



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Taylor Hearn of the Texas Rangers is commanding respect on and off the field

By: Jackie Hardy  
NDG Contributing Writer

Since 2019, native Texan and pitcher, Taylor Hearn has been wearing number 52 for the Texas Rangers after advancing from the Frisco RoughRiders minor league team in 2018.

He's grateful to be able to play for a team that is in his home state because it allows his beloved parents the opportunity to attend his games as he shared with *North Dallas Gazette* via a Zoom interview.

"My parents have not seen me play in a longtime; they're so use to seeing me play on a computer screen. It was pretty cool," declares Hearn on getting the opportunity to play for the Rangers.

Prior to being traded, Hearn played for Altoona Curve, a minor league team affiliated with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization where he began the season as the Pirates' ninth best prospect according to Baseball America.

In college, Hearn played for San Jacinto in Houston then transferred to Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in Shawnee for a year. During his college tenure, he achieved recognition for his nine wins which ranked T3rd in the NAIA Sooner



*Taylor Hearn takes the mound for the Texas Rangers during recent action. His current assignment is only a short drive from his native Royse City, close enough for his parents to attend his games. (Photo: Kelly Gavin / Texas Rangers)*

Athletic Conference and his 71 strikeouts ranked 10th overall.

Hearn was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates (22nd round), Cincinnati Reds (36th round), and Minnesota Twins (25th round), but chose to remain in college during those years of 2012-2014. In 2015, he signed with the Washington Nationals as fifth round draft pick cementing his professional baseball career.

In 2017, he received the distinguished honor of having his high school baseball jersey retired from his alma mater, Royse City high school.

He credits his father, Robby and his mother, Debra for always supporting him and being a constant encourager throughout his life.

"They have been so supportive in every aspect of my life from the ups and downs with dealing with injuries to playing different sports coming from rodeo, basketball, baseball and football," he states.

Hearn is not only close to his parents, but as he puts it he has a tight knit relationship with his younger sibling, Robyn. He affectionately

See HEARN, Page 9



### The hoax of widespread voter fraud

- See Page 3



### Healthcare costs hammer minorities

- See Page 4



### Texas Dems flee the state over voting bills

- See Page 5



### Biden changes Trump rules on visas

- See Page 6



### Carrollton to expand DART rail station

- See Page 7



### Louisiana's oldest tradition of Juneteenth

- See Page 8



### Black History tours start again on Aug. 7

- See Page 9



### Sister Tarpley: Holy Spirit: The Anointing

- See Page 15

### Inside...

People in the News .....	2
Op/Ed .....	3
Health .....	4
Community .....	5
Education .....	6
Irving / Carrollton / Plano .....	7
Entertainment .....	9-10
Marketplace .....	11-12
Career / Notices .....	13
Religion .....	14-15
NDG Book Review .....	10

### See Page 2



SR Richard Nelson

### People In The News ...



Rep. Eleanor Norton



Sisaundra Lewis

NDG Quote of the Week: "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

— Dr. Mae Jemison



## SR Richard Nelson

GREAT LAKES (NNS) — Seaman Recruit Richard Nelson, Division 231, graduated as the top Sailor from Recruit Training Command, earning the Military Excellence Award on May 27.

Nelson, from Fort Worth, Texas, said he joined the Navy to fulfill commitments to himself and others.

“I joined as a way to serve others at the highest levels and to put myself on a path that would allow me to live my life in a way that maximized my happiness,” Nelson said.



Nelson, 29, attended Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was pursuing a degree in mathematics. He is a 2010 graduate of Mansfield (Texas) Legacy High School, where

he participated in marching band and media technology. He became an Eagle Scout at the age of 13 and served as Order of the Arrow vice chief for his local chapter.

Nelson is assigned the rate of aviation electronics technician.

The Navy Club of the United States Military Excellence Award (MEA) is the top award presented to the No. 1 recruit of their graduating training group. The MEA is awarded to the recruit that best exemplifies the qualities of enthusiasm, devotion to duty, military bearing and teamwork. The award placed him at the

pinnacle of today’s newest sailors. Nelson is awarded a lag letter of commendation.

Nelson said he was honored to receive the MEA.

“This award is a statement that through hard work I can accomplish whatever I set my mind to,” he said. “It is a wonderful way to start my Navy career.”

Nelson credited his Recruit Division Commanders (RDCs), Chief Engineman Kevin Ives, Engineman 1st Class Jordan Alcantra, Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jennifer Durham, and Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Han-

dling) 1st Class Jonathan Connor for their leadership and guidance.

Nelson said changing routines and habits was his biggest challenge at boot camp.

“I’ve already vastly improved my quality of life,” he said. “I look forward to applying these lessons to other aspects of my life to be the best person I can be.”

After graduation, Nelson will attend “A” School in Pensacola, Florida. Aviation electronics technicians work with some of the most advanced electronics equipment in the world and repair a wide range of

aircraft electrical and electronic systems.

Boot camp is approximately eight weeks and all enlistees into the U.S. Navy begin their careers at the command. Training includes physical fitness, seamanship, firearms, firefighting and shipboard damage control along with lessons in Navy heritage and core values, teamwork and discipline. More than 40,000 recruits are trained annually at RTC and begin their Navy careers.

For more news from Recruit Training Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/rtc](http://www.navy.mil/local/rtc).

## Rep. Eleanor Norton

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has joined two of her House of Representatives colleagues in filing bipartisan legislation to improve the federal government’s vehicle safety testing practices, specifically those involving the use of crash test dummies.

The Furthering Advanced and Inclusive Research for Crash Tests Act would order a comprehensive Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of current



federal vehicle safety tests and how those tests impact the safety of all drivers and passengers.

Co-authored by Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Congresswoman Kathy Castor (D-FL), the

measure requires a GAO evaluation of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) failure to use crash test dummies that represent the driving public, especially women, while assessing vehicle safety through its 5-star safety rating program.

Congresswoman Norton provided statistics to show that current tests fail to use crash test dummies representing women, especially in the driver’s seat, even though research suggests that women have a higher likelihood of being killed or significantly injured in a car crash.

“Alarming, 8,500 women were killed in car crashes in the U.S. in 2018, with 61 percent of the women being in the driver’s seat,” the Congresswoman noted.

The total number of traffic crashes in the District of Columbia have steadily been on the rise since 2013 with the highest number of crashes occurring in 2016 at 26,525, after which the total number of crashes remained relatively steady, according to the most recent D.C. Traffic Safety Report.

The bipartisan legislation would also require the GAO to compare NHTSA’s practices to other safety rating programs, such as in

Europe, and evaluate options for strengthening the agency’s vehicle safety testing to reduce gender-based disparities in car crash outcomes.

The bill requires NHTSA to submit an interim report to Congress explaining what new advanced crash test dummies it is currently studying for potential use in its 5-star safety rating program.

In the Senate, companion legislation has already been filed by Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), who serves as Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, and Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE).

The Peters-Fischer legislation has been included as part of the Senate Commerce Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill.

“When a vehicle has met or exceeded national safety standards- consumers should have every confidence the product has truly earned a safety seal of approval of the U.S. government,” Congressman Bilirakis wrote in a statement.

“I was startled to learn of allegations related to the gender inequality of auto safety tests. I think of my wife, my mother, my sister-in-law—and all the women

**See NORTON, Page 9**

## Sisaundra Lewis

(BUSINESS WIRE)-Afrotaimment, the leader in polycultural Black content in North America and owner of AFRO TV, is thrilled to announce the creation of Afrotainers Music, a music label focused on representing the diverse and original sounds emerging from the multicultural black communities in North America, to be shared with audiences, platforms and brands worldwide.

In the heels of completing the build of its 30,000 sf state of the art digital media studios in Orlando, the launch of Afrotainers Music label marks the next phase in Afrotaimment



growth strategy and portfolio diversification.

Yves Bollanga, CEO of Afrotaimment said, “Our expanding cable television footprint and digital media studios will be the driving forces in support of our strategy via our unique value proposition and differentiator in the music and

content ecosystem leveraging exclusive at-home viewing experience of live performance, live online streaming and nationwide cable television appearances.”

Afrotaimment marked the launch of Afrotainers Music with the signing of Sisaundra Lewis, releasing her new single, “Let’s Go Out” distributed on all streaming platforms starting July 12, 2021 by Spinup (a Universal Music Group subsidiary).

Sisaundra Lewis is an African American singer and songwriter who scored her first number-one U.S. Billboard hit with her single “Shout” in 2005, after working as vocal director

and backing vocalist for Céline Dion on 5 world tours. Sisaundra was a top 8 finalist on the hit television show NBC The Voice.

After a four chair turn by Adam Levine, Usher, Blake and Shakira, she chose country legend, Blake Shelton, as her Coach.

Let’s Go Out Music Video was recorded on location at Universal Studios Florida. To learn more about Sisaundra Lewis, please go to [www.sisaundra.live](http://www.sisaundra.live).

Before The Voice, Sisaundra worked as vocal director and choreographer for Céline Dion and has recorded or shared the stage with renowned artists such as, Peabo Bryson, Janet Jackson, George Duke,

Sheila E., Gloria Estefan, Enrique Iglesias, Patti LaBelle and Najee.

Sisaundra is currently the host of AFROJams, a live music performance show on AFRO TV, a cable television network available nationwide on Comcast Xfinity.

Born as one of eight children, Sisaundra grew up in Lake Hamilton, Florida singing in her father’s church. She had a singing career in the 2000s, was invited by Peabo Bryson to join his international tour as a backing vocalist and new duet partner.

She was backing vocalist, vocal director and choreographer with Céline Dion and shared the stage

with renowned artists, including Michael Bolton, George Duke, Sheila E., Gloria Estefan, Enrique Iglesias, Patti LaBelle and Najee.

On September 10, 2005 she scored her first number-one U.S. Billboard Hot Dance Club Play chart with her debut single “Shout” followed by a same titled album in 2006 on Global Records label, in both credited under the mononym Sisaundra.

Sisaundra is of African American, Gullah, Nigerian descent and is currently host AFRO TV flagship show AFROJams available nationwide on Comcast Xfinity





P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

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**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

**Sales Department:**marketing@northdallasgazette.com  
972-509-9049**Editorial Department:**

editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**

www.NorthDallasGazette.com  
www.twitter.com/NDGEditor  
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**STAFF****Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum  
1933-2009**Religious / Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley  
("Sister Tarpley")**Chief Editor Emeritus**Ruth Ferguson  
1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

**Published by**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Interim Editor**

David Wilfong

**Contributing Writers**

Jackie Hardy  
Breanne Holley  
Jacqueline Murphy  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
David Wilfong

**Community Marketing**

Nadina Davis

**Senior Account Executive**

Debra K. Johnson

**Production**

David Wilfong

**NDG Obituary Dept.**Vicky Richardson-Stewart  
VP of Operations

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## The real hoax; Claims of widespread voter fraud

By Tx. Sen. Royce West

A former U.S. Commander-in-Chief has made it his habit to immediately label any claims, no matter how factual, not aligned with his branding of information as "a witch hunt" or "a hoax." But a bill that will if passed - create confusion for voters and reject ballots for reasons now legal under law under the guise of ensuring voting integrity, that's the real hoax.

The Texas Attorney General's website says that since 2005, the office has successfully prosecuted 534 offenses related to election fraud involving 155 persons. A tally of the number of votes cast in statewide elections over the same period totaled 83,933,740. Finding widespread voter fraud in Texas can possibly, if not rightfully, be called a witch hunt. I'd bet more than 534 people claim to have seen Bigfoot!

Longstanding claims of voting improprieties were breathed new life by a Presidential candidate who lost the popular vote in the last two elections. They can be seen as the impetus for nearly 400 bills filed in state legislatures in 2021,

including SB7, which was thwarted by my colleagues in the Texas House during the final hours of the 87th Regular Legislative Session. By the end of May, 14 states had passed new laws that place more restrictions on voters.

During the pandemic, some Texas jurisdictions passed rules that helped voters feel safe, such as creating mobile or temporary voting locations and expanding provisions that allow curbside voting. SB7 and its Special Session successor will eliminate "drive-through voting" by banning the use of "moveable" structures or tents or parking lots or garages as voting locations. No known reports indicate fraud.

Voters who are mobility-challenged are able under current state law, to vote from their cars or the vehicle they are riding in. The proposed legislation would allow only the voter or an accompanying child to remain inside the vehicle while their ballot is being cast. Even the driver, must get out.

Over the years, civic-minded Texans have helped their neighbors, including seniors and others who do

not drive, by giving them a ride to polling places. Churches and other organizations across the country have helped get voters to the polls. SB7's heir will discourage citizenship and kindness by forcing good neighbors to complete a form that must be submitted to election officials if they carry three or more people to a voting site.

I'm glad that a provision in an early version of the elections bill that could have created chaos at voting sites by allowing poll watchers to record voters was removed. But the bill still gives poll watchers near unfettered ability to have too much of a presence at polling places, with only their pledge that they will not disrupt voting activities. The bill creates a Class B Misdemeanor for election workers who deny poll watchers free movement at a voting site.

This week, reports emerged that two more bad policy choices will not be part of the new voting bill. One provision would have allowed a judge to overturn the results of an election based on assertions that the votes were illegally cast, without actually counting the votes.

And bill supporters and the Lt. Governor say language that would have not opened polls on the last Sunday of early voting until 1:00 p.m. will not be included this time. Shouts raised the roof at the thought of limiting "Souls to the Polls" efforts historically supported by Black churches.

But another part of the bill may likely remain. It calls for the Secretary of State to monitor county voter rolls to determine if the number of voters registered in a county exceeds the number of voters who are eligible to vote in that county. The problem is that from year-to-year, there is not an official instrument that tabulates how many persons are eligible to vote in a particular county. Officially, how many people moved to Dallas, Bexar, Harris or Travis or Tarrant counties last year?

When the departing Secretary of State's office said the 2020 Election was "smooth and secure" and turnout in Texas was higher than it had been since the 1992 Election, any talk of widespread voter fraud sounds suspicious, at least to me. You might call it fake news.

## Dems flight is a journey toward voting rights

By Anthony Gutierrez  
Common Cause Texas  
Executive Director

Voting and elections are the very heart and soul of our democracy.

There is nothing more sacred than every voter's right to cast a ballot and be heard by their government on Election Day—no matter where you live, how much money you make, the political party you belong to, or the color of your skin.

Yet here in Texas, Governor Abbot and Republican leadership in the state legislature are waging a war on our right to vote. Texas is already the toughest state

in which to vote and still, Republican state leaders worked to strip away the freedom to vote in the middle of the night while most Texans were asleep this past weekend.

The Republicans' voter suppression bill would make it even more difficult to vote, especially for senior, disabled, and low-income Texans. The bill is designed to confuse voters to keep us from casting a ballot and having our vote counted. It is every single Texans' constitutionally protected right to vote and Governor Abbot and Republican leaders' attempts to take that right away is

shameful.

But today, Texas Democrats are showing America what it looks like to fight like hell for our voting rights. They are using every tool available because they know there is nothing more important than preserving our democracy so every Texan can have their voice be heard by their government.

In America, what state you live in should not determine whether you have the right to vote. The For The People Act is the solution we need to end these anti-democratic voter suppression tactics happening

here in Texas and across the country.

But Texas is just one example. Voters in Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, and countless others are also facing Republican-led schemes to strip away our voting rights.

Voters cannot afford to wait any longer for Congress to take action. If we believe in free and fair elections, then we have to fight for them.

Texas Democrats have led by example, doing whatever it takes to preserve our democracy. Now it's time for Congress to do the same.

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# Even as pandemic eases, black and latinx adults face greatest financial challenges from chronic lack of affordable health care

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

According to results from a new Commonwealth Fund survey, Americans who have suffered the most during the COVID-19 pandemic are also the most likely saddled with medical bill problems and debt.

The Commonwealth Fund, a foundation that promotes a high-performing health care system that achieves better access and improved quality, noted that adults ages 19 to 64 contracted the virus, lost income, or lost their job-based health insurance coverage.

Those individuals also reported higher rates of medical bills and debt problems than people not affected by the pandemic in those ways.

Researchers found those who lost income experienced medical bill problems at the highest rates, especially those who also tested positive or became sick with COVID-19 or lost coverage.

The report revealed that Black and Latinx adults “face the greatest financial challenges from chronic lack of affordable health care, even as the pandemic



*More than half (55 percent) of Black and nearly half (44 percent) of Latinx/Hispanic adults said they had medical bill problems and debt, compared to one-third (32 percent) of white adults. (Photo via NNPA)*

eases and more gain insurance coverage.”

More than half (55 percent) of Black and nearly half (44 percent) of Latinx/Hispanic adults said they had medical bill problems and debt, compared to one-third (32 percent) of white adults.

Overall, one-third of U.S. adults said their income fell during the pandemic, but Black, Latinx/Hispanic, and low-income adults were particularly hard hit, the report continued.

Forty-four percent of Black adults and 45 percent of Latinx/Hispanic adults reported a loss of income.

Insured and uninsured adults alike struggle to pay their medical bills, but those without coverage face more significant challenges.

More than one-third of insured adults and half of uninsured adults said they

had a medical bill problem or were paying off medical debt.

One-third (34 percent) of working-age adults with employer coverage reported medical bill or debt problems, as did nearly half (46 percent) of adults with individual and marketplace coverage.

Relatively few adults lost job-based health insurance coverage during the pandemic. However, many of those who did were left exposed to health care costs, researchers wrote.

The survey, which took place between March 9 and June 8, revealed that just 6 percent of working-age adults lost job-based coverage — whether through their job or that of a spouse, partner, or parent — since the pandemic began.

Of those individuals, 67 percent gained coverage elsewhere.

Just over half (54 percent) of people who lost coverage through their job and did not get COBRA were without coverage for three months or less.

About 30 percent did not gain insurance until four to 11 months later, and 16 percent were uninsured for longer than a year.

An estimated 10 percent of working-age adults were uninsured during the first half of 2021 — a smaller share than 2020 estimates from federal and private surveys.

The survey findings suggest that more people have gained insurance than lost it since the pandemic began.

Federal efforts to help people maintain their Medicaid coverage, combined with state and federal efforts to encourage people to enroll in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces and Medicaid, have increased enrollment in both.

The researchers determined that medical debt leaves people with lingering financial problems.

Thirty-five percent said they had used up most or all their savings to pay their bills.

Forty-three percent had received a lower credit rating because of their medi-

cal debt.

More than one-quarter (27 percent) were unable to pay for basic necessities such as food, heat, or rent.

The authors noted several policy options they said could alleviate medical bills and debt problems and provide relief, including making the temporary American Rescue Plan marketplace subsidies permanent.

That could reduce the number of uninsured by 4.2 million in 2022, the researchers said.

They also suggested providing Medicaid-eligible adults in the 13 states that have not yet expanded their program a federal insurance option to cover an estimated 2.3 million uninsured.

Reigning in deductibles and out-of-pocket costs in marketplace plans with new subsidies and rules also should help, they said.

More individuals with unaffordable or skimpy employer plans should be allowed to enroll in marketplace plans, the Commonwealth Fund researchers stated.

“Although the survey indicates improvement in insurance coverage during the pandemic, it also shows that health insurance in America is not protective enough,” stated Dr. Sara R. Collins, the lead author and Commonwealth Fund Vice President for Health Care Coverage, Access, and Tracking.

“The persistent coverage inadequacy and vulnerability among U.S. working-age adults is compromising their ability to get the care they need and leaving many with medical debt at a moment when they should be recovering after months of financial insecurity.”

Dr. David Blumenthal, the president of the Commonwealth Fund, remarked that people struggled with inadequate health coverage and mounting debt before the pandemic.

“Now, the administration and Congress have an opportunity to ensure not only that all U.S. residents have health insurance but that the coverage is affordable and comprehensive,” Dr. Blumenthal declared.

## New report reveals urgent need to address maternal mortality, mental and behavioral health, and food insecurity in the U.S.

MINNETONKA, Minn.: The United Health Foundation, the philanthropic foundation of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), released its inaugural America’s Health Rankings Health Disparities Report, highlighting persistent and widening gaps in health and well-being by race and ethnicity, gender, geography and educational level.

The report and associated interactive website

builds on more than three decades of data and reporting from America’s Health Rankings®, and provides a comprehensive portrait of the breadth, depth and persistence of disparities in population health over time, in an effort to spark meaningful dialogue and action to advance health equity. Importantly, the report focuses on pre-pandemic data, providing an in-depth baseline measure

of the magnitude of health disparities.

UnitedHealth Group plans to use the findings of this report as a critical source of information to fulfill its mission of making the health system work better for everyone.

Key findings of the report at the national level include:

- Deep and persistent disparities in mental and behavioral health by gender,

educational attainment, and race and ethnicity, which have worsened for certain groups, particularly those without a high school education and females. For example, in the 2017-2019 time frame, adults with less than a high school education had a rate of frequent mental distress that was 123% higher than college graduates, and females had a 70% higher rate of

**See REPORT, Page 7**

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# Texas Dems fly the coop to stall GOP voting bills

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Democrats in the Texas Legislature fled the state ahead of expected votes on new voting laws.

The group flew to Washington, D.C., to shine a spotlight on the “GOP’s assault on voters in the Lone Star State” and around the country.

“The cohort of Democrats were aiming to transform themselves into the nation’s new symbols in the fight for voting rights, according to several people familiar with their plans,” the New York Times said.

“The goal is to apply pressure to Senate Democrats who so far have been unable to pass federal legislation to address the issue.”

With President Biden planning to deliver a major speech on voting rights on Tuesday in Philadelphia, the Times said the exodus from Texas could lead to dueling showdowns in Austin and Washington.

“We have rules that we will utilize as best we can. We will go through the process, and if we find a way to stop these bills, we will do that,” Texas State Rep. Toni Rose, who serves the Dallas area communities of Oak Cliff, Highland Hills, Pleasant Grove, Balch Springs, and Mesquite, asserted to the Black Press.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer meets with Texas Democrats in the nation’s capital as they left to break quorum over voting rights measures. (Photo courtesy of Texas Sen. Royce West)

“I am incredibly pleased that grassroots organizations have mobilized. They have been successful at amplifying the message,” Rep. Rose stated.

Crystal Bates of the organization, Our Vote is Our Voice, told the Black Press that it would be “ineffective not to say or do anything.”

“We have to use whatever opportunities we have

to make sure that our voice is heard,” added Bates, who planned to attend rallies in Austin to demand GOP lawmakers end their voter suppression tactics.

“I’m excited and proud of those who represent us. They have been bold and stood at all costs to stand for and with us for our rights,” she concluded.

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has again called for a special legislative session, which began on Thursday, July 8.

The call came just 24 hours before the start of the legislative session.

It included voting rights and Gov. Abbott’s contro-

versial decision to defund the legislative body’s budget to punish the Texas Democrats who walked out and successfully killed Senate Bill 7, the controversial voter suppression bill.

By Tuesday, talk had even turned to Abbott having the Dem contingent arrested upon their return to the state.

The Texas Legislative Black Caucus and Texas NAACP held a joint news conference.

They explained how race has “infected the entire legislative process around the passage of SB1/HB3 and how the bill will disproportionately impact African-Americans and other minorities.”

“It’s Jim Crow 2.0,” State Sen. Royce West said.

Sen. West represents the 23rd senatorial district – Dallas County.

“What we are trying to accomplish frankly is trying to push a boulder up a hill,” Sen. West explained.

“The reason is that we don’t have the votes, but we are determined. We are facing what others have

faced before, and in the long run, we have been able to preserve.”

Sen. West thanked all of the grassroots organizations who have lent their voice and strength to the campaign against the voter suppression laws in Texas.

“We are clearly in a cultural war like we have never seen before in our lifetime,” the senator declared. “We are facing what others have faced before, but we have the tools that our ancestors did not have; we have the right to vote, they did not.”

The senator continued:

“We have the ammunition to turn back the tide. We have to get out to vote and use the ammunition at our disposal, and we can win this battle and make sure that the dream of America is realized by all Americans regardless of the color of their skin.”

While the move is drawing the ire of GOP officials, organizations throughout Texas are applauding the maneuver.

“Texas House Democrats are making clear they will

fight tooth and nail in defense of access to the ballot box and Texans’ civil rights by once again breaking quorum,” said Brianna Brown, deputy director of the Texas Organizing Project.

“Knowing this was not a decision made lightly, TOP applauds these representatives for boldly stepping up to protect the voices and livelihoods of Black and Latino Texans.

“Their courageous action today brings us one step closer to derailing the right-wing dog and pony show that Gov. Abbott and his allies are trying to run in this special session.

“With not a moment to lose, we as progressives must utilize every tool at our disposal to safeguard our fundamental right to have a say in our democracy. TOP and partner organizations from across the state will convene at the Texas Capitol on Tuesday to reaffirm that these rights are non-negotiable, and we will fiercely defend them.”

NDG’s David Wilfong contributed to this report.

## Bonton Farms bill for the formerly incarcerated signed into law

DALLAS--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Unpaid traffic tickets or fines will no longer impede formerly incarcerated individuals from a fresh start after Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed House Bill 569, officially known as the Bonton Farms Act, into law the second day of the special session.

The new legislation requires a judge or justice to credit a defendant for back time toward tickets, fines and warrants incurred before his or her incarceration. The inability to pay these fines builds a foundational barrier that prevents people from obtaining an updated license, which then leads to further barriers when seeking employment or housing.

Focused on improving the re-entry process, the Bonton Farms Act was born

from a collaboration between Rep. Scott Sanford, R, and Daron Babcock, founder of Bonton Farms, an organic farm in southern Dallas that has grown to address inequities beyond food insecurity in the Bonton neighborhood.

After moving to Bonton and establishing Bonton Farms, Babcock soon realized that many of his em-

ployees faced fines from unpaid Class C misdemeanors or failing to make a court appearance while incarcerated. He began seeking solutions and secured a win with HB 569.

“While the bill references Bonton, we are just one example of neighborhoods being destroyed by racist inequities in this state. Our communities, city and state

are better off and safer when everyone has a chance to flourish. The Bonton Farms Act will return hope to

thousands,” said Babcock.

In Bonton, the life expectancy of male residents is 11.7 years less than the

average life expectancy of men in Dallas County. Bon-

See BONTON, Page 15



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# Biden administration withdraws Trump rule on international student visas

(American Council on Education) The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has formally withdrawn the Trump administration's proposed rule that would impose a fixed duration of admission for international students and restore "duration of status."

Duration of status allows international students to stay in the country indefinitely without reapplying for a visa as long as they remain enrolled in their post-secondary program.

ACE and other associations opposed the rule when it was first proposed in October 2020. The groups then suggested the withdrawal as part of recommendations to Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas in February 2021 on how DHS can help support international students and restore the United States' status as the destination of choice for global students and scholars.

As they told Mayorkas, DHS was incorrectly inserting itself into academic decisions made by colleges and universities, who are in a much better place to decide if a student is making satisfactory academic progress. DHS received



Felipe Gregate / Unsplash

more than 32,000 public comments on the proposed rule, nearly all of which expressed opposition.

"We are very pleased that it has been formally withdrawn and it was one of the things that we asked Homeland Security to do right after Secretary Mayorkas was confirmed," ACE's Sarah Spreitzer told Inside Higher Ed yesterday. "I think it sends a much more welcoming message to our international students, who along with our institutions of higher education were very concerned when it was proposed."

## New ACE resources support international students

A series of videos on resources and support systems for prospective and current international stu-

dents and a new report titled "Career Pathways for International Students" were recently added to the trove of ACE resources covering a range of topics related to international students.

Three video postcards produced in collaboration with EducationUSA feature interviews with regional education advising coordinators from EducationUSA speaking about the needs and experiences of international students interested in studying in the United States from Ecuador, Malawi, and Mongolia. The interviews are intended to provide useful information to U.S. higher education professionals who seek to gain perspectives on how the pandemic has impacted these students and their needs.

The career pathways report, published with support from the Charles Koch Foundation, looks at how international graduates of U.S. institutions fare in the job market and how their career trajectories are altered as a result of their study-abroad experience.

The author, Anna Esaki-Smith, co-founder and managing director of Education Rethink, summarizes existing research, identifies gaps in existing data, and concludes with a list of specific research questions for further study. Declining international enrollment rates in the U.S., exacerbated by the pandemic and the previous administration's visa restrictions, plus enhanced recruitment strategies from competing host countries, all create an urgent need to provide U.S. colleges and universities with data to support successful recruitment and enrollment yields, the author writes. Building on this report to provide data on career prospects for international students in the United States is one way to do that.

Another important aspect, as highlighted in "To-

ward Greater Inclusion and Success: A New Compact for International Students," which ACE published in February, is for higher education institutions to establish lifelong relationships with international students and to ensure that they not only thrive academically and socially while on campus, but are also well prepared for careers and life upon graduation.

The attitudes of the U.S. public towards international students also impact campuses' ability to foster a welcoming environment and sways policy decisions. In Episode 46 of ACE's dotEDU podcast, David Winston of the Winston group discusses the data he helped collect for the issue brief "International Student Inclusion And Success: Public Attitudes, Policy Imperatives, and Practical Strategies" and how leaders can make the case for the positive contributions international students make to the U.S. economy and college campuses.

Finally, ACE's Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses Survey assesses the current state

of internationalization at U.S. colleges and universities, analyzes progress and trends over time, and identifies future priorities. It is the only comprehensive source of data and analysis on internationalization in U.S. higher education. ACE is currently collecting data from campus leaders for the next iteration of the survey, which is conducted once every five years.

*The American Council on Education (ACE) is a membership organization that mobilizes the higher education community to shape effective public policy and foster innovative, high-quality practice. As the major coordinating body for the nation's colleges and universities, our strength lies in our diverse membership of more than 1,700 colleges and universities, related associations, and other organizations in America and abroad. ACE is the only major higher education association to represent all types of U.S. accredited, degree-granting institutions: two-year and four-year, public and private.*

## New report calls on federal government to encourage focusing resources on high-quality science for all students

WASHINGTON — The White House, with leadership from the Office of Science and Technology Policy, should encourage federal agencies, state and local governments, and others to focus resources on increasing the quality and accessibility of science education — from kindergarten through the end of a postsecondary degree (K-16) — says a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Call to Action for Science Education: Building Opportunity for the Future says science knowledge and scientific thinking are essential for democracy

and the future STEM workforce, yet science education is not the national priority it needs to be. High-quality science education gives students the opportunity to carry out investigations, analyze data, draw conclusions, and communicate results — skills that are increasingly valuable in today's workforce and society overall.

Only 22 percent of American high school graduates are proficient in science, and the average elementary classroom devotes less than 20 minutes per day to science; 69 percent of elementary teachers say they are not well prepared to teach science. States and local

communities are not delivering high-quality science education in equal measure to all — students of color and students experiencing poverty are particularly unlikely to have high-quality science education throughout K-16.

"Far too many students, from kindergarten classrooms to college lecture halls, are learning science by reading about it in a textbook, by listening passively, or memorizing disconnected facts. They're left asking, 'what does science have to do with my life?'" said Margaret Honey, president and CEO of the New

See SCIENCE, Page 11

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## Carrollton City Council approves downtown station expansion for DART Silver Line

Carrollton City Council approved an ordinance to allow the expansion of the Downtown Carrollton Light Rail Station for the purpose of adding a separate station to accommodate DART's Silver Line Regional Rail. The public hearing was held during the

meeting on Tuesday, July 13, and the vote was unanimous.

The ordinance amends Special Use Permit (SUP) 350a, which City Council originally approved in November 2017 for the construction of the Downtown Carrollton Station for

DART's Green Line. The amendment expands the boundary by 7.7 acres on the City's Official Zoning Map, and allows for a second passenger rail station on the property.

The Silver Line Station will be built at ground level in line with the existing

tracks of the Historic Cotton Belt Regional Rail and provide 329 surface parking spaces. Passengers will be able to connect between the elevated Green Line and the Silver Line via stairs and elevators.

See DART, Page 14



## REPORT, from Page 4

depression compared to males.

- Persistent and growing disparities in maternal mortality, including ongoing disparities among Black mothers who face a maternal mortality rate that is 3.4 times higher than Hispanic mothers. Rates of maternal mortality increased 55% for white mothers, 23% for Hispanic mothers, and 22% for Black mothers between 2005-2009 and 2015-2019.

- Wide and growing disparities in household food insecurity, most notably for American Indian/Alaska Natives. In fact, this sub-population experienced a 39% rate increase between 2003-2007 and 2015-2019.

- A strong link between educational attainment and health, with those without a high school education facing the greatest social, economic and health challenges, and the largest health disparities.

"Race and ethnicity,

gender, geography, educational attainment and income level should not limit one's access to health care, or the determinants and outcomes that contribute to our overall well-being," said Dr. Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer of UnitedHealthcare Employer and Individual, part of UnitedHealth Group. "Our 330,000 team members are dedicated to addressing health disparities and closing gaps in care for the most vulnerable populations."

The broad range of disparities, across multiple factors, is indicative of the work ahead to achieve more equitable health outcomes. In addition to national findings, America's Health Rankings includes state highlights where progress has been made and challenges persist, allowing local health officials and policymakers to better focus their efforts.

"The America's Health Rankings Health Disparities Report is an excellent pre-pandemic baseline report for health and elected officials, and other stakeholders," said Georges C. Benjamin, MD, executive director of the American Public Health Association. "It provides actionable data that is relevant to leaders, not only in public health, but also across many sectors."

State-specific findings illustrate the vast differences across populations and states. For example:

- Child poverty rates varied widely, with South Dakota – the state with the highest disparities – exhibiting child poverty among American Indian/Alaska Natives at more than 10 times the rate than white children in Connecticut.

- In Hawaii – the state with lowest disparities in child poverty – Hispanic children had a nearly 2 times higher rate of poverty than white children.

- Food insecurity in North Dakota among Black households was nearly 20 times higher than white households in the District of Columbia.

- In 2015-2019, Georgia, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming (all five states without Medicaid expansion prior to 2020) had the highest racial and ethnic disparities in rates of uninsured within their states, while Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York and Vermont (all five states that expanded Medicaid in 2014) had the lowest disparities.

- Many states with high rates of Black infant mortality have not made meaningful improvements. In particular, Black infants in Alabama, Oklahoma and

West Virginia had an infant mortality rate that was 2.2 times higher than the national average in 2015-2018 – rates that have largely remained unchanged.

- The states with the lowest rates of infant mortality are located in the Northeast and on the West Coast. However, even within these states, Black infants continue to face wide disparities, including rates that are 2 to 3 times higher than infants with the lowest rate in each state.

"The America's Health Rankings Health Disparities Report provides a unique, data-driven analysis that identifies disparities not only according to race and ethnicity, but also gender, geography and education level. Through

new analyses, this report provides public health officials and lawmakers with state-specific findings on their state's largest disparities so they can plan better strategies to address them," said Judy Monroe, MD, president and CEO, CDC Foundation.

The America's Health Rankings Health Disparities Report draws on data across 30 measures of health, including social, economic and environmental determinants of health as well as health outcomes, to demonstrate the progress achieved and the challenges faced by a variety of population groups at the national level, and in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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Juneteenth marks and honors the day when U.S. General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to demand that enslaved people there be set free. President Abraham Lincoln had signed an executive order more than two years earlier, to free all enslaved people in places that were still “in rebellion against the United States.” (Image via NNPA)

## Louisiana's oldest Juneteenth celebrations return on heels of state and nation holiday designation

By Cora Lester and  
Yulani Semien  
*The Drum*

In 1976, Baton Rougeans first celebrated Juneteenth with a parade. Then annual celebrations occurred sporadically in the capital city until historian Sadie Roberts-Joseph began hosting annual celebrations consistently in the late 1980s.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is a holiday celebrating the 1865 emancipation of all African and Black people who were enslaved in the United States.

In 1992, the city of Alexandria hosted the first state-wide public celebration, nearly a decade before Roberts-Joseph, other community leaders, and legislators were able to secure a state statute recognizing Juneteenth Observance Day. That was in 2003.

It has taken 18 years for the work Roberts-Joseph started to expand into a state holiday, thanks to legislation pushed by State Rep. Larry Selders and the Legislative Black Caucus.

On June 2, Selders' House Bill 554 to designate Juneteenth as a state holiday passed the House of Representatives with unanimous votes. On June 10, the University of Louisiana

at Lafayette announced it would observe Juneteenth as an official university holiday. No classes would be held and the campus would close, officials said.

Then, on June 11, Governor John Bel Edwards signed the bill into law and designated Juneteenth as a state holiday. Edwards quickly approved Friday, June 18 as a half-day holiday for state employees.

State law now designates the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Day throughout the state. Beginning next year, all state offices will be closed the Friday before.

On the pulse of national momentum, Congress also passed and President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act on June 17, making June 19th the eleventh federal holiday.

“I’m hoping folks all around the state will learn more about it and celebrate it together,” said Selders.

### Grandmothers of Juneteenth

Juneteenth marks and honors the day when U.S. General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to demand that enslaved people there be set free. President Abraham Lincoln had signed an executive order more than two years earlier, to free all enslaved people in places that were

still “in rebellion against the United States.” After Granger’s arrival, Galveston became the site of the nation’s first Juneteenth Celebration.

Momentum grew as the annual celebration of freedom spread beyond Texas. Like many others, historians like Roberts-Joseph and Opal Lee of Marshall, Texas, began Juneteenth celebrations in their communities.

Lee is now known as the “Grandmother of Juneteenth.” After years of creating local celebrations and persistently gaining attention to Juneteenth, Lee moved her focus to bring national recognition to the Day.

In 2016, Lee, who was 89 years old at the time, mobilized a team, launched an online petition, and pledged to walk 1,400 miles from her Texas home to Washington DC.

In November of 2019, Lee visited the Odell Williams Then and Now African American History Museum (now the Baton Rouge African American History Museum) four months after the death of museum curator Roberts-Joseph who could easily be identified as Louisiana’s Grandmother of Juneteenth.

“Though small in stature,

**See JUNETEENTH, Page 12**



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# 'Summer Vibes: Black History Tour' resumes on Aug. 7

The Dallas area is home to one million African American citizens, but very few know much about the history of the early settlers and communities for people of color.

To address this, the Dallas African American Tour was created.

This entertaining and educational tour will explore this almost forgotten history by visiting many of the sites that were instrumental in the development of vibrant African American communities throughout the city.

There are 10 locations highlighted by tour orga-



nizers on the HiddenhistoryDFW.com website, however, that only scratches the

surface.

This three hour tour will visit over 20 historic sites

that trace the path of the African American journey in one of America's largest

cities.

Visitors will learn about the two largest settlements following the civil war, the role of African Americans in the formation of Deep Ellum, and how the southern Dallas migration changed the face of the city forever.

"You will experience our life changing tour from the comfort of a coach bus and afterwards there is an optional lunch at an African American restaurant, so bring your lunch money," the organizers state in their brochure.

What once started as a simple means to honor fam-

ily history, Hidden History DFW uncovers the forgotten sites of Dallas that were instrumental in developing one of the largest and most vibrant African American communities in America.

Though hampered recently by the coronavirus pandemic, the "Summer Vibes: Black History Tour" resumes on Aug. 7.

All tours originate at J. B. Jackson, Jr. Dart Transit Center, off MLK Blvd. (1423 J.B. Jackson, Jr. Blvd, Dart Transit Center, Dallas 75210). The Transit Center has ample secure parking. Tours begins promptly at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

## NORTON, from Page 2

in my life who have made what they believed to be informed purchases for their family automobiles."

Congressman Bilirakis continued:

"I guarantee you none of them are aware of any gen-

der disparity in the testing of the cars they purchase. The idea that physiological differences between men and women can impact crash safety is pretty intuitive.

"It seems logical to me

that the required safety tests should reflect current demographic information regarding gender driving patterns: meaning that the number of female drivers and the vehicles they want to drive should be used to determine how frequently female crash dummies are used in

safety tests. This important legislation will modernize the tests being used and improve safety for all drivers."

The NHTSA is failing in its mission, and it tragically costs thousands of lives every year, Congresswoman Castor added.

"Women are almost 75

percent more likely than men to die or receive a serious injury when they are involved in an automobile crash, and it's time we modernize tests and save lives," she continued.

"Millions of American women get behind the wheel of a car every day,

and we must swiftly act to correct the inequalities in current tests and improve standards, so that female drivers are as safe as their male counterparts. This bill is a good first step to ensuring women are safe in cars and holding NHTSA accountable."

## HEARN, from Page 1

described their relationship like any typical brother/sister dynamic in that they have the occasional sibling disagreements and trash talking, but overall there is a mutual love and respect they fiercely have for one another.

He comes from a strong legacy of rodeo professionals as his father and paternal uncles and grandfather roped. Hearn expressed his gratitude toward his parents for never trying to push him in one direction or another with respect to sports. However, he strongly feels his path to pursuing baseball was more of a divine appointment than a personal choice.

"...the reason why I did chose it as I tell everybody is I think it was already picked for me by God because I can't tell you why I just started playing it for some reason..." exclaims Hearn on when he shifted to playing the sport exclusively.

According to Hearn, he is not consumed by stats

which as reported by MLB.com the week of July 11, his stats show an Earned Runs Average (ERA) of 4.89; Walks and Hits per Innings Pitched (WHIP) at 1.54; and Strikeouts of 47.

He understands firsthand how hard it is to get to the majors, but how it's even harder to stay. He expressed how his faith has been what has helped him maintain a healthy perspective especially in an industry where job security is solely based on performance.

"Fortunately for me, I don't really look at stats. I don't know how many strikeouts I have or how many innings I pitched... honestly, I realized my stats doesn't define me--who I am," he asserts.

Ephesians 6:11 and Romans 8:28 are two of Hearn's favorite scriptures as it's what grounds him during the ups and downs that come with being a professional athlete.

In addition to family and faith, community service

is also important to Hearn. Throughout the season and offseason, he participates in the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Program. Along with serving with his teammates, Hearn has also served within the Arlington ISD by speaking and mentoring to youth.

According to Philadelphia Inquirer, seven percent of players on MLB rosters are American-born Black athletes. Hearn fully understands the platform he's been given and he hopes to bring more enthusiasm about the sport within the African American communities to dispel the idea that football and basketball are the only choices.

He also spoke about his participation with the Players Alliance, a nonprofit organization that was created primarily for the purpose of addressing the issue of diversity within baseball. For more information, please visit: [www.theplayersalliance.com](http://www.theplayersalliance.com).

Recently, as reported by CBS Morning News, Rob Manfred, Commissioner

of MLB, has pledged up to \$150 million dollars to ensure better representation of African Americans within all areas of baseball with some of those monies being distributed to the Players Alliance organization.

"I gave my salary for one day on Jackie Robinson Day to donate to the Players Alliance. Last year during

Covid, we gave away free gloves, baseballs and bats in Oak Cliff," he shared.

He also has a passion for supporting organizations that serve individuals and families affected by Alzheimer disease as he personally knows the pain of this disease as his beloved paternal Grandmother suffered from it.

For him, it is not about garnering fame or fortune. What matters most to him is being able to one day pass down those values to his children because for him legacy goes beyond what he does on the baseball field.

Fans can follow Hearn on his Twitter or Instagram accounts.

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# International singer, songwriter and Washington native, Alena L. Walker, crowned Mrs. USOFA Globe 2021

Washington native, Alena L. Walker, proudly brought home the national title of MrsUSOFA Globe to Washington State after competing two weeks ago in one of the most prestigious pageants in the world, Mrs. Globe.

Alena was crowned Mrs. USOFA Globe 2021 on June 26, 2021, at The Westin Mission Hills Resort in Palm Springs, California.

"The Mrs. Globe organization has provided me the opportunity to let my light shine across the nation and I am so grateful" says Alena. With this outstanding achievement, Alena now represents the United States on the world stage next March in China.

Since the start of her reign

as Ms. Washington Globe 2021, Alena has dedicated her time as a spokeswoman for the W.I.N. Foundation, founded in 1996 by President, CEO, Founder Dr. Tracy Kemble. The W.I.N. Foundation specializes in providing programs of recovery for persons affected by abuse as well as the healing of emotional health, self-esteem, and women empowerment.

Alena is also actively volunteering with the local Salvation Army of Renton to help prepare dinner for the homeless community and spending time with Renton Adaptive Recreation - Renton Specialized Recreation and Renton AmeriCorps Vista. In 2021, she became the top influencer

for the Opportunity Leadership Network Benefit Concert featuring Chaka Khan and Andra Day, which is a proud accomplishment for Alena.

"I represent all that have come before me and I represent resilient women everywhere that despite life circumstances continue to strive for excellence, self-love, self-discovery, growth and servitude" says Alena.

"I understand the responsibility and the heavy mantle on my shoulders and the divine calling on my life, but I am ready. It took years of preparation to get to this point. I now stand as a national representative for the entire United States of America and I am excited to go to China and hopefully

win that competition so that I can represent the world."

Walker is an American - international recording artist/singer, songwriter and actress that is known by her stage name (Alena Larie). Alena specializes in many forms of digital media, photography, videography as well as social media and owns a media company with her family in Seattle, Washington. She recently appeared in an HBO Max movie to be released later this year (2021) and Alena independently released a stunning variety of new singles this year "Number 9," "Rain on Me" and "Time" which are available on digital media streaming platforms including iTunes and Amazon Music.



Alena L. Walker

## 'Ailey' is a look into the life of a true break-through artist

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

Gifted artists create a spirit so strong it lives on long after they're gone. That's the case with legendary choreographer/dancer Alvin Ailey. It's like he never left. Never passed on.

Documentary director Jamila Wignot records the history, evolution and continuation of Ailey's work during the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 60th anniversary year. Choreographer Rennie Harris, founder of Rennie Harris Puremovement, a hip-hop dance theater company based in Philadelphia, is creating a dance piece ("Lazarus"), which is dedicated to Ailey's style. As he choreographs, he puts his mission into context: "A dancer is a physical historian. Valued community information is stored in a dancer's body."

As Ailey's legacy is brought forward, former members of AAADT and other admirers reflect and pay tribute to their mentor. Judith Jamison (Ailey dancer, 1965-1979; Artistic Director 1989-2011): "Alvin breathed in. We are



his breath out. That's what we're living on." Bill T. Jones (Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company and guest AAADT choreographer): "Choreography was his catharsis." Their reverence, along with that of dancer George Faison, stage manager Bill Hammond and others, attests to Ailey's ethos and artistry, which left a spiritual impression on his disciples and the performing arts community.

Director Jamila Wignot, with photos, footage, performances and vintage interviews with Ailey, paints a genius's portrait that was brushed with achievements and adversity. Her archive is aided by Daniel Bernard Roumain's musical score and Naiti Gámez's perfectly lit cinematography. The keen abilities of editor Annukka Lilja help the direc-

tor and archival producer Rebecca Kent assemble all the anecdotes, details, clips and other vestiges of Ailey's bio into a coherent and respectful life-journey album.

The tragedies of the artist's truncated existence (died at age 58) are on view too. Bouts with mental illness. The slow, deadly progression of AIDs, a scourge that challenges his life until its last chapter, when he would sit on a couch in his studio to continue his craft. Not the ending one would suspect for a dancer born in Texas who came to New York City in 1954 to live out his dreams: "I had beautiful things inside me I wanted to get out." Some of those beautiful things became classic dance pieces, such as his iconic "Revelations," his quintessential blend of

African American heritage, music and the black experience.

An 82-minute non-fiction film is not enough time for any documentarian to recount and depict all the aspects of Ailey's life. It touches on him being a pioneer in the arts at a time when black dance companies were few and far between. The nuts and bolts of him building AAADT aren't as in-depth as histo-

rians may like. The inside scoop on a man arrested for stalking at Columbia University is not detailed, which may disappoint leering gossips. Respect seems to be the key here. Other details can be found on a Google search or should be included in a bio-feature film or miniseries if some smart producer decides to tell the whole story.

There are those in life who were meant to break

through and set standards. Ailey is one of them. His accomplishments and legacies are verified by this reverent and galvanizing film. A doc that celebrates dance that's a reflection of black life as created by a gifted pioneer.

In theaters starting July 23rd.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).

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# Dallas Startup Week features third annual Women Of Innovation Summit

Women now own 36% of small businesses, and The DEC Network is continuing its history of supporting female business owners by hosting the third annual Women of Innovation summit, sponsored by Thomson Reuters. The event will take place on Aug. 4 at Southern Methodist University's McFarlin Auditorium during Dallas Startup Week, powered by Capital One.

"In 2020, women entrepreneurs had to pull up their proverbial bootstraps every hour to keep up with the challenges," said Women of Innovation lead organizer Tracey Altman, principal of Altman Consulting. "Women of Innovation '21 is a celebration of women who keep going,



Christina-wocitechchat / Unsplash

who pivoted, who tried new things, who made mistakes, and who stood together to move forward."

Women are encouraged to bring their whole work teams and even friends to the event to make the most of this exciting day of growth and development.

Keynote speakers for the event include three amazing women with strong ties to Texas entrepreneurial ventures: Sarah Shadonix, founder and CEO of Scout & Cellar; Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew, vice president of community affairs and strategic alliances at

the State Fair of Texas; and Shar Dubey, CEO of Match Group.

The daylong event also includes three panel discussions:

- A fashion panel featuring entrepreneurs from Berkley Clothing, Mustard Seed Jewelry and Allie +

Bess

- A restaurant panel featuring Chef Uno Immanivong of Uno Brands, Chef Tiffany Derry of Roots Chicken Shak, and Amber Fletcher, co-owner of Fletcher's Original Corny Dogs

- A panel discussion on diversity and inclusion.

Registration for the free day of networking, learning and mentoring is now open at [DallasStartupWeek.com](http://DallasStartupWeek.com).

Download The DEC Network app in the App Store or Google Play for the most interactive experience at the event and for up-to-the-minute information on DSW sessions and schedules.

Dallas Startup Week is a five-day celebration of entrepreneurship that fea-

tures more than a hundred sessions in 19 tracks and three summits, including Women of Innovation, Disrupt Dallas and Corporate Startup Innovation. DSW also features an Official Launch Party, a community celebration for all attendees to join and help kick off the event, and Startup Alley, where local small business owners can showcase their businesses in an expo hall format.

The Women of Innovation daylong summit will be held at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium (6405 Boaz Lane, Dallas, TX) on Aug. 4, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The event is free, and more information can be found at [DallasStartupWeek.com](http://DallasStartupWeek.com)

## SCIENCE, from Page 6

York Hall of Science and chair of the committee that wrote the report. "Our report proposes a vision for the future of science education in which all students experience the joy, beauty, and power of science in the classroom and throughout their lives."

The report says communities need to provide time, materials, and resources to schools to support science education, and having a well-prepared, diverse teaching workforce across K-16 is essential. Students need clear pathways that support them through science education in college. Support from policymakers is necessary to support communities in making these changes.

### Elevating the Status of Science Education

The report says Congress should include science as an indicator of academic achievement in its next reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary

Education Act — and a system of assessments and indicators should provide information about the progress of schools, districts, and states. Accountability for science education, however, should not be based on single tests, but rather focus on students gaining conceptual understanding.

State departments of education should also act to include science in their accountability systems, supporting classroom instruction and tracking the availability of learning opportunities. National stakeholders in STEM education — including business, philanthropy, and nonprofits — should coordinate their advocacy, with particular attention to addressing disparities in opportunity.

### Local and Regional Alliances for STEM

Leaders of K-12 school systems and postsecondary schools should form "Alliances for STEM Opportunity." These alliances

should develop evidence-based visions and plans for improving STEM education in their areas, with specific attention to addressing disparities and high-quality learning opportunities. The federal government, philanthropic organizations, and business and industry should provide funding to these alliances to support their work — first targeting communities where a significant number of students live in poverty.

### Documenting Progress

The federal government should develop an annual "STEM Opportunity in the States" report card, to document K-16 STEM education in each state and territory, and track equity of opportunity. States should develop their own plans for providing equitable STEM education, including STEM opportunity maps that track disparities and progress made.

The study — undertaken by the Committee on Call to Action for Science Education — was sponsored by

the Carnegie Corporation of New York and National Academy of Sciences' W.K. Kellogg Fund. The National Academies are private, nonprofit institu-

tions that provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions related to science,

technology, and medicine. They operate under an 1863 congressional charter to the National Academy of Sciences, signed by President Lincoln.



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- Pipe layer (Underground)
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Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)

## 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@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)



# TruSo, a Black-owned social networking app set to launch

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

A new app could end the so-called “Black Twitter” experience and allow African Americans their own social media platform.

Backed by celebrities Sway Calloway, Kareem Grimes, Terrell Owens, and Miki Barber, the Black-owned social networking app, TruSo, is poised to debut.

“I believe in the power



Image via NNPA

of community – especially cultural communities,” Matthew Newman, the founder and CEO of TruSo noted in a news release.

“As it relates to the Black

community, the entire world has witnessed what we can accomplish when we join together behind a cause – we create a phenomenon.”

Newman continued: “Now, we are introducing a social community that is built and funded by Blacks for Blacks and has monetization built-in so that everyone wins. Those who use the app should also benefit financially. That’s what we’ve built.”

TruSo reportedly is designed to “empower and advance personal and career aspirations.”

It includes a content calendar that engages prominent individuals within

several categories: Arts & Culture, Business & Marketing, and more.

Calloway said his partnership with the app was a strategic one and one that he felt others would use very well.

“I got involved with TruSo because this technology is truly disruptive in the social networking space,” he said.

Grimes said Newman “has a clear vision and go-to-market strategy. I’ve

worked with him on other projects, so I’m well-aware of his business acumen, and I welcomed the opportunity to get involved.”

Upon launch, TruSo will be available for both Apple and Android users.

The app is free, and individuals who join the waitlist in July will receive a complimentary six-month premium membership. Sign up at [JoinTruSo.com](http://JoinTruSo.com) and enter the referral code TruSoPR21.

## Irving recognized nationally for using data to improve resident’s lives

The City of Irving is one of three cities in Texas that has been awarded the 2021 What Works Cities Certification, which is the national standard of excellence in data-driven city governance. What Works Cities

Certification evaluates how well cities are managed by measuring the extent to which city leaders incorporate data and evidence in their decision-making.

The City of Irving, which achieved Certification at the

silver level, is one of only 16 cities to be newly certified this year and one of 40 cities to be certified since the program launched in April 2017. What Works Cities is a national initiative launched by Bloomberg

Philanthropies to help cities use data and evidence more effectively to tackle their most pressing challenges.

“The city’s commitment to analyzing and presenting data is proof of Irving’s dedication to open and transpar-

ent governance,” said Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer. “Using data to help drive key decisions allows us to implement and monitor best practices, as well as improve organizational efficiency as public servants.”

What Works Cities Certification assesses cities based on their data-driven decision-making practices, such as how data is used to set goals and track progress,

See IRVING, Page 16

## JUNETEENTH, from Page 8

Ms Lee’s passion for ensuring that Juneteenth become a national holiday was immeasurable,” wrote the museum on Facebook. “During her visit, she was asked by a student how, at 92, was she still so driven. Ms. Lee responded, “I asked God for the strength to see it through to the end. He keeps waking me up, so I keep going.” She ended up logging 300 miles on foot and continued to push her movement to appear across the country. When, Biden authorized the Juneteenth holiday earlier this month, Lee, who is now 94, was by his side.

### First Louisiana Celebrations

“To our knowledge the first public celebration of Juneteenth was held in 1993 in Alexandria, Louisiana,” wrote Carolyn Frazier, organizer of the 29th Annual Juneteenth Let’s Do This Together Celebration.

According to the Central Louisiana Juneteenth Cultural Celebration, the inaugural celebration was organized by former Alexandria councilman and current Rapides Parish School

Board member John Allen, former Rapides Police Juror Joe Fuller, and fundraiser Allen Semien Sr. More than 500 people participated in the one-day event.

The annual celebration did not occur in 1995 and in 2020 due to the pandemic. In 1996, the Alexandria News Weekly and publisher Leon Coleman sponsored the celebration in order to continue the event. Once held at the Alexandria Amphitheater with more than 15,000 participants, this year’s 29th celebration spanned a week with activities at various locations across the city. Participants enjoyed a parade and engaged in entertaining activities that are designed to raise cultural awareness and better understanding of each other.

Likewise, organizers in Donaldsonville have hosted Juneteenth celebrations for 23 years. Started by former Donaldsonville Mayor B.J. Francis Sr. and his late wife, Janet Ganes Francis. It was hosted by the River Road African American Museum and other volunteers in the community, including Tamiko Francis

Garrison, Allison Hudson, and the City of Donaldsonville.

### Madam C.J. Walker Louisiana Juneteenth Celebration

As part of the ongoing Juneteenth activities going on throughout Madison Parish, June 18-19, the Village of Delta named a portion of Highway 3218, near First Street, for the late Madam C.J. Walker.

The Delta native was an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and activist. She was born Sarah Breedlove on December 23, 1867 on the same cotton plantation where her parents, Owen and Minerva Anderson Breedlove, were enslaved. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, she was the first self-made American female millionaire and the wealthiest Black woman of her time.

Walker made her fortune by inventing and selling a line of hair products and cosmetics specifically for Black women. On Friday, June 18, a host of dignitaries, guests and local residents gathered in Delta to honor Walker and kickoff the two-day Madame C. J. Walker Juneteenth Celebration.

“(Madam Walker) was a diamond in the rough,” said State Rep. C. Travis Johnson, one of the event organizers. “Imagine what she went through as a woman. As a Black woman. When I think about her. When I think about this community, this is the beginning of a vision,” he said.

The celebration included a Zydeco and Gospel concert and awards program. The Madam CJ Walker Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Elvadius Fields, who was a Mayor for the Town of St. Joseph and the second Black agriculture agent in Tensas parish in 1961. Residents and Ferriday High School students produced a historical parade on Saturday, that presented the unforgettable journey of Black Americans since 1863.

### Collective Celebration

Statewide the sounds of celebration traveled statewide. From North Louisiana where Monroe hosted its 10th annual celebration and parade. The Town of Richwood held its first celebration which included a car show and parade. Local archivist Carl Robinson also presented a one-day historical exhibit of family

items he has collected dating back to the late 1800s. Rho Omega and Friends held a three-day festival, honoring African American heritage and culture in Shreveport. The City of Grambling’s Juneteenth Festival included a 5k walk, cookouts, original movie screenings, a paint party, and a fishing tournament.

In St. Mary, the 100 Black Men hosted the inaugural Soul Food Festival, while the City of Oberlin held its first Juneteenth “Celebrate Freedom” parade and fest at the Allen Parish Civic Center and Veteran’s Memorial Park. The Real Change in Ruston Committee partnered with the Zion Traveler CDC to throw Ruston’s first Juneteenth celebration concert.

In New Orleans, the celebration of freedom continued at the African American Museum with an arts market, in Congo Square, and at the Ashe Cultural Center where they hosted a drumming circle. Groups of Baby Dolls prayed and danced in the 7th Ward on Bayou Road. OHUB hosted a hybrid Juneteenth 4.0 Celebration with speakers and a virtual casting call

with ABC’s Shark Tank. Nearby, the Whitney Plantation hosted tours of the land where the enslaved children are memorialized to explain the realities of slavery and plantation life.

At the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, the Stephens Hall chimes and the Victory Bell at Cajun Field each rang 19 times to mark Juneteenth on Saturday. “Observing Juneteenth offers the university a moment to acknowledge the challenges Black Americans still face. We can honor that struggle by affirming our commitment to creating an environment that respects – and draws strength from – difference,” said Taniecea Mallory, executive director of strategic initiatives and chief diversity officer.

Groups throughout Baton Rouge hosted as many as four separate celebrations including those hosted by the Community Against Drugs and Violence (CADAV), the Baton Rouge African American Museum, Scotlandville High School, the City of Baker with Advantage Charter Academy, and State Rep. C. Denise Marcelle with CareSouth Medical Center.



### On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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Prerequisites:

- GED/High School Diploma
- Between the ages of 17-34
- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

### Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit [census.gov](http://census.gov) to apply.

### 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.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCfVP>.



### 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>.

### Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on [https://tao.ai/p/fff/\\_dfw](https://tao.ai/p/fff/_dfw)

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focussed career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

## American Legacy Network Corp. launches ALN Productions for development of new content

(Black PR Wire) New York, NY - American Legacy Network Corp. has announced the launch of ALN Productions. The new production company will focus on developing new and engaging content utilizing the magazine's extensive archives and on the nooks and crannies of Black history and culture. Built on the American Legacy brand's 25-year foundation, the production company will bring little-known historical and cultural content to new audiences. American Legacy founder, Rodney J. Reynolds, is very excited to tap young talent to lead the development of the future of the brand.

"I'm extremely proud to work with three talented millennials who are bringing new life to the American Legacy Brand," said Reynolds. "J'nelle, JP, and Joshua have energized our 25-year old brand. I'm confident

that the productions will be enlightening, engaging, and entertaining."

ALN Productions is led by Chief Production Officer J'nelle Agee, Chief Content Officer JP Reynolds, and Chief Marketing Officer R. Joshua Reynolds. Agee has extensive experience in television and news production. JP Reynolds is a podcast host and music artist. R. Joshua Reynolds is a marketing leader and vocalist. Both Reynolds also happen to be Rodney's sons. Agee is the daughter of the famed NY Met Tommie Agee. Each looks forward to carrying on the legacy of Black history and culture through various forms of film and television productions. American Legacy's archives have a history of inspiring feature films. A 1997 American Legacy magazine article on Wiley College inspired the 2007 period piece *The Great Debaters*, which

starred Forest Whitaker and Denzel Washington who also directed the film.

The team has already begun distributing content with the release of a new short-form video series *ALN Remembers*. The first two episodes feature the 100th Anniversary of The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and Juneteenth and can be viewed on the company's social media platforms and American Legacy Network at [www.americanlegacynetwork.tv](http://www.americanlegacynetwork.tv).

The long-term strategy includes the development of additional short-form video projects, documentaries, television specials, and feature-length films. The company's first television project is *The American Legacy Challenge*, a game show featuring high school students inspired by American Legacy's "Know Your History" board game and set to premiere in 2022.



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### NAN Chapter President

The National Action Network is looking for a President for its upcoming Dallas chapter. This is a volunteer position that requires an activist heart and an interest in civil rights.

The President:

- Presides at meetings and acts as Chairman/Chairwoman of the Executive Committee.
- Appoints all committees not directly elected by the Chapter.
- Between meetings of the Executive Committee and subject to the approval thereof, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Chapter.
- The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Shall work with other members of the Executive Committee to develop a program agenda for a defined fiscal year.
- Acknowledges he/she is the primary force within the Chapter in establishing a working relationship and communication with the National and Regional Office(s); ensures that these offices receive all reports, including quarterly reports, and reports of elections.
- Is familiar with pertinent governing documents including: The NAN by-laws and Chapter rules.

Interested parties should contact Robert D. Bush, president of the Las Vegas Chapter, at (702) 626-0158.



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*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](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org) for their details because of the Coronavirus.*

**July 18, 9:45 am**

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Medita-

tion" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

**July 21, 7 pm**

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster, Chapter 10. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
[www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

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

**July 18,**

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

**July 21, 7 pm**

Join is in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.

Senior Pastor  
2450 K Avenue #300  
Plano, TX 75074  
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MATTHEW 4:19

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

**- Malachi 3:8-10**

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

**July 16, 7 pm**

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

**July 18, 10 a.m.**

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

**July 19, 7 pm**

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-372-4262  
[www.Ibocchurch.org](http://www.Ibocchurch.org)

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until further notice because of the coronavirus.

**July 18, 8 and 11 am**

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

**July 19, 7 to 8 pm  
Every Monday Night**

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

**July 21, 7 pm**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

# Bump, Bump, Bump, Where's the Scratch?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Life can get crazy because there are so many crazy people in the world. I know, I'm one.

Through the years, I have come to appreciate crazy people. They make life interesting and make me look less crazy than I really am.

The interesting thing is that a crazy person shows up in your life when you least expect it. There's no way you can prepare for

these crazy episodes. If only I could wear a camera on my glasses, I could make a fortune.

The other day I drove through the McDonald's drive-through to order my morning cup of coffee to take to my office. Of course, I do that every morning as a routine.

This morning was rather a stressful kind of a morning, and I had a schedule I wanted to complete for the day. So I was thinking

about what I was going to do as I was driving through the drive-through. In front of me was a blue car and a lady driving it.

She finished her order and then began driving forward, I started driving forward and happened to look left at the ordering place, and unbeknownst to me, she stopped and I bumped into her bumper.

Isn't that what bumpers are for?

That was the begin-

ning of one of the craziest episodes I've had in a long time. Oh, that my camera was in place.

As a young person, I enjoyed watching "Smile, You're on Candid Camera." I thought this was happening to me.

The lady jumped out of her car screaming at me and shaking her fist, and I thought it was a joke. You know how people like to prank other people, so I thought this was what was

happening.

I looked at her and started laughing, thinking that this was part of a joke.

The more I laughed, the more she yelled and screamed at me. She used language that even sailors would not use in public. She asked me to do things to myself that are physically impossible to do. Enough said on that.

Then she went to her car, got her cell phone, came back, and took pictures of

my truck's license plate. I hope I don't see it on Facebook. Then she took pictures of what my truck had done to her bumper.

I got out to look, and I had to look very hard to find it, and finally, there it was. A little scratch about the size of a fingernail. I looked at the front of my truck, and I couldn't find any scratches at all compa-

**See SCRATCH, Page 15**

## DART, from Page 7

The primary purpose of the Silver Line Regional Rail Project is to provide passenger rail connections and service that will improve mobility, accessibility and system linkages to major employment, population, and activity centers in the northern part of the DART Service Area. The 26-mile Silver Line will extend along the historic Cotton Belt Regional Rail Corridor between Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Interna-

tional Airport Terminal B and Shiloh Road in Plano. The alignment traverses through three counties in Texas: Tarrant, Dallas, and Collin; and seven cities: Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson, and Plano.

Downtown Carrollton Station (1013 N. Denton Drive) will be a major connecting hub for the Silver Line, providing a valuable connection to DART's Green Line and DART

buses, serving as a potential regional rail transfer hub for the DCTA, and tying into the City's plans for future transit-oriented developments, including an additional connection to a future leg of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway between Irving and Frisco.

The City of Carrollton also wants to ensure that the Grapevine Vintage Railroad (GVRR) will be able to connect in Carrollton when plans are put in place for an extension. The

GVRR currently uses the 21-mile Cotton Belt Corridor tracks between Grapevine and the Fort Worth Stockyards, and shares the tracks with TEXRail, freight trains, Amtrak, and the soon to be Silver Line.

Representatives from DART presented a concept for the future integration of a station for Grapevine's train into the layout of the Downtown Silver Line Station. Despite differences in equipment, boarding heights, train lengths, and the necessity to reposition

the engine from one end of the train to the other for the return trip, DART's plan illustrated enough room for a double track to accommodate the vintage railroad. The addition of Grapevine's excursion and special event railroad will enable passengers to travel from Carrollton to the Fort Worth Stockyards and back.

DART anticipates more than 1,850 daily passengers will be using the location by 2024, with an estimated travel time of 24 minutes

to DFW Terminal B, and 33 minutes from Carrollton to Plano. The landscape plan provides enhanced streetscape features including pavers, street trees, street lighting, and wide sidewalks. Pedestrian connections will enable easy access to Carrollton's Historic Downtown, the Green Belt, and a new Silver Line hike and bike trail.

For additional information, visit [DART.org/silverline](http://DART.org/silverline) or contact DART Community Engagement at 214-749-2543.



# The Holy Spirit: The Anointing



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

- 1 John 2:27

The Holy Spirit is the

Anointing who comes to give you spiritual insight. When you don't understand a Scripture, let Him anoint your spiritual eyes to see what the passage says.

When you don't know where to go, let Him anoint your understanding so that you can choose the right paths.

When you can't see Jesus working in your life, let Him anoint your spiritual perception.

Remember, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to help believers glorify the Son (John 16:14). Let the Holy Spirit magnify Jesus in your life

today.

Tell the Holy Spirit, that you want to glorify Jesus. Ask Him to anoint you with His presence so that you can see the work of Jesus in your life and glorify Him with your praise. Tell Him that you need His anointing today.

The Holy Spirit is the Anointing who comes to enlighten the Scriptures in your heart. But He doesn't work in a vacuum. You must read and memorize the Bible.

You must study the Bible, comparing Scripture to Scripture. You must use commentaries and diction-

aries.

You must give time meditating on the Word of God. Then you must ask for Him to help you understand spiritual things.

When you seek enlightenment from the Holy Spirit, you are asking for the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. He will come shine light on your darkened understanding.

Ask the Holy Spirit, to come shine His light in your mind. Ask for help to see everything He want you to know, and for help to do all He want you to accomplish. Ask for His anointing to know the Scripture.



Rachel Strong / Unsplash

## BONTON, from Page 5

ton's zip code has the highest percent of population incarcerated of all 3,800 zip codes in the State of Texas.

"Our community in Bonton has been a product of the hardship faced by those

returning home with fines and warrants holding them back from getting a fresh start. Because of this law, men and women in the state of Texas can return home, find redemption, and

move forward ready and able to get back in society and build a new life," said Clifton Reese, manager of community development at Bonton Farms.

While the bill did not pass when it was initially introduced in the 86th Leg-

islative session, further development and growing bipartisan support led to its success this session. Senator Royce West of Dallas joined Rep. Sanford in sponsoring the bill, and an additional 20 cosponsors were added as well.

"Our neighbors who already have overcome this overpowering barrier finally feel heard with the passing of this law. Several of them didn't believe me when I told them their stories had the power to change things. Now, they

are glad they spoke out. They feel like their personal battles were worth it. Many of them have family and friends that are still incarcerated, and they take pleasure in knowing that they have fought to help them," said Babcock.

## SCRATCH, from Page 15

rable to her scratch.

She began yelling, "Don't you dare touch me!" I don't do a lot of things and not touching her was at the top of that list.

Then she took her cell phone and showed it to me and said, "I'm calling the police."

We were in the middle of the drive-through, and the customers behind us couldn't get through because she would not move until the police got there.

The manager of McDonald's came out and calmed her down and finally got her to move out of the line and wait for the police. I followed and parked next to her.

As we were waiting for the police to come, she was taking pictures of the tiny scratch. I did not talk to her; I just let her go and do her thing.

Finally, the police arrived. I was a little concerned because we would be wasting his time when there are more serious is-

sues for him to deal with. But, crazy will be crazy.

He talked to us and took our information, and then he looked toward her car. He didn't go over and look at it because he said it is not worth a police investigation. I agreed with him. So did the manager of McDonald's. A scratch isn't really that much damage. It probably could be fixed with fingernail polish.

The manager said that there were cameras and that incident would have been recorded.

She finally drove off, and I had a short chat with the police officer, and then we parted ways.

That was not the end of the story.

Have you ever faced a temptation so strong that it was all you could do not to yield to it?

One of my favorite hymns has this phrase, "Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin."

I wasn't able to place my order before this incident,

so I drove around McDonald's to get into the drive-through. You will not guess who was in front of me in the left lane of that drive-through?

Oh yeah, it was the lady with the scratch on her car.

My temptation was to pull in behind her and make sure she noticed I was behind her. I wrestled with that thought for a moment or two.

After some thoughtful consideration, I pulled over to the right lane and, in fact, got ahead of her in ordering my coffee. In the McDonald's store, that was the talk of the employees.

It's not often that I get involved in such a crazy situation.

As I was driving away from McDonald's a verse of Scripture came to my mind. "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38).

Temptations will come every day, but I have the strength in Christ to resist every temptation for the

glory of God.

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](mailto:jamesnsnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).

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# NDG Book Review: A 'Travelling While Black' duo to check out

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You've always wanted to do it. You just wanted to go.

You'd hop in a car or van, no GPS or map, no real itinerary, no destination in mind. You'd point your headlights in some direction and drive until you got where you felt like you needed to be. No timetable, no worries... and no chance for your ancestors to do that very thing. So this summer, honor their wanderlust by seizing yours, and read these two similarly-titled new books...

First, the history: it had to start somewhere – but where? You can imagine how Black mobility was affected by slavery but



Terri Schlichenmeyer

how and why did it continue? Surely, it wasn't arbitrary, not just "no, you can't travel here," so how did restrictions on Black mobility happen, how did African Americans fight the system, and why does it matter now? In "Traveling Black," (Belknap, Harvard

University Press, \$35.00), author Mia Bay answers these questions, starting back when travel was largely of the horse-and-wagon type.

Starting with Plessy v. Ferguson, Bay explains how segregation in travel began, and how it spread

along roads and rails and then spread to accommodations, and the uncertainty of what might await a traveler along the journey. Bay separates each mode of travel to examine how Jim Crow laws affected a Black traveler in different manners, and she looks at the ways in which travel was sometimes used as activism.

Now, though, you're free to travel – not just in the U.S., but around the world, if you want. In "Travelling While Black" (Hurst, \$19.95), author Nanjala Nyabola shares some stories of her travels, and how her skin color matters when she's on the move.

Indeed, what's it like to travel as a Black woman,

when guidebooks are not written with a Black woman in mind?

How can you draw a line from African Americans on the road in the Old Days, to travel now? And now that you can travel, what does it tell you about yourself?

These are just a few things Nyabola ponders as she takes readers from Haiti to the Far East, Mexico, Africa, Europe, and the American South. She muses about suffering, the need for literature in Black culture, identity, asylum, and the meaning of home.

This is the kind of book you'll want to read when you want to go somewhere but you're stuck at home for

whatever reason. Nyabola goes to the popular places but she also travels to spots that are generally sought by adventurers. This gives readers a sense of travelogue with a hint of the unusual; her musings on the places she goes make this a book you won't want to put down. Her observations will make you glad she took you along with her.

If these don't quite fit what you're looking for, there are lots of other books you'll find at your local library or bookstore. As always, be sure to ask your librarian or bookseller for help; they're pros at finding what you're looking for. Do it today. Just go.

## IRVING, from Page 12

allocate funding, evaluate the effectiveness of programs and achieve desired outcomes from contracts with outside vendors. The program also measures whether cities are publicly

and transparently communicating their use of data and evidence.

Over the past year, the City of Irving has demonstrated measurable progress on foundational data

practices. Notable examples of the city's use of data include:

- Applying behavioral insights to reduce Municipal Court's failure to appear rate,
- Empowering residents to solve pressing commu-

nity issues through an eight-week program that engages alumni of Irving's civic academy, and

- Developing a data governance structure, open data policy, and portal.

Jennifer Park, founding director of What Works

Cities Certification, shared, "Since Certification was first introduced, cities have made tremendous progress in their ability to build the data capacity and skills needed to drive their decision-making with data and evidence. This year, cities

used data and evidence to guide their response to COVID, address budget shortfalls, reimagine public safety, advance equity, and much more. Data wasn't just a valuable tool for city leaders – it was a necessity."



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