



# North Dallas Gazette

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## 'Shop Talk' polishes up the gathering space in Irving

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

A little over four years ago an important first conversation took place.

Mitchell's Beauty and Barber Salon on N. Beltline Rd. in Irving was the first location of the "Shop Talk" program, where law enforcement officers go to interact with the community on a face-to-face basis. The goal is to forge personal relationships between the police and the community they serve. Particularly in the African American community, barber shops tend to be a conduit of communication.

Irving Police Officer Jon Plunkett -- an African American man himself -- spearheaded the program. In the wake of highly publicized incidents where interactions between Black men and the police had ended violently, Plunkett was looking for a way to bridge his profession with his community in a positive way. Growing up in Memphis, Tenn., he said he knows the distrust on the community side. From a law enforcement perspective, he knew that officers from the rookie level on up, needed a clearer window into the community they pledged to serve and protect.

So for the past four years, officers have made a point to stop in and spend time in these barber shops, which have grown to more than 30. Shop Talk has picked up the support



(Above) Mitchell's Beauty and Barber Salon owner Arron Magee tends to a customer in one of the new chairs installed in a recent remodel. The shop has been in its current location, and the former chairs (at right) were due for an update. (Photos: David Wilfong / NDG)



of One CommunityUSA, and interest in the program is spilling outside the borders of Irving and into other cities.

In the past month, the program has made a significant reinvestment into its original gathering spot. Mitchell's Beauty and Barber Salon has been cutting hair at its current location for the past 31 years. It is a recognized business landmark and owner Arron Magee has even received a proclamation from the Mayor's office lauding his contributions to the city.

But 31 years in business had taken

their toll on the shop's interior. Everything from the ceiling tiles to the appearance of the floors, and especially, the frayed chairs where customers sat were in need of a little touch-up.

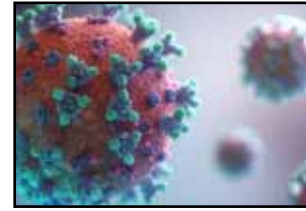
One CommunityUSA took on the task of remodeling the shop. Beginning with an estimate of \$10,000 they went out looking for donations, emphasizing not only the value of

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### Latest in the battle against COVID-19

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Dr. Ebony Hilton

### People In The News ...



Sen. Cory Booker



Malcolm Mitchell

*NDG Quote of the Week: "Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face."*  
—Carol Moseley-Braun



## Dr. Ebony Hilton

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

From the onset of the global pandemic about 18 months ago, Dr. Ebony Hilton emerged as a leader and a powerful voice of reason.

Critical Care Anesthesiologist doctor at the University of Virginia and founder of GoodStock Consulting, LLC, Dr. Hilton has loudly denounced quick re-openings, anti-vaxxers, and reckless gatherings during the pandemic.

Through her Twitter ac-



count, which has an ever-growing list of followers, and her appearances with the Black Press and major media outlets like MSNBC and CNN to provide a reality check for people around

the globe.

"If we could stop saying we 'may be at the peak of Delta and Covid,' that'd be great," Dr. Hilton railed in a recent Twitter post.

"As if we're anywhere near vaccination rates needed locally, nationally, and globally to prevent the next variant. It's this rhetoric that has people walking around bare-faced in the middle of Florida," she demanded.

It's because of her bold and courageous stand and tireless work that Dr. Hilton will receive the 2021 National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)

National Leadership Award for excellence and innovative leadership in Black America.

Dr. James Hildreth, Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Congresswoman Cori Bush (D-Missouri), and Olympic record-setter Allyson Felix also will receive National Leadership Awards from the NNPA, the trade association of more than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies.

It's free to register for the ceremony, which takes place virtually at [www.virtualnnpa2021.com](http://www.virtualnnpa2021.com).

"I cannot begin to tell you how honored I am to be considered," Dr. Hilton said of the NNPA honor.

"I have to be honest. It's difficult to think of my efforts as worthy when there is so much left to do. One thing I can promise is to continue trying my best and showing up in hopes of truly deserving this prestigious recognition," Dr. Hilton stated.

Dr. Hilton received her M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in 2008.

She remained at MUSC to complete her Residency in Anesthesia, followed by

a Fellowship in Critical Care Medicine.

In 2013 Dr. Hilton made history as the first African American Female anesthesiologist since the hospital's opening in 1824.

Throughout her tenure at MUSC, Dr. Hilton's passions have centered on exploring the issue of health disparities, particularly as it pertains to race, and bridging the gap between physicians and the communities they serve.

According to Dr. Hilton's official biography, her works have led to her

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## Sen. Cory Booker

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) recently joined EPA Administrator Michael Regan, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Ironbound Community Corporation, and New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance for an environmental justice tour of the Ironbound neighborhood in Newark.

A roundtable discussion on federal policies to address issues affecting envi-



ronmental justice communities followed the tour, which put, in a nutshell, the work Sen. Booker has accomplished during his stellar political career.

"Since my early days as a tenant rights lawyer in

Newark, I've seen how underserved communities and communities of color bear the burden of legacy pollution, toxic Superfund sites, and the lack of clean air or water," Sen. Booker stated in a news release.

"I was proud to host Administrator Regan, Commissioner LaTourette, and local environmental justice advocates for this important tour and discussion that underscores the urgent need to address stark environmental inequalities and racism."

He continued:

"Such discussions between local, state, and federal entities are essential to ensuring residents in overlooked communities

across the United States are given the tools, resources, and funding they need to achieve environmental justice."

Sen. Booker, who served two terms as Newark mayor before his election to the Senate, will receive the 2021 National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) National Leadership Award for excellence and innovative leadership in Black America.

Drs. James Hildreth and Ebony Hilton, Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Congresswoman Cori Bush (D-Missouri), and Olympic record-setter Allyson Felix also will receive National Leadership Awards from the

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It's free to register for the ceremony, which takes place virtually at [www.virtualnnpa2021.com](http://www.virtualnnpa2021.com).

"I'm humbled and honored to be honored by the National Newspaper Publishers Association," Sen. Booker remarked.

"The members of the NNPA provide an invaluable service to their communities, shining a light on issues that affect Black Americans and our families.

"I stand with the NNPA and its membership in their efforts to inform, educate, and advance their mission

of promoting a more just, equal society."

Booker grew up in northern New Jersey and received his undergraduate and master's degree from Stanford University. At Stanford, Cory played varsity football, volunteered for the campus peer counseling center, and wrote for the student newspaper. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went on to study at the University of Oxford, and then Yale Law School, where he graduated in 1997.

Booker moved to Newark after law school and continues to live there today.

## Malcolm Mitchell

ATLANTA — Cox has announced a new collaboration to narrow the learning gap in diverse, low-income neighborhoods through its Connect2Compete program, which provides internet access to eligible K-12 students and families at low cost.

Malcolm Mitchell, an author, Super Bowl-champion and founder of the Share the Magic Foundation, will partner with Cox to amplify the need for internet access among students, particularly in multicultural areas, as the critical foundation for education, training, and the jobs of tomorrow. Malcolm will help drive awareness



and adoption of the Connect2Compete program among eligible customers, all while promoting a cause that carries immense personal meaning to the author and athlete himself, as he once worked off the field to achieve his literacy goals.

"I grew up as a low-

income student, so I understand the challenges that exist within the community. Initially, reading was a challenge for me. However, through perseverance, books became an avenue for expanding my curiosity, creativity and learning," said Mitchell, a native of Valdosta, Georgia who was drafted to the New England Patriots after graduating from the University of Georgia in 2015. "For today's kids, having an internet connection is vital. Connect2Compete offers an affordable option for families, and my hope is that more kids find joy and passion in reading and writing like I have through access to technology and tools that Cox provides."

As many activities have been shifted online, the virus has sparked debates about digital equity. The pressures of the pandemic and social injustice have laid bare the effects of the lack of internet access to kids in lower income families which in turn can lock them out of the economic system. The "homework gap" is even more pronounced in minority children according to research. Communities across the country are facing challenges with remote learning, as many students lack internet access to complete school assignments and learn at their grade level with proficiency.

"Malcolm's focus on literacy and Cox's focus

on technology go hand-in-hand to ensure young students are positioned for achievement," said Pat Esser, president and chief executive officer of Cox Communications. "We are proud to join forces with Malcolm Mitchell and the Share the Magic Foundation to ensure children have the opportunity to succeed in the classroom and in life."

According to a recent Pew Research Center study:

• The "homework gap" — which refers to school-age children lacking the connectivity they need to complete schoolwork at home — is more pronounced for Black, Hispanic and lower-income households.

• One-quarter of Black teens said they often or sometimes cannot do homework assignments due to lack of reliable access to a computer or internet connectivity, compared with 13% of White teens and 17% of Hispanic teens.

• Hispanic teens were especially likely to say they do not have access to a home computer: 18% said this, compared with 9% of White teens and 11% of Black teens.

• The new partnership builds upon Cox Communications' continued commitment to ensuring low-income, K-12 students are positioned for the future through technology. Cox

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## Rep. Waters marks 20 years since 911 attacks

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services, issued the following statement on the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

“Twenty years ago today, our nation suffered devastating terrorist attacks on our soil and against our people that wholly and completely changed the world as we knew it. On September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives, thousands

more were injured, and our entire nation continues to grieve the losses we’ve endured. There is no question that the events of September 11 had a profound impact on so many that still reverberates around the world. Among those we honor and grieve today are our selfless servicemembers who lost their lives fighting for freedom and peace following the September 11 terror attacks.

“With every passing year, it is important to come together and reflect. On Sep-

tember 11, 2001, we experienced pain and loss, but we also witnessed the very best of our country. We saw brave first responders who, without a second thought, put themselves in harm’s way, some making the ultimate sacrifice, to save as many people as possible. We learned of the bravery of those on United Flight 93, who went face-to-face with their attackers in order to regain control of the plane and prevent it from being used as a weapon against their fellow citizens. We saw

everyday people help bring each other to safety and we learn of more heroes with every passing day. In true American spirit, our people came together and exemplified the very best of who we are through collaboration, inclusivity, and unity.

“It is my greatest hope that every American will continue to honor our collective responsibility to our communities and our country. On this September 11, my eternal condolences remain with the families and loved ones of every victim.”

## Finding the courage to lead

By Delia Parker-Mims

Children deserve a safe learning environment. Period. Federal law establishes that every child is entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Shouldn’t appropriate include providing as safe a learning environment as possible? Providing a safe learning environment should be the basis of how we look at mitigating factors within our schools regarding the spread of the coronavirus and its new variants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that schools are generally safe if students and staff universally wear masks. So, why aren’t schools across the state masking up? For far too many school districts in the state of Texas, far right politics have controlled the decision making at our schools.

In Texas, Republicans have a strong grip on local politics and have for many years. The vast majority of Texas Republican school boards, mayors and county judges have hidden behind the governor’s Executive Order and ignored their very own public health directors. As we know, children don’t vote. It would appear the vast majority of

Republican officials have interpreted the fact that children don’t vote to mean children do not deserve representation. School boards have become more concerned with the desires of voting parents instead of the safety of our children. This has resulted in a vacuum of leaderless school boards lacking the courage to lead. School boards have become more responsive to the right-wing political environment than to ensuring the safety of our students.

For example, during the 20/21 school year, the Lewisville Independent School District enacted measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus by instituting a mask mandate, investing as much as \$500,000 in plexiglass for student desks and various other measures to deter Covid spread. Yet, as the mask mandate became politicized, anti-mask parent groups formed and successfully lobbied every member of the school board into refusing to incorporate those same measures during the 21/22 school year. Suddenly, the school board is of the mindset that children can choose whether they want to wear a mask or not, because without a mask mandate, children get to make the decision at school regardless of a parent’s choice.

LISD is just one of many school boards around the State of Texas who have hidden behind Governor Abbott’s executive order and refused to require masks, even though the State of Texas is not currently enforcing the governor’s order against school districts.

Through it all, one bright light appeared. The Paris Independent School District revised its dress code policy to include masks in a creative way to circumvent Governor Abbott’s executive order. They did so after a lengthy hearing on the mask mandate with many parents advocating for and against the mask. Chapter 11 of the Texas Education Code gives school boards the authority to govern their districts, which means they choose the dress code. Abbott’s executive order did not suspend any provision of this code. The general counsel for the school district, Dennis Eichelbaum stated the district, “is allowed to add masks to the dress code.” He says, “[t]he purpose is to protect as many people as possible and to get them in school and to get them educated.”

This decision by the Paris Independent School Board is significant for a couple of reasons. First, it indicates that these rep-

resentatives believe they have a responsibility to ensure that children have a safe learning environment. Second, it shows that when we put the needs of our children ahead of our politics, the answers are easy. What is particularly significant about the City of Paris is that it is considered moderately conservative within the highly conservative Lamar County. In fact, Trump won the city and the county by nearly a four-to-one margin in 2020. Even within an environment with an overwhelming majority of Trump supporters, the school board managed to find the courage to lead and put the safety of students ahead of politics.

But make no mistake. The Paris Board of Trustees is an anomaly. While we’ve seen from one small school board that it is possible for local politics to be nonpartisan, we’ve learned from the rest of the state, it is not. Until school boards find the courage to lead within a partisan environment, our students will not be safe.

Delia Parker-Mims is an attorney, writer, speaker and author. She is dedicated to breaking the Republican stronghold on Texas and a strong advocate of Democratic policies. She can be reached at delia@bettertogetherdc.com.

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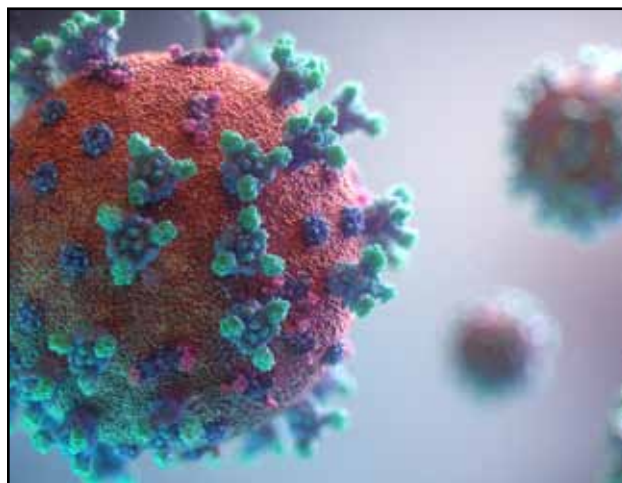


# Recent developments in the fight against Covid-19

Lori Lee, Ph.D.  
Urban Planning  
and Public Policy  
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The distant memory of long lines of people desperate for vaccines early this year has given way to an urgent need for trusted information to reassure the vaccine hesitant. As pharmaceutical companies struggled to provide more vaccines throughout the year, Americans saw steadily declining outbreaks, which reached a low of 12,000 hospitalizations per day in June, as noted by Peggy Honein of the CDC's Covid-19 Response Division. As Honein notes, now with enough vaccines for everyone, the question becomes why, in just over two months, have hospitalization rates soared to nearly 150,000 daily? With almost 1,000 people dying each day, things are now looking more like the beginning of the pandemic than the end.

Why is increasing the rate of vaccination an urgent matter? Scientists advise that the pandemic



will not end without significantly reducing the spread of the virus and its variants. As Honein explains, with just over 47% of the overall population still unvaccinated, Americans remain vulnerable. Science tells us that when viruses replicate, errors occur randomly and in response to certain environmental pressures. This process affects virus antigens, rendering a person's immunity less effective against new and different versions of the virus.

The FDA's announcement of full approval of the vaccine and third dose boosters are hopeful developments in the fight to reduce virus spread. Yet,

Honein notes that it is no coincidence that in those communities where vaccine rates are low, hospitalization rates are high. Vaccination trends upward offer hope. As the Washington Post reports, full approval has been accompanied by an increase in vaccine mandates. This is positive news considering that just prior to full approval, CNN reported vaccinations were already up at least 70% in July. This news came just after MSNBC reported a 46% increase even in lagging southern states, such as Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida.

Meanwhile, changing risks due to new variants

and local political pressures are producing turbulent shifts in recommendations and mandates. Erin Florio of Conde Nast Traveler recommends checking CDC and local government websites to sort through the changes. As she explains, though Americans are now taking shorter trips by car, such travel requires an awareness of state and local regulations when crossing into different territories.

With regard to international travel, she explains that with Americans now off the European Union's safe list, the E.U. is expected to increase requirements for Americans, which may mean upping the current demand that Americans provide either proof of vaccine or a negative Covid test.

Dr. Cindy Friedman, of the CDC's Division of Global Immigration and Quarantine, notes that airplane ventilation systems may assist in limiting the spread of viruses to some extent. Yet she recommends everyone be vaccinated and wear a mask if they're going to be flying.

As she explains, a federal regulation requires masking on all public transportation when traveling out of and within the United States. Friedman recommends masks should fit well, such as those with nose wires and multiple layers of fabric. Social distancing should also be taken into account when flying, she explains.

Similar to aircraft systems, Dr. Honein explains that improved ventilation in schools would also help protect children, especially those which are vaccine ineligible under 12. As Honein notes, with only 45% of children ages 12 to 17 vaccinated, the CDC recommends schools be systematically protected, including improved ventilation, masking, social distancing, screening, and staying home and/or isolating when not feeling well.

Honein also notes that preventive screening is recommended in other high-density settings, including congregate living arrangements, like nursing homes and dormitories. Dr. Honein points out that a county

checker is now available on the CDC website where people can see the level of transmission in certain counties. Unfortunately, she notes that with vaccination rates low, transmission levels are high in all counties in the U.S.

Despite concerted efforts to end this pandemic, Dr. Jennifer Layden, Deputy Director of CDC's Office of Science, explains that racial disparities have improved. As she notes, though such disparities vary by region, equity among black populations has generally improved since the beginning of the pandemic. However, concerns about international equity surround the CDC's August approval of a third vaccine for America, which leaves economically disadvantaged nations now unable to access sufficient vaccines. Dr. Honein of the CDC, insists, however, that the U.S. does seek worldwide equity through its committed engagement with other countries in providing them with vaccines and other information to assist a better understanding of this global pandemic.

## President seeks to expand vaccine requirements in healthcare settings

(CMS.gov) The Biden-Harris Administration will require COVID-19 vaccination of staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities to protect both them and patients from the virus and its more contagious Delta variant. Facilities across the country should make efforts now to get health care staff vaccinated to make sure they are in compliance when the rule takes effect.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention (CDC), announced today that emergency regulations requiring vaccinations for nursing home workers will be expanded to include hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies, among others, as a condition for participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The decision was based on the continued and growing spread of the virus in health care settings, especially in parts of the U.S. with higher incidence of

COVID-19.

"There is no higher priority for us than patient health and safety. As the Delta variant strengthens, the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to doing everything we can to keep patients, and those who care for them, safe," said U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra. "There is no question that staff, across any health care setting, who remain unvaccinated pose both direct and indirect threats to patient safety and

population health. Ensuring safety and access to all patients, regardless of their entry point into the health care system, is essential."

Nursing homes with an overall staff vaccination rate of 75% or lower experience higher rates of preventable COVID infection. In CMS's review of available data, the agency is seeing lower staff vaccination rates among hospital and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) facilities. To combat this issue, CMS is us-

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## Former All Swac receiver seeks NFL tryouts

Former Prairie View A&M University wide receiver, Tristen Wallace, is seeking tryouts with National Football League teams to showcase his ability as a playmaker to make meaningful contributions at his position, said John Biggins, his agent. Biggins noted the 6'3" 233 lb. receiver who possesses 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash, has been prevented from getting a tryout because of five-year-old false allegations of sexual misconduct while attending the University of Oregon in 2016 as a freshman.

"Those allegations were investigated by both the University of Oregon Po-



*Tristen Wallace (above and at far right) is looking for an opportunity to compete at the highest levels after being cleared of wrongdoing in years-old accusations.*

lice Department and local District Attorney and found to have a lack of any credible evidence to pursue," said Biggins. "As such, we want Mr. Wallace to be

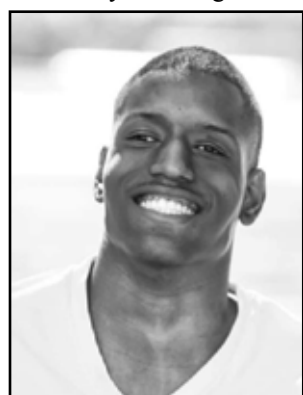
given every opportunity to live his lifelong dream of playing in the NFL."

Wallace, a star quarterback from Desoto, Texas high school, transitioned to wide receiver to enhance his ability to play professionally. He transferred to Prairie View after attending Trinity Valley Community College for a year where he made first team All-SWJCFC. At Prairie View, he led the team in receiving and made All SWAC in 2018 and 2019. Wallace sat out 2020 to prepare for the NFL draft.

"Tristen is simply an outstanding athlete," Biggins said. "He has the tremendous size, 4.4 speed, great

hands and consistent ability to make big plays and score touchdowns." The former receiver participated in two pro days and impressed NFL scouts, according to his agent. "They were really impressed but because of the character issue surrounding players in the league right now, they said these false allegations need to be publicly put to rest."

In preparation of an opportunity, the 23-year-old who received his Communications degree from the University in May, has been playing in the Spring league in Houston. "I am in exceptionally good shape and ready to contribute to a NFL team," said Wallace.



*Devin Gabriel*

## South Dallas Government Center announces new hire

The office of Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price is excited and proud to announce the latest addition to the recently opened South Dallas Government Center (SDGC).

"After a thorough search, we have been fortunate to hire Devin Gabriel for Spe-

cial Concierge and Site Director Position," Price said in a release.

"Devin will assume his responsibilities immediately. The Special Concierge and Site Director are newly created but highly valued component of our facility management strategy."

When asked why he

wanted this coveted role, Gabriel was very clear and concise. The 20-year-old was adamant that his life's goal was to get a job of his own.

"Devin's unwavering wish has been satisfied, and we expect that he and Dallas County will find the arrangement mutually ben-

eficial," Price added.

The SDGC displays the art, history, culture of the South Dallas community. The 73,000 square foot facility on the north end houses the Justice of the Peace Courts and Constable's office in Precinct 1, the Dallas County Sheriff

Patrol, the Dallas County Tax office, and Dallas County Veterans Services.

"The best news is that Devin will be available to direct many of our visitors to their destination," Price said. "We could not be more proud of our latest personnel acquisition!"

## Dallas examines racial equity to build an equitable and inclusive bounce back

(City of Dallas) Historic and current institutionalized policies and practices have created disparities in social, health and economic outcomes for many communities of color. The interconnectedness of the

complex inequities Dallas faces requires a sustained commitment by multiple local, state, and national entities to address the pervasive disparities.

The City of Dallas' Office of Equity & Inclusion-Eq-

uity Division in partnership with Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) are working to move the needle on racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities highlighted in the Equity Indicators report.

The Equity Division and CFT held the second annual Equity Indicators Symposium on Friday, January 22, from 8:30 a.m. – noon. Pivoting with the current state

of times, the virtual event outlined intentional strategies for building an equitable and inclusive economic bounce back. Amplifying tools and resources that pro-

mote progress toward advancing equity across communities of color, the event propelled fundamental pil-

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ing its authority to establish vaccine requirements for all providers and suppliers that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Vaccinations have proven to reduce the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 and are effective against the Delta variant. CMS will continue to work closely with all Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities to ensure these new requirements are met.

"We know that those working in health care want to do what is best for their patients in order to keep them safe," said CMS

Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "As the Delta variant continues to spread, we know the best defense against it lies with the COVID-19 vaccine. Data show that the higher the level of vaccination rates among providers and staff, the lower the infection rate is among patients who are dependent upon them for care. Now is the time to act. I'm urging everyone, but especially those fighting this virus on the front lines, to get vaccinated and protect themselves, their families, and their patients from COVID-19."

CMS is developing an Interim Final Rule with Comment Period that will be issued in October. CMS expects certified Medicare and Medicaid facilities to act in the best interest of patients and staff by complying with new COVID-19 vaccination requirements. Health care workers employed in these facilities who are not currently vaccinated are urged to begin the process immediately. Facilities are urged to use all available resources to support employee vaccinations, including employee education and clinics, as they work to meet new federal requirements.

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# The Center for Black Educator Development launches We Need Black Teachers Campaign

Philadelphia, PA — Today, the Center for Black Educator Development (CBED), a nonprofit revolutionizing education by increasing the number of Black educators, announced the launch of their campaign, #WeNeedBlackTeachers, to help raise awareness about the need for more Black educators and encourage young Black people to consider answering the call to become teachers. The organization will be working with influencers, students and teachers throughout the day to amplify the cause online.



Thought Catalog / Unsplash

Research shows that Black students who've had a Black teacher in elementary school are more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college—13%

more likely if they've had one Black teacher in elementary school, and over 32% more likely if they've had two. The impact is even more stark for Black

boys. If a Black boy has a Black teacher in grades 3-5, they on average have a 29% increased interest in pursuing college and a 39% lower chance of dropping out of high school.

But Black teachers are drastically underrepresented in the American teaching force in comparison to the diversity of the U.S. student body. Although 15% of public school students in the United States identify as Black, only 7% of public school teachers identify as Black. To get to the point where there's a similar proportion of Black teachers as

there are students, the number of Black teachers needs to grow by 280,000. For more information on the campaign, visit WeNeedBlackTeachers.com.

"We've seen the proven impact that Black teachers have on student learning. That's why we are working with local and national leaders to encourage Black people across the country to become teachers," said Sharif El-Mekki, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CBED. "We're working to remind young Black people that education is the backbone of activism — to

be a Black educator is an act of resistance and a step towards liberation."

The Center for Black Educator Development was founded in June 2019 to ensure equity in the recruiting, training, hiring, and retention of quality educators who reflect the cultural background and socio-political interests of the students they serve. The Center promotes exercises in self-reflection and interrogation of the mindsets and biases of educators and aspiring educators, while driving social justice and policy conversations.

## Warnock, McEachin introduce bicameral legislation establishing voucher program to help close digital divide

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In the increasingly digital world, internet services and the devices to access them have quickly become essential to participate in the 21st-century economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated this need and underscored the stark disparities that currently exist in our country.

Against that backdrop, Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) and Congressman Donald McEachin (D-Va.) have introduced the Device Access for Every American Act to ensure more Americans can afford connected devices.

The bicameral legislation would authorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a program to administer up to \$400 vouchers for low-income Americans to pur-

chase laptops, tablets, and desktop computers.

"It is nearly impossible to get by without access to a laptop or tablet—especially after a year of adjusting to virtual learning, working, and more," Sen. Warnock stated.

"For that, I am incredibly proud to introduce the Device Access for Every American Act, which ensures that every American—regardless of income or zip code—can participate and

thrive in our increasingly digital economy."

Sen. Warnock continued: "This legislation also ensures students stay on track, especially following a year of learning loss, with the necessary devices at their disposal."

Sen. Warnock and Con-

gressman McEachin said more than 11 percent of American households are without computers.

They noted that millions of Americans migrated to virtual learning and teleworking since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Still, many households

struggled to connect because of a lack of or an insufficient number of connected devices.

Further, while computer access is nearly ubiquitous for high-income households, 40 percent of those

See DIGITAL, Page 14

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# Irving set to host two major road races in September

Irving drivers should be aware that the city is hosting two significant outdoor events this month which may affect traffic patterns.

The first of these is the the annual Irving Oktoberfest Run/Walk 5-Mile, 5k, Fun Run on Sept. 18. Part of the Irving Marathon Running Series, this is a USATF certified fast and flat race route which takes participants through scenic downtown Las Colinas in Irving. Participants are encouraged to join the movement with others in-person or virtually, and practice wellness and a healthy lifestyle while promoting the fight against childhood obesity. All Irving Mara-



thon Running Series events benefit the Irving Schools Foundation. The events raise funds and awareness to battle childhood obesity at the elementary and middle school level. Promoters of the Irving Marathon

Running Series believe providing healthy lifestyle opportunities and community involvement can reverse the trend of 35% of Texans battling obesity.

Motorists in the Las Colinas Urban Center may

experience traffic delays from 6:30 to 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 18 during this event. The route begins at the Toyota Music Factory, 360 W. Las Colinas Blvd., and runners will head south on Las Colinas Boulevard.

Motorists can expect traffic delays and are advised to seek alternate routes when possible.

Affected roadways include:

- Las Colinas Boulevard, from Promenade Parkway to Levy Event Plaza

- Promenade Parkway, from Las Colinas Boulevard to Lake Carolyn Parkway

- Lake Carolyn Parkway, from Promenade to N.

O'Connor Boulevard

- N. O'Connor Boulevard, from Lake Carolyn Parkway to Las Colinas Boulevard

Then on Sept. 25, Irving will play host to a Walk Like MADD event. This event is held to raise funds and awareness for the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers campaign. It is a 5k event which will also take place on public streets in Irving.

Motorists in the Las Colinas Urban Center may experience traffic delays from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 25 during the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Walk Like MADD 5K. The route be-

gins at the Toyota Music Factory, 360 W. Las Colinas Blvd., and runners will head south on Las Colinas Boulevard.

Motorists can expect traffic delays and are advised to seek alternate routes when possible.

Affected roadways include:

- Las Colinas Boulevard, from Promenade Parkway to Brune Way

- Brune Way, from Las Colinas Boulevard to Lake Carolyn Promenade

Those interested in participating in either of these events can find more information via links provided on the City of Irving's website.

## SHOP, from Page 1

the business to the community itself, but its place in promoting the Shop Talk programming. By the time the project was finished, the price tag for the upgrades was \$14,000.

Enthusiasm for this remodel was contagious. The contractor ended up throwing in \$1,000 of his own money, and the property management pledged additional improvements to the exterior of the strip center the shop is located in. To top it all off, a sign-maker even donated a new sign to hang on the outside of the barber shop.

Visitors to Michell's Beauty and Barber Salon will be greeted by fresh paint, a new ceiling above and floor below. They will take their place in brand new, top-end barber's chairs, and there are even two new chairs added to accommodate a total of four stations. The old shelves were replaced with new massive tool chests which are the latest trend in barber shop decor. Even the bathroom was refitted with new fixtures.

"The renovation is excellent," Magee said of the results. "It's really helping out, giving a lot of people the opportunity to see different

things. It's real nice. Just the brightness of it, the colors. One Community did an excellent job."

Plunkett said the makeover will not only help Mitchell's to bring in more business and potentially expand, but it is an outward and visible sign of the commitment from the side of the program and law enforcement.

"We also have quarterly luncheon with the police chief," Plunkett said. "We provide lunch for all of the shop owners that are in the program. That's when we have our big meeting there. Now we'll have little small events, like we may have a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway or something like that. We had a block party here

where we had a DJ, dancing and everything else, food, you know. We do all kinds of different events.

"The biggest thing with the program is being able to integrate these minority shops into programs that the police have already. Because before, the minorities weren't participating in these programs. So now we take the programs to them, to get them to actually participate in them. They feel like the door is open for them, so when they have an issue they can just call us up and say, 'Hey look, I got this problem.' So now hey feel they have a voice in the community and a voice in the city also."

Robert Benitez of One CommunityUSA, who has a background in law enforcement himself, says the

program has already yielded results in dealing with incidents on the street. He cited one specific case where a suspect voluntarily surrendered himself to an officer he knew from previous conversations.

"Policing is not just 7-Eleven for a Slurpee, or going to McDonald's for a burger," said Benitez. "This

is part of what you need to understand about policing; coming in here and meeting these people. That's how that expands and changes policing.

"Plus they get tips. When they have a problem they will call the department only because they know that officer, and say 'Hey, that video you released on that

aggravated robbery? That guy's come in he shop. His is his name.' Now you've helped solve major crime."

One CommunityUSA also fields programs to serve the Latino community through its "UNA Comunidad" program, and former prisoners reentering society through its "Pathways to H.O.P.E." project.



Even the sign out in front of Mitchell's Beauty and Barber Salon is new, thanks to the generosity of a local sign-maker.  
(Photo: David Wilfong / NDG)

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# Music lovers reunite at Capital Jazz Fest 2021

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Travel Writer

After a 24-month COVID hibernation, the Capital Jazz Fest reconvened as a special edition at Merriweather Park in Symphony Woods in Columbia, Maryland. Normally an annual June event, which was canceled in 2020, the fest took place on September 4th and 5th—with a few modifications.

Entry required proof of a COVID vaccination, or a negative test taken within the last 72 hours along with a valid ID. Also, in past years there were two venues in the park, one a sprawling lawn with a stage and no seats, the other the Merriweather Post Pavilion amphitheater, which had stadium seating and behind that section a rolling hill where people could bring chairs and view the main event. This year everyone congregated in the amphitheater, ready to party, bringing that good vibe that has been an integral part of the festival for over 28 years.

Saturday the roster started with electric violinist Ken Ford, jazz harpist Mariea Antionette, smooth jazz singer/pianist Jarrod Lawson and the lively vocalist Avery Sunshine. The proceedings kicked into a higher gear when Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Eric Roberson brought his soul licks and sly sense of humor on stage and captured the audience's attention with his signature song "Lessons." "All the heartbreak I had led me to you." His funny but heartwarming set led to the much-anticipated Bill Withers Tribute, with a band that included famed bassist Marcus Miller.

Anthony David ("Words") sang Withers' "Grandma's Hands," with the heartfelt conviction of a seasoned R&B singer. Roberson re-emerged singing the sassy "Kissing My Love." Miller reminisced about being a young stu-



dio bass player on the recording of Withers' classic "Just the Two of Us." Evidently, Withers taught himself to play the guitar and the first song he wrote, knowing only a few chords, was "Ain't No Sunshine." Withers' first attempt at playing the piano conjured up "Lean on Me." Not bad for a beginner.

South African jazz great Jonathan Butler wailed and cooed on "Ain't No Sunshine" and was called into action by Miller to sing "Just the Two of Us." At this point it was hard to imagine who would come out next, but the festival is known for its musical tributes and the crowd was ready for big surprises. They roared when Patti Austin came out to sing her version of "Lean on Me." They went

ballistic when Eric Benet strolled onstage for funk up versions of "Use Me" and "Lovely Day."

The first evening was capped off with romantic soul singer Will Downing performing his own hits and soul classics like "Stop, Look, Listen (To your Heart)," first recorded by The Stylistics. His act peaked when Maysa, former lead singer of Incognito, walked out to duet with him on the Michael Jackson tune "I Can't Help It," which they reinterpreted with jazz styling and scat singing. The night's headliner was the sultry voiced Lalah Hathaway, who appeared in tight black leather pants, an oversized white blouse with black blotches and looked very modern. Her first com-

ment to the crowd, "You all don't know how bad I was missing you!" She crooned many songs, including Anita Baker's "Angel." Her most touching moment featured the contemplative love song "Insanity," which she sang with Gregory Porter on his LP "Take Me to the Alley." "How did we ever lose our minds and fall apart, knowing we're the only ones to heal each other's hearts?"

Sunday's lineup was as stellar. Starting with Zo! &

Tall Black Guy (featuring Deborah Bond), followed by Stokely, Shanice, Chanté Moore and Sheila E. The evening began with Tamia, who confessed to the audience: "COVID sucks. I lost friends and family." Wearing Daisy Dukes frayed blue jean cutoffs, the voice of the 46-year-old singer was as supple and clear as when she first made her debut splash on Quincy Jones' 1995 Jook Joint LP with her Grammy-winning performance "You Put a Move on My Heart." She was followed by the return of the very debonair and California free spirit Eric Benet. After singing some of his top songs, and a very smooth version of The System's classic "Don't Disturb This Groove," he focused on a duet he did with Tamia, which turned out to be his 1997 breakout song: "Spend My Life with You." His anecdote, about hiring her to do the song as a ruse to get to "know" her, and then on the day of recording being disappointed when she showed up with her lover basketball great Grant Hill, made the audience howl with laughter.

As the festival concluded,

Bell Biv DeVoe, former members of New Edition, took the stage in a high-voltage hip-hop review complete with dancers, gyrations and an MC who had the audience in a frenzy long before the group showed up.

The d-jay played classic soul and hip-hop music from the '70s, '80' and '90s and he yelled, "If you have hip-hop in your heart make some noise!" The place went wild. "If there is anyone in the house over 45, let me hear you scream." The cheers were deafening. Bodies were moving, swaying and dancing like it was an end of summer backyard party.

The crowd that flocked to the special edition Labor Day weekend Capital Jazz Fest had a good time as they socialized, met old friends and new ones too. COVID had ruined many things over the last 18 months, but this fest is how thousands of music fans got their groove back.

Visit NNPA Newswire Travel Writer Dwight Brown at [DwightBrown@Ink.com](mailto:DwightBrown@Ink.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).

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# Cowboys raise eyebrows with close loss to Tampa, 31-29

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

It's been a long time since so much optimism has been afforded the Dallas Cowboys -- after a loss. But such was the case after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers edged the Cowboys, 31-29, last week.

Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott was playing his first game in almost 11 months -- after overcoming last season's gruesome ankle injury and surgery, and a strained right shoulder suffered in this summer's training camp. So no one knew how Prescott would react after not having played in a game in 333 days.

Meanwhile, the Bucs are the reigning Super Bowl champions. And they were playing at home. And they have quarterback Tom Brady.

But with Prescott surprisingly passing for 403 yards and three touchdowns, suddenly the rest of the season looks promising for the Cowboys, starting with Sunday's 3:25 p.m. kickoff in Los Angeles against the Chargers.

"We'll get better because of this (loss)," Prescott said. "There's plays that we left out there that could have resulted into touchdowns.



All Pro Reels / Flickr

"It's Game 1, it's a long season, but we've got to make sure that we get better from this one and allow this to propel us."

Even running back Ezekiel Elliott was singing the Cowboys' praises after the Bucs held him to just 33 yards rushing on 11 carries.

"I think we did a great job of going out there and competing," Elliott said. "The defense did a great job of going out there and taking the ball away, the offense did a great job of going out there and scoring.

"We just fell short, but I like where we're at right now. I think we definitely can build off this."

If the Cowboys can build off the loss to the Bucs, they're going to have to do it in the immediate future without receiver Michael Gallup and offensive right tackle La'el Collins.

Gallup will be sidelined

three-to-five weeks after missing the majority of the second half of the game against Tampa Bay with a calf strain. Cedrick Wilson and Noah Brown likely will get the lion's share of the playing time in Gallup's absence.

Collins, meanwhile, has been suspended for five weeks by the NFL for violating the league's substance abuse policy. Collins, who missed the entire 2020 season following hip surgery, isn't eligible to return to the active roster until Oct. 18 -- one day after the Cowboys' Week 6 game at New England.

"I know the timing is a bit awkward," head coach Mike McCarthy said of Collins' suspension. "But it's something I really can't talk about right now."

Ty Nsehke and Terence Steele were the primary backups in training camp at

offensive tackle. Plus, six-time Pro Bowl left tackle Zack Martin will be back in the lineup after missing the Tampa Bay game because he testing positive for Covid-19.

The last time the Cowboys' top three offensive linemen -- Tyron Smith, Martin and Collins -- were in the starting lineup together was the 2019 Week 16 game in Philadelphia. The Cowboys know those issues on the offensive line must be resolved before this team can reach their full potential.

"The health and continuity of your offensive line, if you look at it historically, equates to winning," McCarthy said. "So that's something to pay attention to.

"But in the same breath, injuries are part of the game. I think if you look at the way we had all our

roster development trying to keep as many players as possible, this is why. It's going to take 75-plus players to be successful."

If Prescott can continue playing the way he did against the Bucs, the Cowboys probably will have more than their share of success this season. Prescott threw a career-high 58 passes for 42 completions against Tampa Bay with only one interception.

Amari Cooper caught 13 of Prescott's passes for 139 yards, and also had a pair of touchdown receptions.

"I thought Amari played very well," McCarthy said. "He obviously had a lot of targets, a lot of catches, a lot of production. I thought he did a good job with yards after the catch."

CeeDee Lamb also caught seven passes for 104 yards and a touchdown against the Bucs.

"I think we're capable of throwing a lot and being successful," Cooper said. "I think we're capable of running a lot and being successful."

The Cowboy can be extra successful if their defense can duplicate when it did against the Bucs when they forced Tampa Bay into committing four turnovers.

"I think we've got a chance to be a really good defense," rookie linebacker Micah Parsons said. "We just got to do the little things, communicate, talk and get better.

"There's a lot of potential left in this team. We're young too, and we've got to make sure the young guys mix in with the old guys."

Through it all, heading into the game against the Chargers, the positivity chart is trending upward for

See COWBOYS, Page 12

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# Dallas Museum of Art presents 'Point, Line, Plane,' exhibition honoring remarkable gift of works on paper from William B. Jordan and Robert Dean Brownlee

(DMA) Opening September 26 at the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA), a new exhibition honors a remarkable gift from the estate of distinguished scholar William B. Jordan and his husband, Robert Dean Brownlee. Celebrating the establishment of the Museum's Works on Paper Department, Point, Line, Plane: The William B. Jordan and Robert Dean Brownlee Bequest is composed of approximately 50 works donated to the DMA by Jordan and Brownlee. The exhibition includes drawings, watercolors, prints, photography, sculpture, and decorative arts by some of the most important European and American artists of the past three centuries. Point, Line, Plane is curated by Sue Canterbury, The Pauline Gill Sullivan Curator of American Art and Interim Allen and Kelli Questrom Curator of Works on Paper. The exhibition is on view through January 9, 2022, and is included in free general admission.

"Bill and Robert were kind, intelligent, and generous souls, invested in creating a lasting impact on the arts in North Texas and at

the DMA," said Dr. Agustín Arteaga, the DMA's Eugene McDermott Director. "Together they built a wonderful personal collection that shows their admiration for the unique intimacy contained in works on paper. We were honored to be recipients of their generosity, and we pay tribute to their mission by sharing these treasured works with our visitors."

Jordan and Brownlee were key figures in the arts community of Dallas-Fort Worth. While Brownlee's focus was architecture and interior design, Jordan was a scholar and connoisseur of Spanish paintings. His influence on the region's arts institutions is immeasurable. Serving as the founding director of the Meadows Museum (1967-1980) and as deputy director of the Kimbell Art Museum (1981-1990), Jordan raised the quality and profile of both collections. He began his affiliation with the DMA as an adjunct curator for European art (1977-1982) and evolved to become an invaluable member of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Both deeply interested in

art, the couple assembled a collection over decades that included works by Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Rosa

Bonheur, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Salvador Dalí, Jackson

Pollock, Josef Albers, Cy Twombly, Ellsworth Kelly, and Robert Rauschenberg, among others. While the

collection varied in types of objects and historical eras,

See ART Page 11



'Head of a Young Woman,' by Adolf Hirsch.

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# Faith-based organization launches Buy Black Challenge

Friendship-West is committed to economic justice in supporting Black-owned businesses, advocating for just lending practices, and working towards comprehensive sustainable com-

munity development.

For five years, Friendship-West has provided an opportunity for Black entrepreneurs to promote and sell their goods and services at West Wall Street.

In 2021, Friendship-West commemorated the 100th year since the Tulsa Race Massacre through events and advocacy. The church will close out the year by observing the last one hun-

dred days of this centennial Sankofa moment by promoting 100 Days of Buying Black.

Friendship-West is seeking to encourage people across the nation to spend

their dollars with Black-owned businesses for 100 days to increase the sales and growth of those businesses. The goal is to continue the legacy of Black Wall Street by circulating

our dollars within the Black community to strengthen our economic base.

If you have any questions about the Buy Black Challenge, email justice@friendshipwest.org.

## EQUITY, from Page 5

lars of an inclusive bounce back.

The symposium was welcomed by Chief of Equity & Inclusion, Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chair of the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee – Honorable Council Member, Casey Thomas II, Vice Chair of the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee – Honorable Council Member Jaime Resendez, and Chief Philanthropy Officer – Communities Foundation of Texas, Sarah Cotton Nelson.

Three diverse panels gar-

nered over 150 attendees, focusing on strategies to promote inclusive business practices and ways to improve racial equity. Panelists included private, public and non-profit perspectives from 14 prominent and diverse local leaders and community organizers including: Moderator, CEO, Dallas Mavericks – Cynthia “Cynt” Marshall, Senior Vice President of Dallas Federal Reserve, Alfreda Norman, City of Dallas’ Chief of Economic Development and Neigh-

borhood Services, Dr. Eric Anthony Johnson and more.

The opening panel, Business Strategies that Promote Equity, highlighted specific techniques, actions, strategies, and plans that businesses should consider to move racial equity efforts forward.

Senior Vice President of Dallas Federal Reserve, Alfreda Norman voiced, “This conversation has to happen at the top. Everyone has to work to understand what we’re talking about. First, we have to seek to understand, listen before we can take action, and this action

has to be accountable. This conversation has to be with individuals that can make decisions and have the authority to make changes to policy, processes, and procedures.”

Panel two, Current State of Racial Equity in Dallas, explored systemic barriers such as lack of access to quality health care, internet services, and education in African American, Latinx and other communities of color.

“Racism is a problem for all of us,” declared President and CEO of The Concilio, Florencia Velasco Fortner.

“The Black Lives Matter movement this past year has forced all of us to accept the problem, create opportunities to discuss, and work to find better solutions.”

To conclude the 2nd annual Equity Indicators Symposium, panelists focused on creation of A Blueprint for an Equitable Bounce Back that centers equity and inclusion in the plans for economic recovery amongst those most impacted by the dual pandemic.

“The systems begin with the policies and administrative actions that are embedded in the system that is

causing the inequities”, said Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services, Dr. Eric Anthony Johnson. “I don’t know how we do this without stripping away the embedded systems in these policies, because I have the perspective that in order to get to where we need to go, we need to start to reexamine everything from housing to land-use across the board. If we want to be this inclusive community, it begins there, otherwise we’re dancing around the issue. So, I believe those systems need to be adjusted.”

## HILTON, from Page 2

integration into the medical school curriculum, serving as a clinical instructor for fourth-year medical students in Intern 101.

She traveled the globe to participate in numerous medical mission trips via Project Madaktari Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, Tanzania.

As a practicing physician

at the University of Virginia – Charlottesville, Dr. Hilton has continued advocating for underserved and marginalized populations.

Her efforts have received recognition from the National Medical Association and the National Minority Quality Forum as one of the top 40 under 40 Leaders in Health Care award

recipients.

In addition to pioneering medicine, Dr. Hilton is a children’s book author of the Ava Series, a public speaker, and a community activist.

On Tuesday, September 14, Dr. Hilton will appear on the NNPA’s live morning breaking news program, “Let It Be Known.”

It will mark her second appearance on the program

this year, which airs weekdays at 7:30 a.m. EST on many of the social media

channels of the Black Press of America, including YouTube.com/c/BlackPres-

sUSATV, Facebook/BlackPressUSA, and on Twitter @BlackPressUSA.

## COWBOYS, from Page 9

the Cowboys.

That’s why in the aftermath of the loss to Tampa Bay, Prescott was telling the Bucs the Cowboys will see them at some point in

the NFC playoffs.

“I think I told everybody we’ll see them again,” Prescott said. “That’s just the confidence that I have in this group and the expect-

tations I have.

“This is a playoff team that’s going to make a big push this year and we’ve got to continue to get better. We’ve got a good team and good men, and I’m excited about this season.”

## ART, from Page 10

works on paper were at its core. P

oint, Line Plane features approximately 50 works spanning the ancient to the contemporary, demonstrating an enduring fascination with artists’ use of expressive line, the depiction of the figure, and dialogues across media.

“While Bill and Robert collected across several

media, it is apparent they appreciated drawings in particular for their immediacy as visible revelations of an artist’s initial concept. It is extraordinarily intimate in that it’s akin to witnessing the birth of the creative spark, no matter how long ago that moment took place,” said curator Sue Canterbury.

Point, Line, Plane: The

William B. Jordan and Robert Dean Brownlee Bequest is organized by the Dallas Museum of Art.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported, in part, by the generosity of DMA Members and donors, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture.



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# New report finds that women, Black, and Hispanic/Latino workers are underrepresented in US clean energy

WASHINGTON — As Congress considers the most significant domestic investment ever made to speed America’s transition to clean energy, a new employment report from a collaboration of business, equity, and energy organizations highlights the need for Congress to include funding to advance diversity in clean energy and ensure women, disadvantaged communities, and workers of color are not left out of one of America’s great economic expansions.

According to Help Wanted: Diversity in Clean Energy, about 60 percent of clean energy workers across America are non-Hispanic Whites and more than 70 percent are men. Black and Hispanic or Latino workers are underrepresented across clean energy technologies compared to the national average while women hold less than 30 percent of clean energy jobs in all but one state.

The study by BW Research Partnership was done in collaboration with E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), The Alliance to Save Energy, American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), Black Owners

Demographic	US Labor Force	Total Energy Workforce	Clean Energy Workforce	Fossil Fuel Workforce
Black/African American	13%	10%	8%	9%
Asian	7%	7%	8%	6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	<1%	1%	1%	<1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	<1%	2%	1%	2%
Two or more races	2%	8%	8%	9%
People of Color	22%	28%	27%	26%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	16%	17%	13%
Women	48%	25%	27%	27%

of Solar Services (BOSS) and Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA).

Nicole Sitaraman, policy committee chair of BOSS and vice president of strategic engagement at Sustainable Capital Advisors said:

“We are living in a climate crisis in which Black communities are suffering disproportionately. Clean energy industries often overlook the innovation, expertise and insight that Black communities possess. It is time to change that. We will not reach our climate mitigation and adaptation goals without the full participation and leadership of people of color in the clean energy sector. This report presents important data showing the urgency of diversifying this space to achieve an equitable climate resilient future.”

Paula Glover, president of the Alliance to Save Energy said:

“With Congress considering a generational investment in our energy system, we cannot let our energy future repeat the mistakes of the past. The energy sector, with its good-paying jobs and benefits, has long been a tool for economic mobility, and this report confirms

that investments in the clean energy economy need to be about more than just the “clean” factor — they also need to be about building a more equitable economy. The energy efficiency sector is the largest employer in clean energy, with a two-million-strong workforce only expected to grow as we get serious about climate action. I strongly urge Congress to make targeted investments to ensure these opportunities are more diverse and inclusive for all Americans.”

Bob Keefe, executive director of E2 said:

“Clean energy is one of the fastest-growing sectors of our economy, but it has a real diversity problem. As Congress and state lawmakers consider legislation to ramp-up clean energy and the jobs and investments that come with it, they must also ensure all Americans have access to the opportunities and benefits that come with a cleaner economy. Building back better also means building back more equitably.”

Phil Jordan, vice president at BW Research said:

“Today’s report demonstrates that we have work to do to increase diversity

in the energy sector. If we couple accessible education and training and support diverse supply chains with infrastructure investments that will decarbonize the economy, we can ensure a more equitable energy sector and provide economic opportunity for communities too often left on the sidelines.”

The study expands on data from the 2021 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) produced by the U.S. Department of Energy. Among the specific findings:

- Black workers represent about 8 percent of the clean energy labor force, compared with about 13 percent of the nation’s total workforce.

- Hispanic/Latino workers represent nearly 17 percent of the clean energy workforce, slightly less than the 18 percent they represent in the overall national workforce.

- About 8 percent of clean energy workers are Asian, slightly higher than their presence in the national workforce, while Pacific Islanders and Alaska and other native Americans each make up about 1 percent of the clean energy

workforce.

- Women hold about 27 percent of clean energy jobs, compared with 48 percent of all jobs nationally.

- Black, Asian, Indigenous, and multiracial workers account for about 27 percent of clean energy jobs.

Broadly, clean energy is about on par with the fossil fuel industry and the overall energy workforce when it comes to diversity.

Women, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian workers generally hold a higher percentage of jobs in renewable energy than clean energy sectors. Black workers, however, are less likely to work in renewable energy generation or energy efficiency, but fare better in clean storage, grid modernization and clean vehicles occupations.

The report also includes data for every state and the District of Columbia. South Carolina, Maryland and New York have the highest percentage of Blacks in clean energy, while New Mexico, California and Hawaii have the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino workers. Data

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## MITCHELL, from Page 2

also partners with the Boys & Girls Club of America, where the company has provided Innovation Labs as a place for kids and teens to access the internet and grow digital literacy skills after school.

Cox continues to connect families in need throughout the pandemic. Several digital equity efforts by Cox have recently been put into place:

- Cox announced its participation in the FCC’s Emergency Connectivity Fund to deliver internet services to students, educational staff and library patrons who would otherwise lack a sufficient connection

to the internet for remote learning and remote library services. For more information on the FCC’s ECF program, visit [com/ecf](http://com/ecf).

- Cox is a participant in the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit program which provides temporary financial assistance for internet service. Eligible families may qualify to receive up to \$50 off their monthly bill based on their current internet service and equipment rental, or up to \$75 if they live in a tribal area. Cox Connect2Compete customers are eligible for this benefit. For more information on the FCC’s EBB program, visit [com/](http://com/)

ebb.

- Cox announced that the temporary connection speed increase for Connect2Compete, prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, would become the new standard speed for Connect2Compete internet service. The connection speed was bolstered from 25 Mbps to 50 Mbps.

- Last year, Cox suspended late fees and extended payment relief offerings for customers in the Connect2Compete program who expressed an inability to pay due to pandemic hardships.

- The Digital Academy is the digital literacy arm of Cox’s Connect2Compete program designed to connect families, educators, community leaders and students with free access to tips, educational videos and tutorials to ensure safe and effective online behavior. This platform is continuously updated with fresh and relevant information.

nect families, educators, community leaders and students with free access to tips, educational videos and tutorials to ensure safe and effective online behavior. This platform is continuously updated with fresh and relevant information.

- Cox added the MyFuture platform from the Boys and Girls Club of America recently to the Digital Academy. MyFuture empowers kids and teens to learn new skills, share accomplishments and earn recognition via gamification in a safe and fun online environment.

For more information on Cox’s Connect2Compete program, visit: [www.cox.com/c2c](http://www.cox.com/c2c).

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### Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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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://live-nationentertainment.com/careers>.

### Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

## FB study shows confidence rising in Texas business

Hope all is well! With National Small Business Week upon us we just wanted to run an interview opportunity with a Facebook spokesperson by you, showing that Texas small businesses are gaining confidence.

As the Delta variant, vaccine and mask mandates, and talk of COVID booster shots continue to cast a cloud of uncertainty over Texas small businesses, recent data suggest positive economic growth during the spring and summer months of 2021 as 66% of small businesses believe they will stay in business during the next 12 months.

That and other findings are part of Facebook's latest "Global State of Small Business Report." The report, which coincides with National Small Business Week starting September 13,

recaps the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including information on how businesses in Texas continue to adjust to uncertain conditions and how entrepreneurs are feeling about the future.

As of July 2021,

- 45% of Texas small businesses have used a digital presence to increase sales, a 3% increase since February.

- 45% of small businesses across Texas are reporting higher sales, a large jump from 13% in February.

- Confidence that small businesses will stay for the next 12 months rose from 55% to 66%, a sign of positive growth during the spring and summer months in Texas.

In an effort to help, over the past year Facebook has launched numerous initiatives aimed at supporting small busi-

nesses and helping them navigate the uncertainty of reopening, including providing grants to business owners, developing innovative new tools and products, and hosting digital tool training events, such as "Boost with Facebook" events.



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### NAN Chapter President

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

The President:

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

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



## Are You Ready for Fall?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

With such a tumultuous summer, I'm glad we are now beginning the fall season. There for a while, I didn't think it was going to come. But, contrary to my negativity, it has arrived, and I'm delighted.

Summer wasn't quite the way summers have been in the past. My family didn't have many get-togethers and picnics like we normally do. However, we did

have one, and that had to do for the summer. I'm hoping next summer we can catch up.

I remember when I was young, summer was a wonderful time. But, of course, maybe my memories are more wonderful than it actually was. At my age, you can't always depend upon your memory. But then, it goes the other way as well.

I am so old that nobody can contradict any memories I might have. So I won't

say that I lie, but I do have a way of stretching the truth, just a little. And by just a little, I mean just enough to make it look better than what it actually was.

Of course, the best thing about my summers was no school. I was free all summer long to do what I really wanted to do. At the time, both of my parents worked full-time jobs, and I had the rule of my time.

As I look forward to the fall season, I'm trusting

there will be some great times to celebrate. This generation seems to be the celebrating generation, but often it celebrates the wrong things. Some of the things that are celebrated make no sense whatsoever to me.

For example, I've grown tired of celebrating my birthday every year. After a while, it's kind of mundane. How often can you listen to someone sing happy birthday to you?

Seasons have ways of coming and going, and by the time you get adjusted to one season, it's over, and the next one is just beginning.

During the past summer, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said several times, "When will this heat ever go away?"

I would always laugh and say to her, "When it is ready to go."

She did not send a smile back at that time, but I still

was smiling.

Every season has its individual characteristics, and sometimes we confuse them. For example, we have the imaginary expectation of perfect weather every day regardless of the season. But, to be truthful, I'm not sure what perfect weather is.

As we were getting closer to the fall season, the rain just came without a hint of

See FALL, Page 15

## 2021 could be 'best year ever' for America's nonprofits, new report suggests

RALEIGH, N.C. — (RNS) A new report on charitable giving suggests America's nonprofit organizations are on track for possibly their best fundraising year ever, even in the midst of the pandemic.

The new study of people's giving intentions across the nation shows a whopping 90% of donors expect to give the same — or even more — to charity this year compared with last year, which smashed records.

"It's great news for America's nonprofit organizations — and the millions of people they help," said Derric Bakker, president of DickersonBakker, a leading nonprofit consultancy firm that conducted the survey of 1,149 mostly faith-based donors during June and July.

During the pandemic, many nonprofits — espe-



Tim Marshall / Unsplash

cially those helping the homeless, hungry, and people who've lost their jobs — have been struggling to meet the avalanche of needs in their communities.

"Given the accelerated demand for services, many nonprofit leaders have been nervous about how the pandemic might affect charitable giving, which is

often the primary way they receive funding to support their work," Bakker said. "Our comprehensive survey shows that donors are stepping up to meet the increased burden — the vast majority say they intend to give as much as they did last year, or more, especially during the all-important holiday season when many

nonprofits receive up to 40% of their total annual revenue."

### 2021: Another Record Shattering Year?

DickersonBakker has an impressive track record of forecasting trends in charitable giving.

A similar survey conducted by the North Carolina-based company last year forecast donations to charities would be strong in 2020, despite the pandemic, and the prediction proved accurate. Charitable giving grew 5.1% in 2020 to \$471 billion, making it a record-breaking year and shattering expectations.

"Our research shows a large majority of donors are confident in their financial security and optimistic about the future of the economy," the new report says. "At the same time... donors are mindful that many people are still in

need, and they have no intent to throttle back on their charitable giving."

At the time the survey was conducted, more than two out of every three donors said they felt the COVID-19 crisis had "largely passed," and fewer than one-in-three felt it was still a "significant problem" in their area.

### Donors 'Eager for Normal'

People were "increasingly eager to get back to normal and come out to donor events again," Bakker said.

More than seven out of every 10 donors said they'd be willing to meet in-person with fundraisers or attend a small-scale fundraising event. About six-in-10 said they'd attend a large donor gathering now, with nearly eight out of 10 saying they'd be ready to go to a big event by year's end. Older donors — age 65-

plus — were more reluctant to attend in-person events.

"Nonprofits should do everything they can to put hay in the barn now while the sun is shining," Bakker said. "People are feeling economically secure, they're feeling generous, and they see the real need around them. Who knows what's going to happen in the future. But, for the coming holiday giving season, there's plenty to be optimistic about."

DickersonBakker has been providing professional fund development consulting services to nonprofit organizations for more than 35 years. With offices in Texas and North Carolina, and full-time consultants in several states, the firm has served hundreds of nonprofits — particularly faith-based organizations — located across the U.S., Canada, and overseas.

## DIGITAL, from Page 6

making under \$30,000 a year lack a desktop or laptop computer.

Statistics show that 1 in 3 African American and Hispanic households lack access to a computer in their homes — twice the number of white families.

Most concerning, the lawmakers said 4.4 million households with students lack consistent access to a computer at home, with more than 9 million schoolchildren struggling to par-

ticipate in class and complete schoolwork.

"Laptops, tablets, and other connected devices are indispensable in our increasingly digital world. Many students' homework assignments now require laptops, more employers are exploring telework models, and more doctors' offices are migrating toward telehealth services as the new standard of care," Congressman McEachin explained.

The Device Access for Every American Act would:

Allocates \$2 billion in federal funding for the establishment and implementation of the voucher program

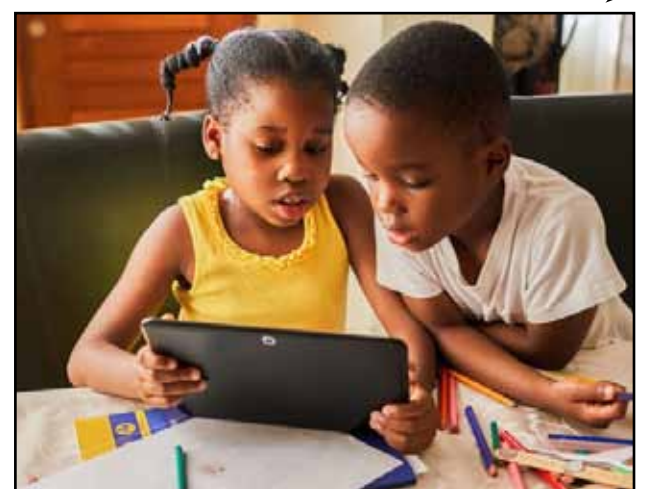
Authorize the FCC to administer up to \$400 vouchers for eligible individuals and families to purchase a connected device

Permit up to two low-income individuals per household to receive a voucher so that families can receive multiple devices

Direct the FCC to col-

laborate with connected device retailers, promote the program to eligible Americans, and provide individualized technical assistance to assist in enrollment

"The COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated this need and underscored the stark disparities that currently exist in our country. Unfortunately, for too many low-income Americans, prohibitive costs pose unnecessary challenges and hardships for them and their families," McEachin concluded.



In the increasingly digital world, internet services and the devices to access them have quickly become essential to participate in the 21st-century economy. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)



# Changing Besetting Habits-The \$10 Challenge



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran on Sept. 17, 2015)*

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

— John 8:34.

This story was once told to me. "I hate being late," my friend lamented. "It has been a problem for me all my life." "Do you really want to change that?" I asked. "Yes, I do."

"All right then; every time you are late to work or anywhere else where you have committed to be at a particular time you must give me \$25."

"No way, my friend said!" My friend responded,

"I would go broke! But I will do \$10." "All right, \$10 it is. It has to be a large enough amount of money for it to hurt your pocket-book."

"Believe me, that will hurt," my friend said. About a month later my friend found great motivation to be on time to every place my friend had to be.

In the first week, I got only \$10 from my friend. The next week, I got \$20. The third week, I got nothing.

By the fifth week, my friend had changed a life-long habit that had hindered her all her life.

In order for my friend not to be resentful of me for the money she had to give, we put it in a jar to be given to some other Christian cause. This ensured my motive was only for her best interest.

Some people reading this column may be saying that



Minister Linda Trotter hosts the 2nd Sunday entertainment and dinner event in Farmers Branch, Texas. Everyone is invited. Call Minister Trotter for details at 210-379-3916.

it is legalism; but for my friend it was freedom from this habit.

For the first time she had some means of changing a behavior that had caused her problems in relationships and her own work habits.

Psychologists tell us that it takes 21 days to form a habit. So, if you need to

change some habit, you need to be actively engaged in that new behavior at least 21 days.

My friend needed help to change a habit she didn't like about herself. It took another individual to hold her accountable, and it took a potential loss of something to provide the added incentive.

She stared at me, and then both of us broke out in hilarious laughter.

There are two aspects of change; either for good or for bad. Each season brings in the kind of change needed to prepare for the next season.

I don't know what this fall season will bring with it. I'm glad I don't know because I probably would start the season with great discouragement instead of expectation.

As we discussed, my wife said, "and you are twice the man I married 50 years ago." I thought about that and looked at her rather strangely, and then she broke out laughing. I was hoping she wouldn't explain.

Thinking about that I was reminded of a verse of Scripture, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Right now, I'm in the season where God can bless me. I don't know what the next season holds for me but I do have faith in God

A successful businessman was experiencing a difficult marriage. When counseling the couple over dinner one night, a friend of mine noticed that the man often criticized his wife.

After further counsel it was determined the man simply could not love his wife. My friend asked him if he truly wanted to see change in his marriage. When the man said he did, my friend said, "Every time you criticize your wife you must agree to give me \$100."

This man was well-off and needed substantial incentive to change his behavior.

After the man rebelled and retorted, he agreed in front of his wife.

A few weeks later a report came back that things were changing. This man did not want to write any checks to my friend. Although it was

a competitive game to the man, it was also yielding some positive changes in his marriage.

He began to acquire the habit of avoiding criticism of his wife, which was killing her spirit.

What are the habits that keep you from becoming all that God may want you to become? Do you desire to change enough to be accountable in a way that it costs you something when you fail?

"And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." — Matthew 5:36-37.

Ask a friend, a family member to hold you accountable in an area that needs change. You will find new freedom as you conquer old besetting habits.

## FALL, from Page 14

letting up.

"When," my wife said, "will this rain ever stop?"

As soon as she said that, she looked at me and said, "That was not a question for you to answer."

I laughed because I had an answer right on the tip of my tongue.

Contrary to what people think, I do like change. The idea is that when you get older, you don't like change, but I would like to contradict that.

I look forward to change.

Of course, the biggest change I like is the change in my pocket. But the other change is that I don't like to get into a rut. I don't like my wheels spinning and spinning and going nowhere.

I like to enjoy one season, because it always prepares me for the next season.

Of course, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is entirely against that. She would prefer that the season be the same all year long. But I like change.

I like to enjoy one season, and then I want to prepare myself for the next season.

The bad times during one season prepares me for the good times in the next season. If I didn't have a bad time, I wouldn't recognize a good time.

As we were sitting watching TV the other night, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says, "I really don't like change. I wish things would stay the way they are."

"Well," I said, "you certainly have changed through the years."

She looked at me with a scowl and said, "What do you mean?"

Then I tried explaining to her that we've been married 50 years, and when we started our marriage, we were quite different than we are today.

"I'm not the person you married 50 years ago."

She looked at me rather quizzically and said, "Who are you?"

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# NDG Book Review: 'Three Girls from Bronzeville' is a warm read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Go left or go right?

It seems that at every point in life, you need a decision: take a familiar street, or a route you rarely travel? A restaurant you frequent, or something new for dinner? Sometimes, the choices won't matter next week or in a year, but – as in the new book “Three Girls from Bronzeville” by Dawn Turner – other decisions are more consequential.

One of her earliest memories involves her newborn sister.

Dawn Turner was no more than a toddler herself then, living in a hotel



room with her mother because her father was gone again. Turner remembers the weight of her baby sister, Kim, and knowing that everything had changed.

For the rest of their childhoods, the girls were inseparable though, like

many big sisters, Turner sometimes resented Kim's tag-alonging. That became more pronounced when Turner found her first best friend, who lived in the apartment directly above theirs in a new housing project in Chicago's Bronzeville.

Turner wanted Debra to herself, but she had to share the friendship with Kim and that was fine. Summer days and after-school was often better with three. The girls made their own fun, hiding from maintenance men in the building, hanging out on fire escapes, and reading in a secret spot on an accessible rooftop. In the shadows of deteriorat-

ing apartment complexes and abandoned buildings, their childhoods were almost idyllic.

And things changed again.

As high school loomed, Turner and Debra slowly started to drift apart, a slide that was defined by Debra's family's move to Indianapolis. Turner began to plan for college, while Kim struggled in school. Time passed and as the neighborhood that nurtured three little girls fell into a state of disrepair, so did the girls' bond and suddenly, they “were on different trajectories.” One went south, one went to college, boys came around, and so did trouble.

One took a gin bottle, one took a baby bottle, and one took a gun...

Have you ever wondered what life might've been like if you'd made different choices, picked a different spouse or another job? Yep, then “Three Girls from Bronzeville” is for you.

And yet, this book isn't entirely about choices; it's also about taking what life seems to hand you and molding it to fit. On that, author Dawn Turner is irresistibly nostalgic and her memories will leave you with a sense of carefree childhood in the city – but she's also realistic, describing her surroundings with decreasing enthusiasm that

speaks volumes.

Turner points no fingers here but you'll see likely culprits to blame along the way. Substance abuse plays a large part in this tale. Opportunities existed to seize or discard freely, the latter of which is painful to watch. Responsibility is taken for wrong turns.

And readers will be thrilled to see that angels existed, too.

This is one of those books that's warm to the start and envelopes you like a hug mixed with gravel. It's harsh and gracious, jagged and loving. Yep, “Three Girls from Bronzeville” is all right.

## OP-ED: Governor Newsom defeats more than the recall



**Dr. John E. Warren**  
Publisher,  
San Diego  
Voice and  
Viewpoint

With more than 68% of the votes counted within an hour of the California Recall Election, Governor Gavin Newsom was declared the winner by the Associated Press. It was not a guess, but a progressive analysis of voter response to the recall on a county by

county basis. Throughout the media coverage of voter turnout, there was a clear comparison between Donald Trump's votes in those areas voting “Yes” on the recall, and the actual numbers Trump received in the same areas during the November 2020 election.

Governor Newsom, in his victory speech, said he was humbled by the votes of the people of California, but acknowledged what so many already knew. In his words, this was a victory for Democracy, for diversity,



for individual human rights; a victory for vaccines, the wearing of masks, the safety of our children, our econ-

omy and all we hold dear. These remarks reflected everything that Larry Elder, the leading Republican con-

tender, stood against.

Elder was a Trumper all the way. He was calling election fraud before the votes were counted and the polls opened. He was against the vaccine, against the wearing of masks, against the idea of vaccines for children and in favor of reparations for former slave owners. Elder was the “Great Black Hope” of the Republican Party without the party endorsing him. Newsom said his defeat of the Recall was a defeat of all Elder and his supporters

stood for, from voter suppression to plans to change the balance of power in the U.S. Senate. Elder had said that if he won the election and Senator Feinstein's seat became vacant during his time as Governor, he would appoint a Republican. This single act would have given the Republicans control of the U.S. Senate.

San Diego County was one of the first to overwhelmingly report a vote against the recall and it only went downhill from there for the recall supporters.

## Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump named to *TIME's* 100 Most Influential People

(NNPA) *TIME* named nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump to the 2021 *TIME*100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, making him the only personal injury trial lawyer to make the list.

Crump has established himself as one of the na-

tion's foremost lawyers and advocates for social and racial justice.

In addition to working on some of the most high-profile cases in the U.S., representing the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, and Michael Brown, Crump has fought for justice for the residents of

Flint, Michigan, who were affected by poisoned water; Black women with ovarian cancer targeted by Johnson & Johnson to use talc products; and people who experienced discriminatory practices – “banking while Black” – by some of the nation's largest banks.

He is the founder and principal owner of Ben

Crump Law.

“Ben Crump transcends and transforms the traditional role of a lawyer,” said U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters.

“He is not only having an impact on the culture both inside and outside the courtroom, but his advocacy is influencing corporate boardrooms and the highest levels of government.”

Crump has been nationally recognized as the 2014 NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers, Ebony Magazine Power 100 Most Influential African Americans, and has been referred to as “Black America's Attorney General.”

The full list and related

tributes will appear in the Sept. 27 / Oct. 4 issue of *TIME*, available on newsstands on Friday, September 17, and now at [time.com/time100](http://time.com/time100).

The list, now in its eighteenth year, recognizes the impact, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

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for specific occupations in clean energy – such as wind turbine and solar installers and technicians, plumbers, welders, HVAC technicians and insulation installers – also is included.

The report outlines nu-

merous policy recommendations for Congress and state lawmakers, including:

- Investments in better education, training and apprenticeship programs for members of historically underserved communities.

- Creation of “green banks” and other financing mechanisms to jump-start clean energy companies and jobs, with specific metrics for minority owned companies and communities.

- Enforcement of funding and performance targets

for efficiency programs in under-resourced communities.

- Financing requirements to ensure underserved communities directly benefit from any clean energy facilities – such as solar or wind farms, gigafactories, or clean vehicle factories

– built in their neighborhoods.

For more information or for interview requests, please contact Ben Finzel (202-277-6286, [ben@renewpr.com](mailto:ben@renewpr.com)) or Michael Timberlake (913-645-9103; [mtimberlake@e2.org](mailto:mtimberlake@e2.org)).

*Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)* is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment.