



North Dallas Gazette

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Granted, 2021 was a stressful year for most, and there are still plenty of challenges ahead. But let's raise a glass to optimism, toast each other and, hopefully, the better times ahead in...

2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from North Dallas Gazette



As the New Year begins

- See Page 3



Remembering those we lost in 2021

- See Page 3



Faith leaders speak out for voting rights

- See Page 5



Biden extends pause on student loans

- See Page 6



Cowboys tie TD record against Washington

- See Page 9



Garland NAACP plans 33rd MLK fest

- See Page 10



Pettis Norman releases new autobiography

- See Page 11



Sister Tarpley: In the valley Christians grow

- See Page 15

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Inside...

People in the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Northside	7
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Career / Notices	13
Religion	14-15
NDG Book Review	16



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People In The News ...



Bishop Desmond Tutu



Mary Alice Jervay Thatch

NDG Quote of the Week: "I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."
—Michael Jordan

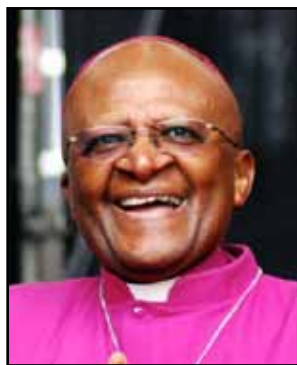
Bishop Desmond Tutu

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Long before Nelson Mandela won his freedom from 27 years of imprisonment fighting apartheid in South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu earned the moniker “the nation’s conscience.”

White and Black residents of the popular African nation lauded the bishop for his relentless fight to unite races and end the racist system of apartheid.

South Africa’s lead-



ing advocate for change and reconciliation under a Black majority rule and the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Tutu, died in Cape Town on December 26 at the age of 90.

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa first confirmed the bishop’s passing.

“He was a leader of principle and pragmatism who gave meaning to the biblical insight that faith without works is dead,” President Ramaphosa exclaimed.

A spokesperson for the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation said Bishop Tutu succumbed to cancer after a decades-long battle with the disease.

Bishop Tutu reportedly had been hospitalized several times in the years since his 1997 diagnosis but continued his work.

His demands for freedom

and advocating that justice be accomplished in a nonviolent manner helped earn Bishop Tutu the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Born on October 7, 1931, in Klerksdorp, South Africa, Bishop Tutu’s mother, Aletha, was a domestic worker, and his father, Zacharia, was a teacher.

Bishop Tutu was baptized a Methodist, but his family would later join the Anglican Church, according to his official biography.

When he was 12, his family moved to Johannesburg.

Bishop Tutu often spoke

of Rev. Trevor Huddleston, a white preacher who opposed apartheid.

Rev. Huddleston earned the young Tutu’s admiration because of a simple gesture: Rev. Huddleston tipped his hat to Tutu’s mother.

Desmond Tutu studied at the Pretoria Bantu Normal College and earned a degree in teaching from the University of South Africa.

He taught for three years but resigned after South Africa enacted the Bantu Education Act, lowering Black students’ education standards.

He married Nomalizo

Shenxane, and the couple remained together for more than 66 years until Bishop Tutu’s death.

They have four children, Trevor, and three daughters, Theresa, Naomi, and Mpho.

“Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a mentor, a friend, and a moral compass for me and so many others,” former U.S. President Barack Obama said in a statement.

“A universal spirit, Archbishop Tutu was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice in his own country, but also concerned

See Tutu Page 6

Mary Alice Jervay Thatch

The Black Press and African-American community have lost a legendary leader, fighter and advocate for human rights, civil rights, and justice. Indeed, one of her most successful efforts made worldwide news.

Mary Alice Jervay Thatch, the third generation editor and publisher of The Wilmington Journal, died December 28th at the age of 78.

Mrs. Thatch was the proud daughter of publisher Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., and granddaughter of founder R.S. Jervay, a Black printer who started The Journal



originally as the Cape Fear Journal in 1927.

“T.C.” Jervay, as her father was known as, made The Journal a centerpiece of the civil rights struggle in Wilmington “without fear or favor,” so much so

that in 1973, a white supremacist firebombed the paper because it supported ten falsely criminally accused activists known as the Wilmington Ten.

Thatch would proudly tell how even being firebombed could not “run Daddy out of town” or stop the next edition.

“That was the power of the Black Press,” said the woman who grew up at the Journal from the time she

was a baby.

Mrs. Thatch, who earned a bachelor’s degree from Elizabeth City State University, and a Master’s Degree from UNC-Greensboro before going into teaching, took over as Journal editor/publisher in 1996. Under her leadership, the paper continued its tradition of being a strong voice for Wilmington’s African-American community with incisive reporting, and

straight-forward editorials demanding justice for African-Americans, challenging the Wilmington/New Hanover County and North Carolina power structures, and maintaining, long, long before it was fashionable, that Black lives DO matter!

“The first African American paper in the country was Freedom’s Journal,” Thatch one said. “The first line read something like ‘we are here to plead our own cause.’

That will always be the mission of the Black Press: to fulfill the needs of the community we serve.”

She was tough on those who worked with her, because Mrs Thatch believed thoroughly in two things - the high standards set by her father in serving the community, and the belief that the African-American community always deserved

See THATCH Page 6

SN Bryce Clay

By Rick Burke
Navy Office of
Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. — Sailors help maintain America’s advantage at sea. This means they do not always get to celebrate holidays with their loved ones. A Rosenberg, Texas, native serving in the United States Navy will celebrate the holidays with their fellow sailors deployed aboard USS Lake Champlain.

“What the holidays mean to me, is spending time with the people that have your back during the lows and happy for you, when you are at your highs,” said Seaman Bryce Clay. “The gifts



are nice and everything, but the presents is what matters most. I remember when I was in the third grade going to Thomas Elementary and my family hosted Christmas at our house. It was no feeling like it. I got the new Wii plus Mario and Sonic

See CLAY, Page 4

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Dr. John E. Warren
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Viewpoint

The end of a year or a day is often a time of reflection on both what has been done and what could have been done better. While we can't redo yesterday, there is much ahead that we can plan for and impact in terms of tomorrow.

In our homes, neighbor-

hoods, towns, cities and states, there is room for improvement and change. The question is will we be a participant or a spectator? We can all be participants by getting involved in the issues around us and impacting the lives of ourselves and others.

In the year 2022, we are not only facing the continuation of the COVID virus, but also changes in both the electoral process and the opportunity to change those who hold office but

have worked against our common good. We must register to vote because our lives literally depend on it.

We must learn the impact of changes in our electoral districts because so many of us have been gerrymandered out of political power and influence and we must reach out to our brothers and sisters in other states to help them where possible.

But before all of this, we must learn to respect each other as we would have others respect us and we

must learn to work together even when we can't see our own personal interest in the issue. So often, it's about helping others and in doing so, we help ourselves.

Starting and ending each day with prayer and the question as to whether we have done something to help somebody other than ourselves is a good place to start. Be blessed this new year, whether or not you are happy, and good things shall follow.

Remembering those we lost in 2021

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As the calendar turns to a new year and COVID remains as deadly today as the pandemic's start nearly two years ago, the National Newspaper Publishers Association pauses to remember the icons who said goodbye in 2021.

From the stunning death of Supremes co-founder and Black Press friend Mary Wilson to the loss of DMX, Colin Powell, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 2021 featured some of the saddest and most unexpected farewells.

"I was extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Supremes," Berry Gordy, Motown Records' founder, remarked.

"The Supremes were always known as the 'sweet-hearts of Motown.' Along with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, Mary came to Motown in the early 1960s. After an unprecedented string of No. 1 hits, television, and nightclub bookings, they opened doors for themselves, the other Motown acts, and many, many others. ... I was always proud of Mary. She was quite a star in her own right and over the years contin-

ued to work hard to boost the legacy of the Supremes. Mary Wilson was extremely special to me. She was a trailblazer, a diva, and will be deeply missed."

Two months after Wilson's death, hip-hop icon

read a family statement. "He loved his family with all of his heart, and we cherish the times we spent with him. Earl's music inspired countless fans across the world, and his iconic legacy will live on forever.



DMX died in New York at 50.

DMX, whose real name was Earl Simmons, banged out hits like "Party Up in Here," and "X Gon' Give It to Ya," also starred in the groundbreaking movie, "Belly," which featured the iconic scene where Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., saves his character's life.

Dr. Chavis is the president and CEO of the NNPA.

Simmons also made his mark in films like "Exit Wounds," "Cradle 2 the Grave," and "Romeo Must Die."

"Earl was a warrior who fought till the very end,"

We appreciate all of the love and support during this incredibly difficult time. Please respect our privacy as we grieve the loss of our brother, father, uncle, and the man the world knew as DMX."

Music, entertainment, sports, and the business world lost heroes and icons in 2021. While we sincerely apologize if we missed anyone in this report, the following count among the deaths that made headlines.

• Actor Michael K. Williams
• Actor Melvin Van Peebles

• Producer Chucky Thompson

• Gen. Colin Powell
• Bishop Desmond Tutu
• Baseball Legend Hank Aaron

• Basketball Legend Elgin Baylor

• College Basketball Coaching Legend John Chaney

• Golf Legend Lee Elder
• Boxing Legend Marvelous Marvin Hagler

• Hip Hop Artist Greg "Shock G" Jacobs, leader for Digital Underground,

• Actor Yaphet Kotto,
• Hip Hop Star, Actor Biz Markie

• Comedian Paul Mooney
• Singer Lloyd Price
• Boxer Leon Spinks

• Singer Dennis Thomas, Kool & the Gang co-founder

• Actress Cicely Tyson
• Musician Bunny Wailer, founding member of The Wailers and collaborator of Bob Marley's

• Actor Clarence Williams III

• Baseball Legend Jim "Mudcat" Grant

• Olympic Champion Dianne Durham

• Civil Rights Worker, Lawyer Vernon Jordan

• Writer Eloise Greenfield

• Professor and Opera Singer Carmen Baltrup

• Trailblazing Black feminist Bell Hooks

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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All-time high: 13.6 Million people signed up for health coverage on the ACA Insurance Marketplaces with a month of open enrollment left to go

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, 92% of people who selected federal Marketplace coverage will receive premium tax credits. In fact, this year's Open Enrollment Period is outpacing all previous years, a historic high of more than 13.6 million people already enrolled in health insurance for 2022 through HealthCare.gov and State-based Marketplaces (SBMs).

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has made coverage more affordable and accessible for people across the country: 92% of people in HealthCare.gov states who signed up for plans through December 15, 2021, will receive premium tax credits for 2022 coverage. Moreover, more than 400,000 people will receive tax credits for 2022 coverage, to date, that would have been inaccessible to them prior to the ARP.

Since President Biden took office, more than 4.6 million Americans have newly gained health care coverage. From the start of Open Enrollment through December 15, 2021, more than 9.7 million consumers enrolled in Marketplace coverage in the 33 states using HealthCare.gov for 2022. This is over 900,000 more people than the previous



Courtesy: graphic

all-time high of 8.8 million who signed up during the 2018 Open Enrollment Period with 39 states using HealthCare.gov.

The 18 SBMs that use their own platforms reported to The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that through December 11 (week six), almost 3.9 million consumers selected plans or were automatically re-enrolled in a plan for 2022 health coverage. This is up from last year when SBMs reported that 3.4 million consumers made a plan selection in the 15 State-based Marketplaces for 2021, through week six.

"The historic 13.6 million people who have enrolled in a health insurance plan so far this period shows that the demand and need for affordable health care remains high," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Thanks to President Biden's American

Rescue Plan, more people today have affordable coverage—and we aren't finished yet: people still have time to sign-up and get covered before the January 15th deadline. This holiday season, let's share the peace of mind that comes with having coverage."

This Open Enrollment Period builds on the momentum of the 2021 Special Enrollment Period (SEP). In 2021, between the Special Enrollment Period earlier this year and Open Enrollment, more than 4.6 million people across the country newly gained access to affordable health care coverage. That includes 3.7 million through HealthCare.gov and the more than 950,000 people who newly gained access to affordable health care coverage through the State-based Marketplaces during the Special Enrollment Period.

"The American Rescue Plan is working to get

part of a tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance.

"Serving in the Navy means a lot of 'securing for sea', a lot of early days and late nights and a lot of reminiscing in the past," added Clay. "It is the ultimate sacrifice. I wake up every day in the middle of the ocean knowing I'm part of that one percent serving their country."

people across the country connected to health insurance coverage," said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "Health coverage is more affordable than ever before and the great news is that people still have until January 15 to sign up. The pandemic has made the need for health care coverage clear and the Biden-Harris Administration has put it in reach of millions of people who were previously did not have that peace of mind."

Consumers still have time to enroll. The Biden-Harris Administration extended this year's HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment Period until January 15, 2022, for coverage starting on February 1, 2022, giving consumers an extra month to enroll in affordable and comprehensive coverage.

Consumers can enroll by visiting HealthCare.gov and CuidadoDeSalud.gov or calling 1-800-318-2596 to fill out an application. To find local help consumers should go to <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov>.

Consumers in states with SBMs should visit their Marketplace for additional information on coverage deadlines.

This year's Open Enrollment offers the most choice in the Affordable Care Act's history, with 213 issuers offering coverage through HealthCare.gov, an increase of 32 is-

suers compared to the 2021 plan year. The average consumer now has between six and seven issuers to choose from, up from four to five issuers in 2021. The Biden-Harris Administration is getting the word out to ensure people know about the ARP enhanced financial assistance and that more help

See ACA, Page 7

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CLAY, from Page 2

at the Winter Olympics, and after everyone left, we had all the left overs.

Clay wants family back home to know they are missed this holiday season.

"Ty, keep stacking your coins, your idea is going to boom," said Clay. Travis, hit this football off-season hard and remember hardwork pays off. Taylor (Skinny), I'm happy you made the volleyball team

and I also heard your modeling is going great, I'm happy for you. BJ, you personally impressed me with your art. Keep it up and work hard this offseason, I'll be watching. Meme, I'll be home soon to get that car out of your driveway. I love and miss you, I'll be home soon."

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Clay, as well as other sailors, know they are a

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More than 800 faith leaders demand Biden, Senate pass Voting Rights Bill

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King III, and more than 800 faith leaders from various religions are demanding that President Joe Biden and Senate Democrats immediately push through voting rights legislation.

"We cannot be clearer: you must act now to protect every American's freedom to vote without interference and with confidence that their ballot will be counted and honored," the faith leaders wrote in the letter released on Thursday, December 23, 2021.

"Passing comprehensive voting rights legislation must be the number-one priority of the administration and Congress," they wrote.

In addition to Sharpton and King, those signing



Faith leaders call Biden and Senate to action (Courtesy photo/NNPA).

the letter included a mix of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faith leaders. Rev. Aaron Frank of Horseheads, New York, Rabbi Abby Cohen of Portland, Oregon, Rabbi Abby Michaleski of the Beth Israel Congregation, Rev. Abhi Janamanchi of Bethesda, Maryland, Rabbi Abram Goodstein of the Congregation Beth Shalom, and Rev. Adam Russell Taylor.

King and his wife, Arndrea Waters King, organized the leaders and wrote the

letter. The African American Christian Clergy Coalition joined them, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action and Faith in Public Life, and others joined.

The Congressional Black Caucus has pushed legislation, including two voting rights bills blocked by the GOP.

"This year, American democracy faced extraordinary challenges, from the violent insurrection on the U.S. Capitol to over 30 anti-voting bills pushed through

state legislatures, intentionally designed to silence Black, Brown, Indigenous, immigrant, low-income, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, and elderly and young voters," the faith leaders wrote.

"During this season of giving and community, we are painfully aware that the promise of American democracy is thwarted by systemic racism and a system that works for the few at the expense of the public good."

The letter continued:

"It will continue on this path without prompt, substantive federal action. During the Civil Rights era, prominent leaders were driven by their faith to fight for equality. This is why we continue the push for voting rights today – our faith teaches us that each one of us deserves dignity and freedom.

"We cannot be clearer: you must act now to protect every American's freedom to vote without interference and with confidence that their ballot will be counted and honored. Passing comprehensive voting rights legislation must be the number-one priority of the administration and Congress.

"Nothing – including the filibuster – should stand in the way of passing the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, both of which have already passed the House and await Senate action and leadership.

"The communities we represent will continue to sound the alarm until these bills are passed. While we come from different faiths, we are united by our commitment to act in solidarity with the most vulnerable among us.

"On Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, we will accompany Martin Luther King III, Arndrea King, Yolanda Renee King, and voting rights advocates across the country to honor Dr. King's legacy by calling for Congress and the President to restore and expand access to the ballot for all voters. It's time to stop lamenting the state of our democracy and take action to address it.

"As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., so valiantly said in his Give Us The Ballot address, 'the denial of this sacred right [to vote] is a tragic betrayal of the highest mandates of our democratic tradition.'

"That is why this Martin Luther King Day, we will not accept empty promises. Congress must serve the nation and future generations by immediately passing voting rights legislation."

Officer found guilty in killing of Daunte Wright in Minnesota

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A jury in Minnesota has convicted former Brooklyn Center Police Officer Kim Potter on multiple manslaughter counts for the killing of Daunte Wright.

Potter, who said she mistakenly grabbed her service weapon instead of a stun gun, could face a minimum of 10 years in prison when she's sentenced.

The maximum sentence for first-degree manslaughter is 15 years and a \$30,000 fine, and for second-degree manslaughter, it's 10 years



Kim Potter convicted on multiple manslaughter counts for the killing of Daunte Wright. (Courtesy photo/NNPA).

and a \$20,000 fine.

Potter and other Brooklyn Center officers pulled Wright over for expired registration tags and an air freshener on the rearview mirror of his car. Authorities

said once they realized that he had outstanding warrants, they attempted to arrest him and allegedly Wright resisted.

When he tried to get back into his car, Potter yelled

"Taser," "Taser," and shot him with her service revolver.

Assistant Minnesota Attorney General Erin Eldridge told jurors in her closing argument that the case is "very simple," it's about the "reckless handling of a firearm" and "culpable negligence."

"You don't blindly pull your weapon, pull the trigger, without being aware of the risk," Eldridge asserted.

Civil rights attorneys Benjamin Crump, Antonio Romanucci and Jeff Storms, who represent the family of Daunte Wright, said in a statement that the

family felt a sense of relief.

"The family of Daunte Wright is relieved that the justice system has provided some measure of accountability for the senseless death of their son, brother, father and friend," the attorneys wrote in the statement.

"From the unnecessary and overreaching tragic traffic stop to the shooting that took his life, that day will remain a traumatic one for this family and yet another example for America of why we desperately need change in policing, training and protocols."

The statement continued: "If we are ever going to

restore the confidence of Black and marginalized Americans in law enforcement, we need to have accountability and a commitment to listening and to creating meaningful change. We must now turn our attention to ensuring that Kim Potter receives the strongest and most just sentence possible. It is also imperative that we focus on the conduct of Brooklyn Center and pinpoint its systemic failures that contributed to Daunte's unlawful death."

It's expected that Potter will be sentenced in January.

Allred, VA Secretary McDonough visit Garland VA Medical Center Allred helped establish

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) and the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough recently visited the Garland VA Medical Center, toured the facility and spoke with staff about the newly established hospital's efforts to care for North Texas veter-

ans. Allred, a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, led the effort to establish the Garland VA, starting with a request in 2019 with the late Congressman Ron Wright (R-TX-06) and a bipartisan group of other Texas lawmakers.

Last month, Allred led a

bipartisan group of North Texas representatives in urging the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to move forward on expanding health care services at the Garland VA including potentially expanding services like inpatient care for veterans and partnering with

Dallas County for emergency room services for non-veterans.

"The Garland VA Medical Center has been instrumental to expanding service to North Texas veterans thanks to a bipartisan effort I led in

See ALLRED, Page 7



Courtesy photo

Biden-Harris administration extends student loan pause through May 1

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced a 90-day extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections through May 1, 2022. The extension will allow the Administration to assess the impacts of the Omicron variant on student borrowers and provide additional time for borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart. The Department will continue its work to transition borrowers smoothly back into repayment, including by improving student loan servicing.

"Since Day One of this Administration, the Department has focused on supporting students and



borrowers throughout the pandemic and ensuring they have the resources they need to return to repayment successfully," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "This additional extension of the repayment pause will provide critical relief to borrowers who continue to face financial hardships as a result of the pandemic, and will al-

low our Administration to assess the impacts of Omicron on student borrowers.

"As we prepare for the return to repayment in May, we will continue to provide tools and supports to borrowers so they can enter into the repayment plan that is responsive to their financial situation, such as an income-driven repayment plan. Students

and borrowers will always be at the center of our work at the Department, and we are committed to not only ensuring a smooth return to repayment, but also increasing accountability and stronger customer service from our loan servicers as borrowers prepare for repayment."

The pause on student loan payments will help 41 million borrowers save \$5 billion per month. Borrowers are encouraged to use the additional time to ensure their contact information is up to date and to consider enrolling in electronic debit and income-driven repayment plans to support a smooth transition to repayment. More information can be found at StudentAid.gov.

Today's action is one of a series of steps the Biden-Harris Administration has taken to support students and borrowers, make higher education more affordable, and improve student loan servicing, including providing nearly \$13 billion in targeted loan relief to over 640,000 borrowers. Actions within that include:

- Revamping the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program in October, which has already provided \$2.4 billion in loan relief to 38,000 borrowers. As part of that effort, the Department implemented a Limited PSLF Waiver to count all prior payments made by student borrowers toward PSLF, regardless of the loan program. Borrowers who are working in public

service but have not yet applied for PSLF should do so before October 31, 2022, and can find out more at StudentAid.gov/PSLF.

- Providing \$7.0 billion in relief for 401,000 borrowers who have a total and permanent disability.

- Approving \$1.5 billion in borrower defense claims, including extending full relief to approved claims and approving new types of claims.

- Providing \$1.26 billion in closed school discharges to 107,000 borrowers who attended the now-defunct ITT Technical Institute.

- Helping 30,000 small business owners with student loans seeking help from the Paycheck Protection Program.

THATCH, from Page 2

the very best in effort and results. She was a visionary who saw The Journal doing greater and greater things to serve the community, all the while fighting growing economic pressures that threatened to close her doors.

That didn't stop her for using the paper to stand for voting rights, and demand that both the Democratic and Republican parties fairly patronize the Black Press with their advertising during election seasons. Thatcher also led North Carolina Black Press in pushing voter registration, believing the Black voter empowerment was a key to freedom.

But it was in 1971 when Mrs. Thatcher convinced the National Newspaper Publishers Association, of which she was a member and her father formerly led, to advocate for North Carolina to pardon the Wilmington Ten, the ten NC civil rights activists falsely convicted of firebombing a white-owned grocery store in 1971.

All ten, including leader Rev. Ben Chavis, were sentenced to over 200 years in prison and had spent the last forty years with the false convictions attached to their names.

In 2012, Mrs. Thatcher led

a team of black journalists, attorneys and activists in uncovering proof that the Ten were originally framed. She also led a campaign that garnered over 150,000 petition signatures asking then Gov. Beverly Perdue to grant pardons of innocence to the Ten.

On Dec. 31st, 2012, as the last thing before she left office, Gov. Perdue indeed issued ten pardons of innocence to the Wilmington Ten, thus clearing their names.

The official act cleared their names, and made worldwide news.

But it all started with the unmatched determination of a single Black newspa-

per publisher.

Mary Alice Thatcher was honored as Publisher of the Year by the NNPA the following year, in the finest tradition of Black Press advocacy.

Mrs. Thatcher was serving as the president of the North Carolina Black Publishers Association at the time of her death. She was also a past board member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), and past board member and secretary of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation.

"On behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, we extend

our heartfelt condolences to ...the family of our beloved NNPA publisher and leader, Mary Alice Jervay Thatcher (RIP)," said Rev. Ben Chavis, now president of the NNPA in a statement. "We will always fervently uphold her legacy and contribution to the Black Press of America and especially her leadership of the North Carolina Black Press Association (NCBPA). God bless."

"She lived a gigantic meaningful life and was certainly a voice for Wilmington," said attorney and NCCU Law Professor Irving Joyner. "It is not an understatement to loudly proclaim that she spoke

"truth to power" and did it in an unflinching manner."

P.R. Jervay, Jr., NCBPA Media Services said, "Mary Alice's strength, commitment, and dedication to organization with a purpose was an inspiration to her fellow African-American publishers around the state."

Mary Alice Jervay Thatcher leaves to cherish her memory, a devoted husband, Rev. John L. Thatcher, three daughters, Robin Thatcher Johnson, Shawn Thatcher, and Johanna Thatcher-Briggs, along with a host of family and friends.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

ACA, from Page 4

is available.

There are over 1,500 certified Navigators ready to help consumers enroll in communities across the country. For example, Navigators in Kansas attended

a fall festival and movie night hosted by the local Boys & Girls Club and handed out educational information about Open Enrollment, answered questions from consumers, and

scheduled appointments for enrollment assistance.

In addition, over 2,600 community organizations, called Champions for Coverage, are getting the word out to encourage people to sign up for coverage.

CMS has concentrated

outreach on those most in health coverage and who have historically lacked access. In addition, the consumer satisfaction rate at the HealthCare.gov Call Center is at an all-time high, 93%, during this year's Open Enrollment.

Consumers in states with a SBM can find information about available plans and prices, how to obtain in-person or virtual help, and news on local events by visiting or calling their state's Marketplace.

SBMs enrollment dead-

lines for coverage starting January 1, 2022, range from December 15 through December 31, 2021, and most have Open Enrollment periods until mid- to late- January. See the State-based Marketplace Open Enrollment Fact Sheet.

TUTU from Page 2

with injustice everywhere. He never lost his impish sense of humor and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries, and Mi-

chelle and I will miss him dearly."

England's Royal Family tweeted condolences from Queen Elizabeth.

Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali also tweeted out his sympathies.

"I join other world leaders in expressing my sadness at the passing of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond

Tutu, who has been the embodiment of the struggle for liberation," Prime Minister Ali wrote. "Ethiopia sends its condolences to the people and the government of South Africa."

Officials at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta also released a statement of sadness.

"Our hearts go out to his family. Archbishop Tutu was a global human rights

activist and a compassionate, bold, consistent voice on behalf of the ostracized and oppressed," the King Center officials wrote. "May we carry his love forward."

Plano names new Fire Chief

For the first time in recent history, the City of Plano has appointed an internal candidate to the position of fire chief. Chris Biggerstaff, who currently serves Plano Fire-Rescue as Assistant Chief of Emergency Services, will assume the duties of chief beginning December 20. City Council will ratify the appointment at their next meeting on December 13.

Chief Biggerstaff joined the fire service on March 4, 1991, with the Garland Fire Department. On December 28, 1992, he continued his career as a firefighter at Plano Fire-Rescue, where he was awarded Rookie of the Year in 1993 and Officer of the Year in 2013. He has served the residents of Plano in every rank up to his current position.



"Plano Fire Rescue will continue to define Excellence in the Fire service," said City Manager Mark Israelson. "The Chief sets the tone and vision for the Department and we are excited that the best candidate to be the next Fire Chief in Plano was developed through the PFR ranks. Chris Biggerstaff is uniquely qualified to take the role as Chief and we have great expectations that he will keep PFR as the

model Fire Department into the future."

Biggerstaff holds an Associate in Arts and Science from Mountain View College, a Bachelor in Organizational Leadership from Texas A&M Commerce, and a Master in Leadership with an Emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Executive Fire Leadership from Grand Canyon University. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

Biggerstaff will replace current Fire Chief Sam Greif, who recently moved to the Plano Municipal Center to assume responsibilities as Deputy City Manager over public safety, which includes fire-rescue, police, public safety communications, emergency management and animal services.

ALLRED, from Page 5

Congress in coordination with the VA Health Care System and Baylor, Scott & White. I was so proud to show Secretary McDonough the hospital and

the incredible staff who've provided exceptional care since it opened last April," said Allred. "Expanding health care services and improving care for our vet-

erans are some of my top priorities in Congress and I will never stop working to make sure our veterans get the benefits they earned and that North Texans have access to health care close to home."

Garland Animal Shelter's longest term 'resident' finally finds his forever home

Curtis, a 5-year-old mixed breed dog, spent more than a year at the City's shelter (419 days to be exact). Now, he has found his forever home.

Brought in as a stray, he was very active, liked to jump on people and just wasn't quite ready to be adopted.

The shelter's animal behavior specialist worked with Curtis for several months.

Shelter staff tried a number of things to get Curtis adopted. He was featured on a TikTok video and as a regular on the shelter's 'Pets of the Week' social media segment. He was part of a collectible sticker campaign, a partnership between the shelter and local businesses to get pets adopted. Curtis was also chosen as the main dog behind the 'doggie kissing booth' at the city's first

dog show.

But to no avail. Sadly, Curtis had to watch as his buddies in the next kennels found their matches.

Curtis finally charmed Nicole and Jamie Eckford of Wylie at a 'Meet Santa' event at Covington Plant Nursery in Rowlett.

The couple returned to the Garland Animal Shelter the following week to take Curtis home.

The Eckfords say he is adapting well. Shelter staff say they will miss Curtis but are thrilled he has found a permanent, loving home.



Patrick Hendry / Unsplash

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Community conversations

THROUGH COLLABORATION

with Superintendent Michael Hinojosa

Join Superintendent Michael Hinojosa for an informal discussion about Dallas ISD schools. Families and community members are invited to ask questions and provide feedback and suggestions.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
5:45 - 6:30 PM

For families and community members in the David W. Carter and Wilmer-Hutchins feeder pattern schools.

DAVID W. CARTER HIGH SCHOOL
1819 W. Wheatland Rd, Dallas, TX 75232



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For more information, visit dallasisd.org/conversations.



I'm a mom first.

I may be Dr. Nina Ford Johnson a pediatrician, but I'm a mom first. My babies are my top priority, always. With COVID going around affecting Black kids at a higher rate, I'm telling any parent with children 5 and older to get the COVID vaccine.



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Cowboys' eight touchdowns against Washington tie 1980 record

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

Dak Prescott is back! That means, so too, is the Dallas Cowboys' powerful offense.

And that could be big problems for the rest of the NFL, especially considering how lethal the Cowboys' defense has been in recent weeks.

Prescott threw for 321 yards and tossed four touchdown passes -- in the first half Sunday -- and the Cowboys won in laughter over the Washington Football Team, 56-14, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. In winning the NFC East for the first time in three years, the Cowboys improved to 11-4 and remain one game behind the Green Bay Packers (12-3) for the top seed in the NFC and the all-important bye in the first round of the playoffs.

To prove just how much Sunday's game resonated with the Cowboys, they scored just eight touchdowns in their previous five games heading into the contest against Washington. However, they exploded in a very big way on Sunday as they scored eight touchdowns, which ties a franchise record set in 1980



All-Pro Reels / Flickr

against the San Francisco 49ers.

And whatever "slump" the Monday morning quarterbacks kept insisting Prescott was in, well that type of talk is no longer a topic of conversation.

"I never said we were in a slump," said Prescott, who tossed just three total TD passes in the previous three games. "Those were your words. So, I think it'll be hard for you to say that now."

"But (Sunday) was great. Great performance by the offense, great performance by the team scoring on all three phases, scoring by all the different ways that we did on offense."

The 321 passing yards by

Prescott were the most in the first half in NFL history. And one more thing for the history aficionados.

Prescott threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to running back Ezekiel Elliott, a 9-yard touchdown pass to tight end Dalton Schultz, a 1-yard touchdown pass to offensive lineman Terence Steele, and a 13-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Amari Cooper. That's the first time in an NFL regular season game that anyone has thrown a touchdown pass to a running back, tight end, offensive lineman and wide receiver in the same game.

And Prescott accomplished this amazing feat -- in the first half.

"Dak was right on point," coach Mike McCarthy said. "I thought he was in total control. His numbers in the first half reflected that."

"He had some (down field passing) opportunities, he was patient with the check-downs. I thought the intermediate throws, he was on point there. I really like the way he played (Sunday)."

Overall, Prescott completed 28 passes in 39 attempts for 330 yards and four touchdowns in less than three quarters of work. And five different Cowboys caught passes for over 50 total yards, including Amari Cooper, who complained last week about not being targeted enough.

Cooper had four receptions in the first quarter and finished with seven overall for 85 yards.

"I think Amari's comment were more about wanting to do more," McCarthy said. "We didn't change anything."

The Cowboys sure did change some things as the 56 points tied for the third most in franchise history and are topped only by the 59 points they scored against Detroit in 1968 and against the 49ers in 1980. Some of Sunday's damage

was due to the Cowboys' aggressive no-huddle offensive attack.

"We were running our fastball (offense), and they were really tired," said Copper, whose TD put Dallas up 42-7 at halftime. "Just two weeks ago when we played them one of the d-linemen on their team, he was just like, 'Y'all slow this thing down.' That's what he told me."

"I noticed when we got into our fastball (offense) we were moving the ball much more effectively. I think that contributed to all of us being over 50 yards (in reception yardage)."

Indeed, that fastball strategy worked to near-perfection as the Cowboys racked up 24 first downs and 388 yards, and were 7-on-9 on third down conversions -- in the first half. Plus, after going just 1-of-6 in the red zone last week against the New York Giants, the Cowboys were a perfect 6-of-6 in the red zone, including 5-of-5 in the opening half.

"I think the thing that really helped us was we got on the ball and we were playing with tempo," said Elliott, who had a rushing and a receiving touchdown. "When we do that, it tires those guys down so much,

and it takes a lot of the thinking out of the game for us."

"We know that we've got a lot of weapons on this offense and we're going to take what they give us. If the pass is hot, we're going to air it out. I think everyone on this team is unselfish, and we all know that with team success, we're going to have our own successes."

For the Cowboys, Sunday's success on offense wasn't just reserved for their quarterback, wide receivers, running backs and right ends. Steele's touchdown was the first for a Cowboys offensive lineman since Rayfield Wright snagged a TD reception from Don Meredith in 1968.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys' defense also got in on the fun.

Cornerback Trevon Diggs intercepted his 11th pass of the season on Washington's first play from scrimmage. That ties him with Everson Walls (1981) for the Cowboys' single-season interception record.

Diggs said he was surprised Washington went right at him so quickly considering his impressive re-

See COWBOYS, Page 12

Drifting on a Memory...



For the next installation of the Dallas Museum of Art's Concourse mural series, Los Angeles-based artist Guadalupe Rosales creates an immersive work that pays homage to lowrider culture and the community it fosters. Spanning the Museum's main, 153-foot thoroughfare, *Drifting on a Memory* features vivid colors and graphic designs that evoke the brilliant surfaces of the customized cars on a monumental scale, as well as recorded sound that conveys the aural experience of cruising in East Los Angeles. Pinstriping for the mural was done by Dallas-based lowrider artist Lokey Calderon. *Drifting on a Memory* also incorporates two lightbox sculptures created by Rosales that hold photographs by the artist as well as some sourced from Dallas community lowriding families, engravings, and ephemera representative of Latinx culture. The resulting work is a celebration of lowriding culture and of Latinx communities and their cultural contributions. (Photo: DMA)

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33rd Garland MLK parade and celebration on slate for Jan. 15-16

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Garland, Texas Unit will host its 33rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade and march on Saturday, January 15, 2022, beginning at 10 a.m.

The Parade starts on Dairy Road at Garden Drive (near Embree Park) in Garland. From there it proceeds north on Dairy Road to Highway 66 (Avenue D), then winding its way through the community. The parade ends at the Granville Arts Center (300 North Fifth at Austin Streets in downtown Garland. For a



detailed route, or more information on the MLK events information on these events, contact the NAACP Garland

Unit at 972.381.5044, voice box #5, or visit the NAACP Garland Unit's website: www.garlandtxnaacp.org

and click on MLK Events.

The 2022 theme is "Honoring Dr. King During COVID-19." Mrs. LaKisha

Culpepper, Garland ISD Liaison to the African American Community, will serve as grand marshal. The celebration continues following the parade with a musical: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at 12:30 p.m. It will be held at the Granville Arts Center (300 N. 5th Street, downtown Garland) where the MLK Communitywide Youth Choir joined by students from the Garland ISD Fine Arts Department will perform. Winners of the 2022 MLK Float Contest to be announced at the program. This event is free and open to the public.

An MLK Youth Extravaganza will be held on January 16 at the Granville Arts Center Brownlee Auditorium.

Youth groups from area churches and the Garland ISD will showcase their spiritual talents in praise dance and athletic talents in step routines beginning at 4 p.m. Admission is free and the MLK Youth Extravaganza is open to the public.

For more information on these events or the Garland NAACP in general, contact Ricky C. McNeal, NAACP Garland Unit President at (972) 381-5044, Press 1.

Aftertouch Music brings in the holiday season on a high note: The Voice finalist Wendy Moten tops the charts on collaborative project

(Black PR Wire) NASHVILLE, TN — 'Tis the season to be jolly! That's the sentiment of everyone at AfterTouch Music as they close out the year on a string of high notes. The

hot release, Roger Ryan & Friends: A Time for Hope debuts just in time for holidays and features The Voice finalist and Memphis native, Wendy Moten!

A celebrated frontrunner

on Season 21 of the popular music show, Moten was a member of Blake Shelton's team and remained a fan favorite all the way to the finale. Wendy's rendition of "Away in the Manger"

featured on the album A Time for Hope, is trending at #1 on music platforms, credited in part, to her huge following and popularity on The Voice.

The album offers a won-

derful collection of artists and songs crossing various genres including jazz, pop, R&B, Neo-classical, and gospel. There's something for everyone! Music lovers are sure to fall in love with

Christmas all over again after the first listen! This holiday season is truly a time for hope and this resounding message has never been

See MOTEN, Page 16

Rep. Colin Allred is Delivering for North Texas:

- **Passed a historic infrastructure bill that will create jobs and help reduce congestion.**
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Rep. Allred can help you cut red tape and get the federal benefits or services you are owed. Please call 972-972-7949 or visit allred.house.gov



@RepColinAllredTX

Former Dallas Cowboy and businessman announces launch of autobiography

Pettis Norman invites his friends, fans, and colleagues to read his new autobiography, *The Pettis Norman Story: A Journey Through the Cotton fields to the Super Bowl and into Servant Leadership*.

Imagine sitting down with an old-school Dallas Cowboy and hearing tales about the early days — the plays, the teammates, Coach Landry, the Ice Bowl, Super Bowl V, and much more. Then imagine if other players weighed in and gave you an insider's view from the field.

This is precisely what you can expect in Pettis Norman's autobiography, filled with stories that capture the blood, sweat, and tears that built a legacy on and off the field. The book is available on Amazon, just in time for Christmas.

Pettis credits his parents, Fessor and Eloise "Elease"



Norman of Lincolnton, Georgia, for instilling the values that carried him through a 12-year career in the NFL. He fondly recalls his grade school, junior high, high school, and college years in Charlotte, North Carolina prepared him for life on the gridiron and in corporate America. His football scholarship at

Johnson C. Smith University was life-changing — and then the NFL came calling.

Pettis pays tribute to his late and legendary mentor and coach, Tom Landry, who said, "Pettis showed the fortitude, drive, and character to work his way up from very humble beginnings to gain a college degree and then become a

vice-president of a bank in Dallas. He was an inspiration during times when people needed someone positive with whom to relate."

In fact, the entire Landry family was fond of Pettis. "I remember carrying Pettis's helmet every day after practice. Like my mom, I admire Pettis very much and he's one of my all-time favorite Cowboys, too! I can't say enough about Pettis. He's a great person," says Tom Landry Jr.

One chapter is devoted to iconic sports announcers who covered his career. "Pettis and I go back a long way. I first heard about him when he joined the cowboys in 1962. Five years later, I came on board as a broadcaster with the Cowboys Radio Network and met him in person at games and after games. Pettis was

a gregarious and humble man, and still is. We knew a lot of the same people and have been friends ever since," says Verne Lundquist, inductee into the Sun Bowl Hall of Fame and National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame.

After retiring in his late seventies and spending five years penning his book, Pettis shares an 82-year story arc filled with glimpses into his Georgia roots (and later North Carolina), the Civil Rights Movement, his trade to the San Diego Chargers, his post-NFL entrepreneurialism, and his launch of the Dallas Together Forum which increased the hiring of minority and women-owned businesses. Pettis worked with several U.S. Presidents and presidential candidates on issues he holds dear, as well.

Notable business leaders weigh in.

"Pettis is one of the true citizens of Dallas who cares, a former sportsman who devoted half his time to civic matters and never sought notoriety after his football career. He was always a person who exhibited calmness and had an innate insightfulness in his approach to very complex problems — calm and reasonable. He could lead men and women because he was just extraordinarily respected," says Robert Decherd, chairman, president and chief executive of DallasNews Corporation, parent of The Dallas Morning News.

Take a look inside *The Pettis Norman Story: A Journey Through the Cotton fields to the Super Bowl and into Servant Leadership* on Amazon.

COWBOYS, from Page 9

sume for picking off passes.

"I wasn't expecting it, but I'm still ready at the end of the day," he said. "They wanted to try me on the first play, so I knew it was going to be that type of game, though. They put their best guy on me, so we'll see what happens."

"They wanted to spice it up at the beginning, for sure. I felt like, 'Wow, they really just did that?' It gave me a little bit more to go out there and put on my best."

Defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence also put on his best as he displayed his athleticism by first batting a pass from Washington quarterback Taylor Heinicke in the air, then intercepting it and zig-zagging his way 40 yards past

a bevy of defenders for a touchdown and a 21-0 Dallas lead with 2:17 remaining in the first quarter.

The touchdowns by Lawrence and Steele marked the first time in team history that a Cowboys' defensive lineman and offensive lineman scored a touchdown in the same game.

"In all honesty the quarterback just threw the ball right in my direction, and I was lucky enough to get my hands on the ball and make it to the end zone," Lawrence said. "I don't know how I made it to the end zone. I just made it."

"Just being the oldest guy on the defense, it's a lot of talent to keep up with. I got to show the young boys that I still got it."

Not to be out-done by

the offense and defense, the Cowboys' special team's unit also showed they still have it, too. That came by way of a blocked punt by Corey Clement, which Chauncey Golston recovered in the end zone for a touchdown and a 49-7 lead with 6:06 left in the third quarter.

"I think we're seeing a team that's more balanced, it's more complimentary," McCarthy said. "We have the ability to win games in all three phases, and that's what we want to be."

"It's nice to see when you have a good week of preparation and you go out and have a nice performance. I just think we're in-tuned with the momentum that you need to build and the confidence you need to build in December. That was what this opportunity

(Sunday) was about, and I thought our guys hit the nail right on the head."

This opportunity by the Cowboys frustrated the visitors so much that Washington defensive linemen Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne had to be separated when Allen punched Payne after Payne put his finger in Allen's face while the two were sitting on the team's bench.

The theatrics by Washington served as a backdrop to the most dominating performance of the season by the Cowboys, who are now legitimate Super Bowl threats and will host the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday at 3:25 p.m.

"Everyone is always talking about the Super Bowl," said linebacker Micah Parsons, who had a sack Sunday and now has 13 for the

season. "But there's always factors and steps you go through."

"Winning the division was part of it and getting to the playoffs was the second part. We've got to keep winning and we've got to finish that last piece."

If Prescott continued to play like he did Sunday, the chances are great that the Cowboys will indeed finish that last piece.



Let us hear from you!

If there is any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:
editor@northdallasgazette.com

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announces grants for America's ports in Texas to help address supply chain challenges

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary today announced the award of more than \$241 million in discretionary grant funding for 25 projects to improve port facilities in 19 states and one territory through the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP).

These grants demonstrate rapid action on commitments in the Biden-Harris Port Action Plan, which will strengthen our supply chains to meet demand resulting from the rapid economic recovery over the past year, and help address inflationary pressures.

"U.S. maritime ports play a critical role in our supply chains," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. "These investments in our nation's ports will help support American jobs, efficient and resilient operations, and faster delivery of goods to the



Shunya Koide/Unsplash

American people."

The state of Texas was awarded funding for the Bayport Container Terminal Expansion Project. The project will fund development of Container Yard 1 South, a 39-acre space at the port's Bayport Container Terminal. Specifically, the project will improve the efficiency and reliability of the movement of goods by increasing the storage capacity to 2.3 million TEUs and reducing equipment turn times. The added capacity will help capitalize

on improvements at a nearby truck gate and a new rail spur. The project will support both export and import cargoes.

The PIDP is in its third year and has already awarded \$492 million for 32 projects of regional and national economic significance within its first two years. The program supports efforts by ports and industry stakeholders to improve facility and freight infrastructure to ensure the Nation's freight transportation needs, both present

and future, are met. It provides planning and capital financing and project management assistance to improve port capacity and efficiency.

The projects that were awarded grants include coastal seaports, Great Lakes ports, and inland river ports. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 PIDP includes priorities related to job creation, climate change, and environmental justice impacts.

"These investments will support the shift to cleaner transportation, which will create more economic activity and good-paying jobs," said the Acting Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley. "The Port Infrastructure Development Program is an important part of building back better for our ports, our communities, our economy, and our people."

By announcing these grant awards now, the Department is making good

on a promise in the Biden-Harris Port Action Plan that will take actions to address supply chain disruptions by helping to increase Federal flexibilities for port grants; accelerate port infrastructure grant awards; initiate new construction projects for coastal navigation, inland waterways and land ports of entry; and launch the first round of expanded port infrastructure grants funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

This Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will rebuild America's roads, bridges, and rails; upgrade and expand public transit; modernize the Nation's ports and airports; improve safety; tackle the climate crisis; advance environmental justice; and invest in communities that have too often been left behind. It will drive the creation of well-paying union jobs and grow the economy sustainably and equitably so that everyone gets ahead for de-

cades to come.

Going forward, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will provide \$450 million annually in funding for the PIDP program for fiscal years 2022 through 2026, or a total of \$2.25 billion. This is roughly the same amount of federal funding provided to ports under DOT-administered grant programs since the DOT began providing funding to ports in 2009.

Ports provide high quality union jobs for Americans and are key to a nation that heavily relies on its maritime services. By providing the funding to support the improvement of this critical infrastructure, MARAD and the Department are ensuring these services will succeed during the Nation's ongoing economic recovery.

All PIDP grant award recipients must apply, comply with, and implement all provisions of the Buy American Act.

Sixty & better receive season of giving grant: 24 local non-profits selected out of more than 350 applications received for the \$100,000 give away

The local non-profits were awarded a total of \$100,000 from the SEASON OF GIVING campaign by Park Place Dealerships because of their commitment to serving the Dallas/Fort Worth community.

"Selecting these non-profits was very challenging," said Tony Carimi, Managing Director, Park Place Dealerships. "There are so many worthy non-profits doing admirable work in the areas we would like to impact. Our team had the difficult task of narrowing down the charities from 350 to 24 across North Texas to make the greatest impact during our Season of Giving."

The charities receiving a grant for the 2021 Season of Giving include:

- Sixty & Better – Empowers older adults to live with purpose, independence and dignity. Sixty &

Better envisions communities without isolated elders, with older adults staying connected, healthy, active and contributing to their community.

- Journey to Dream Foundation – Kyle's Place is the only homeless shelter in Denton Co. to house and care for teens 14-19 years old.

- Denton Co. Friends of the Family – Provides comprehensive services to those impacted by sexual abuse and domestic violence while partnering with our community to promote safety, hope, healing, justice and prevention.

- Canine Companions – Provides service dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings.

- For Oak Cliff – Serving South Oak Cliff with edu-

cation, advocacy, community building and the Arts.

- Rainbow Room of Rockwall – Supplying caseworkers with emergency supplies such as diapers, formula, hygiene products and school supplies 24/7

- A Wish with Wings – Granting magical wishes for young Texans with life-threatening medical conditions.

- Don't Forget to Feed Me Pet Food Bank – Provides pet food to those in need during challenging financial times as an alternative to surrendering or abandoning a family pet.

- Ally's Wish – Devoted to granting the last wish for young, terminally ill mothers with children, including gifts, transportation, lodging or other experiences.

- Tara Sawyer Foundation – Empowers young athletes, children and families in need through funding and programming.

- LGBTQ Saves – Acts as a safe space by hosting meetings and community dinners for LGBTQ youth and their families.

- Defenders of Freedom – Provides care and transitional support for veterans, including assistance with basic living necessities, addressing imminent physical and mental health issues, improve morale and keep Veterans engaged in a supportive community.

Arts

- Dwell with Dignity – Designs and installs complete home interiors for families who desperately need and environment that will support health and wellness.

- Laughter League – Healthcare-focused clowning whose mission is to improve the lives of families through the transformational power of laughter.

- Cara Mía Theatre – Inspires and engages people

to uplift their communities through transformative Latinx theatre, multicultural youth arts experiences and community action.

- Texas Winds Musical Outreach – Professional musicians reaching more than 135,000 individuals with live music in North Texas nursing homes, hospitals and Head Start Centers.

Education

- AAVANCE – Creates pathways to economic mobility for predominately Latino families through high quality, culturally-responsive, two-generation programming that ensures school readiness for young children and opportunities for parents to build social and economic capital.

- Camp Summit – Provides barrier-free outdoor experiences that promote personal growth and foster independence for children and adults with disabilities.

- The Jordan Elizabeth Harris Foundation – Seeks to eradicate suicide by funding depression research and creating awareness through education, erasing the stigma, and providing hope for those who are struggling in silence.

- Bettie Gonzalez Foundation of Hope – Empowers, mentors and serves motherless daughters.

- Computers for the Blind – Seeks to open the world of information technology to persons who are blind or visually impaired by providing computer equipment, software and training.

Medical

- Heavenly Hooves Therapeutic & Recreational Riding Center – Enhances the quality of life of individuals with cognitive, emotional or behavioral challenges by providing interactive expe-

See GRANTS, Page 13

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- Between the ages of 17-34
- No felonies
- No major medical issues
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Ongoing Census Bureau

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

#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.

GRANTS, from Page 12

periences with horses in a safe environment, which builds confidence, improves social skills and coping skills, promotes emotional healing, and help clients make positive changes in their lives.

• Heroes for Children – Advocates for and provides financial assistance to families with children (0-to-22 years old) battling cancer.

• Project4031 – Provides terminally ill children, adults and their families

with peace and comfort by easing financial burdens and fulfilling last dreams.

• “We are humbled to have received such an incredible response to the Season of Giving campaign with the opportunity to reach so many people across our community through these outstanding non-profits,” said Anam Ali Hashambhai, Marketing Director for Park Place Dealerships. “Over the past 35 years, we’ve

donated millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours to support great causes across North Texas, but this is the first time we have implemented this type of giveaway. The Season of Giving campaign expands our benevolence giving this holiday season to organizations we haven’t worked with previously. We look forward to developing these new relationships in the year to come.”

Park Place Dealerships was founded in 1987 and has been engaged in the

community through its support of the arts, medical research, children’s advocacy and education. Park Place employs more than 1,400 members and operates eight full-service dealerships representing luxury brands including Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Volvo, Jaguar, and Land Rover. Park Place BodyWerks Collision Centers in Fort Worth and Dallas, and the Park Place Auto Auction, round out the company’s offerings. For more info, visit parkplace.com.



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

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.

**January 2, 2022
9:45 am**

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morn-

ing Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

January 5, 2022, 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
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-492-4300
www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

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January
Check "The Ship's" web-

site for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

January 2, 2022

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.

January 5, 2022 7 pm

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

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300
Plano, TX 75074
972-379-3287
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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 31, 7 pm

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

**January 2, 2022
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.

January 5, 2022, 7 pm

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

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.Ibocchurch.org

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

**January 2, 2022
8 and 11 am**

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

**January 3, 2022
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).

January 5, 2022, 7 pm

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

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

That's Why Doctors Call Us Patients

Dr. James L. Snyder

For the past month, I have been engaging with my eye doctor. I've had two cataracts removed which isn't a serious thing in itself. But what goes into this surgery is what baffles me.

I've often wondered why doctors call us patients. I have figured out that the doctors are not patient, so they expect us to be patient. I need to work on that.

I had two cataract surgeries two weeks apart. It took a whole month to go through the process. After the surgery, it'll take another 4 to 6 weeks to get the proper glasses I need to read.

Talk about being patient!

However, needing this procedure, I had to take what came with it. I must say I am not more patient today than I was a month ago.

The first time I went to the eye doctor, he scheduled me for a 9:15 appointment. No problem. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got me there 15 minutes ahead of time to make sure I wouldn't

be late.

An hour later, I finally got in to see the doctor. I think he is, on the side, trying to develop patience in my life.

On the first visit, I had to wear a mask, and it's no problem for me. If it makes other people feel happy, so be it. I'm just not real happy about wearing a mask.

As I was sitting waiting for my appointment, the lobby began filling up with new patients. An old guy sat next to me, and we nodded heads. I went back to what I was doing.

In a few minutes, I begin to smell something rather disgusting. I didn't want to look over to the guy next to me, but I did not smell that before he sat down, so I decided that I could not take that stench any longer.

I got up to get a drink of water prepared for us, washed my hands, and then sat at another place.

And of course, within a minute or two another man walked in and sat two chairs away from me. They had it set up so you could not sit

next to somebody. I smiled and nodded my head, then went back to reading.

In a relatively short time, I began smelling that odor, and it seemed to worsen as I sat there. I don't like to make a fuss or embarrass anybody, so I sat there as long as I could.

Then, I got up to get another drink of water, washed my hands, and walked across the room to another seat. This time an older woman came in and sat two seats away. Again I nodded my head, smiled, and went back to reading.

Then I smelled that smell again. This was getting to be rather ridiculous. I can understand some old man smelling that bad, but I was a little confused as to why this woman smelled like that.

At this point, I didn't know what to do. I got up two times before, and the third time draws attention to yourself.

I was wearing a mask, and so I couldn't figure out

See PATIENTS, Page 15

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

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In The Valley Christians Grow



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

"And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the Lord, Because the Syrians have said, The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined:

... and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousands footmen in one day."

- 1 Kings 20:28 and 29 (KJV)

Standing on a mountain, people are able to see

clearly. It is the best vantage point to see what lies ahead.

Some people think that it would be great to live on the mountain all the time in order to anticipate what is ahead. God allows Christians to experience the mountaintop at times.

Think about Joseph, his first mountaintop experience had to be as a young man. He had the favor of his father, Jacob. He was given a fine coat of many colors from his father and even had a dream about his future.

Also as a young man, Joseph had a sense of destiny about his life. God often gives Christians a picture of their future so that they will remember this picture when they are being tested so that they will trust Him when they are in the valley.

But of course, this picture usually does not reveal how God intends to bring about the visions for the Christian's life. This is

where Christian's faith and trusting in God comes in.

However, none of us really derive (receive) the character qualities that God desires for our lives while we are on the mountain. It is in the valley where the fruit is planted and harvested.

It cannot grow on the mountain; it must grow in the valley. God is a God of the mountain, but He is even more a God of the valley for Christians. In the valley, it is more difficult to see ahead; the clouds often cover the valley and limit the Christian's sight.

But, it is in the valley that Christians grow. Joseph was thrust into a deep valley that left him wondering if the God of his father had forsaken him. Even Jesus hoped that He might be able to avoid the valley that caused Him to sweat blood.

There is a valley that each Christian must enter, usually unwillingly, in order to experience the God work.

The doctor finished his surgery, and just as he was going out the door, he turned and looked at me and said, "Are you sure you didn't have any breakfast? Smells like you ate garbage this morning."

My patience deflated right there.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" (James 5:7).

Patience doesn't come easy, but it does have a wonderful reward attached to it.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship.

Inspiring Body of Christ IBOCX
Pastor Rickie G. Rush

7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.672.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCXCHURCH.org

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

of the valley, and to experience His faithfulness in the valley.

Once Christians have spent time in this valley, they come out with something that they would have never gained if they had not entered the valley.

The valley brings much fruit into Christian's lives so that they might plant seeds into the lives of others.

God does not waste valley experiences. He does everything for a purpose. If Christians are faithful in the valley they will enter a new dimension with God that they never thought possible. There is a harvest of wisdom and virtue that can only be grown in the valley. And it is good to remember, that it takes two mountaintops to make a valley; therefore, the Christian must be on top twice before he or she goes into the valley to grow.



Sheila Tarpley Lott and Tyanna Donnica Lott celebrate Tyanna's graduation from Texas Woman's University. As part of the occasion, TYanna's father presented her with a new car as a graduation gift.

PATIENTS, from Page 14

how I could smell anything through that mask. It's supposed to protect me from outside particles, whatever that means.

Then I got to thinking, if my mask can't protect me from the outside stench, what makes me think it can protect me from some floating germs?

As I was thinking, a terrible thought rumbled in my head. This thought cannot be true, I said to myself. But what if this stench is not coming from the outside but rather from the inside of my mask?

That idea was preposterous, and I wanted to throw it out as quickly as possible. But you know how it is; a thought will haunt you until you pay attention to it.

Cautiously, I pulled my mask down, took a deep smell of my breath and almost passed out. That stench was my breath.

The problem was that my mouth was in close proximity to my eyes of which the doctor was going to be working on. Something had to be

done before the doctor called me in.

As I was thinking of this, the nurse walked into the room and called my name and took me into the surgical room. My prayer at the time was that all of these masks worn by myself, the nurse, and particularly the doctor would actually work. I did not want the stench to go out from my mask to enter the doctor's mask working on me.

I prayed a quick prayer, and before I could say "amen," the doctor walks in.

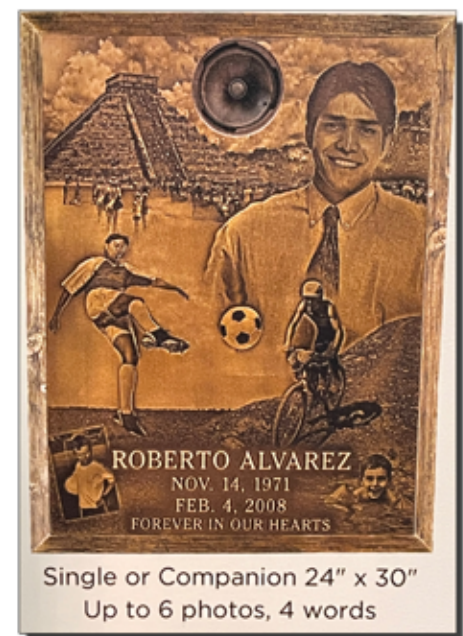
I tried keeping my mouth closed as much as possible, hoping that a closed mouth and several masks would

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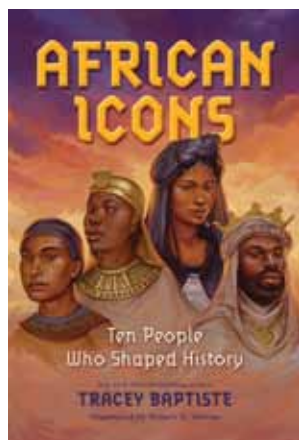
NDG Book Review: 'African Icons: Ten people Who Shaped History'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The stories you love best are filled with excitement and power.

Sometimes, they make you laugh; other times, they make you think. You like funny stories and silly ones, tales that make your eyes pop and tales that make your hands sweat. You like the old fables, too, the ones that teach you something. So come meet warriors, rulers, writers, and schemers in "African Icons" by Tracey Baptiste.

When she was just a little girl, Baptiste's father told her a story. Years later, she learned that what he told



her was "one of the most popular stories throughout the continent of Africa" and that many of the tales she loved had roots there.

"Not only is Africa the second largest continent on Earth," she says, but the

its people have always had "rich lives," a fascinatingly complex culture, and tales to tell.

For instance, one of the first large communities in Africa was established along the banks of the Nile River in Egypt. There were many "minor kings" there then but King Menes hoped to grow his kingdom, and he did it by conquering the areas he wanted. Then he declared that the falcon god, Horus, had "bestowed the kingship of Egypt" on Menes himself – and who could argue with a god?

Queen Merneith, who was Menes' granddaughter, grew up in luxury and

comfort and was "raised to rule." Alas, her brother, Djjet, ascended to the throne first but Merneith had the last word. She became one of her brother's wives and when their son, Den, was ten years old, he became king and Merneith stepped in as regent. This gave Den the chance to learn to rule the kingdom, while Merneith held all the power.

Imhotep was a leader, but he was also a doctor, an advisor, and an engineer who built temples and tombs. Aesop was a wise storyteller whose tales you might've heard. Hannibal was a soldier who enjoyed many victories over Rome

more than 2200 years ago. Terence of Carthage was an accomplished playwright. And Tin Hinan established a desert society where women and girls made the rules.

All those stories we all grew up hearing, all those wonderfully puzzling tales we read and re-read, they had to come from somewhere. Author Tracey Baptiste says their roots lay in Africa and in "African Icons," she explains how fables and legends are often real.

But if that sounds dry, hold up. It's not, if you're a kid.

Got a child who's into

action figures? This book will speak to that love, with general (not-too-detailed) tales of kingdoms conquered. Kids who crave stories of princesses, palaces, and magic carpets will be happy with this book's sense of glitter and exoticness. Children who really love mummies will be fascinated by accounts of pharaohs and pyramid-builders in tales that are true, lively, kid-friendly, and fun to read, even if you're an adult.

Still, the best audience for this book is much younger. For kids ages 8-14, "African Icons" may hold the stories they love best.

MOTEN, from Page 10

so clearly and beautifully expressed as presented in this inspiring Christmas collection

Each artist featured on Roger Ryan & Friends: A Time for Hope brings an unbridled style and skill to the project. Joey Kibble of the Grammy Award-Win-

ning group Take 6, opera star Angela Brown, Stellar Award-Wining Best New Artist Terrell Hunt, gospel powerhouse Benita Washington, balladeer Maurice Griffin and The Voice fan favorite Wendy Moten, along with other artists make this album a work of

art!

An award-winning music producer, seasoned artist, and educator, Roger Ryan celebrated Moten's star-studded finale just before heading off to lead a new production project for the next few months at the National Cultural Foundation (NCF) in Barbados.

Ryan has quite the list of

impressive titles himself including multi-Grammy Juno and Dove nominated producer, artist, vocalist, music director, CEO, and Masterclass Instructor. His accomplishments and talents garnered him a teaching role at the prestigious Berklee Abu Dhabi!

Now he serves as the lead music producer and vocal coach for select music artists enrolled in the NCF music program.

Ryan is responsible for stimulating and facilitating music development for rising artists while in Barbados.

He launched the NCF partnership on the same day as the Grand Cultural Celebration and Declaration of Republic and the installation of the President, Her Excellency Dame Sandra Mason as Barbados was officially declared a Republic.



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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