



# North Dallas Gazette

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## MLK Family asks for no celebration until lawmakers pass voting rights legislation

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Prayer breakfasts, marches, parades, and an uptick in volunteer efforts to support the annual Day of Service have remained staples of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

But the late civil rights icon family has asked that observers strike a different tune in 2022.

King's family has requested no celebration unless federal lawmakers pass voting rights legislation, a task that appears out of reach as President Joe Biden and several Democrats have faced stiff Republican opposition.

Democrats have also been hampered by members of their own party, notably West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, whose vote is crucial in an evenly split chamber.

"President Biden and Congress used their political muscle to deliver a vital infrastructure deal, and now we are calling on them to do the same to restore the very voting rights protections my father and countless other civil rights leaders bled to secure," Martin Luther King III said in a statement.

"We will not accept empty prom-



*Martin Luther King III said that if his dad were alive today, his biggest concerns would include nuclear war, healthcare and poor communities, and voting rights. (Official Photo/Martin Luther King III)*

ises in pursuit of my father's dream for a more equal and just America," King III, the oldest son and oldest living child of King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.

King III, his wife Arndrea Waters King, and their daughter Yolanda King said they plan to mobilize activists on MLK weekend – January 14-16 – to demand a voting rights bill.

In numerous Republican-led states like Texas, Florida, and Georgia, lawmakers have passed or are attempting to pass tight voter

suppression laws that would disenfranchise many voters of color and the elderly.

Earlier this month, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), promised that the U.S. Senate would vote by Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 17) on whether the chamber would adopt new rules to circumvent the draconian filibuster to enable the passage of voting rights and social justice bills.

"We must ask ourselves: if the

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### People In The News ...



Dr. Helen Chavis Othow



Sydney Poitier

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



## Dr. Helen Chavis Othow

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Dr. Helen Chavis Othow, the beloved author, college professor and sister of National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., died at the age of 89 on January 1, 2022 in Oxford, North Carolina.

A lover of reading, writing, and history, Dr. Othow received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and majored in Black studies and African, African American, and Ca-



ribbean literature.

She also studied Elizabethan and Medieval literature, and her dissertation, "The New Decorum: Moral Perspectives of Black Literature," was published in the Library of Congress.

Dr. Othow presented "Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali by D.T. Niane," that illustrated her appreciation and knowledge of African culture.

She expressed a desire to impart knowledge to all citizens of the world.

"My sister was also a freedom fighter," Dr. Chavis remarked.

"The Chavis family has been fighting for freedom, justice, and equality for 250 years in America and in Africa."

Born April 21, 1932, in Oxford, North Carolina, Dr. Othow was the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Chavis, Sr; a Prince Hall mason and superintendent

of African American child-care institutions, and Elisabeth R. Chavis, a writer and public school teacher for 65 years.

A municipal park in Raleigh, North Carolina, bears the name of her ancestor educator, John Chavis (1763-1838).

The beloved scholar, Dr. Othow, also received a bachelor's degree from St. Augustine's College, and she earned her master's at North Carolina Central University.

She eventually became head of the English Department at St. Augustine's College.

She was also widely acclaimed and respected as

a conscientious scholar dedicated to enhancing excellence in the literary and other arts. Dr. Othow also taught at the following Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Howard University, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina Central University, Hampton University, and Jackson State University.

Dr. Othow pushed for the understanding of African American history, including educating her students and others about John Chavis, who fought in the Revolutionary War and became an educator who taught some of North Carolina's most influential leaders.

Dr. Othow is survived by her daughter, Ajulonyodier Elisabeth Othow, her brother, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., and her sisters, Dr. La Rhoda Francine Chavis, MD and Carol Faye Paton, and a host of other relatives.

Funeral services for Dr. Othow are scheduled for 1 p.m. EST., Saturday, January 8 at the Chavis Family Cemetery in Oxford, North Carolina.

Condolences can be sent to Wright Funeral Home, Inc. at wfhoxf@embarq-mail.com, or by visiting the funeral home's website at www.wrightfuneralhome-oxford.com.

## Sydney Poitier

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Legendary actor Sidney Poitier, who broke barriers and stood for justice and Black lives during the most tumultuous times of the civil rights movement, has died.

Poitier, whose iconic 71-year career, included starring roles in "A Raisin in the Sun," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Uptown Saturday Night," was 94. His cause of death has yet to be confirmed.

In an exclusive phone



call with the Black Press of America, Bill Cosby said he will miss his long-time friend and co-star.

"He was honored by AFI. And, along with many stars of the stage, screen, politics and higher education who

came out to speak, I brought with me the paperback of his autobiography and I said of all groundbreaking movies that Sidney starred in this book is the real story of this man and his journey," Cosby remarked. "I am honored to have been close enough to him and work and work on serious matters.

According to PBS, Poitier moved to New York City at age 16 after living in the Bahamas for several years with his family. In the Big Apple, he found work as a janitor at the American Negro Theater in exchange for acting lessons. From there, he took up acting roles in plays for the next several years until

his film debut in the racially charged, "No Way Out."

Race and social justice would become central themes in much of his work throughout the '50s and '60s.

A Broadway play focused on the life of the Bahamian born star, who earned his first Academy Award nomination in 1959 for his work in "The Defiant Ones," is in the works.

As noted in the New York Post, the nomination was significant to America as he

was the first African American to be nominated for Best Actor. That role also earned him a Golden Globe win and a BAFTA Award.

Poitier broke even more barriers in 1963 with his hit film "Lilies of the Field." The following year, Poitier became the first African American to ever win the Best Actor at the Academy Awards.

His career continued to climb for several more years. In 1967 he starred in "Guess Who's Coming to

Dinner," an interracial romance comedy that ruffled feathers in America. Then came other memorable films, "They Call Me Mister Tibbs," the sequel to the controversial blockbuster "In the Heat of the Night," and "Uptown Saturday Night" opposite Cosby.

He released several more works; "The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (2007)" "Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter (2008)."

## Denise Wooten

Denise Wooten is running for Texas House District 63 Representative because she wants Texas to provide better access to needed human services, educational preparation for diverse students and training for employment opportunities. As a psychologist, Dr. Wooten sees firsthand how the gaps in provision for underserved populations directly impact their lives.

"If Texas provided better access to affordable healthcare and childcare and more educational and employment opportunities, it would significantly improve the quality of life for many and thereby, increase productive contributions to the com-



munity by these individuals," said Wooten. "Texas ranks 45th out of 50 states in per capita expenditures on health, education, welfare and civic infrastructure, per census data. That means we are way behind other states in quality of life, yet Texas is the second highest in gross domestic product

(GDP).

"With this enormous wealth, Texas' meager spending on our most vulnerable populations is wrong. Anybody can hit a rough spot. Why is there so little state assistance to families and children, disabled individuals, the elderly and those living in poverty?"

Wooten noted that the Texas Legislature failed to expand Medicaid, which would have strengthened rural healthcare providers and improved the economy for all Texans. She also believes that the Texas government underfunds Child Protective Services; Texas Health and Human Services; Texas Education Agency

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# A House divided against itself cannot stand: January 6th, voting rights and the tyranny threatening America

By U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn  
House Majority Whip (D-SC)

I listened intently this morning as our 46th President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the nation from Statuary Hall observing the first anniversary of last year's insurrection. I found myself reflecting upon the attack on Pearl Harbor that thrust us into a world war against a tyrannical foreign power.

Eighty years later, tyranny is threatening America again, this time from a domestic attack. A President and his enablers created a narrative and fomented a "Big Lie" that is continuing. He incited a violent mob to attack our seat of government and disrupt the certification of the results of a free and fair election which he lost by over 7 million votes.

President Franklin Roosevelt referred to the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack as, "a day that will live in infamy." World War II lasted almost 4 years. January 6, 2021 launched a disgraceful and ignoble domestic conflict, and it remains to be seen how long it will last.

Over the past year, we have witnessed loyalists of the 45th President work to unravel the threads that hold the fabric of our representative democracy together. His followers, fueled by a constant diet of disinformation, have harassed and intimidated election officials across the country, causing many to resign their positions out of fear for themselves and their families.

Republican officials, fearful of being primaried by "45's" loyalists, embrace his "Big Lie" and

enact legislation they feel will appease him. States with Republican governors and legislatures are passing laws and redistricting plans constructed to guarantee the election of more likeminded loyalists and shift government control away from anyone who doesn't adhere to his tyrannical whims. According to the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice, 19 states have enacted 34 election laws that restrict or suppress the vote. Some to make it easier for local officials to nullify election results they don't like.

***"A President and his enablers created a narrative and fomented a 'Big Lie' that is continuing. He incited a violent mob to attack our seat of government and disrupt the certification of the results of a free and fair election which he lost by over 7 million votes."***

The right to vote is the most fundamental thread of our democratic fabric. Without it, our democracy unravels. Currently, 50 Republicans in the United States Senate, aided and abetted by two Democrats, are blocking votes on two critical voting rights bills, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act basically updates the formula which, since the enactment of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, triggers a process of pre-clearance by the Justice Department or a federal court if a jurisdiction seeks to make any changes in its voting laws. In 2013, that pre-clearance formula was declared out-

dated by the United States Supreme Court and Congress was invited to update the formula.

The House responded by holding over a dozen hearings by two separate committees and passed subsequent legislation which was sent to the Senate. Unfortunately, all Senate Republicans, except Senator Lisa Murkowski, are standing in the way of its passage. Two Democrats have been giving comfort to the Republicans on this issue and one of them, Senator Joe Manchin, has proposed the Freedom to Vote Act,

seeking to attract bipartisan support for many provisions of the House-passed For the People Act.

The legislation includes provisions protecting election security, reforming campaign finance, ensuring fair redistricting, and preventing voter nullification. Despite Senator Manchin's mollification attempts, not a single Republican voted to allow the Freedom to Vote Act to come to the floor for a vote.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has vowed to bring both bills up for another vote by January 17th, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. His efforts, however, seem destined to fail without a change to the Senate's filibuster rules that require 60 votes to cut off debate.

While bipartisanship is welcomed, and may be preferable, history informs us that the 15th Amendment giving Blacks the right to vote, passed on a party line vote. And who would argue that the 15th Amendment should not have been adopted because it did not have bipartisan support?

I am not a fan of the filibuster. But, if holding on to that tradition is important to most of the Senate, I maintain that exceptions on Constitutional issues like voting should apply. An exception is employed for fiscal issues to ensure the full faith and credit of the United States are not jeopardized by a filibuster. The process is called "reconciliation," a term I believe is more aptly applied to the Constitution than the budget.

On the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt spoke these words, "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win." He continued, "I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us." America was victorious. Our democracy and our friends and allies were saved from tyranny.

Today's challenge is no less perilous. To dismiss the seriousness of this moment is to condone the insidiousness of the "Big Lie." Our best protection is to ensure the fundamentals of our democracy hold. As our 16th President extolled during another challenging time, "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

Keep up with the news

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## CitySquare is helping people sign up for affordable healthcare coverage

Open enrollment closes January 15th, 2022. CitySquare is endeavoring to help its neighbors obtain affordable and appropriate healthcare insurance for themselves and their families.

CitySquare is helping low-income individuals and families in the process of signing up for affordable healthcare coverage. The organization's professional healthcare staff is meeting daily with its neighbors



Hush Naidoo Jade Photography/Unsplash

to help them navigate the process and obtain the best coverage available.

Even though open enrollment ends on January 15th, CitySquare will continue

this initiative throughout the year during Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs) though they are hoping to enroll as many folks as possible by the January deadline. Contact CitySquare for help in signing-up for coverage by going to [www.citysquare.org/healthinsurance](http://www.citysquare.org/healthinsurance)

President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill into law in March. Packaged into what is called the American Rescue

Plan are significant changes to the Affordable Care Act that experts say will positively affect healthcare for millions of people. First and foremost, it increases subsidies for people buying private health insurance. Lots of people who didn't qualify for subsidies before will now. The new law says that nobody will have to pay more than 8.5% of their income on health insurance.

"People have been afraid of the monthly payments and many have selected insufficient plans to save cost or they have bypassed coverage altogether. The new law will enable them to obtain coverage and better coverage at affordable rates. We are here to help them work through that process," says Tikisa Jackson, CitySquare Director of Community Health.

## Groundbreaking pig heart transplant in a human may help patients awaiting donor hearts

The University of Maryland School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical Center announced today the first successful transplant of a genetically modified pig's heart into a human. According to reports, the patient, a Maryland man, is doing well following the groundbreaking surgery on Friday, Jan. 7 to save his life.

Porcine (pig) heart transplants aren't approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, however, the federal agency authorized the surgery in this case for "compassionate use" as no other options remained for the patient, according to the medical team.

This medical breakthrough may help health care professionals solve the organ shortage crisis that leaves thousands each year without life-saving heart transplants. About 20% of patients on the heart transplant waiting list die while waiting to receive a transplant or become too sick to be good candidates for the complex transplant procedure.

In 2019 (most recent data available), the United States recorded the highest number of heart transplants, with 3,552 transplantations performed. As of March 11,



National Cancer Institute/Unsplash

2020, 3,661 people were on the waiting list for a heart transplant, and 52 people were on the waiting list for a heart and lung transplant, according to the American Heart Association's 2021 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update.

Animal organ transplants, or xenotransplants, are extremely rare and can have significant risks to patients as well as bioethical concerns. Pig hearts have been long been seen as possible for transplantation for the human heart due to many similarities, and pig heart valves are used for humans in many cases.

According to the American Heart Association, the most common reasons for a heart transplant are that one or both ventricles of the heart aren't functioning properly so that severe

heart failure is present. A heart transplant gives a patient the opportunity to have a normal heart with normal blood circulation. If the transplant goes well, heart function and blood flow will be closer to normal, and life-sustaining.

Traditionally, a donor heart is matched to the recipient by blood type and body size. Heart transplant recipients must take medications to prevent their immune system from rejecting the new heart. These medicines are called immunosuppressives because they prevent rejection of the new heart by suppressing the body's normal immune response to a foreign object but may have side effects, which can include an infection or an increased risk of some cancers.

The Association receives

funding primarily from individuals; foundations and corporations (including pharmaceutical, device manufacturers and other companies) also make donations and fund specific Association programs and events. The Association has strict policies to prevent these relationships from influencing the science content. Revenues from pharmaceutical and biotech companies, device manufacturers and health insurance providers and the Association's overall financial information are available here.

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# With time running put on Democrats' majority, Biden attempts to get 'forceful' on voting rights

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

The coming weeks will tell if President Joe Biden's "forceful" voting rights speech in Georgia on Tuesday, January 11, results in any tangible movement to blunt suppressing laws in Republican-led states around the country.

Notably, the next several days will also reveal whether Democrats have the resolve, strength, and even the negotiating skills to get one of their own onboard with changing Senate filibuster rules.

Doing so would allow the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to pass.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) continues to oppose any filibuster changes staunchly.

The conservative has displayed an unwillingness to help push through bills that would help level the playing field for many underserved Americans – including his constituents in the Mountain State.

"The next few days, when these bills come to a vote, will mark a turning point in this nation. Will we choose democracy over autocracy, light overshadow, justice



Tom Barrett/Unsplash

over injustice?" President Biden asserted in excerpts of a speech released before his Georgia visit.

"I know where I stand. I will not yield. I will not flinch," the President continued.

"I will defend your right to vote and our democracy against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And so, the question is where will the institution of United States Senate stand?"

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki called the President's words "forceful."

"He's quite focused on ensuring the American people understand what's at stake here," Psaki insisted.

"He will forcefully advocate for protecting the most

bedrock American rights: the right to vote and have your voice counted in a free, fair, and secure election that is not tainted ... by partisan manipulation."

Psaki continued:

"He'll make clear in the former district of the late Congressman John Lewis that the only way to do that is for the Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act."

Despite an expected "no" vote from Manchin, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) insisted he would bring to the chamber measures to alter or abolish the filibuster.

He said he would push for a vote on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement

Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

To do so, all 50 Senate Democrats must vote in the affirmative.

All 50 GOP Senators likely will vote against each of those measures.

Vice President Kamala Harris would cast the tie-breaking vote, giving Democrats the majority.

Georgia stands among 19 states that have passed voter suppression laws since Republican Donald Trump lost the presidency to Joe Biden in 2020.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 34 voter restriction or suppression laws have passed across the country since the 2020 election, where Trump and some Republicans falsely

claimed fraud.

Brennan Center officials noted that 13 more restrictive laws are in the works, including one in Georgia that would ban the use of ballot boxes altogether.

Before President Biden visited Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family said they didn't want any celebrations of the slain civil rights hero's national holiday unless meaningful voting rights legislation passed.

Further, the Asian American Advocacy Fund, Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council, Black Voters Matter Fund, GALEO Impact Fund, and New Georgia Project Action Fund boycotted President Biden's speech.

They demanded that the President remain in Washington where he might help usher through voting legislation to protect disenfran-

chised voters.

"We don't need another speech. What we need is action. What we need is a plan," demanded Cliff Albright, executive director of the Black Voters Matter Fund.

While Sen. Schumer has called on his colleagues to vote on filibuster and voting rights legislation by January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, White House officials said they're working hard to help get legislation passed.

"We understand the frustration by many advocates that this is not passed into law yet," Psaki stated. "[President Biden] would love to have signed this into law himself. But [the speech] is an opportunity to speak about what the path forward looks like to advocate for – for this moving forward in the Senate."

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, January 27, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Turney W. Leonard Governance  
and Training Center  
Conference Area  
5151 Samuell Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75228

## Annual Report of Performance on Texas Academic Performance Report for 2020-2021 and the 2020-2021 Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Accelerated Instruction

The Dallas Independent School District will hold a public hearing to share information with the community regarding the educational performance of the district along with the effectiveness of accelerated instruction. The Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 27, 2022, Conference Area, 5151 Samuell Blvd.

Persons interested in making comments at the public hearing must register to speak by contacting Board Services at (972) 925-3720. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., Monday, January 24, through Wednesday, January 26, at 5 p.m.

## City of Dallas to host 4th Redistricting Town Hall to get public feedback on redistricting

The City of Dallas invites the public to attend the next Redistricting Commission town hall meeting, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13 at Lake Highlands North Recreation Center located at 9940 White Rock Trail.

"Community involvement and participation is critical to the success of the redistricting process, and we've made it very easy for everyone to submit their own map any time or offer input at one of our public town halls," said Jesse

Oliver, 2021 Redistricting Commission Chair. "Ultimately, we want to make a redistricting map that represents our residents and their communities."

The complete schedule is at DallasRedistricting.com and the final meeting Thursday, Feb. 10 will allow virtual participation. Individuals who wish to speak during these public town halls must register at bit.ly/2021RDCTH, by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All speakers will have three

minutes to speak about the redistricting process. Virtual speakers are required to show their videos when addressing the commission.

"We are committed to making this process as fair and equitable as possible, so we're accepting both virtual and in-person town hall feedback," said Oliver. "Residents will have the opportunity to join us from the comfort of their own homes or in person at city-wide meetings; the Feb. 10 town hall at City Hall

will also provide American Sign Language interpreters to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Oral interpretation for other languages is available upon request."

Early on in 2021, the City Council appointed a 15-member Redistricting Commission to develop the districting plan based on the latest decennial counts in compliance with the Dallas City Charter and federal

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# Dallas College to host tuition-free Bezos Academy Preschool in 2022

Dallas College today announced a 10-year lease agreement with the Bezos Academy to open a tuition-free, Montessori-inspired preschool on its Cedar Valley and Mountain View Campuses in the Fall of 2022. These are the first preschools Bezos Academy has announced outside of Washington state.

The project came to fruition following consultation with multiple civic agencies and community organizations in Dallas on behalf of Dallas College. It builds on early childhood education work made possible by the Dallas College Foundation, The Commit Partnership, Dallas ISD, NAEYC, Early Matters Dallas, PNC Bank Foundation, the Meadows Foundation, the Moody Foundation and many others.

"The need for Bezos Academies in North Texas is significant," said Dallas College Chancellor Dr. Joe May. "Nearly one in 10 children in America live in Texas, and one in four children in Texas live in North Texas. For most of these



Dallas College / Courtesy

children, both parents are in the workforce. The demand for more high-quality early childhood education must be met, and it's a big reason why we are so grateful to partner with the Bezos Academy in the form of brick-and-mortar schools that will eventually serve countless families in Dallas County."

As part of the agreement, the Bezos Academy will cover operating expenses for the preschool programs at no cost to the families being served, while providing everything that the children need during the day, including meals.

"We know that early education is essential to getting all children off to a great

start in life, but nationally, only half of all preschool-aged kids are enrolled in school," said Mike George, president of Bezos Academy. "We couldn't be more excited to be serving the families of Texas, especially with a partner like Dallas College that shares our commitment to serving the whole community through education."

The Bezos Academy preschools will be located in the Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus located on 3030 N. Dallas Ave., Lancaster, and the Dallas College Mountain View Campus located on 4849 W. Illinois Ave., Dallas. The schools will follow a full-

day, year-round schedule, and will be slated to open multiple classrooms in Fall 2022, following renovations that Bezos Academy will make to the building.

"The Bezos Academy and the Dallas College School of Education have intersecting missions that place early child development and education at the forefront of where we are headed as a nation," said Dr. Robert DeHaas, vice provost of Dallas College School of Education.

"Much like Mr. Bezos, who has charted a path in space exploration while investing in the minds of future generations through education, Dallas College

leaders have embraced the need for students and families to access early childhood education – which is critical to strengthening the future workforce of our region and our nation."

Families earning up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level with children aged 3 or 4 may apply. Admissions preference is given to foster children and children experiencing homelessness. More information, specific criteria and an application to the lottery-based selection process will be posted at [www.bezosacademy.org](http://www.bezosacademy.org) once the school opening date is set.

Formerly the Dallas County Community College District, was founded in 1965, and consists of seven campuses: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland. Dallas College offers online learning, and serves more than 83,000 credit and 25,000 continuing education students during the fall and spring semesters. Dallas College also offers dual credit for students in

partnering high schools and early college high schools throughout Dallas County. Dr. Joe May, the college's 7th chancellor, has established the Dallas College higher education network in partnership with area school districts, colleges and universities, businesses, community organizations and others to support student success and college completion by removing barriers and providing services that help them earn a college credential and start their professional careers.

Bezos Academy is a non-profit organization that is building a network of tuition-free preschools. Our preschools offer year-round, full-day programming, five days a week, for children ages 3-5 years old from low-income families. Bezos Academy also provides students with all necessary educational supplies and services to set each student up for success, including Montessori materials, books, arts and crafts, field trips, and meals. For more information, visit: [www.bezosacademy.org](http://www.bezosacademy.org).

## U.S. Department of Education emphasizes importance of full-service community schools through competitive grant program

Today, the U.S. Department of Education released the Notice of Proposed Priorities, definitions, and requirements for the Full-Service Community Schools competitive grant program and tomorrow is launching a 30-day public comment period for the program.

These proposed priorities align with the vision set forth by the Biden-Harris Administration and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in support of high-quality educa-

tional opportunities for all students and the important role of full-service community schools in providing wraparound and academic supports to students and families that are critical in their academic success.

Full-service community schools work collaboratively with students' families and leverage community-based resources to provide a tailored set of coordinated services and programs to a school community. Community schools meet student social, emo-

tional, mental health, and academic needs through after school and summer learning and enrichment opportunities, as well as mental and physical health services. During the pandemic, community schools, for example, re-engaged students, hosted vaccine clinics, provided meals, and secured technology to ensure students can access remote learning.

"Community schools play a vital role in achieving President Biden's vision of building our educa-

tion system back better than before the pandemic," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "The last two years have taught us how critical schools can be in providing wraparound supports to students and families—such as access to mental health services, basic needs, and high-quality academic instruction. When schools are at the center of our neighborhoods and communities, children, youth, and families benefit. I am thrilled that this program can enable more

students and families to access full-service community schools, and that President Biden proposed in his budget to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in community schools, which have been proven to improve student well-being and academic success."

Since 2010, the Full-Service Community Schools competitive grant program has supported 55 distinct communities in all regions of the country. President Biden's FY22 budget includes a proposed increase

of \$413 million for the Full-Service Community Schools program. This request would expand the capacity of the program to serve up to 2.5 million students, families, and community members in an estimated 800 new community schools.

The proposed priorities are intended to encourage quality implementation of the four pillars of community schools: integrated student supports that ad-

**See GRANT, Page 10**

## WOOTEN from Page 2

allotments for special education, vocational preparation and remedial education programs and the Texas Workforce Commission.

"Texas needs a repre-

sentative who is dedicated to caring for the needs of all Texans. When we help others, life improves for everyone. With your help, I intend to be that represen-

tative in House District 63," said Wooten.

House District 63 includes portions of Flower Mound, Lewisville, Carrollton and Roanoke. Primary voting will be held on March 1, 2022, and the

general election on Nov. 8, 2022.

Wooten has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from William Jewell College and a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) from Baylor University. Dr. Wooten has lived

in Denton County for 28 years, raising her children and serving local residents in her clinical and developmental psychology practice. She has been a practicing psychologist for over 30 years, while her husband is

self-employed as a certified public accountant in Flower Mound.

For more information, visit the website at [www.wootenfortexas.com](http://www.wootenfortexas.com), or find her on Facebook and Twitter.

## Carrollton Mayor Kevin Falconer to present the State of the City address

Carrollton Mayor Kevin Falconer will present the State of the City Address at the 14th annual Citizens' Evening on Tuesday, February 23. The free event will take place at the Carrollton Senior Center (1720 Keller Springs Road) in the Texas Ballroom and will begin at 6 p.m.

Attendees will have an opportunity to mingle with City officials and meet members of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. Informational booths will be set up so attendees can learn about City ser-



Courtesy photo

vices, as well as volunteer opportunities within the community.

Falconer's State of the City Address will focus on new developments, programs, and events within

the community. Because the City of Carrollton is "Where Connections Happen," the organization works hard to connect its residents with information about all that is occurring within city limits.

"Our vision for Carrollton is to be the community that families and businesses want to call home," Falconer said. "I'm looking forward to sharing with citizens some of the exciting things happening in our great City as we continue to progress toward that vision."

The event agenda also includes the presentation of the Carrollton Cares Volunteer Awards, including the Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, Neighborhood Leadership, and Outstanding Community Organization Awards facilitated by the City's Neighborhood Partnership Office, as well as the Jimmy Porter Award facilitated by the Parks & Recreation Department. These awards are designed to recognize individuals, organizations, and leaders who have gone above and

beyond to deliver exceptional community service to the City of Carrollton and its residents in 2021.

"Carrollton is grateful for the many volunteers whose service enhances the lives of its residents and visitors," Community Services Manager Brian Passwaters said. "The Neighborhood Partnership Office is excited to recognize volunteers who have contributed their time, ideas, and efforts in making our community such a great place."

For more details or to RSVP to this free, public

event, visit [cityofcarrollton.com/citizens\\_evening](http://cityofcarrollton.com/citizens_evening) or call 972-466-4299.

### Agenda:

6 p.m. - City Information Booths Open

7 p.m. - Welcome - Neighborhood Advisory Commission

7:05 p.m. - Carrollton Volunteer Awards Ceremony

7:30 p.m. - State of The City Address - Mayor Kevin Falconer

8:15 p.m. - Closing - Natasha Singh, Neighborhood Advisory Commission Chairman

## Richardson sponsors art contest with wildflowers theme to beautify traffic signals

The City of Richardson and the Richardson Kiwanis Club will host an art contest to select five original, wildflower-themed designs that will be featured as vinyl wraps on traffic signal boxes at intersec-

tions throughout the community. The contest is open to individual artists residing in the city or students attending a school located within Richardson. In addition to beautifying and colorfully enhancing city

streetscapes, the artwork will also showcase local Richardson artists in a new way and further a sense of community pride.

"Art installations are a meaningful part of our city's identity, and the de-

signs selected from our traffic signal box art contest will share visually engaging artwork created by Richardson artists that honor our community and welcome visitors," said Assistant City Manager Shan-

na Sims-Bradish.

"Our wildflowers contest theme provides a significant connection to the upcoming spring season and Richardson's well-known, vibrant floral displays in parks and medians each

year. The City is excited to share this opportunity that will recognize and showcase our local artists in a new and special way."

Traffic signal boxes were

**See ART, Page 15**



## "The time is always right to do what's right."

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Go to [createthegood.AARP.org](http://createthegood.AARP.org) to find ways you can volunteer in your community.

Please serve your community and others safely by following all CDC COVID-19 guidelines and federal, state and local regulations.



# Maya Angelou becomes the first Black woman on a U.S. coin

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

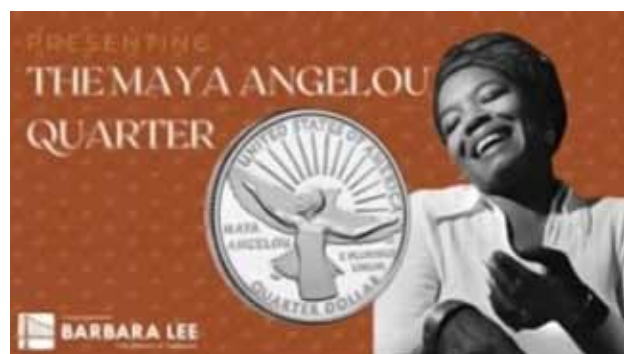
Famous author and noted civil rights leader Maya Angelou became the first African American woman featured on the 25-cent coin.

The U.S. Mint began shipping the quarters on January 10.

Reportedly, the Angelou coin is the first in a series designed to celebrate the accomplishments of American women.

"Each time we redesign our currency, we have the chance to say something about our country — what we value, and how we've progressed as a society," U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen said in a statement. "I'm very proud that these coins celebrate the contributions of some of America's most remarkable women, including Maya Angelou."

Angelou, whose works



include such classics as "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "And Still I Rise," and "The Heart of a Woman," died in 2014.

She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Barack Obama.

The commemorative new coin features Angelou with her arms uplifted a bird in flight and a rising sun behind her.

"They are images inspired by her poetry and symbolic of the way she lived," officials at the U.S. Mint said in the statement.

To the right are the words

"e pluribus Unum," Latin for "out of many, one," a phrase also on the national seal.

The flip side features a portrait of George Washington.

"Excited to announce that Maya Angelou becomes the first Black woman to appear on a U.S. quarter," California Democratic Rep. Barbara Lee wrote on Twitter.

"The phenomenal women who shaped American history have gone unrecognized for too long — especially women of color," Rep. Lee wrote.

"Proud to have led this bill to honor their legacies."

## Twitter finally shuts down account of racist congresswoman from Georgia

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

After a third violation regarding COVID-19 misinformation, officials at the social media platform Twitter have banned Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) from their platform. Her suspended account was her personal account. Twitter has yet to ban Greene's second twitter account, which is her official congressional account.

The account suspension arrived shortly after Greene tweeted false information linking COVID deaths to the vaccine. The suspension arrives as Greene and several other Republican members of Congress are being investigated by a special U.S. House Committee on the attack on the U.S. Capitol by the supporters of former President Donald



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene official photo, 117th Congress, United States Congress

Trump.

The problem of misinformation and intentional disinformation on social media is linked to the attack. Former employees of Facebook as well as critics of the platform point to the problem of a lack of regulation of Facebook's content. False information that rapidly spreads unedited and uncorrected on the platform has been linked to Facebook in numerous in-

stances.

"We've been clear that, per our strike system for this policy, we will permanently suspend accounts for repeated violations of the policy," said Katie Rosborough, a Twitter spokeswoman. Greene's suspension from Twitter happens just as the Omicron variant of COVID is surging through the U.S. with New

See TWITTER, Page 12

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# Cowboys roll over Philly on their way to the playoffs

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

Dak Prescott will roll into the playoffs next week a very confident lot after putting up some pretty impressive history-making numbers during the regular season.

This past Saturday, Prescott completed 21-of-27 passes for 295 yards and a career-high five touchdowns to pace the Dallas Cowboys to a convincing 51-26 triumph over the Philadelphia Eagles. That gave the Cowboys a clean 6-0 sweep of their three NFC East opponents as they ended the regular season with a solid 12-5 record.

The Cowboys will open the playoffs on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at AT&T Stadium in Arlington against the San Francisco 49ers. And in preparation for the matchup against the Niners, the Cowboys first made quick work of the Eagles.

For the second time in three weeks, the Cowboys hung 50-plus points on the board. (The beat Washington, 56-14, two weeks ago). And the five TD passes gave Prescott 37 for the season, breaking the franchise record of 36 set by Tony Romo in 2007.

Not bad for a player who – during the second half of the season -- critics repeatedly kept saying was in a slump.

“I mean, if I wasn’t in (a slump) I guess I could’ve done it a while back,” said Prescott, who tied the franchise record for TD passes in a game. “But yeah, I mean it’s pretty cool. It’s pretty cool to get a record like that.”

“I’m just the beneficiary of a lot of hard work, play-calling, offensive line protecting and a bunch of different guys making plays.”

The Cowboys certainly had a bunch of different guys making plays against the Eagles. Wide receiver Cedric Wilson admirably filled in for Michael Gallup, who is out for the season af-



All-Pro Reels / Flickr

ter tearing his anterior cruciate ligament while catching a touchdown pass last week against the Arizona Cardinals.

Wilson had five receptions for 119 yards and two touchdowns against the Eagles. Tight end Dalton Schultz caught three passes, and two of them went for touchdowns.

In the meantime, running back Ezekiel Elliott had his best game running the ball since he rushed for 110 yards against the New York Giants on Oct. 10. Elliott rushed 18 times for 87 yards against the Eagles and finished the season with 1,002 yards.

Combined that with the 4,449 yards Prescott passed for this season, the 12 sacks recorded by Micah Parsons, the 11 interceptions from Trevon Diggs, and the 1,102 yards in receptions CeeDee Lamb accumulated, this marks the first time in NFL history that one team had five players achieve those starling statistics.

But none of that mattered to the Cowboys as they went into the game against the Eagles trying to get their offensive mojo back following last week’s stunning 25-22 loss at home to the Cardinals.

“We wanted to be pretty balanced – run and pass -- and I thought we established that coming out of (Saturday’s game),” coach Mike McCarthy said. “The rhythm and timing going into the playoffs, we talked about this during the course of the week.”

“Statistically, rhythm, pace of operation, everything we were looking to

accomplish, (Saturday) we were able to get that done.”

That’s why the Cowboys played their starters – those who weren’t injured or in the health and safety protocols – against the Eagles. They felt playing them was worth the risk of someone getting injured in a game that ultimately helped the Cowboys move up from the No. 4 to the No. 3 seed.

“Every team does what they feel that they need to do,” McCarthy said. “We all felt clearly this is the best thing. The players wanted to play.”

“Even the guys who didn’t play wanted to play, so I think that tells you where we are as a football team, and that’s exciting. This was the right thing for us to do and I’m glad the way it turned out.”

It turned out perfect for the Cowboys against the Eagles, because for the second time in three weeks, Prescott had four TD passes by halftime and Dallas led, 30-17. The Cowboys scored on all five of the possessions in the first half.

Corey Clement caught an eight-yard touchdown from Prescott early in the fourth quarter, and seldom-used running backs Ito Smith and JaQuan Hardy closed out the Cowboys’ scoring by darting into the end zone from the four and 22 yards, respectively, during garbage time.

Defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence said: “Just to be able to build on a win and head to the playoffs, I feel like we’re carrying the team and the momentum in the right direction.”

And that, according to

Prescott, was the plan going into the game against the Eagles, who didn’t play many of their starters.

“That’s what we wanted to do was get some momentum, get into a rhythm, grab some confidence from this game and get ourselves going heading into next weekend,” Prescott said. “I think we did a good job of that.”

“But we’ve got to turn the page. We can’t hang our hat on the regular season or 12 wins or winning the division, because none of it matters.”

What matters now is how the Cowboys perform

in the playoffs. If Prescott can continue doing what he did against the Eagles, the Cowboys know the (Super Bowl) sky’s the limit.

“I just think it’s a hell of a year for a guy that was in a slump,” McCarthy said, referring to Prescott. “He’s a special man. He’s a tremendous leader.”

Hopefully he’ll get some recognition for how he plays the game on the field.

“He’s so consistent in his approach. What’s exciting is we have a lot of growth in front of us and him in particular, too. He’s still a young quarterback that has

a lot of excellent football in front of him.”

And the Cowboys are hoping Prescott will step up and show his “excellent football” skills throughout the upcoming playoffs.

“This is what we’ve been talking about since April,” McCarthy said. “We’ve had goals all along. We hit the goals -- 12 wins in a season is a good year.”

“But more importantly, it’s difficult to put yourself in a good position any year. So we just want to make sure that everybody’s doing what they’re supposed to do.”



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# 'The 355' offers a viewers much-needed break from reality

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

Need a break from COVID mania and winter melancholia? A dose of pure escapism may help. For 122 minutes this often generic but surprisingly engaging espionage action/thriller may take your mind off your troubles.

You'll suspend belief for James Bond and all his improbable stunts. You're perfectly OK with Shang-Chi fighting a dozen men at time when that's really impossible. So, show some respect for the five petite women in this adrenaline-rush who kick ass like MMA champs. Is it plausible? No. Fun to watch? Yes. Part of the captivation is the script by Theresa Rebeck (TV's *Smash* and *NYPD Blue*) and writer/director Simon Kinberg. They spin a tale full of intrigue, seasoned with enough plot twists and betrayals to keep you guessing and guessing until the mayhem careens to false ending after false ending. Normally this kind of contrivance is folly. Here, it takes attention away from the film's B-movie qualities.

Director Kinberg's filmography is impressive: Producer of *Deadpool* and *The Martian*. Writer for



Mr. and Mrs. Smith and *X-Men: Apocalypse*. His only previous feature film direction was on *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*. Now, tasked with guiding a cast and crew and choreographing action scenes it's obvious he's still working out some kinks. It's most notable when the kinetic movement dies down and the four or five heroines just sit and talk. E.g., after a small victory, the women have drinks at a bar and converse, way too much. Other misguided exposition-heavy scenes flounder too. A cleverer director would always give the ensemble a "bit of business" to do. As they talked, they'd load guns, demolish a room, or make cookies—something to keep the viewer's attention off the film's shortcomings. Sitting idly is a no-no.

Some nutjob has invented a data key drive the size of a mini-iPhone that can remotely down a

plane, hack computers and destroy the world bit by bit. Mace's (Jessica Chastain, *Zero Dark Thirty*) job as a CIA agent is to buy and confiscate the device. As is said, "...the enemy is invisible like ghosts ... they can destabilize entire countries from the simple reach of their keyboards." She and fellow agent Nick (Sebastian Stan) arrange a lunchtime rendezvous at an outdoor Parisian café. It's a simple cash for weapon pickup with Luis (Édgar Ramírez, *Carlos*), a rogue operative. Nothing goes right. Nothing. They and others are in hot pursuit of a mechanism that can wreak precision havoc. The chase starts in Europe, heads to Morocco and then Shanghai. Find the deadly gadget before time runs out or—ya-da-ya-da-ya-da...

In so many action films, if the good guys don't win the world will be annihilated. In this instance, impend-

ing horrific chaos will be as selective as a surgeon's scalpel. Determining who is zooming who and where the plot will go next is paradoxically predictable and unpredictable. International locations traveled by a multicultural cast add dimension. Toss into the mix a deadly German BND agent (Diane Kruger, *In the Fade*), an ex-British MI6 cyber tech head (Lupita Nyong'o, *12 Years a Slave*), a Colombian psychologist (Penélope Cruz, *Parallel Mothers*) and a mysterious Chinese saboteur (Bingbing Fan, *X-Men: Days of Future Past*) and the female casting is tight. Add some cranky evil villains (Jason Flemyng, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*; Pablo Scola, *The Queen's Gambit*) who are eager to kill, and the good fight is on. FYI Kruger is the most convincing, Nyong'o the most alert, Cruz is stiff at first, but then finds her strength when her charac-

ter becomes angry, scared and sad. Fan has the proper amount of mystery and Chastain is quite able as the ringleader.

Cinematographer Tim Maurice-Jones is best at filming the gorgeous location shots, almost as good with the combat sequences and knows how to light the lavish interior sets. Production designer Simon Elliott, art director Jack Berk and set decorator Anna-Lynch Robinson make all the props, hotel rooms, boudoirs, offices, etc. look just right. Stephanie Collie's costumes exhibit a good color sense and a contemporary style that flatters the beautiful women. Producer/musician/composer Junkie XL's (*Mad Max: Fury Road*) driving musical score turns the mayhem up several decibels. The only scenes that drag are the slow aforementioned dramatic ones, otherwise editors John Gilbert (*Hacksaw Ridge*) and Lee Smith

(*Dunkirk*) give the footage a steady manic pace.

Yes, some of this movie just doesn't gel, like a white woman walking through a medina in Morocco without being stared at. Never happens. Or a woman entering a men's hammam (Muslim steam room) nonchalantly. Never happens. Some action scenes look hopelessly nondescript too, but you'll get over it. In a theater those transgression may matter. But when this film hits a streaming service or VOD it won't. Viewers will be stuck to their sofas and skip bathroom breaks for two hours and two minutes.

Like *The 355* for what it is. Not for what it isn't. Escape into it and enjoy the performances of five skilled international female actors who bring it.

In theaters now.

Visit *NNPA News Wire*  
Film Critic Dwight Brown  
at *DwightBrownInk.com*  
and *BlackPressUSA.com*.

## GRANT, from Page 6

dress out-of-school barriers to learning through partnerships with social and health service agencies and providers; expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities; active family and community engagement; and collaborative leadership and practices. The proposed priorities released today address:

Supporting states and districts in scaling up high-quality community schools within and across school districts;

Encouraging evidence-based strategies for integrated student supports; and

Supporting a national

evaluation to continue to build the evidence base behind effective community schools.

Full-service community schools can help ensure that students' opportunities are not limited by zip code, family income, race/ethnicity, disability status, or other factors by strengthening a school's conditions for excellent teaching and learning. The community school approach leverages existing community assets, and generates new resources, to bring needed supports for students and families into public schools. Educators at community schools engage parents and fami-

lies as full partners in their child's education. Community schools often offer courses, activities, and services for parents and engage families and community members in school decision making.

This year in particular, the community school strategy has enabled educators to address the challenges confronting students as they returned to in-person learning. These strategies are also critical ways to re-engage students with the appropriate integrated supports. Research shows that evidence-based approaches to community schools can improve student social, emotional, and academic outcomes.

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# Infoblox unveils a Diverse Student Certification Program to grow minority representation in the Technology sector

Santa Clara, Calif – Infoblox, the leader in cloud-first networking and security services, launches the Infoblox Diverse Student Certification program with the University of La Verne, a Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI), in partnership with the TELACU Education Foundation. The program includes two courses to introduce students to DDI (DNS, DHCP, and IPAM) essentials and hands-on product training led by Infoblox specialists.

“The technology sector continues to drive the global economy and presents strong career opportunities



*Zafar Brooks is Infoblox's Global Leader of Diversity and Inclusion. In this newly created position, Brooks's portfolio covers strategic planning, talent development, constituent relations, and global alignment for diversity and inclusion of the software company. (Courtesy photo)*

for young professionals,” said Jesper Andersen, President and CEO of Infoblox. “The historical under-representation of people of color and women in technology

careers inspired us to grow the pipeline with this program. We are connecting the next generation of workers with learning pathways and certifications that open

the door to core networking services jobs with our company, channel partners, and 12,000-plus customers.”

The Infoblox Diverse Student Certification program integrates the company's training, certification, and mentoring into the University of La Verne's computer science program. The 15 students participating in the inaugural class will attend Infoblox courses, previously only available to working professionals. Upon completion of the program, the students are eligible to earn two certifications:

- DDI Professional, the

world's most popular vendor-agnostic DDI certification

- DDI Config & Admin, Infoblox's most attended product training certification

These classes, certifications, and ongoing mentoring from Infoblox's Unid@s Blox Hispanic employee resource group (ERG) aim to prepare the students with foundational skills to embark on careers in IT networking and a notable advantage when seeking employment.

“We are honored that Infoblox selected the University of La Verne to be a

part of this important initiative,” said Dr. Deborah Lieberman, President of the University of La Verne. “In its over 130 years of history, the university has been dedicated to preparing our students with the skills necessary for success in their chosen fields of study and to prepare them for the needs of the marketplace. With over 7,000 students – 70% from diverse populations and over half the first in their families to attend college – this exciting partnership fulfills our mission to serve the needs of our students and the community.”

## U.S. House January 6 attack Chairman Bennie Thompson lays out the investigation ahead as answers and justice are sought

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

During two interviews on January 2, Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) outlined steps moving forward after months of investigation of the violent January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol by Donald Trump supporters.

The Chair of the special committee to investigate the January 6, 2021 attack said in a January 2nd interview that the violent insurrection “appeared to be a coordinated effort on the part of a number of people to undermine the election.”

Thompson also indicated that the Department of Defense may have interfered with assistance to the Capitol from the National Guard.



*“We have significant testimony that leads us to believe that the White House had been told to do something. We want to verify all of it,” Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) said on CNN.*

“There were significant inconsistencies in coordination, that the National Guard from the District of Columbia was slow to respond, not on its own, but it had to go to the Department of Defense. We have actually fixed that right now, where the mayor of

the District of Columbia can access the Guard right now,” Thompson said.

Thompson is planning televised hearings of the committee's work in January. Thompson also mentioned a task force within the committee that will investigate the financial support of Trump supporters who attacked the Capitol on January 6, 2021. The committee is bi-partisan with two Republicans: Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Liz Cheney (R-WY).

The attack on the legislative branch of the U.S. government happened on the same day that the election of President Joe Biden was to officially be certified as the victor of the 2020 presidential election by Congress. The certification

process is typically a non-eventful procedure that involves officially receiving the certification papers

of all the states during an hours-long ceremony and vote on the House floor.

There were 147 Repub-

licans in the U.S. House who voted against the cer-

See THOMPSON, Page 14

## DALLAS, from Page 5

law.

The Redistricting Commission plans to file its recommended districting plan for City Council consideration in May 2022. The Council has 45 days after the plan is submitted to adopt or modify and adapt, a new district map.

Any modification requires approval by three-fourths of the City Council. If final action is not taken by the City Council within 45 days, the Redistricting Commission's recommended plan becomes final.

The new districts will be implemented for the next

general election of Dallas City Council members conducted at least 90 days following the date the final districting plan becomes effective for the City, currently projected for May 6, 2023.

For more information and to submit your own map, visit DallasRedistricting.com.



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# Kroger and Nuro announce expanded collaboration, showcasing new autonomous vehicles set to power grocery delivery service

CINCINNATI and MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. -- The Kroger Co. (NYSE: KR) and Nuro recently announced an expanded collaboration to continue redefining the customer experience leveraging autonomous vehicles with the introduction of Nuro's third-generation autonomous delivery vehicle.

In 2018, Kroger, America's largest grocery retailer, and Nuro, leading autonomous vehicle company, announced a partnership to deliver fresh groceries with all-electric, autonomous vehicles.

"Our expanded collaboration with Nuro supports Kroger's commitment to



Kroger / Courtesy

provide fresh food, at a great value — all without asking our customers to compromise," said Yael Cosset, Kroger's Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "The role of autonomous vehicles in our seamless ecosystem continues to increase, con-

tributing to meeting our customers in the context of their day without compromising on the quality or value, while contributing to our long-term growth and sustainability goals."

Leveraging Nuro's new third-generation vehicles, Kroger will continue to

grow its digital offerings in Houston, one of the largest cities in the U.S., building on its commitment to anything, anytime, anywhere. Grocery delivery through autonomous vehicles is a leading-edge e-commerce solution that offers customer-focused convenience — regardless of basket size.

"We are thrilled to expand our longstanding strategic partnership with Kroger and further our shared vision for the future of goods delivery," said Dave Ferguson, Nuro co-founder and president. "We look forward to leveraging our third-generation, and most advanced, autonomous vehicle to date to continue to build on the

success of this program."

This expanded collaboration is a key part of Kroger's seamless ecosystem. The grocer is committed to making it simple for its customers to find the grocery items they crave without compromising on freshness or value. Its seamless ecosystem supports customers who want to shop online, in-store or a combination of both to support the needs of each day.

"We are excited to expand our collaboration with Nuro here in Houston, one of the largest cities in the U.S.," said Laura Gump, President, Houston Kroger division. "

Our associates, customers

and city embrace innovation, and we are thrilled to be able to soon provide this enterprising grocery delivery service to even more shoppers across the region."

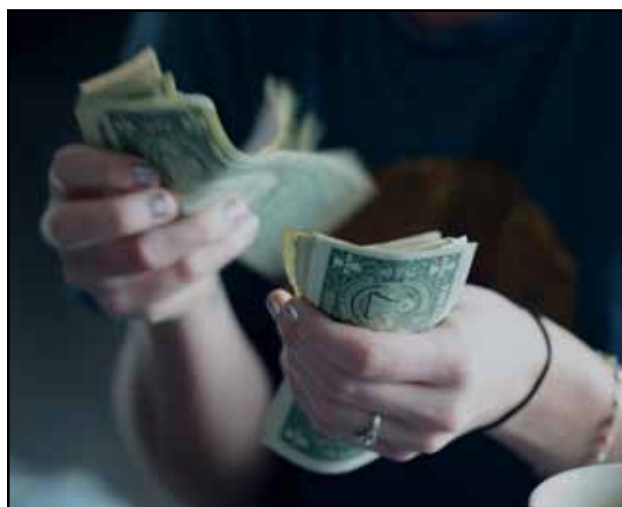
The all-electric, autonomous vehicles support Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste social and environmental impact plan, an industry-leading commitment to help build communities free of hunger and waste. The adoption of all-electric vehicles is aligned with Kroger's commitment to reduce our corporate greenhouse gas emissions, and also allows customers to choose delivery options that help them reduce their climate impacts.

## Twenty-one states raised their minimum wages on New Year's Day

By David Cooper, Krista Faries, and Sebastian Martinez Hickey  
Economic Policy Institute

On January 1, minimum wages went up in 21 states. The increases range from a \$0.22 inflation adjustment in Michigan to a \$1.50 per hour raise in Virginia, the equivalent of an annual increase ranging from \$458 to \$3,120 for a full-time, full-year minimum wage worker. The updates can be viewed in EPI's interactive Minimum Wage Tracker and in Figure A and Table 1 below.

In prior years, we have estimated the number of workers who would directly benefit from these increases, as well as the total dollar amount and average



Sharon McCutcheon / Unsplash

wage increase for affected workers in each state. Unfortunately, ongoing data challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic make it difficult to accurately produce estimates of this year's increases. The pandemic devastated labor

markets throughout the country, with a large share of the job losses occurring in low-wage sectors, such as leisure and hospitality, where minimum wage hikes typically affect large shares of workers. Job levels in those sectors have

rebounded somewhat over the past year, but that job growth has also been accompanied by stronger than usual wage growth, which—all else equal—will reduce the number of workers affected by minimum wage hikes, since would-be affected workers were already receiving wages at or above the new minimum. Because conditions in these industries are so different from what they were in the period reflected in our model's underlying (pre-pandemic) data, we cannot use it to make estimations about effects happening right at this moment.

Even so, we know that minimum wage increases are as crucial as ever in the

current context—to protect low-wage workers from exploitation and continue toward the goal of a living wage for all workers. From a macroeconomic perspective, it's smart policy: Low-wage households—who disproportionately benefit from increases to the minimum wage—are highly likely to quickly spend the extra dollars they receive, bolstering consumer demand as the economy continues to recover.

State minimum wage

increases

The January 1 increases in 11 states—California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia—are the result of legislation passed by state lawmakers to raise their state's wage floors.

In Missouri, the January 1 raise results from a ballot measure passed by the

See WAGES, Page 12

## ← TWITTER, from Page 8

York recording over 85,000 new infections on December 31, 2021.

Greene has repeatedly been the instigator of derisive rhetoric and blatantly false information. She once referred to Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) as a member of the "Jihad Squad." Before her election to Congress, Greene visited the Washington, D.C. office

of New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and harassed her staff who then summoned the U.S. Capitol Police. Greene's 2019 antics were captured on this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK6XEgG3UgE>. As a member of Congress in 2021, Greene attempted to confront Cortez outside the U.S. House chamber.

In February 2021, even House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), who has remained silent through a barrage of controversial statements involving sedition and racism, was compelled to denounce Greene.

"Past comments from and endorsed by Marjorie Taylor Greene on school shootings, political violence, and anti-Semitic conspiracy theories do not

represent the values or beliefs of the House Republican Conference," McCarthy said in a February 2021 statement.

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.

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### 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.

## WAGES, from Page 12

state's voters.

In nine states, the changes are the result of automatic annual inflation adjustments. Arizona, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, and Washington all have provisions in their state minimum wage laws that require the wage be adjusted annually to reflect changes in prices over the preceding year. Doing so ensures that the minimum wage never de-

clines in purchasing power, and workers paid the minimum wage can afford the same amount of goods and services year after year. The District of Columbia also has such a provision, updating its minimum wage each July. Eight other states have enacted similar automatic adjustment provisions in their minimum wage laws that will begin after their minimum wages reach a higher statutory level in the coming years.

In addition to the increases that took effect in 21 states on January 1, four other states (Connecticut, Florida, Nevada, and Oregon) and the District of Columbia have minimum wage increases scheduled to occur later in 2022.

### Local minimum wage increases

Currently, 39 localities—cities and counties—have minimum wages that are higher than their state minimum wage. These range from \$12.32 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to \$17.54 in

SeaTac, Washington.

Of these, 26 raised their minimum wages on January 1. Thirteen more of these 39 cities and counties are slated to raise their minimum wages later in 2022: Berkeley, Emeryville, Fremont, Milpitas, and San Francisco, California; Chicago and Cook County, Illinois; Montgomery County, Maryland; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota; Portland Urban Growth Boundary, Oregon; and Santa Fe City and Santa Fe County, New Mexico.



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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.



## Hey, This Is My Story!

Dr. James L. Snyder

I am just now concluding that narcissism is a virus that has infected everybody in the world that is breathing air. I even apply this to my own life with a great deal of regret.

Nobody wants to admit they have narcissistic leanings in their life. And yet, if you listen to them, and even listen to yourself, you will see it. I did not know how aggravating it was, but I was to learn pretty soon.

Recently I had a heart attack and had a stent put in one of my arteries, the widow make her. It was this experience that showed me the level of narcissism in my own life.

When anybody would call me and ask how I was, I would mention that I recently had a heart attack and had a stent inserted in one of my arteries. Before I can even get to the end of that sentence, the person on

the other end of the line will say, "Oh, a couple of years ago, I had a heart attack and had two stents put in." And then they would go on and on and on about their condition and experience.

When I thought we had come to the end of that conversation, they then mentioned, "And I have a cousin who had a heart attack and had several stents put in him I can't remember how many." Then, we're all down another rabbit trail. I sure would like to catch that rabbit.

Coming to the end of this conversation, I said, "Well, I hope you're doing well." To which I got the reply, "Thank You, I appreciate that."

Hanging up the phone, I thought a bit that the person on the other end of the phone did not allow me to tell my story.

For me, this heart attack was quite an experience that I never expected to ex-

perience. I know my father had several heart attacks, but I never assumed he had willed it to me. It's during these times that you think seriously about dying.

I have been tempted to spread the rumor that I won the million-dollar lottery for the week. Once that got out, I would get all kinds of calls to hear my million dollars' story. But, of course, I know that they would want to be put on my Christmas list.

The discouraging point is nobody wanted to know the story of my heart attack. My heart attack was an opportunity for them to brag, or so it seemed, about their heart attack or their uncle's heart attack or somebody else's.

After going through a heart attack why do I want to hear about someone else's heart attack and how they got through it.

Of course, that is my narcissism coming to the surface. I want everything to be about me and center on

my life. I'm not sure what to do or how to deal with this narcissistic virus that seems to be penetrating my life.

I don't think I will bring this up with my doctor the next time I visit him. I suspect he would send me to his psychology friend, and I certainly don't want that kind of examination. I don't think I could pass.

The one thing I have learned about this narcissistic virus is that there comes a point where it explodes. I didn't know that before, but I found out just recently.

Another friend called and asked about me, and I said I just had a heart attack and had a stent implanted in my artery. Again, before I could get to the end of that sentence, they began explaining how they also had a heart attack several years ago, and they had four stents put in. Then they went on and on about their heart attack and how it

changed their life, and what they did to keep from having another one.

I don't know what triggered my explosion, but all of a sudden, I heard myself saying, "Hey, stop right there. This is my heart attack, not yours. This is my story, not yours."

Then without hesitating, I went into my story in every detail I could think of at the time. I only wished I had recorded it so I could know what I actually said.

Just before I hung up, the person on the other end said, "Well, I'll be praying for you, and I hope you get better." Then there was that infamous "click." And the conversation was over.

I hung up the phone and turned around only to see the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage staring at me with one of her "stares," and I heard her say, "What in the world did you just say?"

At that moment, I knew I was in for some trouble, so

I said, "I'm not sure; what did I say?"

I knew she would tell me what I said, so I didn't need a recording of it. But I kind of lost control because of that narcissistic virus that has infected me.

A verse of Scripture came to my mind at this time. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Probably the hardest thing in this verse is when Jesus says "Let him deny himself." My narcissistic virus fights against that all the time.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34483, where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com. Website is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.*

## THOMPSON, from Page 11

tification of Biden's election even after the violent attack on the Capitol.

On January 6, 2021, former President Trump, who lost to President Joe Biden on November 3, 2020 by over 7,052,770 votes, had only 14 days left to remain in The White House before Biden's inaugural. On the morning of January 6, 2021, Trump appeared at a gathering of his supporters and lied to them, as he had since November 2020 claiming the election was "stolen." Trump's lie that his election loss was the result of fraud has been advanced on Facebook by his supporters and in right-wing media non-stop.

"I think it is critically important, given everything we know about the lines that he was willing to cross — he crossed lines no American president has ever crossed before. You know, we entrust the survival of our republic into the hands of the chief execu-

tive, and when a president refuses to tell the mob to stop, when he refuses to defend any of the coordinate branches of government, he cannot be trusted," Rep. Cheney said about Donald Trump on January 2.

Trump lost to Biden by double the amount of votes that he lost to Hillary Clinton in 2016. Clinton won the popular vote by 2,868,686 votes but lost the electoral college 304 to 227.

"All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical-left Democrats, which is what they're doing. And stolen by the fake news media," Trump bellowed from a stage on the eclipse near The White House. "We will never give up, we will never concede. It doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved," Trump continued citing no evidence.

Several Republican election officials in states

such as Georgia, Arizona and New Mexico certified Biden as the winner of the election without controversy.

Trump's supporters violently attacked the Capitol shortly after Trump's speech, over-running entrances, assaulting police officers and breaking glass doors as Vice President Michael Pence during the violent insurrection at the Capitol. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser called Governors in surrounding states for assistance from their National Guard.

Trump's supporters set up a fake guillotine they said was for Pence on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol between the reflecting pool and a memorial of U.S. Grant. Trump's supporters chanted "hang Mike Pence" in the Capitol during the insurrection.

"We have significant testimony that leads us to believe that the White House had been told to do some-

thing. We want to verify all of it," Thompson said on CNN.

The next committee meeting is expected soon.

*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 and on twitter at @LVBurke*

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# Thank God for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Sister Tarpley**  
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*My father, Mr. Lloyd David Demus, once told me, "Strive to leave the world a better place than when you found it." Dr. King did just that, he made a difference and we are better off as a world. Thank God for Dr. King.*

Dr. King (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later he had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta honoring and praising God, he served from 1914 to 1931.

Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "What is your Life's Blueprint?" (Photo: Library of Congress)

high school at the age of 15; he received his B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College.

After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was

elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. Dr. King received his doctorate degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncom-

mon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and he was a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation.

In December 1955 he accepted the leadership of the first great Black nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States; the bus boycott lasted 382 days.

On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Blacks and Whites rode the buses as

equals.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi.

In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles.

In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world.

Dr. King planned voter registration drives in Ala-

bama and he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream," he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

He was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American Blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. He then announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

*(Editorial Note: This column was first published in January 2020.)*

## ART, from Page 7

designated as the installation locations due to their potential for featuring wrapped art on a large scale and for their high visibility to both drivers and pedestrians. Designs chosen for the traffic signal boxes will be showcased at key intersection throughout the city, including Renner Road and Routh Creek Parkway at the Spring Creek Nature Area, Yale Road and Apollo Road at Duck Creek Trail, Belt Line Road and Mimosa Drive at Richardson High School, Waterview Drive and Franklyn Jennifer Drive on the University of Texas at Dallas campus, and at Renner Road and Telecom Parkway.

A selection committee will review the submissions and select contest finalists. The five winners will be determined according to three main criteria – creativity, adherence to the wildflowers theme and artistic merit – and each selected artist will also receive a \$100 sti-

pend, a plaque and be recognized for their efforts in the City's communications materials.

Participating artists may submit one original digital design aligned to the wildflowers theme that can be easily converted to a digitally printed wrap that covers the entire traffic signal box. All designs must be:

- Original artwork and cannot include copyrighted or trademarked images, commercial logos or advertisements;

- Designs should be free from any representation that includes traffic lights, signs or signal images of

any kind;

- Artists may sign their designs but should limit any other wording; and

- All submissions should feature a design appropriate for viewing by all ages.

All completed applications and artwork submissions are due by Monday, Feb. 28 no later than 5 p.m. Information about the contest is available at [www.cor.net/our-city/arts-and-culture/traffic-signal-box-art-contest](http://www.cor.net/our-city/arts-and-culture/traffic-signal-box-art-contest).

Any questions about entry requirements may also be directed to Sims-Bradish by phone at 972-744-4210 or by e-mail to [shanna.sims@cor.gov](mailto:shanna.sims@cor.gov).

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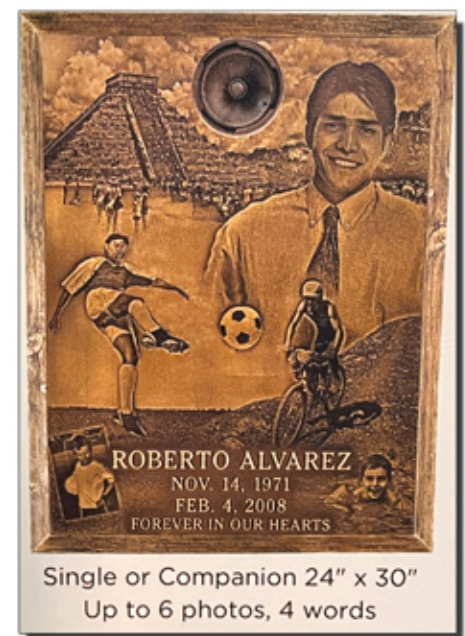
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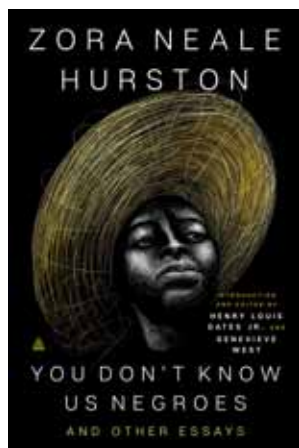
# NDG Book Review: 'You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

That's just the way it was.

People did things differently in times past. They were a little more likely to judge others, a little less apt to open their minds. They had notions we might think are odd; they held beliefs that we know now are wrong. But as in the new book "You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays" by Zora Neale Hurston, times change. Sometimes.

Throughout her career of nearly forty years, Zora Neale Hurston prodigiously wrote novels that resonate today. In this nonfiction book, readers get a taste of



the other side of Hurston's career: her journalism, essay-writing, and a reflection of the times in which she lived.

In the essay "High John de Conquer," she offers "some help to our brothers and sisters who have al-

ways been white" by introducing them to a man who "romps... clowns, and looks ridiculous" and then disappears. John de Conquer is a scamp and a "mystery," but he also offers hope and "the secret of Negro song and laughter."

If you ever imagined what it was like to have been captured and sold into slavery, "The Last Slave Ship" is Hurston's interview with Cudgo Lewis, the last survivor of the Clotilda. Lewis told Hurston about a rivalry between villages, his capture, the cruelty of the Dahomey king, and the eradication of an entire tribe of people.

Here, Hurston writes of

novelist Fanny Hurst, encouraging readers to sample Hurst's work. She mourns that white publishers of her time were reluctant to offer more diverse works because they believed that "the average American just cannot conceive of it." She writes first with pride about attending Howard University, then about what led to her disillusionment and why she called Negro colleges "Begging Joints."

She writes about noses and charm, being "a little colored girl," and of having no race. With barely simmering anger, she reveals her "Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience." And she reports on the lengthy

trial of Ruby McCollum, an experience that left Hurston in a dream "of fog and mist..."

For sure, "You Don't Know Us Negroes" isn't a book to take – or read – lightly.

From the beginning of the introduction to the very last words on McCollum, this book demands that readers stop and think about what's been said. It's natural that you would anyhow: much of what author Zora Neale Hurston observed in her day is still relevant now; Hurston died on the very cusp of the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, and so racism and race issues feature highly in the

works inside this book.

What's unexpected – and very delightful – is Hurston's voice. Some of these stories ring with a wonderful sense of sarcasm that tells you everything you need to know about Hurston's mind-set. Some tales ache with frustration. Others spark like lightning in a jar.

This is a carry-it-everywhere-with-you kind of book, perfect for times when you need some introspection as diversion. "You Don't Know Us Negroes" is like that, and that's just the way it is. "You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays" can be found on store shelves January 18.

## MLK, from Page 1

right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, then how can we in good conscience allow for a situation in which the Republican Party can debate and pass voter suppression laws at the State level with only a simple majority vote, but not allow the United States Senate to do the same? We must adapt," Sen. Schumer demanded.

"The Senate must evolve like it has many times before. The Senate was designed to evolve and has evolved many times in our

history."

Sen. Schumer continued: "The fight for the ballot is as old as the Republic. Over the coming weeks, the Senate will once again consider how to perfect this union and confront the historic challenges facing our democracy. We hope our Republican colleagues change course and work with us. But if they do not, the Senate will debate and consider changes to Senate rules on or before January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to protect the founda-

tion of our democracy: free and fair elections."

Meanwhile, King III insisted that President Biden and members of Congress use the same energy and force they mustered in 2021 to pass the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill.

"You delivered for bridges, now deliver for voting rights," King III asserted.

Reportedly, the King family plans to join local groups in a rally in Phoenix on January 15, the date of King's birthday,

"[We wish] to restore and expand voting rights to honor Dr. King's legacy,"

the family wrote in a statement.

Further, the family and others plan to march across the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge in Washington, DC.

They also plan to hold

a rally and march across a bridge in Phoenix, reportedly to draw a comparison to the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, for voting rights for African Americans.

"The Senate must pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and ensure the Jim Crow filibuster doesn't stand in the way," the King family stated.



## 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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