



North Dallas

Gazette

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Juneteenth celebrations on slate for
the weekend in Dallas, U.S.

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

The celebration of Juneteenth has garnered national attention in the past year, even if perhaps because of an ill-timed political rally last year. Subsequently, this uniquely Texas bit of history is even more well-known today.

The celebration recalls the events of June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived Galveston and informed 250,000 slaves that they were now free. Despit ehte fact that the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued two-and-a-half years earlier, the Black population in places like Texas had not been informed.

Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, "No one is free until we are all free."

In that train of thought, as the slaves in Texas were the last major population to become aware of their freedom, there is a thoguht among many that Juneteenth should be "the" national celebration of emancipation.

In the spirit of the occasion, there is actually a dedication of a 5,000 square foot mural taking place at the spot where General Order No. 3 was read by Granger in Galveston itself this year.



Juneteenth is perhaps the most important historic event date in the African American calendar, certainly in Texas. Celebrations are planned throughout the country to commemorate this milestone event. (Graphic: David Wilfong with public domain images)

Houston artist Reginald Adams, who was honored with the commissioning of the artwork, noted that travelers disembarking from cruise ships nearby will all be exposed to the story. The dedication takes place on Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

Dallas Juneteenth

For those who cannot make the journey to the coast for the dedication, Dallas is setting its sights on creating a regional commemoration right here in Fair Park. Dallas Juneteenth will combine a respectful observation of the day with music, food, a parade and more.

A 3.5 mile march will begin at 10 a.m. at William Blair Jr. Park

(3000 Rochester St, Dallas, TX 75215) moving the celebration to Fair Park. From there, the festival will host a range of activities and features such as a Negro League Baseball exhibit, a health & wellness expo, music performances, and more.

Notably, the Dallas Historical Society has the only known original copy of the General Orders, and they will be on display at the Hall of State during the Juneteenth Celebration.

All programs and activities are free and open to the public.

The Fair Park event is expected

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Dannetta English Bland

People In The News ...



Chris Upperman



Kamila Vargas

NDG Quote of the Week: "This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves..."

- Major General Gordon Granger

Dannetta English Bland

Following a comprehensive national search, the University of North Texas System has announced the appointment of Dannetta English Bland as Chief Diversity Officer, effective July 19, 2021. Bland will join the UNT System after spending nearly 17 years at Deloitte, one of the world's largest professional services firms. Bland brings a wealth of experience advising Fortune 500 companies on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and talent strategy, cultural and workforce transforma-



tion, as well as executive transition and alignment. Bland worked closely with the Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officers while at Deloitte, analyzing data associated with root causes,

assessing and enhancing the talent lifecycle, and architecting a long-term strategy to advance DEI through a culture of anti-racism and systemic changes.

"Dannetta English Bland is an accomplished trailblazer in DEI strategy, and we are excited to have her join our leadership team to help build upon the UNT System's core belief that higher education should be accessible to everyone," Chancellor Lesa Roe said. "Dannetta will help our system and member institutions find authentic ways to come together and affirm the value of our diverse stu-

dents, faculty and staff."

While at Deloitte, Bland designed and delivered in-person, virtual and web-based DEI labs, learning programs, trainings and experiences for students, executives and board members globally. She has authored DEI thought leadership, communication strategies and leadership toolkits. Bland has led national business resource groups, talent acquisition teams that recruited diverse collegiate candidates from top-tier universities and partnered with key stakeholders to align diversity and inclusion programming, invest-

ments and partnerships with overall company strategy and metrics.

"I am honored to have been appointed and entrusted to serve the UNT System's students, faculty, staff, families and communities – I wholeheartedly feel that this role was created especially for me at this exact moment in time," Bland said. "I look forward to bringing bold innovative ideas and serving as a catalyst for promoting a culture of allyship, and an inclusive work and learning environment where all leaders belong and thrive."

A new position for the

UNT System that reports to the Chancellor, the Chief Diversity Officer is a thought leader and subject-matter expert who will work collaboratively with existing campus and system DEI advisory groups, as well as with campus HR leaders, to refine and accelerate this important work. In this role, Bland will communicate strategic initiatives and progress toward DEI to the UNT System Board of Regents and all levels of system and campus leadership.

With two Minority

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Chris Upperman

Chris Upperman, formerly in the Obama administration as well as on the Biden Harris transition team and currently Manager, Governance & Strategic Initiatives for Facebook (including working with their Oversight Board), has been named Chairman of the Advisory Board of Law Champs as well as a Member of its Board of Directors.

Law Champs, founded and run by a diverse C-suite, are advocates for access to justice, social and legal reform and connect and protect those who de-



serve equitable representation by simultaneously matching them with top lawyers on an as needed basis to fight for just outcomes in keeping with "by the people and for the people." There is no cost

for those who need lawyers to use LawChamps' legal matching service who have not only helped thousands of those who need the best possible lawyer but built their network of experts in every area of specificity imaginable to forge the best path toward equitable success.

As Manager in the Governance & Strategic Initiatives Organization at Facebook, Christopher R. Upperman, is the Lead for

Partnerships and contributes cross-functionally for the Insights, Public Affairs and Governance pillars with a focus on Insights. The Insights Pillar delivers perspectives that help inform critical leadership decisions, bringing data-driven research to develop new hypotheses about societal issues and combining them with deep policy expertise to derive their implications for Facebook at-large.

Mr. Upperman is Board

Member of Envolv Entrepreneurship (Envolv), and prior to his time at Facebook was the CEO of Envolv—a multinational NGO—that is committed to cultivating entrepreneurial ecosystems through the provision of financial assistance and business support services to diverse and underserved entrepreneurs. The organization is an advocate for SMBs and regularly engages with Members of Congress. Envolv

facilitates an annual funding competition that grants startup and working capital among other business support. Under his leadership since 2017, the organization declared 57 grantees and deployed more than \$4.8MM in funding.

Prior to his time at Envolv, Mr. Upperman served as an Obama Administration official at the U.S. Small Business Ad-

See UPPERMAN, Page 6

Kamila Vargas

On May 27, Dallas ISD's Board of Trustees recognized Kamila Vargas, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School, as the 2021 recipient of the Council of Great City Schools' Green-Garner Scholarship, based on her high academic performance and strong character. The scholarship accompanied CGCS' recognition of Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa as its 2021 Superintendent of the Year.

"I feel so lucky to be chosen," Kamila said. "When I got the news that I had won the scholarship, I felt really happy that they had read my story and that I was being seen."

Kamila's parents came from Mexico when they



were in their early twenties—her dad from the northern state of Durango and her mother from the southern state of Guerrero— and settled in Dallas. "This is the only area that we really know; for us, this is home," said Kamila. However, six years ago their lives were

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The Republican Senate, The Filibuster and Racism

By Dr. John E. Warren
Publisher, *The Voice*
& *Viewpoint*

The American people need to realize that the real issue in the United States Senate is not the "Filibuster" but racism. Former President Obama clearly stated this in his recent interview with Anderson Cooper of CNN. The fact that U.S. Senator Joe Manchin is meeting or has met with national Civil Rights leaders as if he is interested in what they have to say, is no more than a media stunt in an attempt to soften the blow of his racist attitude concerning the filibuster.

Yes. It is racist to see that you are one of the two people in the U.S. Senate attempting to re-institutionalize "Jim Crow" segregation through supporting the filibuster which would require 10 Republican votes in the Senate instead of a simple majority, which could allow passage.

Everytime the American people hear the term "Filibuster", the word "Racist" should be inserted in its place. Those members of the Senate who support the filibuster over debate and legislative consideration of the public policy issues facing this great nation, should be labeled for the racists they are.

When one considers the 22 states that have already passed voter suppression laws, which eliminate hours and locations for polling places, that require voter identification cards for those with the greatest issues of getting such cards, like our Black and Latino seniors who have already been voting since the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the very fact that the John Lewis "For the People Act" would render null and void the voter suppression acts now in all of 47 states, it becomes clear that the whole idea is to prevent people of color from voting so that we do not have a repeat of the Black voter victories in Georgia that placed a Black and a Jew in the U.S. Senate.

Donald Trump has become the symbol of the Republican Party because he gives body and voice to the fears that old school whites have about the "browning" of America. The same wave of righteous indignation that swept America after the "murder" of George Floyd and that placed Joseph Biden and

ready been voting since the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the very fact that the John Lewis "For the People Act" would render null and void the voter suppression acts now in all of 47 states, it becomes clear that the whole idea is to prevent people of color from voting so that we do not have a repeat of the Black voter victories in Georgia that placed a Black and a Jew in the U.S. Senate.

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The same wave of righteous indignation that swept America after the "murder" of George Floyd and that placed Joseph Biden and

Kamala Harris in the Presidency, should be continued with all the same passion. "We The People" must demand the abolishment of the "filibuster" and the racism it represents. It is not a part of our Constitution. We must remain a nation of laws and not outdated racist tradition.

Joe Manchin and your Democratic colleague, Kyrsten Sinema, your actions support the racist behavior of the Republican Senate and the Republican Party which is leading this national attack on blocking legislation that supports all of America and people of color in particular.

Let's not waste more precious time on the Republicans. Let's get rid of the filibuster now by any means necessary. The future depends on it.

Put women at centre of COVID-19 recovery

By Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
UN Women Executive Director

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, women and girls around the world confronted a gender gap that left them less able to step into leadership roles, earn a fair wage, or access quality health care or education.

The economic and health impacts of the pandemic have turned that gap into a chasm, and risk undoing much of the even modest progress achieved in reducing pre-pandemic gender inequalities.

Not a single country in the world can boast of being gender equal – a fact that is straining health systems, widening socio-economic gaps and undermining social protection.

It is also stalling economic growth. Economic modeling from the McKinsey Global Institute suggests that advancing women's equality could add trillions of dollars to global growth, boosting prospects for even the least-resourced countries in the world to

improve the quality of life for their entire populations.

As G7 countries meet this week, and as all countries look to rebuild greener, more resilient and gender-equal economies in the wake of the pandemic, they must elevate the richness of the diversity of women's talents, ideas and innovations in decision-making spaces.

Yet women hold just 26.1 per cent of 35,500 parliamentary seats across 156 countries. They represent just 29 per cent of those in senior management – and are even more absent from executive roles.

Despite these almost ubiquitous challenges, with bold policies to boost women's economic empowerment, now is a critical moment to shift course and accelerate constructive change.

The Generation Equality Forum in Paris (30 June - 2 July), offers another pivotal moment to create that much-needed change. At this landmark conference, we are calling for governments, companies and organizations to join us to make bold commitments to advance gender equality.

We are mobilizing around a Global Acceleration Plan centred around six Action Coalitions, including one focused squarely on economic justice and rights. The Action Coalitions bring together the broad range of actors needed to drive progress forward now and post COVID-19 – setting civil-society activists shoulder-to-shoulder with trade unions, parliamentary representatives, business leaders and government agencies.

By the time of the Paris Forum, we hope that these multilateral, inter-generational and vibrant partnerships will have catalyzed well-financed and transformational commitments for the six Action Coalitions and for the Compact for Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action.

How to create more equal economies
What could transformative commitments look like in the arena of economic justice and rights? And how

could they create more resilient and equal economies as the world re-builds?

One way is by committing to supporting and resourcing care work. The care sector in too many economies, both industrialized and developing, remains poorly understood and inadequately resourced. During COVID-19, it has come under particularly acute pressure, with women and girls shouldering the majority of the burden.

Underinvestment in care – for children, for aging parents, for those requiring additional support – reflects a dangerous misconception that care is "free" (read: women's work) with little bearing on social and economic development.

We cannot build back better after COVID-19 without gender equality. Specifically, we must place women at the center of our economic recovery. Now is the moment for leaders to publicly commit to that work – by supporting the care economy, and equal wages and access to opportunities.

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As COVID-19 vaccination rates plateau, leaders call for formation of Vaccine Confidence Leagues to build vaccine confidence

Ending the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic requires widespread vaccination, but as the immunization rate slows across the United States, it is unclear whether President Biden's goal of having all U.S. adults get at least one shot of the vaccine by July 4 can be achieved. Surveys suggest that fully a third of U.S. adults do not want to be vaccinated. Building confidence in the vaccines to boost uptake is urgent, says a new report from the bipartisan GTMRx National Task Force focused on building vaccine confidence in the health neighborhood. The task force calls on communities across the nation to create grassroots organizations called Vaccine Confidence Leagues, which can mobilize trusted messengers from those communities to address individuals' concerns and boost vaccine confidence and uptake.

The GTMRx Task Force, made up of leaders in health care, public health



Daniel Schudi / Unsplash

and academia, offers a framework and enumerates action steps that communities can undertake to build "civic muscle" to pursue vaccination goals. The task force report calls for convening people across the local "health neighborhood"—including health systems, medical societies, non-profit, faith-based and

academic organizations, as well as businesses—to take stock of who in the community lacks vaccine confidence and craft plans to address those individuals' and groups' concern. Vaccine Confidence Leagues made up of diverse and trusted local individuals, organizations and leadership can then clear up mis-

apprehensions and craft the messages that will be most persuasive to those who remain vaccine hesitant.

A companion report that the task force issued in March pointed out that many factors affect vaccine confidence, including fears of harmful side effects, concerns about how quickly vaccines were developed, religious objections and a variety of conspiracy theories.

"Local leaders can address today's vaccine concerns and help instill long-term confidence in the scientific discoveries that can help protect us in the future," said Paul W. Abramowitz, Pharm.D., Sc.D. (Hon), FASHP, CEO of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and a co-chair of the task force. "These efforts are needed immediately to achieve COVID-19 vaccination goals, and in the future can also be leveraged for broader vaccination and community health efforts."

Abramowitz co-chairs

the task force along with Georges C. Benjamin, MD, executive director of the American Public Health Association, and Susan Dentzer, senior policy fellow at the Robert J. Margolis Center for Health Policy at Duke University. The task force's work was sponsored by the Johnson & Johnson Corp., no employees or affiliates of which served on the task force, engaged in its deliberations or advanced or approved any of its recommendations.

"Lack of COVID-19 vaccine confidence is a serious barrier to public health efforts to protect the population. Without widespread vaccination, we are at increased risk that new, more deadly variants of the virus will develop over time," said Benjamin. "To spare lives, it's crucial that more people here and around the world become vaccinated. If there is one thing we have learned from this pandemic, it is the need for a stronger, better resourced

public health system to adequately protect the public's health."

"A major strength of our report is that it calls for 'bottom up' efforts by communities, who are in the best position to understand who locally remains doubtful about the COVID-19 vaccines and why," Dentzer said. "These communities can build on local efforts already under way to enhance vaccine confidence today and maintain and expand those efforts into the future—including this fall, when it is likely that vaccines will be authorized for use in children below age 12, and parents may also need to be reassured about the vaccines' safety and efficacy."

The task force also issued long-term recommendations to strengthen the nations' vaccination systems and create environments that will be supportive of greater vaccine confidence in the future. These include

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to be the largest celebration in the DFW area, but there are dozens of other smaller events and activities happening throughout Dallas, Fort Worth and the surrounding communities.

National Juneteenth Virtual Music Festival

The DFW area is also the host of another celebration which will be enjoyed far and wide. The National Juneteenth Virtual Music Festival will be hosted at The Warehouse (125 E. Berry Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110)

A wide range of musical acts are on slate for a show that will run from Friday night into Sunday.

The festival kicks off Thursday with a Opening

Reception honoring Fort Worth Living Legend and National Juneteenth Holiday advocate, Mrs. Opal Lee from 7-10 p.m. Hosted by National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum, the reception will feature entertainment by saxophonist John Taylor.

The entertainment goes on for two days from there. Since the easing of restrictions due to the pandemic there are now tickets available to attend the event in person. However, it will still be streamed online for free.

"We are excited to present an incredible weekend of Zydeco, Blues and Jazz for music lovers not only in the Dallas/Fort Worth area,

but around the world," says event promoter Jim Austin.

Freedom from COVID

It shouldn't be forgotten that last year's celebrations were cut short, and the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet. Therefore, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price is urging southern county residents to use the day to protect themselves.

There will be a free vaccination clinic held at the grand opening of the newest Ernie Williams Insurance Agency (917 N. Hampton, Suite 205) in DeSoto. There is no need to register or wait in long lines.

"Throughout my career in elected office, I have always maintained that our community needed a

foundational tripod," Price said in a release. "We need Emancipation, Education, and Enterprise. No Day represents this mission more than Juneteenth. We can never experience real liberation until we control our bodies, our minds, and our dollars."

"Not only will getting the COVID-19 vaccine give you the freedom to re-enter society, but we will also celebrate the opening of Ernie Williams' third office. Ernie has spent decades teaching financial literacy in our community, and having the right insurance coverages is a significant part of that equation."

Regardless of where and how it will be celebrated by any particular individual, Juneteenth is a reminder of

one of the most important milestones in the African American journey and the

journey of the nation as a whole.

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Senate passes bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Texas Democratic Congressman Al Green began recognizing Juneteenth as a paid holiday in his office last year, so when the Senate passed legislation this week to make the date that commemorates freedom a national holiday, the congressman was among the first to cheer.

“What began as a grassroots movement to commemorate Texas history is now set to become our nation’s 12th federal holiday,” Congressman Green stated.

“In honor of the late Al



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee speaks during the 2017 NNPA Leadership Awards Reception at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. The congresswoman was instrumental in the push for Juneteenth Holiday/ (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

Edwards – the father of the Juneteenth holiday in Texas – and every person illegally enslaved in Texas during the period between

Lincoln’s proclamation and Granger’s announcement of emancipation, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to vote for this legislation

on the House floor.”

The passage is viewed as inevitable in the U.S. House before the measure heads to the White House for President Joe Biden’s signature.

Juneteenth is celebrated each year on June 19.

Also known as “Freedom Day,” Juneteenth marks the emancipation of former African American slaves who didn’t find out that President Lincoln proclaimed an end to slavery on Sept. 22, 1862.

In Galveston, Texas, African Americans learned of their freedom on June 19, 1865 – nearly three years later.

“We celebrate the first

passage of the bill in the Senate,” exclaimed Texas Democratic Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who, along with Republican Texas Sen. John Cornyn, introduced the bill following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

“This has been a long journey with the work of our fellow Texans, the late Representative Al Edwards, and Opal Lee,” Congresswoman Jackson Lee stated.

“We’re working very hard to get his bill signed by the President in the near days in order to have a historic celebration of Juneteenth this June 19, 2021. It has been a long journey. Juneteenth equals freedom,

and freedom is what America is about.”

Congressman Cornyn added that Juneteenth had been a state holiday in Texas for more than four decades, and it was time that every state formally recognized the date.

In 2020, lawmakers in New York, New Jersey, and Virginia said they would recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. Currently, North Dakota, South Dakota and Hawaii count as the only states that do not officially recognize Juneteenth.

“Now more than ever, we need to learn from our history and continue to form a more perfect union,” Cornyn exclaimed.

International living and group economics among topics for 2021 ZWHJCOC Juneteenth Economic Forum

The Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center will kick off its 5th Annual Juneteenth Economic Forum Monday, June 21, with the first session starting at 11 a.m. You can register now for the six sessions which will be presented June 21 through June 23, via Zoom. Go to: www.zwhjcoc.org and click on Classes.

• Day 1 topics are “The Sharing Economy: Creating Apps for Global Use” and “International Living: Working and Living in Another Country as American



Citizens”

• Day 2 will focus on “Workforce Transition: Making the Transition from Employee to Employer” and “Business Opportunities within the Sharing

Economy: Airbnb & Turo Rentals”

• Day 3 takes a look at “Career Readiness: Preparing for the Workplace” and “Preparing for the 4th Industrial Revolution and

Group Economics”

A special presentation is planned for the first session on Day 1 to the recipient of the Zan W. Holmes Jr. Champion Award which recognizes an individual who has demonstrated perseverance and determination in support of the Outreach Center and its mission to improve the lives of those in poverty by providing them education and job skills. The honoree is always willing to go the extra mile for the community

and is relentless in making things happen. This year’s recipient is Vincent Ratcliff who joined the ZWHJCOC Board of Directors in 2017 and was elected Treasurer soon after. He has generously donated to the organization, helping fund its programs and services. He is an Adjunct Professor who teaches Criminal Justice courses for Dallas County Community College District. He retired from the Federal government after more than 34 years of ser-

vice including several years as a Special Agent, Criminal Investigator.

This event is free and open to the public. Go to: www.zwhjcoc.org and click on Classes to register. For more information, contact Jasmine Anderson at jasmine.anderson@zwhjcoc.org.

For more information about the Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Community Outreach Center, follow us on Facebook or visit www.zwhjcoc.org.

Keeping watch...



Lt. Cmdr. Rod Smith, Commander, Submarine Group Seven N6 Department Head, presents Mesquite, Texas native Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Preston Burcham with a Communicator of the Month recognition plaque during an awards ceremony held at headquarters, June 8 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Adam K. Thomas)

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The School Year Is Almost a Wrap!



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

It's been a year for the books, as they say, and Dallas ISD's students have shown that they can face challenges with grace and come out better on the other side.

As we close this school year, join me in saluting a graduating senior who is both an athlete and a scholar. Walter Taylor III is class valedictorian at Carter High School and the recipient of a \$230,000 full scholarship to Texas Christian University. In addition, Walter was a basketball team captain at Carter and was recognized as a First Team All-District player.

This young man, who



Carter Valedictorian Walter Taylor celebrates graduation with his parents. (Courtesy photo)

will be graduating with both an associate degree and a diploma, plans to study graphic design. Best wishes to you, Walter, and to the entire Class of 2021!

Seniors Walking the Stage This Year

Graduations are live and in person this year, and families can celebrate together as their seniors walk the stage. For a full list of ceremony times and locations, visit www.dallasisd.org/graduations.

Tech Devices for the Summer

When they go home for the summer, Dallas ISD students who are returning next year will be able to keep the technology devices they've been using during the school year. Graduating seniors and students withdrawing from Dallas ISD must return their devices to their school by June 18 or, if they are participating in a summer program, by July 1.

Using these devices, students will be able to stay engaged and participate in the district's fun summer opportunities. These activities will allow students to reconnect with their friends, engage in interactive tasks, accelerate learning, and improve their social and emotional well-being. Options for in-person, virtual and hybrid learning will be available to meet our families' needs.

Tech Support Available

Summer tech support available. Dallas ISD will continue offering technical support to parents & students throughout the summer. Please contact the IT Service Desk at 972-925-5630 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email ITServiceDesk@Dallasisd.org.

Summer learning

Visit www.dallasisd.org/summerlearning to see a

list of FREE summer offerings available for students of all ages. Engage your student in fun and experiential summer learning!

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

Because Dallas ISD offers free meals to all its students, ALL families are eligible to receive the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), a one-time benefit provided by the State of Texas for eligible families to buy food.

For more information about eligibility, applying and getting your P-EBT benefits, visit hhs.texas.gov/pebt, or call the P-EBT Call Center at 833-442-1255, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Central time.

Curbside Meals

Starting June 23, the Dallas ISD Food and Child Nutrition Services team will

begin free curbside meal distribution each Wednesday through the end of July from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The list of locations is available at www.dallasisd.org/fcns.

Masks Are Still Encouraged

Dallas ISD is excited to welcome all students back to face-to-face learning next school year! To comply with recent state guidelines, as of June 5, Dallas ISD is no longer requiring staff, students and visitors to wear masks. However, the district will continue to highly encourage the use of masks on buses and in all schools and facilities as an added measure of safety for all.

Safety will remain the top priority, and every campus will continue following the CDC-recommended cleaning and safety protocols to keep everyone healthy.

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transformed by the sudden deportation of her father. Her mother stepped in to provide for the family and Kamila also assumed a supportive role for her brother.

"It was very tough on all of us, because my dad was the main support of our family," Kamila said. "But my mom worked really hard, long hours to provide for us. She made sure that we were well mentally and physically, and she inspired me to keep pushing for more opportunities and in my academics."

Despite the distance, technology has played an important role in keeping the family together. "Thank God, we have these phones, because we are able to see

each other's faces," said Kamila. "We call each other as much as possible and we spend time telling stories over the phone. It can be a little awkward to not see each other in person, but it also makes me feel like we are together again."

Kamila's teachers at Thomas Jefferson High School noticed her commitment from the very beginning. They praised her as a hard-working student, highlighting her work ethic and close attention to detail, as well as her ability to work with others. "Kamila is an amazing student and her hard work and academics prove that she is determined to succeed in her plans," said Alejandra Chavez,

campus advisor for the Education is Freedom higher ed support program.

One element of Kamila's character that her teachers highlighted is that she's always presenting her culture in the proudest way that she can. And as a future major in radio and television, first at Dallas College at Brookhaven and then the University of Texas at Austin, Kamila wants to help transform the way Latinos are portrayed in popular media. "I really want to see us being something other than drug dealers or housemaids or gardeners. I want to show that we have stories in which we are the main characters," she said.

"I've been living in an area where there are mainly Hispanics and Latinos. So I

haven't really struggled with my identity of being Latina. And I find that I am lucky to have that," Kamila added. "I do realize that I am a minority in the United States and I feel more proud to be from Mexico, or that my parents are from Mexico. I still feel

connected, even though I haven't visited Mexico in years."

Finally, like every other senior at TJ, Kamila's last year was marked by the destruction of their original campus in 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic. How-

ever, the shared experiences helped them rebuild their community. "It was really tough, and we have gone through a lot of issues," said Kamila. "But that's okay, it was tough, but we worked it through. Like we always do."

UPPERMAN, from Page 2

ministration (SBA), as Assistant Administrator of the Office of Public Engagement. Notable initiatives Christopher was responsible for include the Scale Up America initiative, the second Global Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) Ministerial, the Business Smart Toolkit, the MBK

Careers in Entertainment Tour, SBA's Millennial Entrepreneur Champions initiative which included the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Careers in Film Summit.

Throughout his tenure, Christopher was one of the agency's principals for the African American and

Millennial communities and served as the SBA's representative for the White House "My Brother's Keeper" (MBK) Task Force.

Before joining the SBA, Christopher served at the White House as Director of Presidential Student Correspondence within the Office of Presidential Correspondence.

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A celebration of fatherhood

As we catch up with a father we have spotlighted before; let us take a moment to see what is new in the life of Dr. Simeon Udunka. In March of 2020 we ran an article that highlighted this father of three sons appearing in the Neiman Marcus Children's Spring Fashion Show. This was the fifth time Udunka and his sons participated in the event.

Just like most events throughout the past year across the world the fashion show was canceled. Even though a fashion show is not the most important thing in life it had become a father and son tradition for Udunka and his sons. Dr. Udunka and his beautiful wife Chioma have three sons Simeon III (age 5), Isaiah (age 4) and Malachi (age 2). Just like most families, the year 2020 was quite the challenge due to the COVID19 pandemic. Dr. Udunka and



Dr. Simeon Udunka and his wife Chioma are expecting a fourth addition to their growing family. (Courtesy photo)

his wife discuss how they were negatively impacted which included family

members and friends who either died or became seriously ill from the COVID

19 virus.

As a result of the deadly implications and the increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID19 Dr. Udunka says he and his wife had to make serious changes to their normal routine. When the Dallas County Commission mandated nonessential businesses to close to prevent the spread of the virus he complied as a business owner.

Dr. Udunka is the practice owner of Affordable Dentures & Implants in Cedar Hill, TX & Wisdom Teeth Concierge which has different locations. His dental practices provide extractions, dentures, implants services, and wisdom teeth removal. Udunka said he felt a responsibility to implement safety protocols even when he reopened to aid in eliminating the spread. The other decision that has been a huge sacrifice is the kids not returning

to daycare since March of last year.

All three kids have been home schooled with the assistance of a teacher and Dr. Udunka credits his wife for making the ultimate sacrifice to help home school their children while working from home. Mrs. Udunka is an executive for a healthcare agency and still manages to juggle it all.

Dr. Udunka believes that he has learned to be a better father this year. He says while they were quarantined, he made the best of his uninterrupted time with his sons. He assembled a trampoline for his boys to have unlimited time to jump on, took daily walks with his family every morning, and was able to teach them how to safely ride their scooters and bikes without crashing. One of his proudest accomplishments is helping to get his two-year-old son Malachi

successfully potty trained.

Udunka emphasizes that everyone should cherish the times they have with their families. The one thing the pandemic has proven to all of us is that life is not guaranteed. Dr. Udunka has been vaccinated for COVID19 and is an advocate to his patients and community to get vaccinated.

Udunka believes he gets his allegiance to the community and giving back from his mother. He is adamant about making a difference in the life of his sons. He says he will be actively involved in legislative initiatives and opportunities that are designed to correct the social injustices that negatively impact the black community. And on a final bright note, Dr. Udunka and his wife are ecstatic about the new bundle of joy they will be welcoming this summer which will be a baby girl!

VACCINE, from Page 4

making all vaccines available at no out-of-pocket costs to consumers; having all vaccines fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as soon as practicable once all relevant criteria are met; and bolstering the nation's immunization information

systems (IIS) to enable better identification of people and populations who have not been vaccinated.

The Get the Medications Right™ (GTMRx) Institute, which convened the task force, is a catalyst for change that brings critical stakeholders together who

are bound by the urgent need to get the medications right.

Katherine H. Capps, GTMRx co-founder and executive director, managed the task force's efforts to examine the issues and arrive at actionable steps to address them.

Capps noted that the task force recommenda-

tions allow for flexibility for communities to tailor their approaches to local conditions and concerns.

They also pave the way for "collective impact," calling on organizations across the health neighborhood to rise

above their own agendas to build shared solutions to the complex problem of vaccine hesitancy.

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Crystal Tamar's Black Music Month pop-up podcast kicked off Monday

In celebration of Black Music Month this June, R&B singer Crystal Tamar pays homage to some of her favorite soul classics with a daily, pop-up podcast series, "Crystal Tamar Presents - Serenade: Best Song Duets." Streaming on her Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook pages and CrystalTamar.com website at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 14, to Friday, June 18, each episode of the five-part series features Crystal Tamar and a special guest R&B aficionado listening to and discussing

See **PODCAST**, Page 11



DCT collaboration seeks playwright for new work based on a poem by Maya Angelou

Dallas Children's Theater (DCT), Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Children's Theatre of Madison and The Rose Theater in Omaha seek a playwright with meaningful experience working directly with youth to create a new work inspired by Life Doesn't Frighten Me by Maya Angelou. We intend this new work to serve ages 4-8. We envision collecting and utilizing the stories and ideas of youth living in each of our cities to inform a play with music. The playwright will hopefully engage in residencies with youth in each of our cities.

We would like to uplift an artist who identifies as Black, Indigenous, and/or Person of Color (BIPOC). Our four partnering theaters acknowledge that we are historically white institutions making a commitment to transformational change that is ongoing within our companies. As such, we intend to create as many supports for the partnering artist as possible, including but not limited to having a mostly or all BIPOC creative team and centering BIPOC staff/board in this artist selection process.

Our Goals:

- To lift this poem off the page
 - To reflect the communities this piece of art is made with
 - To center young people in the creative process, with the support of each of our institutions
 - To have a working draft by April 2022
- Fee - \$10,000 – Submit questions and expression of interest (in any format you wish to share- letter, statement of approach, video, or anything that captures your artistic voice as it speaks specifically to young audiences) by July 1, 2021 to playwrightlife@gmail.com

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NDG Book Review: 'On Juneteenth' is a fast, insightful read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It's a party!

And you know what that means: fireworks, good food, family and friends gathered around. You have something to fête, to mark happily or solemnly or importantly. It's something you want your kids to remember. It's a party, but read "On Juneteenth" by Annette Gordon-Reed, and ask yourself if you really know what you're celebrating.

When she learned a few years ago that the marking of Juneteenth was slowly making its way around the rest of the country, Annette Gordon-Reed was a little upset. That was a Texas



thing, she believed, and so it should stay. She was a bit protective of it all.

But then she began to realize that sharing the holiday everywhere was a good thing. Juneteenth, she says, or June 19, 1865, "was the day that enslaved African Americans in Texas were told that slavery had ended, two years after the Eman-

cipation Proclamation had been signed..." It was "shocking" on two levels: that slavery was over, and that Black Texans were suddenly "on an equal plane of humanity with whites..." That, she says, "was of enough consequence to the entire nation that it should be celebrated nationwide."

Sometimes, she says, Texas itself is an enigma to much of the rest of America, and mythology replaces facts in peoples' minds. Texas, for instance, is not all desert and sagebrush. It's more than long-horn cattle, Stetsons, cowboys, oil rigs, and Native Americans. There's more to the people of the Lone Star State than what old

westerns will teach you, and that includes a history of African people in Texas, the first of whom floated on a raft to the Galveston area well over 300 years before Juneteenth.

Still, it wasn't until 1872 that four Black Houstonians decided to throw together some money for land they set aside for celebrating. The park they established still exists; so does Juneteenth and its traditions, thanks to "so much Texas history brought together for this one special day."

And now you know – or at least you will, complete-

ly, once you've read "On Juneteenth."

In that, you'll get a quick, 149-page lesson in history that seems initially to meander – not a bad thing, since Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annette Gordon-Reed uses the journey to educate readers on such varied subjects as language differences, misunderstandings, movies, The Yellow Rose of Texas, hidden references to slavery, and other things that white history's often glossed over. Yes, that may seem like a lot to pack into such a slim volume, but you won't feel rushed or

overwhelmed here; instead, and because Gordon-Reed takes readers to her grandparents' farm between lessons, this book is a treat, rather like summer vacation with a museum trip or an informational tour and ice cream at the end.

Absolutely, look for this book. You can use "On Juneteenth" as a good refresher course, if you've already ordered the fireworks and meats for the barbecue. If you're new to the celebration, grab the book, tuck it in your pocket, and won't it be a party?

'The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard' is just senseless, funny and fun

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

On a moment's notice, these three eccentric actors can bring the crazy. Toss in cursing, car chases, gun fights, con games, whining, denying and betrayals and Ryan Reynolds, Salma Hayek and Samuel L. Jackson are in their glory.

The vehicle for their sardonic deceptions is this



Samuel L. Jackson and Ryan Reynolds in 'The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard.' (Courtesy photo)

See HITMAN, Page 12

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To sell your home quickly, list it on a Thursday before Labor Day

SEATTLE – In today's competitive housing market, the time it takes to sell a home is measured in days, not weeks. Homes listed on a Thursday sell faster on average and are more likely to sell above list price than those listed on any other day of the week, a new Zillow® analysis reveals. And while this spring selling season may not look so different from the rest of the year as the pandemic-fueled market has stayed red-hot through traditional slow periods, Zillow recommends listing your home before Labor Day based on historical market trends.

Why the day of the week matters for home listings

Homes listed on a Thursday typically go pending faster than any other day of the week, all else equal. Those that are put up for sale on a Sunday tend to sit on the market longest, eight days longer than Thursdays. Saturday and Monday are only marginally better — homes listed on either of those days typically take seven days longer to sell than homes listed on Thurs-



Labor Day is the traditional end to home shopping season, and a time when homes tend to sit on the market the longest as parents aim to be settled in their new home before their kids head back to school. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

days.

Jeff Knipe, president of Knipe Realty in Portland, Ore., always recommends his clients list homes on a Wednesday or Thursday. "Home shoppers I work with tend to be most active on Thursday and Friday as they plan their weekend tour schedules. With the market as competitive as it is today, this timing strategy gives sellers the best chance at seeing multiple offers on their home, from my experience," Knipe said. "Think of selling a

home as if you're going fishing; the goal is for the most possible fish to see your home as it enters the pond."

Thursday listings also are most likely to sell for more money. Zillow's research shows that homes listed on a Thursday are more likely to sell above their asking price than those listed on any other day of the week, while homes listed on either Saturday or Sunday were the least likely to sell above list.

In today's market where

own love and it not be all about me."

The video also spotlights the talented and graceful dancer Sidney Johnson. Crystal Tamar says, "I thought inviting a contemporary dancer would artistically get that done. Kind of like that old En Vogue video where the dancer made you reflect on the meaning more than the group. Ms. Sidney Johnson, our lovely principal dancer out of LA, blessed our set in under half an hour and killed it!"

The audio version of "Serenade" is available on digital service providers and the "Serenade (Acoustic)" featuring guitarist Ben Misterka can be viewed on Crystal Tamar's YouTube page. See coverage of Crystal Tamar in Houston Chronicle, Soul Tracks, Sheen Magazine, Urban Bridgez, RnB Junkie, The Urban Music Scene, and EURweb.

video on Thursday, June 17. Produced by Christopher Duncanson and Michael A. Gordon, "Serenade" is the third single from her self-titled debut EP.

Filmed in Los Angeles, the video for the soulful and sensual ballad "Serenade" was produced by Story Lit Films and captures Crystal Tamar in a number of gorgeous looks as she displays her flawless, hypnotic vocals and compassionate lyrics about true love. "I knew the video for 'Serenade' had to scream love and romance from the rooftops. I was honestly inspired by those Charlize Theron J'adore perfume commercials. You can't watch those without yelling at the TV 'GIRL ... YOU BETTA!'" she says with a laugh. "It was also equally important to make the audience identify with wanting to serenade their

half of homes are selling within a week, a few days can make a difference. "A home sitting even for one week without a sale in this market can signal to buyers that they may be able to get a small discount," Knipe adds. "A good strategy for buyers who want to avoid getting into a bidding war could be to target homes that have been on the market for a week or two, or even those listed over the weekend that are less likely to sell quickly."

Sellers may have caught on already — nationally, 21% of homes are listed on a Thursday, which is more than any other day of the week. The savviest sellers are in Seattle and Portland, Ore., where more than a third of homes are listed on a Thursday, the highest shares in the country among large markets. Only 13% of homes are listed on a weekend, which is less than any individual weekday.

Is spring still king?

Spring is typically the best time of year to list your home for sale, at least in years before the pandemic-fueled housing boom, when buyers tend to come out of winter hibernation and hit the market in droves. Homes listed during the weeks of March 11 and 18 had the fastest sales of 2019.

Labor Day is the traditional end to home shopping season, and a time when homes tend to sit on the market the longest as parents aim to be settled in their new home before their kids head back to school. The worst time to list for those looking for an above-list sale in 2019 were the weeks of October 14 and 21, when homes were least likely to sell above their asking price.

However, today's housing market is anything but typical. Unrelenting buyer demand has pushed homes

to sell at a breakneck pace even through what are typically slower months. Homes typically take a few days longer to sell in the winter than at the height of the spring selling season, but that pattern was reversed last year. The market has picked up the pace even more since then, and the share of sales happening above list price is more than double what it was pre-pandemic.

"The housing market has had its foot on the gas since last summer, never entering its usual winter hibernation," said Zillow Group economist Nancy Wu. "It remains an open question whether 2021 will bring a return to normalcy in that sense, but it's likely that seasonality in the housing market will remain in some form, even if the changes from season to season are less dramatic than in the

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PODCAST, from Page 9

songs from her personal playlist, sharing factoids, and personal memories.

Guests include Craig Seymour from Craig's Pop Life (Monday), Cynthia Horner from Right On! Digital (Tuesday), Aries Dendy from Urban Bridgez (Wednesday), Lexx Jonez from KMEL (Thursday), and Shameika Rhymes from Check The Rhymes (Friday). And the daily music discussions will highlight beloved soul duets from the likes of Luther Vandross and Cheryl Lynn, Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, Lauryn Hill and D'Angelo, Usher and Alicia Keys, and Brandy and Wanya Morris.

During the show, Crystal Tamar will also premiere the behind-the-scenes video for "Serenade" today, Monday, June 14, and the official full-length "Serenade"



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From Disinvestment to Reinvestment

WASHINGTON, DC – Activist campaigns to force corporations and governments to shift resources away from unjust and destructive systems can make a difference, Donna Katzin contends in the essay “From Disinvestment to Reinvestment.” The essay was published on May 30 by the US-Africa Bridge Building Project, a Washington DC-based nonprofit geared toward fostering transnational solidarity primarily around economic justice. Katzin’s essay cites evidence from the transnational anti-apartheid movement in the mid-20th century to later social justice movements, including the movement to shift from fossil fuels to renew-

able energy and the Black Lives Matter demands to shift resources from policing and incarceration to investment in underserved communities.

In her essay, Katzin notes that racism, poverty, climate change, and pandemics know no borders. This makes it increasingly clear that the rallying cry “An injury to one is an injury to all” applies to a host of global as well as national issues.

Katzin recently retired as the founding executive director of Shared Interest, which she led for 26 years. She previously directed the South Africa and International Justice Programs of the Interfaith Center on

Corporate Responsibility from 1986 to 1994. Since 1994, Shared Interest has benefited 2.3 million people by issuing \$30 million in guarantees unlocking more than \$125 million in credit to South and Southern African borrowers who would otherwise be considered “unbankable.”

The strength of her argument was strikingly confirmed just before its publication in what news stories and leading climate justice activist Bill McKibben called “A Bad, Bad Day for Big Oil.” At the ExxonMobil board meeting on May 26, a dissident slate of candidates for the board calling for action on the climate crisis won at least 2 out of

4 contested seats against the company’s opposition.

On the same day, Chevron shareholders approved a resolution for tighter limits on greenhouse gas emissions. And a court in the Netherlands ruled that Shell Oil must drastically cut its emissions over the next ten years.

When asked about this news, Katzin noted that such massive shifts require mobilization over years and decades, and that it is too soon to tell the impact of this development. But, she said, “The May 26 victories may be a turning point in the campaign to press Big Oil to put the brakes on fossil fuels – before climate change becomes irreversible. It

mirrors the moment when captains of industry recognized apartheid as a motor for crimes against humanity and underscores the lesson that reinvestment in solutions is not only essential to our shared future – it is also possible.”

Similarly, today’s activists can confront current challenges like those arising from the COVID-19 pandemic through a combination of boycott, divestment, sanctions, and reinvestment strategies.

“A global reinvestment coalition could coordinate campaigns to pressure companies that use public funds for the development, manufacturing, and production of vaccines, but fail to

make their vaccines accessible where they are needed most,” Katzin suggests. “They could further require them to “reinvest” by pricing vaccines affordably and delivering them equitably to low-income countries and communities.”

Among the tactics deployed by transnational solidarity activists to end apartheid, according to Katzin, campaigns to pressure multinational corporations to withdraw their investments and sever economic ties to South Africa proved especially effective. “These campaigns for disinvestment of resources, mobilizing massive support across

See INVEST, Page 14

HITMAN, from Page 10

sequel to 2017’s *The Hitman’s Bodyguard*. In that violent tale the world’s top bodyguard, Michael Bryce (Reynolds), was hired to protect Darius Kincaid (Jackson) an equally smarmy hitman who was testifying at an International Criminal Court. Fast forward a few years and the hitman needs protection again. But this time he sends his con artist wife Sonia (Hayek) to round up Bryce, who has since lost his AAA rating, feels like a failure and is angling for a comeback. At stake is the EU’s destruction, as plotted by the diabolical Greek billionaire Aristotle Papadopoulos (Antonio Banderas).

Original director Patrick Hughes and screenwriter Tom O’Connor are back on board for this act/com crime spree that takes the scenic route around Croatia, Italy, the UK and Slo-

venia. The locations (UK’s Natural History Museum, Trieste, Portofino), environs (countryside, coastal towns, cities), architecture, streets, waterways and crowd scenes are well shot (DP Terry Stacey), staged (production designer Russell De Rozario) and art directed (Jack Berk).

There isn’t a wrinkle in anyone’s well-styled little black jumpsuit or yacht attire (costume designer Stephanie Collie, Peaky Blinders) and the pacing (editors Michael J. Duthie, Jack Hutchings) of the go-big-or-go-home action scenes (supervising stunt coordinator Greg Powell) produces an explosive verve (Hiram Bleetman special effects). There are some telltale instances when debris from blowups look too fake and expose the film’s flaws and nothing on view is as polished

or innovative as the footage from a Mission Impossible or Bond movie. Still, the behind-the-scenes crew deserves as much credit for the film’s incessant mania as the above the marquee cast.

Reynolds hasn’t been this much fun to watch since the even more depraved *Deadpool*. Through therapy and discipline, Bryce promises to put his artillery down. Reynolds plays this reluctant restraint like a kid determined not to stick his hand in the cookie jar, though you know any resolve will fade. As he grouches, it’s a perfect counterpart to Jackson’s crass, bombastic, menacing hitman persona.

You hire Samuel L. Jackson, and his s—t is in your face nonstop. It’s like you’re being attacked by a rabid pit bull that’s all mouth, teeth and bulging eyes. Hayek releases her inner-witch-devil self with

glee. Her Sonia, a working woman/wife pining for motherhood, multitasks as a go-between, instigator and trigger-happy killer. Banderas as the villain is having a campy old time, like he’s acting in a Pedro Almodóvar movie. His Aristotle is completely oblivious when Bryce derides his flamboyant attire. Bryce: “It’s like Liberace banged a set of curtains!” Frank Grillo as an Interpol agent, Morgan Freeman as a duplicitous dad and the army of stunt doubles are all on top of their game.

Hughes knows how to take make a moderately priced film look like it had a mega million-dollar budget. You’re pulled into the excessive action sequences. You laugh at the depraved verbal and physical humor. You wince at the relentless violence, which is not as graphic as that in John Wick movies, but respectable for the genre. Even

though THWB stretches reality beyond its limits, it’s fun to watch on a big screen and will likely be better received and have a longer life on streaming services and late-night cable.

O’Connor’s storyline (co-written with Phillip Murphy and Brandon Murphy) is never more than serviceable. It sets up the characters’ predicaments, sends them on their way and lines them up for sequels. It’s as if he left space and the heavy lifting up to the three leads, who often seem to be joyously adlibbing as Reynolds is unapologeti-

cally snarky and Hayek and Jackson hurl F and MF bombs like hand grenades.

This is pure “R” rated escapism meant for act/com fans. Park your snooty intellect at the door. Ditch your skepticism for 99 minutes and give the tech crew, Reynolds, Hayek and Jackson a round of applause. This kind of senseless comic debauchery and mayhem can put a smirk on your face.

In theaters June 16, 2021.

Visit *NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown* at *DwightBrownInk.com* and *BlackPressUSA.com*.

BLAND, from Page 2

Serving Institutions and a system-wide student body that is “minority-majority,” the UNT System’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion remains steadfast. Investing in talent and culture is a top priority across UNT World,

with a focus on driving progress toward aspirational goals that will enhance our system-wide efforts to be a leader in embracing and developing diverse students, faculty and staff.

Bland is a graduate of the University of Houston and

is Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC). She has served Visiting Professorships at the University of Houston, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. Bland is passionate about serving the community around her and has served on multiple non-

profit and advisory board inclusive of INROADS, Inc., the National Association of Black Accountants, the University of Houston C.T. Bauer College of Business Accounting Advisory Board and the Louisiana State University E.J. Ourso College of Business Dean’s Advisory Council.

Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to construct a 36.5-foot Monopole small cell communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 1789 N. Pearl Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75201, Lat: [32-47-19.1544], Long: [-96-47-55.0896]. 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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Ongoing City of Dallas

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

Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

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Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

Black business registrations increase during COVID pandemic

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Correspondent

Several states have shown that the number of registered businesses has "more than doubled" according to analysis by the New York Times.

In the month after the CARES Act was passed by Congress in March 2020, business registrations increased by 60 percent. Though the economic downturn caused by the COVID pandemic is likely to damage entrepreneurship and put many small businesses in a financial hole or out of business entirely, there are signs that many have turned to creating businesses after losing employment elsewhere.

Andre Perry, a Brookings Institution fellow, told the Times that some of the surge in Black business registrations could be a signal of personal economic



Google Trends data reported an "uptick in searches related to Black-owned businesses" in June of last year during the start of the pandemic. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

trouble.

"This is more about survival than it is about wealth creation. There's lots of people who have lost their jobs and lost their businesses. People are starting to realize that side hustles are businesses," Perry said.

Additionally, Google

Trends data reported an "uptick in searches related to Black-owned businesses" in June of last year during the start of the pandemic. According to Google Trends data, searches for "How to find black owned

businesses in your area" saw a 300% spike and searches for "Black owned restaurants near me" tripled.

An app that is a guide to Black owned restaurants, called EatOkra, witnessed a 4,450% increase in downloads of new users in May 2020. Many believe that activism after the murder of George Floyd coupled with the COVID19 pandemic spurred many to think about economic activism and Black owned businesses.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke)

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church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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

June 20, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet

time, “Prayer and Meditation” followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

June 23, 7 pm

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world’s Coronavirus. In Wednesday’s Bible we are studying Cel-

ebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster, Chapter 10. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

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June 20,

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall,

followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It’s for God’s glory and honor.

June 23, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday’s 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn

See CHURCH, Page 15

Where Do Wrinkles Come From?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Several months ago, I had two cataracts removed from my eyes. How they got there, I don’t know. As far as I can remember, they never asked my permission, and furthermore, they never paid rent for being there.

According to the eye doctor, and doctors are never wrong, I now have 2020 vision. I’ve never had such vision since I was ten years old.

All I really need now are reading glasses, and my vision is quite good.

That sounds like a good thing on the surface, but every good thing has a little dark corner somewhere hidden.

The good part is that I can see excellently.

The bad part is that I can

see excellently.

I didn’t quite understand this until just recently it came to full view.

Usually, when I go to the bathroom in the morning to prepare for the day, I don’t wear my glasses. Before my cataract surgery, everything was blurry, and I was just accustomed to that. Isn’t it funny how you get accustomed to some things and then don’t notice them?

Now my vision is so good that when I go into the bathroom in the morning to get ready for the day, I have perfect vision in the mirror.

If that isn’t scary, then you haven’t looked in my mirror on any given morning. If I didn’t know better, I would think it was Frankenstein’s grandson.

What shocked me so much was that as I looked at my face to prepare to

shave, I noticed some things I never noticed before. Those things were “wrinkles.”

I’ve noticed these things in other people, such as the one who lives in the same house with me. But I’ve never noticed it on me. But there they were. There they were in all their disgusting glory.

Not only did I have one wrinkle, but for some reason, that wrinkle brought all his family with him. And, to make matters worse, the first wrinkle never asked permission to take up residence on my face.

But there they were, and I was staring at them for the very first time.

I do not know the real purpose of wrinkles or where in the world they come from or where I can send them.

I do have a relative, which shall remain anonymous, that deals with wrinkles all the time. She has had so much plastic surgery that it’s hard to recognize who she really is. She reminds me of Joan Rivers.

I’ve always played jokes on her. When I saw her, I would look at her face and say, “Is that a new wrinkle on your face?”

I would laugh, and she would laugh, but her laugh wasn’t as genuine as my laugh. In a few moments, she would disappear, and I never knew where she went except I suspected she was looking at the new wrinkle in the bathroom mirror.

The next time I saw her, that wrinkle had disappeared.

Have you ever noticed that things always come

back on you when you try to pull them on somebody else? I did think about calling her and asking her opinion of what I should do about my wrinkles. I knew if I did, she could not stop laughing, so I’m not going to go in that direction.

But what are wrinkles really for? What is the purpose of a wrinkle? And, where did they come from? And, do I need to wear a mask?

Because of my confusion in this area, I thought I would take the chance of asking the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage about my wrinkles.

Cautiously I approached her and said, “I discovered I have some wrinkles on my face, and I don’t know where they came from? Do you know what I could do?”

Obviously, she thought I was joking because I couldn’t get her to stop laughing.

When she finally calmed down, she said, “You’ve had wrinkles for as long as I can remember.” Then she began laughing again.

When she quieted down again, she said, “The purpose of wrinkles is to keep track of your age. Every wrinkle represents a certain age in your life.” Then she broke down in laughter again. Obviously, this is funny to her.

The next time I was in front of the mirror, I carefully looked at my wrinkles and tried to count them. If what she says is true, I must be 397 years old.

I exited the bathroom with a very sour grimace on

See WRINKLES, Page 15

INVEST, from Page 12

the globe, set precedents and provide touchstones for today’s solidarity movements,” she writes.

Economic pressure through boycotts, divestments and sanctions have been and remain powerful tools to change corporate and national policies that

harm and hinder social and economic mobility. However, for these efforts to have a lasting impact, they must be paired with strategies that reinvest resources in disadvantaged communities and countries.

The same message comes through clearly from the

Movement for Black Lives and their allies. The message is clear. Organizing to defund entities exploiting, threatening, and imprisoning Black, indigenous, and communities of color. But reducing these destructive uses of resources must be accompanied by positive reinvestment in communities, including housing, educa-

tion, health, and criminal justice.

The fight against injustice can only succeed if it is linked with a vision of justice. The reallocation of resources is both a means to realize that vision and a measure of its success.

Katzin’s essay is the second original essay in a series of essays for a Play-

book for Transnational Solidarity. The Project also published a companion essay on May 30, reposted with permission from the Sierra Club magazine, entitled “Redefining the Possible,” by Varshini Prakash of the Sunrise Movement. Together, the collection of essays draws on the collective experience among

transnational social justice movements to seek lessons relevant for today. The first essay, “Confronting Global Apartheid Demands Global Solidarity,” published on April 19, was accompanied by a video featuring Angela Davis’s speech in 2016 at the Steve Biko Memorial Lecture in Pretoria, South Africa.

HOME, from Page 11

past.”

In addition to steady demand and low inventory, the increased adoption of real estate technology likely has played a role in season-

al housing trends becoming less impactful. Buyers can more quickly narrow down their options rain or shine, freeing them from having to wait for the traditional

weekend open house and potentially braving the elements to do so in the winter. A large majority (79%) of Americans say they’d like to use virtual tours, such as Zillow’s 3D Home tours, when they shop for

a home. Sellers looking to sell quickly can take advantage of these tools as well — listings with a Zillow 3D Home tour sold, on average, 10% faster than listings without.

“Technology has made it

easier for home shoppers to confidently say that a home on the market is the right fit for them or more quickly rule them out,” Knipe said. “Shoppers can get a clear picture of the home’s layout and neighborhood online to

narrow down their options. By the time shoppers look at a home in person, they’re usually already giving strong consideration to putting in an offer, which helps make the market more efficient.”

Deed and Word



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

"And He said to them, 'What things?' And they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.'"

- Luke 24:19

God sent prophets to

speaking His message, but many times people wouldn't accept their message. So some prophets predicted the future to give them credibility; other prophets did miracles to get people to believe their message.

The Bible describes these "prophets...who have...predicted signs or miracles" (Deuteronomy 13:1-2). Just as God's prophets in the Old Testament came with supernatural predictions and miracles, so Jesus came doing supernatural things as He preached to the multitudes.

Jesus was a Prophet Mighty in Deed and Word. Lord Jesus, I believe in the miracles recorded in the Bible. Lord Jesus, I believe the truth You spoke in sermons. But I mostly believe because You came into my heart and saved me.

Jesus did miracles for many reasons. He healed because He had compassion on those who suffered. He did supernatural acts to demonstrate His deity. Jesus did signs and wonders because the Old Testament predicted the Messiah would do them.

Jesus worked miracles so His disciples and others would believe in Him. Jesus did miracles because it's only natural for God to do the supernatural.

Today, let Jesus speak to you as a Prophet Mighty in Deed and Word who has God's message for you. Today, let Jesus do something supernatural for you.

Thank Jesus, for doing miracles while on earth; they give credibility to His message. But, thank Him for the miracles of your new nature and spiritual sight.



Daughter, Cedella Roberson and mother La Kieth Eggin at a wedding.

CHURCH, from Page 14

more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there

may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

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

June 18, 7 pm

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

June 20, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

June 21, 7 pm

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

Pastor Rickie Rush
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June 20, 8 and 11 am

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

June 21, 7 to 8 pm Every Monday Night

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

June 23, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what

God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

WRINKLES, from Page 14

my face, and when my wife looked at me, once again, she broke down into hilarious laughter. I'm glad she thinks it's funny.

I'm not sure what to do with my wrinkles, but I'm not going to have plastic surgery.

I need to accept things as they are and not allow something as silly as a wrinkle define who I am. If

I do that, I will never come to any kind of reality about myself. I surely am not my wrinkle.

Thinking about this, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. "Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face" (Psalm 5:8).

My face has more important things to do than fuss

over wrinkles. I need to trust the Lord each day to set before my face the way that he wants me to go for his glory.

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 jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Church Happenings

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Bob Marshall on

Opening Doors for Black Businesses

Today, an estimated forty-one percent of Black-owned businesses have been affected by COVID-19 and as many as thirty-five percent of African American business owners have been unable to access credit to keep their doors open. Basically, this means Black-owned small businesses are closing their doors at twice the rate of the industry average, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. And that is not acceptable.

As the National Small Business Development Leader at Wells Fargo, my team and I are focused on solving the unique problems that Black business owners face, so we can help shift the landscape to better equity and prosperity.

While there are many factors involved, Black businesses are often smaller in terms of number of employees, payroll and startup capital, and they may not have established banking relationships. This makes them much more susceptible to economic downturns and challenges. What we at Wells Fargo strive to provide is greater access to credit and innovations so these businesses can stay resilient and be prepared to stage a comeback in this pandemic.

One example of this is Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund, a roughly \$420 million small business recovery effort. This includes grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and organizations



that provide technical training and longer-term resiliency programs to entrepreneurs. These organizations play a vital role in helping business owners, especially diverse and women business owners, to access capital and resources to support their continued recovery.

The first phase of the Open for Business Fund allocated \$250 million to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to extend capital to small businesses, and the CDFIs can typically leverage this philanthropic capital at a rate of 3 to 1. That's a big impact.

In fact, eighty-four percent of funding is projected to reach racially and ethnically diverse small business owners. We estimate that the Open for Business Fund is already protecting more than 75,000 jobs and we hope to make an even more substantial impact with the funds remaining.

In addition, just prior to the beginning of the pandemic in March, Wells Fargo announced pledge to invest up to \$50 million in Black-owned Banks. Just this past February, it was also announced that this would include equity investments in six African-American minority deposit institutions (MDIs).

Supporting diverse-owned businesses is more important than ever and it is critical that we and other lenders

continue to identify more ways to sustainably create access to capital for the start-up, operation, and growth of these small businesses, especially in our underserved communities.

I'm proud to work with my colleagues at Wells Fargo as we help to close the gap in access to credit for Black-owned businesses. If you or someone you know needs tools and guidance to keep their small business door open, we're here to help.

Learn more at:
smallbusinessresources.wf.com



Meet Bob Marshall

Bob Marshall is the National Business Development Executive with Wells Fargo Bank for the Small Business Development Group. He was recognized as one of the Washington Business Journal's Minority Business Leaders, the featured speaker on the inaugural Executive Speakers Series of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and was also highlighted in the Third Edition of "Who's Who in Black Charlotte" for his work, dedication, and commitment to the African American community.