Biden Administration extends eviction moratorium, potentially rescuing millions from losing housing

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has taken new measures to protect renters from evictions. Over the past two months, the new prohibition on evictions will apply to communities with high or substantial COVID-19 transmission.

A formal announcement is expected on Wednesday, August 4. “My hope is it’s going to be a new moratorium that in some way covers close to 90 percent of the American people or renters,” President Joe Biden told news reporters on Tuesday.

“My hope is it’s going to be a new moratorium that in some way covers close to 90 percent of the American people or renters,” President Joe Biden told news reporters on Tuesday.

The President expressed fears that the order would face court battles after the Supreme Court ruled that an extension to the original moratorium that expired on July 31 could not occur without clear and specific congressional authorization via new legislation.

Still, members of Congress who had pressed the Administration to act applauded the President.

“The extension of the moratorium is the lifeline that millions of families have been waiting for. From the very beginning of this pandemic, it was clear that eviction moratoriums not only kept people housed but also saved lives,” Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, also applauded the President.

“From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of millions of renters, I thank the President for listening and for encouraging the CDC to act,” Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), the chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services, said in a statement.

Because of the spread of the Delta variant, President Biden asked the CDC to consider executive action. The White House said he is issuing a new, 30-day eviction moratorium focused on counties with high or substantial case rates. A formal announcement of the extension came on Wednesday. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)
Marcus T. Coleman
Stacy M. Brown
NNPA NewsWire Senior National Correspondent

The Biden-Harris administration announced the appointment of Marcus T. Coleman as the Director of the Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (DHSCenter).

According to a news release, Coleman leads at the intersection of religious affairs, community capacity building, public-private partnerships, and crisis management to help people before, during, and after disasters.

His experience in the private sector includes serving as co-lead for the behavioral science and communications practice at HWC, Inc. Before HWC, Coleman served as the Interim Director for the DHS Center from 2017-2018 and Special Assistant from 2013 to 2016. During his tenure, Coleman developed the DHS Center’s partnership strategy engaging more than 50,000 leaders from multiple sectors and developed partnerships between FEMA and organizations, including the NAACP and AARP.

He also co-developed the guide, Engaging Faith-Based and Community Organizations: Considerations for Emergency Managers, FEMA’s course on Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disasters, IS-909: Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone and led a nationwide effort to increase the security for houses of worship.

On February 14, 2021, President Biden reestablished the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and federal agency centers.

In addition to their stated mission of outreach to stakeholders of all backgrounds and beliefs, the Centers executed the administration’s mission to boost economic recovery, combat systemic racism, increase opportunity and mobility for historically disadvantaged communities.

They also advance international development and global humanitarian work and strengthen pluralism, and respect constitutional guarantees.

“President Biden could not have appointed a better prepared and more capable leader than Marcus Coleman to direct the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships,” former DHS Center Director David L. Myers.

David stated in a release. “The country and the president will be well served by Marcus’ years of experience at the Center, his expertise in emergency preparedness, and his robust network of trusted relationships with faith-based, civic, and government partners.”

Joe Briggs, the counsel for the National Football League Players Association, remarked that Coleman had been a special connection for the sports community to the work

See COLEMAN, Page 4

Kay DeBow Alford


Highly focused, efficient and determined, Kay was the linchpin of the Chamber, defining multitasking to its highest degree.

Kay, as she was affectionately known, was named Kayanne at birth on December 12, 1957, to the parents of Charles DeBow Jr. and Aurelia Jane Stuart in Indianapolis, Indiana. She seemed to be born for business leadership, coming from a family that were known educators and entrepreneurs.

Kay’s father, Charles DeBow Jr. was one of the first four Tuskegee Airmen, serving in World War II. Kay’s maternal family were the Stuarts, who were entrepreneurs, owning several successful businesses in the greater Indianapolis area.

A graduate of Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, she received her bachelor’s degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. She began her professional career at Colgate-Palmolive in Detroit, Michigan. It was in Detroit on June 8, 1980, Kay met husband-to-be Harry Cicero Alford Jr.

After a short courtship Kay and Harry were married on October 31, 1980.

The Alfords made their home in Indianapolis. Kay pursued government work and at the height of that work she became the Director of Marketing for the Hoosier State Lottery in Indiana.

The couple also became entrepreneurs owning several video stores and private ventures.

Through their business experiences, Kay and Harry early on realized there was a need for a national connection.

When Kay DeBow Alford and her husband Harry left Indianapolis, Indiana and moved to Washington, D.C. in September 1994, they had already founded the National Black Chamber of Commerce on May 23, 1993.

They had begun locally to fill the void of a Black business organization by founding the Hoosier Minority Chamber of Commerce in Indianapolis which evolved into the NBCC.

The NBCC was crafted from the empowerment principles of Booker T. Washington, the business acumen of Congressman Parren Mitchell, and enforced by

See ALFORD Page 4

J. Terry Smith

InterBank today announced the hiring of J. Terry Smith as an Executive Vice President and as the bank’s DFW Regional President. In this key role, Smith will be responsible for leading the bank’s organic growth strategy in the DFW Metropole...

“We are excited to welcome Terry to the InterBank leadership team,” said C-K. Lee, InterBank’s President and Chief Operating Officer. “DFW is the best place in the world to do business and Terry has the experience and the expertise to build on our strong foundation in this market and lead our expansion efforts here.”

“I am thrilled to have

See SMITH Page 12

People in the News

For the 411 in the community, go to www.northdallasgazette.com
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By Royce West
Texas Senate

For members of Texas Legislature and those who work in its orbit, the days since the 87th Regular Session ended on Memorial Day have been anything but a summer break or a return to our lives as part-time lawmakers. During this period, myself along with Democrat colleagues, have traveled to the nation’s capital twice. And we’ve all traversed the roads from Austin to home like the Regular Session never ended. For what? It’s because the Governor and fellow legislators insist on passage of a bill that will in the opinion of many, make it harder for people who do not agree with or vote for them to cast their ballots.

Since SB7 was denied passage on the last night of Regular Session, my Republican colleagues have offered a new version, SB1, during the 1st Called Session that they swear makes it easier to vote and protects against alleged widespread voter fraud (see Big Lie!).

While SB1 dropped previous provisions that would have allowed elections to be overturned on unsubstantiated claims that votes were illegitimate, it still creates numerous barriers that could discourage people who assist the disabled or seniors to navigate the voting process, would require voters inside a vehicle with a voter who is provided curb-side service will not have to get out - as under SB7, any unrelated who drives three or more people to a polling site will still have to complete a new form to submit to election workers.

During the trips to Washington D.C., Texas House and Senate Democrats have met with Vice President Kamala Harris, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Whip James Clyburn and Senator Joe Manchin, as well as Texas House Democrats Eddie Bernice Johnson, Al Green, Sheila Jackson Latimer, and other Caucus members. Our goal was to provide intimate detail about a bill that would criminalize state and local election workers for manufactured violations, while allowing vigilantes to potentially intimidate and violate voter’s privacy.

We stated our case to Schumer, Manchin and Senator Amy Klobuchar that Texas needs Congress to pass HR1, the For the People Act that among its provisions, would eliminate gerrymandering that allows majority party politicians to create non-competitive districts for themselves, while fracturing or packing the voting bases of their opponents. We’ve implored the U.S. Senate to pass HR4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore and improve the clearance requirements for changes to election laws in states like Texas and others that have a history of voter discrimination.

Although there are no guarantees that the Senate will soon take action, what has occurred is that the plight of Texas Democrats and those in Georgia and Arizona have been nationalized by broadcast and print media. And in recent weeks, Democrats in both chambers of Congress have taken the mantle borne by Civil Rights luminaries, the likes of John Lewis and joined supporters in peaceful protest at the U.S. Capitol.

Two weeks ago, Bishop William Barber locked arms with Texas clergyman to bring the Poor People’s Campaign plans rallies across the country in coming weeks to raise the temperature on those who stand in the way of progress and for whom “Liberty and Justice for All” are only words on a parchment that no longer fits their narrow vision for America. The next rally takes place Monday and Tuesday in Washington D.C.

More urgent than defending the right to vote is the resurgence of a more dangerous enemy strain of COVID-19 and the unwillingness of some to take action. The White House reported that Texas, Florida and Missouri are home to 40 percent of new cases nationwide. Meanwhile, the Governor fiddles with another Special Session while the Governor fiddles with another Special Session while the Governor fiddles with another Special Session while COVID’s fever has reignited. Voting has always been a political issue. It’s another thing to play politics with people’s livelihoods. It’s yet another to play with people’s lives.

Pandemic problems of food insecurity are not over

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

There are still families and individuals in our communities who do not have enough to eat each day. While some food distribution has slowed down, the needs are still present. Many of those providing the distribution of food say they are running into a shortage of volunteers to handle the process. We are also still confronted with the issue of school being out, but not hunger. We still have high unemployment in our high risk communities. And, now we are faced with a new virus at the same time that many continue to resist getting vaccinated even though there is no cost other than their time to get the shot.

This paper does not want our communities of color, in particular, to be misled. Many of those among us who have not taken the vaccine by choice are in some of the most high risk jobs. We saw the impact of the COVID-19 virus on those persons in round one of this virus. So what can we do now? We can continue testing, get the vaccine, and wear a mask, regardless of what the government agencies are saying about the safety of going without one.

We can be mindful that the infection rate among those who have been vaccinated exists, but, so far, has not been fatal even though there have been some hospitalizations. We can talk to those around and among us who are vaccine resistant. If they don’t take the vaccine, then we should limit our contact with them for our own safety and the safety of others even though we have been vaccinated.

We must give very serious personal thought about our children and their return to schools. No one will care about them as much as you, the parent. It cannot be enough to say that we have reduced the number of children in a classroom to 17 or 18 when in the past that number has been 30 or more. If the class is cut in size, then who is teaching the second group; and are they getting the same level of instruction and not being parked with an adult as a babysitter with no skills?

Let us not forget the food insecurity of our children at school even though a number of schools are now preparing backpacks to go home with our children for weekend meals.

The problems of the pandemic continue and food insecurity is only one of them. We can do much to help each other if we just make a decision to personally get involved in helping others. What are you doing!!

Op-Ed

Voting Rights: Miles to go before we rest

Voice & Viewpoint
Publisher, The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Boechum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.
Dems decry governor’s executive order on COVID precautions

Over the weekend, Texas logged grim statistics as the delta variant continues to sweep communities across the state. On Friday, Texas passed New York to become the state with the second-most COVID deaths.

Meanwhile, on Monday, the Houston Chronicle reported that a surge in Houston COVID-19 hospitalizations is growing as fast as at any point during the pandemic so far, and is projected to pass previous records by mid-August. Travis County hospitals are also once again nearing capacity as IC beds fill up, with the Austin Health Department reporting only nine ICU beds available in a region serving 2.3 million people -- and Travis County jumped to the Stage 5 threshold after moving from Stage 3 to Stage 4 only a week earlier. New reports also emerged of pregnant people being increasingly hospitalized with the delta variant in the Austin area, with high risk of complications. Nationally, the outlook is equally grim, with over 100,000 new COVID cases recorded in the U.S. in just 24 hours over the weekend -- the most since February. And all of this as school is set to resume over the next few weeks.

In the face of these dangerous developments, Democrats say Gov. Greg Abbott is all but guaranteeing further suffering for Texas communities. Last week, Abbott signed an executive order blocking local officials from putting precautions in place in their cities -- an order which he has not rescinded despite escalating COVID numbers across the state.

“Greg Abbott has gone too far in his refusal to protect Texas citizens,” said Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa. “Over 53,000 Texans have died, and many are in critical conditions at area hospitals and fighting for their lives because they trusted his administration. How many more lives will need to be lost before Abbott takes measures to do what is right for Texas and not for his political career?”

Abbott has made it clear that he does not respect the freedom of locally elected officials to do what they know is best for their communities and schools. Like a dictator, he has stripped away their ability to mitigate this public health crisis and outlawed enforcing even the simplest of measures like wearing a mask. At any cost, Abbott will do whatever it takes to pander to extremists who he believes will re-elect him next term.

“Abbott is only in it for himself, and Texans are dying because of his poor decisions and inability to lead us out of this health crisis. Texas Democrats stand with teachers, parents, families, and community leaders throughout our state and demand Abbott end his political show and spare us from the worsening outcome of this pandemic.”

ALFORD, from Page 2

the father of affirmative Action Arthur Fletcher.

Kay and Harry Alford took the business mission to new heights.

The organization, comprised of chapters throughout the United States expanded its reach internationally to France, Mexico, England, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Kenya, and Ghana.

Kay coordinated and singlehandedly organized and produced the national and international conventions and conferences. She helped guide the NBCC, assuring its participation in business discussions on Capitol Hill and in the moments we shared to.

Her most recent pride was her family. A devoted wife to Harry Jr. of forty-one years and the mother of twins, Harry III and William Weir Bow III and William WeirBow III and William WeirBow Alford. Co-founder of LittPro Inc / Unsplash

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COLEMAN, from Page 2

that’s needed on the ground.

“His work with disaster relief has allowed the work of the pro athletes I work with to be amplified and more directed to the needs they were intended to address. We congratulated him on this appointment and look forward to continuing our work together,” Briggs stated.

A D.C. resident and proud alumni of Howard University and American University, Coleman remains an active member of Harvard University National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.

Officials said he continues to lead various efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation to advance national security interests. Coleman’s community contributions to emergency management and homeland security continue through his community leadership as an Advisory Board Member of the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management, a Board Member of the National Institute of Civic Discourse and Fair Chance DC, a Senior Advisor of the National Institute for Civic Discourse, and a member of the Truman National Security Project.

Coleman also serves with the National VOAD Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force and New America Foundation.

“We at The Potter’s House look forward to continuing our longstanding relationship with Marcus as he embarks on this new role that is critical to the safety and security of houses of worship as well as to our work in aiding and building communities,” said Bishop T.D. Jakes, Senior Pastor at The Potter’s House.

nth of Commerce.

“We will continue her legacy to fight for the improvement of African American communities throughout the Black Diaspora.” John E. Harmon, Sr., Founder, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) remembered Kay by saying, “words, although spoken softly, were at times, penetrating, yet nurturing and impactful.”

“Her commitment to attaining the best for Blacks was the cornerstone of her advocacy. I am grateful for the moments we shared together and her investment in my development as a Chamber Executive which has led to huge dividends for many and will never be forgotten.”

“The business community lost one of its champions with the passing of Kay DeBow Alford. Co-founder of the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) with her husband, Harry Alford, she was the power behind the scenes of the many accomplishments of the NBCC,” said Dorothy R. Leavell, who served as a Board member and previous Chairman of the Board of the NBCC.

As serious and fierce as she was in the business arena, she was equally invested in her family. A devoted wife to Harry Jr. of forty-one years and the mother of twins, Harry III and Thomas
Texas Democrats are celebrating the introduction of the Right to Vote Act, Senator Jon Ossoff’s newly proposed bill -- an important step forward as Texas Democrats continue to move the dial in the national fight for voting rights.

Texas Democratic state lawmakers are in their fourth week in D.C., where they continue to make their stand against Texas Republicans’ attacks on voting rights -- rallying a massive coalition for federal voting rights protections. With earlier voting rights legislation stalled in Congress, Texas Democrats have continued to push for solutions that meet the urgency of the moment -- as voting rights in Texas and across the country are facing an all out assault from Republican state legislatures. The Right to Vote Act is an important new effort to help defend those rights. As a complement to the measures proposed in the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the bill would enshrine the right to vote in federal statute, prevent states from restricting that right without justification, and allow U.S. citizens to challenge in court any policy that makes it harder for them to participate in elections.

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa issued the following statement:

“Thanks to Texas Democrats, the fight for voting rights has been in the national spotlight all summer long. The Right to Vote Act is further evidence that Democrats are moving the dial in one of the most important civil rights fights of our time: the fight to protect our right to vote. If passed, this bill will make it easier for Americans to fight back against any attack on their voting rights -- like the ones emerging from Republican state legislatures all across the country. While this bill is just one piece of the puzzle, this is an important step forward -- and a testament to the hard work Texas Democrats have been doing to rally federal legislators to defend voting rights.

“When our Texas Democratic legislators went to D.C. to make their stand earlier this summer, they carried one clear message: we will do whatever it takes to make sure Texas voters are not silenced. As long as Republican politicians keep trying to stop us from voting, Texas Democrats will be there to hold the line. I’m deeply grateful to Senator Ossoff and all the members of our massive coalition for their work to carry this fight forward -- and we continue to call on all federal legislators to meet this moment with the urgency it demands. Our vote is our voice. We will not waver in protecting it.”

Rep. Sherman meets with civil rights leader Reverend William J. Barber II in DC

WASHINGTON D.C. - Civil Rights leader Reverend William Barber II met with the members of the Texas House of Representatives who are blocking Governor Abbott and Texas Republicans’ latest attempt to push through deliberate anti-voting measures.

During his meeting with Texas House Democrats, Reverend Barber II - a minister, social activist, and co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign - spoke passionately on the need to protect the sacred freedom to vote to ensure the preservation of our democracy.

“You don’t swear to moder-ately protect the right to vote,” Barber said. “It’s a moral mandate.”

Texas State Representative Carl O. Sherman (D-109) issued the following statement in response to the meeting:

“It was such an honor for us to hear from one of the great American civil rights icons,” Representative Sherman said. “We are grateful for Reverend Barber’s lifetime of work fighting for civil rights and social and economic justice. We are so proud to share his values and so very much appreciate his standing with us as we continue to fight for the freedom to vote.”

While speaking with the Texas House Democrats, Reverend Barber II noted that after the failed insurrection, voting rights and the filibuster are now being weaponized to threaten our democracy. Just as Texas House Democrats have been doing while in Washington D.C., Reverend Barber II also urged Congress to pass the For the People Act.

“If 51 votes are enough to protect someone on the Supreme Court for life,” Barber II said, “then 51 votes are enough to save democracy.”

‘Hydrate the Hood’ slated for Aug. 7 in memory of slain Dallas rapper Dro Guapo

A group of local residents is looking to bring some positive from a very negative memory in Dallas.

In May 2020, local rap artist Dro Guapo (Rajai Ramaud Robinson) was killed by gunfire. The loss put to an end the career of an artist still blooming in his craft. Since his passing, the Dro Guapo Project was born to be a positive force in the community as well as raise awareness and combat gun violence.

On Aug. 7, the Dro Guapo Project will be hosting its second “Hydrate the Hood” event at Meadow Stone Park (2700 Meadow Stone Lane in Dallas). There will be water and juice passed out, as well as light refreshments.

The event will also feature a performance by Cameron Davis of Big Ball Entertainment.

In addition to the entertainment, the organization will be passing out literature and trying to educate the public about the dangers of gun violence and steering youth in another direction.

Katrina Chaney, a volunteer with the Dro Guapo Project, said the organization seeks to create a community center where youth can indulge their interest in music and art; offering an alternative to being out on the street.

More information can be found by looking up the Duo Guapo Project on Facebook.
Experts call for action to support educators in fostering growth for all students, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved

PORTLAND, Ore. — NWEA — a not-for-profit, research and educational services provider serving K-12 students — released today new research that highlights a challenging year in education with most students making lower-than-typical learning gains in math and reading. The research examined MAP Growth assessment scores from 5.5 million U.S. public school students in grades 3-8 between fall 2020 and spring 2021 and found:

- On average, students across most grades and subject areas made learning gains in 2020-21, but at a lower rate compared to pre-pandemic trends.
- 2020-21 outcomes were lower relative to historic trends. Gains across 2020-21 were at a lower rate and students ended the year with lower levels of achievement compared to a typical year, with larger declines in math (8 to 12 percentile points) than in reading (3 to 6 percentile points).
- Achievement was lower for all student groups in 2020-21; historically underserved students (e.g., American Indian and Alaskan Native, Black, and Latino and/or students in high poverty schools) were disproportionately impacted, particularly in the elementary grades that NWEA studied.

“As our nation continues to grapple with COVID-19 and its impact on every facet of our lives, this new research from NWEA illuminates just how devastating the academic consequences have been for our nation’s children. While all students have suffered from interrupted instruction, students of color and students from low-income families — who are more likely to receive virtual instruction but less likely to have access to sufficient bandwidth and devices necessary to access virtual learning — have borne the brunt of the pandemic’s academic burden. It is vital that policymakers, school leaders, and educators act on this crucial research to ensure that students who need the most support receive it,” said Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, in response to the new research.

NWEA’s research highlights national trends from this past year, but local context matters. Thus, NWEA encourages communities to dive deeper into their own data and insights to understand the ongoing impact of the pandemic on their students. The experiences of individuals will differ from the national average, and communities must look beyond just academic indicators to understand the impacts. Attendance, school engagement, social-emotional well-being, family environment, community support, unemployment rates, evictions and other factors should all be looked at holistically to inform actionable plans that are specific to the needs of their own communities as we start the long road to recovery.

“It’s important to remember that academic achievement is only one dimension of students’ education and these data alone cannot paint a complete picture of how young people fared this past year. For instance, our results cannot speak to the many ways students, families, and teachers have shown incredible resilience and adaptability in the face of immense challenges that completely upended normal life,” said Dr. Karyn Lewis, senior research scientist at NWEA and lead author of the study.

One thing is clear from the national data: students of color and/or those experiencing poverty were impacted at greater levels, exacerbating pre-existing inequities and calling for urgency in focusing resources. “The data sets from the NWEA study confirm the profound impact COVID-19 had on families and students. They also highlight the stark inequities that existed before March 13, 2020 — the pandemic grossly exacerbated the disparities we see in the education sector,” said Dr. Michael Conner, Superintendent of Middletown Public Schools in Middletown, CT. “However, the data sets also call for the holistic redesign and transformation of an operating model that can finally ground the principles of innovation, creativity, and equity in every fabric of our schools. At this juncture, we have permission to be bold, creative, innovative, and experimental for acceleration and recovery. There has not been a time in our industry where we can reimagine the traditional industrial model that historically marginalized students. This is the opportunity where systemic change in the context of policy, investments, and organizational practice can shift the trajectory of every student we encounter.”

While these inequities are not new, the level of funding now available to help address the need is, providing a critical moment to support those communities most impacted. Along with the new research, NWEA released a series of policy recommendations to advocate for deploying the unprecedented federal funding to communities and student populations most impacted by the pandemic, including investing in school counselors and nurses to address mental health and social-emotional well-being of students.

See RESEARCH, Page 12

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The American Rescue Plan provided nearly $47 billion in aid, but states and local governments have used just $3 billion.

“We need to continue working with local and state governments to ensure all of the funds Congress allocated reaches our constituents,” Congressman Gomez insisted.

“While my House Democratic colleagues work to secure sustainable housing solutions for the most vulnerable among us, I’d like to extend my appreciation to President Biden for helping us pursue every available option to keep our constituents healthy and in their homes.”

On July 31, 2021, Congressman Gomez, Congresswoman Waters, and several of their congressional colleagues sent a letter reiterating their ongoing calls for President Biden and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky to extend the federal eviction moratorium.

“As Chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services, I have made it a priority of mine to ensure that both renters and landlords are supported,” Congresswoman Waters stated.

Irving ISD offers free meals to all in school year 2021-2022

Irving Independent School District announced its policy today that this school year, healthy meals will be offered every school day to all students at no cost.

Typically, a student’s household must meet income eligibility requirements to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance that allows schools to offer meals to all students at no cost for the 2021-2022 school year. Each school/site or central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed upon request.

While no application or eligibility determination process is required for your student to receive free meals this school year, the income eligibility requirement will likely resume in the 2022-2023 school year.

On April 20, 2021 the USDA released a policy memo outlining a nationwide waiver to allow the Seamless Summer Option throughout the upcoming school year.

“Allowing school food authorities to participate under SSO during CO-VID-19 operations during the regular school year facilitates the safe provision of meals by eliminating the need to collect meal payments, including cash payments, at meal sites,” wrote Angela M. Kline, director of Policy and Program Development Division for the USDA.

“This speeds up service of meals, thereby reducing contact and potential exposure to COVID-19. It also facilitates implementation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for safe school meal service, which include serving meals outdoors or in classrooms. Schools may not have access to; electronic systems typically used to determine eligibility and collect payment when meals are served outside the cafeteria. Instead of spending time confirming each student’s enrollment and eligibility status at a central point-of-service, this waiver gives school food service professionals greater flexibility to distribute meals at a variety of safe meal sites that serve a smaller number of children.”

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Murder plot reveals a deadly mix: white supremacists and law enforcement

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

The FBI recently unearthed a deadly secret: top Ku Klux Klan members work in America’s prisons, holding unlimited power over inmates, including recent revelations in Florida where authorities thwarted a plot to kill a Black prisoner.

“I have long asked (Florida Department of Corrections Secretary Mark Inch), to no avail, to investigate this problem because so many of these individuals hide in plain sight,” Florida Democratic State Rep. Dianne Hart said in a statement.

“Due to the reported interest in this issue by the federal government, I will now be asking the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter and give recommendations to the Florida Legislature,” stated Hart, the Tampa native who’s affectionately known as “Miss Dee.”


The would-be murder failed because the FBI had a confidential informant inside a Ku Klux Klan operation that planned the killing.

It involved Warren Williams, a Black man serving a one-year sentence for assaulting a police officer.

The court ordered Williams to receive mental health treatment.

When confronted by white prison guard Thomas Driver, who degraded Williams by repeatedly blowing smoke in his face, the inmate and the officer began fighting.

As other guards responded, they pummeled Williams, who required hospitalization.

Angered, Driver met with fellow Klansmen and determined that Williams should die upon his release from prison.

An informant recorded all of the conversations between the Klansmen – three were involved in the scheme – and made arrests.

Driver received four years in prison for his role, while his co-conspirators Charles Newcomb and David Moran got 12 years for the 2015 crime.

This year, Driver will complete his four-year sentence.

The infiltration of Klan members and other white supremacists in law enforcement has rattled much of America, particularly in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis last year.

During the January 6 domestic terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol, the FBI found that many of those involved were law enforcement or ex-military members.

But, the concerns about racists patrolling America’s streets and prisons aren’t new.

An October 2006 FBI Intelligence Assessment titled “White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement” was de-classified and unearthed in 2020.

According to the 10-page document, white supremacist groups have historically engaged in strategic efforts to infiltrate and recruit members from law enforcement communities.

Current reporting on attempts reflects self-initiated efforts by individuals, particularly among those already within law enforcement ranks, to volunteer their professional resources to white supremacist causes with which they sympathize.

“White supremacist presence among law enforcement personnel is a concern due to the access they may possess to restricted areas vulnerable to sabotage and to elected officials or protected persons, whom they could see as potential targets for violence,” the document continued.

“In addition, white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement can result in other abuses of authority, and passive tolerance of racism within communities served.”

Reports of white supremacist groups recruiting corrections officers have emanated from Alabama and Mississippi in the South, New York, and New Jersey in the South, and Arizona and California in the West.

A 2020 report by the nonprofit Brennan Center noted that the Justice Department has been delinquent in gathering data about overtly racist police conduct.

The lack of a federal database that tracks this type of misconduct or membership in white supremacist or far-right militant groups makes discovering evi-
Focus On: Henry Ossawa Tanner presents new insights into the practice of the acclaimed American artist

The Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) will exhibit two works by Henry Ossawa Tanner, presenting discoveries from a recent comprehensive conservation treatment and technical study conducted by the DMA with generous support from the Art Bridges Foundation. The findings contribute new insights into the practice of the acclaimed American artist, including the evolution of Tanner’s techniques, his exploration of color theory, and abandoned compositions within the canvases. The exhibition pairs The Thankful Poor (1894), one of Tanner’s most famous early paintings, and Christ and His Mother Studying the Scriptures (about 1908), an exemplar of his signature blue palette and later religious subjects. Focus On: Henry Ossawa Tanner is on view beginning August 17, 2021, through January 2, 2022, and is included in free general admission. The study and presentation were overseen by Sue Canterbury, The Pauline Gill Sullivan Associate Curator of American Art, and Laura Eva Hartman, Paintings Conservator at the DMA.

“Through this partnership with Art Bridges, we greatly expand our understanding of two landmark works in our respective collections,” said Dr. Agustín Arteaga, the DMA’s Eugene McDermott Director. “Undertaking in-depth conservation analysis is an essential part of our commitment to studying and promoting the work of Black American artists. We are excited to provide our visitors a rare look underneath the surface and into an important artist’s working process.”

The Art Bridges Foundation is a private operating foundation whose mission is to increase access to American art across the U.S. Established by arts patron and philanthropist Alice Walton, Art Bridges supports museums of all sizes to provide collection loans, traveling exhibitions, multidisciplinary programming, and more in order to further connect museums and their local communities.

“The exhibition of Focus On: Henry Ossawa Tanner marks our second partnership with the DMA and we are excited for visitors to view this pair of remarkable paintings,” said Paul R. Provost, CEO, the Art Bridges Foundation. “The cultural significance and technical study findings of this pair make this a landmark occasion that we hope leaves audiences with a deeper understanding of American art.”

Born to a religious family, Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937) trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and initially painted religious subjects. Focus On: Henry Ossawa Tanner presents new insights into the practice of the acclaimed American artist.

• Tanner’s use of contrast colors shows a deep understanding of color theory. Conservation treatment of The Thankful Poor revealed a range of previously undetectable paint colors, such as combinations of purples and oranges with blues and yellows. The later painting shows the same warm, dark foundation with the addition of brighter, cooler hues that became part of his hallmark style.

• Both canvases were originally used to begin other works. An abandoned version of The Young Sabot Maker (1895), in the collection of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, was found on the reverse of The Thankful Poor. X-radiography uncovered a completely different composition underneath Christ and His Mother Studying the Scriptures, showing two draped figures in a landscape.

• X-radiography showed • Both canvases were originally used to begin other works. An abandoned version of The Young Sabot Maker (1895), in the collection of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, was found on the reverse of The Thankful Poor. X-radiography uncovered a completely different composition underneath Christ and His Mother Studying the Scriptures, showing two draped figures in a landscape.

See DMA, Page 13
Music superstar Rihanna tops $1 billion in net worth

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

You can call her Ri-Ri, wear her Savage X lingerie or Fenty perfume. And Rihanna wouldn’t mind. But the pop superstar and business mogul probably doesn’t mind anyone calling her a billionaire.

According to Forbes magazine, the 33-year-old Barbadian beauty has achieved billionaire status. With an estimated net worth of $1.7 billion, the Grammy winner now counts as the wealthiest female musician globally.

The “Work” singer only trails Oprah Winfrey as the world’s richest entertainer. A lot of women felt there were no lines out there that catered to their skin tone. It was light, medium, medium-dark, dark,” Shannon Coyne, co-founder of consumer products consultancy Bluestock Advisors, told Forbes.

“Born Robyn Rihanna Fenty on February 20, 1988, in Saint Michael, Barbados, the tantalizing starlet delivered hit after hit with songs like “Umbrella,” “Rude Boy,” and “Diamonds.” With well over 100 million social media followers, Rihanna’s fans have pleaded with their idol to deliver new music.

But with her Fenty and Savage X Fenty business white-hot, Rihanna appears to have settled in as an entrepreneur and business magnate.

Cutting deals with Puma in 2014, Dior in 2016, Fenty Beauty in 2017, Savage X Fenty in 2018, and Fenty Skin in 2020, Rihanna kept her business-focused. Forbes writer Madeline Berg described Rihanna’s rise this way: “When Robyn Fenty, known to the world as Rihanna, launched Fenty Beauty in 2017, she sought to create a cosmetics company that made “women everywhere (feel) included.” A perhaps unintended consequence: The beauty line has helped her enter one of the world’s most exclusive ranks: Billionaire.”

Berge concluded by providing commentary from Coyne, the consultant. “She is creating a brand outside of herself. It’s not just about Rihanna. Even if you don’t like her music, she’s created a real style in the fashion and beauty space.”

Texas Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee is latest lawmaker arrested in voting rights fight

(NNPA) Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) became the third African American lawmaker arrested this month while advocating for new voting rights legislation.

The congresswoman’s arrest on Friday, July 30, follows the detainment of fellow Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) and Congressman Hank Johnson (D-Georgia).

Each of them protested Jim Crow-like voter restriction laws in GOP-led states around the country. “I will never stop fighting for voting rights,” Congresswoman Jackson-Lee exclaimed. “The time is now to move the voting rights bills in the U.S. Senate forward!! Enough is enough.”

Civil Rights legend the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Poor People’s Campaign co-chair the Rev. William Barber II also were arrested in Washington.

Like Congressman Johnson, Jackson and Barber demonstrated outside of the U.S. Capitol demanding that the U.S. Senate abolish the filibuster to push through voting rights measures. “We come not as an insurrection group, but as a resurrection group,” Jackson demanded during the June 23 demonstration that
SEATTLE (PRNewswire) As we enter a new month, the Black Future Co-Op Fund is taking the opportunity to celebrate the legacy of Black giving, while inspiring increased investment in Black Communities during Black Philanthropy Month. The KD Hall Foundation joins in this month of recognition.

Throughout August the goal is to demystify philanthropy through a virtual panel series intended to bring together members of the Black community who are intimately involved with Black philanthropy and the broader community.

Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation naming August – Black Philanthropy Month in Washington. That proclamation recognizes the “rich history” Black Washingtonians have “of investing their time, talent, treasure and care for Washington’s communities.” Read the proclamation.

The KD Hall Foundation takes this opportunity to spread information on Black Philanthropy Month as we recognize Equal Pay Day for Black women (Tuesday, August 3), and encourage others to join in as Black philanthropic leaders explore the legacy of Black generosity and how we invest in a liberated future by, for – and with – Black Washingtonians:

- Black Philanthropy Is Community Care - Tuesday, Aug. 17 | 12-1:30 p.m.
- From Institutional Philanthropic Redlining to Black Sovereignty - Tuesday, Aug. 24 | 12-1:30 p.m.
- Where Is the Money? - Tuesday, Aug. 31 | 5-6:30 p.m.

All Washingtonians can acknowledge and applaud the power of Black collective giving in our state. We invite you to join us for this virtual panel series to learn more about and celebrate Black philanthropy.

By and for Black Washingtonians, the Black Future Co-op Fund is rooted in the beauty, soulfulness, and strength of Black culture.

Founded by four Black women of African descent, we stand on the shoulders of our grandmothers and the memory of our warrior ancestors. We each lead major social change organizations in Washington state that empower Black leadership and have come together with a vision for radical change.
Office Pride franchisee purchases second location in Dallas-Carrollton market

Adrian Titsworth is the new owner of Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services of Dallas-Carrollton, an independently owned and operated commercial cleaning franchise. Office Pride-Adrian. jepgPride of Dallas-Carrollton provides a full range of routine janitorial and commercial cleaning services to commercial facilities throughout the Dallas and Carrollton area. The franchise offers specialty services including floor cleaning, sanitation, disinfection and electrostatic spray treatment, which is effective in disinfecting common areas, personal spaces and hard-to-reach corners and crevices. Electrostatic sprayers are vital in the fight against the spread of germs that cause COVID-19, flu and other respiratory illnesses.

Titsworth, who was named Office Pride’s Rookie of the Year in 2020, has more than a decade of experience in the commercial cleaning industry, the last three as owner of his own business, Office Pride of Oklahoma City-Moore. He has earned certification as an Office Pride trainer. He and his wife, Denise, live in Oklahoma City.

“I have built my business on doing things the right way and exceeding customers’ expectations,” Titsworth said. “I look forward to bringing that philosophy to the Dallas area as we go above and beyond to serve our customers there.”

For more information, visit officepride.com/0388.

Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services, based in Palm Harbor, Florida, is one of the most respected full-service commercial cleaning companies in the nation. Office Pride’s business was built on a strong set of core values that ensures business is conducted with integrity and that every customer receives the highest level of commercial cleaning and janitorial services.

Study reinforces a brighter economic outlook when America leads world in energy production

By Stacy M. Brown NNPA NewsWire Senior National Correspondent

According to a new study, America’s natural gas and oil industry will need to serve as a vital driver of the nation’s post-pandemic economic recovery.

The industry counts as critical to every sector of the U.S. economy and supports millions of jobs across all 50 states, according to a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers that compiles the latest available government data.

The 134-page study, which explores the economic impact of the oil and natural gas industry, revealed that the business supported 11.3 million jobs and contributed nearly $1.7 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2019.

The study authors reported that the impacts are the result of three channels:

• Direct impacts from the employment and production within the oil and natural gas industry.
• Indirect impacts through the industry’s purchases of intermediate and capital goods from a variety of other U.S. industries.
• Induced impacts from the personal purchases of employees and business owners both within the oil and natural gas industry and its supply chain, as well as from the personal spending by shareholders out of the dividends received from oil and natural gas companies.

In addition to supporting well-paying jobs, the natural gas and oil industry, directly and indirectly, contributed an estimated $1.7 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2019, representing 7.9 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Researchers found through wages, taxes, capital investments, and support to other industries, the economic impact extends beyond traditional natural gas and oil-producing states.

“Every state in the nation has a stake in continued access to U.S. natural gas and oil reserves, which are critical for the nation’s economic recovery,” the study authors wrote.

In short, as the nation continues to recover from the pandemic and the economic downturn that resulted, the natural gas and oil industry will serve as an engine for long-term growth.

“The industry continues to create good-paying jobs and deliver reliable American energy to enterprises, including healthcare, retail, and other sectors,” the study authors observed.

“Research has shown that the oil and gas industry is vital to all sectors of the economy, and consistent and reliable supplies from the industry are critical to every sector of the U.S. economy,” according to Tanya Nieswander, Director of the American Petroleum Institute’s North American Energy Institute.

Nieswander noted that the industry’s leadership worked with policymakers to help ensure the nation has reliable energy supplies during the pandemic.

She added that the industry can help support the economic recovery by supporting industries that rely on the natural gas and oil industry as raw materials, including construction, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors.

“By supporting these industries, we can help ensure that families and communities can continue to thrive and recover as we emerge from the pandemic,” Nieswander said.

RESEARCH

To learn more about the new research, read the full research brief: https://www.nwea.org/research/
On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

The United States Army is hiring for over 150 different career fields.

PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES - 1 weekend a month, 2 weeks in the early summer. Stay local. Money for school, healthcare, paid drills and skill training, and up to $20,000 enlistment bonus.

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DMA, from Page 9

compositional changes and refinements in The Thankful Poor, such as modifications to objects on the table and in the room, and adjustments to the child’s pose. Tanner would later push the limits of traditional techniques. The works showcase Tanner’s innovation in applying energetic brushwork while also sanding, scratching, and wiping paint to create unique surface effects.

“The ability to study both paintings was a true honor. Cleaning layers of darkened varnish from The Thankful Poor was especially significant, revealing a harmony that was previously obscured. Having time to study both paintings together also revealed common threads and pursued innovations, material information that speaks directly to Tanner’s profound knowledge of painting, showing his true hand as a highly skilled and brilliant artist,” said curator Sue Canterbury and conservator Laura Hartman.

Focus On: Henry Ossawa Tanner is co-organized by the Dallas Museum of Art and Art Bridges. Support for this exhibition is provided by Art Bridges. The Dallas Museum of Art is supported, in part, by the generosity of DMA Members and donors, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture.

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 to apply.

Ongoing

City of Dallas

The City of Dallas’ HR Dept is currently accepting applications 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/2NcFVP.

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://livemusicentertainment.com/careers.

Job Title: Data Engineer (FT; Multiple Openings)

Job Location: Dallas, TX (Remote)

Requirements: MS or equiv. in CS, IS, etc. + 2 yrs. exp. or BS + 5 yrs. exp. req’d.

Exp. w/ Hadoop, HDF5, Hive, HBase, MongoDB, ElasticSearch, Vertica, Amazon Redshift, Oracle, Python, SQL, Java, Kafka, Spark, MapReduce, Hive SQL, Python, C/C++, Unix, & Linux req’d.

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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.

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

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:

a. Presides at meetings and acts as Chairman/Chairwoman of the Executive Committee.

b. Appoints all committees not directly elected by the Chapter.

c. Between meetings of the Executive Committee and subject to the approval thereof, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Chapter.

d. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

e. Shall work with other members of the Executive Committee to develop a program agenda for a defined fiscal year.

f. 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.

g. 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.

National Action Network is a non-partisan, non-profit civil rights organization that was founded in New York City in 1991 by Rev. Al Sharpton. The NAN is dedicated to ensuring that all people living in America are treated equally under the law and with the same respect and dignity that our founding fathers intended. The NAN is committed to protecting the rights and civil liberties of all Americans, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or any other characteristic protected by law. The NAN is a leading voice in the fight for social justice and equality for all Americans.
August 8, 9:45 am

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

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 ID. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor 1944 E. Hebron Parkway Carrollton, TX 75007 972-492-4300 www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

We are Saving You a Seat!

Check “The Ship’s” website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

August 8, You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joyce 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.

August 11, 7 pm

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

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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

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(WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

Connect to God through Shiloh, Grow in Christ through the study of the Word of God, Serve God through service to each other and the world.

Check “SMBCs” website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

August 8, 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.

August 9, 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

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

August 8, 9:45 am

led to his arrest.

“We must fill up the jails … if you call yourself a child of God, you oughta act like it sometimes.”

Barber took direct aim at West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, who has stubbornly refused to consider abolishing or altering the filibuster for the sake of voting rights.

“We are also here to say to Manchin: Any so-called Democrat who claims to support the non-constitutional filibuster over the constitutional guarantee that no state can deny or abridge the right to vote … you are assisting the Republicans in their extremism,” Barber asserted.

Voter suppression laws have passed statehouses in Georgia, Texas, Arizona, and 14 other states have Democrats and others concerned. Since the 2020 election, 17 states have passed 28 laws making it harder for constituents to vote in 2021, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University’s School of Law.

The Brennan Center distinctly tied the new laws to “racist voter fraud allegations behind the Big Lie – former President Donald Trump’s false claims of election fraud – and a desire to prevent future elections from achieving the historic turnout seen in 2020.”

Congresswoman Beatty summoned the memory of the late Congressman John Lewis after her arrest. “Good trouble,” Beatty tweeted. She demanded that her Republican colleagues “protect our voting rights” and pass the For the People Act.

“Let the people vote,” the congresswoman demanded. Jackson Lee reminded everyone that all of the arrests are part of the “civil disobedience” needed to move voting rights to the forefront.

“All action that is a peaceful action of civil disobedience is worthy and more to push all of us to do better and do more and to pass (H.R.) 1, S 1 and to pass the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Act,” Jackson Lee stated.

“The people of Texas are desperate and need it. The people of America are desperate and need it.”

The U.S. Energy Information Administration noted that global oil and liquid fuels consumption is expected to surpass 2019 levels in 2022, as economic activity and travel patterns normalize.

“This represents an opportunity for the U.S. to meet the world’s rising demand for affordable, reliable fuels with homegrown natural gas and oil,” American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Mike Sommers wrote in an email.

“That said, America’s economic outlook depends on federal and state policy proposals that incentivize resource development, modernize energy infrastructure and streamline burdensome regulations,” Sommers maintained.

“The nation’s hard-fought energy security and GDP growth are at stake, even as the natural gas and oil industry continues to drive the nation’s post-pandemic recovery.”

Sommers continued: “As America’s economy comes back, the natural gas and oil industry will serve as the foundation for long-term growth and prosperity.”

“Every state across the country – both blue states and red states – rely on American energy to fuel each sector of the economy and support millions of U.S. jobs.

“This study reinforces that America’s economic outlook is brighter when we are leading the world in energy production, and it serves as a reminder of what’s at stake if policy-makers restrict access to affordable, reliable energy and make us more dependent on foreign sources.”
Jesus: The Mighty God

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6

Wonderful things happen to those who recognize Jesus as the Mighty God and who call on Him. When people refuse to recognize Jesus as their Mighty God, He cannot bless them, for they have shut the spiritual window of their lives. But to those who have yielded their lives to Jesus, He can be their Mighty God.

Everything promised in Scripture can happen to you, because Jesus is mighty to bless those who have faith to receive it.

What is your greatest desire today? “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4.

Recognize God’s might, but recognize it inward. Have enough faith to trust in God to do mighty things in your life.

Believe not just in your head; overcome the unbelief of your heart. Jesus is the Mighty God to answer prayer.

He is also the Mighty God to overcome bad habits and to give you strength to resist temptation. He is the Mighty God to give you peace in the middle of a storm.

He can take you off of your wayward path and give you purpose in life. He transforms from the inside out. If you need a spiritual makeover, call on Jesus, your Mighty God.

Jesus is mighty to discipline your thoughts. Let Him be mighty to focus your emotions in worship Him.

Allow Him to be mighty to strengthen you against temptation. Let Him be mighty to use your body as His temple.

I Ain’t 16 Anymore

Before I was 16, I thought everything was free, I could do whatever I please, and there would be no accountability.

Turning 16 turned my life completely around.

Another thing I experienced when I turned 16 is that I did not know all that I thought I knew. When a person thinks they know everything, they don’t know exactly what they don’t know.

One of the most important lessons I have learned since I turned 16 was that it is essential to know what you don’t know. If you think you know everything, you’re missing out on a lot of life.

Looking back, I can see that it serves no purpose not to trust in the Lord. However, I experience things that are beyond my experience and understanding, and that’s when God steps in.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship.

Dr. James L. Snyder

I’ve had so many birthdays in my life that I really don’t know how old I am. All I know is that I’m one year older than I was last year. I would not be able to remember when my life began if it wasn’t for paperwork.

To many people, numbers are very important, but in my opinion, a number is just a number.

As I look forward to another birthday, I would like to go back to being 16 again. Those were the good old days, as they say.

When I was 16, I was rather oblivious of things that were happening in the world. We didn’t have TV back then and only got TV when President J. F. Kennedy was assassinated. Dad had to get a TV to keep up with what was going on.

I had no internet, computer, cell phone, video games or anything of the like. So in all actuality, I was on my own.

One thing that really impressed me about being 16 was that I could get a driver’s license and drive a car. The disappointing aspect about this was, I didn’t have enough money to buy a car and so had to borrow my father’s car when it was convenient for him. Oh boy, those were the days.

At 16, I believed I had become a certified adult. I was at the stage now where nobody could tell me what to do. I was my own boss.

“At least I thought I was,” my own boss. However, I still was in high school, and for some reason, my teachers thought they were in charge of the class. How little did they know?

It took being sent to the principal’s office five times before realizing I was not really in charge of my class. I also began to realize that being in charge of your life is very expensive. Before I was 16, my parents paid for everything for me. But now that I’m 16, that income stream dried up.

I remember my father saying to me, “Son, you’re now 16, and you are in charge of your life.”

My smile flashed all over my face, I was now set free, and I can do whatever I wanted to do.

My father wasn’t quite done with me yet, “Now that you are 16, you’re going to have to pay for your things.”

At the time, I didn’t know what he meant, but I shook my head energetically and smiled, and was now ready to go out into the world and be my own boss. I was so anxious to get started in this lifestyle of being in control.

The next day as I was ready to go to school, I stopped and asked my father, “Dad, I need some money for lunch today.”

My father looked at me and said, “I thought you were in control of your life?”

“Yes, dad, I’m in control of my life; I’m my own boss.”

“Then,” my father said, “that means you have to pay for your own lunch. If you’re in charge, that means you have to pay for what you have.”

He turned around and walked away, and I stood there glaring at him. I did not know that being in charge meant I had to pay for everything. He should’ve explained that to me a little more clearly.

One Saturday, I needed to borrow my father’s car to go to a baseball game. “Dad, can I borrow your car so I can go to my baseball game this afternoon?”

“You sure can,” my father said, “and by the way, the car is low on gas, so you’ll have to put gas in the car.”

I began to have different feelings about being in charge of my life. I had no idea that my life was so expensive.

Now, I had to get a job so that I could pay for everything and be my own boss.

It took me a long time to realize how great my life was before I turned 16. If I would have known that, I think I would’ve lived more extravagantly on my dad’s credit card.

After celebrating my 16th birthday, I cooled down a little bit to realize that life really is hard, and getting old is not for sissies. Plus, it’s very costly.

Dr. James L. Snyder

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

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NDG Book Review: ‘Breathing Fire’ touts unlikely heroes

By Terri Schlachemeyer

Your oversized plastic tote is all packed.

You don’t want to think about it, but if you have to bug out, you can. A backup laptop, extra dog bowls, every irreplaceable document, it’s all there, ready to slide into the car. You can never be too careful when it’s fire season and in the new book “Breathing Fire” by Jaime Lowe, you’ll meet some of the women tasked with keeping you safe.

Shawna Lynn Jones had made mistakes in her life. The biggest one got her sent to prison.

She was young, though, and in good physical shape, which ultimately helped her get into the CDCR’s (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) inmate firefighter program. She learned to be a bucker, tasked with cleaning up be-hind her partner, Carla, who was a sawyer with a chainsaw. Crew 13-3 consisted of two sawyer/bucker pairs, followed by other women with jobs specific to stopping wildfires.

Jaime Lowe grew up in California but until she read about Shawna, she was unaware of the role that female inmate crews have in fighting fire. Inmate firefighters take the same qualifications tests as do free-world firefighters. They do the same work, face the same dangers, and they save the state millions of dollars: when Lowe began writing this book, inmate firefighters averaged less than $3 an hour for their skills.

Still, despite low pay, many inmates pursued positions in “fire camp.” Some, says Lowe, even hoped to fight fires after their release, although it was a long shot: their felony records follow them, no matter where they might apply.

In learning about the program, Lowe got a chance to meet Selena, who “wasn’t intending to go back to prison” after her release. She met Whitney, formerly a white-collar worker and ultra-marathoner. She met Laurie, who struggled to find a job after prison; Sonya, who delighted in a new grandson; and Marquet, who found solace in her religion.

And Lowe met Shawna, who gave her life to fight a fire....

Let’s start here: this is a good story. It’s very good. But for readers looking for boots-on-the-ground action and extended-wall-of-fire danger, it’ll be a disappointment because “Breathing Fire” isn’t that kind of book.

Rather than focusing on flames, author Jaime Lowe instead concentrates on the women of Crew 13-3 and the work they did for the State of California. In this, readers can expect pure honesty. Lowe unashamedly reveals what each woman did to land her in prison and the struggles each had in life, in prison, and on the line. She also makes absolutely sure that readers – especially those in California – understand the unfairness of a far-ranging system that denies good jobs to women who are essentially professionally trained, and who’ve paid their dues and are trying to move forward.

Overall, parts of “Breathing Fire” put you on charred grass and makes you cell-bound. The rest of it shows flawed real-life heroes amid an area-wide “constant crisis,” and if you’re burning for stories like that, this book is packed.