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After 13 years, Black and Missing Foundation still searching for tens of thousands of people of color

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Photos via NNPA

It's been 13 years since Natalie Wilson and her sister-in-law Derrica Wilson founded the Black and Missing Foundation to help bring attention and closure to the ever-growing number of cases in minority communities.

As incomplete and cringe-worthy, the number of the missing – one count suggests that of the more than 600,000 individuals currently reported missing, more than 200,000 are individuals of color – Wilson forges ahead.

She does so, even 13 years and some success stories later, emotionally.

"We've come a long way," Wilson declared during a recent visit to the new, state-of-the-art National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) television studios in Washington, D.C.

During a conversation with NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Wilson punctuated the need for the Black and Missing Foundation with the story of Phoenix Colden, a young African American woman who went in 2011 missing near St. Louis, Missouri.

"I called every media outlet, and no one covered that story," Wilson went missing in 2011 near St. Louis, Missouri.

"I called every media outlet, and no one covered that story," Wilson recalled. "Finally, an assignment editor got tired of me calling and asked me to send Colden's profile."

In her interview with Dr. Chavis, which will air on PBS-TV and PBS-World as a special on The Chavis Chronicles, Wilson reflected on how the news media and even law enforcement fail to highlight missing people of color – notably missing Black girls.

"I'm so grateful for the Black Press," Wilson remarked.

"They have used their platform to showcase [these stories]. Media coverage is important. It could speed up the recovery and add pressure on law enforcement to add resources to these cases, and that's vital."

Wilson proclaimed that laws are needed to protect children, particularly victims of sex trafficking. She said she had witnessed young boys and girls arrested after becoming sex trafficking victims.

"They need rehabilitation," she exclaimed.

Wilson recalled a case in Virginia of a young Black woman who went missing.

"She was too old for an Amber Alert and too young for a Silver Alert," Wilson stated.

Ashanti Billie, 19, was kidnapped

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PO2 Asya Fuller

Kelly Simmons

NDG Quote of the Week: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."
— Frederick Douglass

Dr. Yvette E. Pearson

By Kim Harner
UT Dallas

Dr. Yvette E. Pearson never pictured herself as an engineer when she was growing up. However, she discovered that she loved engineering after her mother encouraged her to major in the subject in college.

"What potential would have been wasted had I not had my mom be the person who said, 'You can do this. Why not you?'" said Pearson, who was born with cerebral palsy. "I entered my career as a faculty member with the mindset that I want to make sure other Yvettes don't get left out."

After working to increase opportunities in engineering for women, minorities, students from low-income backgrounds and people with disabilities as a longtime faculty member and administrator, Pearson began a new role this fall as The University of Texas at Dallas' new vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Pearson joined UT Dallas after serving as associate dean for accreditation, assessment and strategic initiatives in the George R. Brown School of Engineering at Rice University. She succeeded Dr. George Fair, dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, who had led the UT Dallas office since 2014.

"Dr. Pearson brings 25 years of experience as an educator and administrator who has worked to expand access and success for diverse communities in engineering," said UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson, the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership. "I am excited to welcome Dr. Pearson and look forward to continuing our work, under her leadership, to foster diversity, equity and inclusion at UT Dallas."

Pearson said she looks forward to building on the University's progress.

"I'll be doing a lot of listening and relationship-building, and learning about the institutional culture and history and what's already right, which I've seen a lot of so far, and building from there," Pearson said.

In 2020, UT Dallas formed the Living Our Values Task Force of 23 student, faculty and staff representatives to discuss systemic racism, inherent bias, equity, diversity, access and inclusion within the campus community.

The University adopted recommendations from the task force, and last month, it held its first Multicultural Student Welcome. Hosted by Student Transition Programs, the event provided an opportunity for new students from underrepresented communities and their families to connect with faculty and staff, build community, and learn about campus resources.

"Events like the Multicultural Student Welcome let everybody know 'You belong here — you have a place here,'" Pearson said.

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PO2 Asya Fuller

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Jennifer Gold
Navy Office of Community Outreach

SAN DIEGO – Petty Officer 2nd Class Asya Fuller, a native of Red Oak, Texas, serves the U.S. Navy as a member of Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron (VRM) 50 located in San Diego, California.

Fuller joined the Navy 13 years ago. Today, Fuller serves as an aviation maintenance administrationman supporting missions flown by the Navy's newest long-range, medium-lift aircraft: the CMV-22B Osprey.

"My dad was in the Army and my aunt married a Navy sailor," said Fuller. "They inspired me and I knew the opportunities for school and travel would be possible too with military service."

Growing up in Red Oak, Fuller attended Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and graduated in 2005. Today, Fuller uses the same skills and values learned in Red Oak to succeed in the military.

"Being from Texas, I learned southern hospitality," said Fuller. "I have two ears to listen more than I speak and if I am speaking it needs to be important, so the ability to listen, pause and then speak has really helped me."

These lessons have helped Fuller while serving in the Navy.

The CMV-22B is the Navy's version of the U.S. Marines' V-22 Osprey. It is designed to replace the C-2A Greyhound, which has provided logistical support to aircraft carriers for four decades.

CMV-22Bs are vertical takeoff and landing tilt-rotor aircraft, which have an increased operational range, faster cargo loading/unloading, increased survivability and enhanced communications compared to the C-2A Greyhound.

According to Navy officials, the mission of the CMV-22B is to provide timely, persistent air logistics for sustained carrier strike group lethality, anywhere in the world.

"I'm amazed by what our sailors at VRM 50 have achieved over the past 10 months," said Cmdr. Eric Ponsart, VRM 50's commanding officer. "Standing up the Navy's newest Fleet Replacement squadron from scratch and having it

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Kelly Simmons

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Many people fondly remember, adore, and revere the old-school packaged cookies that were cravings before and after the lunch bell rang.

The taste of chocolate chip or even butter crunch cookies was something most couldn't resist.

And while some still long for the authentic taste that's so hard to find, Kelly Simmons has baked up the perfect recipe.

After owning a beauty salon for 13 years and then working as an educator in Jessup, Maryland, Simmons founded and opened Aunt Kelly's Cookies, a bakery where customers brag that "you can taste the homemade goodness in every bite."

"I only use the freshest, highest quality ingredients, and we bake on site

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Publisher's Office:
publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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

Editorial Department:
editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:
www.NorthDallasGazette.com
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Not brilliant – Texas' abortion law baffles women and businesses

By Royce West
Texas Senate

Even the most ardent pro-life advocates must have cringed, along with those on the platform surrounding Texas Governor Greg Abbott when he boasted the state's number one goal "is to eliminate rape." While a laudable aspiration, it did little to credibly answer the question posed as to why SB8 does not contain an exception for sexual assault. But to paraphrase, if you can't dazzle them with your brilliance, then baffle them with your "bravado."

If there were a surefire way to eliminate rape, I ask why our two-term, top state official has not already implemented such. Especially since Texas, in 2019; the most recent data available, ranked first nationally in the number of reported forcible rape cases. It's also well-established that the majority of sexual assault cases go unreported.

With the passage of SB8, Texas has now separated itself from other staunch, pro-life states to have unquestionably the most restrictive law on still legal abortion in America; a law many say now places Roe v. Wade on life support. The shockwaves have become tidal, as women, pro-choice advocates, the courts and even big business try to chart the steps that lie ahead.

You've likely read by now that under SB8, abortions, after a fetal heartbeat has been detected in a woman, are now illegal. All agree that time arrives about six weeks into gestation. SB8 supporters say that's time enough for a woman to decide to terminate a pregnancy. Medical experts, abortion providers and advocates say women don't have six weeks to decide and that many do not know at that point if they are expecting. Their first indication may be a missed cycle, leaving about two weeks to make the true life-altering choice. That's one issue.

Fetal heartbeat bills attempted by some states have been rejected by the courts. But SB8 employs a unique, but unvalidated method of enforcement. Although the state promulgated the de-facto, six-week constraint for a legal abortion, SB8 creates a civil enforcement mechanism where un-associated, individuals can sue anyone who "aids or abets" a woman in obtaining an abortion and recover up to $10,000, plus legal fees. Expectant women cannot be sued, but doctors, clinics and even those who provide transportation for the procedure could face liability. Self-insured corporations, insurance companies and even ministers are wondering if they can be sued. Whether or not cases are successful, those accused face defense costs. It's another issue.

State and federal courts are already involved.

State and federal courts are already involved. The U.S. Supreme Court has drawn the ire of abortion advocates and pro-choice members of Congress for not granting an appeal that would have stopped SB8 from going into effect September 1. Critics noted how SCOTUS avoided commenting on SB8's constitutionality. However, Chief Justice John Roberts was among four dissenting votes and questioned the novel civil enforcement, forecasting a future setting, "so that the courts may consider whether a state can avoid responsibility for its laws in such a manner."

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland sued Texas, calling SB8 "clearly unconstitutional." President Joe Biden vowed to fight, calling the bill "an unprecedented assault on a woman's constitutional rights under Roe v. Wade." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi plans to bring legislation to the floor to codify Roe v. Wade, while chiding the Supreme Court for not blocking enactment.

My question and #1 issue is who does SB8 help? It is predicted that the new law will block 85 to 90 percent of abortions that were legal before its passage. That means at least 85 percent of the 55,140 women who had abortions in 2018 would have had to make other life-impactful choices. While Planned Parenthood has been highly visible, many of the 53,949 abortions performed in Texas in 2020 were by private physicians. Hispanic (19,979) and Black women (15,848) were first and second in the number of terminations, but 14,067 patients that year were White.

Socioeconomics and class also become factors in this debate. Those able to end a pregnancy may also be decided by who can afford to travel to states like New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma for services. The abortion rate for Medicaid recipients is three times higher than of other women.

SB8 supporters tie themselves to the sanctity of unborn life, but where is the same concern for the living and more who we will force to be born? Texas ranks among the bottom four to five states when it comes to services for the less fortunate and continues to lead the country in its number of uninsured. It's part of our limited government creed in a state that also said you do not need a license or training to openly carry a handgun. But with the passage of SB8, my colleagues across the aisle should forever forfeit the right to accuse Democrats of government overreach.

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American Cancer Society and Four Historically Black Colleges and Universities Announce Groundbreaking Diversity in Cancer Research Program to Improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The American Cancer Society (ACS), along with four historically black medical schools including Charles Drew Medical School, Howard University, Meharry Medical College, and Morehouse School of Medicine, today announced a groundbreaking Diversity in Cancer Research (DICR) Program to help improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the cancer research field.

The inaugural initiatives of the overarching program include DICR Institutional Development Grants. The four HBCUs have received DICR grants in a pilot program for 2021-2022.

The awards provided through the DICR program are unique in cancer research.

They provide a large amount of salary support for the four colleges to select clinical faculty who need more dedicated time for their cancer research and scholarly activities.

They also fund other student and postdoctoral programs and underpin the awards with career development funds and mentorship by established American Cancer Society Professors.

Data show that African Americans and Black people, Hispanics and Latinos, indigenous people and native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are underrepresented in grant funding. (Photo: ProStockStudio/Shutterstock via NNPA)

The grants will build sustainability for both clinical and scientific cancer-focused careers, launching or sustaining the careers of 104 individuals by 2025.

The impactful program will create a more inclusive research environment to address health disparities more effectively and could lead to targeted recruitment efforts focused on bringing people of color into clinical research protocols.

Establishing a research community that is made up of a diverse group of people is vital to ensuring scientific excellence.

"The American Cancer Society is committed to launching the brightest minds into cancer research and to reducing health disparities," said Dr. William Cance, American Cancer Society Chief Medical and Scientific Officer.

"To accomplish this, we believe it is essential to invest in the minority workforce and their dedicated efforts to solve disparities and establish equity in cancer care."

"There are many reasons the Black community continues to experience disparities in cancer care outcomes. But one of the most critical factors behind the imbalance, and one of the most promising paths to closing the gap, is diversity in cancer care research. We must improve diversity and representation in our laboratories if we expect different outcomes in our hospitals," said Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick, president of Howard University.

"As a cancer surgeon and as the president of an HBCU, I believe the Diversity in Cancer Research Program will prove to be pivotal in altering the field of cancer care research and improving cancer care outcomes for Black Americans. I am deeply appreciative of the American Cancer Society's efforts behind this initiative."

Data show that African Americans and Black people, Hispanics and Latinos, indigenous people and native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are underrepresented in grant funding.

Fewer than 2% of applicants for the National Institute of Health's principal grant program come from Black/African Americans, and fewer than 4% from Hispanic/Latino populations.

"We are incredibly excited about this new program with the American Cancer Society," said Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., MD, President and CEO of Meharry Medical College.

"There is a significant imbalance in the representation of minority populations in clinical research which has led to poorer outcomes for specific racial and ethnic minority groups. To eradicate the varying health disparities that affect these populations, we must prioritize diversifying clinical trials and those who conduct trials to ensure treatment is safe and effective."

This is a fantastic step to ensuring minority populations receive effective treatment and provides great opportunities for our students and faculty to engage in cancer research," Dr. Hildreth stated.

"The development of diverse, highly competitive, and independent research faculty has been a goal at CDU since its inception 55 years ago," shared Dr. David M. Carlisle, President and CEO of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, located in South Los Angeles.

"This generous grant from the American Cancer Society will directly support a range of programs towards that goal, including the Center to Eliminate Cancer Health Disparities as well as our Clinical Research and Career Development Program, which provides training and mentoring in health disparities and community-partnered participatory research to minority scholars and junior faculty at CDU. This funding will undeniably help CDU in forming a solid foundation in social justice for future cancer research leaders."

With the DICR program, ACS has committed to a $12 million investment to

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ready to receive its first aircraft is a testament to their hard work and dedication to the mission. It's been an honor serving side-by-side with these fellow Sun-Hawks. We look forward to delivering the best pilots and aircrew to the fleet."

Serving in the Navy means Fuller is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus, rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of National Defense Strategy.

"We protect on land, air and sea," said Fuller. "Being in the aviation side I really get to see how involved the Navy is in our overall general safety."

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

According to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, four priorities will focus efforts on sailors, readiness, capabilities, and capacity.

"For 245 years, in both calm and rough waters, our Navy has stood the watch to protect the homeland, preserve freedom of the seas, and defend our way of life," said Gilday. "The decisions and investments we make this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of this century. We can accept nothing less than success."

Fuller and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"The most rewarding thing I've done in the Navy was when I got my first meritorious volunteer service medal," said Fuller. "Being able to reach out and give back to my community and volunteer my time felt amazing."

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President Biden Calls for End to Systemic Racism During CBCF Conference

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

President Joe Biden applauded the work of the Congressional Black Caucus and called for ending systemic racism during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Phoenix Awards.

The awards closed out the week-long Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference.

"I got here just a year after the Black Caucus started, 50 years, and the Black Caucus has gotten stronger every year with a powerhouse of ideas and a training ground for a lot of great leaders," President Biden remarked.

"The CBC has made a difference, and as we emerge from this pandemic, the time is right to root out systemic racism. The time is now for a moral response to heal the soul of this nation and to ensure that Black Americans are fully dealt into the economy, and to this society, they have built and shaped for centuries."

Hosted by actress Angela Bassett, the Phoenix Awards recognizes extraordinary contributions to the Black community and featured Stacey Abrams, Ledisi, and others.

Singer Chaka Khan closed out the awards with her hit song, "I'm Every Woman." The conference also acknowledged the largest Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) class to date.

"The conference programming reflect[ed] our charge for 2021 and beyond to a continued commitment to uplifting, empowering and mobilizing Black communities through the theme of 'Black Excellence Unparalleled: Pressing Onward in Power,'" CBCF officials noted.

The conference featured thought leaders, legislators, and concerned citizens who engage in economic development, civil and social justice, public health, and education.

CBC Chair Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) opened the conference with honorary co-chairs Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Maryland) and Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Delaware), CBCF Chair Lori George Billingsley, and CBCF President Tonya

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SIMMONS, from page 2

every day to ensure that the cookies taste as fresh as they look," Simmons remarked on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Live Morning Breaking News Program, "Let It Be Known."

Located at 857 N. Howard Street in Baltimore, Aunt Kelly's Cookies has earned acclaim for its butter crunch, chocolate chip, and butter pecan cookies.

One of the more popular is the butter crunch and chocolate chip combination.

"That's my favorite," Simmons exclaimed. "I thought, 'why hasn't anyone put those two together?' I wondered why they were never married."

The combination proved so popular, Simmons included it in her "Cookie of the Month" selections.

That wasn't the only flavor customers – both in Baltimore and those ordering online – craved.

"I did another one called butter pecan, and I brought it out as a Cookie of the Month," Simmons recalled. "When I took it away, my customers hounded me for almost eight months to bring them back."

Simmons' journey into the bakery business began in the 1980s as a young girl living in Baltimore, she said.

"I was in grade school, and like many of my peers, I would make sure I had change for buying butter crunch cookies. As the years passed, I searched for but could never find that same butter crunch taste I remembered," she explained.

"That is until I started baking my own cookies in 1999. I had finally discovered the key ingredients that make this memorable cookie. I couldn't wait to share my discovery with my family, and now I want to share that experience with everyone."

While working as an educator, she noted that she'd sometimes bake cookies for her students, and they fell in love with the taste.

"I have had people from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia tasting the cookies," Simmons stated. "Where I am, the cookies follow me, and I share them with everyone. People say they remind me of the cookies they used to get in elementary school."

So, what's the secret?

"First of all, I hate tasting chemicals," Simmons reflected.

"I'm trying to taste the same cookies that we tasted going back to my grandmother's days. So, I stick to the basics like my grandmother showed me, and that's why I make the cookies fresh every day.

"We mix and bake onsite each day so that our customers are getting the Kelly's Cookies in 2018, and she said she "mixes every batch with love" using locally sourced ingredients, including Domino Sugar.

Cookies are made daily from scratch to ensure they taste as fresh as they look. "We bake our last daily batch two hours before closing," Simmons continued.

"Because of this, our customers say they taste like their grandmother's kitchen and bring back feelings of nostalgia and happiness."

Simmons has quickly established herself as a successful Black woman-owned business in the Baltimore area, and she said she could already been voted a 5-star bakery in over 100 local reviews. She has expanded upon her famous butter crunch cookies and offers a variety of options.

While folks can order online, she still hopes to expand to other areas.

"I'd love to open up in D.C.," Simmons said. "I sold some cookies there before, and people loved it. So, it's my goal to open Aunt Kelly's Cookies in D.C."

In a year like the last one, more and more people are getting back to enjoying the simple pleasures where they can find them. And top-notch cookies seem to fit the bill.

To learn more about Aunt Kelly's Cookies or to place an order, visit https://www.auntkellyscookies.com/.

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support four HBCU medical schools with DICR institutional development grants to fund a four-year program that aims to increase the pool of minority cancer researchers by identifying talented students and faculty from HBCUs.

This program will inform efforts to develop a national program to boost cancer research and career development at minority-serving institutions (MSIs). These grants are designed to build capacity and enhance the competitiveness of faculty at MSIs when applying for nationally competitive grant support and aid in faculty development and retention.

"Here in Georgia, cancer health disparities exist by age, gender, race, income, education, and access to care, among other factors, with Georgia residents in rural communities experiencing worse cancer health outcomes than their urban counterparts," said Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, president and CEO at Morehouse School of Medicine.

"The DICR program will be a much-needed and welcome contribution to our work at the Morehouse School of Medicine Cancer Health Equity Institute, forever changing the field of cancer research. The program will not only ensure diversity and inclusion in research, but address health disparities in diverse communities, and assist in our mission in leading the creation and advancement of health equity."

Off to a Great New School Year, Well Supplied

Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD District 6

Welcome back to a new school year, everyone! It always warms my heart when community organizations step up to support our kids, either through their labor or material generosity. One recent example of this is the backpack and supplies giveaway at David W. Carter High School, sponsored by the Theta Mu Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. Thank you, Sigmas and Gregory Chapman. Your support is always appreciated!

Welcome, New Principals

As we kick off this new school year, I'd like to recognize three new principals in District 6. They are Troy Tyson at Carter High School, Natalie Crittendon at Adele Turner Elementary School and Tiffiny Green at Mark Twain Elementary. Welcome! I look forward to working with each of you to serve our kids.

Safety first when it comes to COVID-19

I was proud to vote with my fellow trustees to stand up for local control when it comes to masking. As our board president said, we've got to do what's right. Superintendent Michael Hinojosa announced last month that, to protect staff and students from the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus Delta variant, Dallas ISD is temporarily requiring all staff, students and visitors to wear masks when on district property. Our children are precious and we must protect them.

District 6 Teachers Awarded Junior League Grants

Many thanks to the Junior League of Dallas, and congratulations to the following District 6 educators who received grants for innovative teaching:

First Name	Last Name	School	Award
Whitley	Green	Hulcy STEAM Middle School	2500.00
Youngsun	Choi	Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Middle School	1763.70
Lynn	DeFord	Barbara Jordan Elementary	2500.00
Dorcas	Kassebaum	Ronald E. McNair Elementary	2217.74

For almost three decades, the Junior League of Dallas' Grants for Innovative Teaching project has funded dream projects for district educators to provide interesting and unique learning experiences for students. This year, 41 teachers received grants to cover the cost of dozens of projects – for a total of $86,800 in grants. Congratulations, teachers!

Dallas ISD Trustee Joyce Foreman joins volunteers at the Carter High School supply giveaway. (Courtesy photo)

Enrollment in nation's postsecondary institutions dropped more than 3% from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020

WASHINGTON (IES) — The number of reported students enrolled in postsecondary education in the United States decreased by 651,774 students, more than 3 percent, from fall 2019 to fall 2020, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported today, based on preliminary data.

The largest decline in enrollment was among public 2-year institutions, which saw 703,168 fewer students enrolled in fall 2020 compared to fall 2019, a change of 15 percent.

However, enrollment increased for some institutions. Enrollment at public 4-year institutions increased by 61,624 students (a change of less than 1 percent). And enrollment at for-profit institutions increased at both 2- and 4-year institutions, with 22,069 more students (11 percent), at the 2-year level.

"The decrease in enrollment for two-year public institutions is concerning," said NCES Commissioner Peggy G. Carr. "These are often two-year public institutions that serve as gateways to 4-year institutions and as centers providing workforce training vital to adults of all ages."

Enrollment in distance postsecondary education increased from fall 2019 to fall 2020, with 44 percent of students in 2020 enrolled exclusively in distance education compared to 17 percent in 2019. Moreover, about 73 percent of students were enrolled in some distance education courses in 2020, compared to about 37 percent in 2019.

"The preliminary data show that enrollment in distance education had begun to accelerate even before the coronavirus pandemic," said Ross Santy, an associ-

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Carrollton receives second Clean Cities Gold Fleet recognition award

The City of Carrollton was named a 2021 Gold Fleet award winner for the second year in a row and was one of 9 cities named for the award by the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC) Coalition for its contributions and efforts in going the extra mile to reduce petroleum consumption and improve the air citizens breathe.

DFW Clean Cities is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) program that strives to minimize petroleum consumption in the transportation sector which typically also helps and subsequently improves air quality. Winners were instrumental in helping the region reduce 23.9 million gallons of gasoline equivalent, 734,089 pounds of ozone-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx), and 125,058 tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

"The City strives to continually improve emissions controls for our citizens and local employers." Carrollton Fleet and Facilities Director Dwayne Bianco said. "Through our partnership with Vector Fleet Management, the City of Carrollton maintains its position as one of DFW's leaders in the conservation of energy and the prevention of pollution."

The City of Carrollton outsourced its fleet operation in 2010 as part of a managed competition philosophy. The premise of managed competition is that the procurement of services through competitive pro-

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DROP, from Page 6

ate commissioner at NCES who oversees the IPEDS collection. "The increase in enrollment for distance education was among the largest changes that we observed in this data collection."

In addition to student enrollment data in postsecondary institutions, the IPEDS spring 2021 collection has data on the financial status of these institutions for fiscal year 2020; data on employees in postsecondary education for fall 2020 and data on academic libraries for fiscal year 2020.

Back to the Classroom: A Game Plan for Reducing Anxiety

Back-to-school supplies were a bit different this year for 13-year-old Kamsi Anomnachi.

Along with a day planner, an array of pens, and a couple of thick notebooks, Kamsi added face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and disposable gloves.

"I'm excited to go back, but I am also really nervous," said Kamsi of her middle school in Washington, D.C.

"I have asthma and need to be extra careful. I just don't know how it's all going to work."

Kamsi, like many across the country, spent the last school year in a virtual classroom interacting with other students and teachers only via a computer screen.

Going back to in-person learning with potential restrictions only added to her anxiety.

"Returning to school with other peers may cause some students to think about the added pressure to connect with others while trying to stay focused on their learning. In addition, it will take time for students to physically, emotionally, and mentally transition back into the full school day routine in

Photos via NVPA

person," said Tamela Odom, an elementary school teacher in Washington, DC.

But parents can help prepare their children for what may be a tough transition.

"Talk to your child about what things they are looking forward to upon returning to school and things that they may feel anxious or nervous about," Odom said. "Brainstorm strategies to help them navigate things they may feel uneasy about."

Kamsi's mom, Benefit, freely emails teachers with questions and regularly talks with Kamsi about her day.

She also designates every Monday evening as family time. As a Jehovah's Witness, she looks for practical Bible-based advice to help with any issues or concerns.

"We review how to display Christian qualities such as love, patience, and respect using articles and videos from jw.org. Also, I have role-playing sessions to help Kamsi with straightforward, respectful answers in different situations," said Benefit.

"This has helped Kamsi feel confident and excited about returning to school."

While coronavirus variants have stoked pandemic anxieties, Benefit has endeavored

Bible-based advice to help with any issues or concerns.

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While coronavirus variants have stoked pandemic anxieties, Benefit has endeavored

not to overlook other challenges her daughter may face.

One of their favorite resources is jw.org, the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses that is free to all.

Topics like "What's a Real Friend?" and "Beat a Bully Without Using Your Fists" are addressed in a video series for young people that Kamsi recommends to everyone.

"I really like the website! It has a lot of helpful and practical things, like articles, videos, animations," said Kamsi.

"It will benefit kids if they are anxious about going back to school, the delta variant or anything really. I always share it with everyone."

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The North Dallas Gazette now has a Youtube page full of videos to enjoy at your own leisure. Check out our latest installment, "NDG CLOSE UP," where Jackie Hardy interviews two accomplished professionals in the rea of M/WBE business opportunities, and some of the difficulties minoity businesses have faced along the way.

Look for "North Dallas Gazette" on Youtube and subscribe to our channel today!

BIDEN, from page 5

Veasey.

Sessions included "Re-envisioning Liberation for the Global Black Diaspora" and "Real Talk: Conversations about Family Caregiving in the Black Community," featuring Melanie Campbell, president, and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and convener of the Black Women's Roundtable.

The conference also tackled "The Impact of Covid-19 on Black Businesses: One Year Later," where panelists discussed the racial wealth divide.

"Black businesses continue to experience the downside of navigating a pandemic and dramatically reduced access to resources especially customers and conference officials stated.

"The lack of equitable access to capital and shrinking reserves continues to hinder sustainability. Clearly, COVID-19 has impacted our society in more ways than one, and Black entrepreneurs are fighting a pandemic within a pandemic."

Sessions also included an "Environmental Justice Braintrust," which focused on the connection between environmental justice and health disparities.

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the significant impact both environmental and health disparities have on communities of color.

This year's program delivered discussions on the intersections of these two areas and what must occur to address these disparities.

Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.) led a voting rights brain trust titled, "Winning the Fight for Voting Rights," where panelists will discuss the urgency of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell's legislation to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and address modern-day barriers to the ballot box.

Additionally, the conference featured a panel discussion on the importance of mental health in the Black Community.

Panels also took on the narrowing of the wealth gap and the state of housing in Black America, Sustaining Fathers, Black Men and Boys through the Impact of Covid Pandemic and Racial Justice, and a discussion on the impact of the late boxing great Muhammad Ali.

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Cowboys chalk up first win against Chargers, 31-29

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

Ten days after being the goat during a frustrating two-point loss to the Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Greg Zuerlein booted the game-winning field goal as time expired to lead the Dallas Cowboys to a pulsating 20-17 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers this past Sunday.

Zuerlein's dramatic 56-yard field goal moved the Cowboys into a first-place tie with the Philadelphia Eagles and the Washington Football team as they each sport a 1-1 record. And it came one game after Zuerlein, who had offseason back surgery and a quad injury in preseason, missed a 31-yard field goal and an extra point pick during the Cowboys' 31-29 season-opening loss to the Bucs.

"Especially after what Greg went through last week, you see why we have confidence in him," coach Mike McCarthy said. "I think he's definitely a Super Bowl-caliber champion type kicker."

The win won't get any style points from the Cowboys, who saw two touchdowns by the Chargers get wiped out by penalties. Also, on their game-winning drive, awful clock management by the Cowboys cost them a chance at attempting a more favorable field goal.

With the game tied at 17, the Cowboys got the ball for the final time at their own 13 with just 3:49 remaining. And after Michael Pollard ran a second-down play to the Chargers' 39 with 29 seconds left, the Cowboys inexplicably allowed 25 seconds to run off the clock before finally calling timeout with just four seconds to go.

McCarthy said he couldn't see the stadium clock. But in the end, it all worked out in the Cowboys' favor.

"We talked about it all week long and now we've got the game in a position that we want it," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "So it's on us to go capitalize and go finish this game off, and we were able to get it in field goal range and let special teams go out there and do their job.

"Obviously I believe in (Zuerlein) making it, and he went and did that, and it was just a relief."

It marked the first time in 34 games – since December of 2018 – that the Cowboys won a game where they didn't need at least 30 points. That spoke volumes about how much they've improved on defense, which was without defensive ends DeMarcus Lawrence (fractured foot) and Randy Gregory (COVID-19), and safety Donovan Wilson (groin injury).

Rookie linebacker Micah Parsons moved into one of the starting defensive end spots and was absolutely spectacular as he recorded one sack and kept major heat on Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert all day long.

"I was chasing (Herbert) all day," Parsons said. "I really wanted Herbert and I finally got to him and I was happy about that."

Parsons said late last week defensive coordinator Dan Quinn asked him about carrying a heavier load against the Chargers.

"After practice coach Q came up to me and was like, 'Man, we're going to need you to step up big for us this week,' " Parsons said. "Actually, I just said, 'Alright coach, let's play.' A lot of it was natural. Some people had a long day out there."

Defensive back Damontae Kazee also provided a clutch interception in the end zone after the Chargers had reached the Dallas 6-yard line late in the third quarter.

Other than the play of Parsons and Kazee, another reason the Chargers had a long day was due to racking up 12 penalties for 99 yards, and also due to the running of Cowboys running backs Tony Pollard and Ezekiel Elliott. Pollard rushed 13 times for 109 yards and a touchdown, and Elliott added 71 yards rushing on 16 carries and a touchdown.

"We just wanted to go with who was hot," Pollard said. "We both feed off each other, so if (Elliott) was hot, we would have just gone that way. But it just turned out that way for this game."

Elliott agreed.

"TP, he ran his tail off," Elliott said. "He's a great back – all-around – can catch it, can run it. He had a helluva day."

The play-calling by offensive coordinator Kellen Moore against the Chargers was in stark contrast to what the Cowboys did against the Bucs. Dallas threw the ball a whopping 58 times and ran just 18 against Tampa Bay, but against the Chargers they ran the ball 31 times for 198 yards and attempted just 27 passes.

"We didn't throw it 50 times," said Prescott, who was 23-of-27 for 237 yards. "I think we were a whole lot more balanced. Kellen did a great job of just mixing it up."

The Cowboys scored both of their touchdowns in the first quarter after executing a sparkling 15-play, 78-yard drive, and a seven-play, 75-yard drive. In all, the Cowboys recorded 13 first downs in the first quarter.

That's the most first downs in any quarter in franchise history and ties for the most first downs by one team in one quarter in the history of the National Football League.

"To come in here and win this game was important on a number of fronts for us," McCarthy said. "We needed it and we needed the confidence that goes with this win.

"Winning in this league is so hard. I'm just proud of the guys. They're doing everything the right way."

After starting the season with two road games, the Cowboys will now play their next three games at home, starting with Monday night's NFC East encounter against the Eagles.

Looking back on the cliffhanger over the Chargers, Prescott said: "It's the confidence of getting that first win, especially on the road going into your home opener on a Monday night. We know what that atmosphere (inside AT&T Stadium) is going to be like, and it's important to be going into that off a win."

And thanks to Zuerlein, the Cowboys will go into the game against the Eagles with a ton of confidence. The game-winning kick by Zuerlein was the longest game-winning field goal with no time left in the Cowboys' 61-year history.

"I like the way our team is progressing and I'm excited about what's in front of us with the Monday night game with Philadelphia and the three games at home," McCarthy said. "We're trying to build this to win a championship.

"These football games always usually come down to the last couple of series and this one here came right down to the last play."

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If you have a hot tip, an event or any other goings-on in the DFW area you think we need to know about, shoot us an email! We strive to be the best voice of the minority community in the metroplex, and your input is always appreciated!

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Influenced by his dad and Tiger Woods, Wyatt Worthington Hopes His Success Opens More Golfing Opportunities for People of Color

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Wyatt Worthington II got his start in golf as a young teen growing up in Ohio. To hear Worthington tell his uplifting story, his ascension up the leaderboard was both a product of his father's commitment to the game and a chance meeting with Tiger Woods.

"I was 13 when I met Tiger," Worthington recalled. "But [before that meeting], I would watch my dad hit balls. I didn't think much of it at the time because no one I grew up with at the time knew anything about the game."

Worthington remembers picking up one of his father's golf clubs and swinging.

"I got the ball up in the air, and I was hooked," he exclaimed.

Worthington's career has soared.

This summer, he won the 76th Southern Ohio PGA Professional Championship in Columbus, shooting 10-under-par.

"It is historic," Worthington said, noting the rarity of an African American topping the leaderboard. Worthington credits his father and Tiger Woods, a 15-time major champion, for his success.

As a young teen, Worthington met woods during a First Tee and Woods Foundation event. Woods helped the young man with his swing and provided the kind of confidence that helped Worthington qualify to play for the PGA Championship in 2016.

Only the second African American in nearly a quarter-century to qualify for the PGA Championship, Worthington barely missed qualifying a year earlier.

Despite his success – or, perhaps, because of it – Worthington advocates for more African American participation.

"This beautiful, amazing, and majestic game needs more representation and more people who look like me and you involved," Worthington declared.

"Hopefully, that can change," he said.

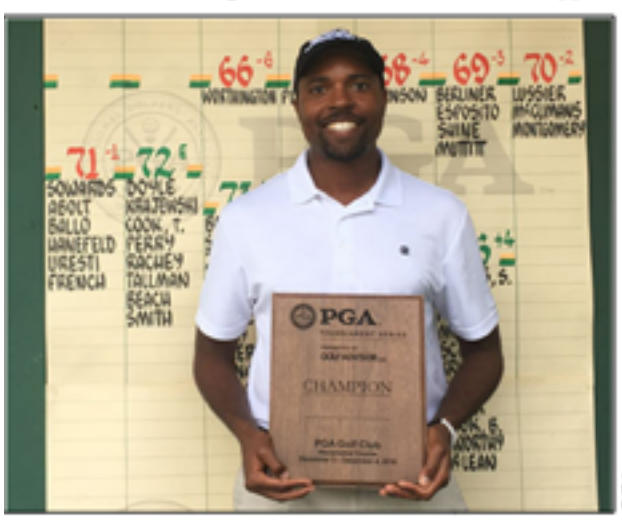
"I think I was the first African American to win a Section Championship in Ohio. I'm one of just a handful of African Americans to tee it up in a major championship, and that's a jaw-dropping stat that is the history of golf."

Continuing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the sport, the PGA of America and the PGA Tour have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the trade association that represents the Black Press of America.

Worthington added that he hopes his success will help the game build on its diversity, equity, and inclusion mission.

"We [African Americans] don't have the support, access, and opportunity, that most of our peers are fortunate enough to have," Worthington continued.

"It's tough. As African Americans, we don't have the type of social network our peers have to get that help and support. I hope I can have some type of exposure to the people who may not be introduced into the sport, and hopefully, that can change because this is an amazing game."



PGA

2021 NNPA Leadership Awards delights viewers, insiders

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

In perhaps the best produced National Leadership Awards – or any virtual conference – since the pandemic forced most to move away from in-person gatherings, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrated its annual soiree in style.

Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Congresswoman Cori Bush (D-Missouri), Dr. James Hildreth, Dr. Ebony Hilton, and Olympic record-setter Allyson Felix, each received recognition for their excellence and commitment to the Black community and the world at-large.

"Thank you to Black Press of America and the National Newspaper Publishers Association for this gracious award and, to my brother Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Chair Karen Richards, National Correspondent Stacy Brown, and the countless others who do the important work to keep our communities informed, engaged, and motivated through these unprecedented times," Sen. Warnock stated.

"This award is not about me, but the millions of Black Americans in Georgia and across the country who continuously display their courage, perseverance, and fortitude as we navigate increasingly challenging times in our communities and throughout our world. Know that I will continue to do my part in the United States Senate to uplift Georgia voices in the continual march towards what Dr. King called the beloved community," the senator concluded.

Dr. Hilton, who has led the fight against misinformation about the coronavirus and who has become a leading advocate for transparency surrounding COVID-19, said there's still much work to do.

"I cannot begin to tell you how honored I am to be considered. But, I have to be honest, it's difficult to think of my efforts as worthy when there is so much left to do," Dr. Hilton asserted.

"One thing I can promise is to continue trying my best and showing up in hopes of truly deserving this prestigious recognition."

While Felix, who won a record-setting 11 gold medals during the Olympic Games, couldn't attend, other awardees proudly acknowledged the well-deserved recognition.

"I am humbled to receive a National Leadership Award from the NNPA/Black Press of America. As we know, Black journalists have been denied a platform in this country for far too long," Congresswoman Bush stated.

"The excellence of Black journalism should never be taken for granted. From the incredible writers in St. Louis to the journalists pushing for equality abroad, I am deeply honored to be in the company of such dedicated individuals who lead our campaign for a better future for every human being, starting with those who have the least."

Sen. Booker remarked that he also felt humbled by the honor.

"I'm humbled and honored to be honored by the National Newspaper Publishers Association. The members of the NNPA provide an invaluable service to their communities, shining a light on issues that affect Black Americans and our families," the New Jersey senator proclaimed.

"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."

Dr. Hildreth, the president and CEO of Meharry Medical College, also expressed appreciation.

"I am honored to be recognized by the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Black Press USA as one of this year's National Leadership Award recipients," stated Dr. Hildreth, a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Board that approve the COVID-19 vaccines.

"I am humbled to be named among such a prestigious group of honorees who have impacted so many lives through their work," Dr. Hildreth remarked.

"I am grateful to NNPA, its member newspapers, and the Black Press USA for their efforts to serve as trusted sources of information for people all across the country."

NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, NNPA President Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and New Orleans Data News Publisher Terry Jones hosted the awards reception.

The reception included conversations with singer Regina Belle, actress Gabrielle Union, and actor Louis Gossett, Jr.

Produced by NNPA News Director Norman Rich, the program garnered praise from viewers and the NNPA's executive board.

"Amazing production," Carter Richards wrote in a text message.

"It was an awesome reception," added NNPA National Secretary Jackie Hampton, publisher of the Mississippi Link.

NNPA 2nd Vice Chair and Publisher of the County News in Charlotte, N.C., concluded, "awesome teamwork."

The NNPA is the largest African American newspaper association in the U.S. reaching 47 million readers.

PEARSON, from page 2

The University recently was honored for its work to make to the campus welcoming to the LGBTQ community. Campus Pride named UT Dallas one of the Best of the Best LGBTQ-friendly campuses in the nation for the third consecutive year.

Pearson said the Living Our Values Task Force has shifted the conversation beyond diversity, which she calls a critical step forward.

"Not just at UT Dallas but nationally, we've struggled with diversity," Pearson said. "We've focused on getting the numbers up, which is important, but when it's limited to checking boxes and making people feel like they're here to check boxes, we're not doing what needs to be done under the surface to create a culture of equity."

Creating a culture of equity involves identifying barriers to success and eliminating them at the root level, she said. Her goal is for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to become ubiquitous.

"One aspect of ubiquitous inclusion is a recognition that excellence and DEI go hand in hand, that DEI should be one of the measures of excellence in an organization," Pearson said. "A lot of times the conversation around diversity is as if you're lowering a bar. But if you are seeking to make organizations more diverse or seeking to recruit more diverse students, staff and faculty, that's not the case at all. And if you're successful in attracting more diverse people, the foundations of equity and inclusion must be in place to ensure everyone can thrive."

Pearson, who is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern University, and her PhD in engineering and applied science from the University of New Orleans.

She has received numerous honors, including the 2021 President's Medal, one of the highest awards given by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); the 2021 Distinguished Engineering Educator Award from the Society of Women Engineers; and the 2019 Claire L. Felbinger Award for Diversity and Inclusion from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET accredits more than 4,000 engineering, computing, engineering technology, and applied and natural science programs in 41 countries.

In 2013 she received a University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award as a senior lecturer at UT Arlington, where she taught from 2007 to 2016 and served as associate chair of the Department of Civil Engineering during part of her tenure.

Pearson is the inaugural chair of the ASCE's Members of Society Advancing an Inclusive Culture (MOSAIC), a committee charged with providing leadership in all matters of diversity, equity and inclusion in the civil engineering community.

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$46B emergency rental assistance delay leaves 3.5 million at risk of eviction

By Charlene Crowell

An estimated 3.5 million renters face the likelihood of eviction over the next two months – despite the availability of $46 billion in emergency rental assistance (ERA) allocated by Congress. The crux of this looming crisis is the uneven local response to providing authorized assistance to both renters and landlords.

And the approaching September 30 deadline for first round funding, against the approaching September 30 deadline for first-round funding leaves dwindling days for corrective actions.

While some city and county programs like those in Cook County, IL; Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Houston's Harris County have efficiently distributed over 80% of allocated ERA funds, less than 5% of the same funds have reached renters and landlords in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Newark and Seattle, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). ERA programs in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee are similarly slow in delivering aid and also have paid less than 5% of available funding.

The ERA program is designed to serve eligible renters for as long as 12 months with rental and utility delinquency payments. An additional three months of assistance may be available to achieve household housing stability. Once a renter qualifies for assistance, the administering entity sends the payment directly to their landlord. If a landlord declines to receive the assistance, a grantee may provide the assistance to renters directly to make rental payments to their landlord. Property owners can also assist renters in applying for rental assistance under the program or apply on behalf of the tenant, but they are required to obtain the consent of the renter before applying.

Program access, however, is directly tied to two types of problems: landlords that refuse to participate[CC1] in the program and different eligibility standards by jurisdiction.

As reported earlier, in early June four private real estate entities joined with the Alabama and Georgia Associations of Realtors in an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency ruling to end the nationwide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. On June 29 the Court denied the realtors' application, leaving the moratorium in place through the end of July. With the moratorium expiration, landlords have the option to refuse ERA program participation.

Further, eligibility standards – developed by each participating jurisdiction – seldom reflect the U.S. Treasury Department's guidance encouraging landlords to allow tenant applicants to self-attest to their income and inability to pay rent. Instead, only 16% of programs explicitly allow renters to use self-attestation to document income and only 13% allow self-attestation of housing instability, according to NLIHC's tracking analysis. Further, only 28% of programs explicitly allow direct-to-tenant assistance, which is critical to keeping renters stably housed when landlords refuse to participate in the program.

Now, a broad and diverse range of voices want to know why and how such vastly different ERA distributions have occurred and how delays can be corrected.

"I am very concerned about data showing that state and local governments have only used 11% of the $46.6 billion in emergency rental assistance funds that are available," noted Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Chair of the House Financial Services Committee (HFSC). "There is no question that the funds are not reaching landlords and renters quickly or widely enough."

Diane Yentel, NLIHC President and CEO agrees with Chairwoman Waters and on September 9 was part of a panel of housing experts who testified on program shortcomings and pending legislation.

"With nearly 6.5 million renter households still behind on rent, Congress, the Biden administration, and state and local governments must work quickly and aggressively to avert an historic wave of evictions and keep renters stably housed during the pandemic," she said. "Federal, state, and local governments, as well as landlords, advocates, and ERA program administrators, must do more, better, and faster, lest millions of renters lose their homes in the coming months."

Yentel also expressed support for one proposed legislative remedy, and warned against the likely harms of another. In her view, the "Expediting Assistance to Renters and Landlords Act of 2021," introduced by Chairwoman Waters would build off existing program guidance and directives, address and correct many of the root causes of slow ERA spending and provide tenant protections.

Another housing expert, Kadeem Morris, a housing attorney with Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, shared his agency's success in delivering needed ERA services while also noting the pandemic's racial disparities.

"It has been shown across the country that eviction records have a disparate impact on Black women and their families, causing dangerous cycles of generational poverty and instability," testified Morris. "This grim reality is reflected in Philadelphia, where 71% of annual eviction cases are filed in communities of color. The pandemic has significantly exacerbated difficulties facing Black communities and other communities of color, seniors, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ people. These communities are most likely to have lost income during the pandemic, putting them at greater risk of eviction filings, and therefore putting them at risk of homelessness and instability beyond the pandemic."

"For a rental assistance program to operate effectively, the program administrator cannot create additional barriers for tenants and landlords to jump through," advised Morris. "If the stated goal of the program is to prevent evictions for vulnerable households during the pandemic, then municipalities and other administrators should limit the amount of paperwork and forms of verification that a tenant and or landlord has to submit. Additionally, programs should work to eliminate delays in processing of applications and payments to landlords.

Now that the world has shifted to mostly remote work," continued Morris, "it is more difficult for vulnerable households to obtain things such as income documents and proof of benefits. Self-certification of income or benefits removes a significant hurdle for tenants seeking assistance. The requirement that participants have a current lease document can also be a barrier to participation…In Philadelphia, we have gotten around that barrier by allowing landlords to submit a letter verifying that the applicant is a tenant and their current rental amount."

For Gilbert Winn, CEO of Winn Companies, one of the nation's largest affordable housing developers, "something needs to change".

His 50-year- old Boston-based firm operates in 23 states and the District of Columbia, managing 600 rental communities reaching across the northeast mid-Atlantic, Florida, Texas and California. The firm has extensive experience in working with mixed-income communities utilizing a variety of federal, state and local housing subsidies, like Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and the Section 8 housing voucher program.

Most notably and since the start of the pandemic, none of the 28,000 households managed by Winn Companies has been evicted for non-payment of rent

Despite his firm's performance, Winn also noted ERA's shortcomings.

"The unfortunate result is that despite our constant best effort, too many of the very folks that ERA programs seek to help are those who have not benefited from the programs," testified Winn. "We have found this to be consistent in nearly every state we operate within across the country…Our experience has shown that is possible to avoid hardship evictions and preserve much of the rental income that is fundamental to operating quality rental housing," continued Winn. "Helping people to stay sustainably in their homes has myriad benefits; it's good for our residents, for communities, our employees and the economy."

Getting approved monies earmarked for emergency rental assistance can and should prevent unnecessary evictions. But correcting America's 'long-stand-

See RENT, page 1:

MISSING, from page 1

while heading to work in 2017. Authorities recovered her body 11 days later in North Carolina.

Because she didn't qualify for either an Amber or Silver alert – which notifies the public about missing children and senior citizens – family and authorities lost precious time.

Virginia has now enacted The Ashanti Alert, which bridges the age gap.

"This needs to be on the national level because so many of our missing are slipping under the radar," Wilson stated.

A married mother of four, Wilson said she's paranoid. Not just for her children and grandchildren, but for young ones around the world.

"I'm very aware. I'm hyper-vigilant and paranoid," Wilson noted.

"But I'm dedicated to making a change, and, as parents, we need to be that nosey parent and look at what our children are doing online."

She pointed out that since the beginning of the pandemic, there's been an uptick in sex trafficking, and children are more exposed to online predators than ever before.

"They are tapping into our children," Wilson said.

"There was a young lady who went missing. She was a gamer, and she was talking to a man online. So, when she went missing, her family was so surprised that she was talking to someone online."

Wilson continued:

"You've got to be nosey with your children. Have them sit in an open area so you can see what's going on. Create a fictitious account and see if you can befriend your child online and share information to save their lives. Unfortunately, once they go missing, we don' have any intelligence t help save them."

In ths week where th entire nation was fixated o the disappearance of on young woman, it is impor tant to remember ther many more out there.

For more informatio about the Black and Miss ing Foundation, visi www.bamfi.org.

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Ongoing
City of Dallas

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

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

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

Ongoing
House of Blues

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

On-going
First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw

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

On-Going
Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Representative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between $12 - $13.50 per hour 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.

RENT, from page 12

Columbia, managing 600 rental communities reaching across the northeast mid-Atlantic, Florida, Texas and California. The firm has extensive experience in working with mixed-income communities utilizing a variety of federal, state and local housing subsidies, like Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and the Section 8 housing voucher program.

Most notably and since the start of the pandemic, none of the 28,000 households managed by Winn Companies has been evicted for non-payment of rent.

Despite his firm's performance, Winn also noted ERA's shortcomings.

"The unfortunate result is that despite our constant best effort, too many of the very folks that ERA programs seek to help are those who have not benefited from the programs," testified Winn. "We have found this to be consistent in nearly every state we operate within across the country…Our experience has shown that is possible to avoid hardship evictions and preserve much of the rental income that is fundamental to operating quality rental housing," continued Winn. "Helping people to stay sustainably in their homes has myriad benefits; it's good for our residents, for communities, our employees and the economy."

Getting approved monies earmarked for emergency rental assistance can and should prevent unnecessary evictions. But correcting America's long-standing mismatch between rising housing costs and low-rising incomes requires a permanent solution.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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www.cityofirving.org

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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:

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

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

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

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

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

f. Acknowledges he/she is the primary force within the Chapter in establishing a working relationship and communication with the National and Regional Office(s); ensures that these offices receive all reports, including quarterly reports, and reports of elections.

g. Is familiar with pertinent governing documents including: The NAN by-laws and Chapter rules.

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

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A NEW PLACE TO BELONG)

NOTICE: New You, Senior Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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

September 26, 9:45 am
Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

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

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"
We are Saving You a Seat!

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

September 26
You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

September 29, 7 pm
Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
www.theship3c.org
www.visitF3c.org

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."
- Malachi 3:8-10

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

September 24, 7 pm
All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

September 26 10 a.m.
Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

September 27, 7 pm
You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

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

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

September 26, 8 and 11 am
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

September 27, 7 to 8 pm
Every Monday Night
Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

September 29, 7 pm
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

Church Happenings is a weekly calenda of events provided by North Dallas Gazette to our faith partners in the community. To have listings added, updated or corrected, please contact Sister Tarpley at Religion@northdallasgazette.com

Ready or Not, Here I Quit

Dr. James L. Snyder

I do not quit easily. When I start a project, I like to work until it's finished. I hate to quit before something is completed.

One thing I have learned through the years is not to start something unless I have the time and resources to finish it. How many projects I started in the past and somehow ran out of steam or resources and never got to finish it.

When I start a project, I am obsessed with finishing it on time.

My problem is I have difficulty planning, scheduling and balancing certain projects. I often take on more than I could possibly do.

Such is not the case with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Whatever she takes on and how much she takes on can always be finished on time. How she does it is beyond my understanding.

The only project I can finish on time is eating. I have no problem finishing this project every day.

The thing that bothers me is that many times I take on several projects and get them confused. I see a project I want to do and I jump at it. It doesn't matter if I have half a dozen other projects on the table, if I like it, I want to do it.

One time I thought I would partner with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for several projects. As I looked at her project list, they all had something to do with crafts. I may be a lot of things, but I certainly am not crafty.

I can go into her craft room, look at all of her tools, and not know what in the world they are or what they are for. I'm not a tool kind of a person like my wife is.

Last summer, for example, we had the air conditioner guy come to fix our air conditioner. He looked at it and said he knew exactly what was wrong, but he didn't have the right tool to fix it and so he had to go back to his office and get it.

"What tool," my wife said to him, "do you need to fix it?"

He looked at her, laughed, and said, "Ma'am, I'm sure you don't have anything near the kind of tool that I will need."

"Tell me what it is?"

He looked at her, smiled, and then describe the tool that he needed to fix the AC problem.

"Oh," my wife said as she made her way back to the garage. "I think I have that tool in my garage."

He laughed until she came back from the garage with

See QUIT, page 15

GOLD, from page 7

posals – rather than the traditional approach of granting an in-house operation a monopoly – drives improvements in service levels, quality, and operating costs.

The Gold Fleet award recognizes significant progress in the long-term implementation of the City of Carrollton's environmental policy. The achievement demonstrates the City's commitment to responsible and strategic use of resources through education, prevention, conservation, and reduction.

Participating fleets are required to provide details on their move toward cleaner operations, including using alternative fuel vehicles, reducing idling, or using technology to improve the efficiency of operations. Members of the DFWCC and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) score the submitted reports and categorize them into levels – Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Gold Level status requires 45-100 points; Silver Level status requires 34-44 points; and Bronze Level status requires 28-34 points. The DFWCC then presents the collected data in an annual report that is shared with the DOE to document progress.

Clean Cities also highlighted significant improvements in areas such as the reduction of NOx, transition to alternative fuels and gasoline gallon equivalent savings through the Shining StarsAwards. The cities of Carrollton, Coppell, and Dallas, as well as DART, and SPAN Transit were recognized for their NOx reduction. The Shining Stars showing the greatest progress transitioning to alternative fuels were the cities of Carrollton and Plano, as well as Denton ISD and Prosper ISD.

DFW Clean Cities also introduced the Fleet Challenge this year, recognizing entities that met or exceeded goals they set in their 2019 survey. The cities of Carrollton, Bedford, and Frisco, as well as DFW Airport received this inaugural recognition.

Graduate Level Christianity

Sister Tarpley
NDG Religion Editor

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

(Matthew 5:44)

The story is told of two men who went from friends to enemies. There was a man who had become a friend and mentor to me, but a conflict arose between us that we were unable to resolve.

The man said that he could never imagine that this man would go from being one of his best friends to an enemy.

He asked God to show him how he should treat this man, and the words of Jesus came to mind, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

"Lord," he said, "surely you don't mean I'm to love this man! Not after the way he's hurt me and refused to reconcile!"

As he argued with God, he remembered that Jesus, before He was betrayed, got down on His knees and washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, His enemy.

The moment that scene came to his mind, he knew what God was calling him to do. I had to wash the feet of my Judas.

This man who had been his friend and mentor had also been a client of his advertising agency. He was a Christian author and speaker, and he decided to bless this man by continuing to promote his ministry and his books.

Did the man ever come back to him and reconcile? Yes, seven years later. He said. But even if he had never reconciled with him, he knew that he did what

God called him to do. He washed the feet of his Judas. He passed the test.

God doesn't promise that if we forgive there will be a happy ending. He doesn't promise that the man who refuses to pay a bill will suddenly write a check. He doesn't promise that the one who rejects reconciliation will instantly soften his heart.

Jesus forgave his executioners, but that didn't keep them from nailing Him to the cross.

The Graduate Level Test is not about getting the results we want. It's about proving that we trust God enough to forgive our Judases. It's a graduate-level course in Christian obedience.

But you should believe that every leader whom God uses in a significant way must pass the Judas Test.

God wants to know if we are willing to be imitators of Jesus. How can we say we are followers of Christ if we won't wash the feet of our Judases?

I have heard of several special requests today...one from parents who are brokenhearted over their teenager's condition, another from one who needs help in their faith and Christian walk.

Still others from those who have special unspoken needs and health problems, another from one who needs a job and the list goes on.

God knows that though thousands of people have prayer requests, we cannot mention every one right now.

God knows their heart cries, our every need, and cries, our every need, and what is best. Pray for God's intervention, provision, guidance, and blessing wherever needed. Pray for God to lift up every person who is praying this prayer, that He will touch them in great and mighty ways.

Pray that each will be blessed beyond comprehension, that God will be glorified and exalted, that eyes will be opened and hearts broken over sin; that spirits will be encouraged by His mercy and lives changed by His forgiveness.

Thank God for all that He dos and all that He is, in the precious name of Jesus.

Sister Tarpley is the Religion Edior for the North Dallas Gazette. She is a retired educator and former Carrolton City Councilmember. She can be reached at Religion@northdallasgazette.com.

QUIT, from Page 14

the exact tool he needed to fix the problem. He just stared at her and didn't know what to say.

If she doesn't have the tool, there is no problem and nothing to fix.

It's one thing to have a project, but it's another thing to have the tools to finish the project on time.

There is one project that I have been working on for years. Maybe it's about time I quit that project.

The project is, to understand how my wife manages to do all of those things?

I good go and ask her but you know what that would mean. I wouldn't understand anything she was saying.

Where she got all that skill to work with all the tools that she has is far beyond me.

I must say she has saved me a lot of money through the years. If I had something sound wrong with my vehicle, she would immediately go out, lift the hood, and in a few moments determine what the problem was and then commence to fix it.

One time the back bumper of my truck broke and I didn't quite know how to fix it. I was planning to take it to the garage and get them to fix it when my wife came out and asked what was wrong.

I told her about my rear bumper and she went to look at it.

I had one of those "aha" moments where I thought here was a project she couldn't fix. It needed a professional.

In a few minutes, she went into the house and I thought she had given up. I didn't blame her because I didn't quite know how to fix it myself.

Then she came back outside with one of those large universal paper clips. When I saw her with it I started to laugh. She just looked at me, grinned and went over to the rear bumper and in a few moments, she had it fixed.

That was four years ago and it's still fixed.

So, I have come to that point in my life where I am ready to quit. Ready to quit trying to figure out how she knows so much of everything associated with tools.

I am ready to quit trying to understand the other side of our marriage.

Every man that thinks he understands a woman has never yet been married.

There are so many mysteries in life and I have come to the point where I have quit trying to figure out most of those mysteries.

A verse of Scripture came to my mind, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Sometimes that agreement is simply a mutual understanding of the differences between each other. The secret to this is not to quit but to keep moving forward.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472, where he lives with his wife. Feel free to attend if you are ever in the neighborhood.

Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

NDG Book Revew: 'The Forgotten First' is a winning work worth reading

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

This weekend, your team is going to win.

You can see it already, the way they've been playing so far this season, and you're sure they can take it all the way to February. For now, though, this weekend's a must-see and everybody looks good; as in "The Forgotten First" by Keyshawn Johnson and Bob Glauber, some even play on the shoulders of giants.

If you're a baseball fan, you surely know the story of how Jackie Robinson became the first Black ball player in the major leagues. What you might not know is that four Black men integrated pro football a year before Robinson's history-making at-bat.

Abandoned by his mother and raised by a paternal uncle because his father had other interests, Kenny Washington, who signed with the Los Angeles Rams on March 21, 1946, was first drawn to baseball but the truth was, he could play any sport. Having battled rickets as a young boy, he suffered deformities in both his legs, but that didn't matter – Johnson and Glauber report that Washington was fast.

So was Woody Strode, who signed up with the Rams not long after Washington. Strode's mother was Native American; his father was Black, and though Strode had a modeling career as a young man (he'd once posed nude for a Nazi artist) and he'd served in the Army Air Corps, his life always circled back to football.

When he was a child, Marion Motley grew to be so much larger than his peers that when he was at football practice, other kids' parents begged for him to wear more padding so that collisions with him "wouldn't hurt quite so much." Much later, Motley played for the Cleveland Browns, along with Bill Willis, who almost didn't take up football because he didn't think he could play as well as his brother, Claude.

Within mere months, these four men broke the color barrier in pro football. And, say the authors, "That history is not told enough..."

Another thing that's not told enough: what happened before these four men signed on with their respective teams, and how their first year proceeded. It's infuriating, it's astounding, and it's all laid out here inside "The Forgotten First."

And yet, getting to it might not be so easy.

Authors Keyshawn Johnson and Bob Glauber are a former pro-baller and an NFL columnist, respectively, and the tale they tell speaks to the heart of the fan with deep knowledge of mid-twentieth-century football teams, players, coaches, and college ball. It's a wide story that encompasses decades and dozens of peripheral people who had a hand in integrating the sport generations ago, from secondary education on up. Then it brings readers full-circle to reveal the inside of the game as it is today.

And all this will be irresistible if you're a fan. If you're not a history-minded, live-for-football-season, paint-your-face fan, you may be in well over your head with this book. If you're obsessive about the game, though, "The Forgotten First" is a big win.

Be sure to keep up with the North Dallas Gazette everyday in your feed by liking our page on Facebook!

COMMUNITY ENERGY CENTER

America Runs on Reliable, Affordable, and Cleaner Energy

Keep This Vital Resource Accessible

As energy demand grows post-pandemic, public officials are making decisions that might affect your access to safe, affordable and reliable energy. Heat waves and storms are testing America's energy needs – we cannot take this energy for granted.

Public officials should not diminish this vital resource.

To learn more about how energy helps your community, visit **CommunityEnergyCenter.org**

NAHP MEDIA NNPA

The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.