



# North Dallas Gazette

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## In 2021, organized labor is again flexing its muscle

By Ray Curry  
UAW President

Jobs. Racial justice. Workplace safety. Equity.

These issues, front and center in the minds of millions of Americans for years, were deeply intensified by the pandemic of 2020 and 2021. As the pandemic took full effect, devastating job losses hit minority workers and their families especially hard, and the critical role of health and safety protections was never more clearly at the forefront of our conversations than during this terrible pandemic.

But as 2021 took hold and a new administration began its work, the long-overdue fight to improve working conditions and labor rights was set into motion by President Joe Biden in his first days in office. Always a friend to working men and women, President Biden has made it clear that he is committed to labor and to those Americans who are struggling. And we are seeing that more and more Americans view unions and the labor movement more favorably.

### Labor at the forefront

A survey last fall by Gallup found that 68% of respondents have a positive view of unions — up from only 48% in 2009. Tomorrow's workforce is an even bigger



*The pandemic has served as a catalyst for workers demanding improvement in issues ranging from safety conditions to pay. (Photo: Emmanuel Ikwuegbu / Unsplash)*

supporter of unions, with 77% of individuals 34 and younger supporting unions.

These statistics present great opportunities for the labor movement.

At the UAW, we have long known that our strength is found in our solidarity, and we've seen in so many recent examples that this is a moment of great opportunity to build on this momentum. From the addition of thousands of new members, including the 17,000 student researchers at the University of California, to the voices heard loud and strong during the John Deere strike, 2021 has been a year to hear from the American worker.

Only a year ago, we ended 2020 with less than 11% of workers represented by unions, roughly half the number of organized workers on the job in 1983 (when the Labor Department started tracking the figure.) But with Biden, we inaugurated a President self-described as the "most pro-union President in the history of the country." And we're seeing the results.

Let's take a look at just a few key developments.

### The people in charge

We have seen dramatic change in the makeup of the National Labor

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### New effort aimed at kids vaccinations

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### People In The News ...



Harry C. Alford



Diana Weitzel

NDG Quote of the Week: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." —Nelson Mandela



## Harry C. Alford

It is with great sadness that the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) announces that its Warrior Leader and President/CEO and Co-Founder, Harry C. Alford, transitioned Monday, December 6, in Washington, DC. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kay DeBow, Vice President and Co-Founder of the National Black Chamber five months ago.

In 1993, Harry C. Alford moved the newly established National Black Chamber of Commerce from Indianapolis, Indiana



to Washington, DC. The first Board Chairman was the former Assistant Secretary of Labor, Dr. Arthur Fletcher, the "Father of Affirmative Action." Most of the existing Black Cham-

bers derived from Harry's initiatives and influence over the years.

Today, the National Black Chamber is the largest Black business organization in the world, consisting of regional organizations of Black Chambers in the United States, eight (8) countries in Africa, eleven (11) membership Chambers in the Caribbean and five-member Black Chambers in Central and South America. Black Chambers were also established in London and Paris under Harry's leadership. In addition to coordinating this global operation, Harry C.

Alford spoke before Congress on behalf of Black business, often several times a month. For many years, he served on the Board of Directors of the most influential Chamber in America, the United States Chamber of Commerce, in Washington, DC.

"When President George Bush asked Harry Alford to assist him with a strategy to identify any Black owned businesses remaining in the Hurricane Katrina impact zone and a plan for helping them survive, he selected the right man," said Arnold Baker, President Baker Ready Mix, LLC. Harry

brought a fresh perspective and renewed vision that nothing was impossible and held the White House accountable for making available unfettered access to the Corps of Engineers, HUD, the Department of Commerce, and DOT for the nation's greatest rebuild.

"Today the lessons learned and visioning processes that Harry and Kay brought to fruition are responsible for tens of billions of dollars in small business inclusion programming which are now the basis for every disaster relief program. They not only made history in New Orleans but

designed the base principals for recovery programs now implemented across the globe," Baker said.

As word spread of Harry's death condolences and personal memories of Harry's business acumen began to pour in.

John Harmon, who is the President of one of the most successful Black Chambers in New Jersey, said that it was the guidance of Harry and his beloved wife Kay, that guided him through many business initiatives. He also said it was because of his influence that he

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## Diana Weitzel

Diana Weitzel is a Democratic candidate for Denton County Commissioner Precinct 2. A longtime family lawyer, Weitzel has lived in Denton County for 22 years.

"I love Denton County, and it is time for positive change," said Weitzel. "As Denton County Commissioner, I will work hard to improve our children's lives, upgrade our healthcare and reduce traffic."

As a lawyer, Weitzel works hard to improve the lives of women and children. She has assisted more than 100 families complete adoptions. "Helping children find



their forever homes is truly rewarding," said Weitzel. Weitzel also works with the State Attorney General's office on child custody cases.

Weitzel will use her in-depth knowledge of healthcare systems to upgrade

healthcare for Denton County residents. For 15+ years, Weitzel served as a healthcare executive for Vizient/VHA, the largest healthcare group purchasing organization. She evaluated goods and services, analyzed budgets, negotiated contracts and managed finances, sales and customer service for over 2,500 non-profit hospitals. She stated, "As your commissioner, I'll work with our community-

based organizations and the Denton County Public Health Department to make effective, efficient upgrades to healthcare in Denton County."

Weitzel is also committed to reducing Denton County's terrible traffic. She noted, "What was a 30-minute drive across Denton County now takes twice as long." Weitzel will apply her business background to finding cost-effective im-

provements to our roads and bridges.

Weitzel also represents animal rescue groups on a pro bono basis. "I have a great love of animals and want to make sure they are safe and healthy," she said.

Denton County's Commissioner Precinct 2 now includes parts of Corinth, Carrollton, Dallas, Denton, Frisco, Little Elm, Plano, Shady Shores and The Colony. The primary election

will be held March 1, 2022, with early voting Feb. 14 through 25 and the general election will be on Tuesday Nov. 8, 2022.

A senior attorney with more than 15 years' experience practicing civil, healthcare, criminal and family law, Weitzel is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

For more information about Diana Weitzel, visit her Facebook site at Diana for County Commissioner.

## CM2 Christopher Williams



**1074 NAVAL AIR STATION SIGONELLA, Italy (Dec. 14, 2021)**  
Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Christopher Williams a Fort Worth, Texas native, attached to the Public Works Department conducts maintenance on a U.S. Navy Fire Truck on Naval Air Station Sigonella, Dec. 14, 2021. NAS Sigonella's strategic location enables U.S., allied, and partner nation forces to deploy and respond as required, ensuring security and stability in Europe, Africa and Central Command. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Trinita Lersch)

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## The National NAACP President should be suspended, not the San Diego Branch President



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

Derrick Johnson, as President of the National NAACP, has been a disappointment, and a person guilty of malfeasance in Office. Plainly speaking, he has not shown the support nor interest in the hard work of local chapters and their volunteer leadership that such sacrifices and commitment deserve. He is an example of one who has been in Washington, D.C. so long that he appears to have forgotten who put him there and why.

Under his leadership, the National office does not return telephone calls even from the Black Press which

is the entity that carries the stories of the NAACP more than CNN. In the case now concerning the suspension of the San Diego Branch President of the NAACP, numerous calls have been made to Mr. Johnson throughout this year concerning the issues confronting the San Diego community like the wrongful nomination and appointment of former San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Cindy Marten to U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education. Mr. Johnson endorsed Marten without even calling his local chapter to vet Ms. Marten. Even after he had repeated notice of problems with that nomination, he still refused to talk to local leadership. But it appears that Mr. Johnson has a history of not talking to local chapters.

The National Board of

Directors of the NAACP should do its membership a service and take a very close look at how Mr. Johnson has handled the San Diego Branch, and the failure to follow the stated rules of the NAACP in the manner in which it investigates and handles issues concerning local chapters.

The Board of Directors should examine very closely the step by step handling of the San Diego Branch, all documents of complaints and line those actions up with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National NAACP and its relationship with its Branches. Perhaps such an investigation can explain what the rest of us fail to find or understand. We do know that the suspension of Mrs. Maxwell has two purposes: one to get hands on the bank accounts and two,

to ensure that she can not run for re-election in the special election which has been called for early 2022. This is in spite of the fact that 2022 is an election year for the Branch.

The assigned Administrator has proven to be no more than a puppet for the larger agenda of getting the funds on hand and placing friends in leadership positions rather than the earnest people doing the daily volunteer services.

The National Board of Directors has fired presidents before when it thought such action was necessary. Let's not be afraid to do the right thing now and get rid of Derrick Johnson. The organization and its service is bigger than the ego and personal needs of its current President.

## Reparations Rising with Robin Rue Simmons

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Contributor

The Honorable John Conyers, who represented Detroit in Congress from 1965 until 2017, introduced HR 40 every congressional session from 1989. He worked to get cosponsors for the legislation for nearly thirty years, but not even the entire Congressional Black Caucus would cosponsor.

Upon his retirement from Congress, he passed the baton to Houston Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Thanks to her efforts and those of reparations organizations, including the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), the number of cosponsors approaches two hundred members of Congress. With 218, the legislation could pass in Congress.

Full disclosure. I serve as a NAARC commissioner, as does Kamm Howard, the co-chair of N'COBRA.

With a Senate dominated

by conservative Democrats and obstructionist Republicans, when HR 40 passes in Congress, it is unlikely to pass in the Senate. However, it is essential to acknowledge the enormous progress the reparations movement has experienced since Conyers first introduced HR 40.

Robin Rue Simmons, a former Alderman in Evanston, Illinois, shepherded reparations legislation in that city and helped design a program that will use money from legal cannabis sales to fund reparations.

Robin chose not to run for reelection, although she would have probably faced only token opposition if she had. Instead, she has been working full-time on the issue of local reparations, founding First Repair (firstrepair.org), an organization focused on helping state and local governments shape reparations initiatives.

The fact that so many cities and states are considering reparations initiatives and appointing reparations

commissions is invigorating and encouraging. As Robin Rue Simmons said, change happens from the bottom up and not the top down. The more cities and states that have reparations conversations, the more awareness those at the top will have that this is an issue that is not going away. Our nation is culpable for the exploitation of enslaved people and their descendants. We have gotten little more than a tepid apology. Our country must do more.

While HR 40 calls for the establishment of a commission to make reparations suggestions, if President Biden really wanted to have our backs, as he so often says, he could, through executive order, establish such a commission now. I had hoped that President Obama might have done so, but that issue was such a hot potato for our then-President that he would not even consider it. The more talk there is about reparations, the more information is disseminated. President Biden, Vice-President Harris, can you take

this step in the right direction?

Meanwhile, I'm lifting up Robin Rue Simmons, a 45-year-old leader, activist, and tireless reparations advocate. She has dedicated her life to the reparations movement, using the Evanston experience as a blueprint for other municipalities considering reparations. It's important to note that reparations are not just about a check. It is about healing, restoring, reclaiming what has been taken from the descendants of enslaved people. It's not just about enslavement. It's about laws passed after Emancipation that systematically robbed us of our rights, work, worth, and wealth. Thanks to folks like Robin Rue Simmons (also a NAARC commissioner), Kamm Howard, Dr. Ron Daniels, Sheila Jackson Lee, Danny Glover, and so many others, the reparations movement is rising!

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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# Walgreens and Faith for Black Lives launch 10-state effort aimed at vaccinating the nation's youth

DEERFIELD, Ill. -- With the fight against COVID-19 far from over, Walgreens and Harlem New York-based initiative for civic engagement, Faith for Black Lives, have come together to call upon churches to be community bullhorns for combatting persistent vaccine hesitancy and to drive the importance of COVID vaccination for children and young adults. 'Shots for Tots' combines Walgreens on-site vaccination clinics and vaccine literacy with programs happening at participating churches. The effort kicks off Dec. 18 and will continue in the coming weeks, with clinics to be held across 10 states.

"We are grateful to Walgreens for the opportunity to expand access to COVID-19 vaccinations for children and families throughout the nation by hosting community-based vaccination clinics with our partnering faith communities," said Rev. Stephen A. Green, founder, Faith for Black Lives, and senior pastor, St. Luke AME Church, in



National Cancer Institute / Unsplash

the village of Harlem, New York. "This campaign, launching this Holiday season, will continue throughout the upcoming year to increase vaccinations among young people and communities of color."

Green says the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic has been a centerpiece issue for activism in churches, especially in underserved rural and urban communities where vaccine rates are low and vaccine hesitancy is often high. According to recent

data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, uptake of COVID vaccination remains lowest among Black Americans, compared to Whites and Hispanics, in part due to misinformation about the effects of COVID vaccines.

The Walgreens and Faith for Black Lives Shots for Tots effort focuses on tackling hesitancy all while encouraging families to seek primary vaccinations for adult family members and eligible children, as well as booster doses for eligible

adults and teens, at their nearest Walgreens. And, just in time for the holidays, many of this weekend's clinics will also include toy drives for families in need this winter season.

"Churches, organizations like Faith for Black Lives and leaders like Rev. Green are vitally important to helping ensure the vaccine reaches under-represented and often hard-to-reach populations," said Carlos Cubia, SVP and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for Walgreens Boots Alliance. "Walgreens is grateful for their partnership, as we know that our success reaching patients in medically underserved areas is reliant upon the trusted role of faith leaders and communities."

Churches interested in participating can visit faithforblacklives.com for more information. To schedule a Walgreens vaccination appointment, individuals are highly encouraged to use the Walgreens app or to visit Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine to secure

an appointment in advance. When scheduling, individuals will be asked to verify eligibility and, if applicable (for second appointments and/or booster doses), they'll be asked to provide the manufacturer and date of their last COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information, visit Walgreens.com/covid-

vaccine.

Faith for Black Lives is a coalition of faith leaders committed to building beloved communities through radical love in action. Our mission is to advance an affirmative vision for systemic equality through grassroots organizing, leadership convenings, and issue-based advocacy.

## Prism Health North Texas awarded grant to enhance team dedicated to healthcare insurance enrollment assistance

Prism Health North Texas (PHNTX) recently has received a three-year award as part of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas consortium group to offer multiple services supportive of engaging individuals with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This \$8.3M grant is funded as part of the Biden-Harris Administration to provide Affordable Care Act education and enrollment services to uninsured North Texans. Prism Health North Texas is poised to enroll the general public for health insurance education

and enrollment assistance and provide support for Medicaid and CHIP.

This latest grant wholly aligns with Prism Health North Texas's vision statement: Building equitable healthcare access for all Texans. PHNTX's commitment is to provide healthcare for all North Texans in a non-judgmental and affirming environment, especially for marginalized populations including those living with HIV, LGBTQIA+, and the ethnic minorities.

"This funding will en-

able our communities to receive a service that is critical for many individuals and families to enroll in health care coverage," said Jennifer Sampson, McDermott-Templeton President and CEO of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas in a release. "The Dallas area did not have this funding for the past four years, which had a direct impact of the number of uninsured who weren't receiving support and information to navigate the complexity of finding a

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# Parents raise the alarm about violence in schools and say increased bullying and mental health concerns are major issues

Boston, MA— A new poll released today by the National Parents Union found 84% of parents are concerned about how schools are addressing the threat of violence, and 59% say children experiencing increased bullying or violence in school is a major issue. Further, 52% say student mental health after coping with the pandemic is a major issue, as well.

The survey, which was conducted November 19-23, included 1,233 parents who are also registered voters.

The poll also asked the parents who responded that

they were concerned about the threat of violence what exactly concerns them the most. The top three most pressing concerns are:

- 44%: schools not having enough counselors, psychologists or social workers to work with students

- 42%: schools not having resources to keep weapons out of schools

- 39%: schools not having school resource officers or police accessible on campus

“These findings underscore the importance of the very thing we have been imploring school leaders

across the country to do: listen to the parents in your community. It also reinforces the need for those running for office to take the concerns of parents very seriously or risk losing elections,” said Keri Rodrigues, co-founder and President of the National Parents Union. “Parents have very legitimate concerns about violence in schools, increased bullying, and a lack of mental health resources. Now, it is incumbent on schools to do something about these issues, especially given the federal funds available. It’s not rocket science. Rather

than repaint a football field, first make sure that there are enough counselors to help students cope with mental health issues.”

## Schools Teaching about Race and Diversity

- 59% of parents are extremely or very concerned about how schools are teaching about race and diversity; Among Black parents, 69% share this sentiment, a number that drops slightly to 67% among Hispanic parents.

- Of the overall number of parents who are at least somewhat concerned (79%): 48% say what con-

cerns them the most is schools are not teaching accurate information about the issue of race; 42% are most concerned about schools pushing a progressive agenda onto students, 56% of GOP parents who are concerned say this is their top concern; 32% are most concerned that schools aren’t focused on the issue enough, 46% of Black parents who are concerned say this is their top concern.

## Disciplinary Issues

Seventy-eight percent of parents are concerned about how schools are

handling disciplinary issues. Nearly half (46%) of Black parents who said they are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues are worried that schools are being harsher on students of color compared to white students

## Trust in Political Parties

Thirty-eight percent of parents trust Democrats to do a better job of handling education; 31% trust Republicans; 14% trust both equally; 11% trust neither. Among parents who identify as Independents, 28% trust Republicans and 20% trust Democrats

# Virginia police officer who shot Donovan Lynch will not be charged

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

A grand jury has ruled that a Virginia Beach Police Officer who shot Donovan Lynch on March 26 will not face charges.

Lynch was shot to death by Virginia Beach Officer Solomon Simmons. Lynch is a cousin of musician and Virginia Beach native Pharrell Williams. Lynch’s death has been under investigation since his shooting.

Lynch’s father recently filed a \$50 million lawsuit



Donovan Lynch’s death re-ignited debate around the policy question of qualified immunity and how liable police officers should be for death and injury they may cause while on duty. (Courtesy photo/NNPA.)

against Officer Simmons. Simmons is Black. The wrongful death suit is likely to be in court next year if it survives a motion to

dismiss filed by the city of Virginia Beach.

Lynch was armed with a gun at the time of the shooting which occurred on a

night of violent activity by other individuals at Virginia Beach’s oceanfront.

During a lengthy news conference on November 30, Virginia Beach prosecutors said Officer Simmons was justified in protecting himself after Lynch allegedly cocked his gun and pointed it towards a parking lot.

Officer Simmons’ body camera was turned off during the moments when he shot Lynch. Media reports reveal that there are conflicting witness statements

regarding how Donovan Lynch was killed.

Lynch’s funeral earlier this year was attended by Rev. Dr. William Barber and many local politicians. His death reignited debate around the policy question of qualified immunity and how liable police officers should be for death and injury they may cause while on duty.

Over the last ten years, there have been several deaths in police custody shootings that have gained national attention. Most of

them have involved video footage. They include the police shootings of Eric Garner, George Floyd, Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Philando Castille, and Walter Scott.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on Twitter at @LVBurke

# U.S. Supreme Court asked to flip decision and put Bill Cosby back in jail

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

Kevin Steele, the prosecutor who put legendary actor and comedian Bill Cosby, 84, in jail in 2018, has filed an appeal to the United States Supreme Court to reinstate Cosby’s conviction.

Cosby was released on June 30 after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that former prosecutor Bruce Castor’s decision not to prosecute in 2005 should have prevented Cosby from being charged in 2015.

“Unwilling to accept its epic loss in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Montgomery County Dis-



The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling, which was 6-1, found that Cosby relied on his deal with Castor that he would not prosecute. (Courtesy photo/NNPA.)

trict Attorney has now filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court. In short, the Montgomery County D.A. asks the United States Supreme Court to throw the Constitution out the window, as it did, to satisfy

the #metoo mob,” Cosby’s spokesman Andrew Wyatt said in reaction on November 29.

“There is no merit to the DA’s request which centers on the unique facts of the Cosby case and has no impact on important fed-

eral questions of law. The United States Supreme Court does not typically interfere with the rulings of a State’s high court unless it conflicts with the decisions of other state high courts or our federal court of appeals. This is a pathetic last-ditch

effort that will not prevail. The Montgomery County’s DA’s fixation with Mr. Cosby is troubling, to say the least,” Wyatt added.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in the case that would later be overturned was brought forward by Andrea Constand, a former Temple University employee, who alleged that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her at his home in Philadelphia in 2004. Steele called the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s June 30 decision on Cosby, “a dangerous precedent.”

“A prosecution announcement not to file charges should not trigger

due process protections against future criminal proceedings because circumstances could change, including new incriminating statements by the accused,” Steele argued.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling, which was 6-1, found that Cosby relied on his deal with Castor that he would not prosecute.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on Twitter at @LVBurke.



# First six of 175 students on the ladder to leadership

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This Fall, six students from four colleges lived at the HBCU National Center on Capitol Hill whilst completing internships for distinguished members of Congress.

The Center was established in 2021 to foster experiential learning, mentorship, and networking for students attending historically black colleges and universities.

The Foundation awards each participating school at least one \$5,600 housing grant per academic semester to address the lack of diversity in the intern population and structural inequity of housing costs by getting



*Pictured above (left to right): Kyle West, Grambling State University; Nina Jones, Kentucky State University; Anyiah Chambers, Kentucky State University; Dayna Kent, United Negro College Fund; Malik Singleton, Harris-Stowe State University; Deja Mayfield, North Carolina A&T State University; Brionna Greer, Kentucky State University (Courtesy photo/NNPA).*

next-generation leaders to the resource ladder in Washington—and then, getting them up on it. In addition to the housing grant, the Center assists in placing the participating students in an in-

ternship and connects them with a local alumni mentor.

At the Center, the inaugural class of students participated in professional development activities which included a reception for

Delegate Briana Sewell, a tour with the president of the National Press Club, and AP, Speaker Series with Rep. Cheri Bustos, and Career Night, among others.

Graduating in the inaugural class are the following students:

- Anyiah Chambers, Kentucky State University, interning in the office of Congresswoman Nanette Barragán
- Brionna Greer, Kentucky State University, interning in the office of Congressman Jim McGovern
- Nina Jones, Kentucky State University, interning in the office of Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan
- Deja Mayfield, North

Carolina A&T State University, interning in the office of Congresswoman Alma Adams

• Malik Singleton, Harris-Stowe State University, interning in the office of Congresswoman Karen Bass

• Kyle West, Grambling State University, interning in the office of Senator Tom Carper

The Center was founded to provide students from underserved schools with resources that make an internship in Washington, D.C. affordable, access to career development opportunities, and a helping hand to the first step on the ladder.

Six students now return to campus to promote their

professional experience to others.

The HBCU National Center Foundation was established with a gift of \$1M by Honorable Jacqueline Lewis, educator and philanthropist. 30 years ago, Lewis founded Washington Intern Student Housing (WISH) and set up foundations to help struggling students.

This year, Lewis was inspired by President Biden's call for diversity in the Federal Government and Mackenzie Scott's gifts to underfunded schools. This initial gift provides for 175 students to participate. For additional information, visit HBCUNC.org.

## U.S. Sec. of Education weighs in on President Biden's nomination of LaWanda Toney

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona issued the following statement today on President Biden's intent to nominate LaWanda Toney for assistant secretary for communications and outreach at the U.S. Department of Education:

"I am heartened that the President has nominated LaWanda Toney as assistant secretary for communications and outreach at the U.S. Department of Education. LaWanda brings years of strategic messaging experience to this role,

as well as a deep dedication to excellence and equity in education. LaWanda's strong connections to our parent communities also will help to ensure that the Department's communications and engagement continue to be informed by the lived experiences of parents and families across the country, who—particularly amid the pandemic—have raised their voices and demonstrated incredible advocacy for the education that their children need and deserve in order to thrive. I

look forward to LaWanda's swift confirmation and to welcoming her to the team at the Department."

LaWanda Toney is the director of strategic communications at the National Parent Teacher Association (National PTA), whose mission is to empower families and communities to advocate for all children, and she has been a part of the association for over 12 years. She manages the National PTA's communications team in the areas of web, social media, edito-

rial, creative development, and media relations. Her work has received several awards from the Association of Media and Publishing and the Power of "A" Awards with the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). LaWanda is also the co-host of National PTA's podcast, Notes

from the Backpack.

Prior to working at National PTA, LaWanda managed marketing programs, planned special events, and created communications campaigns for major retailers, nonprofits, publishing, and advertising companies. LaWanda holds a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast

journalism from Howard University and a master of arts in strategic communication with an emphasis in public relations from Trinity University.

She also is a member of ASAE and ColorComm, an organization for women of color in all areas of communications

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# City of Plano to rename facilities in honor of standout employees

One of the outcomes of recent city council meetings in Plano is the decision to rename certain municipal facilities to recognize local leaders and history. There were three facilities which will be renamed in honor of individuals, and one other naming recognizes the contributions of a local civic organization.

The Gerald P. Cosgrove Public Works Service Center, formerly the Parkway Service Center at 4120 W. Plano Pkwy., honors the



City of Plano

legacy left by the beloved late Director of Public Works Jerry Cosgrove.

The Gregory W. Rushin

Police Substation, formerly the Northwest Police Substation at 4640 McDermott Rd., is a tribute to retiring

Deputy City Manager and long-time Police Chief Greg Rushin.

Adrian Magallanes Day Labor Center, 805 Ozark Dr., carries on the tradition of serving others. Adrian was supervisor of the Day Labor Center until his untimely passing. His work earned him the 2011 Employee of Year.

Masonic Square recognizes the original location of the Plano Masonic Lodge by renaming the small pocket park on the

southeast corner of 15th Street and K Avenue.

Another change which should be visible to local residence stems from a landscaping agreement between the local government and the state.

Watch for new trees and irrigation to be added to the medians of Preston Road immediately north and south of Legacy Drive beginning in fall 2022. Money from the 2016 Governor's Community Achievement Award, presented by

Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), will fund this project on S.H. 289.

Median trees will reduce the heat-island effect by lowering the surface and air temperatures. The Sustainability & Environmental Education division and Parks & Recreation are coordinating with TxDOT to transform these large medians into an attractive feature everyone can enjoy.

## White House announces the national action plan to combat human trafficking

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Globally, an estimated 25 million people are subjected to human trafficking and forced labor, which is responsible for an estimated \$150 billion annually in illicit profits.

In a fact sheet released by the White House on Friday,

December 3, administration officials said human trafficking and forced labor "erodes the safety and health of our communities and transportation networks, the security of our borders, the strength of our economy, and the rule of law."

They said the Biden-Harris administration is committed to keeping the fight

to end human trafficking at the forefront of America's national security agenda by releasing the new National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

"Human trafficking disproportionately impacts some of the most vulnerable and underserved members of our society," the fact sheet noted.

The updated National Ac-

tion Plan to Combat Human Trafficking responds to this predatory behavior by addressing the needs of underserved individuals, families, and communities.

As such, officials said it reflects the administration's commitments to gender and racial equity by taking action against the systemic injustices that communities experience, including un-

derstood populations.

"The anti-trafficking efforts outlined in the National Action Plan are directly linked to our broader efforts to address inequities for marginalized groups," the administration officials stated further.

These communities often experience overlapping social and economic inequities, and individuals may

suffer multiple forms of abuse.

As a result, individuals from these communities may be more vulnerable to becoming victims of human trafficking.

The fact sheet noted that the National Action Plan also reflects the administration's commitment to

**See PLAN, Page 12**

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# I'm a mom first.

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# Cowboys defend division lead with win over Giants, 21-6

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

Another game has come and gone where the Dallas Cowboys' defense looked like they're ready for a Super Bowl, while the team's offense looked nowhere near super.

After forcing four turnovers for the third straight game, the Cowboys punished the New York Giants, winning, 21-6, on the road this past Sunday to run their record to an impressive 10-4. It's the first time since 1994 that the Cowboys produced four takeaways in three consecutive games.

"We showed up ready to play," said defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence. "We got the turnovers that we needed and we got the job done."

"Just to be on a team with a strong defense, it doesn't get any better than that."

For Lawrence, it doesn't get any better than what he did Sunday. First, early in the game, his arm collided with the arm of Giants quarterback Mike Glennon as Glennon attempted a pass.

Ultimately, that pass wound up in the comfortable hands of Cowboys cornerback Jourdan Lewis, who returned it 17 yards to the New York 13-yard line.



From there, Ezekiel Elliott scooted into the end zone for a 6-0 Dallas lead with 6:31 remaining in the first quarter.

Then, in the second quarter, Lawrence punched the ball away from the usually reliable hands of Giants' running back Saquon Barkley, which Carlos Watkins recovered for the Cowboys. That play led to a field goal as the second quarter time expired.

Remarkably, it was just the first lost fumble for Barkley during his stellar four-year NFL career.

"I can't say enough about our defense," coach Mike McCarthy said. "It's something we put a lot of time in, and I think it really plays to our skill-set."

We have a number of guys, when the ball's in the air, I don't even know if it's 50-50 sometimes. We're playing with great confi-

dence."

That same confidence, unfortunately, can't be said when analyzing the Cowboys' offense. Once a formidable group that held this team together with magnificent plays, the Cowboys' offense has manufactured just 15 touchdowns in the team's last 75 offensive possessions, ranking them 27th in the league over that period of time.

Against the Giants, the Cowboys could muster but two touchdowns, three field goals, and 328 total yards while looking woefully like a shell of their former dominant selves.

"It's definitely frustrating," said quarterback Dak Prescott, who was 28-of-37 for 217 yards and a two-yard TD to Dalton Schultz. "The defense is doing a great job giving us the ball and giving us the ball in plus territory, and we've

got to find a way to get in the end zone."

"We'll get back to practice, watch the film, make the corrections and find a way to convert these (takeaways) into touchdowns."

If not, it's going to be costly in more ways than one. That's because the Cowboys' offensive players and defensive players have a friendly wager consisting of whether the defense can carve out more takeaways than touchdowns manufactured by the offense.

"We have a little bet going on -- I'll let everyone know," Prescott said. "The defense is kicking our (rear end). It's turnovers vs. touchdowns that we've created this week. They obviously won this one (four to two), but we'll make sure that it carries over."

In the meantime, cornerback Trevon Diggs intercepted his 10th pass of the season, tying him with Mel Renfro (1969) for second

place on the franchise's all-time list for interceptions in a season and putting him just one behind Everson Walls (1981).

"It's a blessing," Diggs said of his 10th interception. "That was actually my goal for the season this year, and I'm happy I reached it. But I didn't know that I was going to reach it."

Thanks to Diggs, the Cowboys lead the NFL in interceptions with 23 and are tied with the Indianapolis Colts for first in the league in takeaways with 31.

"They're doing a great job getting the ball," Prescott said. "The front seven is attacking, the back ends are getting their hands on balls, and it's impressive."

"But as I said, we've got to reward these guys with touchdowns."

The Cowboys' offense did have some measure of

success. At least in the running game.

Tony Pollard (12 rushes, 74 yards) and Elliott (16 carries, 52 yards) combined to rush for over 100 yards against the Giants (4-10). The Cowboys are a perfect 9-0 when that duo combines to rush for 100 or more yards in a game and are just 1-4 when they fail to reach that barrier.

"We're definitely building," Prescott said. "As I've said before, we're trying to peak at the right time and make sure that we're headed to the postseason with momentum and playing some of our best ball."

"The defense is doing that. The offense still has some growth to do."

Field goals of 26, 42, and 27 yards by Greg Zuerlein padded the Cowboys' half-time lead to 15-3. From there, the defense kept pressuring the Giants and

**See COWBOYS, Page 12**

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## The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum announces MLK Celebration honoring civil rights pioneers

FORT WORTH – The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum (NMWHM) 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations will take place beginning Thursday, January 13th and conclude Monday, Jan. 17, the official holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader.

The five-day event kicks off Thursday at noon with a Virtual Panel Discussion on “The Importance of Creating an African American Museum in Fort Worth Update.”

Thursday evening from 8 to 11 p.m., music lovers are encouraged to come out and enjoy a night of rhythm and blues in Downtown Cowtown at the Isis Theatre in Fort Worth. Musical artists for the opening night are Sheran Keyton and the 4 Divas of Blues.

On Friday, the NMWHM will pay tribute to this year’s Civil Rights Activists Honorees Stacey Abrams, Domingo Garcia and Deborah Peoples. Mrs. Rosa Parks and Rev. Joseph E. Lowery are this year’s Civil Rights “Pioneers” Honorees. The recognition ceremony begins at 7 p.m. and will take place at the Isis Theatre.

Saturday morning, the community is invited to participate in the MLK

Day of Service! The Free Family Fun Day kicks off at 10 a.m. at The Ranchin Fort Worth. The Museum will also host a Health and Vendor Community Fair, on Saturday morning from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., at the The Warehouse.

Saturday evening boasts another night of music at the Isis Theatre with Fingerprints, Selina Albright and Adam Hawley.

The music continues Sunday with a Jazz and Gospel extravaganza from 7 to 10 p.m. live at The Warehouse with Faces The

Band.

The celebrations conclude Monday with the legendary Cowboys of Color Rodeo and broadcast of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s iconic I Have a Dream Speech. The rodeo takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. at Dickies Arena.

For more information on any of these events, to purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.nmwhm.org](http://www.nmwhm.org) or call 817-922-9999. Tickets are also available for all events on Eventbrite.com.



## George And Fay Young Foundation donates \$100,000 to Bishop Arts Theatre as part of Legacy Project

Bishop Arts Theatre Center (BATC) is thrilled to announce a generous \$100,000 grant from the George and Fay Young Foundation in support of our Legacy Project. The gift also secures a naming rights sponsorship in perpetuity on the skybox area of the second floor joining the Embrey Family Foundation as longtime sponsors. The gift marks the largest philanthropic donation to date and its sole purpose is to strengthen the organization for long-

term sustainability.

In 2005, a 10,000 sq. ft. dilapidated building, now known as BATC, was donated to our nonprofit, TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc. Renovations began in 2006 and were completed in 2008 in spite of a downward spiral economy. Today the facility includes a 170-seat proscenium theatre with dressing rooms, executive offices, box office/concession area, art gallery, learning laboratory for arts education programs,

and an arts business incubator center for cultural organizations to rent affordable office space. With a \$31,250 grant, The George and Fay Young Foundation was one of only two philanthropic organizations that supported the renovation efforts in 2008.

A Mortgage Burning Party is being planned in 2022 to formally acknowledge the George and Fay Young Foundation’s naming rights sponsorship gift.

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## Have you watched our videos?



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.



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## Duncanville grads and millenials in motion collaborate on new creative space in their hometown community

Two entrepreneurs with a history of crossing paths have collaborated in partnership to launch Studio 815 Main, a full-service photography studio with a vibe of sleek elegance and a fresh forward look.

Jasmyn Otote and Miles Robinson, photographers, and graphic designers, are millennials in motion, that are poised and positioned to make a flash on Main Street in Duncanville at the new Studio 815 Main.

Jasmyn and Miles are 2007 National Honor Society Duncanville Panther graduates, who crossed paths in their early years in honor classes and mutual friends, enjoying a comradery, only understood in

D'Ville.

Both went on to graduate from the University of Missouri and Sam Houston University, respectively, with degrees in Graphic Design.

As Panthers who returned to the community after graduation, this dynamic duo collaborated in sports photography at their beloved alma mater. Realizing the shared vision, a partnership formed between C.I.R. Design, and Jasmyn Renee' Photography.

Miles in partnership with his lovely wife LaVonshe, also a Duncanville Panther, owners of C.I.R. (Caleb Isaiah Robinson) Design and Jasmyn Otote, sole

proprietor of Jasmyn Renee Photography, are owners and operators of the 3,000 sq. ft. facility, located near the corner of Wheatland and Main in Duncanville.

The studio officially opened with a host of events that celebrated that the millennials are now in motion to capture the hearts, smiles, memories, and moments for all to see.

The photographers have expertise with families, events, branding/lifestyle, sports photography, and graphics. The entrepreneur's side hustle leveraged the young professionals to leave corporate careers to pursue their amazing destiny.



*Miles Robinson (above left) and Jasmyn Otote (above right) were friends in high school at Duncanville. After graduating and engaging in creative careers, the duo are collaborating on a 3,000 sq. ft. studio back in their old stomping grounds. Studio 815 Main offers a wide range of photography services, catering to families or business interests alike. (Courtesy photos)*



## LABOR, from Page 1

Relations Board (NLRB) under President Biden. Two former counsels to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) – David Prouty, and Gwynne Wilcox – were named to the NLRB while Peter Ohy was named NLRB general counsel and Jennifer Abruzzo became permanent general counsel. Abruzzo immediately began encouraging the board to reinstitute the Joy Silk Mills doctrine, which allows organizing elections to be decided by card-check instead of needing to go to a full vote, providing a real boost for organizing efforts.

Also, under Biden, long-time labor advocates entered the President's Cabinet with Marty Walsh

appointed as Labor Secretary and Julie Su as deputy. Former Boston Mayor Walsh's history includes being a union leader and head of the Metropolitan Building Trades, while Su headed the California Department of Labor and is an ongoing advocate for workers' rights.

Likewise, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) also has new faces – longtime civil rights and immigrant activists Charlotte Burrows, and Jocelyn Samuels, who worked for years on policies to attain equality for sexual and gender minorities, have joined its ranks.

### Wages and safety

As more and more states

enact minimum wage legislation, raising the legal minimum to \$15, federal workers also saw an executive order creating a \$15 minimum wage by March 2022. In addition, Minnesota Building and Construction trades council alum, Jessica Looman, was chosen to lead the federal division ensuring employers pay proper wages, including meeting minimum wage and overtime requirements.

Workplace safety also saw a boost with a former steelworker now leading the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). James Fredrick now leads the agency, which was immediately tasked with creating a COVID Safety Standard. Keeping workers safe on

the job is his top priority.

Additionally, among the many pro-labor details in President Biden's Build Back Better legislation, the bill will create strong penalties for employers who violate labor law, including safety, discrimination, wages, and workers' rights.

### Equity

The historic American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law by executive order. The ARP directs agencies to increase its procurement from small, disadvantaged businesses, including Black-owned businesses, by 50%. The bill also provides cash relief directly to low- and middle-income Americans. It is projected to cut the child poverty rate by more than 50% by the end of this year. The ARP also fights

the recent surge in laws that made it harder for Black Americans to vote and promotes much-needed access to voter registration and voting.

### Keeping jobs in the US

We are also seeing numerous actions directed at keeping manufacturing – and therefore jobs – in the U.S. These include Buy American rules requiring at least 60% (eventually increasing to 75%) of purchased products being made in the United States.

As new industries develop, strong efforts to create new unionized jobs are also being planned. In the renewable energy industry, legislative plans will create a possible 44,000 jobs in development and construction, and 33,000 more jobs in supporting sectors within

the next 10 years as part of the American Jobs Plan.

The current Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, passed in early November, invests more than \$1 trillion into infrastructure. The areas covered range from upgrading the U.S. electrical grid, developing and implementing a national automobile charging network, and repaving roads and fixing bridges. This bill will create tens of thousands of equitable union jobs over the next decade.

These actions, appointments, and legislation are a huge step in the right direction, and you can be sure that unions and workers will continue to make their voices heard loud and clear to keep this momentum going strong in 2022 and build back union strong.

## ALFORD, from Page 2

served on the NBCC Board and the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"I knew Harry and Kay before they left Indianapolis to establish the national chamber in Washington, D.C. I had a great relationship with him in Indi-

ana when he served in the cabinet of former Governor Evan Bayh.

"I went into a meeting with him expecting resistance and I was met with agreement and a solution that led the way for Indiana Black newspapers to do business with the state,"

said Dorothy R. Leavell, Publisher of the Chicago and Gary Crusader newspapers.

"When he started the National Black Chamber, our relationship expanded to include me as a board member of NBCC and when I was chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Founda-

tion he served with distinction on our board. He was always eager to help 'The Black Press' as a business," Leavell said.

Members of the NBCC Board of Directors including Fred Jordan, NBCC's outstanding member of San Francisco and Oakland, CA, representing the west coast, said that the future of

NBCC is bright and presently Charles H. DeBow, III is Executive Director and had served previously as Vice President of Global Development and Programs.

Current NBCC Board Chairman and President of the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce, Larry Ivory, stated, "Harry

Alford was the Godfather of Black Chambers in the United States and from his Washington, DC headquarters, gave Black business a seat at the table for over 28 years. Harry and Kay's legacy will live on as we continue moving the National Black Chamber of Commerce's agenda forward."



# First anti-Critical Race Theory complaint in Tennessee targets Martin Luther King, Jr. book

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

A group called Moms for Liberty has filed an 11-page complaint alleging that the book “Martin Luther King Jr and the March on Washington” is “anti-American.”

The complaint is the first to be filed under Tennessee’s new anti-critical race theory law. The new law specifically targeted a book about Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement, calling it “anti-American.”

The group Moms for Liberty is in Williamson County, Tennessee. The complaint would forbid the book to be used by teachers at Williamson County Schools, a district south of Nashville, Tenn.

The Tennessee Department of Education refused the request. The department declined to investigate the allegations because the lessons referenced were not taught during the 2020-21 academic school year.

“The relentless nature of

how these divisive stories are taught, the lack of historical context and difference in perspective, and the manipulative pedagogy all work together to amplify and sow feelings of resentment, shame of one’s skin color, and/or fear,” the complaint from Moms for Liberty read.

Moms for Liberty protested a photo of segregated water fountains and images showing Black children being blasted with water by firefighters during the civil

rights movement.

Though “critical race theory” is a part of the college-level curriculum at law schools, the term has become a wide-ranging catch-all in conservative circles. Many have loosely defined to mean any curriculum that includes efforts towards greater diversity and equity as well as discussions about how exclusion and bigotry have played a role in the shaping of American history and present-day events.

“Critical race theory”

gained energy as an answer to the publication of the New York Times’ 1619 Project by journalist Nicole Hannah Jones. That project greatly centered the history of African Americans and the impact of slavery in American history, politics, and culture.

On November 19 in New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Department of Education made it easier for citizens to help enforce a law passed during the summer that restricts how teach-

ers can discuss race with an online questionnaire to prompt investigations.

The state chapter of Moms for Liberty added a cash reward of \$500 for those reporting violations.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke*

## PLAN, from Page 7

workers’ rights and ending forced labor in global supply chains, which the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated due, in part, to job insecurity, supply chain disruptions, and exponential demand for essential medical supplies and services.

The National Action Plan

also serves as an important component of advancing the administration’s priority of ensuring safe, orderly, and humane migration.

“As we continue to address the acute and long-term drivers of irregular migration, we must ensure our legal immigration pathways

provide safe alternatives,” the White House stated.

“We must also reaffirm trust in the U.S. government’s commitment to protect individuals who have experienced human trafficking, including noncitizens.”

Administration officials said the National Action Plan retains a central focus on the foundational pillars of U.S. and global anti-traf-

ficking efforts – prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.

It contains strategic prevention programs which are wide-ranging, from educating vulnerable populations and mitigating risk factors to seeking to prevent goods produced with forced labor from entering U.S. markets.

It also serves to accomplish the following:

- Enhance education and outreach efforts, including for at-risk populations.

- Enhance community-coordinated responses to human trafficking.

- Strengthen efforts to identify, prevent, and address human trafficking in global supply chains.

- Build capacity to prevent the importation of goods produced with forced

labor.

- Address aspects of non-immigrant visa programs that may facilitate the exploitation of visa applicants and visa holders.

Further, the plans protection encompasses the interventions, services, and supports needed to protect and assist victims of human trafficking.

## ACA, from Page 4

health care plan.”

PHNTX has been involved with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) since its inception as a Certified Designated Organization (CDO) under the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Since that time, PHNTX has maintained their active status allowing them to certify case management staff and other essential patient services staff to assist patients in ACA enrollment. PHNTX

acts as the consummate health resource for marginalized populations attempting to navigate the system by providing education, assistance and support through the process.

This new funding opportunity allows PHNTX to build a new program staffed with seven certified ACA Navigators and a certified program manager to help consumers seeking health insurance through healthcare.gov, the Federal-

ly Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). Under this new grant, PHNTX ACA Navigators will provide virtual and in-person community education, outreach, and enrollment across 12 counties. This funding opportunity will allow PHNTX to focus on identifying marginalized and overlooked communities to provide enrollment assistance that meets consumers’ needs.

“PHNTX is committed to our North Texas community, and we are devoted to serve within communities

often under-represented,” Akosua S. Addo, Senior Director of Case Management and Patient Services said.

“The current COVID-19 climate has illuminated many health care disparities. The importance of having health insurance cannot be underestimated. We are here to guide consumers through the entire Health Insurance Marketplace application process including providing referrals to Medicaid and CHIP all year round.”

PHNTX plans virtual and in-person outreach events, identifying marginalized and overlooked communities and meeting the people “where they are” to provide information, education and preparedness. The organization will accept invitations to any civic organizations or programs who seek their assistance in educating constituents about the Affordable Care Act enrollment process. The next ACA enrollment period is November 1, 2021 through

January 15, 2022. Consumers are encouraged to sign-up during that period and contact PHNTX for enrollment support.

“We are excited to help even more people in North Texas find affordable health insurance coverage,” said Dr. John Carlo, CEO of Prism Health North Texas. “As both the HIV and COVID pandemics have taught us, preventive healthcare, which is only achievable through affordable health insurance, is essential.”

## COWBOYS, from Page 9

wound up holding them to just 302 total yards even as the Cowboys’ offense continued to sputter.

“A win is a win,” Prescott said. “A win is tough to get in this league and you have to remind yourself that.”

“Even when you want to be frustrated, you want to be, I guess, disappointed in not getting those touchdowns, you have to remem-

ber that the NFL is hard, and you’ll take these wins one way or another.

That’s precisely the way McCarthy sizes up the situation.

“We improved as a football team (Sunday),” he said. “We needed to run the ball coming in here and we accomplished that part of it.”

“I always believe in De-

cember football. You just got to find ways to win, but you do want to improve.”

As the Cowboys inch closer to not only earning a playoff berth for the first time since 2018 -- but also winning the NFC East for the first time in three years -- they know they haven’t won any style points lately from an offensive perspective.

Still, they’re longing for the day when their former

juggernaut of an offense catches up to their current juggernaut of a defense.

“We know we’re going to make the playoffs,” Lawrence said. “Y’all(media members) know that, too.”

“But at the end of the day, it’s all about that No.1 seed (in the NFC) and keep driving to be the best.”

While they remain in a tense battle with Green Bay (11-3), Tampa Bay (10-4), Arizona (10-4), and the Los

Angeles Rams (9-4) for the NFC’s No. 1 seed and the coveted first-round bye in the playoffs, the Cowboys play host to the Washington Football Team next Sunday at 7:20 p.m.

By the time the Cowboys kick off against Washington, they’ll take the field at AT&T Stadium in Arlington knowing exactly where they stand among the NFC’s elite teams.

“We can’t sit there and watch the (sports) ticker and try to figure out what’s happening around the league,” Prescott said. “We just got to make sure that we’re handling our business, and things will unfold.

And if they do to the benefit of us, we’ll take it. If not, we’ll take what we have and go control the rest.”



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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.

# Study reveals racial pay gap in the new wave of social media influencers

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The racial pay gap has long presented issues for African Americans in Corporate America and other industries. It's now filtered to social media.

MSL U.S., in partnership with The Influencer League, unveiled a first-of-its-kind research study, "Time to Face the Influencer Pay Gap," uncovering a vast racial divide in influencer compensation.

According to the research, the racial pay gap between White and Black, Indigenous & People of Color (BIPOC) stands at 29 percent.

When explicitly focused on the gap between White and Black influencers, it widens to 35 percent.

It's a growing issue that Black creators face," said Howard University Senior

Carrington York, who manages the Tik Tok account for the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

"Not long ago, it was reported that Black Tik Tok users were shadow-banned, which definitely prevents their content from being monetized," York stated.

Micah Washington, a Broadcast Journalism major at Howard University, said the report didn't surprise him.

praise him.

"Think about it financially. In the report, it talks about how 49 percent of Black creators who contribute regularly say they are offered low market value," Washington noted.

"These Black influencers are saying when they go to the brands and companies, and they are not receiving the right tools to fend

See **INFLUENCERS**, Page 14



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### NAN Chapter President

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

The President:

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

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



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

**December 26, 2021,  
9:45 am**

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we

celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

**December 29, 7 pm**

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Philippians Chapter 4. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
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**December**

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

**December 26, 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 30, 7 pm**

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.  
Senior Pastor  
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MATTHEW 4:19**

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

**- Malachi 3:8-10**

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

**December 24, 7 pm**

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

**December 26, 10 a.m.**

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

**December 27, 7 pm**

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

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

**December 26,  
8 and 11 am**

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor

God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**December 27, 7 to 8 pm**

**Every Monday Night**  
Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

**December 29, 7 pm**

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
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[religion@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:religion@northdallasgazette.com)

**INFLUENCERS**, from Page 13

for themselves. They are not shown how to make a deal," he continued.

"When this happens, it makes the gap wider because they don't have that professional representation or professional advice. That makes it harder for them to argue that this is racially biased. It comes down to pay transparency."

The report noted that those forces are amplified by orders of magnitude in the young and unregulated influencer industry where affluence and connections play an outsized role and with social platform algorithms perpetuating inequity.

Researchers found that a remarkable 77 percent of Black influencers reported follower counts in the lowest pay tiers, where compensation from brands averaged just \$27,727.90

(versus 59 percent of White influencers).

Conversely, only 23 percent of Black influencers made it into the highest tiers, where earnings averaged \$108,713.54 (versus 41 percent of White Influencers).

As concluded by the researchers, the result is that in this industry in particular, an unequal playing field becomes a nearly unbridgeable opportunity gap.

Further, the majority (59 percent) of Black influencers (and 49 percent of BI-POC influencers) reported that they felt negatively impacted financially when they posted on issues of race versus 14 percent of White influencers.

The report also flies in the face of the outpouring of diversity, equity, and inclusion pledges made by corporations around the

globe.

"When it comes to a lot of these institutions, performative activism comes to mind," York said.

"A lot of what they say don't always show with their actions."

"There have been rumors of a racial pay gap for years, but no one in our industry has quantified it until now," D'Anthony Jackson, Digital and Influencer Strategist at MSL, said in a news release.

"These are stark numbers by any measure. Just compare the 35 percent gap between White and Black influencers to the pay gaps in other industries — education 8 percent, business, and financial 16 percent, construction 19 percent, media sports, and entertainment 16 percent. The gap this study uncovered in influencer marketing vastly overshadows the gaps in any other industry."

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## Thirsting After God



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

... "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit"

- 2 Kings 2:9

The first requirement to move in greater power and authority in God is to hunger for it. Yet, even this hunger is born from God. Elisha hungered after God.

Elisha saw many miracles as Elijah's servant. But, he wanted more. He wanted a double portion of Elijah's spirit. When

he asked Elijah for this, the prophet responded, "You have asked a difficult thing."

It wasn't because it couldn't be granted. Elijah knew that with great anointing came a great weight of responsibility and difficulty.

Second, humility comes before honor. Elisha was known as the "servant of Elijah." How would you like to be known as "the servant of John"? Your name is not even mentioned.

This was the preparation of Elisha. It has been the preparation of many men of God. Consider Joseph, the servant of Pharaoh. Consider David, the servant of

Saul.

Third, Elisha committed himself totally to his calling. The Scripture says when Elisha was called to join Elijah, the younger man left his farm business completely. He slaughtered his oxen and had a great feast for the community.

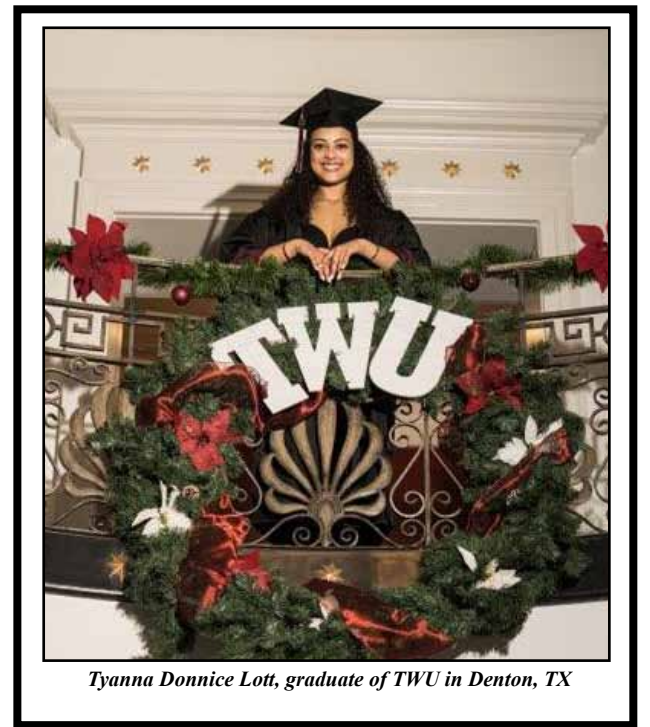
It was all or nothing. He could not fall back on his farm trade if his new venture didn't work. This demonstrates Elisha's pioneer spirit in stepping out, not knowing what was ahead.

Do you want greater anointing in God? "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found

by you" (Jeremiah 29:13-14a). Begin thirsting for God's anointing in your heart today. This is the starting place.

Talk to God, and tell Him that you want a REAL relationship with Him, that you want to hear His voice, to feel His presence, to walk with Him each and every day. Ask Him to help you put Him first in your life. To help you to minister in one accord with my brothers and sisters in Christ . . . with the team that He has assembled for His glory.

Then thank Him for hearing your prayer and for working His will in your life; in Jesus' name pray.



Tyanna Donnice Lott, graduate of TWU in Denton, TX

## Something Seems to Be Missing

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Did you ever have a week when it felt like something was missing, but you didn't quite know what it was?

I had that kind of a week this past week. It felt like something was missing, and I could not figure out what it was.

The past week was typical in many regards. Everything seemed to be going normal as normal could be. But I had this nagging thought in the back of my head that I was missing something. I really couldn't get a handle on it.

At first, I thought maybe I had missed my Apple Fritter. My New Year's resolution for this year was only to eat one Apple Fritter at a time. And as far as I can recollect, I have not missed one so far this year.

I asked the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if she knew of anything I missed.

Well, that sure was a mistake. She had a whole list of things that, according to her schedule, I had forgotten to do. It was almost a book full of "missing activities" that she thought I needed to catch up on.

I should've known better, but after completing all her "tasks," I still had this little itch that there was something I was missing.

As I pondered this, my

wife comes up to me and says, "Could you run to the grocery store and get a few things that I need for tonight?"

Of course, I was willing to go and do some shopping. I'm not a shopaholic, but when given a list, I can do the shopping.

I had just put the last item into the shopping cart and was headed toward the checkout counter, and then, there it was!

I never thought that I would solve my itching problem in the grocery store. But there it was. I was walking by the candy aisle, and there it was; several shelves full of CHOCOLATE.

There were all sorts of chocolate candy on those shelves. I just froze and stared at all of that CHOCOLATE and let the ambience fill my mind.

My wife cannot eat chocolate for some reason, but I love chocolate. We've not

had chocolate in the house since before the pandemic, which may explain my nervous feelings. Nothing is more soothing and comforting to me than a cup of Joe in one hand and the delicious chocolate candy bar in the other hand.

My only problem at this point was what not to buy. The chocolate that I love the most is the one I'm eating at the time.

Not being judgmental, I selected one piece of chocolate from every shelf in that aisle. I filled my basket with chocolate candy. When I got to the cashier's counter, there seemed to be a huge weight lifted off me, and there seemed to come into my life a peace that I had not experienced for some time.

Driving home, I began to think about how I will get all of this chocolate past my wife. I quickly put that aside focused on the delicious piece of chocolate I

was eating at the time.

I thought of a wonderful verse of Scripture. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:

and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

God's peace is the thing that most people are missing from their life today.

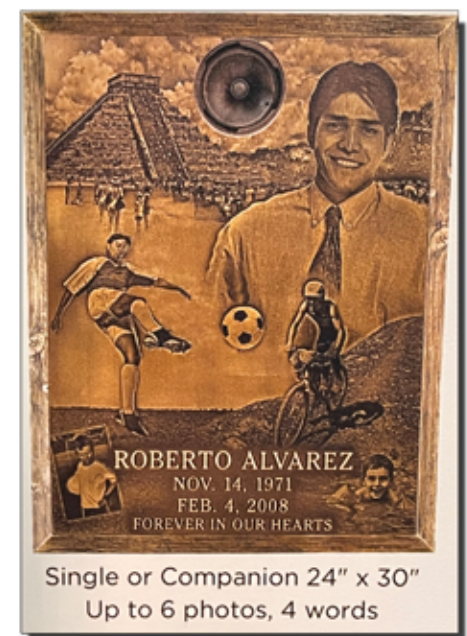
Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores.

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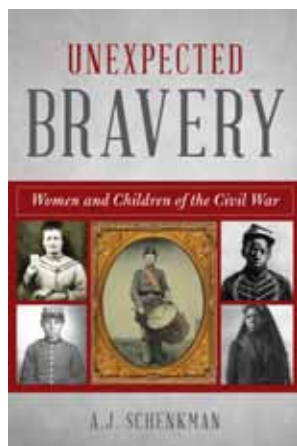


# NDG Book Review: 'Unexpected Bravery' is a seldom-seen side of the Civil War

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You really want to help. Another pair of hands is a good thing, right? You're determined to pitch in, even when they tell you "no." Even when they don't know where to assign you. Even if the job is dangerous, you're not sitting it out. As in the new book "Unexpected Bravery" by A.J. Schenkman, no way you're not getting involved.

Back in 1865, when the population of the United States was around thirty-two million people, four million of them were "human beings owned as property." This was a problem, so there was war in which "roughly six hundred thousand soldiers perished..." A surprising number of those soldiers never should've been on the battlefield: they were children too young for battle or they were women, for whom military service was "illegal."



Young Johnny Clem, ran away at age ten to enlist in the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. They may have tried to send him home, but Clem was undaunted: he instead joined with 22nd Michigan Infantry, and became a drummer. Officially, he became a soldier in 1863.

As a slave, Susie King Taylor learned to read and write and was quietly educated by a series of teachers because her grandmother saw her intelligence. In 1862, at age thirteen,

Taylor was asked to teach freed African Americans living on an island just off the coast of Georgia. She taught children by day and adults at night, and she later took on nursing duties and cared for the wounded of the 33rd United States Colored Infantry Regiment.

Lyston and William Howe both joined with the Union when they were teens, first as drummers. Officials accused Cuban-born Don Mauricio Sanchez of being a Confederate spy; he wasn't, but his teenage daughter, Lola, was. Fifteen-year-old Rashio Crane died in Andersonville Prison, a POW. Albert D.J. Cashier fought for three years in the 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry but kept a secret for the rest of his life. And, says Schenkman, at least one unnamed woman died on the battlefield, fighting while pregnant.

Imagine any average

pre-teen you know, maybe your child or grandchild. Now imagine him or her on the battlefield, guns blazing, cannons blasting, and you'll understand what'll sit just off to one side of your mind while you're reading "Unexpected Bravery."

Indeed, the stories that author A.J. Schenkman shares are relatable, in the sense that we all know brave women, and children the same age as the soldier-kids about which he writes. Yes, it's jaw-dropping but let yourself be amazed, too, at the reasons for why these women and kids went to war.

Schenkman's explanations are a boon for readers who are not fans of textbook history; instead, he tells individual stories without a lot dates-and-battles info. You get enough to anchor each tale – and with what you'll learn, that's really enough.

And yet, it's not. This book may send you looking for more, because it's eye-opening and well-told. Civil War buffs and unique-story lovers need "Unexpected Bravery." You can't help but like it.

Historians looking for more will want to find "The Lost History of the Capitol"

by Edward P. Moser (Lyons Press, \$27.95) This sweeping, but very engrossing, book takes readers from 1790 and the founding of the capital city, through some of the landmark bills and decisions made in the Capitol, to last January and the riot that breached the building.

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