



# North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at [www.northdallasgazette.com](http://www.northdallasgazette.com)

## Eddie Bernice Johnson announces retirement from U.S. House of Representatives

An era in Texas politics is coming to an end with the announcement from U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) that she will not be seeking reelection in the next voting cycle.

Though she had previously indicated her current term would be the last, she made the official announcement last weekend. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is currently serving her 15th term representing the 30th Congressional District of Texas.

Johnson is the first African-American and woman to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and is the Dean of the Texas Congressional delegation in addition to serving as Dean of the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona Democratic Congressional Delegation. She is also the highest-ranking Texan on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the first nurse to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Johnson began her career as the first female African American Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas. In 1972, she became the first nurse ever elected to the Texas State House and achieved that that same distinction upon her



*U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30) announced on Saturday that she will not be seeking reelection in the next cycle. Johnson has been a member of congress since 1992, and is the longest running representative from Texas.*

election to the Texas Senate in 1986.

Johnson has said her reputation as a stateswoman who works with both parties to get things done, a reputation earned during her more than 40 years in public office, is one of the things she is most proud of in office.

Johnson is credited with authoring and co-authoring more than 177 bills that were passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the president.

She is the founder of the Diversity & Innovation Caucus, the found-

er and co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus of Bosnia. Johnson served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 107th Congress. Her initiative, A World of Women for World Peace, has gained national and international recognition.

Johnson's tenure in office has served as a motivation and inspiration for other African Americans to

See EBI, Page 5



### We should give thanks everyday

- See Page 3



### Racism leaves marks in the DNA of Blacks

- See Page 4



### Jones spared execution in Oklahoma

- See Page 5



### 18 students advance in MLK oratory contest

- See Page 6



### Having a Happy Black Thanksgiving

- See Page 6



### South Dallas Club takes in new members

- See Page 8



### Cowboys fall flat against Kansas City

- See Page 9



### Sister Tarpley: Learn from God's Creation

- See Page 15

### Inside...

People in the News .....	2
Op/Ed .....	3
Health .....	4
Community .....	5
Education .....	6
Irving / Carrollton / Plano .....	7
Entertainment .....	9-10
Marketplace .....	11-12
Career / Notices .....	13
Religion .....	14-15
GM .....	16

### See Page 2



Candus Rucker

### People In The News ...



Sen. Royce West



ABH Trenton Pangilinan

*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*



## Candus Rucker

Candus Rucker of Dallas, Texas, has joined the ULI/REAP Virtual Academy, a nationwide initiative in diversity and inclusion in commercial real estate, as a fellow and an Eric S. Yarbrow Scholarship Recipient. Scholarships are granted to a highly select group of candidates who demonstrate outstanding promise and ability.



A licensed real estate broker in the state of Texas as well as a licensed real estate agent in Detroit, MI, she is the owner and operator of Rucker Property Management Group LLC, a full-

mentor for a financial literacy program teaching youngsters ages 11-16 the basics of finance, banking and being financially responsible. Rucker is committed to children, economic empowerment, education, health, alleviating poverty, and social services.

She joined the ULI/REAP Academy to gain knowledge and education within the commercial space of real estate and to branch out into the commercial industry as a developer and property manager with a focus on affordable quality housing for the urban community. Says Rucker, "This program has not only expanded my knowledge

base within ...weeks ... the speakers ...have really encouraged and inspired me to dream big and [believe that] nothing shall be impossible. ...I am thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow within this space and the level of networking that is possible is mind blowing as well."

As a result of generous donations from Robert Freedman, Real Estate Board of NY, the Adolph & Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation and multiple sources, Project REAP has been able to create the Eric S. Yarbrow scholarship fund. That funding pool has supported REAP fellows and alums in their pursuit of educational

opportunities to advance their commercial real estate careers.

The Eric S. Yarbrow Memorial Scholarship Fund is awarded to Project REAP (Real Estate Associate Program) candidates and alums in honor of the life and legacy of Eric Yarbrow, a member of REAP's board of directors, a long-standing volunteer and instructor, and one of the most impassioned, dedicated and influential voices supporting the CRE industry's pioneering diversity, equity and inclusion initiative.

As a highly successful commercial real estate (CRE) broker at two major international real estate

services firms, Eric Yarbrow earned the respect of clients and colleagues alike. Perhaps unique within the ranks of institutional-caliber CRE brokers, he managed to adeptly serve corporate clients in both the office and retail real estate sectors.

Scholarships are awarded to fellows in the ULI/REAP Academy and alumni to assist them with educational offerings for their professional development. The awards will go to qualified Academy candidates including graduating seniors, college graduates with a demonstrated interest in CRE and those dedicated to making an impact in the CRE industry.

## Sen, Royce West

Senator Royce West announced today that he will seek re-election as State Senator representing Dallas County for Texas Senate District 23 (D23). Senator West was first elected in November 1992 and began his duties in the Texas Senate in January 1993. He currently ranks fourth in Senate seniority.



"Since first walking onto the floor in the Senate Chamber, I have treated this office, your office, with the seriousness and commitment that the citizens of Dallas County deserve," said Senator West. "It is

a tremendous honor that Dallas County voters have continued to send me back to Austin and that trust has translated into results that I think have gone beyond county lines to benefit people across Texas.

"Early on, I decided to help champion the cause of public education in Texas, because I believe education to be the rising tide that can elevate our young people to reach their full potential, Senator West said. "I've also been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that coming generations of Texans have had access to a quality higher education experience. The creation of UNT-Dallas stands in testament.

At the same time, I realize that not everyone will attend college, so I've been a friend of the trades and vocational education. Texas needs craftsmen and technicians too.

"I've listened to constituent's concerns and that led me to find a way to help provide financial assistance to seniors and grandparents who have extended their love to provide a home for their grandchildren," said

Senator West. "But we didn't stop listening there. Now, through legislation I was able to pass, relatives can receive financial support and even adopt younger family members who otherwise may have entered the foster care system.

"I have attempted to help level the playing field for minority-owned businesses, including the creation of "The Doing Business Texas Style" Spot Bid Fair

that brought state agencies to Dallas, contract opportunities in hand," Senator West stated. "And we were at the forefront of writing and re-writing Texas laws to provide a second chance for those who have made a mistake, but want to work to improve their lives and those of their families. Along this journey has come legislation that placed

See WEST Page 8

## ABH Trenton Pangilinan



PUGET SOUND, (Nov. 06, 2021) Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handling) Airman Trenton Pangilinan, from Fort Worth, Tx., performs maintenance on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz is currently underway conducting sea trials after completing a six-month planned incremental availability. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Third Class Bryant Lang)

## COMMUNITY HOME EQUITY LOANS<sup>1</sup>



A home equity loan allows you to borrow against the equity in your house, providing an excellent source of financing for things like repairs, remodeling and other personal expenses, with potential<sup>2</sup> tax deductibility of interest payments.

Contact us to learn more!

**Andrew N. Davenport**  
VP | Real Estate Lending Officer  
andrew.davenport@ndbt.com  
972.716.7289 | NMLS: 1012666

ADDISON | DALLAS | FRISCO | LAS COLINAS | PLANO  
Member FDIC - ndbt.com

<sup>1</sup>Additional restrictions apply; all loans subject to credit approval.  
<sup>2</sup>Always consult a tax professional for full details.







P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

***“Do what you say you are going to do ... when you say you are going to do it.”***

**Publisher's Office:**

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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

editor@northdallasgazette.com

**Online:**www.NorthDallasGazette.com  
www.twitter.com/NDGEditor  
www.facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette  
www.pinterest.com/NDallasGazette  
www.instagram.com/NorthDallasGazette**STAFF****Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum  
1933-2009**Religious / Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley  
("Sister Tarpley")**Chief Editor Emeritus**Ruth Ferguson  
1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

**Published by**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

**Interim Editor**

David Wilfong

**Contributing Writers**Jackie Hardy  
Lori Lee  
Jacqueline Murphy  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
David Wilfong**Community Marketing**

Nadina Davis

**Senior Account Executive**

Nadina Davis

**Production**

David Wilfong

**NDG Obituary Dept.**Vicky Richardson-Stewart  
VP of Operations

North Dallas Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

## Why We Should Give Thanks Everyday



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

As so many of us in this country pause to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, it seems like a good time to remind all of us that every day should be a day for giving thanks.

We should consider how blessed we are as a nation and as a people. While so many of us struggle with such issues as racism, poverty, sickness, and homes and homelessness, we are still blessed. This is important, in spite of whatever

problems we might be facing individually or as a society.

We waste enough food each year to feed 25 percent of the world's hungry people; we have running water; assistance with homelessness and sickness, yet rarely do most of us pause to say, "Thank You" to the God that makes it all possible. We have had more people die from Covid 19 this year, with the vaccine available, than all of the year 2020 without the vaccine. We see injustice at every turn as innocents are murdered and killers rewarded and praised for their conduct. In the midst of all this, let us not focus on the problems, but

thank God for the solutions he has placed before us.

Let's be thankful that we still have choices no matter the circumstances. We can choose not to give up. We can choose how we respond to each crisis facing us individually and collectively. We can remember that for evil to succeed, all good has to do is nothing.

The writer of the book of Hebrews in the 12th Chapter reminds us: "Wherefore we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, (speaking of those who have come before us) let us lay aside every weight and sin which so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before

us."

We have an obligation to make things better for those who come after us, in spite of the obstacles others may put in our path. Our race, be it personal or as a part of the oppressed collective, is not a sprint. It's a marathon. Let us give thanks that it is a marathon because that means that our end is not determined by those seeking to stop or block us. We determine how far we go by the commitments we make to self and others.

Yes, let's make every day a day of Thanksgiving and not be distracted by the food and holiday festivities when there remains so much to be done.

## On Rural Health Day, a reminder that Abbott is making rural communities sicker

By Gilberto Hinojosa  
Texas Democratic  
Party Chair

For Texas, this year's Rural Health Day falls amidst a sobering landscape of anti-health, anti-Texan policies advanced by disgraced Gov. Greg Abbott. For years, Texas GOP policies have kept Texans from getting the health care they need -- creating disproportionate health obstacles for small-town Texans. The COVID-19 pandemic has both exacerbated those issues and provided new opportunities for Texas Republicans to put rural Texans' health at risk, leading to the following troubling data points:

- More and more rural hospitals have been forced to close over the years because of Texas Republicans' refusal to expand Medicaid and allow more Texans to get health insurance. Texas is the most uninsured state in the country, and under Medicaid expansion, nearly a million Texans would become eligible for affordable health care. However, Texas Republicans have refused the op-

tion, leaving billions of dollars in federal funding on the table. That choice is not only leaving people without affordable health care, but also stopping smaller rural hospitals from getting the funding they need to keep their doors open -- creating a snowball effect cutting people in rural communities off from health care.

- Nearly two years into a devastating pandemic, Abbott and Republicans have continued to block the expansion -- despite having ample opportunity via a bipartisan bill put forward in the spring 2021 legislative session.

- While denying Texans access to care to keep them healthy, Abbott has also elevated health risks for Texans everywhere through his dangerous, irresponsible pandemic policies. Abbott recently announced a lawsuit to try to block President Biden's COVID vaccine mandates for workers -- despite evidence showing unvaccinated Texans are being hospitalized and dying at vastly higher rates than vaccinated Texans. Meanwhile, Texas ICUs are still teetering on the brink of

running out of beds -- with at least 28 Texas hospitals reporting that their ICU beds were filled to capacity between November 5 and November 11.

While Abbott continues to neglect Texans' health and safety, President Biden has taken action to fill the gaps. With his Build Back Better framework, President Biden is continuing to expand affordable health care -- and is specifically including a provision designed to work around states that have refused to expand Medicaid. Meanwhile, thanks to his successful Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, President Biden is also funneling resources to help boost quality of life and economic firepower in rural Texas communities. The infrastructure bill will ease commute times, open up broadband access for the 14% of Texas homes without internet, and create good, well-paying jobs across the state.

Today, we're marking Rural Health Day, but in Texas, rural communities are facing a sobering reality: less and less health care access, and more and

more health risks, because Texas Republicans refuse to help people get the basic care they need. One by one, rural hospitals are closing -- because Greg Abbott and Texas Republicans have refused to accept the billions of dollars of federal money that's just sitting on the table. Instead of using these resources to get more Texans health care and help small-town health care providers keep their doors open, Abbott is creating health care deserts across rural Texas. It's as if Abbott wants us to get sick.

If you work hard every day and come home tired, you should be able to get health care. Greg Abbott seems to think the opposite -- because hundreds of thousands of Texans are working hard every day and still have to choose between paying the rent or taking on medical bills. That's just plain wrong, and Democrats are going to do something about it. I'm grateful that President Biden is finding a way to get rural Texans the health coverage they need -- even when our governor is doing his best to block it."

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

www.northdallasgazette.com



# New N'COBRA study finds genetic damage from historical racism linked to poor health and transgenerational trauma in Black Americans

CHICAGO – When the wounds are caused by generations of racism, it takes a group like the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) to do the necessary deep cleaning. Since 1987, N'COBRA has been the leading mass coalition dedicated to obtaining Reparations for African descendants in America. Most recently, their work has been recognized by the MacArthur Foundation for their cutting-edge efforts.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is the lead House sponsor for H.R. 40, legislation that would put Reparations on the agenda of the full House of Representatives for the first time since its introduction in 1989. The Congresswoman is a long-time supporter of Reparations.

Now, N'COBRA is releasing its 2021 report "The Harm Is to Our Genes: Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance and Systemic Racism in America." The research team was headed by Dr. Joan Kaufman of Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Citing current scientific research, the seven-section report persuasively documents the ongoing impact of historical trauma, starting with the TransAtlantic Slave "Trade", and includes racial segregation, mass incarceration, police brutality, and economic exploitation. These, and other harms, reveal that "ancestral adversities can negatively impact descendants across multiple generations through epigenetic (chemical) changes in the DNA."

Yes, trauma that happened to past generations can and is reflected by the current generation. The same can be expected to occur in future generations, if the report's recommendations are



*Trauma that happened to past generations can and is reflected by the current generation. The same can be expected to occur in future generations, if the report's recommendations are not adopted. (iStock / NNPA)*

not adopted. "Our report emphatically attests that if the Black community is ever going to heal from the consequences of systemic racism, in addition to established medical protocols, we must not hesitate, but be inclusive of African-centered health and wellness modalities," explains Lisa Davis, N'COBRA Health Commission co-chair.

"These findings demand that every conversation about the health inequities and health problems confronting Black Americans should include historical trauma and its effects," says Kamm Howard, N'COBRA National co-chair.

A United Nations report released earlier this year concluded, "Racism is embedded in the structures of our society." While police brutality, the wealth gap, and other issues grace the headlines – health disparities are often overlooked. And, when those disparities are generational, it's even more difficult to determine the why and who is at fault. "You must accept that systemic racism is the reason bad health has existed for generations for those of African descent," he adds.

Howard further breaks down and discusses the importance of the report, noting that: 1) Historical

trauma is present not past; 2) Historical trauma is group trauma; 3) Historical trauma is multi-generational; 4) Health challenges of future generations are guaranteed; and 5) HR 40 must be passed. The report also includes several important policy recommendations that will bring relief to Black Americans, namely: Eliminate Structural Racism and Decolonize Health Disparities, Build Black Wealth, Fix the Criminal Justice System, Fast Track Police Reform, and Strengthen Voting Rights Legislation. "People of African descent demand repair and the immediate enactment of all their human rights and equal status inside the United States," says Dr. Onaje Muid, N'COBRA Health Commission co-chair.

Howard concludes, "These findings make our demand for Reparations even more urgent. Resources must be targeted to address the multitude of harms in addition to the health challenges detailed in this report. H.R. 40 must pass!" H.R. 40 was voted out of committee by the House of Representatives this past April. There are currently 200 members in favor of passage; 218 votes are needed.

Why it has taken more than 30 years for the U.S.

Congress to even entertain a conversation about Reparations is hard to digest. "The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America's report, Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance and Systemic Racism in America, provides us with a singular, significant, historical and scientific presentation of the extended devastation of the impacts of slavery on the descendants of enslaved Africans and all of America. Over the years, we have witnessed the impacts of systemic racism," says Congresswoman Jackson Lee. "This report now details

how systemic racism has flowed through the centuries and through the communities of African Americans. The right answer to this report is for Congress to pass H.R. 40, The Commission to Study Slavery and Develop Reparations Proposals. H.R. 40 will provide a studied analysis and response for the best pathway forward to heal America and to end for-

ever the stigma of systemic racism and its varied social, political, economic, and environmental impacts as detailed in this report. This is the right time in America's history to pass H.R. 40 and to establish this important Commission!"

For more information about N'COBRA, visit [www.NCOBRAonline.org](http://www.NCOBRAonline.org).

## CASH TODAY!!!

Fair Price Offer For Oil and/or Gas Royalty  
Small "NET" Revenue Interest



## No Matter How Small

Fax Information To:  
**972-509-9058**  
Call:  
**972-665-0170**  
(Leave Message)

Email:  
[inquiries1909@gmail.com](mailto:inquiries1909@gmail.com)

Have Land You Need To Sell?

**We Buy Land**  
**No Commissions. No Fees.**

**Get Your Fair Cash Offer!**

• Vacant House • Estate Sale  
• Fire Damage • Behind on payments

**CALL NOW**  
**972-665-0170**



**Check us out on Facebook!**

*Like our page to stay current with all the news and events in DFW!*



# The Texas Legislative Black Caucus announces the retirement of Chair, Garnet Coleman and Chair, Joe Deshotel

AUSTIN—Two of the most senior members in the Texas House of Representatives announced

their retirement and both of them are members of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus (TxLBC). What separates TxLBC apart from all other legislative caucuses in this state is the seniority held by its members and the contributions their members have made to the state of Texas. In recognition of

their retirement announcements, TxLBC Chair, State Representative Nicole Collier (D-Fort Worth), issued the following statement:

“We salute the decades of exceptional service of Chairs Coleman and Deshotel. Each of

them served as previous chairs of TxLBC and contributed to the success of this organization. They have served their districts and the state of Texas with

honor and distinction. Every single Texan has reaped the benefits from the tireless work of Chair Coleman. There isn’t one issue that he hasn’t tackled in one way or the other. In fact, you cannot mention the word ‘health-care’ without also acknowledging his work in improving access to Medicaid, reducing health

disparities for low-income Texans and people of color, and furthering be-

havioral health care in with crisis intervention training, the creation of mental health courts, and suicide prevention programs, to name a few. Moreover, Deshotel has served as Chair of the House committees on Business and Industry and Land and Resource Management as well as a long-term member of the House Public Education committee. Under his leadership, we saw passage of legisla-

tion that allowed Texas to experience strong economic growth over the years. Chair Deshotel’s work laid the groundwork and set the stage for strengthening many building and safety codes in Texas. I

am grateful to have worked under and with both Chairs Coleman and Deshotel. We will never forget their lasting contributions to Texas.”

TxLBC Vice-chair, State

Representative Ron Reynolds, (D-Fort Bend), added the following: “Chair Deshotel and Chair Coleman are leaders through and through and their service is appreciated by all Texans. I learned how to be effective within the legislature by watching how they worked with their colleagues. They will truly be missed. Whoever is elected in their districts will have big shoes to fill.”

## Oklahoma governor commutes Julius Jones’ death sentence

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt issued a last-minute decision to commute the death sentence of Julius Jones, a condemned inmate whom Kim Kardashian and others had advocated for clemency.

“After prayerful con-



sideration and reviewing materials presented by all sides of this case, I have determined to commute Ju-

lius Jones’ sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole,” Stitt said in a news release.

Kardashian joined Jones’ family for months in calling on Stitt to commute the sentence, noting that evidence appears to point to his innocence.

Stitt’s decision came just hours before Jones faced a 4 p.m. execution.

Jones has sat on death row for more than 20 years after a jury convicted him of the 1999 murder of an Oklahoma City businessman.

His attorneys filed an emergency request to stop the execution, asserting that the state’s lethal injection procedures pose a serious and substantial risk of severe suffering and pain.

They noted the October execution of John Grant, whom they said convulsed and vomited as the state put him to death.

Earlier, Oklahoma’s Pardon and Parole Board voted 3-1 to recommend that the governor commute Jones’ sentence to life in prison.

Several of the board members reportedly stated that they had doubts about

the evidence in the case.

Actress Viola Davis produced a documentary in 2018 that included Kardashian, and several athletes who urged the governor to commute Jones’ sentence.

As Stitt’s decision came down, a large crowd that gathered in the state Capitol roared their approval.

## Stunning reversal reopens the case of the slaying of Malcolm X, who died in a hail of gunfire at the old Audubon Theater in New York’s Harlem area

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Two of the men found guilty of the assassination of Malcolm X are expected to have their convictions thrown out on Thursday, the Manhattan district attorney, and lawyers for the two men said, according to the New York Times.

The stunning reversal recasts history and reopens the case of the slaying of Malcolm X, who died in a hail of gunfire at the old



Audubon Theater in New York’s Harlem area.

The exoneration of the two men, Muhammad A. Aziz, and Khalil Islam, represents a “remarkable

acknowledgment of grave errors made in a case of towering importance: the 1965 murder of one of America’s most influential Black leaders in the fight against racism,” the Times reported.

The newspaper noted that a 22-month investigation conducted jointly by the Manhattan district attorney’s office and lawyers for the two men found that prosecutors and two of the nation’s premier law enforcement agencies — the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York

Police Department — had withheld key evidence that, had it been turned over, would likely have led to the men’s acquittal.

The two men, known at the time of the killing as Norman 3X Butler and Thomas 15X Johnson, spent decades in prison for the murder, which took place on Feb. 21, 1965, when three men opened fire inside a crowded ballroom at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan as Malcolm X was starting to speak.

Earlier this year, the civil

rights leader’s daughters formally requested that authorities reopen the murder investigation because of new evidence.

“Any evidence that provides greater insight into the truth behind that terrible tragedy should be thoroughly investigated,” said Ilyasah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X’s six daughters.

Shabazz and her family cited a deathbed letter of confession from a man who was a policeman at the time of the 1965 killing, alleging New York police and the

FBI conspired in the murder.

Raymond Wood wrote his responsibility was to ensure Malcolm X’s security team were arrested days before he was shot dead in Manhattan, the daughters stated.

The men convicted were all members of the Nation of Islam and were each sentenced to life in prison.

At the time of his death, Malcolm X had separated himself from the Nation of Islam.

Assassins gunned him down at the age of 39.

### EBJ, from Page 1

become more involved in the political process, some even seeking office themselves.

“Congresswoman Johnson represents the best of North Texas,” said U.S. Rep. Colin Allred (TX-32). “Whether you are from

Dallas or not, nearly every Texan has benefited in some way from the work of Congresswoman Johnson. Her legacy is remarkable, and I can tell you firsthand from our shared work on the Transportation Committee, that no one works

harder for their constituents.

“In the coming year, there will be more than enough time to reflect and celebrate all she has done for our state. I join my fellow Texans in saying that Congress is losing a giant and a powerful force for good. Thank you, Congresswoman Johnson, for your service.”

Johnson, who is 85, was

first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1992, and is the longest tenured current member from Texas. Her advocacy for public transportation in Dallas was part of the reason that Union Station was eventually named in her honor.

Reflecting back on her career in Washington, D.C., Johnson believes there is no shortage of milestones to mark her time in the U.S. House.

“I’m proud of what I’ve done,” Johnson said in announcing her retirement. “There is no Texan, in the history of this state, who

has brought more home. And I’m proud of it.”

With the announcement, speculation is already underway as to who will run to fill her seat. Johnson said she will recommend someone for her replacement in the future, indicating it would likely be a female candidate.

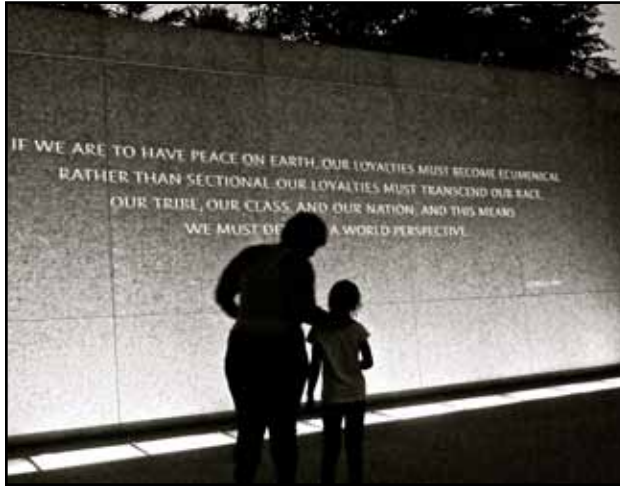


# Eighteen Dallas elementary students advance to Foley's 30th annual MLK Jr. Oratory Competition semifinals

*Semifinals scheduled for December 7 at W.H. Adamson High School*

Eighteen fourth- and fifth-grade students from Dallas ISD elementary schools have been selected to move on to the semifinals for Foley & Lardner LLP's 30th Annual MLK Jr. Oratory Competition. The semifinals are scheduled to take place on December 7 at 6 p.m. CDT at W.H. Adamson High School located at 309 E. 9th Street.

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, Foley's MLK Jr. Oratory Competition is designed to highlight the cultural diversity and talent of the Dallas



Suzy Brooks / Unsplash

community while recognizing and encouraging the writing and public speaking

skills of elementary school students. Hosted and sponsored by Foley, the compe-

tition invites local students to present original three-to-five minute speeches addressing the topic: "How would Dr. King assess our progress in achieving his vision for America?"

Students advancing to the semifinal round include:

- Andres Reyes, 5th Grade, Arturo Salazar Elementary
- Chance Taylor, 5th Grade, Charles Rice Elementary
- Diamond McKinney, 5th Grade, Clara Oliver Elementary
- Timothy Jones, 5th

Grade, Elisha M. Pease Elementary

• ZoeAnna Collier, 5th Grade, Frederick Douglass Elementary

• Alexandria Carbajal, 5th Grade, Jack Lowe Elementary

• Jaliaha Rodgers, 5th Grade, JP Starks Math, Science, and Technology Vanguard

• Jermain Johnson, 5th Grade, KB Polk Elementary

• Arianna Garcia, 5th Grade, LL Hotchkiss Elementary School

• Jackson Smith, 4th

Grade, Martin Luther King, Jr. Arts Academy

• Tristan Whitfield, 5th Grade, Paul L. Dunbar Elementary

• Kenise Davis, 4th Grade, Ronald McNair Elementary

• Pavit Singh, 5th Grade, Solor Prep for Boys

• Zihair Douglas, 4th Grade, T.L. Marsalis Elementary

• Daniella Goffney-Mitchell, 4th Grade, Thomas Tolbert Elementary

• Aubrey Sanchez, 5th

**See MLK, Page 10**

## OP-ED: A Black Happy Thanksgiving

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.  
NNPA President and CEO

African Americans and other communities of color across the United States of America will spend the traditional Thanksgiving holidays this year with multiple perspectives ranging from gratefulness of having life itself to increasing feelings of speculation about our future destinies and progress in America. We have won some victories. We have suffered some defeats.

Yet, we are a people of African descent who are also profoundly aware that



Photo via NNPA

our long struggle for freedom, justice and equality continues today in America, in Africa and throughout the world. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press of America reaffirms our mission to

"To plead our own cause" in speaking and publishing truth to power.

At the same time, we acknowledge a sacred respect and resolute solidarity with our Native American sisters and brothers who inhabit what now is known as

America long before Christopher Columbus discovered that he was lost. The subsequent genocide and oppression of native peoples throughout this hemisphere that Columbus and others initiated with impunity and a callous disregard for human life also contributed to the eventual launching of the Transatlantic Slave

Trade.

Yes, there are significant matters, circumstances, and advances that we all should note with a consciousness of thanksgiving and gratefulness. Over the past twelve months we have a new Biden-Harris Administration that is the most racially diverse and inclusive federal administration

in American history. The Biden Infrastructure Bill is now law and will help stimulate economic recovery for African American owned businesses.

The House of Representatives has now passed Biden's "Build Back Better" legislation. We must now put serious pressure on

**See BLACK, Page 12**

## We Buy Houses ... Fast!

- Pretty Houses
- Ugly Houses
- Divorce
- Inheritance
- Problem Tenants
- Need Repairs
- Vacant House
- Fire Damage
- Estate Sale
- Behind on payments

CALL 972-665-0170

Together We Can Find A Solution

## “We All Must Go Home To Glory”

Question: Why saddle family members with the cost of your burial / cremation?

Homegoings should reflect on your life and legacy.

It Is Smart To Call ... COMBINED BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

- Pre-Need Insurance (Burial / Cremation)
- No Physical Examination Required
- Pre-Need Funeral Policies Start At \$9.95 Per Month
- Peace Of Mind Knowing Your Loved Ones Are Not Burdened With This Obligation

Vickie Richardson-Steward

President / Licensed Agent

CombinedBenefitSolutions

changing the way we look at life

Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote

214-238-6855

Website: [www.cbsolutionsplus.com](http://www.cbsolutionsplus.com)



# Renovations begin at Plano's Harrington Library

Renovations have begun for improvements to the City of Plano's Harrington Library.

A renovated children's area, new children's program room and space for teens are just a few elements of the \$5 million Harrington Library renovation starting in late November.

Funded by the 2017 bond referendum, this project includes several improvements to the the service capacity of the library

- Children's Area – renovated children's area
- Children's Program Room – a dedicated children's program room is being added
- Teen Space – a dedicated space for teens
- New Study Rooms – making it easier to research projects and prepare classroom assignments
- Additional Meeting



City of Plano

Rooms – providing more collaborative space to meet and connect

- New Roof and HVAC Additional meeting rooms create collaborative space to support students of all ages. A new roof and new heating, ventilation and air conditioning will also be installed. The project finishes in late 2022.

During construction, the Harrington Library team will continue to provide

the same services. Available services include: holds pickup, children's materials, young adult materials, STEAM kits, video (DVDs, Blu-rays and Binge Boxes), 3D printing, and limited computers and printing. Visit Harrington Library at 1501 18th St.

Harrington is one of five libraries run by the City of Plano. More information on all libraries can be found on the City of Plano website.

# African American Leadership Institute hosts 7th annual African American Elected Officials Thanksgiving Brunch



Over 100 African American current and former elected officials from the DFW area were a part of the 7th Annual African American Elected Officials Thanksgiving Brunch, Monday, November 22, 2021 at Paul Quinn College. The brunch was hosted by State Rep. Toni Rose, State Rep. Rhett Andrews Bowers and

State Sen. Royce West.

Dallas pastor, Bryan Carter, of Concord Church, delivered a powerful luncheon address entitled, "Don't Give Up Too Soon."

The African American Leadership Institute (AALI) is designed to enhance civic awareness and leadership opportunities to make an innovative com-

munity impact on Central Texas.

AALI participants will have opportunities to make connections to affect the long-term action required to create equity, opportunity, and a higher quality of life for African American citizens.

For more information, please contact Joycelyn Johnson at 214-467-0123.

# GET HOLIDAY READY

2021 Ford F-150

**0% APR** FOR **60 Mos.** + **\$500**

APR Ford Credit For Qualified Buyers. Retail Bonus Cash

Plus **Complimentary Maintenance** when you sign up for FordPass™ Rewards.²

Computer-generated image shown.

YOUR HOLIDAY STARTS HERE

BUYFORDNOW.COM

Always consult the Owner's Manual before off-road driving, know your terrain and trail difficulty, and use appropriate safety gear. ¹Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. 0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed, regardless of down payment (PGM #21282). Not available on SuperCrew™ Tremor™ models. Residency restrictions apply. For all offers, take new retail delivery or order from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 1/3/22. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. ²Modem must be activated within 60 days of purchase through the FordPass App on a smartphone and remain active for at least six months after activation. Buyers of non-modem-equipped vehicles will also receive Points after enrollment. Visit a participating dealer for details.

© 2021 Ford Motor Company. Explorer, F-150 and Bronco are trademarks of Ford. All rights reserved.





## South Dallas BPW Club recruits six new members, reclaims one member

By Gwendolyn H. Daniels

The historic South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. (despite a near two-year pandemic) added six new members and reclaimed one former member in its efforts to grow the organization that serves citizens in and around Dallas County and internationally.

Even with the elimination of in-person meetings and on-site Club programming that is ordinarily held throughout Dallas and surrounding cities, South Dallas is continuing the challenge of increasing membership virtually,

through member recruitment and through their stellar reputation in the community.

On September 1, 2021, the Club began its 34th administration under the new leadership of President Ollie Gilstrap and a newly elected Executive Board that includes Director of Membership Carla Dennis.

South Dallas Business and Professional Women will end the year 85 members strong consisting of distinguished elected officials, entrepreneurs, educators, government employees, retirees, business owners, administrators of institutions and leaders in

fortune 500 corporations. Congratulations to President Ollie Gilstrap, Director Carla Dennis and to the entire Membership Committee.

They successfully encouraged Club sisters to actively recruit more new members than any club in the South Central District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. during the first five months of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

For more information on the South Dallas Club, visit their website at southdallasbpwc.org or their Facebook page at southdallas1954.



Anita Kazee-Thomas



Cecelia Criner



Charron Simmons



Darcy Donelson



Loren Gilbert-Smith



Dr. Dinah Marks

## WEST, from Page 2

cameras in police cars and on Texas law enforcement officers."

As a result of the 2020 Census, each of the 31 Texas Senate districts will

now represent more than 954,000 citizens. Senator West says he looks forward to meeting new D23 constituents and continuing to work on behalf of the

people and Dallas County businesses that help North Texas power the Texas economy. Senator West currently serves on standing Senate Finance, Education, Higher Education and Transportation Committees.



# TALK TO HIS DOCTOR ABOUT COVID VACCINES. BECAUSE HE'S IRREPLACEABLE.

COVID hospitalizations of young people have tripled since the start of summer. However, vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths, even from the Delta variant.

Find vaccines near you at [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)

**WE CAN DO THIS**



# Dallas Cowboys stall in game against Kansas City Chiefs, 19-9

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

After a most frustrating 19-9 loss to the defending American Football Conference champion Kansas City Chiefs this past Sunday, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott decided to look at the setback through rose colored glasses.

"I'm never discouraged, but pissed off, yeah, for sure," Prescott said. "Especially when you have an opportunity to come out and play against a team that's been in the Super Bowl the last two years.

"But this is a resilient team that's going to continue to fight and get better, I can tell you that."

The Cowboys didn't put up much of a fight against the Chiefs. On a day when they didn't score a touchdown, the Cowboys mus-



All Pro Reels / Flickr

tered just 276 total yards, Prescott threw a pair of interceptions and also was sacked five times.

"The offense didn't hold up our end of the bargain," guard Zack Martin said. "I think if you would have told us that our defense would have held them to 19 points, we would have felt pretty damn good about that.

"We've got to do a better job (on offense)."

Indeed, holding quarterback Patrick Mahomes and that high-powered Chiefs' offense to just 19 points on their home turf is almost a miracle within itself.

"I thought we played great defense," said defensive end Micah Parsons, who collected two sacks and also forced a fumble. "That (Kansas City) team can give you 45-50 (points) on any given day.

"To hold their offense

under 20 points, we definitely did the job. It's good, but it's not good enough."

The Cowboys did have some valid reasons why they sputtered offensively against the Chiefs.

Wide receiver Amari Cooper missed the game after testing positive for COVID-19, and left tackle Tyron Smith also didn't play due to an ankle injury. In addition, wide receiver CeeDee Lamb suffered a concussion in the first half and did not return to the game.

However, coach Mike McCarthy refused to saddle this loss on the backs of any injured players.

"We had a healthy 48 players ready to play," McCarthy said. "We had a number of guys that couldn't play in the game.

"That's the NFL. That's the course of a season."

With the loss, the Cow-

boys fell to 7-3, but still have a two-and-a-half games lead over the Philadelphia Eagles (5-6) in the NFC East standings.

In addition to those two interceptions, Prescott was just 28-of-43 for 216 yards while being chased around all day by the opportunistic Chiefs.

"I watch the line of scrimmage for the most part and the time clocks, the pace of the operations and things like that," McCarthy said, referring to Prescott. "As far as grading his throwing, I wouldn't be specific with that.

"We definitely were not as efficient (Sunday) as we needed to be. We're not discouraged, but we didn't win the game."

The Cowboys will have a chance to quickly redeem themselves when they host the Las Vegas Raiders on Thanksgiving Day at 3:30

p.m. at AT&T Stadium. That game can't get here soon enough for Prescott, who entered the contest against the Chiefs as the No. 1-rated quarterback in the NFL.

And with Mahomes – regarded as one of the league's top three quarterbacks – on the other side of the field, Prescott knows he and the Cowboys missed a golden chance to silence their critics.

"We had a great opportunity to come out and play against a team that has been in the Super Bowl the last couple of years, and prove it to ourselves, prove it to one another what we are capable of," Prescott said. "It sucks, but we are a confident group.

"The offense didn't get the job done. It starts with me. There are no worries and no discouragements for what our future holds."

## Local media, including NNPA members, are poised to reap benefits after House passes Build Back Better Act

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

After four years of an administration that warred against the media, news outlets stand to benefit significantly in President Joe Biden's Build Back Better Act.

The House passed the measure on Friday following a more than 8-hour rant by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who many said aspires to the role of Speaker if Republicans retake the chamber in the 2022 midterm elections.

The legislation counts among the Biden-Harris administration's most aggressive social safety measures.

It includes funding for universal pre-K, the extension of the child tax credit, and paid family and medical leave.

Under the bill, expansion to Medicare would include covering hearing benefits and extending Medicaid

coverage for an estimated four million individuals. It would also lower prescription drug costs and reduce premiums in the Affordable Care Act.

The legislation also includes the president's \$1.9 trillion spending and climate change initiatives that the administration has touted since its early days in January.

For media and newspapers like the many in the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Build Back Better Act includes tax credits for local print, online, and broadcast news outlets to employ journalists.

The measure provides a credit of up to \$25,000 to offset employment taxes during the first year for each employee.

It provides an additional \$15,000 per employee for the next four years.

The Senate still must pass the bill before it could land on President Biden's desk

for signature.

The Congressional Budget Office said the bill would increase America's budget deficit by \$367 billion through 2031. But many in Congress noted that the IRS has ramped up its collection and enforcement of taxes, which should further decrease the strain on the budget.

"We, this Democratic Congress, are taking our place in the long and honorable heritage of our democracy with legislation that will be the pillar of health and financial security in America," stated House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Florida Democratic Rep. Val Demings called the measure one of the most extensive middle-class tax cuts in U.S. history. Demings declared the plan "fiscally responsible" and said it would create new jobs and reduce the cost of essential services, including health care, childcare, senior care, education, and housing.

www.dallasisd.org/choosedallasisd

THIS IS HOME TO MORE THAN 100 INNOVATION PROGRAMS!

**DALLAS DISCOVER**  
DALLAS ISD

Explore the one-stop application system to find the best-fit school for your child.  
**CHOOSE DALLAS ISD. THIS IS HOME!**

Application period for 2022-2023 is open from November 2021 through January 2022.



# NDG Book Review: 'Make Good the Promises' is a historical journey

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Scout's honor.

It's a pledge, hope to die, and pinky swear. Someone's offered their word and now you have expectations. They've made a solemn vow and you'll hold them responsible but remember: as in the new book "Make Good the Promises," edited by Kinshasha Holman Conwill and Paul Gardullo, some pacts don't last long.

Three years before he was inaugurated, Abraham Lincoln was concerned "about the deepening crisis between the Northern free states and Southern slave states." He "thought hard" and often about "the



institution of slavery" but, though he was against it, he believed that decisions on slavery should lie within the individual states.

He'd "been in office for a month when insurrectionary forces attacked Fort Sumter," which marked the beginning of the Civil War. Northerners leaped into the

war, "believing, or so they said, that the Civil War" was not about slavery or Black people.

"Black people insisted, to the contrary, that the war had everything to do with them."

Years before War's end, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation gave African Americans hope that things would improve. After his assassination in April 1865 and the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment the following December, there was still hope, though Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson, "proved to be an enemy of Black freedom." Still, Johnson's Reconstruction plan didn't entire-

ly undo what Lincoln had started, though it did favor Southern states in ways that made room for white supremacy and Jim Crow laws, and that still resonate today.

Johnson's actions lingered in the fight for the vote for Black women, long after Black men were allowed to cast a ballot; it lingered in their "proper treatment as ladies..." His actions left a long legacy that began with mass incarceration and forced work, often for no valid reason. And they linger in violence and disrespect, in disenfranchisement, in segregation that still affects Black lives, and in politics and

current events today. And, as the authors indicate here, reviving the subject of reparations may fix all that...

Trace it back. George Floyd back, Medgar Evers back, Rosa Parks back, Black GIs back, and you'll see where editors Kinshasha Holman Conwill and Paul Gardullo are going. Follow it back, and in "Make Good the Promises," you'll find a path forward.

It's not a new one, though, as you'll see inside this photo-packed narrative; in fact, there's not even just one. In the chapters that serve as refreshers on the Civil War (with focus on War's end), there are

many subtle suggestions for establishing equality. More blunt talk comes toward the end of the book, and it comes with some surprises.

Readers are also in for one big delight here: this book would be just another volume on history, were it not for the abundance of photographs. You simply must see the faces inside.

You have to see their lives.

If you're a history buff or a reader of Civil War-era accounts, one peek inside "Make Good the Promises" will have you hooked. Pick it up, you'll love it, cross your heart.

## Concert disasters like Astroworld have occurred far too often

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Promoters billed the event as the "World Series" of festivals, but the night ended with the dreadful shock of death filling the venue.

No, that's not a reference to Travis Scott's Astroworld Festival, which left nine people dead and several others wounded after the large crowd swarmed toward the stage, causing the trampling of many concertgoers.

About 42 years ago, on December 3, 1979, rock band The Who headlined a

festival at Riverfront Coliseum in Cincinnati with about 19,000 screaming fans in attendance.

As concert time neared, fans revved up, preparing a race to get as close to their music idols as possible — many seats were unsigned.

As the crowd pushed toward the entrance, the surge caused 11 deaths and at least 26 injuries.

While Scott continues to receive criticism for not stopping the show quick enough, The Who played their entire set even as some fans lay dying.

Reportedly, authorities and promoters didn't

inform the group of the deaths until they left the stage.

About 30 years ago, hip hop stars Heavy D and Puff Daddy — known today as Diddy — held a heavily promoted show at New York's City College.

Run-DMC, Big Daddy Kane, Boyz II Men, and Jodeci were among the headliners at the December 28, 1991, show.

The popularity of each of the groups led promoters to oversell the small gymnasium with more than 3,000 people holding tickets — another 5,000 reportedly showed up hoping to gain entrance.

ners and participants have delivered their speeches to numerous local and national organizations, including MLK Day appearances at the House of Blues.

They have also appeared on local and national television programs, including CBS' The Early Show, Fox 26 News, Oprah, Good Morning America, The Today Show, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, and the Dallas Bar Association.

To engage with and stay up to date on this year's competition, please use #FoleyMLK.

## MLK, from Page 6

Grade, Walnut Hill Elementary

- Sophia Padron, 5th Grade, William Brown Miller Elementary

- Octavia Davis, 4th Grade, Wilmer-Hutchins Elementary

The competition kicked off in October, with nearly 100 students submitting videos for the virtual in-school qualifying rounds, which were judged by representatives from Foley. During the semifinal round on December 7, eight finalists will be selected to ad-

vance to the final competition to be held on January 14, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CDT at W.H. Adamson High School. Criteria for judging include delivery, stage presence and decorum, content interpretation and memorization. Finalists will receive a monetary award, participation plaque and other gifts.

Created in Dallas in 1993, the event's success led to the establishment of the Houston competition in 1997 and the Chicago competition in 2020. Past win-

## New Parkland health center now located in RedBird!



**RedBird Health Center**

3560 W Camp Wisdom Rd. Suite 100 Dallas, TX 75237

### Services of the clinic include:

- Primary care for the whole family, including adult, senior care and children
- Women's care, including pregnancy care
- Behavioral health for all ages in a private area with a special waiting room and play therapy space for children
- Spacious on-site clinical lab
- Physical therapy with gym
- On-site radiology including sonograms and X-rays
- Mammography screenings
- Pharmacy
- Eye and foot care services
- On-site social worker
- Nutrition experts



RedBird Health Center is located near the intersection of U.S. Route 67 and Interstate 20 on DART bus line 547.

Call 214-590-4000 to schedule an appointment.

For more information, please visit  
[www.parklandhospital.com/redbird](http://www.parklandhospital.com/redbird)



**Parkland**  
Care. Compassion. Community.



# Black and Latino consumers dispute credit reports double that of whites

By Charlene Crowell

Although credit accounts enable widely accepted alternatives to cash transactions, the convenience of both debit and credit cards can also become costly when patterns of errors and inaccuracies emerge in credit reports. In just one year – 2020 – over 300,000 complaints were filed with federal financial regulators concerning credit or consumer reporting.

New research from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), finds that consumers residing in majority minority neighborhoods that are either Black or Latino were more than twice as likely to have disputes appear on their credit reports compared to consumers residing in majority white areas. This finding held true in nearly every credit category reviewed - auto loans, student loans, credit cards, and retail cards between January 2012 and December 2019.

Among these credit categories, auto loans were the most problematic. Consumers in majority Black areas were more than three times as likely to have disputes appear on their credit reports.

"Families living in majority Black and Hispanic neighborhoods are far more likely to have disputes of inaccurate information appear on their credit re-



ports," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra. "Error-ridden credit reports are far too prevalent and may be undermining an equitable recovery."

CFPB also documented the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in credit reporting.

"Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, complaints to the CFPB about credit reporting issues have spiked, with credit reporting complaints increasing year-to-year by 129% in 2020, and is the most common complaint topic," states the report. "Consumers who have disputes reported were also more likely to reside in census tracts that were majority Black or majority Hispanic...We find that outcomes for accounts with reported disputes vary substantially across types of

credit, with student loan accounts relatively more likely to be deleted from consumers' credit records, while auto loans are more likely to be marked closed and paid in full."

When credit reporting is rife with errors, these and other failures can restrict consumer access to fair, equitable and affordable credit products. Additionally, as a growing number of employers add credit report reviews to their screening of applicants, erroneous and outdated items can be an obstacle to securing a job, or a reason why access to the most affordable credit is denied.

Federal agencies like CFPB, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) accept consumer complaints, and enforce protections granted through the Fair Credit Reporting Act

(FCRA). Enacted in 1970, FCRA requires consumer reporting companies to process and investigate the disputes in a timely manner, and correct any inaccuracies uncovered by the investigation. Documented FCRA violations can be grounds for related lawsuits that not only correct the misinformation, but also provide restitution for resulting harms.

Beyond or before lawsuits, other consumer-initiated actions can lead to important financial protections.

A "credit freeze" can be requested by consumers to only allow access to credit report information with an explicit consumer authorization. While it is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in a consumer's name without consent, the Federal Trade Commission warns that its usage can also cause delays in consumers gaining approval for new credit transactions like new accounts. Nor does a credit freeze prevent credit report information by either an existing creditor or their collection agents.

Another consumer protection is known as a "fraud alert" on credit report files. Initially, this provision offers an initial one-year period in which new credit accounts at businesses are required to verify the consumer's identity before opening new credit. Ad-

ditionally, consumers who have been victims of identity theft are entitled to an extended seven-year fraud alert.

Beyond fraud alerts and credit freezes, under FCRA consumers also have a right to:

- One free disclosure every 12 months - upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies;

- Be told if information in credit files has been used against you. Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment - or to take another adverse action against you - must tell you, and must give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information; and

- A 30-day window for consumer reporting agencies to correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.

A full summary of these and other FCRA protections are available at: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf>

States can and do offer additional consumer protections through the offices of state attorneys gen-

eral. As a rule, like CFPB, these state offices accept online complaints that can be investigated and when warranted, prosecuted. In some instances, joint and collaborative prosecutions connect federal and state offices in the pursuit of consumer enforcement actions.

For example, on October 14, North Carolina's Attorney General joined with CFPB and the FTC in filing a friend of the court brief in support of the FCRA's in protecting consumers from a technology company that claimed immunity from inaccurate, misleading, and false consumer reporting found on the Internet to assemble and then sell personal information for a profit.

In part the brief argued, "[T]he need to ensure that such companies 'exercise their grave responsibilities with fairness, impartiality, and a respect for the consumer's right to privacy'—by enforcing the procedures and limitations that Congress mandated in the FCRA—is greater than ever."

Now as the holiday season brings increased spending, consumers would be wise to remain alert to credit usage and inaccuracies.

*Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

## The NFL and Panini America to launch first NFL NFT Trading card packs

*Pack-based NFL NFTs will be available to fans beginning on December 1*

NEW YORK and IRVING, Texas – The National Football League (NFL) and Panini America, the exclusive trading card manufacturer of the NFL and the NFLPA, will launch the NFL's first NFT Trading Card Packs beginning December 1. The NFL NFT Trading Card Packs provide fans with an additional engagement op-

portunity that combines the time-honored hobby of collecting trading cards with the growing space of NFTs. Panini America officials began releasing NFL Instant NFT trading cards in October celebrating the top player performances each week.

"Trading cards have seen a resurgence in popularity making this the perfect

time to release our first NFT Trading Card Packs with Panini America," said Joe Ruggiero, SVP of Consumer Products at the NFL. "The NFL looks forward to partnering with Panini to offer NFL NFT trading cards, creating another touchpoint for engagement for fans."

The NFL NFT trading cards program will launch

with Panini America's popular Mosaic brand. Prizm and Donruss Optic brand NFL NFT trading cards will follow in January and February, respectively.

The NFL NFT trading card packs will be available on Panini's private blockchain platform, where fans can purchase NFL NFT trading cards in pack format and as individual

cards. Fans can also auction their Panini NFL NFT trading cards in the Panini Blockchain Marketplace. The NFL NFT trading card can be purchased in U.S. currency.

"The NFT marketplace has exploded right alongside the physical trading card market across all sports over the last several

months and with the introduction of NFL NFT trading card packs will only make the marketplace that much more vibrant," said Mark Warsop, Panini America CEO. "We're tremendously excited about the potential of this space and look forward to using the power of the NFL to continue growing the market."



# \$22 Million in grants awarded to Texas for America's infrastructure

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary Pete Buttigieg today announced that the Biden Administration will award \$22 million for four projects in the state of Texas through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grants program. The total FY 21 RAISE investment in American infrastructure was nearly \$1 billion, awarded to 90 projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Guam.

"We're proud to support these great projects that will improve infrastructure, strengthen supply chains, make us safer, advance equity, and combat climate change," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "As in past years, we received far more applications than we could fund: this cycle saw about a ten-to-one ratio of requests to available dollars. But go-

ing forward, with the passage of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will be able to support far more infrastructure projects to support jobs and everyday life in communities across the country."

The program selection criteria encompassed safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders. Within these criteria, the grants reflect the Department's priorities for creating good-paying jobs, improving safety, applying transformative technology, and explicitly addressing climate change and advancing racial equity.

The projects receiving funding include:

- \$900,000 to the City of Dallas for the Connecting Communities in the Southern Gateway project.

The project will create a comprehensive master plan for projects connecting the Southern Gateway Park and Dallas Zoo to the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas and conduct design and engineering for three projects across 12 acres of new, public-use, urban green space being constructed over a section of I-35 consisting of: intersection improvements connecting the Gateway Park to the Bishop Arts and Jefferson commercial area; a pedestrian bridge connecting the commuter rail line to the Dallas Zoo; and a pedestrian bridge over I-35 connecting to 12 acres of newly created green space.

- \$900,000 to the City of El Paso for the I-10 Deck Plaza Planning Study. This project will develop plans for a Deck Plaza over the sunken I-10 in the downtown area. This project would develop a roughly

12-acre park-like deck above the sunken I-10 that separates downtown and uptown El Paso. These two areas are connected by eight bridges and the proposed deck would build around and connect these eight existing roadways, creating parks with amenities between them.

- \$8.2 million to the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the Enhancing Mobility within the Southern Dallas Inland Port project. This project will implement new transit service, improve pedestrian infrastructure, and update traffic signals in the Southern Dallas County Inland Port area covering over 120 square miles, including portions of Southern Dallas and DeSoto counties, in addition to the cities of Lancaster, Hutchins, and Wilmer. The project has three components: the purchasing of eight electric shuttles

to deliver on-demand transit; the construction of sidewalks and crosswalks near the VA Medical Center and light-rail station; and approximately 41 new traffic signals to optimize transit, pedestrian, and vehicular movements.

- \$12 million to the Texas Department of Transportation for The LOOP: Uniting Neighborhoods with Urban Trails project. This project will complete the third and final segment of The LOOP, a 50-mile urban trail in the city of Dallas, Texas. The project will add approximately eleven miles of trail, replace a two-lane, low clearance bridge with a four-lane Complete Street bridge, extend an existing Complete Street, and add access to two light rail stations. The bridge replacement includes raising the structure to meet current standards for bridges over the Texas Multimodal

Freight Network.

Fiscal Year 2021 RAISE Transportation discretionary grants are for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and were awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. RAISE funding supports roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Per statute, the Department is awarding 50% of RAISE Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas and 50% to urban areas that deliver positive benefits for these communities. For this round of RAISE Transportation discretionary grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act.

## Fifth annual Dallas County Expunction Expo celebrates over 1,800 expunctions

The fifth annual Dallas County Expunction Expo will not only recognize those who were granted expunctions this year, but the 1800 total expunctions granted as a result of the Expo, since its inception.

On December 4, 2021, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot and Dallas County District Clerk Felicia Pitre, along with many others, will congratulate individuals who will be granted expunctions as a result of

this year's Expo. In fact, approximately 800 people will ultimately be granted an expunction, a legal process used to clear the criminal record of qualifying offense (s) from one's record, as prescribed by law.

The expunction expo is an annual effort, spearheaded by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Dallas County District Clerk's Office. The Expo's purpose is to provide as many qualified individu-

als with an opportunity to clear their criminal records so that they may obtain housing, employment and education. Without the impediment of the expunged offense on their record, they are placed in an optimal position to positively contribute to society, support their family and community and most importantly avoid future incarceration.

The Office's Expunction Expo, which continues to gain momentum each year

is another way that Dallas County District Criminal Attorney John Creuzot and Dallas County District Clerk Felicia Pitre, seek to reform the current criminal justice system and address recidivism rates and their effect on our community.

"When there is an opportunity to improve the Dallas County criminal justice system and make our community safer, I am absolutely going to support those efforts," District Attorney John Creuzot said. "While

this Expo is an excellent initiative in furthering our goal of criminal justice reform, its effects on those we are able to help every year is the ultimate reward for my administration. It is our hope that those who benefit from the Expo will have greater access to employment, education and housing to improve their lives and the lives of their families," he continued.

With the support and collaborative efforts of organizations like Dallas County

Public Defender's Office, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, the City of Dallas, the UNT Dallas College of Law, the SMU Dedman School of Law Texas Offender Reentry Initiative (T.O.R.I.), Unlocking Doors, and many more, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and the Dallas County District Clerk's Office has been able to provide not only a fresh start for these qualifying individuals, but for our justice system as a whole.

## BLACK, from Page 6

the U.S. Senate to also pass this unprecedented initiative that will further help to eliminate poverty, housing discrimination, health care disparities, and environmental injustice.

Even though we have not been able to end the reality of systemic racism in the very fabric of society, we have in fact made progress. This is no time for us to get distracted, disillusioned, and chronically disappointed about the present and the future.

Poverty and unemployment within our families and communities are now on a steady decrease after years of increasing economic disparities even before the devastating impact of COVID-19 on Black America. We express our condolences to those families who have suffered deaths from that deadly pandemic that continues to disproportionately hit our communities.

We are thankful to those healthcare professionals, physicians, medical re-

searchers and other first responders who have helped all Americans to survive and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. It is, therefore, appropriate that part of our Black Happy Thanksgiving wishes go out to the medical research genius of our sister, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the leading viral immunologist, who helped to develop the vaccine process that led to the preventive COVID-19 vaccines that has enabled millions of Americans and others to avoid infection from COVID-19. Dr. Corbett stated,

"Vaccines are the great equalizer when it comes to addressing health disparities, especially around infectious diseases."

We are thankful for the effectiveness of the Black Voters Matter movement and all of the civil rights and voting rights national, regional, and local organizations that are challenging the voter suppression statutes, laws and regulations that are being put into place in Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and in other states. We are thankful for the leadership of Congress-

sional Black Caucus Chair Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and each member of the CBC.

We are thankful to Attorney Benjamin Crump and a growing host of other civil rights lawyers and leaders who refuse to be silent about the continuing racialized and misconduct across America that inflicts fatal consequences for Black Americans throughout the nation.

We are thankful that the Black Press is expanding to all multimedia platforms

and channels. We have to remain proactive to ensure that the formulation and distribution of the narrative of Black America is authentic, accurate, truthful, and trusted.

Thus, we wish all a Black Happy Thanksgiving.

*Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/ Host of The Chavis Chronicles broadcast weekly on PBS TV stations across the nation, and can be reached at [dr.bchavis@nnpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org)*



### On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

The United States Army is hiring for over 150 different career fields.

**PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES** - 1 weekend a month, 2 weeks in the early summer. Stay local, Money for school, healthcare, paid drills and skill training, and up to \$20,000 enlistment bonus.

**FULL TIME OPPORTUNITIES** - Full time hours with off time and weekends just like regular jobs. 30 days paid vacation per year. Money for school, free healthcare, paid skill training, and up to \$40,000 enlistment bonus.

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

Prerequisites:

- GED/High School Diploma
- Between the ages of 17-34
- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

### Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit [census.gov](http://census.gov) to apply.

### Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

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



### Ongoing House of Blues

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

## CONCERTS, from Page 10

generally attract the most ardent of fans.

Attendees at concerts given by the late King of Pop Michael Jackson routinely fainted with security and other personnel rendering aid.

On February 20, 2003, at a Great White concert held in a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, a fire erupted and trapped and killed 100 people and injured more than 200 others.

The rock group's road manager set off pyrotechnics as the band took the stage, but sparks ignited the ceiling, and flames quickly spread through the nightclub.

Club owners were prosecuted and found guilty of 100 counts of involuntary manslaughter.

They ultimately paid a \$176 million civil claim.

Something similar occurred in 2013 at a nightclub in Brazil when more than 230 people lost their lives during a concert by the band Gurizada Fandangueira.

In 2020, three techno-music promoters escaped punishment from the so-called "Love Festival" in Germany ten years earlier.

The presiding justices ended the trial of the three individuals noting that the pandemic prohibited them from completing the case before the 10-year statute of limitations would be realized.

Seven other defendants won an acquittal in 2019.

Members of the promotion staff and a half-dozen

city officials stood trial on charges of negligent manslaughter and bodily harm after 21 people died. More than 600 suffered injuries during the stampede at the

festival attended by an estimated 1 million.

Prosecutors said serious planning mistakes occurred and safety measures were insufficient.



**GARLAND**  
TEXAS MADE HERE

**Attention Suppliers of Goods,  
Services and Construction**

**Review Competitive Opportunities at**  
<https://garlandtx.ionwave.net>

[www.garlandpurchasing.com](http://www.garlandpurchasing.com)

**972-205-2415**



**DO YOU WANT AN EXCITING AND  
REWARDING CAREER?**

**PURSUE A CAREER AS A POLICE  
OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER!**

- Competitive wages
- Array of benefits
- Education incentive pay
- ...and more

**REGISTER ONLINE TO TAKE  
THE CITY OF IRVING'S NEXT  
CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM**

[www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org)

*The City of Irving does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.*

**CBS Insurance Services, LLC**  
**7125 Marvin D. Love Frwy., Suite 302**  
**Dallas, Texas 75237**

**Looking for A Career Change  
Then We Need You!!**

If you're looking for full or parttime work with flexible hours, income ranging from \$800.00 to \$2,000.00 plus weekly. No Experience Needed we will license and train.

**For more information call (214) 238-6855**  
**Ask for Shun**  
**Email: [info@cbsolutionsplus.com](mailto:info@cbsolutionsplus.com)**

## TISEO PAVING COMPANY

**419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150**  
**Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax (972) 216-5637**  
[www.tiseopaving.com](http://www.tiseopaving.com)

**Performing Concrete Street Paving  
in the Metroplex Area**  
**We Accept Subcontracting Bids  
For All Public Works Projects  
in the Dallas Area.**  
**We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics**

**Equal Opportunity Employer**

### 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.



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

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

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

**November 28, 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 25, 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 Philippians Chapter 3. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300  
[www.bethelbiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethelbiblefellowship.org)

**FELLOWSHIP  
CHRISTIAN  
CENTER CHURCH  
IN ALLEN  
“THE SHIP” We are  
Saving You a Seat!**

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

**November 28**

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.

**December 1, 7 pm**

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor

2450 K Avenue #300  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-379-3287  
[www.theship3c.org](http://www.theship3c.org)  
[www.visitF3c.org](http://www.visitF3c.org)

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

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

**- Malachi 3:8-10**

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

**November 26, 7 pm**

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

**November 28, 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 29, 7 pm**

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

Pastor Rickie Rush  
7701 S Westmoreland Road  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-372-4262  
[www.Ibocchurch.org](http://www.Ibocchurch.org)

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO  
(WHERE COMMUNITY  
BECOMES FAMILY)**

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

Check “SMBC’s” website

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

**November 28,  
8 and 11 am**

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

**November 29, 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).

**December 3, 7 pm**

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)

## Will We Be Served Coffee in Heaven?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

The last several weeks have truly been hectic in every sense of the word. Trying to catch up can be a never-ending job. When I think I’m caught up, I see another thing I need to do.

I have learned that kicking the can down the street only hurts your big toe.

With so much to do lately, it’s hard to prioritize what should come first. The one thought rattling through my brain is, will anybody know if I don’t do this job?

It doesn’t have to rattle too long before I come to the answer to that inquiry.

If I don’t do a certain job, the one who will know would be the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When it comes to activities, she is the queen of priority and completion.

I don’t have that kind of initiative, but I certainly try.

I have discovered that one day a certain activity will have priority; the next day, something else will have priority. Life can be

very confusing, especially to someone like me trying to sort out priorities every day.

This week I reached a three-week milestone. I was delighted.

That milestone was, I had accomplished every job that I needed to do. I don’t have to tell you that that doesn’t happen very often; in fact, this may be the first time it has ever happened to me.

Reaching this milestone, I was utterly exhausted. I came home and sat in my easy chair, hoping I’ll never have to get up again.

As I got comfortable, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked, “Would you like a cup of coffee?”

I can’t think of any time or place I would say no to that offer.

She got herself a cup of coffee and joined me in the living room to sit back and relax after all of this work.

Nothing calms my mind more than a delicious cup of coffee. My wife makes

coffee in the morning and then fills a thermos to make coffee available all day.

As I’m sipping that first sip, I just feel the weight of the world lifting off my shoulders. What would my life be without coffee?

As we were sitting there, she asked a question, “Do you think they will serve us coffee in heaven?”

I was not in the mood for any serious thinking because my brain was somewhat wavering in sobriety. Why did she have to ask me a question at this time? Especially one as serious as this?

However, I couldn’t get this question out of my mind.

All the good my coffee does for me would cause me to hope there is coffee in heaven.

No matter what my day is like or how stressed I am, a nice hot cup of coffee takes my focus off of the problems I’m having.

I have no idea who invented coffee, but I like to

meet him sometime and shake his hand. No other invention in the world has as much value to me as coffee.

Some people don’t like coffee, and that’s okay with me. They’ll have to have something else to calm them down. Some people want decaffeinated coffee, and that’s okay with me, but that’s not what I’m going to drink.

I want my coffee strong. It doesn’t have to be hot necessarily, but it does have to be strong. It has to be the kind of coffee that could take my attention away from the outside world. And, nobody makes my coffee better than the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Quite often, when I’m out doing things, I try to find a little place where they serve coffee so that I can sit down and relax.

In one little café I visit, I have a strict rule, “Refill my coffee every five minutes.” That takes care of my

anxiety.

Back to my wife’s question, “Do you think they will serve us coffee in heaven?”

For one, there is no stress in heaven like we have in our world today. Just when you think our world can’t get any more stressful, surprise! It does.

Just when you think you have seen the worst, surprise! You haven’t.

Without stress in heaven, it would not be necessary to have coffee. However, I would be delighted to sit down somewhere with the apostle Paul and have a cup of coffee together. You learn things over a cup of coffee that you can’t learn anywhere else.

There’s a whole list of people I would like to sit down with and have coffee in heaven.

The coffee there would not be for taking care of stress but rather enjoying fellowship together. That is another aspect of a hot cup of coffee.

Imagine if you would, a bunch of us in heaven sitting around the table enjoying a cup of coffee when at the head of the table is none other than Jesus Christ.

Drinking coffee with friends releases a spirit of fellowship like none other.

*“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ”*

**(1 John 1:3).**

I’m not sure about the coffee in heaven, but I do know we will have a stress-free time of fellowship with other believers as well as with Christ himself. I’m looking forward to that.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*



# Learn from God's Creation



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

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

(Romans 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 creation 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, how 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 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 thousands of species of birds, just to name a few.

Consider the planet we



Baby: Kalani Dior Roberson, Parents are Cedric and Cardaeja Roberson at the inaugural family reunion for the children of Lloyd David and Cedella Baker Demus on October 23, 2021.

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. Pray that God would help us to always will be a person of

integrity.

Ask God to help us to have undivided devotion to Him, to firmly adhere to our faith and moral values, to practice biblical ethics, and be of sound mind and good character.

Pray for our families, that each one would realize the importance of integrity and would live their lives accordingly.

Ask God to help us to be examples of Christ-like character in this world and And thank God in the precious name Jesus.

**Inspiring Body of Christ** IBOC  
Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972.679.4262 (IBOC)  
www.IBOCHURCH.org

Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am  
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

## Cemetary Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

- Inherited plot and can't sell it?
- Bought plot years ago and your plans have changed?
- Singles space or Side by Side spaces is okay.

We will make you a "cash offer" on your cemetery plot today! If you get voice mail-leave message phone number and information on cemetery space. We will get back to you

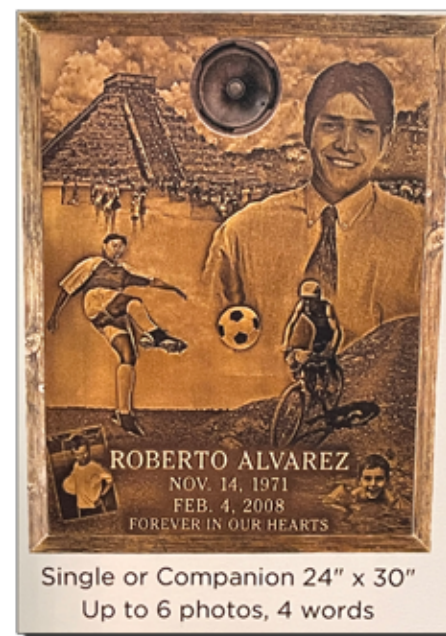
**Call Us Today!!!!!!!**  
**972.665.0170**

## "For Sale at Discount" Laurel Land Memorial Park - Dallas

1- Double Deck Lawn Crypt with Concrete Liner Vault  
Section: Court of Freedom, Crypt 48, Row J (A,B)

1- Memorial (Double Name) Marker:  
16 X 24 Companion  
Bronze Plate  
20 X 28 Along with  
Granite Base

Laurel Land Memorial  
Park - Dallas Cost:  
1-Double Deck Crypt  
Cost - \$8295.00  
1-Memorial (Double Name) Marker -  
\$2579.00  
**Total: \$10,874.00**



Single or Companion 24" x 30"  
Up to 6 photos, 4 words

**To Make Offer Contact:**  
**Harry "Rick" Jordan 972.665.0170**  
(if no answer, leave message -will respond ASAP!)

**Church Happenings**  
is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the  
**North Dallas Gazette.** To make additions or corrections to the  
calendar, contact: religion@northdallasgazette.com





THE NEXT GENERATION 2021 ESCALADE

NEVER STOP ARRIVING



CADILLAC

[www.cadillac.com](http://www.cadillac.com)