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March on Washington 2021 focuses on voting rights

By Lauren Victoria Burke,
NNPA Contributor

On the 58th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech and the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, marchers focused on voting rights. Voting rights have reemerged as a somewhat unexpected political battlefield as Republicans across the country pass new laws placing barriers in front of the ballot box.

Last week, the U.S. House passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act which would restore pre-clearance, a 1965 Voting Rights Act provision requiring states with a history of restricting voting rights to receive pre-approval for changes in election laws.

"January 6 you saw an insurrection against people's right to vote," said Rev. Al Sharpton, a primary organizer of the March on Washington 2021. Today, Sharpton said, represents "Dr. King's resurrection of the right to vote."

In Washington, D.C. and several other cities, marchers focused on voting rights along with the minimum wage, evictions and justice reform issues. Marchers at the Washington, D.C. event featured members of Congress and voting rights activists.

"Fifty eight years ago today, a preacher from Georgia stood on these steps and declared, in the face



Voting rights activists have been putting pressure on Congress to end the filibuster and make it harder for state legislators to change voting laws that place barriers in front of the ballot box. (Photo via NNPA)

of racism and economic justice, a nightmare — a nightmare that was lengthened by congressional and state filibustering," said Rev. Dr. William Barber, President of Repairers of the Breach.

Marchers in Washington, D.C. wore "good trouble" t-shirts and face masks and held signs on voting rights and ending the filibuster.

Voting rights activists have been putting pressure on Congress to end the filibuster and make it harder for state legislators to change voting laws that place barriers in front of the ballot box.

"Fifty-eight years after the #MarchOnWashington, Americans are marching again today for our democ-

racy. With state laws disenfranchising voters and making it harder to vote, we need the Senate to pass the For the People Act and the House-passed John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act!" wrote House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on social media.

The Senate is expected to return to session in September and deal with a close vote that will include the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKE-FILE. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.



Biden leads by example with exec order

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New AFL-CIO prez in time for Labor Day

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Katrina Adams

People In The News ...



ET3 Luis Espinoza



Jacqueline Y. Fuqua

NDG Quote of the Week: "We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort." —Jesse Owens

Katrina Adams

(Black PR Wire) NEW YORK -- (BUSINESS WIRE)--ONYX Media, LLC announced today the official launch of EMPOWER ONYX, a diverse multi-channel platform celebrating the stories and transformative power of sports for Black women and girls. The minority women owned media company aims to inspire young black women through in-depth profiles, articles, podcasts and documentaries showcasing leaders in sports who champion social justice, equality and self-



Leonard Zhukovsky / USTA

empowerment.

"Our goal is to foster an environment allowing Black women and girls to share information, inspirational stories and intimate conversations about their

successes, journeys as well as their struggles," said Michelle Blake-Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of ONYX Media. "We hope to create a dynamic conversation that will encourage the next generation of Black women and girls."

Each week, ONYX Media will create and distribute content on empoweronyx.com and social channels as well as distribute content to mission-aligned organizations. Content will focus on and feature stories of Black women who are pioneers, innovators and creators striving for greatness and breaking barriers.

"EMPOWER ONYX is an inspiring, motivating, creative community which supports Black and Brown women, offering us a platform to shine," said Katrina Adams, former President and CEO of the USTA.

By partnering with Sports Illustrated (SI), the influential leader in sports coverage recognized for shaping modern culture and uniting athletes, teams and fans worldwide, these authentic stories about Black women making difference in sports, school and the boardroom will reach new audiences across digital and social channels. "In-

spiring stories have been at the core of what Sports Illustrated has excelled at since its inception. We're thrilled to be collaborating with the ONYX team to celebrate and showcase the stories of influential and up-and-coming Black women making a difference across the sports landscape," said Ryan Hunt, Co-Editor-In-Chief of Sports Illustrated.

Cadillac has signed on as an official launch partner with ONYX Media to highlight the importance of sports and athletics in the life of Black girls and women. "At Cadillac, we champion big dreams and

bold ambitions – through the support of platforms like EMPOWER ONYX, we are taking an important step in advancing equity and representation. We are excited to drive these authentic stories about incredible black women and girls through ONYX Media," said Melissa Grady, CMO Cadillac.

Together with Sports Illustrated, ONYX Media will produce two programs celebrating Black female athletes who have blazed trails and are setting the path for the next genera-

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ET3 Luis Espinoza

By Stephanie Fox
Navy Office of
Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – A Dallas, Texas, native is serving aboard USS Iwo Jima, a U.S. Navy Wasp class amphibious assault ship.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Luis Espinoza is a 2012 School for the Talented and Gifted graduate and 2014 Mountain View Community College graduate. Today, Espinoza serves as an electronics technician.

Electronics technicians are trained in computer, aerospace and electrical en-



gineering to maintain combat readiness across a wide variety of complex ship and aircraft systems. These sailors are responsible for maintaining, repairing and calibrating electronic equipment including radar, com-

munications and navigation equipment.

"I joined the Navy to get the funds necessary to finish my college degree," said Espinoza "I also felt like it was time for a change of pace."

Iwo Jima is the seventh Wasp-class amphibious assault ship and the second ship in the U.S. Navy to bear that name. The ship was named for the Battle of Iwo Jima of World War II.

According to Navy of-

ficials, amphibious assault ships are designed to deliver U.S. Marines and their equipment where they are needed to support a variety of missions ranging from amphibious assaults to humanitarian relief efforts. Designed to be versatile, the ship has the option of simultaneously using helicopters, Harrier jets, and Landing Craft Air Cushioned, as well as conventional landing craft and assault vehicles in various combinations.

Espinoza's favorite part of working in the Navy is meeting new sailors.

"The best part about serving in the Navy is the friendships I've made," said Espinoza.

Though there are many opportunities for sailors to earn recognition in their command, community and careers, Espinoza is most proud of serving the country.

"I am proud of my deployment, which has al-

lowed me to further understand my role as a service member," said Espinoza.

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Espinoza, as well as other sailors, know they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

Jacqueline Y. Fuqua

(Pr.com) Jacqueline Y. Fuqua of Indianapolis, Indiana has been honored as a Woman of the Month for August 2021 by P.O.W.E.R. (Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized) for her outstanding contributions and achievements in the field of esthetics and her expertise as a barber, manicurist, cosmetologist, and educator. Each month P.O.W.E.R. features women to represent their professions and industries due to their expertise and success in their chosen specialty.

Jacqueline Y. Fuqua is the founder, owner, and an educator with The Fuqua



Institute of Beauty Culture LLC in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jacqueline has over 30 years' experience in the industry. In 2015, she founded the beauty institute in an effort to provide a more affordable and efficient way for anyone to

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Leading By Example—Biden's anti-bias executive order

By Derrick Johnson
and Michele Ruiz

Earlier this Summer, President Biden issued a sweeping Executive Order, which advances diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility or "DEI&A" initiatives throughout the federal government. With a stroke of the pen, Biden has positively impacted practically every area of federal employment, including hiring policies, training, leadership development, and employee pay and benefits. As leaders in the civil rights and business community who prioritize DEI&A, we applaud the President for taking this next step to address unconscious bias and attract, develop, and support a federal workforce that truly represents our nation.

By issuing the order, Biden is directing each agency head to "...take steps to implement or increase the availability and use of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility

training programs for employees, managers, and leadership."

DEI&A initiatives and training make governments, businesses, and organizations stronger. Surveys show that 67% of job seekers consider workplace diversity an important factor when considering employment opportunities. Sixty-one percent of employees believe diversity and inclusion strategies are beneficial and essential. If the federal government wants to attract and retain the best talent, it needs DEI&A training and programs with all deliberate speed.

Bias in policymaking—whether systemic or unconscious—has historically resulted in adverse outcomes for communities of color and other marginalized groups. From immigration legislation to healthcare policy to education, programs need to be designed and implemented with an eye toward how they will affect all citizens, regardless of their

race or economic circumstances. According to the White House, overcoming bias in public policy around wages, housing credit, lending, and access to higher education could amount to an additional \$5 trillion in gross domestic product in the American economy over the next five years.

Unconscious bias experts cite, and numerous studies demonstrate that not addressing unconscious bias leads to high turnover, low morale, less innovation, increased legal risk, and less effective teams. Without question, making federal service more accessible and fairer to diverse groups is the right thing to do; it is also better for our economy and our democracy. Fact is a diverse, inclusive, creative, and productive federal workforce best reflects the face of the nation at home and abroad. Whether trying to devise solutions to fix the housing crisis or ensure access to broadband technology, it also ensures a range

of unique perspectives is incorporated into innovative and public-focused services and solutions the government provides to the American people.

Similar conclusions can be made in the private sector. In 2017 Harvard Business Review/University of Chicago study estimated that corporate employee disengagement and alienation cost companies between \$450 and \$550 billion per year. That is why many corporate leaders prioritize best-in-class, science-based anti-bias training from the C-Suite to entry-level employees.

If America is going to continue to lead the world by the power of our ideas, as President Biden has said, we must go a step further and lead by the power of our example. Our nation deserves nothing less.

Derrick Johnson is President and CEO of the NAACP and Michele Ruiz is Co-Founder and CEO of BiasSync

Grassroots organizers should be celebrated in Georgia's 95% voter registration rate

By Tamiela Atkins
Executive Director
ProGeorgia

The recent release of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's biennial report brought welcome news that 95% of Georgia's voting-eligible population is currently registered to vote. This is a tremendous feat, especially for the state with such a long and sordid history of voter suppression and intimidation.

While reporting largely credits our state's automatic voter registration (AVR) program for the gains we've seen since 2016 when the program was first implemented, it tells an incomplete story about our state's voter registration success. Grassroots organizers have

played a significant role in getting the state to adopt the compulsory registration process and have been extraordinary advocates for voting rights.

For years, organizers and advocates have rallied on the ground, lobbying the state legislature and elected and appointed officials, to draw attention to the importance of making voting easier for Georgians. Only after years of intense indepth research, intense pressure and advocacy, and consequential lawsuits, and just before one of the most consequential presidential elections in recent history, did then-Secretary of State Brian Kemp authorize the revamped AVR process that we benefit from today.

It seems unlikely that

state actors, who for nearly two dates allowed motor voter registration to languish, would have authorized this plan were it not for grassroots organizers. One look at the state's continued attempts at voter suppression shows you that AVR alone is not enough to keep Georgia's voter registration rates high.

There is a constant dance Georgia organizers must play to make sure that all who want to vote have a full and fair opportunity to do so. The ever-present reality of voter purging, combined with a looming threat that AVR may not always be an option, means that organizers are working overtime to uphold democracy and make sure that the voices and votes of every-

day people are heard.

Recent 2020 Census results reveal that Georgia has become increasingly diverse, with the growth of Black, Hispanic, and Asian communities surging over the past 10 years.

It may be easy to credit a technological process with increasing voter registration in the state. But we cannot and should not shortchange the critical work of organizing and advocacy that takes place here each day. Georgia's organizers stand on the front lines of civic engagement and voter participation and they – not technology alone – will help shape and safeguard our state's democracy for generations to come.

Keep up with the news

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Things parents should know sending their kids back to school

By Breonna Randall
Howard University
News Service

For the first time since March 2020, millions of students, pre-kindergarten to high school seniors, will be attending in-person classes. Aside from attending class, they will be also participating in extracurricular activities, like sports, music and clubs. Parents have many concerns and questions. Howard University News Service reached out to five physicians for answers, Dr. Hadie Shariat, pediatrician, Howard University Hospital; Dr. Katherine Hager, Infectious Disease Fellow, Howard University Hospital; Dr. Catherine Marshall, pediatrician at Balboa Pediatrics; Dr. Andrea Goings, pediatrician, Baby Doc House Calls, and Dr. Stacey Eadie, pediatrician at her own private practice, Peds in a Pod.

Should I get my child vaccinated?

The unanimous opinion among our doctors was if your child can get vaccinated, they should. The only thing that has proven to be effective so far in fighting COVID-19 is the vaccine, they said. While a tiny fraction of people has died from the vaccine, more than



Children, especially younger children, seem to always have a sniffle or runny nose. However, in today's climate, it's better to be safe than sorry. (Photo via NNPA)

600,000 have died from the disease. Children under the age of 12 cannot be vaccinated, though pharmaceutical companies are working on a vaccine for them.

What if my child is too young for the vaccine?

In this case, the doctors advise, your child should stay away from unvaccinated adults, stay away from crowded indoor places, always wear a mask and keep practicing social distancing and good hygiene. Also always remember to keep up with your local safety guidelines. Guidelines and prevalence of coronavirus are different in different cities and states. Residents may need to be more careful in some locales.

What kind of mask should my child wear and how many do they need?

The readily available blue and white surgical masks are the best option for students of all ages. They will protect your child if they are wearing them properly. The mask should cover their nose and their mouth. If the mask falls to the ground or gets wet either by sneezing into it or from water, they should be discarded, and a new mask put in place. Younger children should carry about a half a dozen surgical masks with them a day.

Students in grades 9-12 should not need to change theirs as often. They may only need to have about three. For older children doubling up by wearing a surgical mask and a cloth mask on top throughout their school day is the best option.

If your child is most comfortable wearing only a cloth mask, that is fine, but remember it needs to be cleaned daily, never wait more than a day to clean or rotate your child's cloth mask. N-95 masks are said to be the best option, but only if they have been fit tested by a doctor to a child's face. Children with disabilities who are not able to wear a mask all day should wear a shield.

What should be on my back-to-school shopping list?

You should buy everything that you would already get but more. Make sure your child has more than enough supplies, so they won't need to ask their classmates to share. Young children like to chew on their pens and sharing those supplies could increase the spread of germs. Aside from masks, you may want to add new items like hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

What are some school habits my child needs to break and new ones they should include?

The number one habit that children of all ages need to break is sharing. They should not share toys, school supplies, food, drinks or anything else. It

won't be easy to get young children to unlearn "sharing is caring," but it is very important that they try their best.

Other habits that students need to break is any unnecessary touching. Hugging or kissing other students is a no-no. Students have been away from their friends for a very long time, and they may want to show physical affection towards each other when they reunite but it is very important that they don't as much as possible.

They should also use disinfectant wipes to clean their desks between classes and the handles and locks to their lockers. Finally, most schools do not have automatic sinks or dryers. So, students should consider using paper towels to turn handles off and on and opening doors after washing their hands for at least 20 seconds.

Are there warning signs that my child may have been exposed to the coronavirus?

Children, especially younger children, seem to always have a sniffle or runny nose. However, in today's climate, it's better to be safe than sorry. Every

day after you child comes home, spend two minutes with your child and let them tell you about their day without asking any specific questions. In that time, they may tell you if they shared toys or snacks with anyone that they shouldn't have. If your child is having a cough or runny nose, yes it could be allergies or a common cold, but do not risk the safety of your family and others.

Keep your children home and quarantine them until they can take a Covid-19 test at a medical facility, not an at home rapid test. A two-year old may get sick and have just a runny nose or sore throat from the disease, but if they infect their grandmother, for example, she could end up in the hospital on a ventilator.

Are extracurricular activities okay for my child to participate in?

There is nothing wrong with your child returning to their extracurricular activities, just as long as these activities are supervised and are following all Center for Disease Control and Prevention and local health guidelines.

New coronavirus variant a 'concern' for officials

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Delta be damned.

The World Health Organization announced it's monitoring a new coronavirus variant called "Mu," a strain that first surfaced in Colombia earlier this year.

"Mu is a variant of interest," the WHO noted in a news release.

The variant contains mutations that indicate a risk of resistance to COVID-19 vaccines, health officials

determined.

"The Mu variant has a constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune escape," WHO officials stated.

Nearly 219 million people globally had contracted the novel coronavirus since March 2020, when officials officially declared a pandemic.

Over 4.5 million have died, including more than 657,000 in the United States, where the disease has disproportionately attacked African Americans

and other communities of color.

Health officials have identified the delta variant — and the lack of those vaccinated — as the primary reason over 100,000 people in the United States are hospitalized — the most significant number since the beginning of the year.

The Department of Health and Human Services revealed that 30 percent of intensive care beds in hospitals around the country hold COVID-19 patients, and they point the finger

larger at how the delta variant has rapidly spread through the extensive unvaccinated population.

Just under 52 percent of the U.S. population has full vaccination, while 61 percent received at least one dose.

Virus rates continue to spike around the globe, and the WHO has determined that the Mu strain could make matters worse.

Mu joins the list of four variants of concerns named

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Shuler elected AFL-CIO president just ahead of Labor Day

The AFL-CIO Executive Council elected Liz Shuler, a visionary leader and longtime trade unionist, to serve as president of the federation of 56 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor federation. The Executive Council also elected United Steelworkers (USW) International Vice President Fred Redmond to succeed Shuler as secretary-treasurer, the first African American to hold the number two office. Tefere Gebre will continue as executive vice president, rounding out the most diverse team of officers ever to lead the AFL-CIO.

The election of Shuler and Redmond comes after the unexpected and untimely passing of Richard Trumka, who served as AFL-CIO president from 2009 until his death on Aug. 5, capping a more



AFL-CIO / Wikimedia

than 50-year career of dedication to America's unions and working people.

"I am humbled, honored and ready to guide this federation forward," Shuler said after her election. "I believe in my bones the labor movement is the single greatest organized force for progress. This is a moment for us to lead societal transformations—to leverage our power to bring women and people of color from the margins to the center—at work, in our unions and

in our economy, and to be the center of gravity for incubating new ideas that will unleash unprecedented union growth."

"I could not be more excited to get to work with President Shuler so we can build on the labor movement's legacy of change, writing a new chapter that brings the promise of union membership to workers across this country," Redmond said. "This is the right team at the right time to help bring about the eco-

nomie and social justice America is hungry for."

"Our country is at a crossroads. Now more than ever, the labor movement is the best vehicle to fight inequality, systemic racism, and attacks on our basic rights and freedoms," said Gebre. "I am honored to work with our historic team led by President Shuler and look forward to fighting every day for working families."

Shuler grew up in a union household—her father, Lance, was a power lineman and longtime member of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125 at Portland General Electric and her late mother, Joyce, worked as an estimator in the company's service and design department. In 1993, Shuler was hired as an organizer at Local 125. When energy giant Enron Corp. tried to muscle electricity deregulation

through the Oregon Legislature, Shuler worked with a broad-based coalition of labor, community and environmental activists to challenge and ultimately overcome Enron's powerhouse lobbying campaign, a victory that sparked her passion for mobilizing workers to make change even when faced with overwhelming odds.

In 1998, Ed Hill, then-secretary-treasurer of the IBEW, assigned Shuler to California where she mobilized IBEW members to help defeat Prop. 226, the so-called paycheck protection initiative that threatened to silence union members in the political process. That victory prompted John J. Barry, then president of the IBEW at that time, to hire her as an international representative in the union's Political/Legislative Affairs Department in Washington, D.C. In that

role, Shuler ran grassroots political mobilization efforts and lobbied Congress on a range of issues important to working families. In 2004, she was promoted to assistant to the international president, where she served President Hill, who had succeeded to that position, in driving the agenda of the nearly 1-million member union.

In 2009, she joined forces with Trumka, becoming the first woman elected to the position of secretary-treasurer at an AFL-CIO convention and the youngest woman ever on the federation's Executive Council. As secretary-treasurer, she also served as the chief financial officer, turning deficits into surpluses and steering the federation through multiple fiscal crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

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OP-ED: Texas passes the worst abortion ban in the country

By Hannah Roe Beck
Texas Democratic Party
Co-Executive Director

Greg Abbott's abortion ban takes effect today in Texas -- threatening the health and safety of millions of Texans, and signaling a new stage in the battle over what makes us who we are as Texans. In a state that professes to love freedom, we are bearing witness to the most severe six-week abortion ban in our country, and a direct attack on our freedom to make our own decisions about our bodies and our lives.

It is shameful that in 2021, a handful of conservative politicians are still interfering in our right to

healthcare and our control over our most fundamental personal choices. S.B. 8 is not only a draconian ban on our right to access abortion care -- it also places a bounty on our rights. This law allows anyone, including people from out of state, to take legal action seeking at least \$10,000 in damages from any individual who has helped someone else get an abortion. This legislation is uniquely harmful, exceptionally cruel, and a dangerous legal precedent that threatens a whole range of federally-protected rights. Further, it is a targeted attack on low-income Texans and people of color, who will bear disproportionate effects of

this ban. Stuningly, the ban includes no exceptions in cases of rape or incest -- adding to the horror of a law that will harm millions.

With this ban, Greg Abbott and Texas Republicans are once again jeopardizing the health and safety of millions of Texans for political gain. From a party that left us to die in a pandemic and to fend for ourselves in a winter storm, S.B. 8 is yet another attempt to intimidate Texans, shut down our voices, and cut us off from our most basic rights and freedoms. In the face of that, we are roaring. Today, advocates in Texas and around the country are rallying by the millions -- with many Democratic lawmakers

joining them. And our voices are the ones that will carry, because we are everywhere. We are young women and older women, trans folks and nonbinary folks, parents and siblings, community members and concerned citizens. We are Texans. We are human beings with a right to health-

care -- including abortion.

Everyone knows -- and loves -- someone who has had an abortion, including every Texas Republican who pushed this cruel law forward. Abortion is healthcare. Abortion is a human right. Texas Democrats stand with abortion advocates, abortion provid-

ers, and Texans fighting for their rights in condemning this dystopian ban.

And we encourage everyone who can to speak up, lobby their representatives, and donate to support abortion advocates. Texas deserves better, and we will fight like hell for it.

MU, from Page 4

by the WHO.

The list includes Alpha, Lambda, and Delta.

Each is present in at least 170 countries.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention doesn't list Mu as a

variant of interest or a variant of concern.

Barrons reported that the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has previously listed Mu as a variant of interest.

The ECDC reported that there is evidence that the mutations in the Mu variant now impact transmissibility and immunity.

"WHO will closely follow the epidemiological evolution of this variant, along with studies on its impact," the agency noted.

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Dallas College offers financial incentives for students, faculty and staff in fight against COVID-19

As the Fall semester gets under way, the challenge posed by the COVID-19 Delta variant remains. Called to action, Dallas College has announced two initiatives to halt the disease's spread as the school year begins: free vaccines for the community and financial incentives for students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated if they haven't already.

On Monday morning,



National Cancer Institute / Unsplash

Aug. 30, Dallas College will begin opening free vaccine clinics at each of its seven campuses, beginning at Brookhaven and Mountain View and rotating to

other campuses throughout the week. The College will also make COVID-19 testing available on select campuses soon. The clinics and testing sites are free and open to the public and all eligible students, faculty and staff at scheduled times and locations. [insert precise link]

As part of the voluntary, two-pronged effort to increase vaccination rates among campus populations

and the community, Dallas College is also starting a vaccine incentive program for eligible students to collect up to \$200 for being fully vaccinated – \$100 per shot of the two-shot Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, and \$200 for the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Students who are already vaccinated can present a valid COVID-19 vaccination card to receive the

funds. Students who are not vaccinated would become eligible upon receiving the vaccine between Aug. 30 and Nov. 15.

The program also covers all Dallas College employees, who each can receive a \$500 incentive for full vaccination status. As with students, employees already vaccinated are eligible with proof of vaccination.

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Lewisville ISD parents favoring a mask mandate protest

LEWISVILLE -- On Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, a grassroots group of more than 50 parents who favor a mask mandate among other mitigation measures for Lewisville Independent School District (LISD) schools conducted a si-

lent protest from 5-6 p.m. to draw attention to their goal outside a LISD School Board meeting.

Stated one of the concerned parents, "We know that despite LISD announcing some additional COVID-containment strategies

this week, including offering some virtual classes at one school until Sept. 7 due to COVID spread, the terrible onslaught of the Delta variant, plus the fact that fewer than half of LISD students voluntarily wear masks means they are not

enough."

"At the end of the last school year, the district had developed extensive COVID-mitigation measures that were demonstrably effective," added the parent. "Beginning this August, the school district dropped nearly all of their past procedures, including the mask mandate that was in effect last year."

The first week of school, LISD announced 24 COVID cases in the district. The district count for the second week was 276. During the

third week from Aug. 23-27, 396 cases were recorded, a frightening 43% increase from the previous week.

"Due to the district's apparent disregard for our children's health, my husband and I have withdrawn our two students from LISD and are home schooling them, but we are still fighting to help the children of our friends who don't have the luxury of being able to homeschool their children," the parent said.

The parent group has been working with local

physicians and nurses who made recommendations to the district regarding mask policy, as well as methods such as learning pods and outdoor lunches, but their urgings have been ignored.

Concluded the parent, "Unfortunately, there is a loud local anti-mask group that seems to have the loyalty of our school board. The school board is pandering to the demands of this group, and they are unwilling to risk angering them by reinstating a mask requirement."



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Carrollton ramps up beautification projects, seeks volunteers

Removing trash and debris from the environment is a great way to stay active and help Carrollton's creeks and waterways thrive.

The City is taking part in the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge, a program of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) extending a friendly competition between member cities to find out which municipality's residents can pick up the most litter, beginning Wednesday, September 1 through Sunday, October 31.

The goal is to remove the most trash and litter as



YS/Unsplash

possible from a designated environment and gain some bragging rights among neighboring communities. Each cleanup logged is connected to the community in which it took place. The City will provide trash bags, gloves, and some

trash grabbers and remove the filled trash bags on the next business day following the cleanup.

Community Cleanup – Wildflower Seed Event

To contribute to the challenge, Carrollton's Environmental Services De-

partment is looking for 50 volunteers to help remove trash and debris from one of the City's local waterways on Saturday, September 25 from 7:30-11 a.m. Volunteers will also learn how to master wildflower crafts by creating a seed ball to plant in their yard or around the City. Seed balls protect the seeds until conditions are favorable for germination and give them a better chance to grow without being blown away in the wind or washed away in a rainstorm. Sign up before Sunday, September 19, registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't want to wait? Start

now. Individuals, families, and groups of up to 20 people are needed to remove trash and debris from creeks and surrounding areas. Churches, scout groups, companies, nonprofits, activists, and ordinary citizens are all welcome to participate.

To volunteer, visit JustServe.org, search for Carrollton, TX, and sign up for the Wildflower Seed Event or the Waterway Cleanup. Volunteering for a date-specific project requires a one-time registration process. A confirmation for the event will be sent to the volunteer and can easily be added to an online calendar. On the

day of the event, show up and just serve. It's that easy.

Interested in a longer commitment? Carrollton's Adopt-A-Spot program is like the Waterway Cleanup project but with a longer commitment. The adopter agrees to a two-year commitment with at least quarterly litter cleanups in the adopted City location, including creeks, the Green Belt, parks, waterways, and other identified areas.

For more information, contact Carrollton Environmental Services at 972-466-3035 or email envservices@cityofcarrollton.com to arrange a time and location for cleanup.

Contracts, grants and those intended to be served

By Dr. John E. Warren
Publisher, The Voice and
Jewpoint Newspaper

It has come to our attention that a number of organizations have received contracts and grants to serve intended communities, often without verification of communities intended to be served. Some of this happens without ever providing notice that contracts or grants are available. For the benefit of both grantors and grantees, it should

be stated as a reminder that public policy requires a notice of the availability of such funds and the right for those interested or affected parties to have an opportunity to apply for such funds. This is done by issuing a "RFP" (Request for Proposals) or a "RFQ" (Request for Quotes) on a proposed project. Due Process under Federal Statutes (Title 5 USC Sec 554 and 555) sets out this process.

Under the California State Codes, there exists the

Administrative Procedures Act which carries the same requirement. To date, there have been no amendments to the State Government Code allowing the internet publication to become a substitute for such notices being published in adjudicated newspapers of general circulation of which this newspaper is and has been since 1966.

It appears that some well known organizations are receiving grants and contracts because of their

name recognition rather than a verification as to whether they can perform the needed task. In an increasing number of instances, the public is only hearing of these contracts and grants after they have been awarded. A number of these grants or contracts are not being advertised before being awarded. It should also be noted that while

these rules do not apply to private foundations, many of them provide such notice in advance of awards, which is much appreciated.

Many times, communities intended to be served are listed in the Statement of Work, often included in the response to such contracts or grant RFPs, without the knowledge of such designated groups. Some

recipients of such grants or contracts often never spend dollars with those designated communities in terms of real outreach.

We would like to know if you, the reader, have recently found out that there were services available to you that you didn't know about and, if so, how did you find out? We look forward to your response.

ADAMS, from Page 2

tion. One of the programs, presented by Cadillac, "The 100 Influential Black Women in Sports" will highlight the journey taken by female athletes, coaches and executives who share how sports played an integral role in their successes. The other program called

"Introducing..." will feature stories about women and girls that are emerging leaders both on and off the field, putting the spotlight on the next generation of female role models. Content from both programs will appear across all ONYX Media platforms,

SI.com and be distributed via the Maven Network and additional media, league and marketing partners.

ONYX Media is a spin-off of GoodSport Media, Inc. a purpose driven content company focused on raising the visibility of women and girls in sports.

For information about empoweronyx.com.

COLLEGE, from Page 6

Unvaccinated employees have the same timeframe as students to become vaccinated and eligible for the incentive.

While Dallas College steadfastly supports preventative measures such as mask wearing and social distancing, COVID-19 vaccinations have been proven

to be the single-most effective means to help reduce virus transmission and minimize the serious effects associated with breakthrough cases.

"We strongly believe that the more people we have vaccinated, the quicker we can emerge from the shadow of COVID-19," said

Dallas College Chancellor Joe May. "Broadening vaccine incentives to our students, who can get vaccinated on campus during the normal course of their day and quickly collect their incentives, will help make our campus environments safer for the in-person learning that was made practically impossible early in the pandemic."

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Hate Crime Statistics, 2020 Bias Motivations

Hate crime reporting from 2020 revealed 7,554 single-bias incidents involving 10,528 victims. A distribution of victims by bias type shows the following:



FBI reports sharp rise in hate crimes targeting Black and Asian people

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Law enforcement agencies submitted incident reports involving 7,759 criminal incidents and 10,532 related offenses motivated by bias toward race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity.

Further, the FBI's Hate Crime Statistics, 2020, reported 7,554 single-bias incidents involving 10,528 victims.

Percent distribution of victims by bias type shows that 61.9 percent of victims found themselves targeted because of the offenders' race, ethnicity, or ancestry.

Further, 20.5 percent fell victim because of bias toward the offenders' sexual orientation, 13.4 percent because of the offenders' religion, 2.5 percent because of the offenders' gender identity, 1 percent the offenders' disability, and 0.7 percent because of the offenders' gender bias.

Specifically, in its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's latest compilation about bias-motivated incidents throughout the nation, the FBI noted that the number of hate crimes in the United States rose to the highest level in 12 years, driven by assaults targeting Black and Asian people.

The rise in hate crimes occurred in a year of renewed protests for racial justice in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others.

"The rise in hate crimes is sad but predictable given the well-documented efforts by elected officials and political candidates to foment hate and division for partisan gain, especially during the 2020 election season and amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, stated in a news release.

Hewitt noted that The Lawyers' Committee filed several lawsuits within the last year to address hate incidents by people emboldened by an atmosphere in which blatant lies flourish and the truth often questioned.

"Our clients were assaulted by racially motivated mobs, beaten by police using racially charged language, and targeted with thousands of racist robo-calls delivering misinformation," Hewitt added.

"While horrific on their own, all indications are that these incidents are still grossly underreported. Although hate crimes prey on historically disenfranchised groups, our government should treat these crimes as

a threat to the very foundations of our democracy – a threat that we dismiss at our own peril."

The FBI's report revealed that of the 7,426 hate crime offenses classified as crimes against persons in 2020, 53.4 percent were for intimidation, 27.6 percent were for simple assault, and 18.1 percent were for aggravated assault.

Of the 2,913 hate crime offenses classified as crimes against property, most (76.4 percent) were acts of destruction/damage/vandalism.

Robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and other offenses accounted for the remaining 23.6 percent of crimes against property.

Law enforcement classified 193 additional offenses as crimes against society.

The FBI said this crime category represents society's prohibition against engaging in certain types of activity such as gambling, prostitution, and drug violations.

They said those crimes typically are victimless where property isn't the object.

Of the 6,431 known offenders, 55.2 percent were White, and 20.2 percent were Black or African American.

Other races accounted for

See FBI, Page 13



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Cowboys face Tampa Bay after winless preseason

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

With the yawner-of-a-preseason schedule firmly behind them, the Dallas Cowboys now turn their attention to Tom Brady and the defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Bucs will be the Cowboys' season-opening opponent as the two teams will collide on Sept. 9 in Tampa in the first game of the 2021 NFL season for any of the league's 32 teams. It's a matchup made in football heaven since the Bucs are heavy favorites to repeat as Super Bowl champs while the Cowboys are trying to get back onto the big stage for the first time since they defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, 27-17, in the Super Bowl following the 1995 season when Barry Switzer was their head coach.

"Not to be Captain Obvious, but it's full steam ahead to Tampa," Cowboys head coach Mike McCarthy said. "The first game is the most important game, because it's the next game."

"I've played in that game on both sides of the field – the opening game. It's a ton of energy, it's a great game to compete in, and trust me, we're looking



All Pro Rells / Flickr

forward to it and we can't wait to get there."

The contest against the Bucs will serve as the first game in 333 days since quarterback Dak Prescott suffered that gruesome compound fracture and dislocated right ankle injury in an Oct. 11, 2020 game against the New York Giants. Added to the strained right shoulder he suffered in training camp, Prescott was predictably treated like precious cargo over the past few months as the Cowboys wanted to make doubly sure he's ready for opening day.

But in the days leading up to season opener, no doubt offensive coordinator Kellen Moore will ramp up Prescott's workout schedule.

"We've lost some opportunities to practice with Dak," McCarthy said. "Now that he's back, our

focus – part of Kellen's focus and Dak's focus – really has been this past week.

"We need to get as much in as we possibly can between now and the Tampa Bay game, so our focus is on Tampa."

While the focus is squarely on Tampa Bay, the Cowboys don't want anyone paying the least bit of attention to their 0-4 preseason record, which resulted after Sunday's 34-14 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars at AT&T Stadium. It's the seventh time in franchise history that the Cowboys were winless in preseason, including the third time in the last seven seasons that they've posted an 0-4 preseason record.

But that could be an omen.

After going 0-4 in the 2014 preseason, the Cowboys went on to win the NFC East with a 12-4 re-

cord and also won a playoff game. And after posting an 0-4 record in preseason in 2018, the Cowboys won the NFC East with a 10-6 worksheet and also won another playoff game.

In addition, the Cowboys didn't win any preseason games in 1962, 1986, 1998 and 2000, and they also captured the NFC East in '98.

Besides Prescott, running back Ezekiel Elliott also didn't play in any of the four preseason games, and the starting offensive line only played three series together. But the Cowboys are expecting Elliott to effectively bounce back from a season where he rushed for a career-low 979 yards while also rushing for a career-low tying six touchdowns.

Meanwhile, second-year receiver CeeDee Lamb had a terrific training camp be-

fore he was placed on the Covid-19 list. McCarthy said Lamb is expected to resume practices later this week.

Also, the battle between Cooper Rush, Garrett Gilbert and Dan DiNucci as the backup to Prescott has intensified. Then again, the Cowboys could acquire Prescott's backup from a list of suitors after other teams waive prospective quarterbacks.

On the defensive side, rookie linebacker Micah Parsons was sensational in training camp and in the preseason.

"I think with Micah's skill set and how athletic he is and his speed, you can play him pretty much anywhere," linebacker Leighton Vander Esch said. "I think the coaches are utilizing that very, very well."

"I'm glad he's on our team and not somebody

else's."

In the meantime, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones performed a kind gesture by allowing the New Orleans Saints to practice this week at AT&T Stadium. New Orleans was ravaged by Hurricane Ida on Sunday – 16 years to the day that Hurricane Katrina pummeled the city of New Orleans and the surrounding Gulf Coast -- and the Saints and their families got out of town before the hurricane made landfall.

"It's all the Jones family," McCarthy said, referring to the owner's generosity. "No one does it better than they do."

"Having an opportunity to coach in New Orleans (from 2000-'04) and gone through this hurricane challenge, it's a tremendous amount of stress on

See COWBOYS, Page 12

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New gospel station goes live in Dallas to fill a void

In a market where local gospel broadcasting fell radio silent this year, the Uplift Network (The Uplift) promises to give fans of all-things gospel a new and improved listening experience. The all-digital platform will deliver radio programming centered around wholesome content for both the young and young-at-heart.

Home to Dallas-Fort Worth, The Uplift Network is an Urban Contemporary Gospel radio station featuring Contemporary Gospel



Music, national ministries, along with local community news, from DFW talk radio legend Dr. Robert Ashley, as part of its initial catalog.

Dallas is one of the larg-

est markets for gospel music, with many A-list gospel artists who call Dallas home. It's one reason why DeOnte Greham, CEO of The Uplift Network, became passionate about

starting a new Dallas-based gospel station.

"My goal is always to give people Jesus and bring live programming to our community," said Greham. "We're not just going to be a radio station; we're going to be a community station that connects with listeners beyond our airwaves."

As part of a strategic effort to connect with local churches and community members, The Uplift will host monthly Church Tours. These events will provide resources to families on

homeownership, financial literacy to strengthen good stewardship in all areas of life and focus on promoting a robust and healthy lifestyle.

Greham's resume extends decades in church, gospel music, and radio, but his experience as the final Program Director for Heaven97 KHVN-AM – before its doors were shuttered in late 2020 – helped shape the idea of creating a unique radio station. Information today is most commonly received digitally

since the dot-com days amplified how end-users receive communication. Broadcasting through a digital space was an intentional effort to connect multi-generations across communities.

"We're just trying to simplify the listening platform by keeping the content of gospel music and programming the same," said Greham. "It gives our older and younger generation music to listen to while sharing a platform for both to experience."

Mom and daughter team up to launch newest Black woman-owned record label

(Blacknews.com) For months, Selena B. Hunter had been agonizing over what to call her new record company. The label would be the embodiment of "Black Girl Magic." It would be groundbreaking. It would be bold. And it would be built on principles rarely, if ever, seen in an industry often riddled with misogyny and exploitation. Artists would be endowed with a real voice. They'd be empowered to fully and organically embrace their own, unique brand of cre-

ativity. The name would have to somehow convey all of that.

She pored over branding and marketing materials for a diverse mix of products and businesses, along with that of Fortune 500 companies too, but her answer would finally come within the pages of a book by marketing guru Seth Godin. It inspired her to do more research online and she was instantly drawn to the story of an effervescent Egyptian goddess. "She's half-woman, a nod to femininity, and

also half cow, which speaks to being sacred and valuable," remembers Selena, 51, a 30-year industry vet. "She was the goddess of the stars, the goddess of love, the goddess of women, and the goddess of music; all of which is very appropriate for what I wanted to represent."

In that moment, Hathor Entertainment was born in Los Angeles, California as, what Selena asserts is, "the first Black-owned, majority woman-owned and led independent record label

designed to meet the underserved needs of women in the R&B, hip hop, and pop genres." It officially launches this month and Selena plans to hit the ground running, starting the roster off with her own daughter and Co-CEO, solo progressive R&B artist Nia, a former The Lion King star on Broadway. And that's just the beginning. Selena's ultimate goal

is to develop and support 100 women musical artists, bringing something fresh, unique and, well, needed.

"I have heard so many stories of women being abused, physically, mentally, and financially in the industry and it's time for that to stop," contends Selena, who stepped out on faith in 2020, shutting down the 25-year tax and business management firm

she shared with her husband and business partner to pursue her record label dreams. "That's why I am trying to do my part," she says. "I feel like I'm creating a safe space. I feel like I'm creating a place where, for the first time in the music industry, women can feel valued and protected; every song will be looked

See LABEL Page 15

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US CONGRESS PASSED HISTORIC VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- Today, Congress passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, known formally as H.R. 4, the legislation will reinstate the federal preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act, which was rendered moot in 2013 by the Supreme Court.

"I am excited that I was able to witness from the Congressional House floor the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. I am grateful to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and our Democratic Leadership that did not give up and was committed to pushing through this landmark legislation. This important bill will reauthorize and restore the key civil rights law that bans racial discrimination in voting and redistricting. I will continue my fight for federal voting rights legislation in the US Senate for passage of HR1 and HR4," commented Reynolds.

This is an important victory to protect all voters in this country; as we have witnessed Republican-controlled state legislatures promoting and passing voter suppression legislation in many states, including Texas. Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of restrictive voting laws have been introduced and many passed, all based on the "Big Lie" started by Trump when he lost the 2020 election.

Ron Reynolds represents Texas House District 27, which encompasses communities of Fort Bend County. Representative Reynolds currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, the ranking member on the Environmental Regulations Committee and the Committee on Energy Resources.

PGA Tour commissioner reiterates diversity efforts in global media address

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, on Tuesday, August 31, reiterated the game's diversity, equity, inclusion commitment during a call with media from around the globe.

"The PGA Tour is positioned for unprecedented growth over the next ten years, starting with the 2021-2022 season," Monahan told a group of journalists who cover the sport for media outlets worldwide.

A few days earlier, the commissioner met with a contingent from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), including NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F.

Chavis Jr. and Executive Administrator Claudette Perry.

During an exclusive interview, Monahan spoke candidly about how the PGA Tour has worked diligently to become more diverse.

He noted the various commitments and programs that the Tour has begun or aligned itself with to meet diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.

"One year ago, I pledged that the PGA TOUR would be part of the conversation and the solution surrounding racial and social injustices in our society. I also said then that, candidly, we didn't know exactly what to do right away, but that we wouldn't be deterred," Monahan declared.

"Does it feel like it was in the distant past? Absolutely not. What we've done since is commit to communicate, learn, show compassion, and – ultimately – demand better. That started with – and, frankly, continues with – doing a lot more listening than talking," he asserted to the NNPA, the trade association representing the hundreds of newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

Monahan stuck with that message during his press conference with the international media.

"I'd like to spend some time revising a conversation and commitment the PGA Tour made one year ago this week," Monahan remarked, as he provided

a state-of-the-game update during the closing week of the 2020-2021 PGA Tour season.

"At the 2020 Tour Championship, I pledged that the PGA Tour would be a part of the conversation and the solution surrounding racial and social injustices in our society. We made a commitment ... to demand better," Monahan said forcefully.

He spoke about the \$100 million commitment the PGA Tour made to support racial equity and inclusion efforts.

"We're working with our tournaments and their local communities to build on the incredible impact they're making already through increased understanding, support, and engagements

with nonprofits leading equity and including work," Monahan stated.

"One aspect of our focus is helping to grow diversity inside the ropes through our expanded relationship with the APGA tour."

He continued:

"We've already seen progress with players like Willie Mack III competing successfully on the APGA Tour. With his victory at APGA Mastercard Tour Championship, Willie receives a full scholarship into Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying School. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"We're identifying, preparing, and transitioning top African American collegiate golfers into professional golf. The efforts of Kenyatta Ramsey, a PGA

Tour employee since 2008, have been instrumental in our progress in the player diversity space.

"Kenyatta now oversees this relationship in an official capacity as Senior Director Player Development."

The commissioner lifted other initiatives like the GA Tour's 10-year, \$100 million pledge to support racial equity and inclusion efforts and HBCU and APGA Tour initiatives.

"Those are programs that we're pleased to have underway," Monahan said.

He also spoke enthusiastically about the PGA Tour's season and the already fast-approaching 2021-2022 season.

"I'm excited," Monahan said.

Biden pushes clean energy initiatives in addressing climate change

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

There is a real big push to electrify America's transportation system, whether it's through hydrogen fuel cells or battery technology.

That's the message on which Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm has toured the nation as cabinet and administration officials seek to build support for President Joe Biden's \$1

trillion, bipartisan infrastructure bill.

In addition to rebuilding the nation's highways and airports, the infrastructure plan would remake the country's energy system to address climate change.

"The president stood with the auto industry a few weeks ago, and the auto industry itself committed that 50 percent of its new vehicles sold by 2030 would be electric vehicles," Secretary Granholm told The

Houston Chronicle.

"So, we have to have dispatchable power, and the quest in the next ten years is going to be getting to clean dispatchable power," she stated.

Secretary Granholm added that accomplishing this involves removing CO2, and "the fossil fuel industry is looking at those technologies like direct air capture, et cetera."

"Some of it involves expanding renewables, and

some of it involves technology plays that we are really diving in on at the Department of Energy," she con-

tinued.

"We haven't cracked the code on which one yet. People have described this

as not a silver bullet. This is a silver buckshot. The fossil

See ENERGY, Page 16

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2279	30X The Cash Crossword Overall Odds are 1 in 4.28	\$3	9/3/21	3/2/22
2284	Jumbo Bucks 300X Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$10	9/10/21	3/9/22
2288	Joker's Wild Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	9/19/21	3/18/22
2290	Winner Winner Chicken Dinner Overall Odds are 1 in 4.98	\$1	9/22/21	3/21/22
2286	Money Money Money Overall Odds are 1 in 4.09	\$5	9/22/21	3/21/22
2040	Mad Money Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 2.98	\$20	9/22/21	3/21/22
2337	\$5 Million Fortune Overall Odds are 1 in 3.53	\$50	9/23/21	3/22/22

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67% of business travelers to reduce trips amid rising Covid-19 cases

Most are likely to cancel existing trips without rescheduling

U.S. business travelers are scaling back travel plans amid rising COVID-19 cases, with 67% planning to take fewer trips, 52% likely to cancel existing travel plans without rescheduling, and 60% planning to postpone existing travel plans, according to a new national survey conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

Despite an uptick in leisure travel over the summer, the new survey highlights the dim outlook for business travel and events, which account for more than half of hotel revenue and aren't expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2024.

The lack of business travel and events has major repercussions for employment both directly on hotel properties, and in the broader community. Hotels are expected to end 2021 down nearly 500,000 jobs compared to 2019. For every 10 people directly employed on a hotel property, hotels support an additional 26 jobs in the community, from restaurants and retail to hotel



Hotels are the only segment of the hospitality and leisure industry yet to receive direct aid despite being among the hardest hit. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

supply companies—meaning an additional nearly 1.3 million hotel-supported jobs are also at risk.

The survey of 2,200 adults was conducted August 11-12, 2021. Of these, 414 people, or 18% of respondents, are business travelers—that is, those who either work in a job that typically includes work-related travel or who expect to travel for business at least once between now and the end of the year. Key findings among business travelers include the following:

- 67% are likely to take fewer trips, while 68% are likely to take shorter trips

- 52% say they are likely to cancel existing travel plans with no plans to reschedule

- 60% are likely to postpone existing travel plans until a later date

- 66% are likely to only travel to places they can drive to

The survey also tested attitudes among 1,590 people (72% of respondents) who are likely to attend large gatherings, meetings, and events—all key drivers of hotel revenue. Findings among those respondents include:

- 71% are likely to attend fewer in-person events or

gatherings

- 67% are likely to have shorter meetings or events

- 59% are likely to postpone existing meetings or events until a later date

- 49% say they are likely to cancel existing meetings or events with no plans to reschedule

According to a recent Deloitte survey, corporate travel is projected to remain at only 30% of 2019 levels through the end of 2021. This lack of corporate travel would cost the hotel industry an estimated \$59 billion in 2021, according to leading economists, underscoring the need for targeted federal relief such as the Save Hotel Jobs Act.

“Hotels were already on pace to lose more business travel revenue this year than we did in 2020. And now rising COVID-19 cases threaten to further reduce the main source of revenue for our industry,” said Chip Rogers, president and CEO of AHLA. “Hotel employees and small business owners across the nation have been pleading for direct pandemic relief for

over a year now. These results show why now is the time for Congress to listen to those calls and pass the Save Hotel Jobs Act.”

Hotels are the only segment of the hospitality and leisure industry yet to receive direct aid despite being among the hardest hit. That is why AHLA and UNITE HERE, the largest hospitality workers' union in North America, joined forces to call on Congress to pass the bipartisan Save Hotel Jobs Act introduced by Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fla.). This legislation would provide a lifeline to hotel workers, providing the assistance they need to survive until travel, especially business travel, returns to pre-pandemic levels.

Survey Methodology

The poll was conducted August 11-12, 2021, among a national sample of 2200 Adults. The interviews were conducted online, and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, educational attainment, age,

race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) is the sole national association representing all segments of the U.S. lodging industry. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AHLA focuses on strategic advocacy, communications support and workforce development programs to move the industry forward. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitality was the first industry impacted and it will be among the last to recover. That is why AHLA is committed to promoting safe travel while also creating a standardized safety experience nationwide through the Safe Stay initiative. With an enhanced set of health and safety protocols designed to provide a safe and clean environment for all hotel guests and employees, hotels across America are ready to welcome back travelers when they are ready to travel. Learn more at www.ahla.com.

Library of Congress offers grants to support contemporary cultural field research within diverse communities

The Library of Congress is offering a new series of grants to individuals and organizations working to document cultures and traditions of Black, Indigenous, and communities of color traditionally underrepresented in the United States. The Community Collections grants from the Library's American Folklife Center will enable many to document their cultural life and experiences from their own perspectives, while enriching the Library's holdings with diverse materials featuring creativity

and knowledge found at the local level. The funding opportunities were announced today and are open for applications through Sept. 7.

In total, up to 10 grant opportunities are available in fall 2021 for up to \$60,000 each to fund field research within Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The funding is part of the Library's new initiative, Of the People: Widening the Path, to connect more deeply with diverse, often underrepresented communities. This

will be the first set of Community Collections grants totaling \$1.74 million over four years from the American Folklife Center. The initiative is supported by a \$15 million investment from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Of the People creates new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and add perspectives to the collections, allowing the national library to share a more inclusive American story.

For more information on the Notice of Funding

Opportunity and details on how to apply, visit the Of the People blog at blogs.loc.gov/OfThePeople. The grants represent a major priority in the new initiative, Of the People.

Several public webinars will be held to provide detailed information about the Community Collections grant program and the application process.

Community Collections Grants from the American Folklife Center

The American Folklife Center was established to preserve and present

American folklife through programs of research, documentation and more. Though this grant program,

See GRANTS, Page 14

Policy of Non-Discrimination Tempest Haven Ministries International Incorporated

Tempest Haven Ministries International Incorporated of Eustace, Texas places emphasis on the dignity and worth of all people while the congregation values everyone. Employment, membership, and participation in any church activity is open to all without regard to ethnicity, race, skin color, national origin, gender, age, disability or religion.

COWBOYS, from Page 9

the families of the Saints, and then obviously the whole region – the Gulf Coast region. My heart goes out to those guys.

From the Jones family, I'm sure it's just great to be in position to help.”

As far as the Cowboys are concerned, they sure

would like to be in position to win a Super Bowl after finishing last season third in the NFC East with a 6-10 record.

“We started this quest on April 19,” McCarthy said.

“There's 300 days that are available to reach the Super Bowl and in between there you have to keep your eye on the target one day at a time.”

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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Jobs in science, intelligence, combat, aviation, engineering, law and more. Contact 214-406 - 3737

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- 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 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://liveenationentertainment.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

#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.

JFF and Comcast NBCUniversal partner to boost number and proportion of Black tech workers

BOSTON -- JFF, a national nonprofit driving transformation in the American workforce and education systems, today announced a \$500,000 partnership with Comcast NBCUniversal to support research that will identify promising evidence, practices, and policies that create the conditions for advancement of Black learners and workers in technology and digital fields. Outputs of this work will include a framework for improving education and career outcomes for Black learners and workers.

Black workers are underrepresented in technology careers. In the U.S., people who self-identify as Black make up 12.4 percent of

the population, but just 7.4 percent of the tech industry workforce, and women of color overall accounted for just 4 percent. While Black students made up 6 percent of the computer science and engineering graduates, they were only 3 percent of the total Silicon Valley workforce. That reality poses a risk of growing occupational segregation, as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that growth in IT occupations will continue to outpace the broader economy through 2029.

"Even with similar education and training, Black technology professionals earn less than white peers across nearly all education levels," said Michael Collins, a vice president at JFF. "We want to promote Black

economic advancement concentrated in industries by interrupting the long-standing pattern of Black learners and workers being associated with low wages

See TECH, Page 16

FBI, from Page 8

the remaining known offenders:

- 1.1 percent were Asian.
 - 1.1 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native.
 - 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
 - 5.6 percent were of a group of multiple races.
- The race was unknown for 16.4 percent. Of the 5,820 known of-

fenders for whom ethnicity was reported, 39.3 percent were Not Hispanic or Latino, 10.7 percent were Hispanic or Latino, and 2.5 percent were in a group of multiple races.

Ethnicity was unknown for 47.5 percent of these offenders.

Of the 5,915 known offenders for whom ages were known, 89.1 percent were 18 years of age or older.



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employment or the provision of services.*

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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Is Being Sane Too Much to Ask?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

When young, I remember my grandfather often saying to me, “the world wasn’t like this when I was your age.” Then he would go on a long rant about how things were much different when he was my age. Finally, he would conclude by saying, “It’s an insane world out there, son.”

I can’t remember all he said, but one thing was when he was young, people were rather sane and the things they did. He explained it to me to the best of his ability, and I listen to the best of my ability. But then, sane to one person can be insanity to another.

Recently, I caught myself saying the same things to one of my grandchildren, and then it dawned on me, “Have I become my grandfather?”

Pondering this a little bit, I thought, is this generation just as insane as my generation? Or, where did this generation inherit their insanity

Looking at the culture around us, it’s hard to see anything with any sense of sanity. Trying to listen to contemporary music is crazy. Not only can I hardly understand the lyrics, but they don’t make sense.

Wanting to do some research on this, I went to the shopping mall, sat in the middle with some coffee, and watched people pass by.

It’s been a long time since I’ve been out in public like this, and I’m not sure I’m going to do it anytime soon. Watching these people, however, got me thinking a bit of what actual sanity is.

So many people walked by wearing such clothes that it was rather embar-

rassing.

Young ladies were wearing trousers full of holes and rips and tears. It looked like they got them out of some trashcan.

Someone told me, I have no idea it is true, but those trousers start at \$100 each. The more rips and tears, the more expensive they are.

When I was young, nobody wore trousers like that, at least in public. But what was sane yesterday is now insane.

If only I would’ve known this back then, I could have saved my trousers and sell them today for my retirement fund.

When I thought I saw everything there walked past me about a half dozen young men, I think they were young, whose trousers were down almost to their knees. How they could walk around like that with-

out tripping was beyond the level of my sanity.

For a moment, I wanted to walk up and say, “Excuse me, but your pants are dropping off.”

Where does something like that come from? Who in the world said that was “the thing” to do?

I would like to see them outside trying to run away from a barking dog.

As I sat there trying to wag my head and clear the clutter, I saw something that scared me at first.

Looking down one lane, I saw three young ladies coming, and I did not know what to do. It looked like they had painted their clothing on. I’ve never seen anything so crazy in all my life. I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t know if I should run. Should I just sit there and close my eyes?

As they walked by, I

noticed that they did have clothes on. But, for the life of me, I don’t know how they got those clothes on, and I could not imagine how they would take them off.

Seeing these young ladies with their painted-on clothes, I could appreciate the ladies wearing raggedy torn trousers. I’m not sure which is worse, but I think at the time I would have voted for the terrible trousers.

It’s good I had a cup of coffee with me because as I sat there, I was trying to calm myself down. If this world is not insane, then I am.

I noticed a young guy coming down, talking like he was on the radio. He talked and laughed and talked and laughed, and I thought maybe this guy had had a little too much “what-

chamacallit” to drink.

I noticed an attachment to his ears with something coming down the side of his chin. As he walked by, he continued talking. It was then I noticed something rather strange. This young man was talking on the telephone.

At least, that’s what I called it. But, of course, I don’t know what you call telephones today, and I don’t know how they work. But this young man seemed to know how it worked and was working it to the end.

Oh, if only my grandpa could be sitting with me right now and saw what I saw, he would have had quite a few words to say about what he saw.

I finished my coffee and then got up to leave and go out to my vehicle. As I drove

See SANE, Page 15

FUQUA, from Page 2

jumpstart their career in the industry. In addition to overseeing the operations and management of the school, Ms. Fuqua trains people to be cosmetologists, manicurists, barbers, and educators.

The skills and techniques that students learn at Fuqua’s Institute of Beauty Culture will be applicable in their everyday work.

Their instructors teach with a philosophy of pro-

fessionalism, candor, and respect. They take a personal interest in the professional goals of each student in an effort to help them become successful.

It is a collaborative environment where students learn faster by working with their peers. From

study groups to practice sessions, they learn and retain more by teaming up with others. Fuqua’s Institute of Beauty Culture has a 77% graduation rate, 100% licensure rate, and 100% placement rate.

Jacqueline obtained her Cosmetology License at

Debbie’s School of Beauty Culture in 1984, her Barber and Esthetics License at Hair Fashions By Kaye Beauty College in 2005, and her Educators License in Cosmetology and Related Personal Grooming at Hair Fashions By Kaye Beauty College in 2008.

The Fuqua Institute of Beauty Culture LLC is certified by the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (PLA.) In her spare time, Jacqueline enjoys church activities and skating.

For further information contact www.fuquainstitute.com.

SHULER, from Page 5

In addition to her stewardship of the federation’s finances, Shuler led the AFL-CIO’s initiatives on the future of work, retirement security, the clean energy economy, public safety reform, workforce development, and empowering women and young

workers. She is committed to busting myths about labor, leveraging the labor movement’s diversity for innovative approaches to social justice and making the benefits of a union voice on the job available to working people everywhere.

Redmond has been a USW member since 1973, when he went to work at Reynolds Metals Co. in Chicago. He became active in his local union almost immediately, serving as shop steward and eventually vice president. He served three terms as local president.

For decades, Redmond

served the USW in various staff and leadership roles, assisting local unions, developing and conducting training programs, and bargaining contracts.

As international vice president for human affairs, Redmond oversaw the Civil and Human Rights Department, as well as the union’s shipbuilding,

health care and public sector bargaining, and worked with USW allies across the country in responding to attacks on voting rights and in combating economic inequality. Redmond has a long history of leadership on various boards, including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the A. Philip Randolph Insti-

tute. In 2021, Redmond was elected president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, a prestigious international post.

The terms of the three executive officers run through June 2022, when delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention in Philadelphia will elect leaders for new four-year terms.

GRANTS, from Page 12

the center will expand its collection by funding and supporting individuals and organizations in collecting and archiving contemporary cultural expressions and traditions that may otherwise be absent from the national record. The Library will offer fellowships to individuals to work within their communities to produce

ethnographic cultural documentation, such as oral history interviews and audio-visual recordings of cultural activity, from the community perspective. The center will archive the collections from this fieldwork to preserve and showcase this rich and valuable cultural documentation. Application details are available here.

Examples of cultural documentation meant to inspire possible projects include: Exploration of a community festival or cultural celebration; Documentation of gathering places, including social spaces, farmers markets, craft fairs, or other periodic spaces that serve as anchors or markers of community; Community-centric reflection on emerging cultural forms or practices;

Examinations of cultural practices that can serve as markers of aspects of identity; and an oral history of a neighborhood or community.

American Folklife Center folklorists and archivists will assist grantees in providing support for specific aspects of cultural documentation activities, provide technical advice, and help to facilitate a cohort for

sharing knowledge and lessons learned.

About Of the People: Widening the Path

Launched in January 2021, Of the People: Widening the Path is a multi-year initiative to connect the Library more deeply with Black, Indigenous, and communities of color traditionally underrepresented in the Library’s collections. Funded through a gift

from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, it provides new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and add their perspectives to the Library’s collections. This work will expand the Library’s efforts to ensure that a diversity of experiences is reflected in our historical record and inform how we use those materials to understand our past.

Remember Grandparents Day!



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

(This column was first published on Sept. 4, 2014. The date for the holiday is adjusted for 2021.)

Grandparents Day is always the first Sunday after Labor Day.

It was in watching my parents, Mr. Lloyd David & Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus with their grandchildren (the happiness from hugs and kisses, hand made cards, etc.) that I saw and realized how important grandchildren are; and the importance that grandparents take their role.

National Grandparents Day is Sunday, September 12th. Grandparents are a tremendous source of wisdom, strength, and joy. They are caregivers, teachers, and friends -- windows to the past and guideposts for the future.

They made America

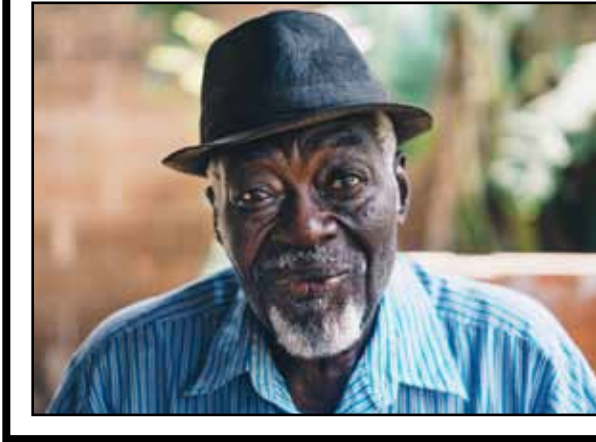
what it is today. Grandparents led our Nation through times of war, heralded new ages of innovation and tested the limits of human imagination.

They challenged longstanding prejudices and shattered barriers, both cultural and scientific. In our homes and our communities; grandparents pass down the values that have led generations of Americans to live well and give back.

As a grandparent of one beautiful granddaughter, Tyanna Lott (my first) and three handsome grandsons (in order of their births): David Lott, Deven Tarpley and Philip Lott, I am especially proud and thankful to God for His blessings to me.

In 1970, a West Virginia housewife, Marian Hernon McQuade, initiated a campaign to set aside a special day just for grandparents. Through concerted efforts on the part of civic, business, church, and political leaders, this campaign expanded statewide.

It is said that her primary motivation was to champi-



Fred Kearney / Unsplash

on the cause of lonely elderly people that were in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage that their grandparents could provide.

The first Grandparents Day was proclaimed in 1973 in West Virginia. Also in 1973 a Grandparent's Day resolution was introduced in the United States Senate.

Mrs. McQuade and her team contacted governors, senators, and congressmen in every state. They sent letters to churches, businesses, and numerous national organizations interested in senior citizens.

President Jimmy Carter, in 1978, proclaimed that National Grandparents Day would be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day. September was chosen for the holiday to signify the "autumn years" of life.

Every effort must be made to include shut-ins and those in nursing homes who are unable to be with their families or have no families in the mainstream through cards, community projects and visitation at times other than just holidays.

The need is increasing every day to fill the void of their loneliness. In ev-

ery neighborhood, there are elderly who would love an opportunity to be a Foster Grandparent.

Most important, Grandparent's Day can signify a loving spirit that lives within us throughout the year--a spirit of love and respect for our elders. Parents, churches, schools, and senior organizations, should help children adopt a grandparent!

It doesn't have to be a gift that you spend money on; spend "quality time" with someone, listen to what they have to say, you might be surprised as to what you may learn. The official flower of Grandparents Day is the Forget-Me-Not.

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

There was a lady who had grown tired of life. She had everything one could wish for except happiness and contentment. One day she said, "I will go to the river and end my life."

As she walked along, she

suddenly felt a little hand tugging at her skirt. Looking down she saw a frail, hungry-looking little boy who pleaded, "There are six of us. We are dying for want of food."

Following the little boy, she entered a scene of needs. The lady opened her purse and emptied its contents. The family members showed joy and gratitude to the lady.

The lady said, "I'll return tomorrow and share more of the good things which God has given to me in abundance!"

She was rejoicing that the child had found her; for the first time she understood the reason for her abundance.

The greatest use of your abundance is to give it away. When we look to meeting the needs of others we find soul-satisfaction that all the abundance in the world could never obtain. In our national tragedy, share your abundance and talent to help those in need.

SANE, from Page 14

home, I thought about what sanity and insanity is all about. What is right in one generation doesn't seem to be right in the next.

A favorite verse of Scripture came to my mind as I

was driving. "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

If anybody knew anything about this, it was King Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived. We may think what we're doing is new, but in all sanity, nothing is new.

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

God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472, where he lives with his wife. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafel-lowship.com.

LABEL, from Page 10

at as a way to engage and empower women."

If Selena has her way, the "Black Girl Magic" won't stop with just the artists and the music they produce, the Hathor Entertainment Experience, she says, will extend to wraparound services and support too. For example, plans are underway for artists to receive protection from an all-female security firm and a resident mental health therapist, a Black woman, will be on the payroll, providing mental and emotional support for all artists. "As we've seen recently

with the world-class athletes such as Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka, and tennis great Serena Williams, mental health matters, and at Hathor Entertainment it will not be an afterthought, it will be a priority," says Selena. "We plan to be proactive with supporting our artists fully; mind, body, and soul!"

Selena, who grew up in a family of entrepreneurs in Chicago, has been working nonstop (and loving it, by the way), helping Nia bring the vision for her upcoming Night & Day EP to life, all while scouting out new mu-

sical talent. She insists it's all a labor of love, her gift to the industry for which she has dedicated her life. Adds Selena: "I'm just using music as a catalyst to fight for women's equality and reach women on a global level all over the world."

Selena and Nia are available to share their inspirational story as two Black women, mother and daughter, building up Hathor Entertainment together and the mark they're determined to make on an industry in need of substantive change for woman artists. For more information, visit HathorEnt.com

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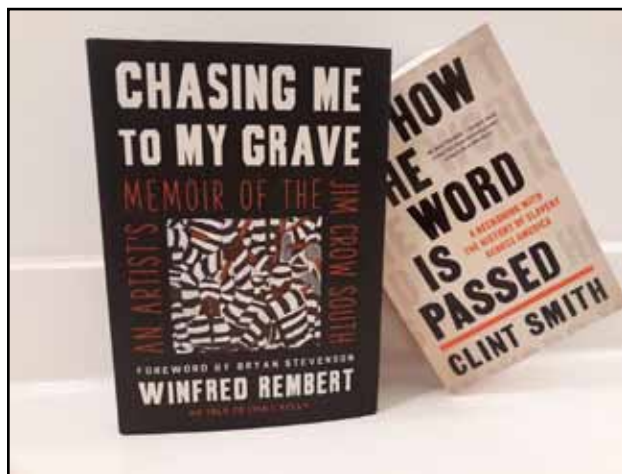
Two great works on Black American history to check out now

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

History, they say, repeats itself.

Look back a few hundred years, and you can see corresponding events, world-wide and through time. Parallels are interesting to spot; some people might even take them as a warning, so that atrocities, inhumanities, and just plain wrong things don't happen again. And sometimes, as in these two books, just learning about historical events can be an eye-opening thing...

The history of America cannot be told without slavery in every cranny of the tale. In "How the Word is Passed" by Clint Smith (Little, Brown, \$29.00),



Terri Schlichenmeyer

readers travel with the author to several places around the country where slavery still lays open and waiting for its part to be included.

When the subject of slavery comes up, it's often rarely mentioned that transatlantic slavery was

outlawed nearly six decades before the end of the Civil War. Of course, that never stopped the import of human beings, but it did change the way that slaves were acquired. The city of New Orleans had a big hand in slave-owners' acquisition, and when Smith

traveled there, he found that the city if working on a reckoning with its past.

That's just one place that Smith visited, in an effort to offer readers a wide-reaching look at how slavery sits within our collective story, in places that history books don't always mention. There's irony in the story of slavery at Monticello, where Thomas Jefferson wrote at length about liberty while he kept slaves. Smith writes of the Whitney Plantation, where visitors can today see what slavery was like two centuries ago. He writes about slavery in our cities, our prisons, and even in death. This trip around the country and through time gives this book a quiet appeal

that's especially relevant for today.

Understanding may come faster when the story is told first-person, as it is in "Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South" by Winfred Rembert, as told to Erin I. Kelly (Bloomsbury, \$30.00).

He didn't remember exactly why he'd been arrested that first time.

Winfred Rembert was "only eight or nine years old" but it might have been about a fight. That once, the Sheriff made it all into a game but by the time Rembert was a teenager, being arrested for no reason but Black was a common thing.

After that, it seemed the

police were always after him for something. He grew up in Georgia and picked cotton almost as soon as he was old enough to walk. As soon as he was old enough to run, he ran away from home and the police were looking for him. He joined the Civil Rights Movement and the police caught up with him...

Filled with a personal story told casually and colorfully-reproduced artwork, you may find this book to be a keepsake. And if you want more books like it, or the Smith book, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian. They've got ideas for Black history books you'll want to page through, repeatedly.

TECH, from Page 13

and more susceptible to disruption by technology and automation. In an era where digital and IT skills are in demand across a wide range of industries, we hope that this work will lead us to a deeper understanding of not just barriers, but practices that unlock the potential of Black talent."

In an effort to uncover opportunities that can strengthen pathways to economic advancement for Black learners and workers in the digital economy,

a team of experts in research, public policy, and systems change at JFF will evaluate a wide range of hiring, training, talent development, and other practices throughout the next several months. They will work to identify promising evidence of strategies that create the conditions for increased economic equity. This research will be shaped by insights from a cross-sector and multi-industry advisory council of Black leaders who will further inform and create

a framework for economic mobility for Black Americans.

Council members include Aimée Eubanks Davis, CEO and founder, Braven; Allison Scott, CEO, Kapor Center; Angela Jackson, managing partner, New Profit; Duwain Pinder, associate partner, McKinsey; Dwana Franklin-Davis, CEO, Reboot Representation; Greg Gunn, co-founder, Lingo Ventures; John Simpkins, president and CEO, MDC, Inc.; Kenyatta Lovett, managing director of higher

education, Educate Texas; Melissa Bradley, managing partner, 1863 Ventures and co-founder, Ureeka; Michael Ellison, CEO and founder, CodePath.org; and Monique Umphrey, president, Houston Community College Northeast.

"To support this work, we sought out a strategic partner who drives meaningful progress by working across sectors. JFF knows how to navigate the complex intersection of learning and employment, and they also have experience exploring the human dimensions

of systemic challenges," said Dalila Wilson-Scott, executive vice president and chief diversity officer of Comcast Corporation. "Michael Collins brings a systems-level understanding of the ways in which education and training can increase access and success in high-wage, high-demand industries."

Comcast NBCUniversal's partnership with JFF is an extension of the company's ongoing commitment to digital equity, including its \$1 billion pledge over the next 10 years to further

close the digital divide in communities across the country with a focus on helping to ensure those facing the greatest barriers have the skills, tools, and resources necessary to benefit from the expanding digital economy.

JFF is a national nonprofit that drives transformation in the American workforce and education systems. For nearly 40 years, JFF has led the way in designing innovative and scalable solutions that create access to economic advancement for all. For more information visit www.jff.org.

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fuel industry sees where the puck is going. They want to be part of the solution; they want to decarbonize. So, some of this will depend on how quickly they can do that work, with assistance from the research and development that can happen at the Department of Energy."

Weeks earlier, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) announced plans to fund cost-shared research and development of natural gas demand response (NGDR) pilot programs.

grams.

Department officials said they are seeking to improve the performance, reliability, and flexibility of the existing natural gas supply and delivery infrastructure through NGDR pilot programs.

"Demand response programs aim to reduce and optimize energy consumption by promoting more transparent price signals of energy consumption to the consumers during peak demand periods," department officials noted in a bulletin posted at www.energy.gov.

According to the bulletin,



Reduction and optimization of natural gas consumption align with the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of a decarbonized power sector by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2050. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

based on the success of demand response programs in the electricity markets and a growing number of challenges with the natural gas supply, the government, regulators, and industry are exploring demand response programs for natural gas

systems.

"The programs can also improve system reliability across different demand sectors," the department noted.

They said the reduction and optimization of natural gas consumption align

with the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of a decarbonized power sector by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

"The president is really focused on helping communities that have been fossil-fuel dependent to add to their economies by incorporating clean energy, as well," Secretary Granholm remarked in her interview.

"And frankly, the major oil and natural gas producers have all put out their own goals of how they will get to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This bipartisan infrastructure deal has some very significant

investments, \$20 billion worth of pilot projects to work on the technologies that will allow those fossil fuel businesses to reduce their carbon emissions, whether it is demonstration projects in clean hydrogen or carbon capture and sequestration, as well as incentives for the further use of solar and wind," she continued.

"Texas is a huge energy economy. We know they've been critical in bringing us to where we are as an industrial nation. We want to be able to have communities like Houston be able to continue their work in energy."