs that it is serious about addressing police violence and systemic racism. Congress should pass the imperfect but important George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The Justice Department is forging ahead with investigations of police departments

in Minneapolis and Louisville, and the shooting of Anthony Brown in North Carolina.

We have work to do in our own neighborhoods, too.

Policing is a local function, controlled by city, county and state governments. These governments answer directly to us, the citizens. And there is a lot we can do to insist on change.

One of the most inspiring examples today is in Ithaca, New York, a college town led by a dynamic young Black mayor. There, Mayor Svante Myrick and the city council approved a plan to do away with their traditional police department and replace it with a new Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety, in which some personnel would carry weapons – and, importantly, some would not.

Instead, unarmed social workers would respond to the many calls in which an armed response is unnecessary and even dangerous. The new department will

have a civilian supervisor. It will focus on de-escalating situations in which people are at risk, and restoring trust among the city's communities of color, homeless residents, LGBTQ residents and residents with disabilities.

The plan came together with input from local residents as well as city and county officials. It is the kind of innovative thinking we want in communities across the nation, and the energy around the Chauvin trial helped get it over the finish line.

We all can harness that energy where we live. Our year of speaking out and taking to the streets will serve us well; we can organize, and demonstrate, and show up in the places where local lawmakers meet to do their work. We can contact our local representatives directly; they might live next door or down the street.

And while the task of changing thousands of police departments, one by one, seems huge, think of this: more than half of Black Americans live in 25

metropolitan areas. We can get serious about saving Black lives by starting in those metro areas. And we can build a movement that inspires others to act.

One of the most emotional moments after George Floyd's murder last year came when his daughter Gianna, then six, said, "Daddy changed the world." If we want her to be right in the long run, we can do our part to make her words come true. And each of us can start right here at home.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Census, Redistricting and The Republican Conspiracy

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

Forty years ago, those who wanted to amend the U.S. Constitution to eliminate the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, along with any other provisions that extended democracy to "we the people," were calling for a Constitutional Convention. Today, that approach is no longer necessary since those who still want to make those stated changes have found new ways to accomplish the same old goals.

Thomas Jefferson was always about "States Rights" with less Federalist (or federal government influence). Today, the Republican Party is carrying out Jefferson's vision with three approaches: (1) Voter Suppression legislation, which is now in 43 of the 50 states and with

over 500 bills pending, collectively, to make it harder to vote; (2) Former President Trump's efforts to change the Census 2020 count by questioning whether people in households were legal; and (3) The resulting loss of Congressional seats in at least 6 states, including the one seat from California (a Blue state), and the addition of 2 seats to Texas (a Red State). Texas happens to be one of the states with a complete Republican legislature and governor with major voter suppression legislation pending.

The bottom line is that the Census determines the number of seats in the Congress per state. Since the Congress is fixed at 433 seats, seats are reallocated following the ten year census. Now the change in number of seats requires a change in how congressional districts are

drawn up in each state. The drawing of those boundaries to strengthen one party's voter influence over another is called "gerrymandering". Where republicans control state legislatures, they will also control the appointment of the people who draw the boundaries. Such boundaries can determine the allocation of voting precincts and equipment. The whole idea is to ensure that never again do we have the kind of democratic vote among "we the people" that put President Biden in the White House.

The Republican conspiracy against democracy can only work if we sleep and become inactive during this multifaceted effort. We must prepare now for 2022 by:

(1) Boycotting the corporations that refuse to support "Black Votes Matter" and who continue funding legislators that give

to those state legislators engaged in supporting voter suppression; (2) Finding candidates now that we can run and finance against the very republicans supporting and sponsoring voter suppression legislation; and (3) Watching very closely the Redistricting Commissions charged with redrawing political districts so that the votes of people of color are not weakened. We must attend Redistricting Commission meetings whether on Zoom or in person. The damage they do will last for another 10 years.

"We The People" can defeat the Republican conspiracy on all fronts if we get started now and stay vigilant. It is ironic that Thomas Jefferson was the one who said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom." Are you willing to pay that price?

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COVID safety measures in prisons and jails harm mental health and odds of effective reentry for women behind bars

Corrections agencies implemented COVID-19 safety measures that are exacerbating the trauma women were already experiencing in prisons and jails, according to a new nationwide report from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. Agencies also did not prioritize the release of women who are especially vulnerable to COVID and low risk to public safety. There are extremely few examples of agencies taking a gender-responsive approach to COVID-19 precautionary measures, researchers say.

Measures found to be particularly harmful to women are the suspension of visitation and programming, increased use of cell restriction and lockdowns, and the use of medical isolation and quarantine. While these measures may have been necessary in order to slow the spread of the virus in correctional facilities, researchers say little attention was paid to how they might be particularly problematic for women. About 80% of women in custody are mothers of



Matthew Ansley / Unsplash

young children, and almost 90% have histories of serious trauma from abuse and neglect that affect their mental health in response to these restrictions.

“These COVID safety measures—many of which significantly increase separation and isolation—raise questions about how people in custody are coping under these challenging circumstances,” said Alycia Welch, lead author of the report and associate director of the COVID, Corrections, and Oversight Project at the LBJ School. “This report examines the particular challenges faced by incarcerated women during the pandemic, and asks how prisons and jails can

mitigate the harm caused by policies meant to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in these facilities.”

The vast majority of correctional agencies suspended in-person family visitation, but did not provide women with alternative and affordable methods of communication with loved ones, causing harm to their children and families. Most correctional agencies have also not provided alternatives to in-person programming and services that could otherwise keep women occupied during long periods of isolation and improve their chances for successful reentry.

The pandemic has amplified concerns about

women’s access to routine medical and mental health care. Women’s access to basic necessities, including hygiene products and sanitary supplies, have become even more limited. Additionally, finding safe housing options has always been a particular challenge for women after their release. Given the risk of exposure to COVID during incarceration, safe, supportive housing options are even more scarce for women, especially during the 14-day quarantine period immediately after release.

Researchers say corrections agencies, policy makers, and other elected officials still have time to reduce the harm incarcerated women are experiencing during the pandemic and improve odds for reentry. First, researchers recommend accelerating the release of more women from prisons and jails. Most women are very low risk to the community and can be safely released as a way to depopulate the facilities and reduce the risk of COVID spread, consistent with the guidance of correctional health experts.

Many women, especially those who are pregnant and those with medical conditions, are also high-risk from the virus and need to be out of harm’s way. The 2020 death of Andrea High Bear, who died from COVID in a federal prison in Texas shortly after giving birth, underscores the risks involved for this population.

Recommendations also include reducing the number of women entering correctional facilities through diversion efforts; providing opportunities for meaningful contact between women in custody and their children by developing creative virtual activities like game nights or reading stories; delivering programs and reentry services to women in custody through the use of tablets provided at no cost to the women; providing women in custody access to gender-specific health services that support positive physical, behavioral, and reproductive health outcomes, including through increased use of telehealth

services; and developing mini-cohorts of women within the facilities to reduce the women’s sense of isolation.

“Each recommendation includes a set of immediate steps and longer-term actions that corrections agencies can take to ensure that the changes meet women’s distinct needs,” according to Michele Deitch, co-author of the report and distinguished senior lecturer at the LBJ School. “We wanted to be sure these important reforms are sustainable after the pandemic is over.”

This report was produced as part of the COVID, Corrections, and Oversight Project at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, with support from the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation. The COVID, Corrections, and Oversight Project is led by Michele Deitch, Project Director, and Alycia Welch, Associate Director.

Deitch and Welch discussed report findings last week at the UT Social Justice Research Forum.

BOONE, from Page 2

managing the culture portfolio and distributing more than \$2 million annually in grants supporting artists and nonprofit arts organizations in the Midwest.

Her professional career includes work in television, film, and the recording industries, and she served as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, Africa. Boone holds a bachelor’s degree in Telecommunications and a master’s degree in Public Affairs (Nonprofit Management) from Indiana University, Bloomington.

The Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs honored her with its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015.

Boone is the recipient of multiple honors including being named a “Cultural Champion” by the Chicago Cultural Alliance; named “Design Leader of the Moment” by *Newcity* magazine; and “Chicagoan of the Year” (architecture) by the Chicago Tribune. She currently serves on the boards of Americans for the Arts, Arts Alliance Illinois,

The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago Architecture Biennial, the Graham Foundation, and Timeline Theater, and is on the Board of Governors for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is also a member of The Chicago Network and serves on the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago. Michelle is a longtime resident of Chicago’s south side and volunteers with South Shore Works, an independent collective of residents working to revitalize the community.

The Poetry Foundation,

publisher of Poetry magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in American culture.

It exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs.

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John Lewis Voter Advancement Day of Action VoterCade slated for May 8

A collection of local civic organizations says the voting rights of America's voters of color and youth voters are under attack nationally by state legislators introducing and passing laws to suppress their participation in elections. Meanwhile, big businesses and billionaires are able to spend unlimited amounts of funding to buy elections.



Together, they are planning a rally to protect voter's rights. On May 8, the rally will take place in the name of John Lewis, and as part of 100 events across the nation to pass the For

the People Act (H.R. 1), the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4), D.C. Statehood and address the filibuster to do so.

Organizers believe that, "Together, we can build a better nation and a stronger democracy."

A press conference will be held at 1 p.m. at Dallas City Hall. Speakers will include; Pastor Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III of Friend-

ship-West Baptist Church, Judge Cheryl Wattley of the UNT Dallas College of Law, and Ideisha Shanklin.

Then a VoterCade to the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center will commence at 2 p.m.

The Empowerment Celebration begins at 3 p.m. in the courtyard of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center at 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Speakers at this event will include; Sean Reed of the DFW Urban League Young Professionals, Akilah Wallace of Faith in Texas, Dionna with Black Votes Matter, and Crystal Mason

More information on VoterCade participation can be found at <https://www.mobilize.us/publiccitizen/event/382060>

Dallas Historical Society Awards For Excellence celebrated on Nov. 18

The Dallas Historical Society will host its 39th Awards for Excellence luncheon on Thursday, November 18, at 11:30 a.m. at the FAIRMONT HOTEL, 1717 NORTH AKARD STREET



DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Remembering Dallas' past builds her future

The event honors those who make significant contributions to Dallas' quality of life, providing innovation, guidance, and support

in categories such as Arts, Education, Sciences, Humanities, Philanthropy and more. The complete list of this year's awards includes:

- Arts Leadership - Gayle

Halperin - commitment to the arts as an advocate, leader, administrator, mentor, and philanthropist, making Dallas a richer environment for all

• Creative Arts - Jonathan Norton - a homegrown, nationally recognized playwright whose rich characters and stories are inspired by growing up in Dallas

• Education - Catherine LeBlanc - dedication to education through her Catch Up and Read program which trains primary school teachers in new and effective

reading techniques

• Health/Sciences - Agape Clinic - providing free medical care to the medically underserved of Dallas for almost 40 years

• History - Nancy McCoy - extensive work as a preservation architect in the commercial, cultural, residential, parks, and educational sectors

• Humanities - Alessandra Comini - accomplishments as an art historian, lecturer, author, and professor over the past 40 years

• Philanthropy - Diane Bumpas - celebrating Texas State History and Dallas heritage through her generosity of time, effort, and

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Peoples tops candidates, advancing to runoff election for Fort Worth Mayor

After beginning with a field of 10- candidates, Deborah Peoples and Mattie Parker will head to a runoff election for the position of Fort Worth Mayor. Peoples topped the list of candidates with the most votes garnered at 22,352 to Parker's 20,501. Since neither candidate exceeded 50% of the votes cast, the final decision rests with voters in a second round of

balloting.

"I send my warmest congratulations to Deborah Peoples on her first-place victory in Fort Worth's mayoral election today," said Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa. "Fort Worth could not choose a better leader to represent this great city, and I look forward to supporting Deborah every step of the way as we look to-

ward her runoff election. Deborah leads with vision, compassion, and integrity, and I look forward to seeing the progress she will create on behalf of Fort Worth residents when elected.

"As a business leader and longtime Chair of the Tarrant County Democratic Party, Deborah has worked every day to build a better Texas for all of us. She is a gifted leader who brings

people together at every opportunity, and I know that as mayor, she will help build a stronger, more united Fort Worth. Deborah is focused on tackling the most important issues Texans are facing -- from fixing our broken criminal justice system to caring for our seniors.

"Deborah's success tonight is a testament to the groundswell of Democratic

power rising up across our state. Her leadership flipped Tarrant County blue in the 2020 presidential election for the first time in recent memory, and that same organizing and dedication has propelled her to today's victory. We will send Deborah to another victory in her runoff election, and we will continue fighting to elect Democratic champions who put people first."

Peoples herself expressed appreciation to the voters who got her into the runoff.

"I am grateful to have the support of Chair Hinojosa. Fort Worth's success is success for our state as a whole, and I am ready to use my 30 years of executive experience and lifetime of service to the community to lead us out of crisis," Peoples said.

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2164	\$100,000 VIP Cashword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.85	\$5	5/17/21	11/13/21
2265	Tic Tac Snow Overall Odds are 1 in 4.54	\$1	5/19/21	11/15/21
2235	Cowboys Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$5	5/19/21	11/15/21
2236	Houston Texans Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	5/19/21	11/15/21
2263	Money Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 3.92	\$5	5/19/21	11/15/21
2253	\$200,000 Extreme Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.30	\$5	5/31/21	11/27/21

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

TEXAS LOTTERY

New West Dallas stem school set to open in August

Dallas ISD school receives expanded support from Toyota USA Foundation, education champion Carter Creech through SMU

In West Dallas a new Pre K-8 STEM school is set to open this August beginning with students in the 7th and 8th grades. The West Dallas STEM School, a Dallas Independent School District Transformation and Innovation School, is the result of more than three years of collaboration between the District, the Toyota USA Foundation, SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development and the West Dallas community.



Ousa Chea / Unsplash

“We strongly believe that all children should have equal access to opportunities and a pathway to great careers,” said Sean Suggs, director, Toyota USA Foundation and group vice president, Toyota Social Innovation. “Together with the community, we have worked on everything from building design, teacher development, curriculum

and before and after school care. This extends also to addressing broader community needs, including access to transportation.” To support the school as it opens and its new Master Principal Marion Jackson, the Toyota USA Foundation approved an additional grant of \$3 million to SMU, adding to the \$2 million grant the foundation awarded in September 2018. This is in addition to

Toyota’s teacher and community grants, West Dallas scholarship and mentorship programs, and the recently launched transportation circulator in the area. “We know that there many related issues - from access to healthy food to before and after school care - that all tie into academic success. This is something we need to collectively address, and we encourage additional partners to come

alongside the effort,” added Suggs. To further support the school, business leader Carter Creech, an SMU alumnus with a passion for education philanthropy, has pledged an additional \$3.5 million, following his initial gift of \$1.5 million to the project. Creech’s contribution will go toward a new middle school career and college readiness pilot program at the school, as well as efforts to replicate the West Dallas STEM school. “As we move from planning to implementation, we have deepened our commitment to the school, to the model, and to each other,” said Simmons School Dean Stephanie Knight. “SMU is grateful for this unique partnership, and thanks both the Toyota Foundation USA and Carter Creech for continued investment in

our community’s children – the problem solvers of the future.” **The West Dallas STEM School Program at Pinkston** The West Dallas STEM School Program at Pinkston is a neighborhood school that will begin by serving the 7th and 8th grade. PreK – 1st grade is scheduled to begin enrollment in 2023. The school brings together four integral components to create an innovative PK - 8 school model:

- A project-based, industry-informed STEM curriculum
- Professional development for educators
- “Wraparound” services delivered directly to the students by community nonprofit organizations to help with issues such as literacy, nutrition, transportation and after-school care
- Evaluation and mea-

surement to support a model of continuous improvement “This is an opportunity of a lifetime for the students and community of West Dallas,” principal Jackson said. “This partnership has afforded us the space to realize what’s possible when we focus our collective efforts on changing how we meet the needs of our students and families. We are committed to equipping our students to succeed in an evolving global society.” SMU’s Simmons School is providing faculty expertise to develop project-based learning, which means that students will learn by working in groups to solve open-ended problems using design, engineering, math, science and technology. The approach prepares students to take **See STEM, Page 7**

Nominees announced for the DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards

Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) is pleased to announce the 2021 nominees for the 10th Annual DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards (HSMTA). The awards ceremony will be presented as a virtual livestream through DSM’s YouTube page on June 11, 2021. All awards will be announced live, and the evening will feature live engaging performances and acceptance speeches by this year’s nominees and winners.



Annie Gavin / Unsplash

Patterned after Broadway’s Tony Awards®, the DSM HSMTA celebrate the power of the arts and its ability to significantly improve all areas of education. The annual DSM HSMTA recognizes artistic and educational achievements of North Texas students and their high school programs. A total of 41 performances from 39 participating high schools were evaluated by a diverse group of highly qualified judges from the North Texas theater com-

munity. “We are thrilled to be recognizing the hard work and talent of students and teachers across North Texas for the 10th year in a row,” says Ken Novice, president of Dallas Summer Musicals. “DSM is so proud of this year’s participants who, although faced with the challenges of the pandemic, kept the spirit of musical theatre alive through their productions. It’s truly an honor to celebrate everyone involved. Congratulations to all of the 2021 nominees!” Awards will be presented in 15 categories and

scholarships are awarded to outstanding graduating seniors who are nominated by their teachers and selected by the DSM scholarship panel. Through funds raised by private donations, DSM HSMTA will award \$55,000 in cash scholarships to continue to foster the great talent North Texas has to offer. To date, DSM HSMTA College Scholarship program has awarded more than \$400,000 in cash scholarships to deserving students. All nominees are listed at DSMHSMTA.org. Winners will be announced in a virtual livestream of the

DSM HSMTA awards ceremony on June 11, 2021 through DSM’s YouTube page. A link to view the livestream will be posted at DSMHSMTA.org and on DSM’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

10th Annual DSM High School Musical Theatre Awards Nominees

- Best Musical**
 - Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
 - Frenship High School - Godspell
 - Guyer High School - Bright Star
 - Independence High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
 - Melissa High School - Curtains
 - Plano Senior High School - Pippin
 - Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical
 - Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
- Best Direction**
 - Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
 - Frenship High School - Godspell
 - Independence High School

- You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
- Melissa High School - Curtains
- Nolan Catholic High School - Newsies
- Plano Senior High School - Pippin
- Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical
- Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
- Best Choreography**
 - Grapevine Faith Christian School - The SpongeBob Musical
 - Grapevine High School - A Chorus Line - High School Edition
 - Guyer High School - Bright Star
 - Nolan Catholic High School - Newsies
 - Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
 - Plano Senior High School - Pippin
 - Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical
 - Tyler Legacy High School - Footloose
- Best Music Direction**
 - Frenship High School - Godspell
 - Guyer High School - The

- Phantom of the Opera
- Lake Country Christian School - Fiddler on the Roof
- Liberty Christian School - Mary Poppins
- Melissa High School - Curtains
- Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- Wakeland High School - Anastasia: The Musical
- Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
- Best Orchestra**
 - Cedar Hill High School - The Wiz
 - Independence High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
 - Wakeland High School - Anastasia: The Musical
 - Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
- Best Scenic Design**
 - Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
 - Frenship High School - Godspell
 - Independence High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
 - Melissa High School - Curtains
 - Nolan Catholic High School - Newsies

See AWARDS, Page 9

Rockwall unites to preserve historic African-American cemetery

The newly formed Glen Hill Cemetery Preservation Society, city officials, and family cemetery owners have come together to preserve and restore Glen Hill Cemetery, a historic African-American cemetery in Rockwall. This 1.27-acre cemetery near the present-day Harbor development is the only remaining vestige of what was once a thriving African-American section of Rockwall, known as The Settlement or The Bot-

toms. Founded in 1870, Glen Hill Cemetery is one of the older African-American cemeteries in the North Texas region. During the Jim Crow era of segregation, Blacks and Whites were not allowed to be buried together. For this reason, places like Glen Hill became critical spaces for Black families to grieve, heal, and remember their passed loved ones. With a few gravestones from the 1820s, some of the first Black

people born on Texas soil were laid to rest at Glen Hill Cemetery. Also buried there are veterans from the Civil War and both world wars.

The Glen Hill Cemetery Preservation Society's cleanup of the grounds is taking place now. This precise work is done in close consultation with the Texas Historical Cemetery Commission, archeologists, and landscape design professionals. The site is private property and not open to the

public at this time although tours can be arranged. We are presently seeking tax-deductible donations for fencing and professional gravestone repair. To join our efforts and learn more about how you can help, visit our Facebook Page: Glen Hill Cemetery Preservation Society. Tax-deductible contributions can be made at the website, <https://www.rememberingblackdallas.org/>. Choose Glen Hill Cemetery under the "Donate" tab.



Markers at the Glen Hills cemetery tell the story of local Black history, dating back to the time of slavery.

STEM, from Page 6

on new challenges as they occur – and to understand how to build new knowledge on existing concepts. The Simmons School will provide professional development for teachers, and Simmons researchers will monitor and evaluate the program as it evolves, developing a model to create other STEM-focused schools.

Partnering with the West Dallas Community

Since the onset, the West Dallas community has been engaged in the creation of the school, advising on everything from design to

input on services offered at the school.

Parents, such as José Alas, who sits on the school's advisory council, have been engaged from the beginning. "This school really will help bridge the gap in opportunities when it comes to education," he says. "Every child has the potential to do great things if we can provide them what they need, and I think the school is going to do just that. We always juggle where to send our children and now we are going to have one of the best schools

in our backyard."

Organizations such as West Dallas One and the West Dallas Community Coalition also have been active in the partnership, participating in the school's design teams and focus groups with residents. Additionally, six long-established West Dallas non-profit groups have been working on plans to expand their services within the school to help students and their families gain quick access to resources they need.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dallasisd.org/westdallasstem>.

Keeping watch...



ATLANTIC OCEAN (April 25, 2021) Boatswain's Mate Seaman Shawn Fenner, from Arlington, Texas, steers the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72), April 25, 2021. Vella Gulf is operating in the Atlantic Ocean in support of naval operations to maintain maritime stability and security in order to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dean M. Cates)

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The Supreme Court can protect Black lives by ending qualified immunity

By David Johns
Executive Director
National Black Justice
Coalition

Last year, we witnessed another crushing blow in the fight to end police violence against Black people. Only one of the three officers involved in the murder of Breonna Taylor was charged in the case. However, they were not charged for causing her death; rather, they were indicted on charges of destroying property.

The three officers responsible for the murder of Breonna Taylor are not the first to walk free after killing an unarmed Black person, and unfortunately, especially if things continue as they are, they will not be the last. Things continuing as they are, includes the decision to only charge one Louisville police officer for the destruction of property, which sends the message that Black lives do not matter to law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the trauma associated with Black death by police officers we are repeatedly denied the time and space to mourn those that were stolen from us. We can't even get through a trial on the killing of one unarmed Black man without the killing of another unarmed Black man.



The Supreme Court is a deliberative body and the perspective of a Black woman will ensure decisions that are more inclusive of diverse lived experiences. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

Here we are again, this time mourning the loss of Daunte Wright, who was killed by police officer Kim Potter in Minneapolis, Minnesota—the same city that has just witnessed a guilty verdict in the case of Derek Chauvin, who killed George Floyd last May. As the country awaited this verdict, Ma'Khia Bryant, a 16-year-old Black girl in Columbus, Ohio was killed by a police officer when she called them to intervene in a dispute with another teenager.

At the National Black Justice Coalition, we prioritize ending policies that put all Black lives at risk. We support the shifts in our legal practices required to honor that all of our lives matter, in theory, and in practice. For that reason, I truly believe that if we are going to have a conversation about increased police accountability; we need

to start talking about the courts and qualified immunity—a defense to excessive force available to officers. Derek Chauvin may have been found guilty of George Floyd's murder, but the fact remains that this legal protection will continue to put Black people in danger at the hands of the police.

Qualified immunity is legal protection created by the Supreme Court that shields government officials from being held liable for constitutional violations—such as the right to be free from excessive police force—as long as the officials didn't violate “clearly established law.” It was invented by the Court in 1967, as a way to protect public officials who believed their actions were authorized by the law. Fifteen years later in *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, the Court expanded the defense of qualified immunity. Instead

of upholding the requirement of public officials acting in “good faith” in order to be shielded from liability, even officials who used excessive force would be immune from being held legally accountable for their actions.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor called qualified immunity a “one-sided approach” that “transforms the doctrine into an absolute shield for law enforcement officers.” Justice Sotomayor went on to say that qualified immunity “sends an alarming signal to law enforcement officers and the public. It tells officers that they can

shoot first and think later, and it tells the public that palpably unreasonable conduct will go unpunished.”

Following the direction of the Supreme court, lower courts mostly dismiss police misconduct lawsuits on grounds that there is no prior court decision with nearly identical facts. This results in seeing what happened with Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tony McDade (a Black trans man who was murdered by a member of the Tallahassee Police Department the same week as George Floyd was murdered) and Breonna Taylor happening over and over again—police officers having full ability to fatally shoot Black people with impunity, across the country and regardless of jurisdiction. A Reuters study found that since 2005, the courts have shown an increasing tendency to grant immunity in excessive force cases and that trend continues to accelerate.

Daunte Wright's untimely murder—just like Breonna Taylor's and George

Floyd's—is another example of why now is the time for a Black woman Supreme Court nominee. Only one legal entity can end the enactment of qualified immunity and remove the protection itself, and that is the United States Supreme Court. We need judges that understand what it means to have a loved one not come home because an officer perceived their skin color to be a crime punishable by death as well as how dangerous it is to tell police officers to shoot first and think later. We need judges that know what we mean when we scream, “I can't breathe.”

Simply put, qualified immunity upholds a culture of impunity where government officials in general and police officers, in particular, are not held accountable for using excessive force and violence against unarmed individuals. Qualified immunity blocks mechanisms for holding the police ac-

See IMMUNITY, Page 16

AWARDS, from Page 5

contributions

- Volunteer Community Leadership – Rene Martinez - long term dedication to the betterment of Dallas through his accomplishments as an educator, political leader, and civic leader

The 2021 Jubilee History Maker Award will be presented to Cece Cox. She will be honored for her outstanding leadership and advocacy in the LGBTQ community through her tireless 30 plus year commitment to civil rights.

“Through their time, en-

ergy, influence and support, these Dallas History Makers have shown tremendous civic leadership and a commitment to our city's rich and important history,” says Karl Chiao, Esq., Executive Director of the Dallas Historical Society. “We are thrilled to honor their service and celebrate the contributions they make to the past, present and future of Dallas.”

With just one year until the 100-year anniversary and the recent debut of its newly renovated home at

the Hall of State, the DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY is truly entering an exciting time.

“We are in the fortunate position of being able to bring our city's vibrant history to an ever-growing audience—from newcomers and visitors to those whose roots run generations deep, says Veletta Forsythe Lill, Board Chair of the Dallas Historical Society.

Pegasus Bank is this year's presenting sponsor for Awards for Excellence. For more information and tickets visit <http://www.dal-lashistory.org>.

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EBONY 75th anniversary book chronicles Black American excellence and history

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Since 1945, Ebony has chronicled Black life and the multitude of contributions of generations of African American icons, trailblazers, changemakers, and the unsung.

As the pandemic continues and keeps some essential milestones off the front pages, Ebony quietly changed ownership while finally receiving overdue recognition for more than 75 years of Black excel-

lence.

“As a child, I can remember vividly the stack of Ebony magazines that adorned our family’s coffee table,” recalled Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas).

“My parents, I believe, strategically placed those magazines there so that anyone who entered that space would be exposed to the powerful messages of Black excellence displayed so wonderfully both on Ebony’s breathtaking covers and within the content of its articles,” the Congress-

woman declared.

Jackson Lee’s remarks came during the celebration of the book “Ebony: Covering Black America,” by Lavaille Lavette, the best-selling author and president and publisher of One Street Books and Ebony Magazine’s imprint Ebony Publishing.

Former NBA Star Junior Bridgeman recently purchased Ebony and Ebony.com, a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), representing the largest contingent of Black owned

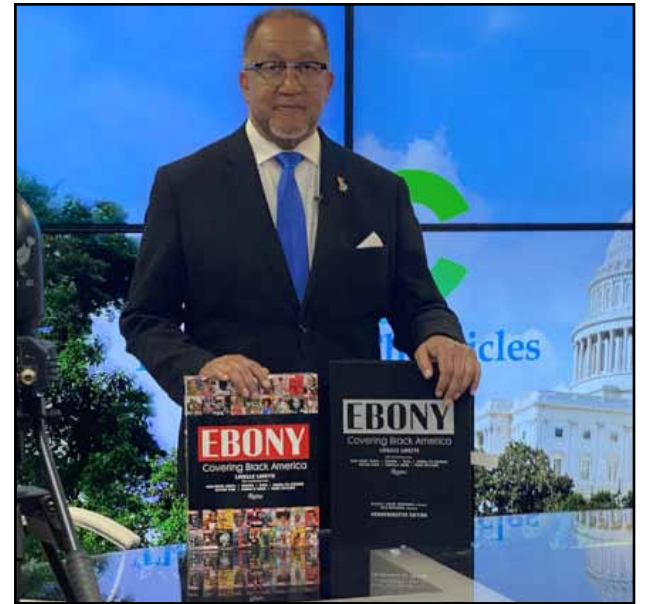
newspapers and media companies in America.

“Ebony kind of stood for Black excellence, showing people doing positive things that could benefit everyone,” said Bridgeman, who starred with the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers.

“It just made you feel good.”

Lavette’s expansive book counts as a national treasure, which the publisher said marks not only history but also makes history.

See EBONY, Page 10



Lavaille Lavette’s expansive book counts as a national treasure, which the publisher said marks not only history but also makes history. (Photo: Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association.)

AWARDS, from Page 6

Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical
The Brook Hill School - Little Women
Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical

Best Lighting Design

Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
Frenship High School - Godspell
Guyer High School - Bright Star
Lebanon Trail High School - Forbidden Broadway’s Greatest Hits
Melissa High School - Curtains
Plano Senior High School - Pippin
Prince of Peace Christian School - Godspell
Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical

Best Costume Design

Cedar Hill High School - The Wiz
Independence High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Madison-Ridgeland Academy - Anastasia: The Musical
Melissa High School - Curtains
Poteet High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Prince of Peace Christian School - Godspell
Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical
The Brook Hill School - Little Women

Best Ensemble

Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
Frenship High School - Godspell
Guyer High School - Bright Star
Liberty Christian School - Mary Poppins

Melissa High School - Curtains
Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Plano Senior High School - Pippin
Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical

Best Crew & Technical Execution

Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
Frenship High School - Godspell
Guyer High School - Bright Star
Lake Country Christian School - Fiddler on the Roof
Melissa High School - Curtains
Nolan Catholic High School - Newsies
Prince of Peace Christian School - Godspell
Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical

Best Actor

Anthony Gallo - Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
Ethan Swayne - Grapevine Faith Christian School - The SpongeBob Musical
Jack Clay - Bryant High School - Into the Woods JR.
Jacobie Thornton - Cedar Hill High School - The Wiz
John Paul Berry - Highland Park High School - Shrek The Musical
Josh Quidilla - Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Justin Taylor - Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy - The Mystery of Edwin Drood
Logan Lowery - Melissa High School - Curtains
Mathieu Reyes - Nolan

Catholic High School - Newsies
Parker Jackson - Guyer High School - The Phantom of the Opera

Best Actress

Ana Garcia - Independence High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Belle Winn - Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
Emily Langley - Guyer High School - The Phantom of the Opera
Emily Livesay - The Brook Hill School - Little Women
Hannah Rhodes - Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Isabella Gueck - Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy - The Mystery of Edwin Drood
Lauren Moore - A&M Consolidated High School - Anastasia: The Musical
Shae Duggan - Hebron High School - Chicago
Shantel Williams - Plano Senior High School - Pippin
Sydney Wade - Cedar Hill High School - The Wiz

Best Supporting Actor

Braxton Turner - Frenship High School - Godspell
Jack Espinosa - Plano Senior High School - Pippin
Jordan Frank - Guyer High School - The Phantom of the Opera
Joshua Abbott - Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
Justin Le - Nolan Catholic High School - Newsies
Noah Reynolds - Waxahachie High School - Matilda The Musical
Sawyer Bell - Independence High School - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Thaddeus Baker - Melissa High School - Curtains

Best Supporting Actress

Alyssa Menckoff - Liberty Christian School - Mary Poppins
Elisa Mato - Byron Nelson High School - Godspell
Emily Starkweather - Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Emma DeLaPaz - Wakefield High School - Anastasia: The Musical
Katelynn Pannell - All Saints’ Episcopal School - Little Women
Madison Courtney - Melissa High School - Curtains
Tilly Hillje - Grapevine Faith Christian School - The SpongeBob Musical
Savannah Pruitt - Frenship High School - Godspell

Best Featured Performer

Julia Kate White - Madison-Ridgeland Academy -

Anastasia: The Musical
Kyah Wells - Melissa High School - Curtains
Natalie Greenig - North Forney High School - Into the Woods
Pippa Woodward - Southwest Christian School - Anastasia: The Musical
Ryley Patten - Guyer High School - The Phantom of the Opera
Saara Sastry - Plano East Senior High School - The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Sandy Johnson - Cedar Hill High School - The Wiz
Zion Burton - Abilene Wylie High School - Grease

Special Recognition

Bishop Lynch High School - Outstanding Performance - Lorenzo Curran - Curtains
Duncanville High School

Outstanding Performance - Evan Lee - Dreamgirls
Forney High School - Outstanding Ensemble - Little Women
Fort Worth Country Day - Outstanding Performance - Jazmine Gomez - Children of Eden
Northwest High School - Outstanding Performance - Abriela Rodriguez - Into the Woods
Ovation Academy of Performing Arts - Outstanding Scenic Design - Little Women
Rowlett High School - Outstanding Performance - Audrey Lee - Ghost the Musical
Skyline High School - Outstanding Performance - Jaylon Sanders - Once on This Island
Timberview High School - Outstanding Performance - Chloe Williams - Gypsy

Cynt Marshall, Dallas Mavericks / CEO

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'Pilobolus In The Garden' brings dance to world class sculpture center

Titas/Dance Unbound in association with the AT&T Performing Arts Center recently announced a world-premiere performance of Pilobolus In The Garden, outdoors at the world-renowned Nasher Sculpture Center.

A site-specific work commissioned by Titas/Dance Unbound, Pilobolus In The Garden will take audience members through a physically and emotionally moving experience. It engages the vistas of the sculpture garden while exploring the nature of Nature. A collaborative project between Titas/Dance Unbound, AT&T Performing Arts Center, the Nasher Sculpture Center and the Dallas Arts District, this new work



Courtesy photo

between famed Pilobolus dance company and local dance, music, and creative writing artists from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, promises to be a unique performance experience for everyone involved. All local artists are being paid.

"TITAS is Back! For

many of us, this will be a return to live, in-person performance, and there is no better way to do that than this collaboration of Arts District organizations, our talented Arts Magnet artists and the groundbreaking Pilobolus artists," said Charles Santos, Executive Director/Artistic Director of Titas/Dance Un-

bound. "We are honored to be working in partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Dallas Arts District and Booker T. to make this event possible."

Pilobolus In The Garden sold out its original four performances (12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.) within 24 hours. Work is underway to secure a fifth performance. This is a must-see event. Tickets are limited per time-period so secure yours soon. Masks will be required throughout the event.

For updates on additional performances, Covid-19 safety protocols, and to purchase tickets visit: www.attpac.org/titas.

Titas/Dance Unbound, formerly TITAS Presents, led by Executive Director/Artistic Director Charles Santos, is North Texas' foremost presenter of internationally touring dance companies and performance artists.

Titas/Dance Unbound has been presenting dance and music in Dallas for 39 years, consistently showcasing artistic excellence and innovative programming from around the world. Titas/Dance Unbound has presented over 600 performances with artists from more than 40 countries with over 160 debut events. Through the Neiman Marcus Crossroads Educational Outreach program,

Titas/Dance Unbound has organized well over 750 educational outreach events that include master classes, lecture/demonstrations, artists-in-residencies and post-performance Q&A sessions reaching thousands of audience members. Now in partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, Titas/Dance Unbound brings its eclectic and innovative mix of contemporary dance to the Dallas Arts District.

Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world.

EBONY, from Page 9

"Growing up in the Midwest, Ebony was considered on par with the nation's most prestigious magazines of the era, Time and Life magazines, and rightfully so," said Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio).

"This book, 'Ebony: Covering Black America,' brings back so many memories of how we as a people relied upon Ebony to share both our strivings, setbacks, and undying determination to keep moving forward," Congresswoman Beatty added. "This book gets people talking both about the past and about the connections between the past and our present moments as a people."

The CBC and others joined with Lavette on Capitol Hill in April to celebrate the book and the history of Ebony. Tennis superstar

Venus Williams, entertainer Common, Kimora Lee Simmons, and retired NBA champion Dwyane Wade and his wife, actress Gabrielle Union count among the contributors to the book. Sean "Diddy" Combs also contributed to the work that features photos of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Diana Ross, Sidney Poitier, President Barack Obama, Muhammad Ali, and many others.

Lavette said she and her staff expect to peruse the market of - particularly African American - authors this summer with an eye toward a banner year of publishing in 2022. "We are standing on the shoulders of giants that set the standard high, and so I want to be sure that we keep and always are trying to improve and make it even better," Lavette remarked. "We're not trying to compromise

an author's experience or the type of product that we put out. It's going to stand toe-to-toe and above what's out there."

Lavette continued: "I am a story hunter. The people I work with are story hunters, and there are several books we can probably announce and put out. But I want to take our time and prepare for next year so that in that process that we are going through, we're staying steady to the vision and staying true to some of the traditional things Ebony has been known to publish like the Lerone Bennett books that speak to our culture."

Lavette, who holds a master's in Education, has worked as a school teacher and administrator. She also served as a special advisor to former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige.

During the recent Capitol Hill visit, which also included NNPA President

has started a conversation around other career options associated with their favorite sport by focusing on their academics.

"Thank you, Renee Montgomery, for serving as an amazing role model for our students and many more."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Lavette presented a limited commemorative edition of the book to congressional leaders. Each expressed their delight.

"Growing up in rural Sumter, South Carolina, I cherished as a teenager, devouring the pages of Ebony magazine," House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-South Carolina) declared. "I recall memories of sitting in the local barbershop awaiting my turn in the chair. While waiting, my eye was always attracted

to those compelling Ebony covers."

Congressman Clyburn continued: "But more than that, Ebony opened up an entire world of possibilities to my young mind by sharing stories about our people making wonderful social contributions all over the country and the world via an unmatched work-ethic whether in sports, entertainment, or politics. And that's exactly what 'Ebony: Covering Black America' does today."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis,

Jr., President and CEO of the NNPA, affirmed, "We are so proud that EBONY Magazine and Ebony Publishing are members of the NNPA and we are encourage by the outstanding leadership of Junior Bridgeman and Lavaille Lavette who are taking Ebony and Ebony.com to the next level of the highest personification of what Black Excellence exhibits and engages in America and throughout the world. The next 75 years will be the greatest for sure."

MONTGOMERY, from Page 2

ery's amazing work ethic, WNBA accomplishments, and passion for helping people have positively impacted the lives of many. "From a star player on the team to co-owner, she is a woman making history that

serves as an inspiration for many, and that includes our students.

"Many of our students love sports and have an aspiration to become professional sports players. Renee Montgomery's path

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The Black Wall Street launches Digital Financial Revolution tour

HOLLYWOOD -- (PRNewswire) Marking the close of Financial Literacy Month, CEO of The Black Wall Street, Award-winning Actor, Author and former U.S. Presidential appointee, Hill Harper and business partner, Najah Roberts launched a 33-market charitable tour, The Black Wall Street (TBWS) "Digital Financial Revolution National Charitable Tour." Hill is

Honorary National Co-Chair of The Redevelopment of Black Wall Street. Harper & Roberts are positioned to build the world's largest investment and financial literacy curriculum and toolkit expressly for Black communities across the diaspora.

The Black Wall Street's mission is to address the racial wealth gap in the U.S. to introduce Black com-

munities to The Black Wall Street App & DigitalWallet, to be involved in the transfer of wealth with cryptocurrency and decentralized finance, to increase financial literacy, financial capacity, and adoption of digital currency.

The Black Wall Street Digital Financial Revolution National Charitable Tour will culminate with Centennial activities in the

Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 31st and June 1, 2021. The tour will visit 33 disenfranchised communities and introduce financial literacy, cryptocurrency, and tech-based strategies for financial empowerment. Millions of Satoshis (fractile shares of Bitcoin) will be given.

The tour is the first to launch a digital platform, focusing on Bitcoin educa-

tion and adoption in Black and Brown communities. Informational Pop-Up Rallies will be outdoors and follow all COVID-safety protocols. Public Rallies are organized, peaceful, and Free. Children are Invited! The Tour is led by Najah Roberts as Hill is in production on ABC's hit drama series, The Good Doctor.

The charitable tour also includes Crypto Kids Camp

(<https://www.cryptokidscamp.org/>) with a performance by 12-year old Navonne Love, performing his kids' version of Roddy Ricch's hit single High Fashion. All are invited to bring rally signs.

Visit www.theblack-wallstreet.com and join the waitlist by signing up to be among the first to download The Black Wall Street App & DigitalWallet!

DEC@Redbird to host bootcamp on financial readiness for business growth

The DEC@Redbird will present a 10-week intensive bootcamp for small business owners and entrepreneurs in Dallas County. "Financial Readiness for Business Growth," powered by Texas Capital Bank, is targeting for-profit businesses that are revenue-generating and growth-oriented. The bootcamp runs in bi-weekly

virtual sessions from May 18-Aug. 24.

Course topics include:

- Essentials of preparing to apply for a loan
- Personal credit vs. business credit
- Understanding financial statements
- Cash flow management
- Payment services and merchant processing

- Basics of SBA lending
- Understanding the underwriting process

The bootcamp has two phases: The Foundation, in which attendees will learn financial best practices to set a healthy foundation for their businesses, and Advancing Forward, where attendees will unpack the prerequisites of getting

businesses to a capital-ready start.

"Not only does this Financial Readiness for Business Growth bootcamp prepare attendees to grow their businesses, it gives them one-on-one access to business coaching and subject matter experts," said Demetra Brown, senior director of The DEC Network.

"We're grateful to have the support of Texas Capital Bank for this phenomenal bootcamp."

"At Texas Capital Bank, we are invested in the success of small business owners, and are proud to support this effort in partnership with the Dallas Entrepreneur Center," said JJ Ponce, Senior Vice Presi-

dent, Community Development at Texas Capital Bank. "We look forward to equipping these entrepreneurs with the tools they need to build and sustain a great business model which will benefit their families and communities for years to come."

For more information, go to thedec.co.

DOJ, from Page 1

three other officers stood by and did nothing to stop the attack.

D.C. Metro Police and other departments said their agencies have long had a policy that held officers accountable for standing by and watching excessive force.

"The MPD has a policy on an officer's duty to intervene," the department wrote in a statement.

"This policy is specific to seeing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which objectively is reasonable."

In New York, officials said all officers must intervene to stop another cop from using excessive force.

"Failure to intervene in the use of excessive force, or report excessive force, or

failure to request or ensure timely medical treatment for an individual is serious misconduct that may result in criminal and civil liability and will result in Department discipline, up to and including dismissal," New York Police officials wrote.

Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, and others said they have similar policies.

"Congress gave the department the authority to conduct civil pattern-or-practice investigations, which look beyond individual incidents to assess systemic failures," Garland stated.

"If the Justice Department concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe there is a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing, we will

issue a public report of our conclusions," the attorney general said.

He reiterated that the Justice Department also has the authority to bring a civil lawsuit, asking a federal court to provide injunctive relief that orders the MPD to change its policies and practices to avoid further violations.

Usually, when the Justice Department finds unlawful patterns or practices, the local police department enters into a settlement agreement or a consent decree to ensure that prompt and effective action is taken to align policing practices with the law, Garland noted.

"Most of our nation's law enforcement officers do their difficult jobs honorably and lawfully," Garland said.

"I strongly believe that

good officers do not want to work in systems that allow bad practices. Good offi-

cers welcome accountability because accountability is an essential part of building

trust with the community, and public safety requires public trust."

WILSON, from Page 2

yelling at others.

• Sixty-eight percent of scholars said that they know how to solve arguments without fighting.

• Seventy-nine percent of scholars said learning how to cooperate to solve problems.

"Freedom Schools are not just culturally responsive, but we invest in young people -- developing their sense of self-agency that they can make a difference in their home, their community and in the world," expressed Dr. Wilson, who is expected to

discuss Freedom Schools further, and the most recent CDF State of America's Children 2021, during the NNPA's annual summer convention in June.

Registration for the convention is free, and those interested can sign up at www.virtualnnpa2021.com.



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Housing gains could grow Black wealth more than \$500 billion in a decade

SEATTLE, April 26, 2021 – Incremental increases in homeownership rates and home values among Black households would help shrink the current \$3 trillion racial wealth gap by hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade, according to a new Zillow analysis.

Today's typical Black household has only about 23% of the wealth of a typical White household, down from 34.6% before the Great Recession. Housing factors — including lower home values and rates of homeownership — directly account for nearly 40% of that gap, with assets like investments in stocks and bonds and retirement accounts making up the rest.

“Housing will be a prominent factor determining the course of the racial wealth gap over the next decade,” says Zillow economist Treh Manhertz. “The issues caused by historic discrimination won't be solved quickly, but addressing



If home values increased by five percentage points the reduction would be \$31 billion. Combined, alleviating these two disparities could cut the wealth gap by about 40%, to \$1.9 trillion. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

things like increasing access to credit, more-equitable lending standards and reducing exclusionary zoning could make buying more accessible and bring significant strides toward closing the wealth gap. In the most optimistic scenario, Black millennials could see housing equality in their retirement, and finally pass on some real wealth to the next generation.”

About 42% of Black households own their home, compared to 72% of White

households, and Black-owned homes are typically worth about 18% less than White-owned homes. Zillow estimates that if Black homeownership rates and home values rose to match those of their White counterparts, Black wealth would more than double (from \$931 billion to \$2.1 trillion).

Zillow analyzed home value growth and homeownership rate changes for Black households under five different scenarios through

2031. In the most optimistic, Black wealth would grow by more than half a trillion dollars — from \$931 billion to \$1.46 trillion. In the most likely, it would increase to about \$1.18 trillion.

In that most likely scenario — which projects Black home values growing 5% faster than home values generally and Black homeownership growing at 0.5 percentage points per year — equality in housing wealth wouldn't come until 2183. If Black home values grow 15% faster than home values generally and Black homeownership grows at 1.5 percentage points per year — the most optimistic scenario explored in the analysis — the timeline for housing wealth equality is moved up to 2066.

Opposite of the disproportionate hit taken during the Great Recession, Black households saw modest progress in narrowing the wealth gap during and leading up to the pandemic, a small start toward reversing

trends that helped widened the gap over the past decade. This was largely due to housing gains. For example, the Black homeownership rate grew about one percentage point between early 2019 and early 2020, while the White homeownership rate stayed flat.

Black-owned home values have also grown just over one percentage point faster than White-owned home values each year for the last three years. In February 2020, Black-owned home values were up 4.6% from a year earlier, while White home values were up 3.6%. In February 2021, Black home values were up 10.9% from the previous year, while White home values were up 9.7%. This faster appreciation among Black-owned homes narrowed the overall home value gap from 16.7% to 15.9%.

Further, the analysis shows that Black homeownership rates and home values contribute equally to

the housing portion of the overall wealth gap. If the Black homeownership rate increased by five percentage points the wealth gap would decrease by \$74 billion. If home values increased by five percentage points the reduction would be \$31 billion. Combined, alleviating these two disparities could cut the wealth gap by about 40%, to \$1.9 trillion.

Lenders deny mortgages for Black applicants at a rate 80% higher than that of White applicants. The relationship between housing factors and the racial wealth gap underscores the urgency of efforts like expanding access to credit and other initiatives that break down color barriers to homeownership.

“It's abundantly clear that this issue won't solve itself naturally or quickly. The problems run deep and perpetuate inequality,” said Manhertz. “Intentional, targeted and dedicated policy is necessary to repair this broken system.”

Civil rights groups sue Georgia over new sweeping voter suppression law

ATLANTA — Civil rights groups have filed a new federal lawsuit against Georgia's sweeping law that makes it much harder for all Georgians to vote, particularly voters of color, new citizens, and religious communities.

The American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Georgia, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), and law firms WilmerHale and Davis Wright Tremaine brought the case on behalf of the Sixth District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Georgia Muslim Voter Project, Women Watch Afrika, Latino Community Fund Georgia, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The law being challenged is S.B. 202, which was passed by the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate and signed by Gov. Brian Kemp in under



“...The provisions of the new law and the manner in which it was enacted reflect a thorough disregard for the sanctity of protecting the right to vote and a headlong and determined zeal to diminish Black political power in Georgia,” said Sherrilyn Ifill, LDF's president and director-counsel. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

seven hours last Thursday. These elected officials' actions follow the 2020 presidential election and the 2021 runoff elections for two seats to the U.S. Senate that saw record turnout of voters, particularly Black voters, in Georgia.

The elections were celebrated not just for their turnout, but also for their integrity, with Georgia officials praising them as safe and secure. But rather than

act to expand participation in the political process, Georgia leaders responded by doing what they have done many times in the state's history: they placed burdensome, unjustified, and unnecessary restrictions on voters, particularly voters of color and other historically disenfranchised communities.

The lawsuit challenges multiple provisions in S.B. 202, including the:

- ban on mobile voting
- new narrow identification requirements for requesting and casting an absentee ballot
- delayed and compressed time period for requesting absentee ballots
- restrictions on secure drop boxes
- out-of-precinct provisional ballot disqualification
- drastic reduction in early voting in runoff elections
- perhaps most cruelly, ban on “line warming,” where volunteers provide water and snacks to Georgians, disproportionately those of color, who wait in needlessly long lines to cast their vote

These provisions, the lawsuit charges, violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, and infringe on Georgians' rights under the First, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

“This law is driven by

blatant racism, represents politics at its very worst, and is clearly illegal,” said Sophia Lakin, deputy director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project. “We urge the court to act swiftly to strike it down.”

“Legislators and Governor Kemp ignored the very obvious lessons from the election in 2020 and runoffs in 2021: expand safe and secure access to the ballot, codify innovations to voting, and provide additional resources to cash-strapped counties,” said Nancy Abudu, deputy legal director for the SPLC. “Instead, to appease conspiracy theorists and amplify deadly lies about past elections, Georgia's leaders have chosen to pass into law S.B. 202, which makes it more difficult for every Georgian — but particularly Georgians who are members of historically disenfranchised communities — to vote in a safe, secure, and convenient

manner and have that vote counted. In so doing, the defendants have violated federal law and the U.S. Constitution, and we turn to the federal courts and U.S. Congress to address the incredible harm S.B. 202 will have on our clients.”

“S.B. 202 is perhaps the most bold and shameful voter suppression legislation enacted in the modern era. Its purpose and target are clear: to create barriers to voting for Black voters who turned out in record numbers for the November 2020 presidential election and the January 2021 special election. The provisions of the new law and the manner in which it was enacted reflect a thorough disregard for the sanctity of protecting the right to vote and a headlong and determined zeal to diminish Black political power in Georgia,” said Sherrilyn

See VOTE, Page 13

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**On-Going
Customer Rep
job fairs**

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

VOTE, from Page 12

Ifill, LDF's president and director-counsel. "This is a powerful moment for democracy in this country. S.B. 202's attempt to disenfranchise Black voters in Georgia harkens back to the most shameful days of voter suppression in the decades before the civil rights movement. That this law was passed in Georgia, less than a year after the death of one of the state's greatest heroes, Representative John Lewis, is shameful. In his name, we will fight to strike down this illegal attempt to undo his legacy. Anything less represents a grave threat to the future of our democracy and inherently undermines the notion of equality for all."

"Democracy depends upon people expressing their voices freely through their votes," said Wilmer-Hale partner Debo P. Adebile. "The Georgia omnibus voting obstruction law is a

prime example of modern voter suppression and erodes democracy. A great deal has changed in Georgia but the commitment to brazenly disenfranchise voters clearly has not."

"S.B. 202 attacks the most sacred foundations of our democracy. But in this country, the law secures

every American citizen the equal right to make their voice heard at the ballot box, no matter who they are. And we intend to vindicate that right in court," said Adam Sieff, attorney at Davis Wright Tremaine.

The lawsuit, Sixth District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church v. Kemp, was filed in federal court in Atlanta.

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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot, 6-inch small cell monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 1504 Elm Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201, [32° 46' 52.7196" N, 96° 47' 58.1604" 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, Alicia, a.santucci@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

Faithful Utterances: So why should i be ashamed?

By Dr. Froswa Booker-Drew

Shame and guilt are two powerful emotions. I think many of us have experiences from our childhood that shape who we are because of those moments of being laughed at, bullied, or even violated by others. If we are not careful, those emotions drive us to cover them up with addictions to food, sex, overspending, or other self-destructive behaviors. Guilt is about behavior. Shame is about how we see ourselves. We can change behavior but what happens when we don't feel that we can change ourselves? One of the first examples of shame was in the book of Genesis in the Bible. Genesis, 2: 25 states that "Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." The

serpent comes, twists what God said and based on inaccurate information, they made a decision. They went against God's command and ate the fruit.

In Chapter 3:7, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have

you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" Shame did not enter the lives of Adam and Eve until they were aware that they were exposed. In their discovery, the immediate response was to hide.

They covered themselves and instead of addressing their vulnerability of being naked, they covered it up. God was obviously fine with their nakedness/vulnerability because they were created that way. Yet, we can see this as weakness instead of seeing it as the opportunity for freedom. For many of us, we do the

exact same thing. We cover up our shame with layers of other issues that keep us weighted down and unable to really address what we are feeling. Isn't it interesting that instead of taking responsibility, Adam blamed Eve for his decision? Shame often keeps us from looking in the mirror, afraid of what we'll see or experience when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable. We also hide not only from ourselves, but we hide from God. We allow our shame to keep us from being in relationship with God because we feel worthless, unacceptable, and dirty.

Scholar Brene Brown researches guilt, shame and vulnerability. She says that shame is an "intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed

and therefore unworthy of love and belonging." We experience "uncertainty, risk and emotional exposure. When we feel dark emotions—when we feel grief or shame or fear, scarcity, disappointment—we feel risk and uncertainty, and we feel emotionally exposed and raw. But vulnerability is also the birthplace of love, joy, belonging, trust, intimacy, creativity, and all of the good things." Vulnerability isn't a bad thing. What would have happened if Adam had been honest about what occurred instead of hiding and blaming? What would have occurred if they both remained in their initial state, naked and without shame? God wants us to be in that space of openness and willingness to commune

even when we want to retreat away from the pain. It is within those moments of transparency with God and with ourselves, that we can experience a deeper relationship. We can also change the narrative from one that the serpent gives us filled with inaccuracies about ourselves to one that is liberating, freeing, and honest.

Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew is the Founder and CEO of Soulstice Consultancy,

Specializing as a Partnership Broker and Leadership Expert for companies and organizations to thrive with measurable and meaningful impact.

She also is the VP of Community Affairs and Strategic Alliances for the State Fair of Texas.

Black Women: Voices for our victory over the COVID-19 virus and the variant

By Darryl Sellers

As the primary health officers of the African American family, Black women make up to 79% of the health care decisions for their families. Black women have been closely involved with healthcare issues and other crises of importance to the African American community since the early 1900s.

Since mid-January 2021, the United States is showing an increasing share of Black Americans who have confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine. According to a recent Pew Research Center report, 61% of African Americans said they plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine or have already received it. That's a sharp increase from last November when only 42% of Black people said they planned to get vaccinated. Despite this positive shift, COVID-19 vaccination rates in Black communities are still lagging behind their white counterparts.

This historical reality is a major reason why a group of 13 trusted messengers

came together to discuss their plans to help Black people deal with the current pandemic during a Black Doctors Against COVID-19 (BCAC) Facebook Live event called, "Making it Plain: Black Women and COVID-19: The Virus, the Variants and the Vaccines." In a recent episode of the BCAC's important, informative and ongoing series, the nation's top Black women who are medical experts, health professionals, corporate, and civic leaders continued to keep Black Americans informed about what we need to know about the COVID-19 virus, the variants and the vaccines.

Dr. Nunez-Smith, chair of the White House COVID-19 Equity Task Force, was one of the event's guest speakers. She informed the 600,000+ viewers that although recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that COVID-19 deaths have been decreasing in March, we should still be concerned. Dr. Nunez-Smith is keeping a close eye on the COVID-19

patterns as the CDC sounds the alarm about the continued spread of the variants in the United States, particularly the emergence of the B.117 variant.

"That's thought to be about 50% more transmissible than the wild-type strain," Dr. Nunez-Smith said. "That might become our most dominant strain of COVID-19 by mid-March," she said. "So, we have to be attentive. We think we're seeing the beginning effects of these variants. We know what to do though in terms of the steps that we need to take to stop the spread of COVID-19. And certainly, that does include getting vaccinated."

Dr. Nunez-Smith said that although the spread of new variants is a concern, there are also reasons for optimism. One reason for optimism, the United States once again has three FDA approved vaccines for emergency use: Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson which was recently taken off pause by federal health agencies. "The bottom line is still

to get vaccinated," Dr. Nunez-Smith added. "Even more importantly now; that's how we stop viruses from mutating," she said. "And of course, continue to wear our masks; you know, the things we know help. That's socially distancing and washing our hands."

Important messaging about Black churches helping with vaccination efforts came from Debra Frazer-Howze who's the founder of Choose Healthy Life, an initiative where she joins forces with Black clergy and Black churches to respond to COVID-19 and other health disparities that put our communities in states of emergency. She's another respected Black messenger who is working diligently to help close the vaccine hesitancy gap and build vaccine confidence in our Black communities.

Recent data in April from the CDC exposes the scars of vaccine disparities that continue to plague our Black communities. According to the report, nearly two thirds (65%) of white people have received at least one dose of a vac-

cine compared to just 8% of Black people. Anecdotally, Frazer-Howze said she's seen this play out too often. Recently, she found out about a group of white women who visited the Harlem Hospital from affluent addresses in Manhattan to get vaccinated after missing appointments they had made online. She said this example speaks loudly to the disparities in vaccine distribution in Black communities.

"Something's wrong with the fact that we have not ensured that people within the Harlem zip code have the priority instead of the people on Park Avenue having the priority to get the vaccine," Frazer-Howze said.

Frazer-Howze reminds us that the Black church has made it a priority to keep in touch with residents in our Black communities, checking in with people when they've missed a vaccine appointment and providing transportation for them to get vaccinated. Frazer-Howze said Black churches reaching out and providing more shots into our arms

have been indispensable aspects for COVID-19 vaccination efforts. She added that Black churches are the vital keys that more Black Americans should use to help unlock the door to vaccine equity in our communities.

"These are some of the things that we have to put in place if we want to see fair and equitable treatment," Frazer-Howze said. We have to figure out what we have to do that's culturally competent for our own community to make what we want to make happen, happen."

As we inch closer to crossing the finish line to defeating this more than year-long pandemic, it's imperative that we don't let our guard down and not allow COVID-19 misinformation to have a grip on our Black communities. Frazer-Howze said it's also paramount that our trusted messengers are educated and have the adequate facts to transmit the truth about COVID-19 to Black communities on our way back

See VOICES, Page 15

Christians Mothers, Beware of Unusual Circumstances



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

(Editor's Note: This column was originally published on May 8, 2012)

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:7-12 (KJV)

Whenever something unusual happens in daily life, these are often signs that God is up to something. We must have a heightened sense of awareness of what God may want to do in these situations.

The story is told of a

woman and how she was upgraded on an airline unexpectedly. A woman sat down next to her who was very troubled. She began to quietly pray for the woman and God gave her supernatural insights that the woman's problem related to the fact that she had not forgiven her mother in a family-related issue.

She decided to politely share her insight. The woman was shocked. The lady began to minister to her on the airplane and ultimately led her to Christ.

God is raising the spiritual bar for Christians who want to impact the world for Christ today. He wants to break through into people's lives supernaturally by giving them insights into the needs of people in order to bring them to Christ.

Jesus often spoke supernaturally into the lives of others based on the circumstance of the moment. He often spoke of their current condition in life and invited them to make a change.

As you go about your day, there are situations that we can find ourselves in that are open doors for bringing Christ into the circumstance. In fact, He is the one orchestrating the circumstance!

"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we



jmy / Flickr

do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17 (KJV)

Elisha was counseling the nation of Israel against the impending attack of the king of Aram. The Lord supernaturally gave Elisha the plans that the king was implementing, and in turn, Elisha warned Israel of each intended attack.

The king could not understand why his plans were continually foiled. It seemed there was a secret informer in his midst.

He was furious when he was told it was the God of Israel who was to blame for

this inside information. The king decided the only way to resolve the situation was to get rid of the problem - kill Elisha.

The king's forces arrived and surrounded Elisha and his servant. Elisha's servant became upset and fearful when Elisha was not upset. Elisha immediately prayed that his servant's eyes might be opened to see that there was no need to be afraid, because the angels were protecting them.

And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed

(on Facebook), the world's largest and most comprehensive online health resource specifically targeted to African Americans

For more information about COVID-19, health, wellness: Black Coalition Against COVID-19, a key health resource for African Americans

Darryl Sellers is the Public Relations Director for Creative Marketing Resources, a strategic marketing agency in Milwaukee and a partner of the BCAC.

VOICES, from Page 14

to normalcy later this year.

"We've heard misinformation and non-truth for so long in the last four years that it almost feels as if that's a natural norm," Frazer-Howze said. "That is not natural, not in the middle of a pandemic. We have to have absolute facts and our people deserve the truth. They deserve the truth to come from their leaders. They deserve that their leaders are educated and understand

all the facts about vaccines, testing and everything else. Our community is in need. We deserve to live. We deserve to choose life."

To see a replay of this BCAC Facebook Live event in its entirety, please head to Black Doctor.Org's Facebook Page. For a list of upcoming events, COVID-19, health and wellness information and other events: Black Doctor.Org

to the Lord, "Strike these people with blindness." So He struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked, 2 Kings 6:17-18 (KJV).

Who is the Elisha in your life? Do you have a mentor friend who can see the activity of God in your life when you cannot see it?

We all need to have somebody we can trust to help us see the activity of God. It is often difficult for us to see what God is really doing because we are so consumed by the circumstances of the moment.

Ask God today to help open your spiritual eyes

that you might see Him in your circumstances.

It is hard to fight the battles in life. However, it is in the midst of battles that we learn to be truly effective warriors.

Likewise, in the midst of living, let us learn to be an effective Christian. God will guide and direct you; He will give you wisdom and strength for the day.

Next time an unusual situation develops, be aware that God may be creating such a circumstance to bring His glory into the situation by opening your spiritual eyes.

NDG Book Review: 'Buses Are A Comin'' is a stark history lesson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

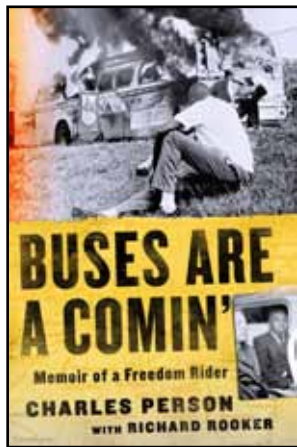
Your seat has been reserved.

You're excited about this trip, but also nervous; you've never been where you're going and you hope this is a one-and-done trip. Still, going there is necessary for you and for the future so grab your bags. Author Charles Person says "The Buses Are A Comin'" and you're on-board.

He didn't know it then, but Charles Person grew up in poverty.

His family was rich in love, wealthy at mealtimes, affluent when it came to lessons, they had an abundance of fun, but he was in tenth grade before he realized that his extended family lived in a tenement on the south side of Atlanta, in Buttermilk Bottom. His father worked two full-time jobs to make ends meet. His mother was a domestic and, in effect, had "two families." He'd never thought about the facts until then, and it shamed him.

Two years later, when he was about to graduate from high school, he was enraged when he had to turn down his preferred college because of lack of money. It seemed to be the final insult after a lifetime of in-



sults and he railed against it, until his grandfather asked Person what he was "going to do about it." Papa demanded an answer. Person decided on an HBCU that was close to home, one he could afford.

After walking three miles from his home to Morehouse, the first day was awkward but Person stayed. He wanted the education, wanted to follow the words of John Kennedy, who asked what he could do for his country. As it happened, at this same time, the indefatigable Civil Rights leader Lonnie King was in Atlanta, too.

When told by an Atlanta department store owner to go home and take his fellow protesters with him, Lonnie vowed to come back in the fall with "thousands."

And, says Person, "I was one of them."

Sometimes, it seems that in a haste to tell the story, history glosses over a lot of details. "Buses Are A Comin'" sets many omissions straight – after it tells a tale so intimate and so filled with joy-cum-despair that it nearly takes your breath away.

Indeed, author Charles Person tells his own story so well that you can feel the floorboards sway in his "tenement" home. Surprisingly, he writes about the many elders who didn't want their children to march, seeing the danger; and those who did, despite it. There are details here that aren't discussed much, and other details that add to the national story.

And then Person turns "memoir into memorial" by turning his sights on Lonnie King, who was obviously a giant in Person's eyes. King, he suggests, is one of the Civil Rights Movement's most unsung heroes, but Person doesn't forget others who marched for change – including his contemporary, John Lewis.

This is a book you hand to readers too young to remember the Civil Rights Movement. It honors and it sings out names. Read it; "Buses Are A Comin'" will keep you in your seat.

IMMUNITY, from Page 8

countable for their actions. Where there is no accountability, there is no justice. An outcome where only no one is changed for causing George Floyd's death would be a failure of the law; a failure that could be solved by ending qualified immunity and widening the pathways for holding law enforcement accountable for the violent harm caused to our communities.

The Supreme Court is a deliberative body and the perspective of a Black woman will ensure decisions that are more inclusive of diverse lived ex-

periences. The failure of qualified immunity shows that we need better representation and that now more than ever, we need Supreme Court nominees who are committed to preserving justice. For the She Will Rise campaign, it is important that the next Supreme Court nominee be a Black woman who understands the danger qualified immunity presents for our nation's most vulnerable communities.

Black women are uniquely qualified to recognize who is left out of Supreme Court decisions because

Black women know what it is like to be constantly excluded from the table.

As Thurgood Marshall was often referred to as the conscience of the Court, a Black woman SCOTUS nominee could be poised to continue that legacy with demonstrated empathy for those with his shared experience of oppression and injustice. With this in mind, the Supreme Court has the potential to exercise its power to end this qualified immunity and finally hold police accountable so that there are no more Breonna Taylors, Daunte Wrights, or George Floyds.



You can distance and still be social.

Get vaccinated when it's your turn.

COVID can't keep us from connecting. Vaccines are here. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we still need to mask up, keep 6 feet apart, and avoid crowds and indoor gatherings. We can stay close – even when we're miles apart.

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