



North Dallas Gazette

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At least four Black females were murdered each day in 2020

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

According to statistics released by the FBI this month, more than four Black women and girls were murdered each day in the United States in 2020.

The uniformed crime reporting statistics revealed that those startling numbers were a sharp increase from 2019.

The FBI said it recorded at least 405 additional murders of Black women and girls, but reports have strongly suggested that the number represents an undercount.

Those reports don't surprise or comfort victims' families but only serve as another reminder about the lack of value attached to the lives of Black females.

"There's been no justice," stated Claumisha Reed, whose daughter Zymia Joyner was shot and killed last year.

A little more than one month before her 20th birthday, Zymia and 19-year-old Rashard Waldo were shot by an unknown assailant in the 3100 block of Waclark Place in Southeast Washington, D.C.

Since the murder, Zymia's mother and siblings have tried to keep one foot in front of the other.

"Zymia had a lot of things that she had going on," Claumisha Reed



More than four Black women and girls were killed each day in 2020, according to the FBI. (Photo: Clay Banks / Unsplash)

remarked.

"She started a small business selling hair products, and she really wanted to work in obstetrics and gynecology. We lost an angel. Her dreams were cut short."

Zymia counts among the many victims of an increasingly murderous country, with reports noting that murders overall have climbed about 30 percent during the pandemic.

"Black women are at risk of police violence and systemic racism every day, all day and all night." Marcela Howell, founder and president of In Our Own: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda.

"We face the sting of racism at work, in school, on the streets, and in our own homes. We cannot escape it, nor deny racism it's too-often deadly toll. We most certainly cannot count on the criminal justice system to value our lives or deliver justice for the Black lives taken by police."

Rosa Page, the founder of the advocacy group Black Femicide U.S., told The Guardian news outlet that the increase in murders of Black women in 2020 did not surprise her.

In her work as a nurse, Page listened for years as Black women and girls described the history of abuse

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Pay attention to the ballot propositions

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'Wig-A-Thon' gives patients self confidence

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Lydia Pope

People In The News ...



Michael Dillard



EOD1 Nathan Woodruff

NDG Quote of the Week: "Wherever there is a human being, I see God-given rights inherent in that being, whatever may be the sex or complexion."
—William Lloyd Garrison

Lydia Pope

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Lydia Pope counts among the fortunate, and she knows that.

Pope also doesn't pull any punches when advocating for African Americans — particularly as it pertains to generational wealth.

Her father worked throughout Cleveland, Ohio, to help turn around the lives of gang members. Pope's mother worked a lunch program that fed those individuals after her



father tutored them about the importance of homeownership and generational wealth.

"My father passed away in 1991, and my mom told me that we were the sec-

ond Black family to move onto our block when I was younger," Pope, the president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), said during an interview inside the television studio of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in Washington, D.C.

"My mother told me about the real estate card she possessed that prompted her to own a home," Pope reminisced during a conversation with NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The entire conversation will air this season on PBS-

TV and PBS-World during a telecast of The Chavis Chronicles.

Today, Pope's brother owns the family's Cleveland home, which she said will eventually pass to his son.

"It's all about a succession plan," Pope stated. "This is how you build generational wealth."

NAREB offers five pillars to building Black wealth, Pope added.

The five pillars include:

- Multi-generational wealth.

- Government relations and advocacy.

- Diversity and inclusion

for small businesses.

- Women's initiatives.

- Faith-based and civic engagement.

"Even today, the rate of Black homeownership is still at 46 percent. We have not moved the needle, so it's important that as Black people, we have to fight for what we want," Pope exclaimed.

"When you talk about democracy and housing, it's important that we understand that we have to continue to fight for what we want. If that means going to our legislatures, that's what we do. Our goal is to talk and advocate for

the community, for those in need, for those who can't speak for themselves. We can be the voice for them."

Pope counts as the third woman president in NAREB's 74-year history.

She has worked in real estate since 1995 and serves as the owner and president of E&D Realty & Investment Company, Inc., and E&D Realty Property Management Division and E&D Construction Company.

According to Pope's biography, some of her past and current accom-

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Michael Dillard

(PR.com) -- Author Michael Dillard is delighted to announce the launch of his new book, "Accidental Success," available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. "Accidental Success" by Michael sketches out a reliable plan to achieve goals and become successful in life.

"Accidental Success" is a self-motivational book for someone stressed out with their life, career, or personal finances and needs the motivation to get up and get going. This book inspires, motivates and teaches the readers how to build generational wealth step by step.

The book contains the in-



spiring real-life story of Michael Dillard and the secret formula that he used to go from unemployed on a Friday to traveling around the world as a Foreign Service Officer on a Monday.

Michael Dillard was born

in Portsmouth, Virginia, and raised in Clarksville, Tennessee. Michael graduated from Northeast High School. From age 7, he was raised in a single-parent house when his parents divorced. The U.S. federal program called Upward Bound motivated him to develop a vision for his life. It provided tutoring and cultural exposure while in high school on the campus of Austin Peay State University.

In addition to being an

author, Michael Dillard is an Executive Coach. He completed his ICF executive coach training from the Center for Executive Coaches. One can schedule a coaching session with Michael or learn more about him at www.madillard.com.

Michael has worked in countries like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, South Africa and Zambia as a Financial Controller.

Michael also served in the U.S. Army for four years, where he served as a radio repairer. His duty stations included Ft. Carson, Colorado, Camp Casey, South Korea, and Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Michael received his Bachelor's Degree from Middle Tennessee State University, his MBA with a specialization in Financial Planning from Strayer University, and a Master's Degree in Accounting from Liberty University.

Michael has put all the secret ingredients to success and happiness in the book, as he wants a maximum number of people to learn from his diverse experiences in life.

"I really enjoyed reading about Michael's life and how he made it... proving that despite setbacks, you can achieve success. This book is an inspiration to all, and I recommend it wholeheartedly," says Mary H, a reviewer.

EOD1 Nathan Woodruff



Explosive Ordnance Disposal 1st Class Nathan Woodruff, from Dallas, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, attached to Commander, Task Force (CTF) 70, conducts fast-rope training from an MH-60S Seahawk, attached to the "Golden Falcons" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12, onto the flight deck of the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Ronald Reagan, the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5, provides a combat-ready force that protects and defends the United States, and supports alliances, partnerships and collective maritime interests in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tarleton)

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'We The People': The Solution To Our Problems

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

While a great deal of time and attention is being given to the many sins and acts of evil by Republicans and the Ultra Right who believe that their privileges are greater than our democracy, it is important to remember that "We the People" hold the keys to our own deliverance. There are more of us than them as evidenced by the last election which placed President Joe Biden in the White House instead of a second term for Trump. The Bible says "we have not because we ask not, and when we ask, we ask for the wrong things".

Lawrence O'Donnell, an MSNBC Commentator, recently pointed out that "we" are responsible for Donald Trump being able to appoint three judges to the U.S. Supreme Court. As he indicated, it started when we, the democrats, didn't bother to vote in past presidential elections that allowed the Regans, the Bushes and the Trumps to be in position to stack the Court with conservative right wingers.

You will remember that when Trump was running against Clinton, the Christian Right and Ultra Conservative Right were not concerned with his sexual sins, only having him in position to appoint judges to the Highest Court in the land because it would influence policy for decades to come.

Now the ball is back in the court of "We the people", if we choose to take it. We the people outnumber the conservative Ultra White element that would end democracy. We the people, whether Democrat or Independent, have sufficient numbers to out vote any conservative wave and laws of voter suppression are now being put on the books. It was this kind of voter turnout that elected two Democratic U.S. Senators from the State of Georgia, in spite of the Trump effort to undermine the voter turnout of the state.

When we look at the

characters that are holding the U.S. Senate hostage and refusing to live up to their oath to "Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States", then we have an obligation to organize and vote them out of office.

When we see the U.S. Supreme Court set on rolling back Civil Rights gains, Roe vs. Wade, gun control

and a host of other issues that will be before this Court this term, we have the right to petition the Congress to pass legislation to overturn the Supreme Court decisions, which is the check and balances guaranteed by the Constitution. We have options that represent an alternative to the suppression and undermining of de-

mocracy by the Ultra Right. We must find candidates to run against those who are opposed to democracy and refuse to work with the very people they are elected to represent.

We the people can make the difference. We just have to focus and decide that the other side will not prevail on our watch.

BE A PREPARED VOTER

The following propositions will be on the Nov. 2 ballot. Be sure to familiarize yourself with them and know which way you plan to vote.

Title	Subject	Description
Proposition 1	Gambling	Authorizes professional sports team charitable organizations to conduct raffles at rodeo venues
Proposition 2	Bond issues	Authorizes a county to issue bonds to fund infrastructure and transportation projects in undeveloped and blighted areas
Proposition 3	Religion	Amends the Texas Constitution to prohibit the state or any political subdivision from enacting a law, rule, order, or proclamation that limits religious services or organizations
Proposition 4	State judiciary	Changes the eligibility requirements for the following judicial offices: a justice of the supreme court , a judge of the court of criminal appeals , a justice of a court of appeals , and a district judge
Proposition 5	State judiciary	Authorizes the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct to accept and investigate complaints and reports against candidates running for state judicial office
Proposition 6	Healthcare and Constitutional rights	Amends the Texas Constitution to state that residents of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, or state-supported living centers have a right to designate an essential caregiver that may not be prohibited from visiting the resident
Proposition 7	Taxes	Amends the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to extend a homestead tax limit for surviving spouses of disabled individuals as long as the spouse is 55 years old and resides at the home
Proposition 8	Taxes and Veterans	Amends the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to apply a homestead tax exemption for surviving spouses of members of the military to those fatally injured in the line of duty

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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Cosmetology Institute Of Las Vegas hosts 5th annual 'Wig-A-Thon'

LAS VEGAS – Local powerhouse, philanthropist and founder of the Cosmetology Institute of Las Vegas, Denise Dixon, will host her 5th annual “Wig-A-Thon” event featuring complimentary handmade wigs and beauty makeovers to benefit local breast cancer survivors during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The heartfelt charity event is happening from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Cosmetology Institute of Las Vegas, the professional beauty school, located at 3249 W. Craig Rd., #100, North Las Vegas,



89032, from October 26-30.

The school's students hand make each wig from scratch using high quality human hair. All of the wigs will be given out to selected recipients based off com-

munity recommendations as well as through a partnership with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Recipients will attend the October event and get their wigs fitted in addition

to receiving complimentary beauty makeovers by Cosmetology Institute of Las Vegas students. In all, 10 breast cancer survivors will attend the event and up to 10 additional wigs will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

“Both of my grandmothers were diagnosed with breast cancer in their last years, so this cause is especially dear to me,” said Dixon. “I’ve seen what this devastating illness can do, and if my students and I can make these survivors feel special and beautiful after what

they’ve gone through, then it’s the least we can do. Giving back to the Las Vegas community is what I live for and I’m so happy this year we can incorporate a free breast cancer screening as well. I never want someone to lose their life just because they couldn’t afford a simple mammogram that could make all the difference.”

This year’s “Wig-A-Thon” will also feature an

additional breast cancer prevention event on Friday, November 5, from 7:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. The Nevada Health Centers’ Mammovan, a medical van offering a mobile 3D mammogram station, will be parked on-site at the Cosmetology School Institute of Las Vegas.

“The Institute will pay for anyone who is uninsured to receive a mammogram,” said Dixon.

FDA guidance to food industry aims to reduce sodium consumption

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AHA) -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released new voluntary sodium targets for commercially processed, packaged and prepared foods. The targets, first released in draft form in 2016, are intended to address excess sodium consumption and its negative impact on public health.

The American Heart Association, the world’s leading voluntary organization focused on heart and brain health, issued the following statement in support of the targets:

“The American Heart Association applauds the FDA’s new voluntary guidance, which will play a critical role in helping people across the country achieve healthier levels of sodium and improved well-being overall. These targets will be an important driver to reduce sodium consumption, which can have significant health benefits and lead to lower medical costs.

“Lowering sodium levels in the food supply would reduce risk of hypertension, heart disease, stroke, heart attack and death in addition to saving billions of

dollars in health-care costs over the next decade. Many members of the food and restaurant industry have begun to reduce sodium in their products. We strongly encourage the industry as a whole to adopt these targets and build upon existing efforts to reduce sodium in their products and meals.

“While educating the public about the consequences of consuming too much sodium is a valuable tool, it is not enough to truly impact consumers’ health due to the high amount of sodium in the food supply. The adoption of these targets will be a crucial step in helping countless people across the country decrease their sodium intake.

“The FDA’s targets represent an important step forward, but lowering sodium intake to 3,000mg per day is not enough. Lowering sodium further to 2,300mg could prevent an estimated 450,000 cases of cardiovascular disease, gain 2 million quality-adjusted life years and save approximately \$40 billion in health-care costs over a 20-year period. We urge the FDA to follow today’s action with additional targets to further

lower the amount of sodium in the food supply and help people in America attain an appropriate sodium intake.”

Flavored E-cigarettes targeted

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued marketing denial orders for 10 flavored e-cigarettes sold by R.J. Reynolds (RJR) Vapor Company under the Vuse Solo brand. The FDA also issued orders allowing RJR to market its Vuse Solo e-cigarette and accompanying tobacco-flavored e-liquid pods.

Following is a statement from the American Heart Association:

“The FDA is right to continue to deny authorization for tobacco companies to sell flavored e-cigarettes, which have fueled the nicotine epidemic among youth nationwide and put millions of kids at risk for a lifetime of tobacco use and addiction.

“The FDA should follow today’s announcement by also denying RJR’s application for Vuse Solo menthol flavor cartridges. For decades, tobacco companies have aggressively marketed menthol-flavored tobacco products to Black

communities, other groups of color and youth, fueling a scourge of nicotine addiction.

“The FDA’s authorization of Vuse Solo in tobacco flavor will require continued vigilance on purchasing patterns and youth uptake and utilization. We must ensure youth don’t gravitate to tobacco-flavored e-cigarettes, enabling the tobacco industry to sustain the nicotine epidemic.”

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Have You Seen These Missing Individuals of Color?

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In Philadelphia, an all-too-familiar plea circulates.

The city's police department said it needs the public's help in finding 13-year-old Jada Blackwell, last seen on Sunday, October 10, along East Haines Street.

Jada stands 5 feet two inches and weighs about 130 pounds.

While authorities said they couldn't describe her clothing, Jada has brown eyes and black hair.

Anyone with information should immediately call 215-686-3353 or 911.

Of course – and unfortunately, Jada Blackwell isn't an isolated case.

On June 11, 17-year-old Janiah Cane went missing from her home in Chicago. Authorities said she has black hair and brown eyes and stands 5 feet 6 inches tall. Janiah reportedly weighs 140 pounds and frequently changes hairstyles.

Anyone with information



Jada Blackwell is missing and authorities and her family are seeking help in finding her. (Photos via NNPA)

should immediately call 1-800-843-5678, 312-746-6000, or 911.

Additionally, it's been nine months since loved ones last saw Creg Lyles of Waterford, Michigan.

The 33-year-old's disappearance has stunned his distraught family, who said he's always in contact with his loved ones.

"He was actually the glue to his family," his aunt Sharon Dillon told reporters.

Authorities reported that they recovered boots near the apartment com-

plex where Lyles lived that could belong to him.

"If anybody knows anything, we want them to contact the Waterford Police Department immediately," Dillon said.

If anyone has information about Creg Lyles, please call (248) 618-6041.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association routinely keeps track of missing individuals of color and has endorsed the mission of the Black and Missing Foundation.

Derrica and Natalie Wil-

son started the Black and Missing Foundation in 2008.

The nonprofit has continued to raise awareness of missing persons of color and provide vital resources and tools to missing people's families and friends.

At least 40 percent of individuals missing in America are individuals of color.

Last month when 22-year-old Gabby Petito, a white woman, vanished and was later discovered murdered, media outlets were called out for their dogged coverage of that case – they have a practice of lifting missing white people and overlooking individuals of color.

"We find that when people of color, men and

women, go missing, automatically it's assumed that there's some criminal activity involved or they've just run away. So they are stereotyped and not taken seriously," Natalie Wilson has stated.

When authorities classify a case as a runaway, there's no Amber Alert, and the media tends to ignore the matter, she said.

"Even if they are runaways, we have to find them within the first 48 hours because we need to understand why they ran away and realize that many are lured into sex trafficking," Wilson stated.

For more information on the Black and Missing Foundation, visit www.blackandmissinginc.com.



Janiah Cane was reported missing earlier this year.



Creg Lyles went missing in January.

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they had experienced or knowing someone else who was abused or murdered.

"Black women and girls have been indoctrinated to believe everyone matters but themselves," Page told the outlet which first reported on the latest FBI statistics.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, Black women were twice as likely as white women to encounter an offender armed with a handgun even before the pandemic.

Further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that homicides of Black women had continued to rise before 2020.

Parents, activists, and others said concrete early prevention and interven-

tion plans are desperately needed. They argue that it's past the time when Black women are honored with the same value as others.

"Zymia was the type of person you would love to be with," her mother, Clau-misha Reed, remarked. "Her friends loved her, and our family loved her."

Before her death, Zymia had recently completed her sophomore year at Trinity Washington University in Northeast, D.C. Her aspirations included nursing and owning a business.

After graduating as a standout student at Dunbar High School, Zymia set her sights on specializing in obstetrics and gynecology.


Her love of her children and passion to help others served as a driving force behind her nursing desires.

She lit up a room," Reid proclaimed.


"She was an outgoing person and was more motivated than most other people we knew. But, on top of that, she was so focused, and you couldn't tell her to stop at something because she was going to accomplish whatever she had set her mind out to accomplish."

Zymia enjoyed a large social media following and provided advice to friends who sought it, Reid recalled.

"She inspired her friends, and they felt they could talk to her," Reid noted. "Zymia would always listen attentively, and when she gave advice, it was the kind of advice that came from the heart, and she would tell it like it is and tell her friends it was up to them if they would heed the advice."



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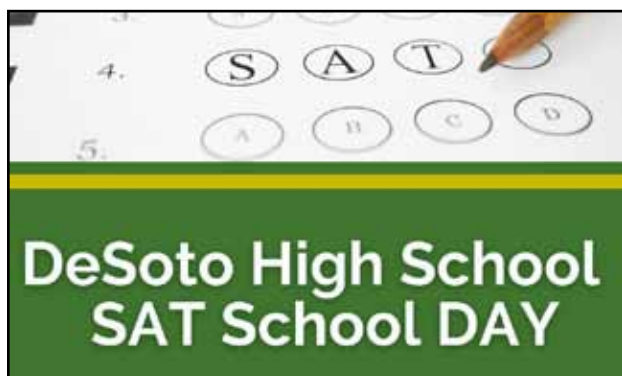
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DeSoto ISD to offer SAT school day to enhance student success

DESOTO- DeSoto High School seniors are preparing to embrace their postsecondary futures and DeSoto ISD is ensuring that each student has a chance to reach their highest potential. The district is creating an atmosphere for student success by hosting a DeSoto High School SAT School Day on October 13.

Since 2016, the district has participated in this effort by the College Board to remove barriers to college attendance for students. The SAT School Day Program allows districts and campuses to offer the SAT college entrance exam to their seniors during the course of a regular school day, free of charge to students who register.

According to the College Board, the SAT exam measures a high school student's readiness for college and is one of two major test scores required for entry into virtually all selective colleges and universi-



ties in the United States of America. This exam score provides colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants during the college admissions process.

"More students take the SAT exam more than any other college admission test. The SAT assesses what students are learning in class and will use in college," said Robin Johnson-Ford, who organized the district's first SAT school day about five years ago. "Taking the SAT is the best way to display skills and knowledge that colleges care about."

According to researchers, this innovative testing concept increases college entry, access to scholarships, and financial aid opportunities.

Susan Dynarski, an independent researcher from Michigan said students who take college entrance exams in states that administer them during the school day see higher college attendance rates and cited that low-income students benefit the most.

Before the decision to host an SAT School Day, high school students would register and pay the testing fee to sit for the exam in an

unfamiliar place.

"By offering this SAT School Day to our students, it causes less stress and fatigue because they are testing in a familiar place. They rest better and are more prepared for the test," said Johnson-Ford as she also expressed the convenience for parents. "Parents do not have to worry about locating testing sites or transporting students on a weekend."

Students who participate in the SAT School Day will continue to experience the benefits of their participation even after the testing day.

The College Board fee policy also waives the fees for students who participate in SAT School Day for college applications, seek financial aid, and allows the sending of their official score reports to an unlimited number of colleges or universities.

"In DeSoto ISD and specifically at DeSoto High

School, we understand that if we want our students to succeed, we must create the right opportunities for success. The decision to offer an on-campus SAT School Day is another measure of how DeSoto is ensuring our students are able to reach their highest potential," said Monica Smith, DeSoto High School principal.

Prepare for SAT Success with Khan Academy

The Khan Academy has partnered with College Board to offer Official SAT Practice, free, personalized practice available to all students.

Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy creates a personalized plan for each student to prepare for the SAT, which includes thousands of interactive questions with instant feedback, video lessons, full-length practice tests, and more.

The online practice platform is available anytime, anywhere, and can be easily used by families, schools,

nonprofits, and after-school programs.

Each student has access to a plan built just for them. By linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts, students can use their scores on the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 to strengthen their knowledge in key areas.

Principal Smith urged students to participate. "I encourage all seniors to prepare for and take full advantage of this opportunity, especially since it is offered during the normal school day, which eliminates other barriers that may exist on a Saturday SAT Testing Date."

The DeSoto High School SAT Day is Wednesday, Oct 13, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the DeSoto High School Campus. All DHS seniors and select juniors who are planning to participate should communicate questions to the campus administration.

UT Austin adds housing options to increase campus access, affordability

With two major real estate deals, The University of Texas at Austin is adding housing to accommodate more than 1,700 students as part of its long-term efforts to address affordability and keep students close to campus.

The university just closed on the purchase of Dobie Twenty21, formerly known as the Dobie Center. The 27-story apartment building on the southwest corner of the main campus has 980 beds in 504 units, with parking for more than 600 vehicles.

The acquisition comes on the heels of authorization in August from the University of Texas System Board of Regents to build new graduate student housing in UT Austin's East Campus area between Comal Street, East 21st Street, Leona Street, and south of Manor Road. The university plans to add about 780 beds in this area.

"Getting back to near-normal operations this se-



Dan Dennis / Unsplash

mester has rekindled our passion for the residential experience and campus community, which are central to the UT experience," said President Jay Hartzell. "And we know that having students closer to campus helps them build community and thrive academically."

The new housing options will help address affordability for students navigating Austin's competitive real estate market. The two projects will increase the inventory of affordable stu-

dent-housing options while reducing the time and money it takes students to travel to campus, enhancing the overall student experience.

"We are excited about an expanded inventory of residential housing options that makes it possible for more students to live with us," said Soncia Reagins-Lilly, vice president for student affairs and dean of students. "The proximity of the new housing to campus will also increase access to valuable student support resources."

Located right in the heart of Austin overlooking downtown and the Texas Capitol, UT Austin has one of the best urban locations of any American university. But a land-locked location and the city's booming real estate market present chal-

lenges for expansion.

"We wanted to seize this opportunity to add student housing and provide flexibility for future campus expansion," said Hartzell. "Our location is a huge draw for students, with incredible access to intern-

ships and experiences in one of the country's most dynamic cities. These new options will further enhance our ability to attract the best students, leverage our location, and become the country's highest-impact public university."

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Together We Can Find A Solution

Detrick DeBurr announces run for City Council in The Colony

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Detrick DeBurr will be on the ballot for this November's City Council election in The Colony. DeBurr is altogether focused on the citizens he represents. He believes it is time the leadership of The Colony should more closely resemble its citizens and represent their interests.

"If I could change anything, it would be how 'uninformed' we allow the common citizen to be about the practical problems we are facing. When you simply communicate what the issues are, most people 'get it'."

Having grown 400% over the past 20 years, DeBurr explains, "[t]he small-town bedroom community approach to things simply is outdated. We can expect another 10,000 people to come to The Colony over the next ten years. We have to greet them in a warm and healthy way."

Mr. DeBurr proposes "regular community conversations for the general public."

"Sometimes there may not be a nice and easy an-



Detrick DeBurr (Courtesy photo)

swer. But we need to have those tough conversations too."

Although progressive in thought, DeBurr is driven to be fiscally responsible. When asked what values he would apply to development and infrastructure projects, he stresses "affordability."

"With that said, I understand that we always find a way to afford our priorities. So my next metric of value would be, what's the priority? What's the greatest good for the most? What gives us the 'biggest positive bang for the buck?'"

His priorities: Roads, alleyways, and the shoreline.

"I believe if we fix the streets, beautify the community by cleaning alleyways, and intelligently investing in the shoreline of Lake

Lewisville, we will be in a good place 10 years from now. We have 23 miles of natural shoreline along Lake Lewisville. It's our greatest asset.

Protecting the wildlife, while giving our community safe recreational options, is one of the best ways to enhance the environment."

He explains that the Colony is in one of the best situations financially in its history, and he attributes much of its success to the Grandscape development. The biggest threat to this economic soundness, he points out, is "crime."

"When people don't feel safe, they don't spend, businesses leave, and eventually, the people leave. So it might seem counterintuitive, but a strong community-based police presence in Grandscape is probably the best thing we can do to maintain our financial footing."

Asked about his feelings on traffic and transportation, he explains: "We have plans in place to address most current traffic concerns. It is just a matter of time before the city can widen all the main thoroughfares. This is simply a function of timing. Usually, we don't have the

funds to widen roadways until people are already experiencing a problem.

Regarding transportation in general, it's not financially feasible to join Dallas Area Rapid Transit (D.A.R.T.) or Denton County Transit Authority (D.C.T.A.). However, I do foresee a major rail line that feeds into D.A.R.T. and D.C.T.A. But this is still probably 15 years out."

Currently living at Austin Ranch and a previous resident of Ridge Pointe and The Legends, he notes that among his favorite places are Grandscape. He also notes, "The Windmills, Lava Cantina and Cigars International are great en-

vironments to relax with friends and fraternity brothers on a Sunday afternoon."

Detrick DeBurr is an entrepreneur and author. He left his corporate career with GTE in 2000 to become Founder/CEO of Digital Rhythm Inc., an information technology provider in Dallas, and was later co-founder of Game Time Giving, an organization that facilitates charitable giving competitions between fans at sporting events.

In 2001, DeBurr received Stanford University's Digital Visions Fellowship for addressing the international digital divide, and he has lectured on technology relat-

ed issues all over the world. In 2002, he became known for Deal us in! How Black America can play and win in the digital economy and in 2013, wrote Build Gamified Websites with PHP and JQuery. He formerly hosted "CyWord" an online radio technology program aired by The Black World Today, and in 2011, he founded CUPID! On The Go, a mobile application where users can get access to local news.

The City of the Colony is hosting a Candidate Forum for City Council Places 1 and 2. October 12, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the City of the Colony Annex, 6804 Main Street, The Colony.

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2021 records highest ever number of migrant children crossing the Darien Gap jungle towards the US border

(UNICEF) The number of migrant children who cross the Darien Gap on foot has hit an all-time high, UNICEF warned today. The Darien Gap, a jungle that separates Colombia and Panama, is one of the most dangerous places for migrants attempting to reach North America.

Almost 19,000 migrant children have journeyed through the Darien Gap so far this year, nearly three times more than the number registered over the five previous years combined. More than 1 in 5 migrants crossing the border between Colombia and Panama are children. Half of them are below the age of five.

In this dense tropical forest, migrant families with children are particularly exposed to violence, including sexual abuse, trafficking and extortion from criminal gangs. Children who cross the Darien Gap are also at risk of getting diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, dehydration and other ailments that require immediate attention.

"Each child crossing the Darien Gap on foot is a survivor," said Jean Gough, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Deep in the jungle, robbery, rape and human trafficking are as dangerous as wild animals, insects and the absolute lack of safe drinking water. Week after week, more children are dying, losing their parents, or getting

separated from their relatives while on this perilous journey. It's appalling that criminal groups are taking advantage of these children when they are the most vulnerable."

In 2021, at least 5 children were found dead in the jungle. Since the beginning of this year, more than 150 children arrived in Panama without their parents, some of them are newborn babies – a nearly 20-time increase compared to last year.

In the Darien jungle, sexual violence is increasingly and intentionally used by criminal gangs as an instrument of terror. Between January and September 2021, UNICEF registered 29 reports of sexual abuse of adolescent girls during the journey. Many more women have reported sexual abuse.

"Never before have our teams on the ground seen so many young children crossing the Darien Gap – often unaccompanied. Such a fast-growing influx of children heading north from South America should urgently be treated as a serious humanitarian crisis by the entire region, beyond Panama," Gough said.

Migrants holding more than 50 nationalities from as far afield as Africa and South Asia, are using this route on their way to the United States. Half of the migrants are from Haiti; many of whom have children born in Chile or Brazil.

In Colombia, UNICEF and partners are helping with water, sanitation and

hygiene services, particularly in the pier areas of Necocli where over 1,000

people, including children, are awaiting transportation alternatives into Panama.

UNICEF is also working

See DARIEN, Page 9



Maleyles (3) playing at the UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Migrant Reception Station in San Vicente, Darien, Panama on 24 March 2021. (UNICEF)

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STATE FAIR OF TEXAS



Cowboys on a roll with win over Giants, extend record to 4-1

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

ARLINGTON -- Yet another game saw yet another impressive win by the powerful Dallas Cowboys.

As of now, the expectations for America's Team has elevated to even greater heights after the Cowboys pummelled the New York Giants, 44-20, this past Sunday at AT&T Stadium. It was the fourth straight win for the Cowboys and increased their NFC East-leading record to 4-1.

And this time the Cowboys slapped the Giants around in so many ways.

Quarterback Dak Prescott passed for 302 yards and three touchdowns. And with Ezekiel Elliott rushing for 110 yards on 21 carries, the Cowboys pounded out 201 rushing yardage while completely outmanning the Giants.

Not to be outdone, Trevon Diggs intercepted his NFL-high sixth interception. And his partner in crime in the secondary -- Anthony Brown -- closed out Sunday's scoring by darting 45 yards for a touchdown following his interception.

In piling up 503 total yards, this was as complete a game as any team can get. Which begs the question: What is the Cowboys' ceiling?



All Pro Reels / Flickr

ing?

"We don't show up to work and plan or think about having a ceiling," said Prescott, who completed 22-of-32 passes. "I don't think we have any limits on what we do as an offense, whether it's the run game, passing game and really as a team."

"Whether it's the offense that's struggling, the defense has to pick it up for us, or vice versa. I think time and time again we're getting different reps in different situations to show that just the comradeship and the brotherhood, the way that we're playing complimentary football we're going to play off of one another. It's exciting."

It's exciting because, save for that two-point road loss to the defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers on opening day, the Cowboys have been on cruise control.

The 44 points were a season high for the Cowboys and marked the fourth time they've scored as many as 30 points in a game this year, and the second time they've put up at least 40 points on the board. In all, this is the first time the Cowboys have been 4-1 since 2016, when they finished with a 13-3 record and advanced to the divisional round of the playoffs.

"We've competed five times now and I've felt like we've played winning football in all five contests," coach Mike McCarthy said. "We were looking for more production (Sunday) and I felt we took a step in the right direction."

Diggs certainly took a giant step -- in the same direction he's stepped all season long. The second-year veteran now has at least one interception in all five games this season while

making a strong claim that he could wind up winning the league's Defensive Player of the Year award.

"I was standing there with Dak, and I'll use his words: 'I've never seen anything like it,'" McCarthy said. "The ball goes up in the air and he's coming down with it. I don't even think it's a 50/50 ball anymore."

"He's playing at an extremely high level -- confidence off the charts. Just the way he goes after the football, it's unique. I just think his confidence and even his tackling. He's improving in his tackling. Just the energy and big play ability that he brings, not only to our defense, but to our football team."

Diggs' six interceptions ties the team record set by Don Bishop for the most interceptions through the season's first six games. His interception Sunday set up a 38-yard field goal by

Greg Zuerlein and padded the Cowboys' lead to 27-13 late in the third quarter.

"I've got my goals at the end of the day," Diggs said. "But I'm really focused on taking it one game at a time, just trying to dominate -- dominate everyone that comes in front of me."

"That's the main goal. If I keep doing that, step-by-step, the sky's the limit. I don't know where I can go."

Elliott ran in a touchdown from 13 yards out to pad Dallas' lead to 34-13 with 7:34 remaining in the game. Afterwards, he lauded the fact that the Cowboys ran and hid from the Giants after only leading, 17-13, less than four minutes into the second half.

"Yeah, we didn't play that well," said Elliott, who also caught a touchdown pass. "We had (two) turnovers early, we turned the ball over in the red zone."

"We got the job done, but

we've got to focus on playing a complete game. I said last week that's our next step as a team -- playing a complete game and dominating a team from the first quarter through the fourth quarter. We've got some work to do."

If scoring 44 points and stomping a divisional rival by 24 points translates into meaning the Cowboys have more work to do, the rest of the NFL is in a heap of trouble whenever the Cowboys start firing on all cylinders. In the meantime, as they prepare for this Sunday's 3:25 p.m. tipoff at the New England Patriots, the Cowboys will try not to pat themselves on the back too much.

"I think it's about living in the present, not getting too infatuated with the future either," Prescott said. "Just living in the moment, enjoying this win (over the

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DARIEN, from Page 8

with local authorities to identify unaccompanied and separated children through mobile units.

In Panama, UNICEF and its partners are providing psychosocial support and health services to migrant children, especially those who have been separated from their parents. Our teams are also assisting in referring children who were subjected to violence to local protection services.

Together with the Panama government, UNICEF is distributing water every day to 1,000 people and hygiene kits to migrant adolescent girls and women at

the three migrant reception centres in Bajo Chiquito, Lajas Blancas and San Vicente.

As the number of migrant children and families in the Darien Gap is expected to further increase in the next weeks and months, UNICEF is scaling up its humanitarian response to address the urgent needs of children and families on the move in Panama and Colombia.

With the support of the U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and the European Commission Civil Protection and

Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), our teams and partners on the ground are ramping up the provision of critical services such as access to health, water, hygiene and sanitation, protection, psychosocial support and nutrition.

UNICEF calls on governments to ensure the protection of children on the move throughout their journey and coordinate the rollout of a more robust humanitarian response across all countries involved. The integration of migrant families into host communities should be promoted and the root causes that lead them to migrate should be addressed.

Black actors making big noise at 2021 New York Film Festival

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

It's a new day. In 2021 the New York Film Festival was live and in-person and exhibited a wide array of international films. Documentaries and feature films that broke new ground, showcased Black actors at their best and premiered some blockbusters that will be in movie theaters and on streaming services later this year or early 2022. These are some of the most intriguing.

Dune (1/2)** In 1984, filmmaker David Lynch brought Frank Herbert's 1967 cult-classic science fiction novel Dune to the big screen. It was 90% pageantry, 10 % verve and a complete snore. The first 30 minutes of Canadian director Denis Villeneuve's 2021 adaptation feels similar; it's stunningly beautiful, but initially act/adv/dra fans will wonder: "Where's the beef?" Lots of setup, countless characters, deadly rivalries and no action. Keep the faith. Once the footage meticulously lays out the groundwork, momentum builds and what comes is eye-catching and kinetic. Like a Star Wars movie, only set among high sand dunes and not outer space.

In the year 10191, the desert planet Arrakis has



The Tragedy of Macbeth NYFF Press Conference with Frances MacDormand, Denzel Washington and cast. (Courtesy photo)

been fought and lusted over for years due to one of its precious minerals. Different groups vie to run the planet, and all are led down the same path of destruction as they're deviously manipulated by Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgård). He pits the warring factions against each other—like pawns. The latest noble family to take the bait is the House of Atreides, run by the Duke (Oscar Isaac), his heir Paul (Timothée Chalamet) and his mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson). With their fierce militia, they take over the planet, are tasked with harvesting the natural resources and dealing with the locals. Good luck.

There are enough play-

ers and conflicts to stretch this storyline out and spawn spinoffs indefinitely. Sci-fi screenwriter Jon Spaihts (Doctor Strange), drama writer Eric Roth (Forrest Gump) and writer/director Villeneuve (Arrival) are the right team at the right time. As their story pans out it is easy to track who's who and what's at stake. The deep beige sand dunes and valleys with gigantic sand worm monsters and fierce combatants sustain tension. Paul and Jessica's odd mental telepathy powers and slick warrior skills performed by characters like Duncan (Jason Momoa) are fascinating. The entire cast excels: Zendaya (Spider-Man: Far from Home), Sharon Duncan-Brew (Rogue One: A Star Wars Story),

Josh Brolin, Chen Chang, Dave Bautista Babs Olusanmokin (Wrath of Man), Benjamin Clementine and Charlotte Rampling.

Production designer Patrice Vermette, cinematographer Greig Fraser, film editor Joe Walker, costume designers Bob Morgan and Jacqueline West and composer Hans Zimmer (The Lion King) should dust off their formal wear for Oscar night, they'll need it. What a spectacle. This is the event movie audiences have been waiting for and theaters have been coveting.

The French Dispatch

(**1/2) In this quirky nod and a wink to journalism, writer/director Wes Anderson and co-writers Jason Schwartzman and Roman Coppola return to their more esoteric brand of humor (The Royal Tenenbaums). It's almost like they've walked away from a more accessible formula (The Grand Budapest Hotel, \$170M at the box office). Intact, is Anderson's penchant for creating zany, odd cartoonish characters: It's the final days of an expatriate U.S. magazine whose staff works in a satellite office in the quaint French town of Ennui-sur-Blasé. They're all about to lose their jobs, which mimics real-life as journalists today are constantly on the precipice of unemployment. Scribes and art film fans may relate to this tedious parable. But Anderson, his crew and this inside-joke movie may have overplayed their hand with average viewers.

It's as if Anderson told the entire cast (Jeffrey Wright, Bill Murray, Léa Seydoux, Timothée Chalamet, Benicio Del Toro and half of SAG) to act weird and maybe people won't

notice that this film is one-note. The cinematography, costumes, production design, set decoration and art direction are gorgeous and ingenious. Would have been a wonderful short film. But as an 1hr 48min feature film, the footage continues long after the joke is over, and the punchline has been delivered.

The Tragedy of Macbeth (**)** There comes a point in every year when audiences see a film they believe is this year's masterpiece. This is that time, that film. Joel Coen (O, Brother Where Art Thou) has created a magnus opus that sets a high bar few other films vying for annual awards will reach. He reinterprets one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, Macbeth, keeping the most pivotal parts. Some potential viewers may have forgotten the crux of the plotting, but not the most famous lines: "Double, double toil and trouble;" "What's done cannot be undone."

Scottish general Macbeth (Denzel Washington) is warned by three witches (Kathryn Hunt) that some-

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New CFPB director pledges to protect Americans from financial fraud

Credit reporting, student loan debt and payday loans among chief consumer concerns

By Charlene Crowell

The U.S. Senate on September 28 confirmed Rohit Chopra to a full, five-year term as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Chopra returns to the agency where he earlier helped craft and implement key protections to create a level financial playing field for consumers and businesses alike.

At a time when the still-unfolding COVID-19 pandemic has left much of Black America – its people and small businesses – financially marginalized, an active and aggressive ‘consumer cop-on-the-beat’ is especially needed. Based on his previous tenure with the agency, and as a commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission, Chopra is expected to be an advocate for more aggressive enforcement and greater liability for bad actors, including corporate executives, whether the issue is the nation’s trillion-dollar student loan debt, predatory payday lending, or ensuring accurate credit reporting to support equal access to affordable credit.

Chopra’s comments before the U.S. Senate Bank-



Rohit Chopra
(Courtesy photo)

ing Committee during his March confirmation hearing reflect his commitment to financial fairness.

“[W]e must not forget that the financial lives of millions of Americans are in ruin... Consumers continue to discover serious errors on their credit reports or feel forced to make payments to debt collectors on bills they already paid or never owed to begin with, including for medical treatment related to Covid-19,” testified Chopra.

“Congress has entrusted the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with carefully monitoring markets to spot risks, ensuring compliance with existing law, educating consumers, and promoting competition,” he continued. “This not only helps to protect Americans from fraud and

other unlawful conduct, it also ensures that law-abiding businesses, regardless of size, can compete... I pledge to be a good partner to each of you and approach the agency’s mission with an open mind and attuned to market realities.”

An aggressive combination of enforcement and regulation would go a long way towards remedying many of the financial problems that beset Black America.

Analyzing complaints received by census tract data, a new CFPB report published in September found that communities with different racial or ethnic characteristics experience the credit marketplace differently. Moreover, census tracts with the highest share of Black or African American consumers submit the most complaints per resident.

“Beginning in March 2020, the number of consumers with credit reporting complaints increased rapidly from levels that were already elevated in 2019... A large share of complaints from high Black or African American census tracts concern credit reporting,” states the report.

Inaccurate or outdated credit reports can negatively impact access to employment, access to credit as well as the cost of credit for individuals and businesses. For several years, a growing number of employers use credit reports as part of screening job applicants. Applicants found to have spotty or risky credit profiles can be eliminated from consideration. Further, when a small business or consumer apply applies for credit, its costs can be increased due to negative credit reports. Even worse, those who try to correct credit report errors often experience lengthy delays or denials, according to the CFPB report.

“Given the scale and persistence of the racial wealth divide, these differences are hardly surprising—but they do highlight the active role that consumers in Black or African American commu-

nities take in trying to address credit issues.... Past barriers limiting access to mainstream credit for racial minorities, the long-term impact of the 2008 mortgage crisis, and continued inequality in access continue to determine the types of opportunities consumers have—and these contexts shape consumer interactions with the CFPB,” concludes the report.

Similarly, multiple independent research reports attest to the severe financial impacts of student loan debt.

“[B]lack students are leaving college with the highest average debt per borrower and per graduate across all racial groups,” according to Legislation, Policy, and the Black Student Debt Crisis, published in 2020 by the NAACP. “This is true of both bachelor’s and associate’s degree holders – who were both

more likely to borrow and borrowed more to finance their education – as well as for Black students across all public and private sectors of higher education.”

According to the Brookings Institution, four years after college graduation the average Black graduate owes \$52,726 in student debt, while the average white graduate owes \$28,006.

“Extensive research has established that Black borrowers and other borrowers of color tend to have more difficulty in student loan repayment than their white peers because of past and ongoing racial discrimination,” Julia Barnard, a senior researcher at the Center for Responsible Lending wrote in a policy brief published this summer. “They are also among the communities hit hardest by the current pan-

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day he will be king. Heeding that prophecy and egged on by his ambitious wife Lady Macbeth (McDormand), the impatient general kills the current king, becomes the new ruler and murders more people during his uncontrollable fits of paranoia. A rebellion erupts, aiming to overthrow him. Themes of greed, deception and ruthlessness mirror the U.S.’s recent political spectrum and should enthrall audiences with its timeliness. Shot in stunning black and white (cinematographer Bruno Delbonnel) with the most arresting production design (Stefan Dechant), art direction (Jason T. Clark), set

decoration (Nancy Haigh) and regal costumes (Mary Zophres) vivid images from this film will mesmerize audiences as much as the penetrating dialogue, treacherous plot points and Coen’s gifted direction and writing.

Comparisons to the style of Laurence Olivier’s classic 1940s Shakespeare adaptations and early twentieth century German expressionism are noted, but Cohen’s netherworld seems unique and new in its own way. Not filmed as a stage play, not set in real surroundings. When Oscar acting nominations are handed out, expect Washington’s brooding perfor-

mance and McDormand’s scheming portrayal to top the lists. Award nominations should also be given to Alex Hassell as the sleazy vulture Ross, Bertie Carvel as Banquo, Moses Ingram as Lady Macduff and Corey Hawkins (Straight Outta Compton) as the brave and righteous Macduff. Every element of this work of art is beyond excellent. Who could have guessed that sheer ruthlessness could be so damn astounding?

For more information about the New York Film Festival go to: <https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2021/>

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com.



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Texas juvenile system under investigation by Justice Department

The Justice Department announced on Wednesday that it has opened a state-wide investigation into the conditions in the five secure juvenile correctional facilities run by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

The investigation will examine whether Texas provides children confined in the facilities reasonable protection from physical and sexual abuse by staff and other residents, excessive use of chemical restraints and excessive use of isolation. The investigation will also examine whether Texas provides adequate mental health care.

“Too often children held in juvenile detention facilities are subject to abuse and mistreatment, and deprived of their constitutional rights,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “State officials have a constitutional obligation to ensure reasonable safety for children in these institutions. The Department of Justice stands ready to protect the rights of children who end up in juvenile facilities and our investigation will ensure that the treatment of these children comports with constitutional standards.”



Anh Nguyen / Unsplash

“The U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Western District of Texas is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all persons, including vulnerable young persons incarcerated in Texas Juvenile Justice Department secure facilities,” said U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff for the Western District of Texas. “We look forward to partnering with the Civil Rights Division and other U.S. Attorney’s Offices in our state to conduct a fair and thorough investigation of these allegations.”

of Texas is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all persons, including vulnerable young persons incarcerated in Texas Juvenile Justice Department secure facilities,” said U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff for the Western District of Texas. “We look forward to partnering with the Civil Rights Division and other U.S. Attorney’s Offices in our state to conduct a fair and thorough investigation of these alle-

gations.” “Young people, even though they are confined in a juvenile facility, should not be abused, mistreated or deprived of essential services,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery of the Southern District of Texas. “We have a duty to ensure young people incarcerated in our state are held under safe and constitutional conditions.”

“No matter who they are – or what they’ve done – our state’s kids deserve safe environments,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Chad Meacham of the Northern District of Texas. “We cannot expect juvenile offenders to thrive later in life if they emerge from confinement traumatized by sexual abuse, excessive force, or incessant isolation.”

“The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District

of Texas is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all Texas children, including those incarcerated in Texas Juvenile Correctional Facilities,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei of the Eastern District of Texas. “We are proud to partner with the Civil Rights Division and the other U.S. Attorney’s Offices of Texas to conduct a fair and thorough investigation of these allegations.”

The department has not reached any conclusions regarding the allegations in this matter. The investigation will be conducted under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. Both statutes give the department the authority to investigate systemic violations of the rights of young people in

juvenile correctional facilities. The department’s work has led to important reforms to protect the rights of young people housed in those facilities.

The Civil Rights Division’s Special Litigation Section is conducting this investigation jointly with the U.S. Attorneys’ offices in the Western, Eastern, Southern and Northern Districts of Texas. Individuals with relevant information are encouraged to contact the department via phone at 1-866-432-0438 or by email at TX.Juveniles@usdoj.gov.

Additional information about the Civil Rights Division’s work regarding juvenile correctional facilities and the administration of juvenile justice is available on its website at <https://www.justice.gov/crt/rights-juveniles>.

POPE, from Page 2

pishments including Past President of the Women’s Council of NAREB, Mt. Pleasant Advisory Board, Ohio Housing Finance Agency Committee, Cleveland Realist Association Past President & Chair, and the Cleveland/Akron Leg-

islative Committee. Pope also holds a long-time membership with the NAACP. Significantly, Pope declared that NAREB seeks ways to assist African Americans in wealth building and sustainability.

Founded in Tampa, Florida, in 1947 as an equal opportunity and civil rights advocacy organization for African American real estate professionals, consumers, and communities in America. According to its website, the purpose of NAREB is to enhance the economic improvement of

its members, the community at large, and the minority community which it serves. To unite those engaged in the recognized branches of the real estate industry including brokerage, management, mortgage financing, appraising, land development, home building, and allied fields for the purpose

of exerting influence on real estate interests. Although composed principally of African Americans, the REALIST organization embraces all qualified real estate practitioners who are committed to achieving our vision, which is Democracy in Housing. “Our mission is to provide solutions to the

various challenges Black people face,” Pope stated. “It’s not just increasing awareness of the barriers to homeownership, but we want to provide solutions to all of the challenges, and educating our community is one of the biggest ways we at NAREB can have a positive impact.”

COWBOYS, from Page 9

Giants). “It’s about the growth. There was a lot of growth, I guess is what you’re looking for, out there on the field (Sunday). Handling different adversity, handling different situations, being able to finish the game.” Part of that adversity resulted from Prescott knowing that the game against the Giants was nearly one year to the day since he suffered a compound fracture and dislocation of his right

ankle in the same stadium against the same team. He tried not to think about that on Sunday, but. . . “It’s in the back of your head unconsciously or not,” Prescott said. “I didn’t quite feel as energetic or as myself earlier in the game and I don’t know if that played a part in it or not. “Once that touchdown to CeeDee (Lamb made it 10-0 Dallas early in the second quarter), it was kind of when I started rolling

and got into the groove. I’m grateful to be, as you said, almost a year past this thing, but I’m thankful for just the way I’ve grown and everything it’s allowed me to learn about myself and the support that I’ve had through it all. I’m just blessed and grateful.” And the Cowboys are grateful to be two games ahead of Washington and Philadelphia in the NFC East. “I am encouraged that our best football is ahead

of us,” Elliott said. “Right now we’re not peaking. “It’s a long season. We

want to be sure we’re peaking at the right time. We just have to keeping work-

ing week in and week out to reach where we want to go.”

Let us hear from YOU!!!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:

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LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2160	Weekly Half Grand Overall Odds are 1 in 4.78	\$1	11/17/21	5/16/22
2299	Lucky Dog Overall Odds are 1 in 4.34	\$2	11/17/21	5/16/22
2339	Mucho Dinero Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29	\$2	11/17/21	5/16/22
2289	50X Speedway Riches Overall Odds are 1 in 3.99	\$5	11/17/21	5/16/22
2291	Willy Wonka Golden Ticket™ Overall Odds are 1 in 4.15	\$5	11/17/21	5/16/22

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



Ongoing House of Blues

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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

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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.

U.S. Black Chamber Prez talks loss of African American businesses and a global future for the black dollar

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

During the first three months of the pandemic, approximately 442,000 – or 41 percent – of Black businesses shuttered.

As COVID continues to hamper progress, the overall decline of small and minority-owned firms remains striking.

Data culled from multiple studies revealed that Latinx business owners fell by 32 percent and Asian business owners dropped by 26 percent. Meanwhile, the number of White business owners fell by 17 percent.

While the current climate has exacerbated the wealth gap and unveiled the unimagined financial straits of Black and other minority companies, studies also revealed that about 58 percent of African American-owned businesses were at risk of fiscal distress even before the outbreak of the pandemic in February 2020.

"There's no question it has been a challenge," said Ron Busby, the president and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. in Northwest, Washington, D.C.

"Last year was a difficult time for the majority

of businesses in America with COVID, the murder of George Floyd, and the Stimulus Package – or lack thereof, in our community," said Busby, who visited the new state-of-the-art television studios of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) for an appearance on PBS-TV's "The Chavis Chronicles."

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. hosts the nationally televised program.

"When you talk to Black business owners, very few received any stimulus money," Busby continued. "We lost 41 percent of Black businesses, and many of them will never re-open, and many of those firms had employees, vendors, and customers."

Such losses critically hurt the tax base in Black communities while White firms have stepped in to replace some of the lost businesses, Busby noted.

To better understand the alarming loss of Black-owned firms, some have reflected on pre-pandemic statistics, which revealed that between 2012 and 2017, Black-owned businesses with no employees in the United States increased 19.2 percent.

According to BlackDe-

mographics.com, receipts generated by Black-owned businesses with no employees during the same period increased from \$46.8 billion in 2012 to \$65.7 billion

See CHAMBER, Page 15



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NAN Chapter President

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

The President:

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

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

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

October 17, 9:45 am
Please join us in our quiet time, “Prayer and Medita-

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

October 20, 7 pm

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world’s Coronavirus. In Wednesday’s Bible we are studying Philipians Chapter 3. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

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October

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

October 17

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.

October 20, 7 pm

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

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- Malachi 3:8-10

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

October 15, 7 pm

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

October 17, 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.

October 18, 7 pm

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

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Check “SMBC’s” website

for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

October 17, 8 and 11 am

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

October 18, 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).

October 20, 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.

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What Would Life Be Without Mistakes?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Let me be clear from the beginning. I have made a lot of mistakes during my life. I have made mistakes that I don’t even know about to this day. Even the ones I do know about, I cannot remember very clearly.

Mistakes are a part of life. Unfortunately, some people believe they live their whole life without making any mistakes.

That’s mistake number one.

I am where I am today because of the mistakes in my life. I have learned a lot from my mistakes, except I have not learned not to make any more mistakes.

If somebody has not made mistakes in life, I would have to give that award to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Perhaps the closest she has ever come to making a mistake was in marrying me, but that certainly was not my mistake

at all. Marrying her was the best choice I have ever made in life.

I suppose she does make mistakes, but she knows how to fix them before anybody notices them. I wish I knew how she does that.

Those who think they make no mistakes in life are just kidding themselves and are not really living.

I remember several years ago a mistake I made. I planned to fill up my truck with gas for the week. It was clearly on empty. I should never have let it get that low, but I did.

As I drove to the gas station, I thought of something I needed to pick up at Publix, which was on the way. So I stopped, went in and bought the item I wanted and then went out to get in my truck and go get some gas.

As I turned the key to start the engine, it did not start. I didn’t know what to do at the time. I tried my

best to start it, but nothing I did managed to start it.

Then, I looked at the fuel tank gauge and saw that it had passed empty, and according to that, the truck was out of gas.

That was a big mistake. That mistake brought me a terrible consequence.

I sat in the truck for a few moments staring at my cell phone. I knew what I had to do, but I didn’t want to do it. In a few minutes, I tried to start it again, and I had the same result.

Quietly sitting in the truck, I continued staring at my cell phone. I had no option at the time. I had to do what I had to do.

So, I called the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

“My dear,” I said as sweetly as possible, which is above my pay grade, “could you get a can of gasoline and bring it to me? I’m over here at Publix.”

I heard silence on the other end, and then I heard

chuckling.

“Are you telling me,” she said, trying not to chuckle, “that your truck is out of gas?”

Of course, she knew the answer to that question, but she used it to poke me.

“No,” I said sarcastically, “I just want to know if you can bring me a can of gasoline to Publix.”

I think she could feel the frustration in my voice.

That certainly was another mistake added onto the first mistake.

“Oh,” she said, “I might be able to get over there in about three hours.”

I did hear her chuckling over the phone. I pretended I did not hear her chuckling, which was another mistake. I hung up the phone and sat in my truck thinking that I had a three-hour wait until she got there with the gas for the truck.

On my fourth deep sigh, I saw my wife driving her van and park right next to

my truck. I saw her through the window with the biggest smile I’ve ever seen her wear.

She got out of her van and said, “Is this the truck that’s out of gas?”

At this point, I had exhausted all of my mistakes and just soberly nodded my head in the affirmative.

She got a can of gas out of her van and set it down next to my truck. I picked it up and emptied it into my truck’s gas tank.

When finished, I put the can back in her van and closed the door. Then, I looked at her and simply said, “Thank you so much for your help.”

She chuckled and said, “Do you think you ought to go and fill your truck up with gas now?”

Being all out of mistakes at this point, I told her, “I’m going right now and fill this truck up with as much gas as I can get.”

I took my time going to

the gas station and filling up my truck because I knew I would experience the next stage of my wife’s giggling about my mistake as soon as I got home.

My biggest lessons have come from mistakes I’ve made. But the lessons only come when I deal with the error and make it right.

I like what David said, “Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults” (Psalm 19:12).

It’s one thing to deal with the mistakes at hand, but it’s another thing to be cleansed from secret faults. So I’m learning to deal with the mistakes that I don’t know I’m making each day.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472, where he lives with his wife. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail james-snyder51@gmail.com. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Evidence of God



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

(Roman 1:19-20)

Have you ever had someone say, "I don't see any evidence of God. How can a person believe in someone you can't see or see any evidence even exists?"

The Bible tells us that God is revealed in His cre-

ation every day. Look at the human body and consider the likelihood of how thousands of body parts that must work together.

Someone created it to work this well. If it were a manufactured product, it would be in the repair shop all the time because of all the moving parts required to make it work.

Consider the wonderful order and balance of nature and how the seas know their boundaries, the beauty of the mountains, and the balance of rain and oxygen needed to balance the ecosystems. Consider God's signature, the rainbow.

The 12th century Scottish Christian mystic, Richard of St. Victor said, "The whole of this sensible world is like a book written



Ms. Sonya Demus Patrick, celebrating her 50th birthday at the Blue Mesa Restaurant in North Dallas.

by the finger of God."

Look at nature and wonder at the creative design of the hundreds of thousands of species of animals like the tiger, the elephant, the great whales, and the thou-

sands of species of birds, just to name a few.

Consider the planet we live on. "The Earth is a rough sphere about eight thousand miles in diameter, which means that it's

about four thousand miles straight down to the center.

We're accustomed to thinking of it as a ball of rock, but that's not so: the great majority of the Earth is liquid - molten rock called magma swirling, incredible slowly, beneath our feet.

The solid part of the earth that we live on, and in whose hollows the sea sits, is called the crust, and on average it's only a few miles thick - maybe ten miles. That's like a layer a third of a millimeter thick coating a football.

We live on that incredibly fragile, thin layer of plates floating on the subterranean sea of magma."* Yes, God has revealed Himself in His creation.

INTEGRITY ... God,

how many people today are lacking integrity? I can think of so many scandals among business and Christian leaders, as well as everyday people.

What a shame. I pray that God would help me to always will be a person of integrity.

God, help me to have undivided devotion to You, to firmly adhere to my faith and moral values, to practice biblical ethics, and be of sound mind and good character. God, I pray for my family, that each one would realize the importance of integrity and would live their lives accordingly.

Help us to be examples of Christ-like character in this world. Thank You, in Jesus the Name of Jesus.

CHAMBER, from Page 13

in 2017.

Overall, Black-owned employer businesses in the United States increased 13.6 percent, while the number of employees at those firms rose by 23.9 percent.

"It's difficult to start a business out of the gate, and it's going to be tough to try and have them come back," Busby stated.

He said the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. provides leadership and advocacy in the realization of economic empowerment.

The organization supports African American Chambers of Commerce and business organizations by helping them develop and grow Black enterprises.

Busby said the U.S. Black Chamber also works with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by joining quarterly discussions on issues

pertinent to African American business owners.

"We also have an entire economic conversation about America," Busby remarked. "For us to have a great America, there must be a great Black America. So, to have a great Black America, we've got to have great Black businesses," he asserted.

Busby also bristled at the continued conversation surrounding the more than \$1 trillion Black Americans reportedly contribute to the economy.

"It's an interesting number," Busby contemplated.

"Usually, it's corporate America saying Black consumers have \$1 trillion. How can we market to them to make sure that they get their share? The U.S. Black Chamber says, 'we as Black consumers have \$1 trillion, how can we

keep that in our community to make sure that our communities have sustainability?"

Born in Houston, Texas, and raised in Oakland, Calif., Busby said the Black Panthers, which his father served as a member, displayed a commitment to the Black community that has helped him keep his resolve to better the plight of African Americans.

"I saw the impact that Black men have on communities, making sure that we are leading each other in a positive environment," Busby reminisced.

"That stayed with me all my life, and I've been involved in fraternities and 100 Black Men. Then, I moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where [Arizona Informant Publisher] Cloves Campbell allowed me to know more about the NNPA and national news. Then, in 2009, I got the call

to come to Washington for the U.S. Black Chamber."

Busby added that the Black Chamber also focuses on expanding throughout the globe.

"We think about the Black dollar globally because that's the future for Black businesses," Busby concluded.

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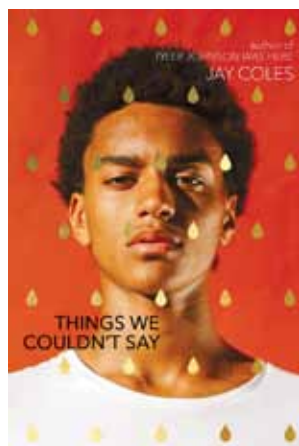
NDG Book Review: 'Things We Couldn't Say' is good for older kids

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You'd like an explanation, please.

Why something is done or not, why permission is denied, you'd like to hear a simple reason. You've been asking "Why?" since you were two years old but now the older you get, the more urgent is the need to know – although, in the new book "Things We Couldn't Say" by Jay Coles, there could be a dozen because.

Sometimes, mostly when he didn't need it to happen, Giovanni Zucker's birth mother took over his thoughts.



It wasn't as though she was the only thing he had to think about. Gio was an important part of the basketball team at Ben Davis High School; in fact, when he thought about college,

he hoped for a basketball scholarship. He had classes to study for, two best friends he wanted to hang out with, a little brother who was his reason to get up in the morning, and a father who was always pushing for help at the church he ran. As for his romantic life, there wasn't much to report: Gio dated girls and he'd dated guys and he was kinda feeling like he liked guys more.

So no, he didn't want to think about his birth mother. The woman who walked out on the family when Gio was a little kid didn't deserve his consideration at all. There was just no time for the first

woman who broke his heart.

It was nice to have distractions from his thoughts. Gio's best friends had his back. He knew pretty much everybody in his Indianapolis neighborhood. And the guy who moved across the street, a fellow b-baller named David, was becoming a good friend.

A very good friend.

David was bi-sexual, too.

But just as their relationship was beginning, the unthinkable happened: Gio's birth mother reached out, emailed him, wanted to meet with him, and he was torn. She said she had "reasons" for abandoning him all those

years ago, and her truth was not what he'd imagined...

There are a lot of pleasant surprises inside "Things We Couldn't Say."

From the start, author Jay Coles gives his main character a great support system, and that's an uniquely good thing. Gio enjoys the company of people who want the best for him, and it's refreshing that even the ones who are villains do heroic things.

Everyone in this book, in fact, has heart, and that softens the drama that Coles adds – which leads to another nice surprise: there's no overload of screeching dra-

ma here. Overwrought teen conflict is all but absent; even potential angsts that Gio might notice in his urban neighborhood are mentioned but not belabored. This helps keep readers focused on a fine, relatable, and very realistic coming-of-age story line.

This book is aimed at readers ages 12-and-up, but beware that there are a few gently explicit, but responsibly written, pages that might not be appropriate for kids in the lower target range. For older kids and adults, though, "Things We Couldn't Say" offers plenty of reasons to love it.

CPFB, from Page 11

demic and its effects."

The rippling effects of heavy and long-term student debt frequently delay decisions to purchase a home, contribute to high levels of financial stress, and may lead to working more than one job to diminish debt. These real-life concerns are familiar to Chopra.

Following the 2010 passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Chopra in 2011 helped launch the CFPB, serving as its Assistant Director and overseer of its student loan agenda. Shortly thereafter, he was named its Student

Loan Ombudsman, where he led efforts to spur competition in the student loan financing market, and to develop new tools to help student loan borrowers make smarter decisions.

Under Chopra, CFPB delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in refunds for borrowers victimized by deceitful and unlawful conduct by loan servicers, debt collectors, and for-profit college chains.

By the end of its first decade of service, CFPB returned more than \$12 billion to more than 29 million consumers, and levied fines on bad financial actors in

other consumer finance areas including prepaid cards, credit repair, debt settlement, and pawn and title loans.

Under the Trump administration, however, consumer restitution all but disappeared and many of the hard-won regulations were reversed. A spate of political appointees replaced career civil servants and the agency's actions turned a blind eye away from consumers, favoring instead private enterprises and scant regulation

Those actions were direct opposition to the prior five-year period in which CFPB conducted a series of public forums across the nation as

well as publishing research and analysis related to the high-cost, small-dollar loans. The resulting payday rule promulgated under CFPB's first director zeroed in on two lending concerns: the ability to repay and ending the automatic seizure of consumer payments from checking accounts.

While most forms of consumer credit include underwriting to ensure the ability to repay, payday loans typically require only proof of income and an active checking account. By allowing lenders direct access to checking accounts, ample research reveals that most borrowers are unable to meet other financial obli-

gations. In the worst cases, when excessive overdraft charges are incurred, consumers' accounts are cancelled by banks, leaving consumers more dependent upon other costly fringe financial services.

Despite the persistence of predatory lenders, Director Chopra begins his job with the support of a 138-member strong coalition of state and national advocates. Additionally, key federal lawmakers like Rep. Maxine Waters, Chair of the House Financial Services Committee and Sen. Sherrod Brown, Chair of the Senate Banking Committee, have offered their support as well.

In a floor speech that preceded the Senate vote, Chairman Brown spoke directly to the hopes of consumers across the country.

"It's not surprising that most people don't believe there's anyone on their side fighting for them in the federal government, but we know that's not true," Brown said. "That's why Rohit Chopra will prove them wrong. He'll fight for all those that feel like they've been left on their own."

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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In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.