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New report shows number of people killed by police skyrocketed in 2020

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

According to estimates compiled by the Mapping Police Violence project, roughly 1,000 people have been killed by law enforcement in the past year.

The new report revealed that at least 28 percent of those killed were African Americans, who make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Although this figure is staggering, the Center for American Progress (CAP) noted that it is almost certainly under-represents the actual number of civilians who died while in the custody of the criminal justice system. The full scope of which cannot be determined due to a lack of official data.

According to CAP, data on deaths in custody is crucial for holding law enforcement and correctional facilities across the country accountable.

The organization said the absence of accurate and complete information on the number of people who die in custody and the nature of such deaths, stifles policymakers' ability to examine the underlying causes, let alone determine what can be done to lower the incidence.

In a new brief, CAP urged Congress and state legislatures to take



CAP's brief underscored how critical actions could be taken to address these concerns about data on deaths in custody. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

the initiative to ensure the dependability of forthcoming data on deaths in custody.

"One year ago, George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police as the world watched, spurring a blistering call for police accountability in the United States," CAP noted.

"Floyd is one among the countless Black Americans and other people of color killed by law enforcement: Breonna Taylor, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Amadou Diallo, Botham Jean, Alton Sterling, Daniel Prude, Philando Castile, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Atatiana Jefferson, Stephon Clark, and too many others. In the year since Floyd's death, the list has

grown longer still with the deaths of Tony McDade, Rayshard Brooks, Daunte Wright, Ma'Khia Bryant, Adam Toledo, Andrew Brown, and, again, too many others."

According to CAP, while the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) began collecting data on deaths in custody in 2020 under the Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) of 2013, outstanding funding and compliance issues could compromise the quality of the impending data.

"Findings based on such flawed data would not help policymakers understand the causes of deaths in custody or reduce their occur-

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Phylicia Rashad

People In The News ...



Sec. Marty Walsh



Ray Young, Jr.

NDG Quote of the Week: "You can hear other people's wisdom, but you've got to re-evaluate the world for yourself."

- Mae Jemison

Phylicia Rashad

Following a comprehensive national search, Howard University announced the appointment of Phylicia Rashad as dean of the recently reestablished College of Fine Arts.

The legendary “Cosby Show” actress, who graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s in fine arts from Howard University, will start her new role on July 1.

“It is an honor to welcome one of Howard’s acclaimed daughters back home to Alma Mater,” announced Howard’s Provost



Anthony K. Wutoh.

“In this full circle moment, Ms. Phylicia Rashad will take the training and skills that she honed as a student at Howard and exuded in an outstanding

performing career, and she will share those pearls of wisdom with the next generation of students in the College of Fine Arts. Her passion for the arts and student success makes her a perfect fit for this role,” Wutoh said.

An accomplished actor and stage director, Rashad became a household name when she portrayed Claire Huxtable on “The Cosby Show,” a character whose enduring appeal has earned her numerous honors and awards for over two decades.

More recent roles in television and film include

appearances as Carol on NBC’s “This Is Us,” Diana Dubois on the Fox TV series “Empire,” Dr. Woods-Trap in Tarrell Alvin McCraney’s Peabody Award-winning series “David Makes Man” on the OWN Network; Libba Gardner in Pixar’s Academy Award-winning animated feature, “Soul,” Grandmother Journey in the Netflix holiday musical “Jingle Jangle,” and Dr. Jones in “Between the World and Me” on HBO Max.

Highlights of an extensive career onstage include performances as

Lena Younger in Lorraine Hansberry’s “A Raisin in the Sun,” Aunt Ester in August Wilson’s “Gem of the Ocean,” The Witch in Stephen Sondheim’s “Into the Woods,” Violet Weston in Tracey Letts’ “August Osage County,” and Shelah in Tarrell Alvin McCraney’s “Head of Passes.”

“It is a privilege to serve in this capacity and to work with the Howard University administration, faculty and students in reestablishing the College of Fine Arts,” said Rashad, one of many Howard University alumni who have transformed the arts and entertainment in-

dustry through legendary careers on screen and behind the scenes, in front of the microphone and from within the boardroom.

Howard’s dedication to cultivating talented artists has had a deep and profound impact on historical and contemporary culture.

Rashad has served as guest lecturer and adjunct faculty member, conducting master’s-level classes at many colleges, universities and arts organizations, including Howard University, New York University, Vassar College, Carnegie

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Sec. Marty Walsh

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The U.S. Department of Labor continues to engage in deep conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, as the most recent jobs report shows a dismal 9.7 percent unemployment rate among African Americans.

In a rare one-on-one interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Labor Secretary Marty Walsh said the Biden-Harris administration isn’t just about get-



ting jobs for African Americans.

The administration wants to level the playing field, which would allow those in communities of color to obtain good-paying jobs, ascend to the middle class,

and be rewarded when it comes time for promotions and other opportunities to advance.

“I think we are seeing 500,000 jobs per month added to the economy on average over the last three months, and we saw some positive signs in the hospitality industry this month,” said Secretary Walsh.

“We saw more Americans working and looking for work in March and April, which are all good signs. But the unemployment rate in the Black community is still 9.7 percent, and that’s too high.”

The latest jobs report revealed that the U.S.

economy added 266,000 jobs in April and an overall unemployment rate of 6.1 percent.

While the unemployment rate for African Americans stood at 9.7 percent, it was 7.9 percent for Hispanics, 5.7 percent for Asians, and 5.3 percent for Whites.

“Whether I’m speaking as the Secretary of Labor or the former mayor of Boston, we have a lot of work to do when it comes to equity when it comes to African Americans and other communities of color,” Secretary Walsh demanded.

“When we talk about building back, we have to be real intentional and put

the focus on how do we build back to give people of color an opportunity to be successful in the 21st-century economy.”

Secretary Walsh continued:

“The President made equity a center point. We have to be focused on job training as well. This is an issue that has been in our country forever. I think we have a President and Vice President focused on closing the economic opportunity gaps and creating real pathways into the middle class. If we don’t do it correctly, we are going to lose another generation of young people to poverty.”

Secretary Walsh adamantly rebuked suggestions that African Americans simply have decided not to pursue available jobs.

“In my experience, there are lots of people in the African American community doing lots of great things. We have to amplify our message and get more people engaged in the conversation,” Secretary Walsh remarked.

“We can’t say that African Americans are not doing enough. We have to say as a society, and businesses need to do more. We have to create pathways,

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Ray Young, Jr.

Ray Young, Jr. is a native of Waco, Texas and someone that has overcome many obstacles in life. He grew up in a single-parent home, his father was incarcerated, he was homeless, associated with street life, etc. These life situations lead him into depression, low self-esteem, hopelessness, dropping out of school



in the 10th grade and landing him in the juvenile justice system



twice. Mr. Young lived in the inner-city where he saw no hope or opportunity around him to excel in life. This is just a small snippet of his story.

Moreover, “Malik and the Magic Bowtie” is his first book. Mr.

Ride along with Malik as he discovers, through a magic bowtie, the power that comes with believing in himself.

Follow him on a whirlwind journey through the hallways of school, where he is sometimes met with teasing from other kids to the loving company of a dad who showers

him with unconditional love.

Share in Malik’s lesson that reaching any goal – that learning anything new, like tying a bowtie – often takes multiple tries.

Recognizing the need for positive imagery in the Black community, Mr. Young decided, not only to name this lovable character after his own son but to share this storyline with others to empower and

inspire both kids and adults.

As the father of a Black child, Mr. Young is conscious of the need for positive role models within the community and accepts every opportunity he is given to pour into his son the knowledge that has allowed him to excel in life. Mr. Young knows that something that may be considered sim-

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Interim Editor

David Wilfong

Contributing WritersJackie Hardy
Breanne Holley
Jacqueline Murphy
Dwain Price
Terri Schlichenmeyer
David Wilfong**Community Marketing**

Nadina Davis

Senior Account Executive

Nina Garcia

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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For All the People, By All the People

By Ray Curry
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

More people than ever voted in the last presidential election. Both parties won and lost. Americans, Black, White and Brown, young and old, turned out in the middle of the worst pandemic the world has seen in generations to say: 'As an American, I have the right to cast my vote for who will represent me in this government of ours.'

So... I have to ask you, if the system worked so well and if the idea is, as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison put it in the Federalist Papers, that the vote belongs to the people, then what are we doing? Why is there vote-robbing legislation being introduced in so many states?

I think we all know the answer. I would say, look who's back. But he has never really left, has he?

Hello Jim Crow?

Let's take a look at just a few of these proposals. As of late March, we have seen a whopping 361 bills introduced in state legislatures in 47 states that seek restrictive voting provisions. Even more telling is the number of these provisions that are being touted as 'election reforms' or protections against 'voter

fraud.'

We have heard this language before. It is in fact, the same tenor and tone that was used during the Jim Crow era to describe voter suppression measures. Then, like now, there was no evidence of rampant voter fraud or voting irregularities. In essence, these measures are touted as reforms for a problem that simply does not exist.

The truth, according to numerous academic studies and journalistic reviews, is that election and voter fraud historically have been incredibly rare and affected but a tiny percentage of all votes in the 21st century. To put it another way, the Brennan Center for Justice concluded that it was more likely for an American to be struck by lightning than to commit voter fraud.

Nearly half of the voter restrictions measures that have been introduced include provisions to restrict absentee voting. More than 40 bills have also been introduced relating to voter registration that would purge people from the voter rolls and 24 dealing with early voting.

Whose America is this?

I would call this bad trouble. I am thinking of the late Congressman John Lewis, who fought so tire-

lessly when it came to voting rights and who called his fight making good trouble. Right now, we have bad trouble going on in almost 50 states. Let's take a look at two — Georgia, where Black voters were so influential in tipping the balance of the Senate, and Michigan, where I live.

In 2020, a record 1.3 million Georgians — more than a quarter of the electorate — voted absentee in the middle of the pandemic. Before the new restrictions, all that was needed was a matching signature. The new law took care of that. Voters looking for that absentee ballot now will have to provide the number of their Georgia's driver's license or state identification, along with a birth certificate and possibly a copy of a bank statement or a current utility bill. Records show that about 200,000 Georgians don't have drivers licenses or a state ID. Three different voting rights groups say that Black voters are less likely than White voters to have the needed ID.

Then there are provisional ballots. Old law said you could still have your vote counted if you show up at the wrong precinct in the same county. The new law says no out-of-

precinct votes cast before 5 p.m. Black voters, it turns out, move much more frequently than White voters and consequently are more apt to turn up at the wrong precinct. Voting by drop box has also been made more difficult with changed hours and locations.

Later to the game but no less ugly is Michigan, which has introduced eight of these types of bills with three advancing so far. Should they make it into law, they would establish a photo ID requirement for both in-person and mail voting; make it harder to even ask for a mail ballot; and would limit the use of mail ballot drop boxes.

Fighting the good fight

Of course, actual democracy is not taking kindly to Jim Crow's return. In addition to the sweeping For the People Act (H.R. 1), there are lawsuits filed in the wake of Georgia's voter suppression measures aimed at stopping Republicans from selecting who gets to vote there. Three groups, including one headed by voting rights champion Stacy Abrams, came together in the suit calling the legislation an effort to impose "unconstitutional burdens on the right to vote"— particularly for Black voters.

Marking one year since the loss of George Floyd

By Dr. Carla Brailey
Vice Chair
Texas Democratic Party

This week marks one year since George Floyd was senselessly murdered. One year since his family, like far too many others, was plunged into grief at the killing of yet another Black American. And one year since his death sparked a movement that would not -- will not -- be silenced.

George Floyd should still be alive today. So should Breonna Taylor, Javier Amble, Daunte Wright, Jamari Daiwon Tarver, and far, far too many others. I know this is an incredibly painful, in-

furiating, and devastating day for so many Black families, in Texas and beyond.

My heart goes out to every family who is grieving a loved one lost to police brutality. Nothing can take away this pain. But I want every Texan fighting for justice to know that as we struggle, we do not struggle alone.

In the year since May 25, 2020, we took our pain, our rage, our terror, and our grief, and turned it into power. We took to the streets last summer by the millions, in what became the largest movement in United States history. We took to the polls, and sent the first Black

woman in history to the Vice President's office. We refuse silence. We are claiming our right to be safe from violence and free to live our lives in justice and equality.

Because we demanded to be heard, earlier this year, George Floyd's killer was finally held accountable. Nothing can bring back George Floyd, or erase the pain and loss his loved ones continue to suffer. But that accountability is a solace -- small as it may be -- and

a sign of real change in our country. While we still have work to do, the tide is shifting, right now, because of this movement.

Today, and every single

day, Black Lives Matter! For the sake of the future of our country, we continue to fight for an end to police brutality in this country. We continue to push for a world where racial justice is finally a reality -- where democracy works for everyone. Just as those before us did, we will not stop fighting until it does.

I believe we will get there, because I believe in our movement -- driven by our love of our communities, our hunger for justice, and our imperative to do right by those whose lives were so unjustly taken. George Floyd's young daughter said it best: 'Daddy changed the world.'

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COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy: What expecting moms need to know

By Dena Vang

Pregnancy and childbirth are among life's most cherished moments. While many women count on a healthy pregnancy and delivery, complications tend to arise, especially among Black women. Prior to the pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that Black women were three times more likely than Hispanic women and 2.5 times more likely than white women to die from causes related to pregnancy. COVID-19 has only further amplified the disparities and challenges that Black wom-



As vaccine eligibility for mothers-to-be open up across the United States, pregnant women are facing an important decision about vaccinating for two. Both Dr. Clarke and Dr. Montgomery-Rice are encouraging pregnant women to protect themselves and their newborns by getting vaccinated. (Photo via NNPA)

en face, including implicit racism within the health-care system and socioeconomic factors that impact their ability to access care.

A recent KFF survey and research analysis found that compared to other racial and ethnic groups, 41% of Black women say they will

“wait and see” how the vaccine is working for others before getting vaccinated themselves. The survey also reported that one in five Black women say they “definitely will not” get vaccinated for COVID-19.

Many Black organizations have been addressing hesitancy and concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccines to ensure that all Black Americans have the most accurate information to make an informed decision. One organization that is keeping Black communities up-to-date about the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccines is the Black Coalition Against COVID-19

(BCAC). The BCAC has hosted several Facebook Live events to help Black Americans make informed decisions about COVID-19. During the “Making It Plain: Black Women and COVID-19: The Virus, the Variants, and the Vaccines” Town Hall Meeting, Dr. Valerie Montgomery-Rice, president of the Morehouse School of Medicine, and Dr. Melissa Clarke, expert in population health and co-founder of BCAC, shared insights on a range of women's health topics, including pregnancy.

“The absolute risk for severe COVID-19 is lower for younger women

of childbearing age,” Dr. Clarke said, “but know that pregnancy itself is a risk factor for having severe COVID illness, possibly ending up in the ICU and even possibly dying. The risk, of course, is not just to the mom; it's also to the baby. A woman with severe COVID symptoms has a higher chance of having a preterm birth, uncontrolled high blood pressure and bleeding around the time of birth. Just as with the general population, African American women who are pregnant have disproportionately higher rates of

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FEMA: What storm survivors should do after the registration deadline has passed

While the disaster assistance registration deadline has passed, there is still help available for survivors of February's severe winter storms in Texas. Survivors are part of the whole community effort. The steps they take on their road to recovery and the decisions they make are very important.

Survivors may do the following:

Stay in Touch with FEMA — If you registered for disaster assistance following the February severe winter storms, stay in touch with FEMA. The easiest way to update your application, check your status or provide missing information is to create an account at DisasterAssistance.gov or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585) between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. CT daily.

Call 2-1-1 for Unmet Needs — 2-1-1 Texas is a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission that is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need. No matter where you live in Texas, you can dial 2-1-1, or 877-541-7905, and find information about resources in your local community including help finding food or housing, childcare, crisis counseling or substance-abuse treatment.

Contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) — HUD offers programs to assist both homeowners and renters. Visit HUD online or call the Federal Housing Authority Resource Center at 800-225-5342.

Follow Up on Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance Loans — If you applied for

an SBA loan after the disaster declaration and want to follow up or have any questions about your loan, call the SBA at 800-659-2955 (TTY: 800-877-8339) or visit www.sba.gov/disaster.

Help is available: Disaster Distress Support — Survivors can call and speak to a trained professional who can help them cope with anxiety or stress and guide them to available resources. This multilingual, confidential crisis support service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-985-5990 (TTY: 800-846-8517) or text TalkWithUs (Spanish speakers, text Hablanos) to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Hazard Mitigation Information — For information and resources on mitigation issues, survivors may visit <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/txmit> and <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/tx-es-mit>. Survivors also may call mitigation outreach specialists at 833-FEMA-4-US or 833-336-2487 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday, for help and information on repairing and rebuilding.

Tax Filing Extension — The Internal Revenue Service has announced that survivors of the Texas winter storms will receive automatic extensions on their tax filing deadlines beyond the May 17 extended deadline. They now have until June 15 to file their returns. If you don't have internet access or need services not found on the website, you may call FEMA's toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585) between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. CT daily to:

- Add or change household members and number of occupants
- Update contact preferences (mail, email, text, etc.)
- Update payment preference
- Notify FEMA of a change in your current address
- Correct or verify home and property damage

Callers should refer to their nine-digit registration number, which can be

found on all communications from FEMA. For more information on the severe winter storms in Texas, visit fema.gov/disaster/4586. Follow the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at twitter.com/FEMARegion6. People whose first language is not English may find translations of this document in other languages by using the following quick links on FEMA.gov.

found on all communications from FEMA.

YOUNG, from Page 2

ple in the eyes of others — like tying a bowtie — can offer the lesson that reaching a goal sometimes requires multiple tries, but that all things are possible.

Young has a Bachelor's degree, two Master's Degrees and plans to continue his education in a doctorate program; he is the first in his family to

graduate from college. Mr. Young is a certified Life Coach and motivational speaker. He is the CEO and Founder of a nonprofit called Young's Vision Achievement Consulting as well as the Own-

er and Founder of the MYGO brand, which means “My Greatness Overcomes.” Mr. Young has many awards and achievements including the National Service Award through AmeriCorps.

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Rep. Sherman's monumental Bo's Law passes in Texas Senate

AUSTIN -- House Bill 929 passed yet another watershed moment Monday night on the Senate floor when State Representative Carl O. Sherman (D-109) saw Bo's Law pass.

The show of solidarity between both parties continued just as on the House Floor last week when Texas Senators passed Bo's Law last night thereby standing together in relation to the issue of body cameras worn by peace officers.

"The moment the Botham Jean Act was passed unanimously in the Senate sending Bo's Law directly to the Governor's desk was a moment of overwhelming elation," said State Representative Carl O. Sherman Tuesday morning. "After working tirelessly with multiple organizations, individuals and agencies with a single focus of establishing systemic accountability in policing, it was exhilarating to say the least to report the passage to the Jean family. The senate's actions served as a strong reminder of Botham's authentic inclination of invoking the Spirit of the Lord to rise among us - even in the Capitol. I am convinced that the passage of Bo's Law is the embodiment of Botham's transcendent spirit of truth



Celebrating at the renaming ceremony for Botham Jean Blvd. are (left to right) Rep. Carl O. Sherman, Allison Jean (Botham Jean's mother), Bertram Jean (Botham Jean's father). (Courtesy photo)

and transparency, which was played out every step of the process of getting this Bill to this point."

With its bi-partisan support Representative Sherman added that from the beginning the aim of HB 929 was to ensure truth and

accountability prevail in the profession of law enforcement. With the signing of this key piece of legislation that means "we are one step closer to a safer community for all."

Allison Jean, Botham Jean's mother commented

from her home in St. Lucia "The news of the passage of the Botham Jean Act "Bo's Law" by the Senate on Monday, May 24, 2021 came with much elation by my family! We deem this a tremendous step in seeking to correct some of the systemic issues that plague our society and cause corrupt police officers to walk away scotch-free after committing heinous acts on innocent people."

Jean said that though the original contents of the Bill were drastically removed, she said it is still expected that, as time progresses,

Texas Law Makers will see merit in strengthening this Law to ensure that law enforcement carry out their duty with honesty, dignity, and maintain their sworn oath to protect and serve.

"My family will continue to fight for justice for Botham and for all innocent men and women, boys and girls who have been killed at the hands of police officers in the United States and around the world," Jean added. "I wish to thank Representative Carl Sherman and his team for their persistence in seeing this Law through and look

forward to standing with this team as they seek to improve the lives of Texans through the legislative process."

Bo's Law now heads to Governor Greg Abbott's desk for final signing into law during this 87th Legislative session.

House Bill 929 "Bo's Law" was also joint authored by Representative Sherman's colleagues on both side of the aisle including Representatives Matt Krause, Jacey Jetton, Eddie Rodriguez, and Ron Reynolds.

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Perot Museum launches 'The Whynauts,' a new virtual stem series

At a time when education systems are facing the challenges of the pandemic – and field trips are on hold – the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is launching an engaging 10-part, STEM-focused virtual series called The Whynauts.

Designed to make science relevant, exciting and accessible, the academically aligned episodes feature charismatic scientists along with diverse youth actors ages 10-15. They will lead students on a fun, knowledge-packed journey of science exploration through the Perot Museum exhibit halls and some of North Texas' best-known landmarks, including the Dallas Zoo and Trinity River. The digitally enhanced, bilingual adventures – with dialogue in English and Spanish – are available at perotmuseum.org/whynauts. Episodes 1 and 2 are launching today, and the remaining eight will roll out during the summer. The 10 episodes and supporting educational materials are complimentary through the 2021-2022 school year.

Developed in conjunction with Texas Essential



Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards, these brief videos – under 15 minutes each – are part of an entire suite of learning materials, including educator resources with robust lesson guides, enrichment activities, at-home activities and more, making them ideal for parents and educators alike. Providing age-appropriate content for grades K-8, the episodes focus on three categories: physical science, earth science and life science. Topics vary – from space and weather, to engineering and chemistry, to plant and animal adaptations, paleontology and plate tectonics.

In the 2018-19 school year, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science served more than 2,000

schools and 235,000 students through field trips and school outreach programs. When the pandemic hit in 2020, the number of field trips dropped to zero.

“The pandemic put in-person field trips and school outreach on hold, abruptly taking away the opportunity for countless students to have those crucial ‘ah-ha’ moments. And we know from extensive data and our own personal knowledge that those experiences are so critical to sparking a life-long interest in STEM,” said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum.

“The Whynauts will not only address this immediate, critical need, but will also live on long beyond

the pandemic, allowing us to also reach students who typically cannot come to the Museum, including those from rural towns or cities where distance is a barrier to visitation,” added Silver.

A primary goal of the series is to ensure all children, especially diverse audiences, see themselves represented prominently in STEM fields. Multiple episodes will feature scientists including several American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) IF/THEN® Ambassadors – female STEM innovators who serve as national role models. The episodes also feature a former astronaut, Perot Museum paleontologists, a Texas Instruments engineer, a Telemundo meteorologist, and a Top Chef contestant along with STEM experts from SMU, the Dallas Zoo, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center and other local organizations.

Silver says the Museum aims to reach approximately 250,000 students this inaugural year with an aspiration to quadruple that number next year. To date, more than 40,000 students

have registered for the pilot, and several school districts have already incorporated The Whynauts into their curriculum.

Planning for The Whynauts began more than a year ago, and collaboration played a key role in developing the program. Perot Museum educators spent last summer in focus groups with 30 school-district representatives to better understand how the Museum could provide support through virtual-learning programs. All agreed that virtual programming featuring STEM workforce development would be a major asset.

With that charge in place, the Museum partnered with local and national organizations to serve as advisors, including Seeds 2 STEM, United to Learn, Uplift Education, and Teach For America. Additionally, the Museum partnered with David Lozano of Cara Mia Theatre – a local writer, director and community activist – to consult on the project to ensure cultural competence and high-quality bilingual content.

“With The Whynauts

program, we’ve further cultivated our mission to serve all minds, not only through in-person experiences at the Museum but also through innovative outreach that extends far beyond our walls,” said Dr. Silver. “We may be facing years of learning loss, especially in the sciences – a byproduct of this historic pandemic – but now we are better equipped to deal with these new challenges, help close the COVID learning gap, and be a resource for even more students, parents and school districts.”

Major sponsors of The Whynauts are the Perot Foundation, The Lamar Hunt Family and Lyda Hill Philanthropies’ IF/THEN® Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation. PetroCap sponsored the pilot and Texas Instruments the engineering episode. NBC 5 and Telemundo 39 are the media sponsors for the weather episode.

The Perot Museum partnered with Groove Jones to direct, script and produce the series.

For details and to view The Whynauts episodes, go to perotmuseum.org/whynauts.

Conagra Brands forms partnerships with Thurgood Marshall College Fund and Hispanic Scholarship Fund

CHICAGO – Conagra Brands (NYSE: CAG) announced today new partnerships with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), the nation’s largest organization exclusively representing the Black college community, and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), one of the nation’s leading nonprofit organizations supporting higher education, to support Black and Brown students. The partnerships will help ensure students receive equitable access to quality higher education opportunities and reinforce Conagra’s commitment to supporting the communities where its employees live and work.

Conagra will make donations to each organiza-

tion to fund several college scholarships. Additional resources will be provided to each institution to support scholarship recipients as they navigate internships and other services that prepare them for their future careers. Conagra employees will also actively engage with scholarship recipients to provide unique professional development opportunities that strengthen career prospects for students’ post-college, including resume building assistance, job interview preparation, and additional workplace readiness experiences.

“Conagra is committed to advocating for Black and Brown students in their educational pursuits. A sig-

nificant barrier to higher education remains its cost. Our partnerships with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and Hispanic Scholarship Fund will help overcome that barrier to ensure equity and education go hand-in-hand,” said Henry Jones, Senior Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Conagra Brands. “By providing diverse students with not only the financial resources, but also with skills and experiences to succeed in their chosen career, we will play a role cultivating our next generation of leaders.”

Key components of Conagra’s comprehensive diversity and inclusion strategy include building a strong entry-level pipeline;

providing development opportunities for underrepresented groups internal and external; and committing to develop and advance talent in order to increase the amount of racial, ethnic and gender diversity and representation within the company. This scholarship initiative will help ensure Black and Brown talent are supported in their pursuit for academic excellence and as they enter today’s workforce.

“We are delighted to have the support of Conagra Brands,” said Betsy Burton-Strunk, Vice President of Development at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. “Our commitment to

See CONAGRA, Page 7

WALSH, from Page 2

and when people get in a company, they have to get opportunities to advance themselves whether it is through education or job opportunities in leadership positions.”

The secretary noted that all workforce development and apprenticeship programs must include individuals of color and women. Any grant opportunities should contain an insistence that programs include everyone, not just White people, Secretary Walsh said.

He scoffed at the suggestion that the Black unemployment rate is high because many younger Blacks are electing to start new businesses instead of joining the traditional employment pool.

“I’m not fully there on that argument of people of color not coming back to the workforce,” Secretary Walsh notes in response.

“We are still in a pandemic, and remember, we shut the economy down in a matter of weeks, so we’re not going to see people go back as they went out.

“When you start thinking about full in-school learning, strong childcare, and people getting their shots, they will go back to work. Everyone wants to be able to put food on the table for their children. I’m not sold that there are 8 million jobs, and people don’t want to go back to work.”

City of Plano maintains highest bond ratings

Major bond rating agencies continue to give the City of Plano their highest rating of 'AAA', reaffirming the City's sound financial management practices and policies. A city's bond rating is often the single most important factor affecting the interest cost on bonds.

General Obligation Bonds

S&P Global ratings and Fitch Ratings each assigned 'AAA' long-term ratings to the City's \$73.475 million series 2021 general obligation (GO) refunding and improvement bonds.

Waterworks and Sewer Revenue Bonds



City of Plano

S&P also assigned its 'AAA' rating to the City's 2021 waterworks and sewer system revenue bonds.

Fitch assigned an 'AA+' rating to the same bonds.

Drainage Utility System Revenue Refunding and Improvement Bonds

S&P Global assigned its 'AAA' rating to Plano's series 2021 municipal drainage utility system revenue refunding and improvement bonds.

Moody's Investors Services assigned an 'Aa1' rating to the same Drainage

Utility System bonds.

'AAA' ratings are the highest quality and grade. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk. 'Aa1' rating represents high quality, high grade bonds, in which the municipality's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligations is extremely strong.

There are three major rating agencies for municipal bonds: Moody's Investors Service, S&P Global (formerly Standard & Poor's) and Fitch Ratings. Of the three rating agencies, S&P Global and Moody's rate over 80% of all municipal and corporate bonds.

CONAGRA, from Page 6

increasing the pipeline and pathways for young Black talent is directly aligned with their dedication to making a difference in the Black community through higher education. We are grateful for their direct support of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund."

"We at HSF are pleased to have Conagra Brands as a partner, who shares our belief that scholarships and support services can make the crucial difference for talented youth to complete a bachelor's degree and ultimately

launch careers in fields that matters to our society and our world," said Fidel A. Vargas, President & CEO at the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. "Conagra's contribution will help our scholars achieve their full potential."

To learn more about Conagra's commitments to diversity and inclusion, see the company's 2020 Citizenship Report. For more information on eligibility requirements and how to apply for scholarships, please visit tmcf.org and hsf.net.

STUDY, from Page 1

rence, the primary purpose of the DCRA," CAP editors wrote.

CAP's brief underscored how critical actions could be taken to address these concerns about data on deaths in custody.

"Congress should appropriate the necessary funding for the DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement a methodology to search for and validate

leads on deaths in custody," Kenny Lo, a research associate for Criminal Justice Reform at American Progress, wrote in the May 24 brief.

"A similar approach enabled the DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to identify nearly three times more arrest-related deaths than before as part of a broader effort that cost BJS less than \$5 million be-

tween fiscal years 2014 and 2017."

For their part, state legislatures should look to compel all state and local law enforcement agencies to report DCRA data, Lo continued.

States such as California, Texas, Maryland, and Tennessee already have laws that require all agencies to report data similar to those required by the DCRA, serving as models for other states to follow, Lo wrote.

Incentivizing DCRA compliance by all agencies would improve the quality of the data and bring about meaningful accountability in the criminal justice system, he continued.

"Our nation urgently needs to confront the scourge of police violence

against communities of color. Yet for decades, the government has failed to track the number of deaths that occur in the justice system," said Betsy Pearl, associate director for Criminal Justice Reform at the Center for American Progress.

"While data collection alone can't end systemic racism in our justice system and can't bring back the countless lives lost, it's essential for laying the groundwork to create real accountability and justice for all."

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New survey shows southerners supportive of major police reforms, don't believe enough has been done since George Floyd's murder

NEW ORLEANS, May 25, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- A new survey from Mitch Landrieu's E Pluribus Unum (EPU) organization finds support from Southerners, regardless of race, for major police reforms now one year after the murder of George Floyd sparked a new, national conversation on systemic racism and policing. Still attitudes and perceptions about the police, systemic racism, and the public protests after the murder continue to diverge sharply along racial and partisan lines in the American South. Notwithstanding some divergent views, a majority of white, Black, and Latino respondents believe lawmakers have not done enough to address the killing of unarmed Black people and other people of color by police officers.

One year after George Floyd's murder, EPU commissioned the 1,200-person survey (400 Black respondents, Latino respondents, and white respondents each) to track attitudes on systemic racism in policing and police reforms in the South. This is the fourth in a series of EPU surveys looking deeply at issues of race and systemic racism focused on the American South. To view the survey's key findings, comprehensive analysis, and topline results, visit <https://www.unumfund.org/policereformsurvey2021/>.

"One year after the murder of George Floyd, southern communities and the nation as a whole are still reckoning with the pervasive nature of systemic racism, particularly in policing and criminal justice," said Mitch Landrieu, founder, and president of E Pluribus Unum and former mayor of New Orleans. "On the positive side, there is clear support for major police reforms that can keep communities safe, hold police accountable, and address the systemic racism in po-



Matt Popovich / Unsplash

licing. But this survey also underscores the hard work that needs to continue in educating and informing white and Latino audiences on the scope and scale of systemic racism that blocks the South and our nation from achieving true justice and opportunity for all Americans."

As has been in the case with past surveys, the largest divides continue to be the different views between Black and white adults, while Latino adults' attitudes tend to fall in the middle. Depending on the issue, there are many instances — particularly on questions related to systemic racism — where Latino Southerners' views are closer to white Southerners than Black Southerners. There are additional notable dynamics based on gender, partisanship, age, and level of education.

Key Findings

- On Perceptions of Police: Majorities of Black (66 percent), Latino (78 percent), and white (84 percent) Southerners have favorable views of the police in their community. Perceptions of the police change significantly among Black adults when respondents are asked their favorability toward "police in the United States." Favorability drops to 40 percent among Black Southerners and has modest shifts among Latino Southerners (64 percent favorable) and white Southerners (75 percent favorable).

- On the Derek Chauvin Verdict: An overwhelming majority of Black, Latino, and white Southern-

ers agree with the jury's verdict that found Derek Chauvin guilty of murdering George Floyd. Black (91 percent) and Latino (80 percent) adults overwhelmingly agree with the verdict, and a large majority of white adults (66 percent) agree as well. White and Latino adults share similar views on whether the Chauvin verdict is a step in the right direction that will impact how police conduct themselves (60 percent of whites; 62 percent of Latinos) instead of not having any impact (29 percent of whites; 32 percent of Latinos). Black adults are not as optimistic about the

impact of the verdict (53 percent step in the right direction; 42 percent will not have any impact).

- On Actions Taken to Date: Most people, across race, do not think lawmakers have done enough to address the killing of unarmed Black people and other people of color by police officers, including a 47 percent plurality of white Southerners, 59 percent of Latino and 83 percent of Black respondents.

- On Expectations of Police Encounters: Divergent attitudes and perceptions, not surprisingly, begin with the different personal experiences that individuals have encountered or expect to encounter with the police in the United States. Unlike white (14 percent) and Latino (37 percent) Southerners, Black Southerners (71 percent) express deep concerns about whether a family member or themselves will be a victim of police brutality.

- On Systemic Racism

in Policing: Black Southerners express concerns over systemic racism on a variety of measures, while white Southerners do not. Latino attitudes about systemic racism are in the middle, but often lean closer to white attitudes. White Southerners divide evenly on whether the deaths of Black people and other people of color during encounters with police are signs of a broader problem in policing (43 percent) or isolated incidents (44 percent). A plurality of Latinos (49 percent) think these deaths are signs of a broader problem instead of being isolated incidents (36 percent). A large majority of Black Southerners (71 percent) think the deaths are signs of a broader problem, not isolated incidents (18 percent). Similarly, 87 percent of Black Southerners think the criminal justice system discriminates against Black people and other people of color, compared to 58 percent of Latinos and 35 per-

cent of whites.

The Pathway Forward

- Despite the different views among Black, Latino, and white Southerners on issues related to policing and systemic racism, there is a great deal of common ground on a range of policy proposals to reform policing and the criminal justice system. The common ground we found on policy proposals to reform policing distinguishes itself from differing views about the pervasiveness of systemic racism. The strongest reforms center on addressing the use of force, holding police accountable, and increasing the funding and training hours for police officers. These policies receive strong support across race.

- There is broad support across racial groups for requiring officers to step in when other officers are using excessive force (91 percent white, 92 percent

See SURVEY, Page 9

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Hip Hop goes home to the Bronx with star-studded ceremony for new museum

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Hip Hop started in the South Bronx, the hard-scrabble borough in New York City, and on Thursday, May 20, some of the genre's legends returned to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Universal Hip Hop Museum.

"Hip hop is one of those things that really gave my life meaning," LL Cool J, perhaps the greatest of them all, stated during the ceremony that included Nas, Lil Kim, Fat Joe, Grandmaster Flash, Slick Rick, EMPD, Naughty By Nature, and other superstars and trailblazers.



The development's first phase also will provide 542 units of permanently affordable housing to the neighborhood and about 2.8 acres of public open space. (Image via NNPA)

"It made me feel like I really could do something with my life," Cool J explained.

The \$349 million mixed-use project that will sit along the Harlem River waterfront promises a comprehensive history of hip hop, which many claimed was

just a fad.

However, with talented artists like Grandmaster Flash, Grand Wizzard Theodore, Run DMC, Public Enemy, Eric B. & Rakim, pundits could not have been more wrong.

Today, it's rare to find a single or album atop the

charts or winning significant awards if it doesn't include some form of hip hop.

Universities have adopted lessons about the genre, and many of the artists said hip hop provided them with street-level education and made them wise to many worldly subjects.

"It taught me more than schools taught me, believe it or not," Nas remarked. "I'm proud to be here in the mecca of hip hop, the Bronx."

The Museum's Executive Director Rocky Bucano, Kurtis Blow, Shawn LG Thomas, Grand Wizzard Theodore, Mickey Bentson, Joe Conzo Jr., and Grandmaster Melle Mel count among the founding mem-

bers.

Dallas Austin, Marq Hawkins, DJ Ralph McDaniels, and National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. comprise the museum's Advisory Board.

The development's first phase also will provide 542 units of permanently affordable housing to the neighborhood and about 2.8 acres of public open space.

The project will also have an array of cultural and community-focused programming, which includes the museum, an early childhood space, and outdoor science programming.

New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio addressed the ca-

capacity crowd at the groundbreaking, telling them what Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five's smash single, "The Message," meant to him.

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie also paid homage to hip hop.

"Hip hop began in the Bronx, and it is only right that we pay homage by erecting the Universal Hip Hop Museum right here in our borough," Heastie stated.

"Today's groundbreaking marks a monumental moment in hip hop history. Not only will this be a museum, but it will also become a cultural hub for all of New York City."

SURVEY, from Page 8

Black, and 87 percent Latino respondents). This level of support is largely consistent if not increased compared with October 2020 responses. It was the most popular proposal tested.

• Among the most debated topics on police reform in Congress right now, the public supports ending immunity for police officers and prosecuting them civilly if they break the law, including 69 percent of white, 81 percent of Black and 73 percent of Latino Southerners. An overwhelming 65

percent of White Republicans strongly or somewhat favor ending immunity for police officers.

• There is also broad support, regardless of race, for requiring police departments or police officers to carry liability insurance that other professions like teachers and social workers have, so taxpayers do not have to pay for expensive settlements when found guilty of misconduct. This measure was supported by 69 percent of white, 81 percent of Black, and 71 per-

cent of Latino respondents.

• There is strong support across racial groups for broader criminal justice reforms, such as ending the War on Drugs and legalizing recreational marijuana including 63 percent of white, 67 percent of Black, and 57 percent of Latino Southerners.

• Open-ended responses in the survey on the question of how to bridge the police-community divide also reveal a desire for doing what is necessary to have well-trained police who will do their job properly and end the mistreat-

ment of Black people. This tracks another popular proposal to increase the funding and training for police officers across the country with 88 percent of white, 81 percent of Black, and 85 percent of Latino respondents favoring.

Landrieu closed, "Despite the many divisions and clear challenges to bridge racial differences, the survey reveals a pathway forward on police reform that will keep our citizens safe and ensures respect for all of us. Our work at the local, state, and federal levels will continue to provide policy

makers the tools they need to address systemic racism in policing and close these gaps."

E Pluribus Unum's policy and advocacy team has prioritized police reform as an area of focus, advocating for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act in Congress as well as various reform and accountability measures at the state and local level across the 13 southern states. In addition to state level advocacy, EPU recently released a policy brief and case study on a duty-to-intervene pol-

icy pioneered in New Orleans named EPIC.

A comprehensive analysis, key findings, and topline results of the E Pluribus Unum's police reform survey is available at <https://www.unumfund.org/policereformsurvey2021/>.

GBAO Strategies of Washington, D.C. conducted the survey on landlines, cellphones, and text-to-web from May 14-18, 2021. The margin of error for each racial group is +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

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W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund makes major \$1.5 million donation towards putting the “park” back in Fair Park

Fair Park First, the non-profit organization charged with management and stewardship of Fair Park, announced that they have received a generous \$1.5 million gift from Communities Foundation Of Texas' W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund towards the creation of the new Community Park at Fair Park. The Community Park, designed by renowned architects Studio MLA, will provide a wonderful park experience within walking distance of 13 neighborhoods that previously did not have direct access to greenspace. The new 11-acre Community Park will be dynamic and multi-dimensional – just like Fair Park.

“Communities Foundation of Texas is proud to partner with Fair Park First to help restore, renovate, reactivate and put the “park” back in Fair Park. We are inspired by their vision to support area residents in creating a unique community gathering space, which will further equity and connectedness in alignment with our vision of building a thriving community for all. We look forward to seeing the goals for the Fair Park Community Park realized,”



said Sarah Cotton Nelson, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT).

The primary goal of the Community Park is to create access to green space for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, while serving as an attraction to visitors from across the region. Its design and programming will be curated with ongoing input from a diverse group of local residents, so it remains relevant and authentic to the people of South Dallas. It will be a safe and inclusive space for the neighborhoods, as well as a place for recreation, re-

spite, and leisure.

“The Fair Park, Your Park Capital Campaign is honored to have the generous support of CFT’s W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund to help make this exciting vision for Fair Park a reality. This plan will not only restore and renovate Fair park but will create a new Community Park and additional green space to be enjoyed by future generations.” Margo Ramirez Keyes, Unity Co-Chair and Fair Park First Board Member.

The Community Park is included in Phase One of the Fair Park, Your Park Campaign. The amenities

and activities in the park will be focused on improving the health and wellbeing of all Dallasites, creating a Community Park for the entire community. Included in the park design will be Wi-Fi access, splash pads, picnic shelters, an all-age/all-abilities playground, performance stage, game tables, and a flex space open lawn.

District 7 Council Member Adam Bazaldua said,

“I’ve always believed there was an equitable and exciting way to activate Fair Park for the neighborhoods, one that isn’t locked off from the community and is more inviting and enticing to residents.” He continued, “I’ve supported Fair Park First’s vision of this underutilized space as a place where residents can enjoy much-needed green space, while also creating an attractive neighborhood destination. This generous gift ensures we are on our way towards making that vision

a reality.”

The Fair Park, Your Park Capital Campaign, which has a funding goal of \$85 million to fund Fair Park capital improvements, was announced in March of this year and is managed by Rise360 Consulting.

Fair Park First will host a Community Park Interactive Input Session on Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30 PM inside the Fair Park Coliseum. At this meeting, guests will have the opportunity to review preliminary design concepts.

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Special tribute to Elton John slated for iHeartRadio Music Awards

iHeartMedia and FOX announced this week that Brandi Carlile, Demi Lovato and H.E.R. will perform during a special tribute honoring Elton John with the iHeartRadio Icon Award at the 2021 iHeartRadio Music Awards.

The award will be presented by Chris Martin and Lil Nas X and will honor Elton John’s global impact on pop culture, longevity, and continued relevance as a touring and radio force with a loyal fan base worldwide.

Usher will host and perform during the event, which will also feature pre-

viously announced performances from The Weeknd with special guest Ariana Grande, Bruno Mars & Anderson .Paak (Silk Sonic), Dan + Shay and Doja Cat. In addition, the event will feature special appearances from numerous popular artists.

The event will air LIVE from The Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, Thursday, May 27 (8:00-10:00 PM ET live / PT tape-delayed) on FOX. The eighth annual event also will air live on iHeartMedia radio stations nationwide and on the iHeartRadio app.

For the 2021 iHeartRadio

Music Awards, iHeartMedia and FOX will be giving a sneak peek at the winners of four awards leading up to the Thursday, May 27 telecast exclusively on FOX. Beginning at 9:00am ET on East Coast shows, one winner will be announced and give an acceptance speech in the 9:00 a.m. local hour across the four major time zones in the following categories: Country Album of the Year, Country Song of the Year, Dance Album of the Year and Social Star Award. Winners will also be revealed on iHeartMedia’s radio stations and socials following FOX.

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JUNE 5, 2021 RUNOFF ELECTION CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES COUNCIL DISTRICTS / BALLOT ORDER

Council District 2

1 Jesse Moreno
2 Sana Syed

Council District 4

1 Carolyn King Arnold
2 Maxie Johnson

Council District 7

1 Adam Bazaldua
2 Kevin Felder

Council District 11

1 Barry Wernick
2 Jaynie Schultz

Council District 13

1 Leland R. Burk
2 Gay Donnell Willis

Council District 14

1 Paul E. Ridley
2 David Blewett

DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING DATES/TIMES

May (mayo) 24 – 27	Monday-Thursday (<i>lunes a jueves</i>)	8a.m. to 5p.m.	
May (mayo) 28	Friday (<i>viernes</i>)	7a.m. to 7p.m.	
May (mayo) 29	Saturday (<i>sábado</i>)	8a.m. to 5p.m.	
May (mayo) 30	Sunday (<i>domingo</i>)	1p.m. to 6p.m.	
May (mayo) 31	Memorial Day	Polls are Closed	las encuestas están cerradas
June (junio) 1	Tuesday (<i>martes</i>)	7a.m to 7p.m	

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Dallas County Elections

(214) 819-6300

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/upcoming-election-information/>

DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

LOCATION (Lugar)	ADDRESS (Dirección)	City (Ciudad)	Zip Code (Código postal)
AUDELIA ROAD BRANCH LIBRARY – AUDITORIUM	10045 AUDELIA RD	DALLAS	75238
BALCH SPRINGS CIVIC CENTER – MEETING ROOM	12400 ELAM RD	BALCH SPRINGS	75180
BETTY WARMACK LIBRARY – EMPOWER ROOM	760 BARDIN RD	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
CARROLLTON SENIOR CENTER	1720 KELLER SPRINGS RD	CARROLLTON	75006
COPPELL TOWN CENTER - MAIN LOBBY	255 E PARKWAY BLVD	COPPELL	75019
CROSSWINDS HIGH SCHOOL	1100 N CARRIER PKWY	GRAND PRAIRIE	75050
EL CENTRO COLLEGE-MAIN CAMPUS – C BLDG LOBBY	801 MAIN ST	DALLAS	75202
FRETZ PARK LIBRARY – BLACK BOX THEATER	6990 BELT LINE RD	DALLAS	75254
GEORGE L ALLEN SR. COURTS BLDG – MAIN LOBBY	600 COMMERCE ST	DALLAS	75202
GRAUWYLER PARK RECREATION CENTER – GYM	7780 HARRY HINES BLVD	DALLAS	75235
J ERIK JONSSON CENTRAL LIBRARY – EAST ROOM	1515 YOUNG ST	DALLAS	75201
LAKEWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY – AUDITORIUM	6121 WORTH ST	DALLAS	75214
MARSH LANE BAPTIST CHURCH – FELLOWSHIP HALL	10716 MARSH LN	DALLAS	75229
MARTIN LUTHER KING CORE BLDG – GYMNASIUM	2901 PENNSLYVANIA	DALLAS	75215
OAK CLIFF SUB-COURTHOUSE - MAIN LOBBY	410 S. BECKLEY AVE	DALLAS	75203
OAK LAWN BRANCH LIBRARY - AUDITORIUM	4100 CEDAR SPRINGS RD	DALLAS	75219
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - PARLOR	7611 PARK LN	DALLAS	75225
PAUL L DUNBAR LANCASTER-KIEST LIBRARY - CLASSROOMS A & B	2008 EAST Kiest BLVD	DALLAS	75216
PRESTON ROYAL LIBRARY	5626 ROYAL LN	DALLAS	75229
RANDOLPH REED CENTER – ROOM 106	1933 SPIKES ST	GRAND PRAIRIE	75051
REVERCHON RECREATION CENTER – GAME ROOM	3505 MAPLE AVE	DALLAS	75219
RICHARDSON CIVIC CENTER – PARKS ROOM	411 W. ARAPAHO RD	RICHARDSON	75080
RICHLAND COLLEGE – MAIN CAMPUS- FOYER AREA	12800 ABRAMS	DALLAS	75243
SAMUEL GRAND RECREATION CENTER -GENERAL PURPOSE ROOM	6200 EAST GRAND	DALLAS	75223
SEAGOVILLE CITY HALL – FOYER	702 N HWY 175	DALLAS	75159
SKYLINE BRANCH LIBRARY - AUDITORIUM SOUTH GARLAND BRANCH LIBRARY - THE PROGRAM ROOM	6006 EVERGLADE RD	DALLAS	75227
SOUTH GARLAND BRANCH LIBRARY - PROGRAM ROOM	4845 BROADWAY BLVD	GARLAND	75043
UNIVERSITY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - CALDWELL ROOM (#120)	4024 CARUTH BLVD	DALLAS	75225

Applications are open for the Jrue And Lauren Holiday Social Impact Fund providing up to \$1,000,000 to Black-owned businesses and non-profits

MILWAUKEE (PRNewswire) -- NBA All-Star and Milwaukee Bucks guard Jrue Holiday and two-time Olympic soccer gold medalist Lauren Holiday, through their JLH Social Impact Fund, will provide grants to organizations and small businesses in Greater Milwaukee, New Orleans, Indianapolis, and Los Angeles areas, with priority given to those focused on social impact and creating a more equitable future for underserved communities.

In 2019-2020, Jrue pledged the remainder of his NBA salary (\$5.3 million) to create the JLH Fund, providing the first round of grants in the fall of 2020. The second round of funding will again provide up to \$1,000,000 to Black-led nonprofit organizations and Black-owned businesses.

"When we first decided to start this fund, it was at an inflection point of two pandemics - the disproportionate effects that COVID-19

had on the Black community and businesses, and equally as devastating, the murders of George Floyd and many other unarmed Black people - resulting in an overwhelming feeling of helplessness. We are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to help people through the JLH Fund and will continue to do this work and make the greatest impact possible," said the Holidays.

Alexys Feaster, founder of The Kinship Advisors, is managing the JLH Social Impact Fund and added, "This next phase of the JLH Fund is taking a holistic approach to bring Jrue and Lauren's long-term vision to life because doing this work right goes beyond the donations. Understanding the values of Jrue and Lauren, we are bringing as many resources as we can to the people and the communities most in need. Black communities and businesses have been historically overlooked and underfund-

ed and with the JLH Fund, we are building a community of support."

Working with Renee King, founder of Fund Black Founders, there will be coaching and training for the JLH Fund grantees to expand funding opportunities and community engagement. The JLH Fund is also working with Microsoft's Nonprofit Tech Acceleration (NTA) for Black & African American Communities so all nonprofits that apply to the JLH Fund will get technology and support services to remove IT barriers and increase the impact of their missions. Darrell Booker, head of Microsoft NTA shared, "Building a community of support for Black and African American nonprofits is fundamental in advancing their missions. We look forward to working with these nonprofits to ensure they have the technology they need to be as efficient and productive as possible in their operations."

Feaster added, "This is all just the start. We look forward to working with people who want to serve communities in need. Whether they are other athletes, companies, philanthropists, or community leaders, let's partner to make the impact as great as possible."

First round recipient of the JLH Fund, Jacob Adams, founder of Stem to the Future, shared "The JLH grant provided my team with capital that supported us in training educators in Los Angeles on how to create and facilitate justice-based STEAM curriculum. We were able to use the funds to pay our facilitators,

design curriculum, and provide observations and debriefs with educators, which enabled us to accomplish our goal of providing Black and Latinx students with hands-on learning experiences to solve real world problems."

Lemel Durrah, also a first round recipient and founder of Compton Vegan, an affordable and healthy alternative to everyday foods, was able to use the JLH Fund grant during the pandemic to secure a food truck to remain in business. He served Compton and surrounding cities labeled as food deserts and swamps with plant-based dishes.

Elliott Hutchinson, from Son of a Saint in New Orleans, an organization that provides support for fatherless young men, added "Aligning with an organization that has a shared interest in positively impacting your community is extremely empowering. The Jrue and Lauren Holiday Fund takes philanthropic support a step further— they are truly invested in growing the capacity of their partner organizations to affect meaningful change."

Applications for the JLH Social Impact Fund are open now until May 28, 2021. To apply, visit www.jlhfund.org.

Blackstar proves the case for President Biden's American jobs plan prioritizing racial equity in infrastructure jobs

NEW ORLEANS, May 25, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Blackstar provided signal detection upgrades for Lafayette's predominantly minority inhabited northside and Baton Rouge's Florida Blvd community, which have historically been systematically discriminated against. This system aids in decreasing unnecessary stops, delays, and ultimately improves emissions. Specifically, Blackstar supplied 171 wireless magnetometer vehicle detection systems throughout Lafayette and also set up and installed the adaptive traffic control system software.

Additionally, Blackstar provided traffic control cabinets and traffic system management upgrades for

New Orleans' District E, which includes historically Black communities that were hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. In a recent op-ed, Mayor Latoya Cantrell described the massive positive impact infrastructure projects have on the city by simply creating an equitable community for all its residents. Our traffic systems helped "build back better" Black communities for longevity and growth, not just short term fixes and stagnancy.

Blackstar Excels In Spite of Low Diversity and Inclusion Goals

In April, Know Your Price author and Senior Brookings Institute Fellow, Andre M. Perry, penned an article offering a practical solution

to two problems expressed in President Biden's American Jobs Plan. Obviously, the first problem is fixing America's aging infrastructure. Secondly, the plan promises to create more opportunities for small businesses with the lofty goal of advancing racial equity in the process. Perry suggests more investment in Black businesses would essentially kill two birds with one stone. Blackstar believes the first step to doing this is by increasing the minimum Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals for infrastructure projects with the ultimate goal of being comparable with the demographics of the community.

See Blackstar, Page 16



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Ongoing House of Blues

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Texas unemployment rate falls to 6.7 percent in April

State adds 13,000 jobs over the month

AUSTIN -- In April, the seasonally adjusted Texas unemployment rate was 6.7 percent, down 0.2 percentage points from March 2021. Texas added 13,000 total nonagricultural jobs over the month, making gains in 11 of the last 12 months. Texas added 1,007,100 jobs over the year after shedding 1,452,600 jobs in March and April 2020 due to COVID-19 and measures taken to slow its spread.

"The decrease in the unemployment rate in Texas shows continued strength of our economy," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "TWC will continue our commitment to helping Texans find jobs through career fairs and hiring events at local workforce development boards along with job matching services through MyTXCareer.com."

In April, the Leisure and Hospitality industry added 14,100 jobs, growing annually at 46.1 percent. Government employment increased by 11,300 positions. The Professional and Business Services industry

followed with a gain of 8,300 jobs.

However, six of the 11 major industries in Texas saw decreases in employment last month.

Most notably, the oil industry, which is significant to all sectors of the Texas economy, continued to shed jobs.

"This month continues to show job growth and career opportunities for Texans as the economy strengthens," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "We're encouraged by the increases, especially in the leisure and hospitality industries, and will continue to work through programs like skills development grants to promote job growth in all industries."

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) recorded April's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 4.0 percent, followed by the Austin-Round Rock MSA at 4.5 percent and College Station-Bryan MSA at 4.6 percent.

"Texas employers con-

tinue to show resilience and perseverance and are excited about getting Texans back to work," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. "TWC is committed to providing Texas employers with innovative programs like the Texas Restaurant Recovery Initiative, which will assist this vital industry in many ways, including adapting to new service

delivery trends and learning new ways to increase profitability while providing safe and efficient customer service."

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com.

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Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to construct a 43-foot Monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 1834 Elm Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201, Lat: [32-46-55.03], Long: [-96-47-46.81]. Public comments regarding the potential effects from these sites on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days of publication to: *Trileaf Corp. Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, (512)519-9388.*

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A Shortcut Is Not Always That Short

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I have always appreciated shortcuts in life. If I can find a shortcut, I will take it because time is valuable to me. I take pride in coming up with a shortcut that actually saves me time.

However, not all of my shortcuts have really been that short and I have paid the price.

Last week, for example, I had to go clear across town

for my appointment with my eye doctor. Somehow I think they try to figure out where to place a doctor's office, so it isn't easy to get there, especially when there's a time element involved.

My eye appointment went rather well, and I was happy with the results. I had made the appointment very close to the next appointment I needed on the other side of town.

Have you ever noticed when you have two appointments on the same day, they are at the opposite ends of town? I hate that.

But I was going to take advantage, and I was going to find a shortcut across town.

I am a very careful driver. Every time I leave the house, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always says, "Drive careful." As if she thought I would

be a crazy driver.

As I left the doctor's office, I thought I would take a different route to go on the other side of town for my next appointment. I've lived in this town for quite a few years, and I thought I knew every street in this town. But I guess I didn't know everything I needed to know.

When I'm driving, I'm always careful to watch out for the other drivers. It's not

that I'm a lousy driver; it's that other people can be and sometimes are bad drivers. So I am careful about the drivers that are in front of me and behind me.

I usually have a GPS with me, but I had taken it out and used it somewhere else for some reason. Who knows where?

That didn't bother me because I knew exactly where I was going. I was going to map out a shortcut to save

time.

Driving down one block, I noticed a street to my right that I thought I recognized, and so I made the turn and followed that street. Then I came to a street that took another right, and so I followed that. As I was driving through, I didn't recognize anything that I could remember.

My problem is, as I drive,

See SHORTCUT, Page 15

VACCINE, from Page 4

COVID-19 infection and death. That's important to remember."

Initially, there was limited data on whether the COVID-19 vaccines were safe and effective during pregnancy, but new research shows encouraging evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines offer strong immune protection for women who are pregnant. A recent study published by The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology found that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are safe and effective in pregnant and lactating women. These women can also pass down antibodies to their newborns.

The study involved 131 participants whose blood samples were taken at the time of the first and second doses of the vaccine and again after six weeks. The data showed that the level of antibodies for par-

ticipants in response to the vaccine were higher than those in participants who were sick with COVID-19 during pregnancy. Antibodies were also found in umbilical cord blood and breast milk.

As vaccine eligibility for mothers-to-be open up across the United States, pregnant women are facing an important decision about vaccinating for two. Both Dr. Clarke and Dr. Montgomery-Rice are encouraging pregnant women to protect themselves and their newborns by getting vaccinated.

"When we have compared the risk of COVID in pregnant women to age-matched non-pregnant women," Dr. Montgomery-Rice stated, "we see those that are pregnant are having a higher risk of ending up in ICU and ending up on a ventilator. That is concerning to us. We know that if

a woman is a diabetic, or obese and pregnant, she also has a higher risk of ending up needing mechanical ventilation. We need pregnant women to not get COVID. The only way we know you can do that, of course, with all the preventative health measures, washing your hands, watching your distance, and wear your mask, but also taking the vaccine."

The CDC recommends the following measures to stay healthy during pregnancy:

- Keep all your healthcare appointments during and after pregnancy. Visit with your healthcare provider for all recommended appointments. If you're concerned about going to your appointments because of COVID-19, ask your healthcare provider what steps they are taking to separate healthy patients from those who might be sick, or ask about telemedicine options. If you need help

finding a healthcare provider, contact your nearest hospital, clinic, community health center, or health department.

- Talk to your healthcare provider about how to stay healthy and take care of yourself and your

- Ask questions you have about the best place to deliver your baby is always safest under the care of trained healthcare professionals.

- You should also talk to your healthcare provider if you think you are experiencing depression during or after pregnancy.

- Get recommended vaccines during pregnancy. These vaccines can help protect you and your

- Get a flu vaccine every year. Others living in your household should also get vaccinated to protect themselves and

- Get the whooping cough (Tdap) vaccine during pregnancy to protect your baby against whooping cough,

which can have similar symptoms to COVID-19. The CDC recommends that all women receive a Tdap vaccine during each

- Consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you. Talk with your healthcare provider if you have questions.

- Call your healthcare provider if you have any concerns about your pregnancy or if you get sick or think you may have COVID-19.

- Do not delay getting emergency care because of COVID-19. Emergency departments have steps in place to protect you from getting COVID-19 if you need care. If you need emergency help, call 911 right Tell them that you are pregnant and are having an emergency.

- Seek medical care immediately if you experience any urgent maternal warning signs and symptoms. These symptoms could indicate a potentially life-

threatening

"All women have concerns about going into their doctor's office and potentially exposing themselves to COVID," Dr. Clarke said. "I want to assure everyone that the protocols that are in the doctor's office are designed to protect you. If you're masking, distancing, washing your hands, and following the protocols in the doctor's office, it's important to make sure that you stay on course for your prenatal visits."

For more information about COVID-19 and upcoming events, visit Black Coalition Against COVID-19, a key health resource for African Americans.

Black Doctor.org, the world's largest and most comprehensive online health resource, is specifically targeted to African Americans.

For more information about COVID-19 news, head to the CDC website at cdc.gov/coronavirus.

RASHAD, from Page 2

Mellon, Wayne State University, Juilliard, The Black Arts Institute of the Stella Adler Studio of Acting and the prestigious Ten Chimneys Foundation established at the Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne Estate.

She also holds the distinction of being the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theater at Fordham University.

She made her critically acclaimed directorial debut at the Seattle Repertory Theater with August Wil-

son's "Gem of the Ocean." She has also directed Stephen Adly Guirgis' "Our Lady of 121st Street" at the Signature Theatre; "The Roommate" at Steppenwolf Theatre; "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" (winner of the 2014 NAACP Theatre Award for best director) at the Mark Taper Forum; "Immediate Family" at the Taper and Goodman Theatre; "Fences" at the Long Wharf Theatre and McCarter Theatre;

"A Raisin in the Sun" at Ebony Repertory Theatre, Kirk Douglas Theatre and Westport Country Playhouse; and "Four Little Girls" at the Kennedy Center.

"I can think of no individual better suited to take on this role than Ms. Phylicia Rashad," said Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA.

"As we reintroduce our campus community and the world at large to Howard's College of Fine Arts, the dean will play an in-

strumental role in ensuring an auspicious beginning for this reestablished institution.

"Given Ms. Rashad's reputation as well as her capabilities and impressive list of accomplishments, she will undoubtedly empower the college to transcend even our incredibly high expectations. Under her leadership, Howard will continue to inspire and cultivate the artists and leaders who will shape our niche and national cultures for generations to come."

Rashad has received the

Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, BET Honors Theatrical Arts Award, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's Spirit of Shakespeare Award, the inaugural Legacy Award of the Ruben Santiago Hudson Fine Arts Learning Center, and the Lucille Lortel Award.

In 2016, Rashad was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame. Among the other awards that decorate her walls and shelves are the 2018 Will Award from Washington D.C.'s Shakespeare Theatre Company, the 2014 Mosaic Woman

Legend Award of Diversity Woman Magazine, the Texas Medal of Arts, the National Council of Negro Women's Dorothy L. Height Dreammaker Award, People's Choice Awards, NAACP Image Awards, AFTRA's AMEE Award for Excellence in Entertainment, New York Women in Film and Television's Muse Award for Outstanding Vision and Achievement, Dallas Women in Film Topaz Award, and the Pan African Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Woman and a Fork



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

(Editor's Note: This column was originally published on May 29, 2014.)

The story is told of a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things 'in order,' she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very

important to her.

'There's one more thing,' she said excitedly. 'What's that?' The Pastor asked, 'This is very important,' the young woman continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.'

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. That surprises you, doesn't it? The young woman asked. 'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.'

In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.'

It was my favorite part because I knew that some-



Reni Moebis / Unsplash

thing better was coming... like a velvety chocolate cake or a deep-dish apple pie. It was something wonderful, and with substance!'

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he

hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of Heaven than he did.

She had a better grasp of what Heaven would be like than many people twice her age and with twice as much experience and knowledge. She knew that something better was coming. Jesus

had promised this to His believers.

At the funeral people walked by the young woman's casket, they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand.

Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, 'What's with the fork?' And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her.

He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

The next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are very rare jewels, indeed they make you smile and encourage

you to succeed, to cherish the time you have, and the memories you share.

Being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility. And don't forget to keep your fork.

Let us hear from you!

If there are any news,

events or anything

else we need to know

about, give us an

e-mail at:

editor@northdallas-

gazette.com

SHORTCUT, from Page 14

I sometimes get thinking about a project I'm working on. It might be an article, it might be a sermon, it might be just about anything. Once I get thinking about that project, I'm not too conscious of my environment. Yes, I do pay attention to the other cars.

I planned to make it to my next appointment at least 20 minutes ahead of time to sit back and relax and wait for that appointment. I always carry a notebook, so when I have a little off time, I can jot down some notes and make sure I'm not forgetting what I've been thinking of while driving.

I really hate it when I have an excellent idea, but I can't remember that idea when I stop and want to write it down.

Just then, I saw a street sign to the right that I kind of remembered and gladly turned down that street believing I was going to get their way ahead of my

schedule and I would have plenty of time just to get caught up on my notes. I was smiling as I was driving down that street.

As I was driving, I recognized some of the buildings on both sides of the street and was very confident that I had it made.

My only regret was that I didn't have the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage with me to boast about my shortcuts. If there's one thing she doesn't like, it's my shortcuts. According to her, my shortcuts always create problems. Boy, I wish she was with me now!

The more I drove down the street, the more familiar the buildings became. And then I saw it and could not believe what I saw.

On the right side of the street was the eye doctor's office I had left about 20 minutes ago. I could not believe this was happening to me. Looking at my watch, I realized I'm not going to

make my next appointment on time. I did not know what to do.

The only thing I could do at the time was call and cancel that appointment. The bad side is, I would have to explain to my wife why I canceled that appointment. When she hears of my shortcut plan, she is going to stare at me with one of "those stares" and then say, "What have I told you about your shortcuts?"

I just couldn't put a new plan together that would solve the problems that I had right now.

As I drove away from the eye doctor's office, I thought of what David said, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8).

Sometimes I'm tempted to take a shortcut in my relationship with God. I sometimes think that I know better than God, and it always ends up in some level of tragedy.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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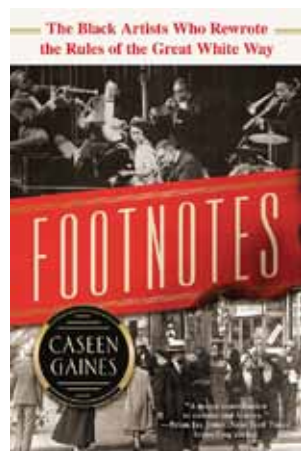
NDG BookReview: 'Footnotes' recounts the lives of pivotal Black artists

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can't see where the roar is coming from.

But you can hear it, and that's what matters. The role was made for you, you hit every line and note, the audience loved you – and now the roar of cheers and applause is yours. How long does the standing ovation last? How hard do they clap? As in the new book "Footnotes" by Caseen Gaines, how long will your star stay aloft?

Growing up in an affluent Black neighborhood in Columbia, Tennessee, Fournoy Miller had everything he could ever want



– and when he was nine years old, he wanted to be onstage. It was 1894, and his parents had taken him to see Sissieretta Jones, a famous soprano and “one of the highest-paid Black

entertainers of the day.”

“Miller,” says Gaines, “was captivated.”

And yet, growing up, Miller knew that fame was a dangerous reach. Every Black entertainer seemed to know someone who was killed by white folks for no reason, but once Miller met Aubrey Lyles in 1903 and “the two hit it off right away,” the danger was ignored. Miller, in fact, was more determined than ever for fame, and the two developed a popular comedy act.

From the time he was a child, Noble Sissle loved to sing. Few things pleased him more than a chance

to perform in church and, while it was expected that he would become a minister like his father, he grew more passionate about music.

When Sissle took a job in Baltimore, he met Eubie Blake, a talented pianist who grew up in a Godly house as a child and honed his talents at brothels as a teenager. They, too, became fast friends and eventual collaborators.

It's a small world, and because they worked in the same industry, Miller and Lyles knew Sissle and Blake and there was mutual respect all around. They had kicked around the idea

of working together on a show but the idea didn't coalesce until early 1921.

And “with nothing but a handshake agreement...” says Gaines, “the quartet agreed to give it a shot.”

The nicest thing about “Footnotes” is this: you don't have to be a Broadway-goer to enjoy it. You don't ever have to have even seen a play. You can love this lively, sparkling book for no reason but just because.

Though it takes awhile to get there and though it may not seem like it, the main subject of this book is the musical, Shuffle Along.

Author Caseen Gaines seems to use this main feature as a backdrop, as he wraps biographies, history, and everyday life around that century-old show to show how it came to be and why it was so important to Black culture. There's racism in this tale, of course, but also determination and a sense of opulence and grandeur, at times. It can be a feel-good story, but one that hurts, too.

Shakespeare said, “The play's the thing” and so is “Footnotes.” If you love Broadway, history, or books on culture, it'll make you roar.

Blackstar, from Page 12

For example, the Lafayette project had an estimated construction cost of just over 7 million dollars. Yet, the DBE goal was only 4%. Blackstar alone generated over \$400,000 on that project. While that sounds great,

Lafayette Parish is roughly 27% Black, according to 2019 census estimates. The same is true for the Baton Rouge job, which had an 8% DBE goal on a roughly 1.9 million dollar project estimate. As of July 2019,

the U.S. Census Bureau estimates Baton Rouge to be roughly 55% Black. Both goals are approximately one seventh of the overall population. Again, Blackstar overachieved bringing in over \$250 thousand in gross revenue for the project. Combining these two

projects with ongoing work for the City of New Orleans, Blackstar has generated over a million dollars in revenue in 2021, which is 20% of projected overall 2021 revenues.

In a previous December 2020 report, Perry noted Black businesses represent

only 2.2% of American businesses. Bringing that number to parity with the Black population would mean an almost 7x increase in Black businesses. Furthermore, bringing Black businesses to parity with non-Black businesses from an average revenue perspective, would

have a similar impact on total revenue for Black businesses. While government entities can't guarantee revenue for businesses, they can standardize DBE goals on demographics. Essentially, you can't achieve racial economic equity without setting equitable economic goals.



America's Pandemic Recovery Relies on Energy

Energy Workers And Company Leaders Are Supporting the COVID-19 Relief Support Effort:

- Providing supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Philanthropic community efforts to provide fuel gift cards, sanitizers, clothing, face coverings, and meals to hospitals, fire and police departments throughout the U.S.;
- Supplying jet fuel at no cost to critical companies and airlines to transport PPE deliveries and restore air service to remote communities;
- Providing fuel discounts to first responders and others who serve their communities;
- Donating ultra-low temperature freezers to health organization to help keep vaccines at their required storage temperature.

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



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