



# North Dallas Gazette

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## NTTA's Financial Segregation: Black contractors say it's no justice, no piece of the pie

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Contributing Writer

Social injustice comes in many forms, with one being no more harmful than the other. Yet, when it comes to the distribution of wealth, one will find that failing to provide sustainable forms of income to Black communities may be the most damning injustice of all.

A 2020 report of the affairs of the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) revealed a grave disparity in the amount of contracts it awards to Black businesses compared to contracts with whites.

The NTTA receives federal and state funds in the billions for the construction of freeways, tollways, and other services that are associated with the construction of the state's infrastructure.

By law, 30% of those tax dollars are to go to "minorities." The problem is this: whereas, a small percentage of those funds actually are awarded to "minority-owned" businesses, the businesses that are wholly-owned Black businesses again find themselves on the outside looking in. While all Black businesses ever wanted was their small piece of a rather sizeable tax-funded pie.



Moses Aito of the North Texas Tollway Authority defends the record of the agency in a recent interview with Jackie Hardy which is available on the North Dallas Gazette's Youtube channel. (Screenshot)

Construction contractor John Proctor serves as Chairman of the Regional Black Contractors Association. Proctor has been in the construction business for the past 46 years.

After nearly a half-century of dealing with the contract procurement system, Proctor has grown annoyed at the way the wealth of contracts is unevenly distributed to businesses competing for construction contracts. Proctor says NTTA's maze of requirements for earning a contract are something akin to systemic racism, something Blacks be-

lieved they had overcome.

"It's simple to me," Proctor declares, "Segregation today. Segregation tomorrow. And segregation forever in the infrastructure business."

Proctor isn't talking about segregated water fountains or restrooms, but the segregation of wealth. Proctor says that NTTA is run by rich white men, who will casually spend \$20 million on a project, but as a Black contractor "You won't get a dime of your own tax money."

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Dr. Lodze Steckman

### People In The News ...



Jarnette L. Brownlee



MA1 Isaac Huerta

*NDG Quote of the Week: "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." —Booker T. Washington*



## Dr. Lodze Steckman

(PR.com) Lodze Steckman, MD, FACS, FAACS, FAAAM, ISCG, MPH, MBA, of Locust Valley, New York has been honored as a Woman of the Month for October 2021 by P.O.W.E.R. (Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized) for her outstanding achievements and high level of success in the fields of aesthetics and wellness. Each month P.O.W.E.R. features women to represent their professions and industries due to their expertise and success in their chosen spe-



cialty.

Dr. Lodze Steckman is a cosmetic surgeon and the owner/CEO of Jouvence Aesthetics and Wellness in New York, New York. Jouvence offers many ser-

vices including liposuction, Brazilian butt lifts, tummy tucks, labiaplasty, O-shots, P-shots, Botox, fillers, buccal fat pad removal, CoolSculpting, laser hair removal, facial rejuvenation, skin tightening, hyperhidrosis, and gynecomastia treatment. She also offers wellness services with treatment for joint pain and back pain.

Lodze Steckman grew up in Haiti with no running water and a single mother who prioritized education. She studied cardiothoracic and cosmetic surgery in Israel, Paris, and the U.S. She earned a M.D. from Faculté de Médecine et de

Pharmacie, Port-au-Prince in Haiti, 1987, and a M.P.H. and M.B.A. from Benedictine University in 2015. She completed surgical training in Harlem Hospital and Long Island Jewish Hospital, is trained in cardiothoracic surgery, and is Board Certified in Aesthetic Medicine (FAAAM) since 2013 and Board Certified in General Surgery (FACS) since 2011. Dr. Steckman is a fellow of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery and the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Steckman has earned numerous awards including the Champion for Human-

ity Award in 2014 from Hermandad and a Woman's History Month Award in 2005 and 2008 from Health and Hospitals Corporation. Dr. Steckman is a former member of the Workforce on Media Relations and Communication of the American Society of Thoracic Surgery, and of the Disaster Emergency Preparedness Committee at Harlem Hospital in New York. Dr. Steckman is affiliated with the A.C.S., A.A.C.S. and I.S.C.G.

Dr. Lodze Steckman lives in Locust Valley with her husband Lawrence Steckman, Esq. specialized in

RICO and securities litigation, and her 2 children: Jeffrey Santelli who specializes in IT and Monika Santelli who is also a lawyer. In her spare time, Lodze enjoys to travel.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever." - Ephesians 3:20-21- NASB

For further information, visit her website at [www.jouvence-ny.com](http://www.jouvence-ny.com), her Facebook page, her Instagram or her LinkedIn profile.

## Jarnette L. Brownlee

(PR.com)-- Jarnette L. Brownlee of Los Angeles, California has been celebrated as a VIP Member for 2021 by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide for her outstanding contributions and high level of success in the field of massage therapy.



Brownlee is a massage therapist at Healing Is What I'm Giving in Torrance, California covering the Los Angeles area. She provides Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, sports massage, prenatal massage, and couple massage.

Jarnette trained in a va-

riety of modalities and can help her clients pick a style that fits what their body needs so they can live their best life. In addition, she offers sugar scrubs from naturally made sugar scrub in assorted scents such as

lemon, almond and coconut, aromatherapy utilizing lavender, peppermint, eucalyptus, and tea tree, and hot towels to soothe and soften the tissue.

Born October 28, 1989 in Los Angeles, California, Jarnette obtained a B.S. in Kinesiology from California State University, Northridge in 2012 and is a Certified Massage Therapist. She is affiliated with the S.O.C.H.I. In her spare time, Jarnette enjoys physical fitness, travel, and massages.

Jarnette states, "Massage should be a regular part of your well-being routine. So let's enjoy and rejuvenate."

For further information, contact [www.healingiswhatimgiving.com](http://www.healingiswhatimgiving.com).

Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide is an international advertising, networking and publishing company based in Farmingdale, New York. They are proud to be able to satisfy their clients and continue to have repeat clientele due to their

longevity and pride in their products and services. The Owners strive to connect business professionals to enhance their contact base and networking capabilities so they can get the acknowledgment and publicity within their industries and beyond. The Strathmore family has been providing these valuable services for

over two decades. They target executives and professionals in all industries to be featured in their publication and on-line directory. Industries include business, law, education, healthcare and medicine, fine arts, IT, government, science, real estate, entertainment and many more accomplished fields.

## MA1 Isaac Huerta



**SOUTH CHINA SEA (Nov. 12, 2021)** Master-at-Arms 1st Class Isaac Huerta, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, gives instructions to Ensign Michael Pifer, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. during a active shooter drill aboard Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), Nov. 12, 2021. Chafee is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability through alliances and partnerships while serving as a ready-response force in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Omar Powell)

# Have you watched our videos?



## Check us out on Youtube!

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.





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**Dr. John E. Warren**  
Publisher,  
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Voice &  
Viewpoint

A number of actions taking place in our courts today are confirming what we as Black people have always known and experienced, namely, a dual system of justice in America. One for Black and people of color, and one for White people.

Consider the following current events as supportive proof of this statement. For those who attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6 in what we now know was an "insurrection" with intent to kill, we have seen those people identified and charged get light sentences. Consider the White grandmother who posted all kinds of proud photos at the "ral-

ly" and received a sentence of "community service". Others got less than a year in prison time where maximum sentences were available.

Consider now the Kyle Rittenhouse case under way in Kanosa, Wisconsin for the shooting of three people and the killing of two following the protest of the police shooting of Mr. Jacob Blake. Rittenhouse drove out of his way to attend the protest with an AK-47 assault rifle. Charged with murder by the prosecution, we have an old white judge who decides that those shot and or killed can not be called victims but must be called "looters", even though they were not on trial. This action in and of itself was prejudicial.

Now the judge has gone two steps further. First, he excused Rittenhouse's bail violation by not informing

the court that he had moved. Such actions by Blacks and people of color have led to bail revocation and lockup.

Second, the Judge's most recent blasting of the prosecution with such personal hostility in front of the jury certainly should be considered prejudicial and suggests that the judge is unfit to continue presiding over this trial. Consider the defense motion to "declare a mistrial with "prejudice", which, if granted, would be the same as an acquittal.

The people of Wisconsin should file complaints against the judge with the State Judicial Tenure Commission and should ask the judge to either remove himself or request to have him removed. If he were Black, the process would already be underway. It appears that where prosecutors are finally seeking convictions of such crimes of Whites

against people of color, the judges are making more leniency available.

Let us not forget the Arbery trail in Georgia, where the three white men accused of the murder are saying they had a right to kill Mr. Arbery under an old Civil War statute allowing the murder of Black folks. And let us not forget the importance of jury selection, which so often eliminates people of color as much as we so often seek to find ways not to serve.

Yes, our courts are still racist, even at their best. The disproportionate number of Blacks incarcerated offers a sobering statement of facts. If we are to be a nation of laws, then those laws must apply to everyone equally. Clearly Lady Justice has not been blind when dealing with people of color. So let's get involved as watchmen and help her do right.

## Abbott's book-banning continues, climate ed is next

By Gilberto Hinojosa  
TX Democratic Party Chair

In recent months, disgraced Gov. Greg Abbott's government overreach has crossed the line into downright authoritarianism -- from his dystopian abortion ban, to his assault on democracy, to his effort to place classrooms under political control. Now, in addition to trying to stop kids from being able to learn in a safe, age-appropriate way about racism, sexism, and sexuality, Abbott is trying to stop educators from teaching accurate climate science.

Tuesday, the Texas Tribune reported that an upcoming State Board of Education meeting will cover how climate change and sexuality are taught to middle school students -- amid more and more government intrusion into school libraries' decisions, specifically targeting students' access to LGBTQ+ representation. However, scientists

are also concerned about the censorship of accurate climate education. In a November 4 letter, nearly 70 scientists from across the state voiced their fear that Texas politicians are clawing back kids' ability to get real climate education. The letter notes that "76 percent -- more than three in four -- of Texans agree that schools should teach about the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to global warming, according to the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication's estimate."

Abbott's censorship crusade flies in the face of these numbers, and is part of a larger Republican effort to tighten the vise of political control in Texans' lives -- from his multi-year effort to stop local leaders from taking steps to protect people from COVID, to his insistence on putting classrooms at the whim of a handful of extremist politicians. Parents and teachers are working to make sure

kids and teens can grow up safe and empowered -- and get the chance to learn about the world they're part of in a safe, age-appropriate, empowering way. Abbott's agenda seeks to do the opposite, by taking education out of the hands of teachers and parents, and twisting it to suit the agenda of a small group of politicians -- with no expertise on education or child development.

Parents and teachers are the experts on kids and classrooms -- not politicians. But right now, Greg Abbott is continuing with his censorship crusade, and trying to place our classrooms under the rigid control of a handful of extremist politicians with no experience educating kids and no knowledge of child development. That's backwards. Racism, sexism, economic inequality -- these are real things that affect the lives of our kids and the world around them. Kids and teens need to have a safe environment to learn

about their world in an age-appropriate way -- not to have their lived experience and reality erased from the textbooks because a couple politicians are threatened by it.

Teachers and parents want what's best for young people in Texas: they want our kids and teens to grow up safe and empowered, and get the chance to learn about the world around them in a safe, age-appropriate, empowering way. Unfortunately, Republican politicians clearly feel differently -- and with Greg Abbott attacking Texans in a hundred other ways this year, it's sadly no surprise that he's found a new front in his war on our kids and families. Texas Democrats will keep listening to teachers and parents and standing with Texas families. We will keep fighting to elect leaders who, unlike Abbott, are willing to put millions of Texas families above the career ambitions of a single selfish politician."

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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## Blood thinners may prevent cognitive decline in older patients with atrial fibrillation

(American Heart Association) The anticoagulant medication dabigatran yielded similar results to warfarin for the prevention of cognitive decline in older adults with atrial fibrillation after two years of treatment, according to late-breaking research presented recently at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2021.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common cardiac arrhythmia in older adults, and it is associated with an increased risk of stroke, cognitive impairment and dementia. Stroke can occur when a blood clot blocks blood flow to the brain, and oral anticoagulants, or medications that prevent the formation of blood clots such as dabigatran and warfarin, are typically prescribed to prevent stroke. Dabigatran has been found to be comparable to warfarin for the prevention of stroke and also has a lower risk of major bleeding complications.

Previous research has found that people with atrial fibrillation taking oral anticoagulation therapy have a lower risk of dementia, however, the mechanism involved in this benefit is unknown, and previous clinical trials have not evaluated cognitive and



Mufid Majnun / Unsplash

functional impairment outcomes among patients.

"It's possible that cognitive decline is related to the formation of small blood clots in the brain, which may be attacked by effective medications that prevent blood clots," said lead study author Bruno Caramelli, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. "Since dabigatran offers a more stable anticoagulation status, we investigated whether it may be more effective than warfarin for the prevention of cognitive decline in patients with atrial fibrillation."

The study, known as GIRAFA, (acronym for Cognitive Impairment Related to Atrial Fibrillation) is a two-year randomized, multi-center, prospective trial in Brazil evaluating the effects of dabigatran and warfarin on cognitive

and functional impairment, bleeding occurrence and cerebrovascular complications in older patients with atrial fibrillation.

This study included 200 adults over age 70 with confirmed atrial fibrillation, and about 62% of the study participants were male. Participants were randomly assigned to take dabigatran (110 or 150 mg twice daily) or warfarin (once daily, dose controlled based on how long it takes the blood to clot) for two years. Patients also had a brain MRI at baseline and after two years to identify possible strokes.

Participants completed 90-minute cognitive and functional evaluations at the one-year and two-year follow-up visits. Another MRI was performed at the end of the two-year study period to identify possible cerebrovascular events.

The researchers found

that after two years:

- no participant was diagnosed with dementia during the trial, and,
- among the entire study population, there was less than a half point difference (statistically not significant) between study participants taking warfarin and those taking dabigatran on scales measuring memory, executive functions, language and attention from baseline.

These findings highlight the importance of adequate anticoagulation treatment to decrease cognitive decline in older atrial fibrillation patients. In addition, the GIRAFA researchers concluded that among older patients with atrial fibrillation who were adequately treated with warfarin or dabigatran, there was no difference in cognitive outcomes after two years of treatment.

"Cognitive aspects are important for patients with atrial fibrillation, and these results could help guide the decision about which oral anticoagulation medication should be prescribed," Caramelli said. "Further studies are needed to explore new concepts on potential

prevention of cognitive decline and the possible benefits of treatment for patients with atrial fibrillation and their families."

Co-authors are Pai C. Yu, M.D., Ph.D.; Francisco A. Cardozo, M.D.; Iuri R Magalhães, M.D.; Raul R. Feitosa, M.D.; Raphael Spera, M.D.; Daniel Amado, M.D.; Maria E. Escalante Rojas, M.Sc.; Danielle M. Gualandro, M.D., Ph.D.; Daniela Calderaro, M.D., Ph.D.; Caio Moura

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The study was funded by Boehringer Ingelheim do Brasil Química e Farmacêutica.

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## City of Plano honored for making efforts aimed at cleaner air

The City Of Plano Receives Award for Clean Air Efforts Plano was among four Dallas-Fort Worth area cities to earn awards from Air North Texas for their commitment to improving air quality throughout the growing region.

The awards recognize partners' efforts throughout the 2021 ozone season. The City of Plano received the award for outstanding outreach. Its use of digital

strategies helped engage residents and businesses. The City hosted a tree giveaway, providing 300 trees to residents and explaining proper tree planting techniques and their environmental benefits.

Plano also conducted a solar car program to teach children about the benefits of solar energy. The children then built and raced solar cars. Air North Texas is a regional public

awareness campaign that includes 38 partnerships pursuing environmental awareness in North Texas. The North Central Texas Council of Governments formed the campaign with support from the Air North Texas Coalition.

Partners support the campaign by encouraging residents to commit to actions that improve air qual-

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# DCJI plans memorial event to mark historic Dallas lynching

Remembering Black Dallas, Inc. in collaboration with the Dallas County Justice Initiative is planning a landmark historical event on November 20, 2021—a marker dedication ceremony to commemorate the lynching of Mr. Allen Brooks.

Brooks was hanged at the intersection of Main and N. Akard on March 3, 1910. This marker project is a part of a national movement developed by attorney Bryan Stevenson, the founding director of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Mont-



Tamara Gore / Flickr

gomery, Alabama.

This project has documented over 8,000 lynchings across the nation from Reconstruction to the present day. Dallas has had two

such lynchings that are in the targeted period of 1877 through 1950.

The Dallas County Justice Initiative and Remembering Black Dallas, Inc., a

nonprofit 501c3 organization, is asking for support in providing funding for the necessary expenses for this monumental event.

“We have set a goal to raise a minimum of \$5,000 from our local sponsors,” said organizer George Keaton, Jr.

“Your donation will be tax-deductible and can be mailed to our office address listed above or sent through the donation link at: [www.rememberingblackdallas.org](http://www.rememberingblackdallas.org). Please indicate that your donation is for the Allen Brooks Marker Dedication Project. Make checks

payable to Remembering Black Dallas, Inc.”

Sponsors who contribute \$500 or more by November 8th will be listed on the event program. Also, sponsors donating at this level or higher will receive tickets to the post-event reception. Most importantly, the organizers say, attendance at this event will be greatly appreciated.

Donation levels include:

- \$100.00—Supporter
- \$250.00—Historian Advocate
- \$500.00—Humanitarian,
- \$1000.00—Equal Justice Advocate

• \$1500.00—Revolutionary

• Other amount  
How will these funds be utilized?

1. City of Dallas expenses to hold the event, which includes security, police for traffic control, and other expenses

2. Speakers, performers, and technical assistance

3. Rental equipment

4. Printing, advertisement, publications

5. Catered reception

6. Incidentals

Any questions may be directed to 469-399-6242 for further details.

## Blame game continues as lawsuits pile up in aftermath of the Travis Scott Astroworld Festival fiasco

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Travis Scott's Astroworld festival now has led to 9 deaths and multiple lawsuits. But the ill-fated event still has many asking who should be held responsible.

Rumors have persisted as to what happened, and questions linger about what safety measures were in place for the 50,000 attendees.

Some have taken direct aim at Scott, with renowned civil rights attorney Ben Crump announcing he has filed 93 lawsuits on behalf



*Attorney Ben Crump has filed 93 lawsuits on behalf of clients who died or were injured in Travis Scott's Astroworld festival show in Houston. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)*

of more than 200 clients.

“Live Nation is the biggest concert promoter in the world and, yes, Travis Scott

is on the lawsuit,” Crump declared at a news conference on Friday, November 12.

“People who lost their lives deserve answers and we’re not going to let anyone off the hook,” Crump demanded.

Scott maintains that he had no clue that something was amiss.

Dijan Isaacs, a 31-year-old who attended the concert and who Crump represents, described the chaos.

“People were grabbing at me, and I was just trying to pull people up,” Isaacs recalled at the Crump news conference. “I learned that two people next to me died.”

However, Isaac said he noticed that Scott did dis-

play his concern for the crowd.

For some, that just wasn't enough.

“Everybody in that venue, starting from the artist on down, has a responsibility for public safety,” Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña demanded.

James Crawford, the co-founder and CEO of the e-commerce platform DealDrop said regardless of security measures, Scott shoulders a big part of the blame.

“If the performing artist has succeeded in captivating the audience, it is not

difficult for them to persuade certain elements of the crowd to do anything they want them to,” Crawford remarked.

“Artists do have the capability to induce an almost trance-like state in the audience, and with proper manipulation, this can easily become a form of mind control. In these situations, the artist must accept responsibility for the effect on their followers.”

Authorities said the show continued for at least 40 minutes after injuries were

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## NTTA, from Page 1

NTTA is not a privately-owned entity, but rather, a political subdivision of the State of Texas. NTTA is authorized to acquire, construct, maintain, repair, and operate turnpike projects in the region of North Texas. With each execution of its authority, a contract is awarded and sometimes millions of dollars change hands.

“All you have to do is look at the arithmetic,” Proctor contends.

A recent report published by MGT Consulting Group bears witness to Proctor's math.

The May 7, 2020 Availability And Disparity Study

report of NTTA's contractual expenditures supports Proctor's math. During the course of the study, the report shows that NTTA's contracts with all businesses were approximately \$2.5 billion. Report also shows that white-owned companies netted 93.93% of that \$2.5 billion, while Black businesses (construction, professional services, consulting services and goods & services) received a little over 2%.

A major factor in the disparate distribution of wealth to Black businesses is housed in the label of “minority-owned” as opposed to Black-owned. One

is then left with the ambiguity of the definition of “minority” and the many ways it can be manipulated. The use and ultimate abuse of the more socially acceptable term “minority” and its effect on contracts being awarded to Black businesses have a history that was born in the wake of decades of Civil Rights demonstrations.

A pacification of sorts for America's injustice to Blacks was issued by President Richard M. Nixon when he signed Executive Order 11458 on March 5, 1969. That order created the need for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which was originally established

as the Office of Minority Business Enterprise. Then in 1971, President Nixon signed Executive Order 11625 expanding the scope of the MBDA and its minority business programs by authorizing grants to public and private organizations to provide technical and management assistance to minority business enterprises (MBEs).

In 1972, the first ever survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises was published by the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey revealed that in 1969, minority-owned businesses received approximately \$10.6 billion. Wholly Black-owned businesses, though, had less than half

that amount with total receipts of \$4.5 billion.

Black contractors argue that Nixon's Executive Order was intended to aid Blacks almost exclusively. The complexity of the matter is in how companies chose to interpret who and what a “minority” is. Companies tend to define a minority as anyone who isn't a white male.

Proctor contends that in a lot of ways the designation of MBE has been “hijacked.”

Ultimately, Proctor says, the cause for the disparity in the awarding extends beyond just white men sitting around a boardroom table making those decisions that have adverse consequences

for the Black contractors. Proctor submits that the remedy lies squarely in the hands of Black people in positions of authority especially ignoring the interest of Black contractors.

The creation of the bills, executive orders, acts and offices of opportunity during the 1960s and into the 70s were supposed to put an end to systemic forms of racism, yet those systems have endured — and are, perhaps, as strong as they have ever been. Systems purport they are promoting diversity, but the definition of diversity has become skewed and disjointed.

All a seasoned Black contractor wants to know is, “Why isn't diversity me?”



# District 6 educators, teams are excelling



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

District 6 has got it all – from the classroom to the playing field, so let me take a moment to tout our strengths and toot our horn!

First, Thomas L. Marsalis Elementary School has become the first school in Dallas ID to earn the National Certificate for STEM Excellence from the National Institute for STEM education (NISE).

The certificate recognizes individual campuses



for “their commitment to and systematic support of teachers’ understanding and use of high-impact, evidence-based STEM instructional strategies.”

As part of earning the NCSE certificate, six Marsalis classroom educators

earned the National Certificate for STEM Teaching. They are Brittany Taylor, Caitlyn Gibbs, Sasha Greene, Ketia Fellows, Deena Palenapa, and campus STEM Instructional Lead Monica Napier.

Job well done!

## Innovation Engine Schools Granted Seed Money

Congratulations also to the following District 6 neighborhood schools, which were selected to receive \$50,000 Innovation Engine grants to pursue innovative ideas in a redesigned traditional school model:

Atwell Middle School – for Real World Problem Solving with Virtual Reality

Tolbert Elementary School – for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Webster Elementary School – for Computer Science

They were among 20 Dallas ISD schools to receive these grants.

## Teacher’s nonprofit helping students in need

I’d also like to recognize Jesse Acosta, a Kimball High School teacher who founded a nonprofit that provides shoes to students who need them. Acosta, a Kimball graduate, said he knows what it’s like to be bullied about your shoes, so he and his girlfriend created Pasos for Oak Cliff (Steps for Oak Cliff), which has given away more than 1,000 pairs of shoes.

And as for the playing field ...

Kudos to the Lady Cowboys volleyball team for

being District 12-4A volleyball champions, back to back! Congratulations to Coach DeAnna Jones and her staff for bringing out the best in these young athletes.

Congratulations to Coach Cross, Coach Nation and the Carter Cowboys Cross Country teams for winning their district meets: Girls Varsity Champs, Girls Junior Varsity Champs, and Boys Junior Varsity Champs. You rock!

And congrats to the Carter Cowboys for winning their Homecoming game against the Wilmer Hutchins Eagles, 21-10. It was a great homecoming for Carter High School.

# Congressman Al Green, Senator Elizabeth Warren reintroduce Slavery Remembrance Day resolution

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Congressman Al Green (D-Texas) and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have introduced a joint resolution to designate August 20th as Slavery Remembrance Day.

“I am privileged and proud to cosponsor this resolution with the Honorable

Senator Elizabeth Warren,” Congressman Green stated in a news release.

“She has a rich history of standing up for those who are not in a position to stand up for themselves. I look forward to working with her and passing this historic legislation.”

The congressman said the legacy of slavery, which he called “our nation’s seminal sin,” continues casting

its shadow across America today.

“It fuels invidious discrimination even in the most unsuspecting of places and perpetuates attempts at sanitizing oppressive history in our classrooms,” Congressman Al Green stated.

“Currently, we have remembrance days for the Holocaust, Pearl Harbor, and 9/11. Enshrining such events not only in our col-

lective memories, but also among our official, collective observances, serves to remind us of atrocities that have occurred and must never be repeated. As an immoral institution, slavery is no exception.”

Congressman Al Green continued:

“This resolution proposes August 20th be designated as Slavery Remembrance Day because on that day in 1619, the first slave ship arrived on the shores of the

English-speaking American colonies. This annual reminder is necessary because it teaches persons to denounce oppression while simultaneously exemplifying why it should be denounced.

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# Irving Chief of Police retires end of January, Interim Chief announced

Chief of Police Jeff Spivey is retiring at the end of January 2022 after 35 years of service with the City of Irving. Assistant Chief Darren Steele will serve as Interim Police Chief upon Spivey's retirement. Chief Steele will continue the steady leadership and strong customer service tenets from Irving Police Department while city leaders work through the process

of hiring the new police chief.

Upon retirement, Spivey will continue to follow his passion for working on mental health policy for police officers and has accepted a position with a national non-profit to serve in the public safety training and development areas.

"I have been honored to work with the finest men and women, in the most

noble of professions, serving the wonderful residents of the City of Irving for the past 35 years," said Chief Spivey. "The past 5 years as Chief of Police have been the most professionally rewarding time anyone could ask for. Together with the members of the department, the leadership of our City Manager, and the support of the Mayor and Council, we have es-

tablished a foundation on which the next chief will be able to build upon and take the Irving Police Department to even greater heights. I have faith that the men and women of this organization will continue to provide the service and protection which our community has come to expect and deserve. That is who they are no matter who the next chief will be."



Irving Police Chief Jeff Spivey

## FIASCO, from Page 5

first reported. Houston Police Chief Troy Finner told journalists that he met with Scott before the show and expressed concern about crowd control.

Finner did not ask Scott to cancel the event.

"The ultimate authority to end a show is with production and the entertainer, and that should be through communication with pub-

lic safety officials," Finner said following the deadly concert. "We don't hold the plug," he demanded.

The chief also reported that an individual involved in Astroworld's production was contacted and told to stop the show.

However, a plan has surfaced that revealed the show's executive producer

and the festival's director as the only individuals empowered to halt activities.

Still, some said those facts don't absolve Scott.

"Travis Scott has a conviction for reckless conduct after encouraging fans to rush the stage at another festival in 2015 and again at an indoor venue in 2017," Crawford stated.

"There are no indications that he made any such suggestions at Astroworld but

given previous incidents, the possibility of it happening should have been prepared," he said.

Some hip hop artists demurred at the suggestion that Scott could have prevented the chaos and death that ensued at Astroworld.

"When you're on stage performing, and when you go back and look, Travis Scott has these earplugs in his ears because otherwise, you can't hear the music

from the set," said SpitSlam Record Label Group hip hop artist Memphis Jelks.

"So, he's not hearing what people are yelling at him, so if they're saying stop the show, he's only hearing the music," Jelks continued.

Hall of Fame Hip Hop Pioneer and Public Enemy frontman Chuck D, who founded SpitSlam Record Label Group, defended Scott on Twitter.

"How they blame Travis Scott for this is crazy. It's sheer stupidity," remarked Chuck D.

He recalled a 1987 Public Enemy concert in which the legendary group erroneously received blame for the death of two girls trampled in a stampede in Nashville.

"We were in a hotel," he tweeted. CNN blamed Public Enemy. We were banned for three years from there and some other arenas."

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# King Richard wins a Miami Film Fest Audience Award

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

King Richard has won the coveted Miami International Film Festival GEMS 2021 Audience Award, and it's no wonder. It's a crowd-pleaser!

The spirit of the pre-scient planner, dreamer and barker Richard Williams, the work ethic and faith of his wife Oracene "Brandy" Price coupled with the talent of Venus and Serena molded the Williams sisters into tennis icons. It's a clear, self-empowering force that's echoed in this inspiring, Oscar-worthy bio/film.

Once upon a time, in the low-income neighborhood of Compton, Los Angeles, a doting father and smart mother have a keen vision for two of their offspring: "Venus and Serena gonna shake up this world." A non-traditional path leads them in, out and around the normal white bread, upper-class tennis system, ultimately helping them achieve monumental goals. It's the American dream



Aunjanue Ellis, Mikayla Bartholomew, Will Smith, Saniyya Sidney, Demi Singleton and Daniele Lawson co-star in King Richard.

personified, and King Richard provides a visual roadmap others can follow.

One of the smartest decisions the film's producers made was hiring tennis-lover/screenwriter Zach Baylin (Creed III) to write and nurture a script that focuses on a segment of time, and not the entire Williams story. After some background plotting, this glimpse begins when Richard approaches coaches to get Venus on the junior circuit. Within this narrowly focused window, the screenplay thoroughly develops the characters as they face familial challenges, neighborhood bul-

lies and a skeptical tennis world. The smaller, intimate canvas—fewer people and settings—solidifies the characters' identities, thoughts and feelings, which are sometimes manifested in poignant often humorous dialogue: As Richard drives past a cemetery he says to his kids: "Say hi to the people that are gone."

The bane of many tennis movies is that producers frequently hire actors who can't swing a racquet like a pro. The genius of hiring Saniyya Sidney (Fences) to play Venus and Demi Singleton (Godfather of

See FBI, Page 13

## Cameron Champ Foundation's inaugural event welcomed more than 100 minorities to historic Memorial Park GC in Houston

By Helen Ross  
PGATOUR.COM  
Special to NNPA

Allyn Stephens has competed in numerous American Junior Golf Association events, as well as the national finals of the Drive, Chip and Putt competition at one of the game's most iconic clubs, Augusta National. Plenty of high school tournaments, too.

She even partnered with Michael Allen at the 2019 PURE Insurance Championship, a team competition that pairs First Tee members with PGA TOUR Champions veterans at venerable Pebble Beach, no less.



The golfers competing in the MCI represented 26 states, as well as Canada and Costa Rica. Entries for 2022 close on December 1 and already over 170 kids have applied, which is about 50 more than last year. (Photo via NNPA)

But the Mack Champ Invitational in March was different. Very different.

For once on a golf course, Stephens wasn't in the minority. As the talented teenager looked around

Memorial Park Golf Club in her native Houston that week, she saw lots of other Black and brown golfers competing in the inaugural

See GOLF, Page 11



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# Cowboys compensate fans with historic win against Atlanta

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

ARLINGTON -- Following last week's surprising loss to the Denver Broncos, wild stories of the demise of the Dallas Cowboys started flooding the airways from coast to coast.

Obviously, those stories were grossly exaggerated.

One week after that embarrassing loss to the Broncos, the Cowboys went out and thoroughly embarrassed the Atlanta Falcons, winning, 43-3, this past Sunday at AT&T Stadium.

How anxious were the Cowboys to get back on the field after what happened against the Broncos? It's a league-wide unofficial rule that when a team wins the coin toss, they kick off to start the game, and instead receive the second-half



Abigail Keenan/Unsplash

kickoff. In this case, the Cowboys won the coin toss and decided to receive the opening kickoff. That's because they couldn't wait to get their hands on the football and start correcting everything that went so wrong against the Broncos.

"We want the ball (and) we wanted to hit them in the mouth first," said running back Ezekiel Elliott, who scored two touchdowns. "We wanted to go score first

and that's what we did."

"We knew going into the game we had to start fast, we knew we had to make up for last week. So, we had to go out there and set the tone, and that's what we did."

The Cowboys scored early and often. So often that they got into the red zone -- the 20-yard line -- five times and scored touchdowns on each occasion. So often that they scored 29 points --

in the second quarter.

That's the most points the Cowboys have scored in one quarter in franchise history. And that massive 36-3 lead the Cowboys had at halftime? That's the largest halftime lead since they led the New York Jets, 38-3, on Dec. 4, 1971.

In a nutshell, the Cowboys were downright angry what happened to them during that 30-16 loss to the Broncos, and they took it out on the Falcons.

"We're a resilient team, a team that is very aware of what we are capable of," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "Last week just wasn't us, and everybody in the locker room knows that and it left a bad taste in our mouth. I think it was a taste that we needed, as I said, to understand how tough this game is."

"But (Sunday) just showed that when we focus in, we take it one play at a time, when our hearts and minds are where our feet are, we're capable of doing some great things. So, we've just got to continue to focus on that and take it play-by-play, game-by-game and we'll continue to get better and hopefully have a lot more performances like this."

Prescott's performance was sterling as he completed 24-of-31 passes for 296 yards, and also threw a pair of touchdown passes to CeeDee Lamb. And the Cowboys' offense totaled 431 yards.

The 40-point victory was the first time in 337 games -- since a 48-7 win over Arizona on Oct. 22, 2000 -- that the Cowboys won a game by at least 40 points.

It also was a revenge game for defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, who was the head coach of the Falcons from 2015 until they fired him midway through last season. Quinn's defense allowed the Falcons just 214 yards, and the Cowboys had three interceptions in a game for the first time since Dec. 5, 2010 when they picked off four passes against Indianapolis. And that includes Trevon Diggs picking up his NFL-high eighth interception of the season.

"It's good to have that game done and over with," Quinn said. "There's always good rivalries between coaches and players."

The Cowboys gave Quinn the game ball after Sunday's win.

**See COWBOYS, Page 12**



## Climate Solutions Require A Collaborative Effort

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# NDG Book Review: 'Reclamation' can be a hard book to put down

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Sometimes, you feel like a tree.

Like a sentinel standing tall, you bend with the wind but never break. Small children climb on you, and you receive them with arms open; your exterior is tough but what's inside is smooth and strong. Sometimes, you feel like a tree: as in the new book "Reclamation" by Gayle Jessup White, your roots spring from complicated soil.

Born in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement, Gayle Jessup White was her parents' youngest child by several years and for that,



she was indulged by her siblings and especially beloved by her father, with whom she was closest. He was a civil servant who provided all for his family, and they enjoyed a "well-off" lifestyle; before

White was born, they even had the means to provide a home for an elderly half-relative who was said to have been illiterate and simple, but who never lost sight of a belief she held.

"Aunt Peachie" swore that the Jessup children were descendants of Thomas Jefferson.

White was small when she learned of this possible heritage, but details then were maddeningly scarce. Still, she never forgot the thought of being related to our third President, just as she never forgot that summer when she learned about racism and she discovered that her parents' marriage was rocky.

White grew up, went to college and landed a good job in a field she enjoyed. She married, became a mother, divorced, and dabbled in a bit of a search for the details of her heritage, but with limited success. First, her father died, then her mother, and White met a man she could spend the rest of her life with. Throughout, she dreamed of working at Monticello, the mansion that Thomas Jefferson built, the home of most of his slaves but for years, white descendants of Jefferson had denied the very existence of the man's Black offspring. Still, White told everyone of her heritage when she vis-

ited Monticello, until finally someone listened.

Finally, she held the possibility that Aunt Peachie was right...

How many times a month do you say, "I wish I'd listened to" whatever elderly relative had stories to share? That family lore is precious stuff, and "Reclamation" makes open ears more urgent.

And yet, as author Gayle Jessup White shows in her book, finding the details-within-the-details won't be an easy task. White overcame many, many roadblocks that were set in her path toward understanding, including a lack of technol-

ogy in the beginning and a general disbelief from others; there's also a side-story of meeting a very distant cousin and the disappointment in this, which may serve as a keenly different kind of warning for readers eager for warm, willing family ties that might never arrive.

Still, none of that was a deterrent for White, who sports a definite perseverance in this memoir that genealogists, family historians, and storytellers will find appealing. If you, too, are searching through your past for a hidden truth, "Reclamation" may be a hard book to leave.

## 17th annual production of 'Black Nativity' is a go at Bishop Arts Theatre

The Bishop Arts Theatre Center will continue its 28th anniversary season with its 17th annual production of Black Nativity inspired by Langston Hughes retelling of the Christmas story. The performance includes a heavy dose of contemporary and Gospel music that promises to deliver the hand-clapping, toe-tapping, finger-snapping theatrical experience Dallas audiences have come to love and enjoy. Production dates are December 2 – 18, 2021, and features some of Dallas' most exciting, new artists.

In light of the pandemic, this year's performance is a heavy movement piece with pre-recorded music and co-directed by BATC's Associate Artistic Director, Albert Lewis Wash II, and Zetra Goodlow, co-artistic director for Helianthus Annuus Theatre, now based in Dallas. Both Wash and Goodlow are recent graduates of Point Park University Conservatory for the Performing Arts (COPA) program in Pittsburgh, PA, with a degree in Theater Performance and Practice.

Helianthus Annuus Theatre strives to challenge old and new generations. Wash and Goodlow promise that this performance of Black Nativity will be interactive



and unique from past productions. Goodlow adds, "We're grateful for this platform that we are being given by Bishop Arts Theatre. We couldn't be more excited to work with this revolutionary institution and push the boundaries in our new theatre home."

The performance also features several Booker T. Washington School for the Performing & Visual Arts dance students. Guest choreographer is Theodore Alexander, creative director and choreographer for Motorhouse DAP 3.0. Alexander began his formal training at the age of 16 through Muse 360 Arts and The

Johns Hopkins Peabody Preparatory and is a 2020 graduate of Point Park University COPA program. He recently performed in Festival Darc in France and Dances Around Central Africa Restitution in Senegal.

### Ticketing Information

The performances will be held at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center located at 215 S. Tyler Street, Dallas, TX 75208. Masks are required. All cast, crew members, staff, and volunteers are fully vaccinated. For detailed safety protocols, visit BATC's Safety At The Bishop webpage.

Tickets can be purchased online anytime at [www.bishopartstheatre.org](http://www.bishopartstheatre.org)

or by calling the box office at (214) 948-0716, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Individual tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Discount tickets are available

for groups of 15 or more and may be purchased by calling the box office. Our season is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors: City of Dallas Office of Arts & Culture, Embrey Family Foundation, George

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# Oil & natural gas industry engineering successful opportunities for people of color, and women

By Stacy M. Brown  
The Washington Informer

Amanda Eversole spent 13 years at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., where she cemented a legacy of leadership and innovation before joining JP Morgan Chase, where she created a framework for the firm's philanthropic approach.

Now, as executive vice president and chief operating officer at the American Petroleum Institute (API), Eversole has the monumental task of leading efforts to integrate the trade association's diverse functions and develop and implement a strategic plan for the natural gas and oil industry.

Eversole now puts her strong track record of driving consensus and winning strategies to the test as API and all in oil and natural gas wrestles with ensuring people of color and women are a large part of the lucrative industry.



*Amanda Eversole, API Executive Vice President and COO, welcomes viewers to API's State of American Energy 2021 where she discussed the industry's resiliency, reliability, and innovation. (Courtesy photo)*

"Every day, we get up and say what we're going to do to make sure that we are giving people opportunities to interact with this industry, and it changes people's lives," Eversole told NNPA Newswire.

API states that about half of new industry-related job opportunities through 2040 are projected to be filled by African Americans, Hispanic, Asians, and women.

Eversole remarked that

talk isn't good enough.

"The default narrative that the industry is old, dirty, and predominately white male is not true anymore, and the way we prove that is not by statistics," Eversole exclaimed.

"It is by standing up and doing the work that we're doing and showing people by opportunities and not by talking points."

Eversole reiterated that API possesses a strong be-

lief that educational opportunities remain critical to successful employment.

Backing that belief are programs like the organization's Minority Serving Institution Initiative, where API has partnered with Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) to provide students free access to the trade association's world-class standards.

API also has joined Discovery Education's STEM Careers Coalition where a coalition of industry partners joined to nurture a diverse culture of STEM education in K-12 schools nationwide.

In five years, that program aims at impacting 10 million students at 5,000 schools.

"There's this common thread of opportunity, and I had not worked with an industry like oil and natural gas where the constant focus is on improvement and

optimization," Eversole asserted.

"There are career opportunities that can last an entire lifetime, and there's a sense of intergenerational opportunities through education to children with STEM skillsets."

Eversole continued:

"When I talk about the opportunities we have in the industry, I step back and say, 'How does API, which represents more than 600 members, figure out how to accelerate the journey we're on together in America understanding and acknowledging those suffering and working through racial inequities?' I'm proud to say that we have a lot to show for our work."

API is also building a job readiness training program through API's Global Industry Services platform that facilitates baseline industry knowledge and skills, leading to entry-level operational roles across

the industry.

API is partnering with Opportunity@Work in Houston, the world's energy capital, where it's estimated to have proportionally more rising STARS – Skilled-Through-Alternative-Routes.

"It's a journey," Eversole stated.

"When you think about long term workforce programs and when I think about STEM education and some of the internship programs – in terms of how to get that pipeline ready – we're evaluating points of continuum and figuring out where some of those barriers are and why we are not seeing proportionality within the overall workforce."

Eversole said the oil and natural gas industry "can do better."

"We will do better," she declared. "I'm encouraged that there's a building sense of momentum."

## GOLF, from Page 8

MCI.

"It was huge," Stephens says. "It was so like mind blowing to see so many young people of color playing golf in the same tournament. It's not normal to see something like that, so it was a beautiful sight."

Stephens, who plans to play golf at Texas A&M next year, estimates that before she competed in the Mack Champ Invitational she might have known two or three other Black golfers her age and "they lived in states that were like 2,000 miles away from me."

That changed at historic Memorial Park where 109 golfers from diverse backgrounds gathered for the unique event hosted by the Cameron Champ Foundation. It's the same course where the PGA TOUR's best will play this week at the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open.

The golfers competing in the MCI represented 26 states, as well as Canada and Costa Rica. Entries for 2022 close on December 1 and already over 170 kids have applied, which is about 50 more than last year. Stephens, who loves watching Rory McIlroy, Matt Wolff, Brooks Koepka, Ariya Jutanugarn and Nelly and Jessica Korda play, will be back for the second year.

"I basically think it's insane to see," says Stephens, who was the only Black golfer competing in the DCP at Augusta National back in 2018. "I honestly didn't think that there were that many people of color who played golf at that level. So, I mean, it was great."

Mack Champ, who died in 2019 at the age of 78 after battling stomach cancer, would certainly have been

happy to hear Stephens' assessment. His son, Jeff, who is Cameron's father, says his dad, who learned to play golf while serving in the military, is still "always talking to me," and he knows he would be proud of the way his grandson is giving back.

"My dad's always been that kind of person, and our whole family (is, too)," says Jeff Champ, who combed the Internet and social media to find talented minority golfers deserving of invitations to the tournament. "It's one of those things. So many people help helped us get Cameron to that point to where we have to help the next kids out."

Kids like Stephens, whose family survived the trauma of Hurricane Harvey that left 4 feet of water standing in their two-story house and kept them away from home for months. She started playing golf at the age of 7, then took

a 2-year hiatus before getting hooked again when her dad, Joe, who played for the Houston Rockets and is a single digit handicap, put a putting green in the backyard.

Stephens joined First Tee-Greater Houston, which has nine chapters, serving more than 1,000 kids, including one at Memorial Park that offers programs four days a week. Her goals now are winning a national championship at Texas A&M, which is where she found out later, Cameron Champ, went to school, and turning pro, although earning her degree in biomedical science is a solid back-up plan.

"The whole time really stands out," Stephens says when asked about the MCI. "I met so many great people. I connected with a lot of people I hadn't seen in a while. ... The whole tournament was a great experi-

ence."

Cameron Champ, the three-time PGA TOUR winner who is himself biracial, was a hand's-on host at the MCI. Over the course of the three days, he held a clinic, fielded questions from the kids, signed autographs, posed for pictures and gave out the trophies. The parents listened closely, as well.

"It's really neat because Cam can relate to those kids," Jeff Champ says. "He was one of those kids at one time. ... And one of the biggest things for our family is to share our knowledge. If I just keep everything that we've learned to myself, I don't know what I would do with myself, you know?"

"So, we have to share our experiences, share the hard work and also explain to these families what we went through to where they understand all the different pieces. And then they have

to decide what's the best situation for their family, because every family is different."

Lee Elder, the first Black golfer to compete in the Masters, was a virtual speaker at the banquet. Cameron Champ made his debut at Augusta National in 2020.

"This is just a start for us," Cameron Champ said that week. "Obviously we want to grow from this year each and every year and make it bigger and better for the kids. It's all for the kids."

"It's all for their exposure — just giving them, like I said, a fun environment and to play against competition their age that are just as good as them. But then also for the ones that have success during the week, there's also other opportunities for them to play even bigger and better events."



# DNC: Infrastructure Bill will revitalize Black communities across America

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The House sent the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to President Biden's desk, legislation that will address economic disparities and the consequences of decades of disinvestment in America's infrastructure that have fallen most heavily on communities of color. In response, DNC Chair Jaime Harrison released the following statement:

"For years, Black Americans heard talk but didn't see any action from Trump and Republicans who were unable to address critical community problems like lead leaching pipes, crumbling roads and bridges, and flooding streets."



DNC Chair Jaime Harrison says, "Because of Democrats, neighborhoods across the country will be safer, healthier, better connected, and Black Americans will experience an enhanced quality of life for generations to come." (Edward Kimmel / wikimedia commons)

"But now, thanks to President Biden, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will address these monumental concerns while also advancing racial

justice and equity through investments in communities of color."

"Because of Democrats, neighborhoods across the country will be safer,

healthier, better connected, and Black Americans will experience an enhanced quality of life for generations to come."

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver for Black communities by:

- Ensuring every American household has access to reliable high-speed internet, helping lower costs and improving internet access for Black Americans who are 9% less likely than their white peers to have high-speed internet

- Eliminating lead pipes and providing the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history. Families of color, especially in communities like Chicago, Milwaukee, and Newark are at the highest risk for lead exposure at

home and in schools.

- Investing in public transit, reducing commute times, and addressing the backlog of repairs. In New York City, Black residents on average spend an additional 110 minutes per week commuting to work compared to white residents.

- Reconnecting communities divided by inequitable transportation infrastructure. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will create the first-ever program aimed at reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure that was built through Black neighborhoods, destroying homes, schools, churches and parks.

- The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment

and Jobs Act will invest roughly \$65 billion — the single largest investment in clean energy transmission in American history — to upgrade our power infrastructure and reduce pollution. Black people are almost 3 times more likely to die from asthma-related causes than our white counterparts.

Remediating brownfields and Superfund sites. 26% of Black Americans live within 3 miles of Superfund sites that can lead to elevated lead levels in our children's blood. By providing \$21 billion to clean-up efforts, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will help protect our children while providing good-paying union jobs to our communities.

## COWBOYS, from Page 9

"It was personal," said defensive end Dorance Armstrong, who registered a sack and blocked a punt that Nahshon Wright recovered in the end zone for a touchdown. "We just went out there and executed the game for (Quinn)."

"We got embarrassed last week. Everybody was tuned in knowing we had a mission to accomplish."

Consider that mission accomplished.

"I feel like the tone was already set from the moment we walked in the building," said Lamb, who caught six passes for 94 yards. "I feel like together we came in with the right mindset and right game plan and just came and attacked."

With the victory, the Cowboys improved to 7-2 and are three-and-a-half games ahead of the Philadelphia Eagles (4-6) in the

race for the NFC East title.

"Clearly it was the response we were looking for," coach Mike McCarthy said. "Excellent team win. We had a ton of production and we were pretty much dominant there in the first half."

"It's great to see the locker room the way it is right now. But that's what you're looking for. Preparation was excellent and our guys did a great job applying it to (Sunday) and played with great emo-

tion."

The Falcons even had the nerve to try and defend the Cowboys the way the Broncos did, figuring Denver designed the blueprint on how to defeat the Cowboys. Obviously, those best laid plans didn't work.

"Trust me, we understood what happened (against Denver) and it didn't feel good," McCarthy said. "I think just as a whole we didn't give our fans a lot to cheer about (against Denver) and they were out-

standing (Sunday).

"I thought the environment was awesome from the kickoff all the way through, and I thank our fans for the environment that they created (Sunday)."

And in bouncing back and running over the Falcons, the Cowboys now prepare for a huge showdown in Kansas City against the Chiefs on Sunday at 3:25 p.m. In short, the Cowboys have to ward against not getting over-

confident — again.

"We're not going to get overconfident again," Prescott said. "That's what a game like (the contest against Denver) does for you."

"It leaves that taste in your mouth and keeps you humble and makes sure that you stay hungry and that you don't get too ahead of yourself. We're going to continue to get better, we're going to use this one and learn from it (and) grow from it."

## FILM, from Page 12

Harlem) to portray Serena is that either they've played before, or someone showed them how to produce ground strokes exactly the way the real sisters do. Open stance, lots of power. Many will cite the outstanding performances of Will Smith as Richard and the very talented Aunjanue Ellis (If Beal Street Could Talk) as Oracene as the foundation for this thoughtfully written, acted and directed film. Tennis players, however, will point to the realistic serves, strokes and volleys and the exposure of some of the professional game's most ir-

ritating quirks. E.g., taking strategic but unnecessary bathroom breaks during a match to disrupt your rival's focus. It's frowned upon, but still legal.

Smith may gain an Oscar nom for his all-in performance in a very showy role about a goal-achieving yet imperfect man. He's got the mannerisms and speech pattern just about right, but if you peek behind Richard's curtain, there's Will Smith pretending to be Williams. If Delroy Lindo had been cast, his skills, natural physicality and self-assuredness would have made his performance invisible.

Ellis is quite endearing as the mom who demands r-e-s-p-e-c-t. Sidney, Singleton and all the other young women who play the sisters at different stages melt into the scenery—it's like watching kids in real time. Tony Goldwyn's interpretation of the sisters' first coach, Paul Cohen, is fine. Jon Bernthal (The Punisher), as their kinetic coach Rick Macci, is far more impressive in a pivotal role: Richard reminds the coach who is king: "You're like a member of our family. But you work for us!"

Kris Bowers' (Bridgerton) musical score tweaks emotions in all the right places. The Williams'

home looks lived-in, thanks to production designers William Arnold and Wynn Thomas. Costume designer Sharen Davis (Dreamgirls) gives the family clothes that look like they're off the rack at TJ Maxx. Clean but not too flashy. All the tech efforts are artfully captured by cinematographer Robert Elswit (There Will Be Blood) and given a steady rhythm by editor Pamela Martin (Battle of the Sexes), which makes this 2h 18m chapter of a bigger life story move quickly.

Director Reinaldo Marcus Green (Monsters and Men, Joe Bell), with the classic against-the-odds script, heaps so many chal-

lenges on the family you've got to root for them. Green milks the drama out of the gangs that threaten Richard, the husband/wife strife and the tennis world ambivalent about opening its doors to interlopers. His direction is as moving as the performances and storyline. If there is one weakness in the production, it's the language. The Harder They Fall, a recent rough 'em up gang style Black cowboy movie, didn't use the "N" word. So, why does this "family movie" drop the "N" bomb? The real sisters don't use that word. Why do children—especially Black kids—have to listen to this kind

of language? It's a flaw that could have been fixed in post-production.

It's easy to enjoy this classic, disarming American saga. Easier to watch the father, mother and daughters shake up the stodgy world of tennis. Expect audiences—in theaters or their living rooms—to applaud everyone's efforts. Richard knew his family's day would come: "I'm in the champion building business." Yep.

In theaters and on HBOMAX November 19th, 2021.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).



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### Ongoing Census Bureau

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### Ongoing City of Dallas

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### 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://live-nation-entertainment.com/careers>.

### Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

## AIR, from Page 4

ity, such as working from home, bicycling, walking to the store, and packing a lunch. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered many routines. However, improving air quality remains an important contribution people can make.

For more information, visit [www.airnorthtexas.org](http://www.airnorthtexas.org).

org.

Ozone season runs from March through November, but North Texans are encouraged to consider how they can contribute to the effort to improve the air throughout the year.

Currently, 10 Dallas-Fort Worth area counties do not meet the Environmental



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Protection Agency's regulations for ozone pollution, meaning the region has additional environmental responsibilities.

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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](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org) for their details because of the Coronavirus.*

**November 21, 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.

**November 24, 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 4. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
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**November**

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

**November 21**

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.

**November 24, 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

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- Malachi 3:8-10

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

**November 19, 7 pm**

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

**November 21, 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.

**November 22, 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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until further notice because of the coronavirus.

**November 21,  
8 and 11 am**

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

**November 22, 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).

**November 24, 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.  
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## I Was Just Thinking, or Was I Really Thinking?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Thinking has not really been my strong suit. Not that I don’t do some kind of thinking, but my thinking never gets me ahead of anything or anyone. In fact, I’m not sure if I really do think. I wouldn’t know what to do with thinking.

When it comes to thinking, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is way ahead of me. She’s always thinking about 17 days ahead of me. And I must confess that her thinking many times gets me into trouble. How that works, I have no idea. That’s something that I have to really think through some day.

As a child I remember, my mother and father were once having a little bit of a spat. When I was alone with my father, he said, “Son, remember, thinking will always get you into trouble.”

I don’t know what kind of trouble he was in, but he seemed at the moment

to really mean what he was saying. So I jotted that down in my little “Things to Remember Notebook.” Although, come to think of it, I’m not sure where that notebook is today. I’ll have to think about that.

Many people give a lot of credit to what they’re thinking. I suppose there is a place for real serious critical thinking, but it has never arisen in any of my situations that I can think of right now.

I used to, but no longer think it’s the right thing, ask my wife what she was thinking after a situation. How did I know she would tell me exactly what she was thinking? How anyone can think so much about one thing is beyond my imagination.

On several occasions, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has come into the living room where I was seated, saw me grinning, and asked, “What are you thinking about?”

I had to think a little bit

about that because I did not realize I was thinking. So I responded by saying, “Oh, I was just thinking about a joke.” And then I laughed, hoping to diverge her attention away from me.

“Were you? And what was that joke?” Then she gave me her infamous stare.

That is where I had to step on the thinking gas pedal and say, “Why was 6 afraid of 7?” Then I tossed her a quick smile.

“And why was 6 afraid of 7?” She asked with a smirk.

Thinking a little bit, I responded by saying, “Because 7, 8, 9.”

With both hands on her hips, she stared at me for a moment and said very sarcastically, “Can’t you think of another joke?”

I did not know “thinking” and “jokes” were connected.

One day this past week, we had to go across town for an errand. As we were traveling, I said, “You know, I was thinking....”

As soon as I said that,

she started laughing almost hysterically. I looked at her and said, “What are you laughing about?”

“You were thinking? When did you start thinking?” Then she laughed some more.

If only I could have thought up a response to that jab, I would’ve been happy, but my cognitive activity was on pause.

Recently my wife and I were in conversation, and she was asking about some projects that she had in mind to do. Believe me; she’s always working on some crafty project. I can’t keep up with all of her projects.

Then she looked at me and said, “What project do you think I should do?”

For her to ask me to think was something out of my thinking zone. When it comes to craft projects, I just am beyond imagination. I couldn’t work on a project like that if my life depended on it.

I had to stop for a mo-

ment and think about it. Honestly, I really didn’t know where to start with those projects. One would be just as good as the other, and I really had no preference about the whole thing.

Being a husband as long as I have been, I understand she’s not asking a question for my opinion. She is simply thinking out loud. I know whichever one I picked, she will pick the opposite.

“Well,” I said as soberly as possible, “giving this a lot of thought, I suggest you do project number two.”

“I was thinking,” she said as though she had not heard anything I had suggested, “that I would do project number four.” And then she said something else, “What do you think of that choice?”

I didn’t have to think of that choice because she had already thought through that choice, and no further thought was necessary.

It’s amazing to me how cognitive my wife can be

when dealing with her crafts. I’m jealous of that ability. But, of course, I know if I had that kind of cognitive ability, it would only get me so deep in trouble that I couldn’t get out.

Doing some more thinking on my own, I thought of a special verse of Scripture. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11).

It’s not my thinking that matters so much. Rather, it is what God is thinking about me that encourages me. God’s thinking about me is based upon his infinite wisdom and his love for me.

*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](mailto:james-snyder51@gmail.com). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*



# How's Your Joy Quotient?



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*"Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength"*

(Nehemiah 8:10).

One of the overriding evidences that someone has a genuine relationship with our living Savior is their consistent attitude of joy and outlook on life.

A follower of Jesus should not be a person who always looks at life as if the glass is half empty. Instead, we should be the most positive people on earth. We should see opportunity in the midst of challenges.

The light that resides in you should be like the beam of a lighthouse to a ship that is seeking direction.

Our lives should have the fragrance of Christ. People should be attracted to our lives just as the bee is attracted to the nectar in the colorful flower.

The apostle Paul understood this when he said, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him."

*"For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life"*

(2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

I must admit I've been with some believers whose attitude toward life is more like a porcupine. It's painful to get too close to them because of their negative and poisonous view of life that criticizes the world around them.



Haston Lewis III, Morehouse College BBA(2015), Haston Lewis IV, Haston Lewis II, Retired Marketing Executive, Frito-Lay: honoring US Navy Veteran Haston Lewis I, (deceased 1995).

No matter what circumstance you may find yourself in, the joy of the Lord must be your strength. Paul learned this truth even in the midst of his adversities.

*"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty*

*or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."*

(Philemon 4:12-13).

How would others describe your joy quotient? On a scale of 1 to 10, where would they rank you? Today, make a commitment to greet every circumstance

knowing that the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Tell God that it is so hot and dry in your little part of this world. Then in other places, they've had floods and too much rain recently.

Pray that God will balance out the weather, that a soft and steady rain would fall to water the dry earth and that the sun and refreshing breezes would blow across the flooded areas to dry up the excess water.

Pray for God's protection from the elements and His provision for every need.

Pray for souls that are dry and desolate, that God's Spirit will nudge at their heart's door and will fill them with hope and blessed assurance through the Savior, giving new life.

Pray for souls that are full of God's Spirit and living in His Word and His will, that they will share that life and abundance with those around them, and continue to seek His will and His presence.

Thank God, for all He does and all that He has done with love in the name of precious Jesus.

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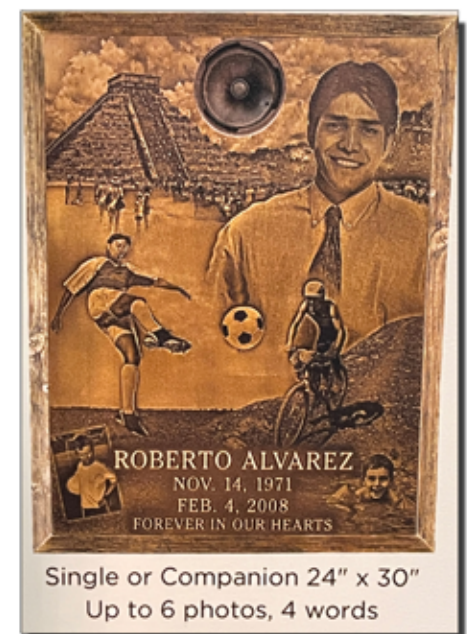
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