



# North Dallas Gazette

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## After guilty verdicts, civil rights leaders exhort Black America to 'never stop running for Ahmaud'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

After nearly two years of pain, suffering, and wondering if the men who killed Ahmaud Arbery would pay for their heinous crime, the 25-year-old's family finally received justice.

A Glynn County, Georgia, convicted Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael, and William Bryan of felony murder.

"Guilty. Guilty. Guilty," civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump exclaimed.

"Nothing will bring back Ahmaud, but his family will have some peace knowing the men who killed him will remain behind bars and can never inflict their brand of evil on another innocent soul," Crump continued.

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson called the verdicts long overdue.

"Ahmaud Arbery's death was unnecessary and fueled by racist ideologies deeply engrained into the fabric of this nation," Johnson insisted.

"Generations of Black people have seen this time and time again, with the murder of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, and many others,"



*"The violent stalking and lynching of Ahmaud Arbery was documented on video for the world to witness. Yet, because of the deep cracks, flaws, and biases in our systems, we were left to wonder if we would ever see justice," said Attorney Ben Crump (Courtesy photo).*

he continued.

"The actions and events perpetrated by the McMichaels and William Bryan leading up to Ahmaud's death reflect a growing and deepening rift in America that will be its undoing if not addressed on a systemic level.

"We must fix what is genuinely harming our nation: white supremacy."

The jury found Travis McMichael, who shot Arbery in February 2020, guilty of all nine charges, including malice murder and four counts of felony murder.

The panel found his father, Gregory, not guilty of malice murder but

convicted him on felony murder, unlawful imprisonment, and other charges.

Bryan escaped a guilty verdict on malice murder, but the jury found him guilty of three felony murder counts, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and criminal intent to commit a felony.

The men, who also face federal charges, could spend life in prison when sentenced.

Judge Timothy Walmsley bound the men over and will soon set a sentencing date.

Immediately following the an-

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Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

### People In The News ...



Lee Elder



AO3 Jillian Aguilar

*NDG Quote of the Week: "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear."*

—Rosa Parks



## Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

(NNPA) Recognizing the historic role National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., played in the civil rights movement and his continued fight for freedom, justice, and equality for all people of color, the NAACP Arizona State Conference, the Greater Phoenix Urban League, the Arizona Informant, and African American Clergy of Arizona, have announced plans to honor him on Sunday, November 21, during halftime of the Phoenix Suns game against the Den-



ver Nuggets.

The 6 p.m. MST event at Footprint Center in Phoenix marks the 30th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which Dr. Chavis supported.

The legislation centered

on labor, and lawmakers passed it in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision that limited the rights of employees who sued their employers for discrimination.

"I can't think of any other individual who is more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Chavis," said Charles Fanniel, President of the NAACP Arizona State Conference.

"He is an icon in his own right, from a child who was responsible for integrating the library in his home state, to being wrongfully convicted, to now being the selfless leader who continues to fight for this cause," Fanniel continued.

"It's in his DNA to help others, and we're honored to be a part of this amazing ceremony."

George Dean, the President, and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Urban League, said the honor is well deserved and should have come long ago.

"This is an award that is long overdue," Dean insisted. "Dr. Chavis has been an icon in the civil rights and social justice space for decades, and today we honor that."

In his role with the NNPA, Dr. Chavis oversees operations of the Black Press of America, which reaches more than 47 million subscribers and readers

across the country.

The current chairman of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Dr. Chavis served as the national director and organizer for the Million Man March.

He also served as executive director and CEO of the NAACP, and in that same capacity with the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice.

Dr. Chavis got his start in civil rights as a teenage assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and later gained acclaim as the leader of the Wilmington Ten when authorities wrongly charged and prosecuted the group

on charges of arson.

He served nearly a decade in prison before winning an appeal in 1980.

The Wilmington Ten received a full pardon in 2012 by North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue.

"These convictions were tainted by naked racism and represent an ugly stain on North Carolina's criminal justice system that cannot be allowed to stand any longer," Gov. Perdue stated in 2012.

"Justice demands that this stain finally be removed," the governor asserted.

Over the past several

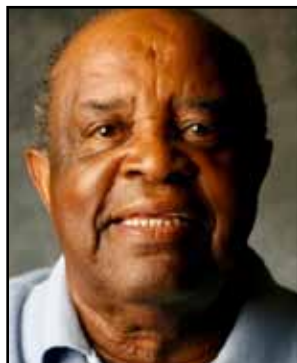
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## Lee Elder

(NNPA) Lee Elder, a golfing pioneer, and the first Black player to compete in the Masters has died at 87.

"It's remarkable to look back on Lee's life and career and realize the hardships he endured and the sacrifices he made to reach golf's highest level," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan.

"To have the success he had while paving the way for others to dream big and achieve is a testament to the type of man he was and how much talent he possessed. The TOUR is profoundly grateful for the career of Lee Elder, and we extend our



sincere sympathies to his family."

Born in 1934 in Dallas, Texas, Elder took up golf to help his parents financially.

He caddied at the all-White Tunnison Park Golf Club in Dallas, but soon the

golf pro began allowing Elder to play the course.

In 1959, Elder joined the United Golfers Association. In 1959, Elder joined the United Golfers Association and dominated the all-Black group.

According to BlackPast.org, Elder won four Negro National Open Championships and an eye-opening 18 of the 22 tournaments in which he participated.

Using the purses from those victories allowed Elder to participate in the 1967 qualifying school for the PGA TOUR.

In 1971, Elder made history as the first Black player invited to participate in the South African PGA Tourna-

ment.

"His participation in that event made this the first integrated sports event in South Africa since the establishment of the official Apartheid policy in 1948," researchers at the Black Past wrote.

However, they noted further that Elder and other Black golfers continued to face racial challenges at

home.

"Although the PGA Tour was officially open to African Americans, it was not friendly to them. Many tournaments would not allow Black golfers into the clubhouse and instead required that they change and eat in the parking lot," the researchers wrote.

However, in 1975, Elder made history again in

Augusta, Georgia, when he was invited to compete at the Masters Open, the most prestigious tournament in golf.

With his victory at the 1974 Monsanto Open, Elder automatically qualified for the Masters Open, but he also became the first Black player invited. Unfortunately,

**See ELDER Page 7**

## AO3 Jillian Aguilar



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Jillian Aguilar, from Dallas, conducts a visual inspection of the tail rotor of a MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter attached to the "Blackjacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 21, on the flight deck aboard Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Charleston (LCS 18). Charleston, part of Destroyer Squadron Seven, is on a rotational deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operation to enhance interoperability with partners and serve as a ready-response force in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryan M. Breeden)

# Have you watched our videos?



## Check us out on Youtube!

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





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

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# New redistricting maps have Texas headed the wrong direction

By Royce West  
Texas Senate

Memory recalls that before MapQuest, Google, Siri and other onboard navigational tools, we used road maps to help us get to where we wanted to go. Analogies could be drawn to the decennial redistricting maps approved by the Texas Legislature during the Special Session that ended last month. They too chart the direction that Republican's partisan politics want to go. The problem is they want Texas to look more like 1930 rather than 2030. And a 21st Century Texas doesn't look like that anymore.

2020 Census results say Texas is now a majority-minority state, a trend that to the consternation of some, will be soon true for America. Non-Hispanic Whites were 39.7 percent of Texans in 2020. Hispanics totaled 39.3 percent, with non-Hispanic Blacks at 11.8 percent. The 5.4 percent Texans of Asian descent makes it a demographic victory lap, even without "Other" races totaling 3.8 percent. But these demographic wins translated into losses in both Legislative chambers when the number of White lawmakers grew in Congress, the Texas Senate and Texas House.

Dallas/Fort Worth, despite population gains totaling more than a million, did not bring home a new member of Congress. Again, minorities are responsible for 95 percent of Texas' population growth from 2010 to 2020. But the two new members that will grow Texas' delegation in Congress from 36 to 38 will come from districts near Houston and Austin that most likely will vote Republican.

Maps approved for the

state senate for North Texas, specifically for Dallas/Fort Worth, will look different, but not in a good way for Fort Worth's minority communities. Under current maps, Texas Senate District 23 that I serve represents 34 percent of Dallas County residents; the same as District 16 represented by fellow Democrat, Senator Nathan Johnson. District 2 encompasses the remaining significant portion of Dallas County at 17 percent.

For the first time since

District 9 grows 12 percent to contain 46 percent of Tarrant County residents. Another 17 percent are sent to District 22 that begins south of Dallas County. Five percent are taken north to Denton-based District 12. The remaining 4 percent are packed into District 23.

In the current District 10, 56.8 percent of the population is non-Anglo with 31.1 percent of its residents Hispanic, 20.7 percent Black and 43.2 percent White. The new District 10 will

voter friendly and to create a newly-drawn district that will be based in McKinney. Regional minority population gains will not equal greater representation.

Statewide, Democrats and minorities will lose a house seat in El Paso because districts were redrawn to pit two Hispanic women against each other. Harris County critics say the Hispanic population grew enough to merit a second Hispanic majority Congressional district, matching HD 29, now held by former state senate colleague Sylvia Garcia.

To date, four lawsuits have been filed, including one led by Senator Powell. Another by Democratic State Senators Sarah Eckhardt and Roland Gutierrez claims the Texas Constitution requires redistricting to take place during a regular legislative session, not a called one. MALDEF, on behalf of nine other plaintiffs including LULAC and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, asks for all four redistricting maps, including for the State Board of Education, to be declared in violation of the Voting Rights Act due to their dilution of Latino voting strength. And Voto Latino's suit says both Latino and Black votes will be diluted by SB6, the redistricting bill.

More than once during Greg Abbott's tenure as attorney general and now as governor, Texas' laws regarding voting rights have been rejected by federal courts. Now without Section 5 pre-clearance protections and a Trump-influenced Supreme Court, minority voting rights are even more imperiled. But if we fail to protest, silence signals consent. So the fight continues. Elections have consequences!

***“2020 Census results say Texas is now a majority-minority state, a trend that to the consternation of some, will be soon true for America.”***

the mid-2000s, there were two North Texas Democrats at my side. Mid-term redistricting in 2003 cost former Senator David Cain the District 2 seat now represented by Senator Bob Hall. Tarrant County and Fort Worth have trended Democratic over several election cycles. Former State Senator Wendy Davis won election in 2008 and represented District 10 through 2016. The seat was reclaimed by Republican Konni Burton that year for one term before she was defeated by my colleague, Senator Beverly Powell in 2018.

One hundred percent (100%) of the current Senate District 10 is within Tarrant County. That ends when the new senate redistricting map goes into effect. The existing District 10 is annihilated with fragments flung from here to Waco. Just 29 percent remains in Tarrant County.

be 51 percent non-Anglo, with 49 percent White, 28.2 percent Hispanic and 17.7 percent Black, and spread across more rural, Brown, Callahan, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Shackelford and Stephens counties. By spreading the district across several counties, minorities in Tarrant County will no longer be able to elect their candidate of choice.

Dallas County's Texas House districts will not change dramatically. Now, all but two Dallas County state representatives are Democrats. District 108 (Dallas) and 112 (Garland) were made slightly more Republican-leaning. Analysts say Tarrant County may lose one Republican held seat, District 92. But they will still have a county-wide majority. District 92's boundaries changed, along with those of other North Texas districts, including in Collin County, to make them more Republican-

Keep up with the news

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# CDC notes the emergence of new Omicron variant, issues caution

On November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified a new variant, B.1.1.529, as a Variant of Concern and has named it Omicron.

In an update to this story, on Wednesday it was confirmed that a case of the Omicron variant has been detected in California.

"We are grateful to the South African government and its scientists who have



openly communicated with the global scientific community and continue to share information about this variant with the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services and CDC," the CDC said in a statement. "We are working with other U.S. and global public health and industry partners to learn more about this variant, as we continue to monitor its path."

CDC asserted that it is continuously monitoring variants and the U.S. variant surveillance system has reliably detected new variants in this country.

"We know what it takes to prevent the spread of COVID-19," the CDC said. "CDC recommends people follow prevention strategies such as wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission, washing your hands frequently, and physically distancing from others."

"CDC also recommends that everyone 5 years and

older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated. CDC encourages a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for those who are eligible."

Travelers to the U.S. as well as those traveling abroad should continue to follow CDC recommendations for traveling.

CDC will provide updates as more information becomes available.

## Philips extends AI-enabled CT imaging portfolio

Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Chicago, USA – Royal Philips (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHIA), a global leader in health technology, today announced new additions to its CT imaging portfolio at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) annual meeting (November 28 – December 2, Chicago, USA). The new CT 5100 – Incisive – features CT Smart Workflow [1], a comprehensive suite of artificial intelligence\* (AI) enabled capabilities designed to accelerate CT workflows, enhance diagnostic confidence, and maximize equipment up-time, helping imaging services to enhance patient outcomes, improve department efficiency, reduce operational costs, and meet ambitious financial objectives.

CT 5100 – Incisive – with CT Smart Workflow [1] includes Philips' Tube for Life guarantee, which over the lifetime of the scanner can potentially lower operating expenses by an estimated USD 420,000 [2][3]. This newest CT innovation from Philips also provides access to Philips' Technology Maximizer program, which provides users with the latest software and hardware updates as they are released.

"With the combination of CT 5100 – Incisive – and CT Smart Workflow, we



have embedded AI into the tools that radiology departments use every day so they can apply their expertise to the patient, rather than unnecessary distractions associated with the CT imaging itself," said Frans Venker, General Manager of Computed Tomography at Philips. "By automating many of the process-related obstacles to CT imaging performance, we aim to clear the way for precision in dose, speed, and image quality that will help imaging departments to meet their financial, clinical, and operational goals."

Improving the CT experience with smart clinical decision-making CT 5100 – Incisive – with CT Smart Workflow adds to Philips' growing suite of AI-enabled smart workflow solutions, including the recently launched MR 5300 1.5T system and the new MR 7700 [4] 3.0T system. These recent smart systems introductions are all designed to support ef-

iciency improvement, operator consistency, and diagnostic confidence at the point of image acquisition by automating many of the time-consuming procedural tasks that radiologists, technicians and staff traditionally had to perform manually.

CT Smart Workflow is the latest in a continuous program of performance enhancements for Philips' market-leading Incisive CT platform, which includes a newly-designed patient table to accommodate bariatric patients; OnPlan gantry controls that demonstrate a 19% [5] reduction in time to results; and the company's process improvement services Enterprise Performance Analytics – PerformanceBridge. The CT 5100 – Incisive – with CT Smart Workflow demonstrates how integrated, AI-driven solutions connect clinical intelligence and operational data across the radiology enterprise to advance precision diagnosis

and treatment.

Philips' latest innovations in CT imaging will debut at this year's Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Annual Meeting (November 28 – December 2, 2021, Chicago, U.S.). Join Philips at RSNA 2021 where the company will spotlight its new advanced technology driving connected workflows and smart diagnostic systems, including the CT 5100 – Incisive – with CT Smart Workflow, to increase efficiency and diagnostic confidence in precision care, and follow @PhilipsLiveFrom for updates throughout RSNA.

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# Friendship-West calls for '100 Days of Buying Black'

Friendship-West Baptist Church is taking things to the next level in the conclusion of its year-long commemoration of the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Okla. by promoting 100 Days of Buying Black (100DBB).

Participants are challenged to use Black-owned businesses for their service and product needs for 100 days nationwide. Led by senior pastor and social justice activist, Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, the goal of this challenge is to continue the legacy of Black Wall Street by circulating dollars within the Black community to strengthen its economic base.

100 Days of Buying



Cyron Photography / Unsplash

Black will start on September 23, 2021 and will end on December 31, 2021.

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

community development," Haynes said in a statement. "For five years, we've provided an opportunity for Black entrepreneurs to promote and sell their goods and services at West Wall Street.

"In 2021, we've commemorated the 100th year

since the Tulsa Race Massacre through events and advocacy. We will close out the year by observing the last one hundred days of this centennial Sankofa moment by promoting 100 Days of Buying Black.

"We are seeking to encourage people across the nation to spend their dollars with Black-owned businesses for 100 days to increase the sales and growth of those businesses. Our goal is to continue the legacy of Black Wall Street by circulating our dollars within the Black community to strengthen our economic base."

The 12,000-member congregation has also partnered with other organiza-

tions on this journey to build and support black-owned businesses, including the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. (SDPC), a cross-section of progressive African American faith leaders, their congregations, and social justice activists representing nine denominations throughout the United States.

Other organizations are welcomed to partner with Friendship-West by identifying a staff member that will serve as the contact person to facilitate the partnership tasks. Partnership tasks include:

- Sharing the weekly digital assets.
- Driving traffic to friendshipwest.org/buying-

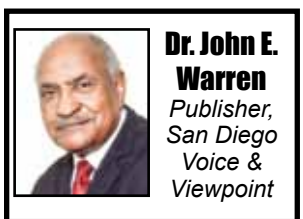
black100.

• Encouraging other Black-owned businesses to participate.

To strengthen the movement, Friendship-West is asking all participant to join the 100 Days of Buying Black Facebook group to interact with other participants, receive 100 DBB updates, and be exposed to a variety of Black-owned businesses. Participants can find weekly updates on the church's Facebook page.

For additional information related to the 100DBB challenge or 100DBB partnership, contact Rev. Danielle Ayers, Pastor of Justice, at justice@friendshipwest.org.

## Preparing for coming changes



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

While many are watching developing court cases and the treatment of Blacks and people of color as both victims and perpetrators in the judicial system, we must not lose sight of the coming changes around us designed to both distract and disable.

I speak specifically of the following: (1) the redistricting or redesigning of all the Electoral Districts in the United States, based on the 2020 Census; (2) the new Voter Suppression laws in over 22 states restricting voting hours, locations, and conduct while waiting to vote; (3) the local campaigns against Critical Race Theory resulting in the removal of books in school libraries and restrictions on how issues of race can be taught; and (4) a very close look at all

people running for office in 2022 and where they actually stand on the issues just mentioned.

The Conservative Right, with all its Trump supporters, is counting on low voter turnout as a result of the above-mentioned restrictions. They are also putting those who are in agreement with them in key positions within each state's vote count and certification process. The greatest weapon we have is our ability to engage the process at every level. We must now start

serious voter registration; we must now look very closely at the new electoral boundaries and changes in all districts, from Congressional Districts to State Legislative, County, Municipal, and School Board Districts.

We must start now and begin looking at the impact of these proposed changes. In some cases, it is already too late to engage the Redistricting Commissions for final changes. Many of these commissions sought to use the internet as a

substitute for outreach and citizen engagement in the process. Many of these commissions, both here and around the country, were appointing and stacking the commissions even before the Bureau of the Census released its report.

As a result of those activities, we must now engage in the five "P's" if we, as the potential victims, are to overcome the "changes". The "P's" are: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. We must start planning now how to make

new friends and form new alliances where necessary to get the desired outcomes under changing district boundaries and practices. We must know who is in office, who is running for office and whether their interests are our interest before we rush to commit our votes while others are still bargaining for their agendas.

Changes are coming. The only issue is whether we will be prepared to meet and overcome the changes. Something to think about.

## ← GUILTY, from Page 1

nouncement of the first guilty verdict against Travis McMichael, Arberry's father, Marcus Arberry, shouted, "long time coming."

Judge Walmsley asked court officials to remove the senior Arberry.

"Ahmaud Arberry should be alive today. This tragedy should have never happened," said Florida Congresswoman Val Demings, who is a Democrat.

"I am keeping his family in my prayers. But we must

move forward together to dispel the shadows of our past and to ensure the safety and civil rights of every American," Demings asserted.

Crump insisted that Black America must keep fighting for civil rights and justice.

"This case, by all accounts, should have been opened and closed," Crump demanded.

"The violent stalking and lynching of Ahmaud

Arberry was documented on video for the world to witness. Yet, because of the deep cracks, flaws, and biases in our systems, we were left to wonder if we would ever see justice," Crump remarked.

"[The verdict] indicates progress, but we are nowhere close to the finish line. America, you raised your voices for Ahmaud. Now is not the time to let them quiet. Keep marching. Keep fighting for what is right. And never stop running for Ahmaud."

### Let us hear from you!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at: [editor@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:editor@northdallasgazette.com)

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2332	Super Crossword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.93	\$5	12/5/21	6/3/22

TEXAS  
LOTTERY®

Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). © 2021 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



# U.S. Department of Education approves use of American Rescue Plan to support K-12 schools and students, distributes remaining \$618 million to state

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced the approval of Washington's American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) plans and distributed remaining ARP ESSER funds to the state. Washington's plan details how the state is using and plans to use ARP ESSER funds to sustain the safe operation of schools and equitably expand opportunity for students who need it most, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As students and states returned to school, the Department released the Return to School Roadmap, which provides key resources and supports for students, parents, educators, and school communities to build excitement around returning to classrooms this school year and outlines how federal funding can support the safe and sustained return to in-person learning. ARP funds can be used to support students and educators as they recover from lost instructional time, including in ways outlined on the Roadmap.

Earlier this year, the Department distributed two-



CDC / Unsplash

thirds of the ARP ESSER funds, totaling \$81 billion, to 50 states and the District of Columbia. The remaining third of the funding to states will be made available once state plans are approved. Washington is receiving \$1.8 billion total in ARP ESSER funds, and today's approval of their plan will result in the release of the final \$618 million. The recent approval means a total of 48 ARP ESSER state plans have been approved since June.

"I am excited to announce approval of Washington's plan and thank Chair Murray for her continued partnership working on behalf of our school communities," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "It is heartening to see, reflected in these state plans, the ways in which states are thinking deeply about how

to use American Rescue Plan funds to continue to provide critical support to schools and communities. The approval of these plans enables states to receive vital, additional American Rescue Plan funds to help keep schools open for full-time, in-person learning; meet students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs; and address disparities in access to educational opportunity that were exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. The state plans that have been submitted to the Department lay the groundwork for the ways in which an unprecedented infusion of federal resources will be used to address the urgent needs of America's children and build back better."

"I am proud of the work our schools are doing to support our students' well-

being and in-person learning recovery and acceleration," said Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal. "As a state, every decision we've made has centered our students. Nearly 90% of our school employees are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, our students are learning in-person full-time, and our educators are working incredibly hard to support our students as we emerge through this pandemic. I am grateful for the investments made by the federal and our state governments, which have provided our schools with the support they critically need during this unprecedented time."

"Since the start of the pandemic, I've been laser-focused on getting Washington state students—and students across the country—back in the classroom safely as quickly as possible, with their friends, coaches, counselors and teachers, because I know how important that is for their learning. That's why

we worked so hard to pass the American Rescue Plan—to provide schools the resources they need to re-open safely, address learning loss, provide mental health resources, and provide masks, tests, and improved ventilation," said Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). "I've talked to parents, educators, and students across the state and I know what a difference being in the classroom makes. Having the Washington state plan approved is an important step to ensure our state can use these resources, but the disruptions in learning we're still seeing are absolutely unacceptable. Getting our students back in the classroom safely is just step one—now we need to focus on keeping them there. So I'm going to be monitoring closely to make sure these resources are used carefully to help students recover from these incredibly tough years, and keep them safe and in the classroom."

The ARP ESSER state plans approved by the De-

partment, including Washington's, show how states are using Federal pandemic resources to support safe in-person instruction and meet the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students—with a focus on the students most impacted by the pandemic. For example:

- Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time: The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) grants will provide schools with resources to adopt universal screening and provide individualized evidence-based instruction to increase student engagement, content mastery, credit attainment, and graduation rates, particularly for students most impacted by the pandemic. Additional investments of the State set-aside include programs to improve mathematics and literacy instruction, youth reengagement and outreach efforts, expanding access to Native

See RESCUE, Page 12

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# Plano celebrates the work of students with Fire Prevention Week art contest

Thousands of student artists competed in the 2021 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest, sponsored by Plano Fire-Rescue, Plano Independent School District, and the Texas State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association. Their creative posters reflect the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention Week theme "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." Great job to all students who participated.

The city-level poster contest winners below move forward to the district competition in March for a chance to compete at state level in July:

## Kindergarten Division (Pre-K & Kindergarten)

1st Place – Artharv Garg, Centennial Elementary, Kindergarten

2nd Place – Liam Hong, Wyatt Elementary, Kindergarten



1st Place  
Amrit Sai Arasamangalam  
Wyatt Elementary, 2nd Grade

3rd Place – Saory Rubio, Beaty Early Childhood, Pre-Kindergarten

## Primary Division (1st & 2nd grade)

1st Place – Amrit Sai Arasamangalam, Wyatt Elementary, 2nd Grade

2nd Place – Shlok Gajakosh, Skaggs Elementary, 1st Grade

3rd Place – Ishaan Boga, Centennial Elementary, 1st Grade

## Intermediate Division

## (3rd & 4th grade)

1st Place – Suhana Devineni, Beverly Elementary, 4th Grade

2nd Place – Lucy Nam, Wyatt Elementary, 3rd Grade

3rd Place – Ashlyn Eslick, Mathews Elementary, 4th Grade

## Middle Division (5th & 6th grade)

1st Place – Aagam Parikh, Hightower Elementary, 5th Grade

2nd Place – Elim Wong, Mathews Elementary, 5th Grade

3rd Place – Lohitha Sripathi, Robinson Middle, 6th Grade

## Junior High Division (7th & 8th grade)

1st Place – Annie Chen, Haggard Middle, 8th Grade

2nd Place – Sravanthi Veerisetty, Haggard Middle, 7th Grade

3rd Place – Aakash Arulkumaran, Murphy Middle, 8th Grade

## High School Division (9th, 10th, 11th & 12th grade)

1st Place – Perla Mendoza, Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy, 10th Grade

The City of Plano extended a special "thank you" to the school representatives and the Plano firefighters who judged the posters.

## ELDER, from Page 2

ly, Elder missed the qualifying round in the tournament.

Still, his entrance was an African American milestone covered by almost every major magazine and news program in the country, noted the Black Press.

Elder played in five more Masters, won three PGA tournaments, and was named to the 1979 Ryder Cup Team.

He had a combined 12 tournament victories on the PGA and Senior Tours, earning more than \$1 million on each tour.

However, his invitation to the Masters in 1975 proved that African Americans could compete at the highest levels of golf, the researchers continued.

"Lee Elder was a pioneer, and in so many ways," legendary golf champ Jack Nicklaus told Bill Fields during a PGA-TOUR.com interview.

"Yes, he was the first Black player to compete in

the Masters Tournament, but that simply underlined the hard work Lee put in to further the cause of everyone who has a dream to play on the PGA TOUR and perhaps thinks there were too many barriers before them. It was wonderful that the Masters Tournament and Augusta National paid a well-deserved tribute to Lee by inviting him to be an Honorary Starter on this last Masters. That morning, you could see the joy in Lee's face, and Gary Player and I were honored to enjoy that moment with him. That memory will remain special for so many, including me, for many years to come.

"Lee was a good player, but most importantly, a good man who countless people very well respected," added Nicklaus. "The game of golf lost a hero in Lee Elder. Barbara and I send our heartfelt condolences to Lee's wife Sharon and their entire family."

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# Groveland Four cleared of 1949 false rape allegations

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

A judge in Florida has finally exonerated the “Groveland Four,” the African American men falsely accused of raping a white teenager in 1949.

“Wow, it’s been a long time coming,” Gerald Threat, the nephew of Walter Irvin, stated in a news conference following the judge’s ruling on Monday, November 22.

“This Thanksgiving, we can have an entirely different atmosphere without this hanging over our head,” Ir-



From left, Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall and an unidentified man stand next to Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd and Charles Greenlee in Florida in 1949. (State Library and Archives of Florida)

vin stated.

Carol Greenlee, the daughter of Charles Greenlee, said, “My father was a caring, loving, compassionate person that did not rape anybody.”

Administrative Judge Heidi Davis dismissed the indictments of Ernest Thomas and Samuel Shepherd, both fatally shot not long after the false allegation made by Norma Padget,

who was 17 at the time.

Judge Davis then set aside the convictions and sentences of Charles Greenlee and Walter Irvin.

The men who became known as the Groveland Four ranged from 16 to 26 at the time.

“We followed the evidence to see where it led us, and it led us to this moment,” state attorney Bill Gladson remarked during the news conference.

Following the 1949 accusation, the Ku Klux set fire to numerous Black neighborhoods in the town of Groveland.

The Klan reportedly shot

Thomas more than 400 times, killing him. They beat false confessions out of Greenlee, Irvin, and Shepherd.

An all-white jury convicted the men, but legendary NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall successfully fought for a new trial.

Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall shot and killed Shepherd, claiming he attempted to escape.

During the retrial, jurors still returned a guilty verdict, but Greenlee and Irvin were given life sentences instead of the death penalty.

Officials granted Irvin his release from the state

prison in 1968. He died one year later of a heart attack at age 39.

Charles Greenlee, the last surviving member of the Groveland Four, was released on parole in 1962 and moved to Nashville, Tennessee. He died on April 18, 2012, at 78.

Independent investigations determined that all four were innocent, and in 2017, the state issued an apology to their families.

In 2019, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis granted the men pardons, but family members continued their fight to clear their names fully.

## African Americans, Democrats say they still support BLM movement

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Following a recent poll that showed support for the Black Lives Matter Movement waning, conversations have commenced over the continued relevancy of the campaign.

Researchers conducted by the national polling site, Civiqs revealed that 44 percent of Americans support the Black Lives Matter Movement, while 43 percent said they oppose the campaign.

Approximately 11 percent of respondents reported that they neither support nor oppose the campaign, which began in 2012 in response to a jury’s decision to acquit George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.



However, hidden in the details of the poll are subgroups that show the movement still enjoys the overall support of African Americans and Democrats.

Eighty-two percent of African Americans said they support the campaign, while just 7 percent oppose. While 60 percent of Hispanic/Latinos still support the Black Lives Matter Movement, 51 percent of white Americans oppose.

Just 3 percent of who identify as Republican sup-

port the movement, and 86 percent oppose. Democrat respondents support the campaign by an 86 percent to 4 percent margin.

The movement’s support appeared to peak in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd as global protests joined in the cry of Black Lives Matter.

Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation co-founder Patrisse Cullors resigned earlier this year following allegations she parlayed her part in

the movement into a multi-million-dollar lifestyle that included purchasing several properties in various locations.

Shortly before Cullors’ resignation, the foundation released a 2020 Impact Report that claimed it had raised more than \$90 million. Reportedly, 10 Black Lives Matter chapter leaders called for financial transparency and an independent investigation into spending funds. In addition, EBONY reported that the claims of “financial impropriety were a source of constant concern for several parents whose children had been killed by police in controversial shootings.”

EBONY cited Tamika Palmer, whose daughter Breonna Taylor was killed by Louisville police as she slept in her home. Samaria

Rice, whose 12-year-old son Tamir, was killed on a playground by a Cleveland police officer.

Each has come out publicly and denounced the Black Lives Matter foundation and accused the organization of raising money off the blood of their children.

Michael Brown Sr., whose son Michael was walking home from a store unarmed and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, called for Black Lives Matter to donate \$20 million to non-profit organizations in Ferguson that are working to empower residents in exchange for the millions of dollars they raised in using his son’s name and image.

Cullors has countered that all the financial purchases she has made have

come from her income, including a multi-year television deal with Warner Brothers, a book deal, speaking engagements, and consulting services.

Entertainer Tyrone Evans Clarke said during protests he participated in following Floyd’s murder, and he noticed many individuals willing to make sacrifices for the cause.

“It seems the U.S. doesn’t respect Black and Brown people’s lives,” Clarke stated.

“Cops were attacking peaceful protestors with tear gas and rubber bullets, and that didn’t help. On top of that, look how long it took to put Floyd’s murderer behind bars. It feels like there is a knee on our necks every day just by being Black,” he said.

## Dems call out Abbott for lack of preparation for winter power needs

By Clare Donohue-Meyer  
Press Secretary & Senior Writer  
Texas Democratic Party

AUSTIN, Texas -- With Texans gearing up for the holiday season, winter is officially around the corner. However, Texas remains woefully unprepared for what the winter weather might bring -- because ten months after February’s devastating winter power outages, failed Gov. Greg

Abbott is hellbent on leaving our grid as disaster-prone as ever.

Over the weekend, the Texas Tribune reported that ERCOT, the governing body responsible for Texas’ grid, estimates a cold snap could easily trigger further power outages across the state -- despite preparations power companies have made for the winter weather. Further, the Tribune revealed that “The calculations for severe

risk this winter show that it wouldn’t take a storm as bad as the one in February, when hundreds of people died, to take the grid offline.”

During the February 2021 power outages, millions went without power, heat, and water for days, while nearly 700 Texans died. Despite these stark numbers, Abbott has done exactly nothing to fix the grid during almost a year of opportunity to do so -- instead accepting

a million-dollar check from energy tycoon Kelcy Warren in exchange for leaving Texans at the mercy of our failing grid. Meanwhile, pricing from February’s outages is being passed off to consumers on Abbott’s watch -- putting Texans on the hook for paying for Abbott’s failures.

“Holiday season is upon us, and that means winter’s not far away,” said Gilberto Hinojosa, Texas Democratic Party Chair. “Yet despite the

devastating power outages we went through last February, Greg Abbott has done exactly nothing to fix our grid and keep us safe from the next winter storm. Now, ERCOT is telling us that our grid is just as shaky as ever going into the winter weather -- and that it will take less than a storm like February’s to send our grid into collapse.

“Abbott has had ten months and four legisla-

tive sessions to fix our grid in time for winter. He’s had every opportunity to take meaningful action and keep Texans safe from future disasters. He made the choice not to -- and that choice tells us everything we need to know about where Abbott’s priorities lie. Abbott has already made a million dollars off his big energy donors in exchange for leaving our grid -- and Texans -- vulnerable.”



# COVID-19 absences felt in Cowboys' 3-point overtime loss to Raiders

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

For those folks out there who still don't believe the coronavirus pandemic is real, try telling that piece of information to the Dallas Cowboys.

Within a span of approximately two weeks, the Cowboys have had five players and six assistant coaches come down with COVID-19. The latest to join that dreaded list is head coach Mike McCarthy, who on Monday became the 12th member of the Cowboys to test positive for the coronavirus in recent weeks.

The positive test by McCarthy will force him to miss Thursday's game in New Orleans between the Cowboys (7-4) and Saints (5-6).

Defensive coordinator Dan Quinn will serve as the Cowboys' interim head coach in McCarthy's absence. However, McCarthy will direct all meetings and game preparations for the remainder of the week leading right up to Thursday's 7:20 p.m. kickoff.

"At the end of the day we're going to have 48 guys with that star on their helmet and it'll be their responsibility with all the support in the world to go out there and win that game



Chris Hunkeler / Flickr

Thursday night," McCarthy said. "That's the approach. That won't change.

"I'll make sure of it and I know the leadership of our staff and the players in the locker room will make sure of that."

Quinn was primarily chosen as the interim head coach because of his head coaching experience, although offensive coordinator Kellen Moore and special teams coordinator John Fassel will also have a significant input on the play-calling against the Saints. Quinn coached the Atlanta Falcons from 2015 until he was fired in the middle of last season, and he also led the Falcons to a berth in Super Bowl LI.

"I think understandably with Dan's experience, the challenge flag, the timeouts, the referee's

meeting, there's just a lot of little things that go into it," McCarthy said. "You could have someone do it on a weekly basis, but we'll spread that around. Kellen just needs to focus on the offense and calling the game and staying with that.

"John is also involved in some game management like most special teams coaches are. We have the network up top, so that's something that won't change. So the biggest change is having Dan down on the field and just make sure he's getting the information he needs to make sound decisions."

McCarthy's absence comes at a critical period for the Cowboys, who have lost three of their last four games, including their past two. But they know, COVID-19 or not, the show

must go on as they try to put the 36-33 overtime loss to the Las Vegas Raiders on Thanksgiving Day in their rearview mirror.

"When adversity hits, whether it's losing players or losing a coach or coming off of a couple of losses, we're going to be able to push forward," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "So, we've just got to trust our training and trust everything that we've been in, and as I said, our brotherhood. And just continue to lock arms.

"We know we're going in a hostile environment and it's going to require us to be our best."

Besides McCarthy, right tackle Terence Steele will also sit out the game against the Saints with the coronavirus. In addition, wide receiver Amari Cooper has missed the last two games while in the COVID-19 protocol, and kicker Greg Zuerlein, defensive end Randy Gregory and offensive tackle Zack Martin have all missed at least one game due to the coronavirus.

Also because of COVID-19, the Cowboys won't have offensive line coach Joe Philbin, assistant offensive line coach Jeff Blasko, strength and conditioning coordinator Harold Nash

and assistant strength and conditioning coach Kendall Smith in the game against the Saints.

In other news, the NFL has suspended Cowboys defensive tackle Trysten Hill for two games for punching a member of the Raiders following last Thursday's game.

Meanwhile, McCarthy is fully vaccinated and can return to his full-time coaching duties in person in less than 10 days if he test negative twice at least 24 hours apart.

"This is definitely a reality check, and COVID's real," McCarthy said. "It's very real. Individual health is a priority number one for all of us. I think it's time to keep priorities and perspective in order, and our healthy football team will be out there and they'll be ready to go.

"This is a tough spot in history, but we'll be better from it. The adversity of what's in front of us, I think, we're prepared for it. And that will be our approach."

All of the positive COVID-19 tests have put the Cowboys at an obvious disadvantage. But it also is a tell-tale sign for others.

"COVID's real," Prescott said. "I didn't need the head coach or the president (of

the United States) to jump in for me to realize that. You see people constantly getting it and contracting it whether they've got the vaccine or not.

"Obviously, this isn't something we can take light or we can let up on. It's very real, but we've got to do our best in protecting ourselves and protecting the others around us. Obviously, washing our hands and doing whatever we can to reduce the chances for us and people around us of getting it."

In the meantime, the Cowboys must find a way to overcome their numerous COVID-19 losses and win in one of the toughest environments in the NFL.

"Obviously, we'll miss coach, but his health is first and foremost important," Prescott said. "We'll fight and get everything done that we need to."

McCarthy said other than a scratchy throat, he feels fine. And he's looking forward to being back with his team in person.

"This threat is very real, and please do everything you can to keep yourself and your family safe," McCarthy said. "If it can get me, it can get anybody.

"I just think it shows you the danger of the pandemic and the virus."

## CHAVIS, from Page 2

years, Dr. Chavis has been engaged in the Arizona community to help foster meaningful conversations about the current civil rights movement.

He has moderated six Bridge Forums, which are panels with community leaders, law enforcement, and government officials that tackle current events, including a sports-focused forum in Sept. 2020.

At the sports forum, representatives from all local teams, including the Phoenix Suns, came together to discuss how sports can bridge the gap in social equity.

Dr. Chavis also led a diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop for staff members of the Suns Legacy Partners in 2020 and invited team President & CEO Jason Rowley on the NNPA's daily morning breaking news program, "Let It Be Known."

Before receiving his honor, Dr. Chavis will deliver sermons at 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the First Institutional Baptist Church.

"Civil rights are fundamental human rights for all in America and worldwide," Dr. Chavis remarked. "I'm honored to be receiving this recognition

from Arizona's leading Civil Rights Organizations fighting to make sure equity and equality are accessible for all citizens."

Chavis emphasized, "The Phoenix Suns, in particular, represent the best of the NBA on the issues of equity and inclusion on the basketball court and off the court in communities of color and all communities who affirm the transformative values of freedom, justice and equality for all. I will humbly accept this award on behalf of the Black Press of America and the ongoing Freedom Movement in America and throughout the world."





# The Rosa Parks Family Foundation endorses DeWayne Harvey's gospel hit, 'What The Lord Allows'

NEW YORK -- (EIN-Presswire.com) On December 1st 1955, Rosa Parks stood up for civil rights and against segregation when she refused to give up her seat and move to the back of a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This bold move from Ms. Parks helped spark the Civil Rights Movement, inspiring leaders such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr to take action towards helping our nation become a better society.

To commemorate that historic event, this year the Rosa Parks Family Foundation, headed by Rhea McCauley – the niece of the departed Ms. Parks – announces the endorsement of the Gospel hit, "What The Lord Allows" by Dewayne Harvey with Fred Ham-

mond. Currently a Top Ten single on Gospel stations in many parts of the USA, the message within "What The Lord Allows" is one that parallels the triumphs and challenges faced by those who fought the good fight for civil rights. "It's a message of hope and inspiration," says Ms. McCauley. "What Dewayne wrote and sings is what Aunt Rosa lived by, that no matter what storms or fears come your way, when you take a courageous stance for what is right, you will find or make a way through to victory with grace."

"I'm so honored that Ms. McCauley and the Rosa Parks Family Foundation have endorsed 'What The Lord Allows', which I had written when I was dealing with my own frustrations

within the faith yet saw the way through it all," says Mr. Harvey. "It's my hope that the song and its message will reach more people on a universal level thanks to the foundation's support."

Today the Rosa Parks Family Foundation faces a new challenge pertaining to the house that Ms. Parks lived in while a resident of Detroit (she moved to the city after her years in Alabama). "Currently the house – which was cleaned and rebuilt – is sitting in a storage facility in Italy," explains Ms. McCauley. "The person who did the rebuilding had it sent there is trying to auction it off – which is wrong since the foundation legally owns the house. We have attorneys here and in Europe fighting on our behalf but funding is

running very low. It's sad and wrong that her house is overseas illegally when it should be back in the states."

Mr. Harvey added, "I do hope those who read this

will help Ms. McCauley and the foundation's efforts to return the Rosa Parks house to the USA. This is a landmark and a piece of important history for future generations to see and learn

about Ms. Parks as well as her courage."

A Go Fund Me campaign is now active to help raise funds for The Rosa Parks Family Foundation's efforts.

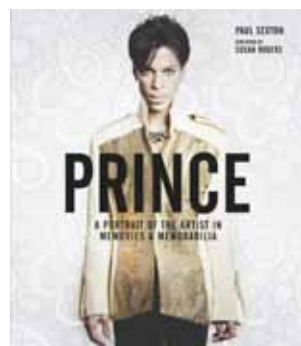
## NDG Book Review: 'Prince: A Portrait of the Artist in Memories & Memorabilia'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The cover promised greatness.

Just a whisper over twelve inches square, you knew there was magic inside; even its title and artwork were enticing. Oh, the anticipation, as you flipped it over to read the contents before carefully running a fingernail along one side to slice the clear wrapping and finally touch the vinyl. There was something truly delicious about the first minutes with an old-school record album, but in "Prince" by Paul Sexton, it was nothing compared to the music.

André Anderson didn't



know a soul.

He was a teenager then, and his mother had just moved him to a different Minneapolis school and a "new situation." When an adult told him to "go stand against a wall," Anderson decided to stand next to a kid who looked friendly; remembering that day, he recalled that that boy, Prince

Rogers Nelson, was a kindred spirit who lived for music.

Even then, young Prince was restless; he ran away from home many times, bouncing between his father's apartment and the Anderson home. Prince's dad, John, was "his best friend" and was arguably the root of his son's talent; as an adult, Prince remembered being three years old and itching to play music his father's piano.

By 16, he was proficient with several musical instruments, and was a member of a band. At 18, he wanted to record his own single;

See PRINCE, Page 16

**Thank you Rosa**

Rosa Parks Family Foundation pays tribute to Rosa Parks, Mother of the Civil Rights Movement on Rosa's historic December 1 day of courage with the song, "What the Lord Allows" by Dewayne Harvey featuring Fred Hammond.

Support the Rosa Parks Foundation

Go Fund Me "Help Bring the House Home"

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# Deadline approaching in Texas for SBA working capital loans due to adverse weather conditions

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Director Tanya N. Garfield of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West today reminded small nonfarm businesses in 61 Texas counties and a neighboring county in Oklahoma of the Dec. 23, 2021, deadline to apply for an SBA federal disaster loan for economic injury. These low-interest loans are to offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by winter storm, blizzard, snow, ice and high winds in the following primary counties that occurred Feb. 10 19, 2021.

Primary Texas counties: Bexar, Bureson, Cameron, Comanche, Concho, Fannin, Fisher, Jackson, Menard, Nolan, Runnels, Wil-



Visual Stories-Michell/Unsplash

lacy and Williamson;

Neighboring Texas counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Brazos, Brown, Burnet, Calhoun, Coke, Coleman, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Delta, Eastland, Erath, Grayson, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hidalgo, Hunt, Jones, Kendall, Kenedy, Kent, Kim-

ble, Lamar, Lavaca, Lee, Mason, Matagorda, McCulloch, Medina, Milam, Mills, Mitchell, Robertson, Schleicher, Scurry, Stonewall, Sutton, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Victoria, Washington, Wharton and Wilson; neighboring Oklahoma county: Bryan.

According to Garfield,

small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. "Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact," said Garfield.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster. Economic

injury assistance is available regardless of whether the applicant suffered any property damage," Garfield added.

The interest rate is 3 percent for businesses and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on April 23, 2021.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should

contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

## President Biden Touts Holiday Surprise: Jobless claims hit record low

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

President Joe Biden headed into the holiday weekend with two pieces of economic good news he claimed underscores that recovery has continued at a historic pace.

The new jobless claims report released on Wednesday, November 24, indicates that the President has every reason for optimism — the economy is starting to boom.

The report revealed just 199,000 workers filed new jobless claims, the lowest mark in nearly 53 years.

"Last year, there were 21 million unemployment insurance claims before the Thanksgiving holiday. Today, there were 2.4 million," President Biden exclaimed.

"This is a historic jobs recovery — 5.6 million jobs

created since I took office and an unemployment rate of 4.6 percent — two full years earlier than experts predicted was possible," the President remarked.

"More Americans are getting back to work, and more Americans have money in their pockets, thanks to the American Rescue Plan and the vaccination campaign," he said.

CNBC reported that the decline appeared at least in part to be due to seasonal adjustments. Unadjusted claims totaled 258,622, an increase of 7.6 percent from the previous week.

Further, according to published reports, continued jobless claims, which count workers who have filed for benefits for at least two consecutive weeks, stood at around 2 million in the week ended November 13, down 60,000 from the prior week.

Overall, 2.4 million

Americans received government benefits under various programs in the week ended November 6, down from 3.2 million at the end of October.

"Layoffs are hitting new lows amid ongoing labor shortages as employers look to hold onto hard-to-find workers," Glassdoor Senior Economist Daniel Zhao wrote in a tweet.

President Biden noted that the U.S. counts as the only major economy that has exceeded its pre-pandemic level of gross domestic product.

He promised to continue working to improve the economy further and provide more job opportunities for all Americans.

"We have more work to do before our economy is back to normal, including addressing prices increases that hurt Americans' pocket-

See CLAIMS, Page 12



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# Ensuring racial equity by expanding internet access: Billionaire Robert F. Smith and other corporate leaders mount campaign to close the digital divide

By Jose Marquez  
National President  
and CEO of TechLatino

With protests having erupted in cities across the country over police violence targeting Black men and women, the civil rights and social justice movements have shot to forefront of U.S. politics in a way not seen since the 1960s.

While much of the conversation rightly has centered on police brutality and the role law enforcement plays in American society, communities of color also are discriminated against in numerous other ways. Many Black Americans, Latinos and other people of color are given substandard educational opportunities, lack avenues to workforce training and advancement and, arguably most important in today's tech-driven world, face a dearth of access to reliable, affordable broadband internet.



*Lawmakers need to make sure that they include a broadband policy that guarantees no American is stranded on the wrong side of the digital divide.*

Congress made a good first step in ameliorating this dire situation when it passed President Biden's infrastructure bill, but the \$65 billion allocation in broadband for all is hardly enough to close the digital divide.

The gap in digital access is particularly wide in communities of color, where one in three families with children lack a high-speed internet connection at home — a rate of disconnection more than 50 percent higher than that of white fami-

lies. The problem is exacerbated in areas across the South from Atlanta to Houston where 35 percent of Black adults lack any access to broadband at home.

Lawmakers need to make sure that they include a broadband policy that guarantees no American is stranded on the wrong side of the digital divide. The private sector is already doing this with a little-known but ambitious effort like the Southern Communities Initiative. It is seeking to address the socio-econom-

ic challenges that African Americans face throughout the region. And among the goals of this partnership is to expand broadband access across six metro areas throughout the South: Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Houston, Memphis, and New Orleans. The effort has the backing of some of the most powerful individuals in corporate America, including PayPal CEO Dan Schulman, Vista CEO Robert F. Smith and BCG CEO Rich Lesser.

We are not too late to bridge the digital divide, and the Southern Communities Initiative will almost certainly play an important role in helping accomplish that in communities like my hometown of Atlanta. But this important work cannot be left to private individuals and organizations alone. Lawmakers must do their part to ensure that high-speed internet is available and affordable to every

American, no matter where in the country they live.

While policymakers in Washington have focused on getting broadband access to rural areas, we must also make sure that urban areas are not overlooked. Census data has shown that while there are approximately 5 million rural households without broadband access, this problem is three times as large in urban areas—with around 15 million urban or metro households without broadband.

Affordable and ubiquitous access to high-speed internet, however, is just the starting point. We also must expand access to the hardware and software people need to take full advantage of all the internet has to offer and maintain an ecosystem of digital educators, repair workers, designers and other tech specialists who can keep improvements going long into the future.

Guaranteeing that all Americans have broadband access would not only help close the digital divide but would also give the United States an edge in global competitiveness as it would bring millions of people more fully into the digital economy. One study from last year found that only about 30 percent of African Americans had access to broadband compared with about 60 percent of whites.

There is a broad consensus from civil rights leaders to corporate heads to policymakers inside the Washington Beltway that broadband access is a right of every American. Lawmakers must take note and ensure that all Americans have the ability to log on.

*Jose Marquez is the national President and CEO of TechLatino: Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association (LISTA).*

## CLAIMS, from Page 11

etbooks and undermine gains in wages and disposable income," President Biden stated.

"That's why yesterday

I announced steps my Administration is taking to bring down the cost of gas for American families, and my Administration remains

laser-focused on implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which will ease supply chain bottlenecks across the economy."

He continued: "And it's why it's so critical that the

Senate pass the Build Back Better Act, which, according to leading economists, will cut costs for American families without adding to price pressures.

"Build Back Better will

cut the cost of prescription drugs, health care, childcare, and housing for tens of millions of middle-class families and seniors — while extending critical middle class tax relief that

is helping working families make ends meet. Today's data reinforce the historic economic progress we are making and the importance of building on that progress in the weeks ahead."

## RESCUE, from Page 6

education curriculum, and support for students in the foster care system.

- Investing in Expanded Afterschool Programs: OSPI will use a targeted grant award process to allocate ARP ESSER funds to existing afterschool 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, particularly to address the disproportionate impact of the COVID pandemic on particular student groups. Prior to funding, OSPI will review programs' implementation of evidence-based afterschool programming, expansion of services to new sites, and communities not currently served.

- Supporting Students'

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: OSPI will fund the Social Emotional Learning Professional and Mitigating Effects of Intergenerational Trauma initiative to focus on the specific needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children, youth, and families, and to strengthen understanding of social-emotional learning efforts. Additionally, OSPI will fund integrated content and evidence-based instructional strategies which will provide integrated instruction using social emotional learning, trauma-informed and culturally responsive pedagogical strategies inte-

grated across content areas.

The distribution of ARP ESSER funds is part of the Department's broader effort to support students and districts as they work to re-engage students impacted by the pandemic, address inequities exacerbated by COVID-19, and build our education system back better than before. In addition to providing \$130 billion for K-12 education in the American Rescue Plan to support the safe reopening of K-12 schools and meet the needs of all students, the Biden-Harris Administration also has:

- Held the Return To School Road Trip, a bus tour that visited schools across five states in five days to celebrate the safe return to school.

- Announced new mental health resources to provide information and resources to enhance the promotion of mental health and the social and emotional well-being among children and students

- Launched the Return To School Roadmap to provide key resources and supports for students, parents, educators, and school communities to build excitement around returning to classrooms this school year and outline how federal funding can support the safe and sustained return to in-person learning

- Released three volumes of the COVID-19 Handbook

- Hosted a National Safe School Reopening Summit

- Prioritized the vaccina-

tion of educators, school staff and child care workers.

- Provided \$10 billion in funding for COVID-19 testing for PreK-12 educators, staff, and students.

- Launched a series of Equity Summits focused on addressing inequities that existed before, but were made worse by the pandemic

- Released a report on the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on underserved communities

- Developed a Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse elevating hundreds of best practices to support schools' efforts to reopen safely and address the impacts of COVID-19 on students, educators, and com-

munities

In addition to the actions the Biden Administration has taken to reopen schools, the President has proposed critical investments through his Build Back Better Agenda. The Build Back Better legislation will offer universal and free preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds and, make education beyond high school more affordable—including offering more trainings and apprenticeships, by increasing the maximum Pell Grant, expanding access to DREAMers. It will also make historic investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and minority-serving institutions.



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### 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.

## Woodforest National Bank and FHLB Dallas award over \$250K in disaster aid

(BUSINESS WIRE)-- When February's ice storm caused unprecedented power outages throughout much of Texas, Yeneka Younger shivered in an unheated Dallas, Texas, home for days.

But that wasn't the worst of it. The freezing temperatures caused pipes to burst in her kitchen resulting in extensive water damage to her cabinets and flooring, she said.

Woodforest National Bank® (Woodforest), a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB Dallas), teamed up with FHLB Dallas to disburse more than \$250,000 in Disaster Rebuilding Assistance to 28 homeowners in Houston, Dallas and

Refugio, Texas, who are still rebuilding from 2017's Hurricane Harvey, and to provide support to the 2021 ice-storm victims across Texas.

Disaster Rebuilding Assistance provides funds for the repair and restoration of owner-occupied housing affected by a federally declared disaster within FHLB Dallas' five-state District.

FHLB Dallas set aside \$500,000 for Disaster Rebuilding Assistance in 2021 and in August, it added another \$250,000 due to significant demand. After Hurricane Ida it set aside an additional \$500,000.

The funds are disbursed through member institutions like Woodforest on

a first-come, first-served basis, one homeowner at a time. To learn more about FHLB Dallas disaster assistance, go to [fhld.com/disaster](http://fhld.com/disaster).



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

The President:

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

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



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

**December 5, 2021  
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.

**December 8, 7 pm**

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

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**November**

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

**December 5, 2021**

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 8, 7 pm**

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

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- Malachi 3:8-10

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

**December 8, 7 pm**

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

**December 5, 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.

**December 06, 7 pm**

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

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until further notice because of the coronavirus.

**December 5, 8 and 11 am**  
You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**December 6,  
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 8, 7 pm**

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

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## It's My Tongue I'll Wag It If I Want To

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Like everybody else, I have my share of trouble. It's not that I want to get into trouble, but trouble always seems to be somewhere near where I am at the time. I regret that time when I was first introduced to trouble.

Some trouble I can't prevent. It just happens, and no matter what I do, trouble is in the room. I don't think there's anything I can do about that, but I hope the trouble will not be that bad.

I know some people in my family get into trouble on purpose. The grand goal of their life is to get into trouble on a variety of levels. Back in the day, when we had family reunions, this person, which will remain anonymous, did everything he possibly could to make trouble.

Most of the family just ignored him and forgot what he was doing. He wanted to be remembered as the family troublemaker. Actually, he was remembered as the family Goofball.

Another form of trouble is what people bring on intentionally. For some reason, they want to get into trouble, and get a lot of pleasure out of bullying.

I could never understand this bullying mentality. What does anybody get from bullying somebody else? I remember in school, several guys got a lot of fun out of bullying other kids.

That went on until Miss Ammon, the fifth-grade teacher, showed up. She had her way of unbullying anybody that crossed her path. If she caught you, you were in more trouble than you could handle.

Also, there is the trouble I get in by making a mistake. I didn't mean to do it, but for some reason, I did it, and as everybody knows, there are always consequences. Usually, the consequences aren't worth the trouble.

I've had experience in just about all levels of trouble in one form or another. The steps on the ladder of progress and growth are trouble. If you can handle trouble,

you then are progressing in your maturity.

As terrible as all of these things are, one source of trouble outweighs all others. It has taken me a long time to understand the dimensions of this kind of trouble.

What I'm thinking about at this point is my "tongue."

This tongue of mine has been the most significant source of trouble and problems through out my life. As I get older, it seems to get worse.

A preacher friend of mine would talk about one of the older women in his church, and he said, "I often wondered if this woman ever had an unexpressed thought in her life."

I know what he means because I often wondered that about myself.

I have not yet learned that because I'm thinking about something, I do not need to speak it. Thinking doesn't get me in trouble; speaking gets me into deep trouble.

Sometimes when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is speaking to me,

I speak out loud without realizing it. Then comes the infamous, "What did you

say?"

Whenever I hear this, I know I'm in some kind of

trouble. Either I didn't hear

**See WAG, Page 15**

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## Sowing In Tears



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy."*  
- Psalm 126:5

Psalm 126 describes an interesting process that goes against our natural tendencies when we are taken into a difficult period in our lives.

Whenever we are hurled into a crisis that brings tears, our tendency is to retreat or recoil in fear and hurt. However, there is a better way that God tells us to handle such times of travail.

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. *"He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy,*

*carrying sheaves with him"* (Psalm 126:5-6).

God is telling us that if we will do what is unnatural for us in these circumstances, He will make sure that what we sow in tears will return in joy.

This is one of the most important lessons people have learned when faced with difficult circumstances.

Rather than sit back and allow self-pity and discouragement to consume us, we should plant seed during this time. Reach out to a person who needs a friend.

Invest in the life of another. See where you can be a blessing to someone. Give of yourself.

The psalmist acknowledges that we are doing this while we are in our pain. However, during this time we are to sow seed.

That seed will return to us in another form. Here is what will happen when we



*Evangelist Ida Eggers, the oldest person to attend the 1st Family Reunion of Lloyd David and Cedella Baker Demus.*

do this. "He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him."

We will receive joy and fruit from the seed that we plant during this time. Sheaves represent the fruit of a harvest. We will actu-

ally get a harvest from this seed.

"You must not let the circumstances destroy you!"

Too many in the Kingdom are counting on you to come through this because of the calling on your life!"

Those were the words spoken to me by a friend one time when I was in the midst of a very difficult personal circumstance that was threatening to destroy me emotionally.

This person saw what God was doing and the fruit that God wanted to bring from these circumstances. Sometimes we need others around us to push us through the difficult times.

If you find yourself in a difficult place today, see where you can sow some seed. Soon you will be reaping songs of joy.

Talk to God and tell Him

that some people in this world are looking for real faith. Some of them place that faith in the wrong god, whether a false god or material things or a person.

Pray for everyone in the world, for those in their own "Jerusalem," and in their own family. Pray that God would use you and your life experiences as an instrument to demonstrate real faith to the unbelieving.

Ask God to give you opportunities to share your faith experiences and give you the words to say to influence those who need it.

Ask God to speak through you and to work through you, as His servant. Tell God that you love Him in the precious name of Jesus.

## WAG, from Page 14

it right, or I did hear it right, and I responded.

As a veteran husband, I should understand that she does not expect an answer whenever she asks a question. All she wants from her husband is a positive shaking of the head and a greasy smile.

I know this, but sometimes I forget. If only I could train my tongue when to speak and when not to speak. There are times when that old tongue of mine will wag and wag, getting me into deep trouble.

One morning right after breakfast, I was getting ready to leave when my wife said, "When will you be ready to do that job?"

I looked at her quizzically and said, "What job?"

She stared at me for a moment and then said, "You know. What we were talking about last night as we were watching TV."

I had no idea what she was talking about. I could remember watching TV the night before, but I had no idea what the conversation was about.

"You don't mean to tell

ready?"

Last night while watching TV, she talked about some projects she had in mind, and I wag my tongue in affirmative action. She assumed I knew what she was talking about and that I had agreed to that plan.

If only my tongue had ears, I might not get into so much trouble.

Now, I need my tongue to wag in a way to get me out of the trouble it got me into while it was wagging the night before.

How many right wags does it take to correct one wrong wag?

It would be wonderful if my tongue were attached somehow to my ears. Or maybe, better yet, to my

brain.

As I get older this seems to be more of a problem.

In my dilemma, I thought of a verse of Scripture. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (James 3:5).

Once you say something, it is impossible to unsay it. My tongue has got me into more trouble than all the other things in my life. But there's one thing about my tongue that can compensate for this. I can use my tongue to praise the God who created me.

*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.*

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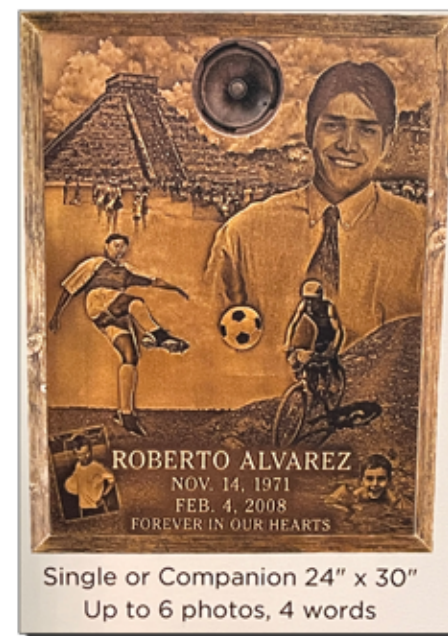
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# NDG Book Review: 'The Confidence Chronicles' is a true crime pleaser

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

When you've broken the law a time or two, the last person you want to see is a police officer. You'd want to stay far, far away from anyone with a badge, but then again.... you're not Maverick Miles Nehemiah, and in the new book "The Confidence Chronicles" by Sgt. Cheryl Dorsey, you'll see why Nehemiah spoke to a cop, and happily.

Adopted at birth and raised on a 500-acre Texas ranch, Maverick Miles Nehemiah was given a number of chores to teach him responsibility and he was



held to generally higher standards otherwise, but he mostly "made sure that he was not in a situation... where [his father] or other adults had to tell him what

to do."

This gave Nehemiah time to think, and he was already thinking about easy money.

When he was a teen, his parents uprooted his life and moved the family to Atlanta, to "an enclave of some of the most prominent and influential Black people" around. Still, Nehemiah struggled for awhile to make friends and fit in. By the time he was old enough to join his high school's ROTC, he'd settled in and grown into a fine young man with what Dorsey calls "CONFIDENCE."

Nehemiah could spot

bull, and he knew it well.

While he was growing up, his father had given Nehemiah a number of U.S. Savings Bonds, and "the Colonel" made sure his son understood how they worked, how they matured with interest, and where that money came from. And so Nehemiah began to work a process that took time and an incredible amount of patience: he befriended a printer, learned how to print and gained access to the machines to do it. He researched, and discovered where to get the right kind of ink and the paper

he needed for authenticity. He purchased the right kind of printing plates. He hired six white people to work as his "team," taught them what he wanted them to do and how to act, and sent them to the very last place where any forger would go with fake Treasury paper: straight to the closest banks they could find...

One cannot accuse author and retired LAPD Sgt. Cheryl Dorsey of not liking her subject; she's very enthusiastic in her appreciation of Nehemiah and his tale, and in "The Confidence Chronicles," she

makes sure readers are, too.

One might wonder why, however, a successful criminal would spill his secrets as thoroughly as you'll get in this book. The reason is that Nehemiah did his time in prison, his crimes changed the laws, and he's been released for years. Dorsey says that he felt that enough time had passed that he could tell, and readers will be glad he did.

This is a quick book to read, and full of surprises. If true-crime is what you want, "The Confidence Chronicles" is what you need.

## PRINCE, from Page 10

two years later, he was recording for a major label. He was laser-focused on his career, then and for the rest of his life, to the point that he rarely slept. His entourage is said to have made it a game to see who could stay awake longer than

Prince.

Nobody could.

He had a legendary work ethic and was generous, but fools weren't welcome in his circle. He was a prankster who loved to laugh, a perfectionist, and a visionary. Once, he called himself

"TAFKAP," which stood for The Artist Formerly Known as Prince.

Says Sexton, "But now he is The Artist Forever Known as Prince."

So, you think you know everything there is to know about The Purple One. Or maybe not: "Prince" could still hold a few surprises,

even for the most ardent fan.

But which will be your favorite part?

Author Paul Sexton tells Prince's story from his youth to his death, through the eyes of those who worked with Prince, on-stage and off, in stories that are both personal and of

the kind you might hear in a business meeting. While Sexton delightfully dives into a mischievous side of the singer, readers can rest assured that there's nothing scandalous here – that wasn't Prince's way – but those who know his lyrics know that the edge is close.

Or will you prefer the

pages of photographs? Pictures of Prince as a boy, a creator, a performer? Still-photos, posters, concert shots, pictures of his costumes? Photos that might be new to you? Why even try to decide about this book made especially for fans: pick both, and "Prince" promises a great read.

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