



North Dallas Gazette

"Most respected Voice of the Minority Community"

Visit us online at www.northdallasgazette.com

Voter Discrimination: The posthumous battle of John Lewis

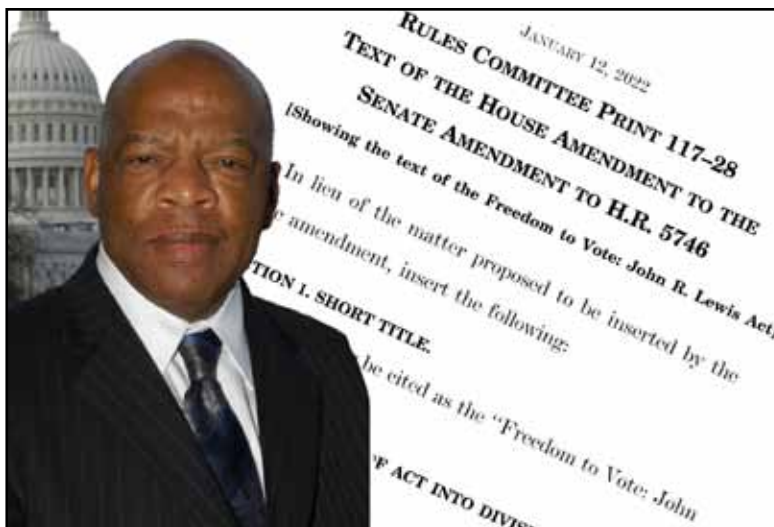
By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

John Lewis is no longer with us that he may offer a pound of flesh, like a young Lewis did on Bloody Sunday, to preserve and make whole the most critical piece of our American democracy—a citizen's right to vote unabated. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is a measure that seeks to give teeth to the government's ability to respond to contemporary voting discrimination.

So why, then, is there such great debate over the passing of the Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act?

The one hundred years following emancipation and Reconstruction saw Blacks as that one enumerated group that was affected the most by voter discrimination. So, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 Act sought specifically to undo the wrongs perpetrated against Black voters—and to directly address those states that were the chief prognosticators of that wrongdoing.

The right to vote unabated is where the blurred line between voters' rights and a state's right to alter



John Lewis was a legendary figure in the progression of civil rights in the African American community. Today, a battle is brewing over voting rights in legislation bearing his name. (Composition: David Wilfong / NDG)

those rights collide. The contention hovers around one's inalienable rights under the constitution. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments protect every person's right to due process of law and person's right to vote unabridged or be denied due to "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The Tenth Amendment reserves all rights not granted to the federal government to the individual states; and Article Four of the Constitution guarantees the right of self-government for

each state, thereby creating a loophole. That meant that states that might seek to hinder voter rights could change voting procedures as they see fit. The Act of 1965 sought to close that legal loophole.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to combat the discrimination Blacks were experiencing at the ballot box. Section 5 of the 1965 Act restricts "eligible" voting districts from making changes to

See MLK, Page 16



**We can't wait
for voting
legislation**

- See Page 3



**NBA owner
supports health
research**

- See Page 3



**Ben Crump
makes TIME
Top 100 list**

- See Page 5



**Into a New
Year in DISD
District 6**

- See Page 6



**Grand Opening
for Pelindaba
Lavender Dallas**

- See Page 8



**Cowboys'
season ends
abruptly**

- See Page 9



**Denzel takes
on a timeless
classic tale**

- See Page 10



**Sister Tarpley:
Famouse
MLK quotes**

- See Page 15

Inside...

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



**Scan to go to:
The NDGLive
YouTube
Channel
(and SUBSCRIBE)**

By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

For the latest news and events in DFW, follow us online:
www.northdallasgazette.com

People In The News ...



Bill Johnson



Robert F. Smith

NDG Quote of the Week: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we see."

—Barack Obama

Bill Johnson

By Frances Y. Spencer
The Drum Newspaper

Zindy Laursen's parents, a Danish go-go dancer and a Louisiana GI headed to Vietnam, met more than 50 years ago in Australia. Armed with only that tiny bit of information, the Danish pop singer and actress embarked on a 30-year journey to find her father. Her quest ends at the Baker home of a retired policeman who marked Christmas 2021 with the gift of a newfound daughter.

Bill Johnson has held



many titles in more than 50 years of public service including GI, soldier, and police captain. This Christmas, "dad" is a new title, and the Zachary native is ecstatic to begin a new role

as a father. "I found somebody in my life that was like me," he said. "I just enjoyed the first time we talked, and I looked at the pictures. I said, 'wow, my God, look at her cheeks.' Then the brown eyes floored me. I said, 'well, that's, that's got to be my daughter.'"

The talk of a family reunion is the end of a long journey that began in 1969. Stars and Stripes, the U.S. military news organization, introduced the world to Laursen's quest in an article published in September 2021. The article, "Danish pop star hopes

DNA will lead to father she suspects is a Vietnam War vet," documented how Laursen's mother was a go-go dancer in Sydney and met U.S. service members on leave from their units in Vietnam. Laursen's mother moved back to Denmark, but Laursen said she grew up eager to find out about her father, a "mysterious person that her mom met dancing, like something out of a movie."

The singer-actress, known in Denmark and Europe as "Zindy," grew up in a fishing town with her mother, brother, and her Ghanian-born stepdad who

died when she was 16. "We were living in a predominantly white area, and I got teased a lot, so, I felt really out of place," she recalled. "I didn't know where I belonged because I was getting teased in school every day."

Her unique heritage became a motivating factor when she saw Prince perform for the first time. He was a total package – he could play the piano, he could sing and dance, and he seemed to have a biracial heritage. "I could identify myself with him," Laursen said. "We lived in an area that was really poor but

there was this little place where there was a piano, and I went down to ask the super if I could go in there and play the piano because it seemed like something Prince would do, and I was inspired."

Her music career started a few years later when she was second runner up in a singing competition similar to American Idol. She signed a record deal with EMI and became the lead singer of a group called Cut 'N' Move. After performing all over Europe and

See JOHNSON, Page 11

Robert F. Smith

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Today we are witnessing an increased spirit of giving to help underserved communities across the United States. The Black Press of America acknowledges and takes public note of both the responsibilities and the opportunities for corporate leaders to be "Thy Sisters and Brothers Keepers." Good social corporate responsibility matters.

This is particularly true in communities of color, which continue to be mired in poverty and insufficient



access to transformative economic improvement opportunities. One of the key indicators of economic advancement and sustainability in today's global marketplace is the extent to which effective community-based

organizations have access to equity funding and high-tech innovations.

With 2021 behind us and preparations and commitments now being made for 2022, we are revisiting the progress accomplished by a leading African American entrepreneur and corporate leader, Robert F. Smith, who is helping to increase racial equity funding and bridge the digital divide in six southern cities where a large percentage of African Americans now reside: Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Houston, New Orleans and Charlotte.

Earlier last year, we high-

lighted the game-changing initiative that, along with PayPal CEO Dan Schulman, and BCG CEO Rich Lesser launched called the Southern Communities Initiative. This initiative is "A catalytic effort to coordinate and accelerate racial equity funding, programming, and convening organizations in six southern communities that are home to approximately 50% of the African American population."

According to informa-

tion recently posted on Smith's dedicated website, we were pleased to learn that the Southern Communities Initiative already has identified, embraced and activated the following local leadership appointments and activations in those six states.

There are four racial equity pillars for the initiative: Wealth Creation – Supporting Black-owned business growth and access to capital; Housing – Providing

access to resources that enable home ownership at fair rates and terms; Education / Workforce Development – Creating advancement opportunities via formal education/skills training for minorities; and Health Equity – Eliminating health disparities through equal access to quality, affordable healthcare.

There are also two racial equity enablers that are part

See SMITH Page 6

Mumia Abu-Jamal

PHILADELPHIA – Human rights and community activists from throughout the world have been organizing online and in-person events to mark the last month's 40-year anniversary of the unjust arrest of Mumia Abu-Jamal, award-winning Philadelphia journalist, radio personality and former Black Panther.

Abu-Jamal was arrested, convicted and unjustly imprisoned as the result of judicial, police and prosecutorial misconduct for allegedly killing a Philadelphia policeman -- a crime he didn't commit. Supporters worldwide assert that Abu-Jamal was framed, is



innocent and continue to fight for his release, even after four decades.

An online forum entitled, "Free Mumia now!" (<https://t.co/1eqT4x2F80>) recently featured Temple University Professor Linn Washington, Jr., former political prisoner Jalil

Muntaqim, Warrior Woman Mama Pam Africa, retired International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10 Secretary Treasurer Clarence Thomas, longtime international supporters Julia Wright and Jacky Hortaut from France, Michael Shiffman from Germany and poet/author Ewuare Osayande. Special panels featured international and youth activists for Mumia.

On December 11, community activists gathered at the Octavius V. Catto Statue on the south side of Philadelphia City Hall for a "March for Mumia" through Center City featuring speakers.

See ABU-JAMAL Page 4

“We All Must Go Home To Glory”

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

Homegoings should reflect on your life and legacy.

It Is Smart To Call ... COMBINED BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

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

Vickie Richardson-Steward
President / Licensed Agent

Call Today For a No-Obligation Quote
214-238-6855
Website: www.cbsolutionsplus.com



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

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

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

Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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

editor@northdallasgazette.com

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

Allen R. Gray

Published by

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy

Lori Lee

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

David Wilfong

Interim Editor

David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

Senior Account Executive

Nadina Davis

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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

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

No matter the vote, we can't wait



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

By the time most of us read this, the United States Senate would have taken a vote on the Voting Rights Legislation that has been delayed for so long. While passage of the Voting Rights Act and the John Lewis Act would go a long way in nullifying the many Voter Suppression laws enacted during the past year in more than 28 states, we must all realize that this battle for the right to vote now rests with each and everyone of us.

We must now understand that the issue is not one of whether we will have a democracy. The real issue is will we become a nation of racists fighting to kill the continuation of a representative government that some of us think of as a democracy, or will we allow our future to rest with two individual members of the

Senate?

Will we allow citizenship suppression to become the symbol of democracy for those who truly believe that only a select few are to be counted in the limited and non-inclusive government that tramples on the rights

and re-register every person capable, of voting age, for the midterm elections which will take place this November 2022. We must check existing voter rolls for the names of all those who have been or are being "purged" for whatever

mittees to look at and examine those persons seeking to run for office at all levels and test whether they have campaign proposals that would weaken both elections and tamper with the people who handle such elections.

This would include laws against election workers, voting opportunities at the local and state level as well as a national commitment to ensure that those elected to the House and Senate will maintain the control of those bodies to meet our goals.

We can't wait to study the new electoral districts; we can't wait to find the right people to run for office or to start the fund raising that will be necessary to change the projected Republican outcome for November 2022. Now is the time to start both here and with our families, friends and neighbors across this country. We must prove that no laws can stop an idea whose time has come with the people the laws were intended to serve.

We must now register and re-register every person capable, of voting age, for the midterm elections which will take place this November 2022. We must check existing voter rolls for the names of all those who have been or are being "purged" for whatever reason.

of people of color and marginalized citizens.

Because the attack on voting rights is so aggressive and uniform, those of us in favor and support of voting rights legislation must act now and take this cause beyond the necessary votes needed to make the pending bills the law of the land.

We must now register

reason. We must find and re-register those individuals so that they can be in good standing to vote in November. We must conduct election drills just as Dr. King and those in the Civil Rights demonstrations prepared for each march before they went out to be attacked by dogs and high powered water hoses.

We must establish com-

Texas running out of paper? Voters running out of patience!

DALLAS -- State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) on Tuesday publicly questioned why the Texas Secretary of State's office is rationing voter registration applications less than two weeks before the Monday - January 31 deadline to register to vote in the March Primary Elections.

"Texas has a shortage of paper, and Texans should be short on patience," said Senator West.

"We all understand that supply chain issues exist because of COVID-19. However, the Secretary of State's Office has known since September 9, when Governor

Abbott signed Senate Bill 1, that legislative enactments - the bill's passage - would require the reprinting of all voter registration cards," Senator West continued.

Senator West said he finds it very hard to believe that the Secretary of State's Office has not been able to come up with a solution to the problem, given the months of lead time they had to address these issues.

"Now, they claim they don't have the paper or the money to print enough registration cards, and blame it on supply chain issues. The reality is they have had months to fix this, to find

suppliers, and make certain we would not have a shortage of voter registration applications," Senator West said.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator West cites a KUT Radio story that ran early Tuesday morning as the first he had heard of any need for additional funds for printing voter registration applications due to cost increases resulting from supply chain issues.

Senator West also noted that the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' website lists at least two paper mills or production plants within

Texas' \$2.1 billion paper industry that produce paper used in consumer printing, such as that required for voter registration cards.

"What's next?" asked Senator West. "The Legislature pushed to approve controversial, partisan, legislation that's already made it more difficult for people to register and vote. Now there's a paper shortage and a claimed shortage of funds is limiting the number of voter registration applications that can be produced and procured by the Texas Secretary of State. I ask again, 'what's next?'" said Senator West.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

www.northdallasgazette.com

Phoenix Suns owner Sarver's commitment to public health research

The Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research and ESPN have teamed up each year for 15 years to raise awareness and funding to support life-saving cancer research. Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver has remained a big supporter of the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research.

With the annual V Week, which concluded in December of 2021, top sports and corporate world leaders pledged to work together to increase funding to help defeat cancer in America.

Named after the late North Carolina State Basketball Coach Jimmy Valvano, the coaching legend was diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma, an aggressive form of cancer.

Today, the V Foundation has continued to work diligently to do more cancer research.

Despite his diagnosis, Jimmy V – as he was known – didn't go down without a fight.

He set a standard for battling that remains part of sports folklore.

At the inaugural ESPY Awards in 1993, Valvano received the Arthur Ashe Courage and Humanitarian Award.

Because of his courageous fight against cancer, Valvano remains the epitome of sports resiliency, determination, and over-achievement.



The University of Arizona's Sarver Heart Center has pursued life-saving innovations, research, and patient care. (Photo via NNPA)

The late North Carolina State coach, who led his team to an improbable national championship in 1983, inspired an entire country and coaches and players everywhere.

But more than anything else, Valvano, who died at the age of 46 on April 28, 1993, is known for never giving up.

The 2021 Jimmy V Week closed on December 12 at Madison Square Garden in New York with matchups between Tennessee vs. Texas Tech and Syracuse vs. Villanova.

"The mission – victory over cancer – is still as important as ever," Pam Valvano Stasser, Valvano's widow and mother of their three children, wrote in an op-ed.

While final numbers

aren't yet available for 2021, last year's Jimmy V Week for Cancer Research raised more than \$8.8 million for cancer research – a 6 percent year-over-year increase from 2019.

Sports fans, employees, leagues, and the corporate community contributed.

And, like many other social equity causes, the Phoenix Suns remains on the frontlines to ensure public health research and healthcare equity for all communities.

As one of the leading owners of a NBA team, Robert Sarver continues to promote health on the basketball court as well as off the court in communities where there are health disparities, in particular in communities of color. Sarver has also lived to

battle his own fight to challenge heart disease.

Sarver's father, Jack, passed away in 1979 at 58 after a battle with heart disease.

Since then, Sarver has partnered with the University of Arizona to create the Sarver Heart Center.

Sarver said his childhood memories of his father's valiant struggle still motivate him and his three sons to end the heritage of heart disease.

Founded in 1986, just three years after Valvano's Wolfpack defeated the mighty Houston Cougars to win the NAACP championship, the Sarver Heart Center began with the goal of preventing and curing cardiovascular disease through the three pillars of research, education, and patient care.

Renamed in 1998 in recognition of generous support from the Sarver family, the Center is composed of about 150 physicians and scientists with national and international reputations.

According to the information posted on the hospital's website, the goal is to bring together scien-

tists from complementary backgrounds and expertise to work collaboratively toward a future free of heart disease, vascular disease, and stroke.

The University of Arizona's Sarver Heart Center has pursued life-saving innovations, research, and patient care.

They've reported progress since the 1960s, when 40 percent of Americans died of cardiovascular dis-

ease. Today, that figure reportedly has decreased to 34 percent, and death from the illness now occurs at an older age.

While Jimmy V week 2021 recently closed, organizers said it'll certainly return in 2022 to help basketball fight for healthier communities, and the Sarver Heart Center continues to leave a transformative legacy on behalf of Jack Sarver.

CASH TODAY!!!

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



No Matter How Small

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

Email:
inquiries1909@gmail.com

ABU-JAMAL, from Page 2

Similar events were held in Houston, TX, France, Mexico, Vienna, Austria and Germany. Many of the judicial, police and prosecutorial misconducts that resulted in Abu-Jamal's conviction were the same illegal practices that led the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to exonerate

23 innocent men.

Abu-Jamal's health has deteriorated significantly over the years. He recently underwent open heart surgery, has had cataract surgery, and suffers from cirrhosis of the liver and a severe skin ailment. Independent doctors maintain he must be given a healthy,

fresh diet and a regular exercise regimen, which would support his cardiac rehabilitation and speed his recovery.

Now 67, Abu-Jamal is one of 6,000 aged and ill incarcerated people who have spent decades in prison, who pose no risk to society and should be released. Prison officials have refused to do this.

Have Land You Need To Sell?

We Buy Land
No Commissions. No Fees.

Get Your Fair Cash Offer!

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

CALL NOW
972-665-0170



Check us out on Facebook!

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



Manchin and Sinema kill any hopes for voting rights legislation

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Biden has whiffed in his attempts to persuade hold out Senate Democrats to go around or abolish the filibuster to get voting rights legislation through Congress.

The White House, led by the President, had engaged in a fiery campaign to push bills through that would protect voters against the cavalcade of suppression laws that have passed in Republican-led states in reaction to former President



"And the state legislative bodies continue to change the law not as to who can vote, but who gets to count the vote — count the vote," President Biden asserted. (Photo via NNPA)

Donald Trump's loss in the 2020 election.

Any hopes of getting legislation through was quashed when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Arizona), and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-West

Virginia) reiterated their refusal to change Senate rules so that the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act could pass.

The two renegade Demo-

crats pre-empted President Biden's visit to the Capitol in embarrassing fashion. Before he arrived, the duo took to the Senate floor to declare they would not support any changes to the filibuster under any circumstances.

Unless the President and other Democrats miraculously find at least two Republicans vote favorably for changing the rules and cast ballots in favor of voting rights legislation, the push to blunt suppression through lawmakers will have died.

President Biden and ad-

ministration officials had declared to get the bills passed by any means necessary.

"Like every other major civil rights bill that came along, if we miss the first time, we come back and try it a second time," President Biden offered. "We missed this time."

In a conciliatory tone, the President described the harm that anti-voting laws may cause.

"And the state legislative bodies continue to change the law not as to who can vote, but who gets to count the vote — count the vote,"

President Biden asserted. "It's about election subversion, not just whether or not people get to vote. Who counts the vote? That's what this is about. That's what makes this so different than anything else we've ever done."

He continued:

"I don't know that we can get it done, but I know one thing: As long as I have a breath in me, as long as I'm in the White House, as long as I'm engaged at all, I'm going to be fighting to change the way these legislatures have [been] moving."

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump named to *TIME* Magazine's 100 most influential people list for 2021

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

TIME named nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump to the 2021 *TIME*100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, making him the only personal injury trial lawyer to make the list.

Crump has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social and racial justice.

In addition to working on some of the most high-profile cases in the U.S., representing the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, and Michael Brown, Crump has fought for justice for the residents of Flint, Michigan, who were affected by poisoned water;



The list, now in its eighteenth year, recognizes the impact, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals. (Photo via NNPA)

Black women with ovarian cancer targeted by Johnson & Johnson to use talc products; and people who experienced discriminatory practices — "banking while Black" — by some of the nation's largest banks.

He is the founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law.

"Ben Crump transcends and transforms the traditional role of a lawyer," said U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters.

"He is not only having an impact on the culture

both inside and outside the courtroom, but his advocacy is influencing corporate boardrooms and the highest levels of government."

Crump has been nationally recognized as the 2014 NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers, Ebony Magazine Power 100 Most Influential African Americans, and has been referred to as "Black America's Attorney General."

His book, published in

October 2019, *Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People*, documents how America is killing Black people, whether with a bullet or a lengthy prison sentence, and justifying it legally.

"It's an honor to be recognized this way and to use any influence I have to bring about greater racial justice for all Americans," Crump said.

"I am deeply grateful to every single person who has raised a voice to elevate our cries for equality, and I will continue to use any influence I have to make our laws, our justice system, and corporate America more just and free of systemic racism."

He released a video with the family members of people killed by police, urging supporters to call their senators.

"Ben is shining a light on

racial injustice everywhere it exists," said Rev. Al Sharpton, who has called him Black America's attorney general.

"He is changing hearts and minds, practices and

precedents, laws and lives."

The list, now in its eighteenth year, recognizes the impact, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals.

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.

Common Cause Texas calls for online voter registration

Earlier today, the Texas Secretary of State announced its office will provide fewer voter registration forms to eligible voters, blaming a lack of paper supply. The paper form is the only method available to voters needing to register to vote or update their voting preferences.

That's because Texas is one of eight states that do not offer online voter registration.

Statement of Anthony Gutierrez, Common Cause Texas Executive Director

The role of government is to solve problems—not create them—but that's exactly what the Texas Sec-

retary of State's office has done.

Today's news is the result of a state government run by people intent on making it as hard as possible to vote in Texas and have a say in the decisions that impact our lives.

For years, Common Cause Texas has pushed

for online voter registration that would save taxpayer money, make it easier to register and vote, and eliminate the dependence on paper forms. In fact, 42 other states already offer voters the opportunity to register online—right from their

See VOTER, Page 7

Wishing You All a Wonderful New Year!



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

A Big Win for Cowboys Basketball

Congratulations to Coach Lyndon Love and the Carter Cowboys boys basketball team for winning the 81st Annual Dallas ISD Holiday Invitational tournament. Go, team, and good luck at state! Kudos to Devin Lewis for being named the MVP of the invitational tournament.

Carter High Community Conversation Rescheduled

Due to the rise in COVID cases, the superintendent's community conversation and dialogue scheduled for Carter High School has been rescheduled to March



Carter High School boys basketball team, after their tournament victory. (Courtesy photo)

30. The meeting will feature a presentation by the superintendent and time for questions and answers. The session for staff will take place at 5-6 p.m. and the sessions for parents and community members is scheduled for 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Young Orators Make Us Proud

I always look forward to the month of January, for two primary reasons: It's a new beginning and another chance to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As you may know, this

year marks Dallas ISD's 30th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition. And two young orators from District 6 made it to this year's final competition. They are Zihair Douglas, a fourth grader from T.L. Marsalis Elementary School, and Dani-

ella Goffney-Mitchell, a fourth grader from Thomas Tolbert Elementary.

We are so proud of them and all the participants, who penned their speeches on the topic: "How would Dr. King assess our progress in achieving his vision for America."

Dallas ISD Has Lowest Teacher Turnover Rate in DFW

According to the Texas Education Agency in its annual report published in December, Dallas ISD retained teachers at a higher rate than the state and Region 10 districts. Dallas ISD also had the lowest turnover rate among other school systems in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This is a direct result of the district's initiatives to retain and recruit the best staff for our students. Our teachers give it their all

every day, and we appreciate them.

Safety First

Dallas ISD remains committed to following established safety measures: requiring masks, practicing social distancing, continuing cleaning and hygiene efforts and frequent testing. The district will reassess its mask mandate at spring break. Please stay safe, follow the protocols, and stay at home and consult a health care provider if you are ill.

STEM Expo

Join us Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, for the largest STEM Expo in Texas! The annual event will be a digital experience to bring our community together to explore, design, build and create a brighter future. For more information, you can visit www.dallasisd.org/stem-expo.

Help for kids who stutter is as close as your local library

Kids who stutter have a lot to say, and friends can show them how in Stuttering: For Kids By Kids, a DVD in English and Spanish starring kids who stutter, available at most public libraries or through interlibrary loan.

Many children who stutter have never met others who struggle with the same disability.

In this DVD from the Stuttering Foundation, they meet kids who recount how they handle challenges such as teasing, speaking out in class, and teaching others about stuttering.

Swish, a lively and en-



Ismail Salad Osman Hajji / Unsplash

gaging animated basketball character designed by students at Purdue University,

narrates the DVD.

The children, who range in age from first-graders to

high school students, offer frank and sometimes differing views of stuttering.

For example, Matthew, age 10, says about his speech difficulties, "It's no big deal;" but Kate, age 9, worries about talking, what is going to happen next and whether or not she'll stutter.

Arianne, age 14, says, "The hardest part about stuttering is to get through it and to stay in

there when you're stuck."

Umang, age 12, agrees, "Sometimes it gets kind of annoying when you want to say something and you can't. I also get worried

what other people might think if I do stutter and wonder if I'll be able to get out of my blocks and things."

"All those interested in helping kids learn more about stuttering will want to see this tape," said speech-language pathologist Bill Murphy of Purdue University. "The children featured are a perfect example of how to openly and honestly handle stuttering."

"This is an important tool for families and teachers of kids who stutter," added Jane Fraser,

president of the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation.

Other professionals and specialists in stuttering in this production include Kristin Chmela of Northwestern University, Joe Donaher of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Lisa Scott of Florida State University, and Lee Caggiano of Friends.

The 74-year-old nonprofit foundation has provided free materials to public libraries nationwide. A library that will shelve them can download a request form at

<http://www.stuttering-help.org/libraries-information>

SMITH, from Page 2

of the initiative: Digital Access – providing access and adoption of affordable high-speed internet solutions for low-income and minority households; and Physical Infrastructure – providing access to affordable, reliable real-estate and civil infrastructure to support minority families and businesses.

In each of the six states, there is a well-known community servant and leader who has been designated as the "Community Lead" of the Southern Communities Initiative. In Atlanta, The Reverend Dr. Bernice King, Chief Executive Officer at The King Center, is the Lead. In Houston, the Lead is LaTanya Flix, Se-

nior Vice President, DEI at Greater Houston Partnership. In Memphis, there is Sarah Lockridge-Steckel, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder at The Collective Blueprint, while the Lead in Charlotte, NC is Janet LaBar, President & CEO at Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. In Birmingham, the Lead is J.W. Carpenter, Executive Director at Prosper Birmingham,

and in New Orleans, it is Judy Morse, President & CEO at Urban League of Louisiana.

The philanthropy and corporate leadership of Robert F. Smith is appreciated by numerous recipients, and Smith should be applauded for helping make a difference and providing hope to millions of people in underserved communities. The issues of economic equity and

racial justice are still critical for the future of the nation.

Yet, the contributions of Smith and others appear to be gaining support because as of today more than 70 major corporate entities have now endorsed the Southern Communities Initiative.

The truth is there can be no real racial justice without the reality of sustainable racial equity and economic

advancement of communities of color. We, therefore, without hesitation salute Robert F. Smith.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations across the U.S. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

Irving announces winners of 2022 MLK essay competition

Every year, part of the City of Irving's Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance event invites Irving students from grades 3-12 to enter an essay contest. This year, writers were challenged to submit an essay written with the theme, "Reaching the Mountain Top."

One winner was chosen from each of the three categories; grades 3-5, grades

6-8, and grades 9-12.

The 2022 winners are:

- Ian Oommen, 4th grader at Great Hearts Irving.
- Iha Jadhav, 6th grader from Coppell Middle School East.
- Jobin Shibu, 9th grader from Jack E. Singley Academy.

A judging panel comprised of city employees read through dozens of extremely well-written and

articulate essays. On behalf of the City of Irving's Parks and Recreation Department and the City's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, thank you to every student who submitted an essay.

The MLK Essay Contest occurs annually. Parents and students are encouraged to enter the 2023 contest and can expect the submission period to begin mid to late December 2022.



Registration open for Carrollton's 6th annual Run for Rover

Avid runners and walkers, mark your calendars. The City of Carrollton will host the furriest 5K benefiting four-legged friends in the sixth Annual Run for Rover race on Saturday, February 26 at 9 a.m.

Sign up for a dog-friendly race supporting the Carrollton Animal Services & Adoption Center. The City is excited to offer this race to runners or walkers and includes the option to bring along a leashed dog for the extra exercise and outdoor companionship. Come to run, walk, or cheer as these competitors dash to the fin-

ish line. All proceeds go to the animals at the Adoption Center.

The race will start at McInnish Dog Park (1845 Legends Trail) and will route through the adjacent sports complex for a full 5K. For participants who want to enjoy a leisurely morning stroll, a 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk course will be available. A dog is not needed to participate in either route, but individuals looking for their next furr-ever friend can swing by the Adoption Center (2247 Sandy Lake Road) that is right next door.

"Run for Rover will simultaneously raise money for a great cause and provide families and dogs in the community with an opportunity to have fun together being active," Parks & Recreation Director Scott Whitaker said.

This event aims to continually build awareness and resources for the animals in Carrollton. The City advocates responsible pet ownership and encourages those who can to pro-

vide homes to the animals.

"Fundraisers like Run for Rover play an integral role in the City's efforts to save the animals in Carrollton's care and place them in happy and healthy homes," Animal Services Manager Travis Caperton said. "Participation in the event creates opportunities for animals to become family pets that they may not get otherwise."

Preregister by Tuesday, February 22 to receive the

\$35 rate for the 5K or Fun Run/Walk. The price increases to \$45 on race day. Preregistration guarantees a race T-shirt and a race bag. 5K participants will also receive a timing chip. Any changes made to a registration after February 22 will incur a \$5 change fee. There is no fee for four-legged companions, running or walking.

Packet pick-up will be Friday, February 25 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Rose-

meade Recreation Center (1330 E. Rosemeade Parkway).

Awards for the 5K will be given to overall male and female winners, and medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age category (5-10, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+).

There also will be plenty of playtime, treats, giveaways, and water after the run.

VOTER, from Page 5

own living room.

So let's be clear, this is not about a paper shortage—it's about voter suppression.

The Governor repeatedly touts Texas as the "new tech mecca" when his own elections office comes to a grinding halt without a steady supply of paper. He says we're "the undisputed capital of digital and tech" when we are one of eight states that can't offer voters access to online voter registration.

The people of Texas expect our government to work as hard we do and to be as innovative as we are. A lack of paper should not keep voters from casting a ballot or having their vote fairly counted.

This is a problem that's

easily solvable. We ask that the state immediately take steps to fix this problem that they have manufactured.

It's time for the state of Texas to join the 21st century, and the rest of the country, and provide online voter registration to every eligible voter in Texas.

To read this statement online, click here.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and empower all people to make their voices heard in the political process.

COMMUNITY HOME EQUITY LOANS¹

NDBT

MORTGAGE DIVISION

A home equity loan allows you to borrow against the equity in your house, providing an excellent source of financing for things like repairs, remodeling and other personal expenses, with potential tax deductibility² of interest payments.

Contact us to learn more!

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

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

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





Pelindaba Lavender Dallas holds Grand Opening event

Pelindaba Lavender Dallas is located at Galleria Dallas, a premier destination for shopping, dining, culture, and entertainment, and recently held their Grand Opening celebration.

The unique all-lavender retail experience is avail-

able here, offering a wide array of lavender-based products for personal care, home use, kitchen and even therapy products.

Pelindaba Lavender Dallas is located at 13350 Dallas Parkway and the phone number is (214) 613-6619.



Courtesy photos by Dewayne Gibson

A preview of the 2022 Range Rover: New levels of emotional engagement

By Kimatni D. Rawlins
Automotive Rhythms

The opulent and mechanically-savvy Range Rover (RR) is the consummate SUV for connoisseurs of the finer things in life, from travel to housing to automotive. Over the past 50 years, Land Rover has asserted its dominance in the US marketplace while appealing the minds and souls of its loyal consumer base. Spend a few moments in the neighborhood of Hollywood Hills, for example, and you will see the omnipresent vehicle dominate every block. A Range Rover is not just a means of driving pleasure, but a representation and symbolism of your achievements which should always be celebrated.

To introduce the 2022 Range Rover luxury SUV, Land Rover held an exclusive gathering at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Hollywood, CA where executives, including Chief Creative Officer Gerry McGovern, presented the 5th generation model to the media, enthusiasts, and lifestyle influencers. Fans will be happy to hear about the addition of a three-row, 7-passenger variant as well



To introduce the 2022 Range Rover luxury SUV, Land Rover held an exclusive gathering at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Hollywood, CA where executives, including Chief Creative Officer Gerry McGovern, presented the 5th generation model to the media, enthusiasts, and lifestyle influencers. (Photo via NNPA)

as the opulent SV Serenity LWB (Long Wheelbase) edition that feels Queen and Kingly when seated in the rear. In 2024, a pure-electric Range Rover will add to the current 4.4-liter twin-turbocharged stalwart V8 engine distributing 523-horsepower and 553 lb.-ft. of torque. Dynamic Launch provides a 0-60 mph time of 4.4 seconds.

"The New Range Rover is a vehicle with a peerless character, from the impeccable restraint of its exterior to the flawless tranquil sanctuary of its cabin," stated Prof Gerry McGovern OBE, Chief Creative Officer, Jaguar Land Rover. "Informed by creative intellect and a desire for per-

fection, it doesn't follow fashion or trend, but by a modernist design philosophy, combined with over 50 years of evolution, it is quite simply the most desirable Range Rover ever created."

The 5th generation Range Rover is ripe with refinement and presents sophisticated engineering innovation and aspirational design techniques both externally and inside the exquisite cabin. Moreover, the RR is the best-selling luxury vehicle model over \$100,000. However, the British SUV has also been problematic from a quality control standpoint, so hopefully, the reinvention addresses the concerns of prior gen-

erations. Software-Over-The-Air (SOTA) updates for the 70 electronic modules could be the solution, but only time will tell. If so, technical supremacy from Land Rover will prove to be worthy at this inflection point of creative significance.

During the business presentation, Land Rover stated that one of the goals is to connect with consumers on a desirable level and delve into their consciousness to understand focal points of decision-making. Do I desire it? Does it do what it is supposed to do? Is it reflective?

To ascertain objectives were met, a key differentiator for Land Rover was introduced under the designation "modernism." This equates to margins free from excess and limitations. The formula provides a clean and reductive design flow. The vehicle now presents flush extremities such as the door handles and a decrease in lines for a cleaner flow. Additionally, its outline is more aerodynamic and resembles an electric vehicle with a futuristic interpretation of the traditional Range Rover.

Other highlights include vertical taillamps hidden

in Gloss Black when not in use and light up as Vivid Red LEDs when operational. Digital LED headlights can blank out reflections while focusing on 16 objects simultaneously. Unique hues and two-tone front-to-rear contrasting colorways (SV) will make your vehicle pop and stand out from the crowd.

As well, the body architecture is up to 50% stiffer thanks to MLA-Flex technology.

We all know that luxury SUV owners rarely take their precious gems off-road, but it's a tradition for Land Rover's fleet, including the New Range Rover. With Terrain Response 2 and six driving modes, the RR can still cruise through water and rise 5.7" over standard ride height through the all-new Electric Air Suspension with Bilstein monotube dampers. Intelligent All-Wheel Drive and standard All-Wheel Steering provide optimum grip and a turning radius comparable to compact vehicles. Lastly, a Dynamic Response Pro and pre-emptive suspension and eHorizon Navigation data analyze the road ahead and prepare the SUV to respond accordingly.

Open up the Power-Assisted Doors for a warm presentation of intelligence, purity, and relaxing ambiances. Unique materials and premium textiles feature smooth ceramics like the gear shifter, intricate mosaic marquetry, lustrous plated metals, soft near-aniline leather, as well as sustainable non-leather Ultrafabrics and Kvadra wool-blend. A new 13.1" curved, floating touchscreen with haptic feedback and Pivi Pro Infotainment take center stage with 90% of all functions just two touches away. Previously, it was utter confusion trying to navigate through the menus. Additional conveniences come in the form of a built-in Amazon Alexa system with instinctual verbal commands for music, navigation, smart home devices, etc., 1,600-watt Meridian Signature Sound System,

Handcrafted by Special Vehicle Operations, the specifically curated SV Serenity and SV Intrepid design themes amplify an already highly desirable vehicle. Priced from \$104,000 in the US, the New Range Rover is available to order now. Expect deliveries to begin in spring 2022.

Cowboys playoff hopes end in first round showdown with 49ers

By Dwain Price
NDG Sports

ARLINGTON -- A very sloppy performance on the Dallas Cowboys' part was the backdrop on a wild and crazy day that prematurely ended their season as they dropped a wild card playoff game to the San Francisco 49ers, 23-17, on Sunday afternoon at AT&T Stadium.

But the season for the Cowboys didn't go up in flames without controversy.

The Cowboys had the ball at the Niners' 41-yard line with 14 seconds remaining and no timeouts. However, instead of trying one of those Roger Staubach to Drew Pearson Hail Mary passes similar to the one that beat the Minnesota Vikings in a 1975 playoff game, quarterback Dak Prescott inexplicably ran 17 yards on a quarterback draw to the San Francisco 24.

With no ability to stop the clock, the Cowboys rushed to the line of scrimmage, but couldn't get the play off in time before the game clock expired. More importantly, they couldn't get the ball to umpire Ramon George -- he must officially spot the ball -- before time ran out.

Afterwards, coach Mike McCarthy defended his decision to bypass a Hail Mary pass for the play that abruptly ended the Cowboys' season.

"You want to be running the Hail Mary play from the 50-yard line or you want to be running five verticals from the 25-yard line?" McCarthy rhetorically asked. "So that's the decision -- it's the right decision."

"The execution between us and the officiating spotting the ball obviously wasn't in-tune. We shouldn't have had any problems getting the ball spotted there."

That play was a heart-breaker for a Cowboys' team who thought they had all the tools that it takes to punch their ticket to this year's Super Bowl. Instead, the Cowboys were denied. Again.



Keith Allison / Flickr

"We were trying to get some more yards so that we could clock (the ball) and then take a shot to the end zone," wide receiver Amari Cooper said. "It's just that, from what I could see, (George) couldn't really keep up."

"So we couldn't get that last play off. We practice those situations all the time and we thought that we had time. Like I said, from my vantage point, it seemed that (George) was too slow."

Interviewed by a pool reporter after the game, referee Alex Kemp said George "spotted the ball properly" and was "absolutely" in a reasonable length of space from where the play was. Kemp also said he and the rest of the officiating crew discussed the controversial play before ending the game, and never heard from the in-house replay team.

And on George colliding with Prescott and center Tyler Biadasz -- causing precious seconds to tick away -- before spotting the ball, Kemp said the collision didn't precipitate a change in anyone's mind that the game should have been extended at least one more play.

"The umpire was simply spotting the ball properly," Kemp said. "He collided with (Prescott and Biadasz) as he was setting the ball because he was moving it to the proper spot."

The Cowboys were obviously livid!

"That's something that we practice and, as I said, I felt like we pretty much executed the way we needed to other than the stuff we can't control," Prescott said. "I take a lot of pride in

my job and I take accountability in this loss."

"I've got to be better well before that last play. But in just certain situations in the game, certain plays in the game, I've got to be better to help this team win and overcome some of the things that we put ourselves into."

The final play underscored the fact that the Cowboys were clearly outplayed for the better part of three quarters, and couldn't stop the Niners' run game as SF finished with 169 yards rushing on 38 carries. The unfortunate ending climaxed a very sloppy day by the Cowboys, who committed a whopping 14 penalties with many of them crippling their scoring drives or extending drives for the 49ers.

The 14 penalties tied the Cowboys' franchise record for penalties in a postseason game.

"I don't think you can explain it," said running back Ezekiel Elliott, who rushed for only 31 yards on 12 carries. "I think you just have to find a way to go play more disciplined football."

On the sudden end to the season, Elliott said: "It hurts. All of us are hurting. I'm so proud of this team. It's such a strong brotherhood."

"It's such a family. We just have to rally around each other."

Down 23-7 after Deebo Samuel darted 26 yards for a touchdown with 5:50 left in the third quarter, the Cowboys got a 51-yard field goal from Greg Zuerlein to inch within 23-10 of San Francisco with 11:53 remaining in the game. Then a little over two minutes later, Anthony

Brown intercepted a Jimmy Garoppolo pass and ran it back 23 yards to the SF 28.

That directly led to a 5-yard TD scamper by Prescott that energized the Cowboys and had them only trailing, 23-17, with 8:02 left in the game. Then came a crucial holding penalty by defensive tackle Neville Gallimore on third down that would have given the Cowboys the ball back with about four minutes left in the game.

A short time after that was the memorable last play of the game which Cowboys fans will never forget.

"This is extremely, extremely disappointing, and surprising that we didn't win this first playoff game for me and for our fans," owner Jerry Jones said. "They really deserved to see this team advance on into the playoffs."

When asked if he's surprised that the season is over, rookie linebacker Micah Parsons said: "Yeah, I am surprised, but every week I'm learning this is

the NFL.

"You never know what can happen, you never know who's going to show up. You never know what adversities you can face, and (Sunday) we faced a lot of adversity and we just couldn't overcome it."

Elijah Mitchell raced four yards and Robbie Gould booted field goals covering 53 and 40 yards as the 49ers took a 13-0 lead with 9:40 remaining before halftime. Prescott, who completed just 23-of-43 passes for 254 yards, found Cooper for a 20-yard scoring strike to get the Cowboys within 13-7 of SF with 5:19 left in the first half.

Gould, however, booted a 52-yard field goal a little over two minutes later and the Niners took a 16-7 lead at the half. Later on, K'Waun Williams intercepted a Prescott pass which led to the TD by Samuel that gave the Niners that 23-7 lead.

As for what he told his players after the game, McCarthy said: "It was abrupt,

such an abrupt finish. We clearly felt this was the challenge that we needed to, that we were going to be able to move on from here. I just shared my personal feelings to them."

Some of the fans shared their personal feelings as they tossed debris onto the field, prompting defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence to say: "That (stuff) was aimed at the refs. That wasn't aimed at me. It's got nothing to do with me."

"I went out there. I played my (rear end) off. I played my heart out. We didn't come out with the results that we wanted. It is what it is."

And what it won't be for the Cowboys is a trip to this year's Super Bowl.

"It's tough," Parsons said. "For myself, I'm emotional because I grew a bond with these guys."

"It's real emotional now. I think nobody wanted this outcome and everybody really played to win. We just got to clean things up for next year."

DOING THE RIGHT THING

The time is always right to do what is right." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve our community's abused and neglected children living in foster care.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION:

Thursday, Jan 27 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Thursday, Feb 10 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb 3 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Thursday, Feb 17 6:00–7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for this event, please visit dallascasa.org

Denzel Washington offers a new take on a timeless classic

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

The Tragedy of Macbeth was theatrically released nationwide in 2021 and is now streaming on AppleTV+. Watch this work of art on a TV screen and you'll likely agree that last year's "Best Film" is this year's masterpiece.

Joel Coen (O, Brother, Where Art Thou) has created a magnus opus that sets a high bar few other films vying for annual awards will ever reach. He reinterprets one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, Macbeth, keeping the most pivotal parts and accentuating subplots and characters at will. Some potential viewers may have forgotten the crux of the plotting, but not the most famous lines: "Double, double toil and



Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand in *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. (Courtesy of Apple & A24)

trouble;" "What's done cannot be undone."

Scottish general Macbeth (Denzel Washington) is warned by three witches (Kathryn Hunter) that someday he'll be king. Heeding that prophecy and egged on by his ambitious wife Lady Macbeth (Frances McDormand), the impatient officer kills the current king, becomes the new

ruler and murders more people during his uncontrollable fits of paranoia. A rebellion erupts, aiming to overthrow him. Themes of greed, deception and ruthlessness mirror the U.S.'s recent political spectrum and should enthrall audiences with its timeliness.

This dra/his/thr is shot in stunning black and white (cinematographer Bruno

Delbonnel, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince) with the most arresting production design (Stefan Dechant, Avatar), art direction (Jason T. Clark, Black Panther), set decoration (Nancy Haigh, Barton Fink) and regal costumes (Mary Zophres, La La Land). Haunting shadows and light. Shapes and textures. Darkness and white. The vivid images will entrance audiences as much as the penetrating dialogue, treacherous plot points and Coen's gifted direction.

Comparisons to the style of Laurence Olivier and Orson Welles' classic 1940s Shakespeare adaptations and early twentieth century German expressionism are noted. However, Cohen's netherworld seems unique and new in its own way. Not filmed as a stage play,

not set in real surroundings. A hybrid. And rarely does black and white footage produce more of an expressive richness than the most vibrant and vivid color film. But it does here.

When Oscar acting nominations are handed out, expect Washington's brooding performance and McDormand's scheming portrayal to top the lists. As bitter, aging co-conspirators, they take cunning and evilness to a new level. Seething like vipers, as duplicitous as any con artists could be. Award nominations should also be given to Alex Hassell as the sleezy vulture Ross, Bertie Carvel as Banquo, Moses Ingram as Lady Macduff, Corey Hawkins (Straight Outta Compton) as the brave and righteous Macduff and, of course,

Hunter as the sorceresses who delivered both a prophecy and misfortune in equal portions.

You may need a bit of patience and a sharp ear to understand the dialogue, which was originally written in the 1600s and adapted by Coen. However, your perseverance will be rewarded. At the end of your 1h 45m journey, you'll discover that every element of this object d'art is beyond excellent.

"By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes." Who could have guessed that shrewd, vile cruelty could be so damn mesmerizing?

On Apple TV+ now.

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

A look back at the best films of 2021

By Nsenga K. Burton
NNPA Culture and
Entertainment Editor

In 2021, the box-office did not disappoint with outstanding films on the big screen and streaming apps like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu and Apple TV+. Films like Jane Campion's *The Power of the Dog*, Denzel Washington's *A Journal for Jordan*, Ridley's Scott's *House of Gucci*, Aaron Sorkin's *Being the Ricardos*, Jeymes Samuel's *The Harder They Fall* and the Marvel Universe's first Asian superhero film *Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings* have made a variety of lists as they should.

I wanted to use this list as an opportunity to elevate some films that may have been undervalued or overlooked for a variety of reasons, including subject matter, perceived lack of star power, and genre or release date. Check out some of the top films of 2021, some of which you may not have heard of and others you may not wish to forget as we head into 2022.



BOXING DAY (Amazon Prime Video)

Looking for global Black love or remembering what being in love feels like? You've found it in this funny, heartwarming film that takes viewers from the Dirty South to South London.

Inspired by writer, director, and star Aml Ameen's life, *Boxing Day* follows Melvin (Aml Ameen), a British writer and former soap opera star living in America, who returns home to London for Christmas to introduce his American fiancée, Lisa (Aja Naomi King), to his energetic British-Caribbean family. Their relationship is put to the test as she discovers the world her fiancée has left behind, including a superstar for-

mer girlfriend named Georgia (Leigh-Ann Pinnock). Marianne Jean-Baptiste gives an endearing performance as Shirley, Melvin's mother who is getting her groove back following a painful heartache. Ameen and King show the magic that can happen when the Diaspora comes together in life and love.

KING RICHARD (Warner Bros.)

If teamwork makes the dream work was a film, *King Richard* would be it. *King Richard* is the engrossing story of a father's determination to write his talented daughters into the sports history books, 78 pages at a time. Will Smith plays Richard Williams, the father who understands his daughters' greatness and

the context in which they are living, from the moment they were born. Partnered with a dedicated and focused mother Oracene "Brandy" Williams played brilliantly by the white hot Aunjanue Ellis, the Williams family endeavors to take Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena Williams (Demi Singleton) to the top of a tennis world resistant to their presence or participation.

Williams uses strategy, humility and confidence to engage legendary tennis coach Paul Cohen (Tony Goldwyn) who helps Venus hone her skills while Brandy literally keeps Serena in the game of life and tennis. Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green (*Premature*, *Gun Hill Road*) and executive produced by the Williams sisters and Smith, the film offers a humanistic view of Richard Williams as a loving father who makes sure two Black girls from Compton, can rewrite their destiny, rise to the highest heights and belong wherever they choose to be.

MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY
(Amazon Prime Video)
The life of Rev. Pauli

Murray is American history that is as important to the present as it is to the future.

This documentary takes you on the journey of Murray, a non-binary African American woman, who was the first Black woman ordained as an Episcopalian priest and co-founder of the National Organization of Women (NOW).

The filmmakers make plain that Murray lived many lives - a professor, lawyer, poet and activist -- all of which changed the course of society for the better. Murray's legal theories were so brilliant and influential, Supreme Court justices Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsburg used them to win some of their most historic cases. This documentary offers few bells and whistles -- simply Murray telling and extraordinary story of a fully evolved human being in pursuit of justice and happiness.

CANDYMAN (Universal Pictures)

In the fourth installment of the Black horror cult classic *Candyman* (1992), Director Nia DaCosta takes viewers on a journey into the modern-day horror that

is gentrification and police occupation in Trump's America.

Against the backdrop of one of America's most storied housing projects Cabrini Green in Chicago, Anthony (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II), a visual artist, delves into an old tale about a murder in the housing projects. Anthony, who lives a bourgeois life with his lover Brianna (Teyonah Parris) who manages an art gallery, seeks inspiration for his latest painting in all the wrong places. Researching the story of what happened to Helen Lyle leads Anthony to roads less traveled and an introduction to Burke (Colman Domingo), a dry cleaner that holds many secrets. Written by DaCosta, Win Rosenfeld and horror maestro Jordan Peele, *Candyman* implicates all of the characters in the conjuring of this evil presence that refuses to die.

With stunning visuals including art and cinematography and DaCosta's intelligent reimagining of who *Candyman* is and what created him, makes the film

See FILM, Page 16

The Great Resignation: Texas is leading the way

New data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics revealed nearly half a million Texas workers quit their jobs, the largest increase of all 50 states that month.

While Texas led, over 4.4 million Americans in all terminated their employment that month. These numbers reflect an ongoing cultural shift, dubbed the “great resignation,” which continues to send shockwaves through the labor market and sends a clear message to employers that workers are dissatisfied and are doing something about it.

A report from the Peterson Institute for International Economics estimates the U.S. economy is still short 6.2 million jobs. Many experts say the labor shortage could be “due to



Tim Mossholder / Unsplash

influences tied to the pandemic such as infection risks, infection-related illness, and a lack of affordable childcare.”

Jared Pope, a Dallas-based HR attorney and CEO of Work Shield, believes the trend should be a wake-up call for employers in Texas and across the country to reflect on processes and implement

systems that provide safety and security for employees and employers alike. He notes the following recommendations:

Improving retention rates

If we have learned anything from the #MeToo Movement over the past few years, it is that the standard reporting policies and systems in place are woefully inadequate and

leave employees to suffer in silence. It's important for employers to focus on improving the well-being of employees by encouraging healthy workplace habits and enhancing programs for improved physical, mental and emotional health.

Mitigating risk and ensuring employee voices are heard

The first step to ensuring employees are truly being heard is to replace fears of retaliation and mistrust with a safe environment for employee concern. Zero tolerance policies become more than words on paper when conscientious organizations want their employees to feel safe exposing bad behavior.

Trends and cultural shifts

Prioritizing work-life balance has always been

important, but the pandemic amplified conversations surrounding this topic. With many employees now working from their homes, it is critical that companies provide the flexibility employees need to unplug and step away from work duties. To accommodate this, we can expect that employers will move away from the traditional 9-to-5 work week to provide more freedom to employees within the blurred lines of working from home.

Emphasis on Mental Well-Being

It's no secret that 2020 was an incredibly stressful year. In response, a necessary focus on mental health emerged, and this focus will continue to be important for employers moving forward. Because of this, we can expect to see an in-

crease in support for mental health programs, including paid ‘mental health’ days, educational training and resources, and more.

Emphasis on Diversity

The call to diversify employee populations has never been louder, and employees and investors are holding companies accountable on their promise to prioritize DEI initiatives. With many companies remaining remote, a candidate's location no longer matters, meaning that employers can recruit diverse, qualified talent throughout the country. With that, we can expect to see companies expanding their horizons to employ more remote candidates due to their qualifications and not just their geographical location.

JOHNSON, from Page 2

winning a Danish Grammy, she moved to New York in 2002 and has starred in plays while splitting her time between the two continents.

The first time she visited the United States she recalled thinking her father could be right around the corner. The quest to find him intensified.

Laursen enlisted the help of a genealogist and a DNA analysis from 23andMe. Earlier this year, the analysis provided her with a relative match from a man living in New York. She connected with him to see if someone in his family could be the American veteran who visited Australia in 1969. He immediately started calling his uncle, Bill Johnson. “He had been trying to call me for three or four days,” Johnson said. “He gave me the exciting news: ‘I think you have a daughter out there.’”

Johnson had initial doubts. He worried that he might be the target of a scam and sought lots of

advice. Many associated advised him to walk away. “But that would have been the biggest mistake of my life,” he said.

Encouraged by his wife, Gloria, he submitted to DNA testing to compare his profile to Laursen's. The report returned that he was a 99.99 percent match for being Laursen's father. “I was excited, she was excited, and we started exchanging messages,” he said. “We just connected, and God put us together. And I'm one person that's glad that happened.”

Johnson said he sees comparisons in his life and Laursen's life in persevering to achieve goals and in working with people. “I grew up in the Avenues, which was one of the poorest areas in Zachary, but I was determined to make it,” he said. “My dad died when I was 8 years old. My mother died at the young age of 45.”

He said he did not have running water growing up but would take odd jobs

like cutting grass to contribute and eventually buy his own car. After serving in the Army, he returned to Zachary and continued his education at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge.

He became the first Black police officer to serve in Zachary, La., and he rose to the rank of captain.

In his retirement, he gives back to the community and is a member of the Baker Lions Club and the president of the Zachary Men's Club.

He didn't raise any children of his own, but he was involved in the lives of the young people in Baker and Zachary serving as a basketball and track coach in community leagues. “I was determined to save young people, so I started the Drug Enforcement Program in the city,” Johnson said. “They still have signs up. So, I've been involved in the lives of young people and it's not about me; it's about someone else.”

Laursen is in Denmark for the holidays working a string of performances, but

she hopes to visit her father in early 2022. Johnson is busy with calls from rela-

tives and press inquiries. He knows a great gift is on the way. “I'm just looking

forward to that great day,” he said. “This will be the best Christmas of my life.”



Ed Bell Construction Company

An Equal Opportunity Employer

January 3, 2022

Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

We are currently hiring for the following positions:

- Pipelayer (Underground)
- Form Setter (Structures)
- Rough Terrain Crane Operator
- Laborer (Earthwork, Underground)
- Boom Mobile Crane Operator (CDL)
- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
- CDL Drivers (Water Truck, End Dump)
- Loader Operator (Earthwork, Underground)
- Work Zone Barricade Servicer-must have DL and be bilingual with clear English

Available: multiple openings

Rate: Negotiable

Must have own transportation

Years of Experience required will vary, from 6 months to 2 years (depending on position)

Physical and Drug Screen Required

Must have a Clear Background

Must be at least 18 years old (CDL Driver, 21 yrs)

Must apply in PERSON, Monday – Friday from 8am to 11am
@ 10605 Harry Hines Blvd.

Please visit our website: www.edbellconstruction.com/careers
Or email your resume to: careers@edbellconstruction.com

Remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: a tireless champion for economic justice

By Charlene Crowell

On Monday, January 17, the nation will pause to honor the life of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The only Black American to be honored with a national holiday, many will recall his historic civil rights achievements.

But Dr. King also stood as a tireless champion for economic justice. His last public speech, delivered a day before his 1968 assassination, was before a Memphis audience in sup-

port of a lengthy strike for fair wages among its largely Black sanitation workers. That prophetic oration, often referred to as his "Mountaintop" speech, also noted the city's economic disparities.

"It's all right to talk about 'long white robes over yonder,' in all of its symbolism," said Dr. King. "But ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here! It's all right to talk about 'streets flowing with milk and honey,' but God

has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can't eat three square meals a day."

When Dr. King moved his family into the city's Lawndale neighborhood, he described it as "an island of poverty in the midst of an ocean of plenty."

"Chicago boasted the highest per capita income of any city in the world, but you would never believe it looking out of the windows of my apartment in the slum of Lawndale," said

Dr. King.

"My neighbors paid more rent in the standard slums of Lawndale than the whites paid for modern apartments in the suburbs. The situation was much the same for consumer goods, purchase prices of homes, and a variety of other services."

For example, the King family paid \$94 per month for four rundown, shabby rooms. During the campaign's open housing marches on Gage Park and other predominantly white

places, new and larger apartment dwellers paid only \$78 a month for five rooms[.].

Fast forward to today and the cost of rental housing remains a challenge for millions of families[RP6]. The average fair market price for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,295 per month. Yet the highest rent affordable to an average full-time worker is \$977, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLHC). Its recent report entitled

Out of Reach exposes the mismatch between wages people earn and the price of decent rental housing in every state, metropolitan area, and county in the U.S.

Over 7.5 million extremely low-income renters are severely housing cost-burdened, finds the report, spending more than half of their incomes on housing. On average, someone who works 40 hours per week all year round must earn \$24.90 per hour to afford a

See MLK, Page 14

LEWIS from Page 1

their voting procedures and election laws without first gaining official authorization from the U.S. Attorney General or a three-judge panel of a Washington, D.C. district court. Section 4(b) of the 1965 Act describes eligible districts as those that had a voting test in place as of November 1, 1964, and less than 50% turnout for the 1964 presidential election. Districts meeting the formula must then prove that the proposed changes "neither has the purpose nor will have the effect" of negatively impacting any individual's right to vote based on race or minority status. Section 5 was originally enacted for five years, although, it has been continually renewed since that time and stood until 2013 when the constitutionality of the Act was challenged in Alabama.

In April 2010, Shelby County, Alabama took its opposition to Section 5 to a federal court in Washington, DC, challenging the Act's constitutionality in the landmark case *Shelby v. Holder*. In September 2011, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia upheld the constitutionality of Section 5; then in May 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of the Columbia Circuit agreed Section 5

carried constitutional merit. Shelby County appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case in November 2012.

On June 25, 2013, a conservative dominated Supreme Court ruled in favor of Shelby County. The Court ruled that the coverage formula in Section 4(b)—which determines which voting districts are susceptible to Section 5—is unconstitutional because

the voting process a much more arduous endeavor for disenfranchised people of color and numerous other enumerated groups of citizens.

The Lewis Act seeks to reestablish the authoritative might of the 1965 Voting Rights Act to prevent states from enacting random and discriminating laws and procedures that would allow a state to manipulate and control elections by alienating voters from the polls.

discrimination

- Ensuring that voters are not adversely affected by preventing last-minute voting changes and requiring that officials publicly announce proposed voting changes at least 180 days before an election, and

- The Lewis Act will expand the government's authority to send federal observers to any jurisdiction where there may be a substantial risk of discrimination on an election day.

Currently, the Lewis

the Senate took a procedural vote on whether to open debate on the Lewis Act. Defiant and contentious Republicans blocked the Lewis Act from advancing by a vote of 50-49. Although one Republican, GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, did vote with Democrats, it requires at least 10 Republicans to join with all 50 Democratic Senators for the legislation to advance.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer thanked Murkowski for her support of the right but had stern criticism for the rest of the Senate Republicans.

"I thank (Murkowski) for

working with us in good faith on this bill," he said, "but where is the rest of the party of Lincoln? Down to the last member, the rest of the Republican conference has refused to engage, refused to debate, refused to acknowledge that our country faces a serious threat to democracy."

Schumer said, "just because Republicans will not join us doesn't mean Democrats will stop fighting," and went on to say they will work to "find an alternative path forward, even if it means going at it alone to defend the most fundamental liberty we have as citizens."

The Lewis Act seeks to fulfill that stipulation and restore the protections that the 1965 Voting Rights Act originally intended by:

- Modernizing the Section 4(b) formula to establish which states and localities have a pattern of discrimination
- Ensuring that voters are not adversely affected by prevent-

ing last-minute voting changes and requiring that officials publicly announce proposed voting changes at least 180 days before an election, and

- The Lewis Act will expand the government's authority to send federal observers to any jurisdiction where there may be a substantial risk of discrimination on an election day.

the formula used to determine those jurisdictions is outdated. Thus, the unconstitutionality of Section 4(b) rendered Section 5 inoperable (until Congress enacts a new coverage formula).

Armed with the Supreme Court's decision on *Shelby*, states boldly instituted discriminatory changes to voting practices that made

In its 2013 decision, the Supreme Court left open a proviso recommending that Congress create a new formula. The Lewis Act seeks to fulfill that stipulation and restore the protections that the 1965 Voting Rights Act originally intended by:

- Modernizing the Section 4(b) formula to establish which states and localities have a pattern of

Act was introduced in the House of Representatives on August 17, 2021 and passed on August 24, 2021, by a vote of 219-212.

The Act was then introduced to an evenly divided Senate on October 5, 2021, where the fate of the Act might fall prey to filibusters, clotures, and dependency on a 60-40 vote.

On November 3, 2021,

Rise Retreat Center, Incorporated Policy of Non-Discrimination

Rise Retreat Center, Incorporated

shall recruit and admit individuals of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities. The corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, and other administered programs.

The corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the employment of its personnel.

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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

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

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

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

Prerequisites:

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

Ongoing Census Bureau

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

Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

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



Ongoing House of Blues

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

Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focussed career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Representative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between \$12 - \$13.50 per hour plus up to \$1.50 an hour in performance pay. The workdays will vary, must be available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with overtime as needed. Must have at least one year of customer service experience.

City of Dallas hosts Town Hall/Listening Sessions to get public feedback on redistricting

The City of Dallas invites the public to attend a series of town hall meetings to offer input on the City's redistricting process, which happens every 10 years after the U.S. Census releases its data. The redistricting process is the redrawing of City Council districts from which Council Members are elected.

Earlier this year, 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 law. The Commission will host a series of eight meetings throughout the City to allow residents the option for in-person attendance. Two of those town halls, the first and last, will be held at City Hall, allowing for virtual or in-person attendance. A complete schedule

of town halls and regular Redistricting Commission meetings, contact information for all redistricting commissioners, and a tool allowing Dallas residents to draw and submit their own maps is at DallasRedistricting.com. Residents may also provide feedback for redistricting commissioners any time by calling the Dallas Redistricting hotline at 214-671-5197.

The first meeting will be

at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 at Dallas City Hall in Council Chambers (6EN) and will be accessible virtually via Cisco webex. Individuals who wish to speak during these scheduled 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. Vir-

See DISTRICTS, Page 15



GARLAND
TEXAS MADE HERE

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

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

www.garlandpurchasing.com

972-205-2415

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

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

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

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

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

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

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

Equal Opportunity Employer



IRVING
TEXAS

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

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

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

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

www.cityofirving.org

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

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.

Seeing Can Be Rather Expensive

Dr. James L. Snyder

As I get older, and my goal is to get as old as I can, I begin to realize some of the things I haven't noticed in my life. You know how it is; things creep up little by little, and then all of a sudden, there it is.

That happened to me recently with my eyes. Since I was in the ninth grade (I will not disclose the year), I have been wearing glasses and have become used to wearing them. Every year I would have them upgraded, and the upgrade was little by little until if I took my glasses off, I couldn't see my real self.

The advantage of that is, I don't wear my glasses when I look in the bathroom mirror. That saves me a lot of problems. What am I going to do what I can really see?

About two years ago, when I was at the eye doctor, he noticed some things in my eyes.

"You have cataracts in both eyes."

I was caught by surprise and did know what he was talking about, but I responded despite that.

"No, Dr.," I said rather seriously, "I do not have a Cadillac, let alone two, but I do have a Chevrolet. I'm quite happy with my Chevrolet; thank you."

The doctor looked at me as though he was looking at some crazy person. Then he said something that somewhat confused me. "Do you think I'm a psychologist?"

Looking at me straight in the eyes, he said, "You have cataracts in your eyes."

"Well," I said, looking at him, "I did have my eye on several Cadillacs, the one I liked was a brilliant blue.

The only problem with that Cadillac was I couldn't afford it. But I must tell you I'm still eyeing that Cadillac."

"Look at me," the doctor said rather sternly, "I am not talking about Cadillacs; I'm talking about cataracts in your eyes. You will need surgery to remove those cataracts."

I must say I felt a little embarrassed. I don't know if the doctor spoke with a lisp or I was hearing with a lisp, I thought he said Cadillac, which confused me.

He then explained what this cataract business was all about and how I should go and get them removed and replaced.

That was almost two years ago, and because of the pandemic, everything pretty much shut down.

Then recently, things began to open up, and I could

go to the eye clinic and get prepped for surgery. As they explained it to me, it would take approximately six weeks to have it done, although the surgery itself would be about 15 minutes. They had to do one eye and then two weeks later do the other eye. There were two weeks of preparation before and two weeks after to complete the process.

The eye clinic was on the other side of town, and I could not drive my vehicle when I went to visit them. Henceforth, my chauffeur for those appointments was the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Then the day of the actual surgery came, and I was chauffeured to the eye clinic and went in for the preparation. I'm not sure why so much paperwork is needed these days, but I signed paper after paper af-

ter paper. I got to the point where I almost forgot what my name was.

Then I went in, and the nurse took me to prepare for the doctor's surgery. The nurse spent about an hour and a half with me while the doctor used only 15 minutes.

There comes a point when I have had enough. You go through all the routine in checking the blood pressure and extracting blood from my body. I know it's all necessary, but it sure can be monotonous.

She was finishing all of the prep work and was ready to take me in so that the doctor could do the surgery on my cataract.

At that point, I said very seriously, "Could I change my mind?"

She looked at me and sighed very deeply, and I could see she was not a

happy camper. But she said very calmly, "Yes, you can change your mind if you really want to."

"Great," I chirped, "can I have your mind?"

Staring at me, she then gave me a piece of her mind. I didn't see that one coming.

The surgery went fine, and I was surprised. I have been wearing glasses for a long time, and now, out of my left eye, I could see almost perfectly, whatever that is. I couldn't see up close, and the doctor said I would probably need reading glasses. But I have never seen the world so bright as I did that day.

Darkness seems to creep up on a person without that person even knowing it. That happened with me. Nothing is better than see-

See SEEING, Page 15

MLK, from Page 12

modest two-bedroom home without becoming housing cost-burdened. The average renter's hourly wage is just \$18.78 per hour, however, and minimum-wage workers earn even less.

Additionally, ample research documents how consumers seeking to transition from renters to homeowners face even steeper financial barriers to building family wealth.

In 2019, prospective buyers of a median-priced home of \$321,500 needed to save 11 years to accumulate a 5% down payment of \$26,000 on that home, found the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) in its independent and recent report. But buyers seeking the least costly loans, conventional mortgages, needed a 20% down payment of \$64,300 plus another \$9,663 for closing costs.

"There is a huge disconnect between our collective view of America as the land of opportunity and this data, which show renters face a steep climb in saving

for homeownership," said CRL researcher and report author Christelle Bamona. "This climb is especially steep for Black and Latino Americans, essential workers, and people weighed down by student debt."

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) underscores CRL's findings. Its 2021 research, the State of Housing in Black America: Emerging from the Pandemic Recession (SHIBA) found that although homeownership generates the largest part of building household wealth, fewer than 45% of Black households own their homes, compared to nearly 75% of whites. Further, Black homeowners captured only \$198 million in savings from the Federal Reserve's lowering of interest rates during COVID. Nationwide, the savings due to this policy change totaled \$5.8 billion.

"Blacks have made little, if any, strides at closing the disparate homeownership gap between those of our White counterparts," noted

NAREB President Lydia Pope in the report's foreword. "Systemic discriminatory regulations and policies continue to thwart any meaningful effort at closing the homeownership gap."

For example, mortgage pricing, and under-appraisal of home values are examples of how the growth of Black homeownership and, in turn, wealth is systematically suppressed. Since 2019, the rate of mortgage loan denials to Blacks (16%) has consistently been double that of whites (7%).

While access to mortgage credit remains a central housing issue, housing affordability has worsened for a record 117 months of year-over-year increases, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR). The November 2021 median price of existing-homes was \$353,900, up 13.9% from November 2020 (\$310,800).

Today the quest for economic injustice continues. Just a few weeks before Dr. King's assassination, his prophetic voice remains as timely as it is timeless:

"Do you know that most of the poor people in our country are working every day? They are making wages so low that they cannot begin to function in the mainstream of the eco-

nomie life of our nation. These are facts which must be seen. And it is criminal to have people working on a full-time basis and a full-time job getting part-time income."

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Cemetery Space Broker will make you offer on your cemetery plot



Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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

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

Call Us Today!!!!!!!
972.665.0170

Some famous quotes of Dr. M. L. King, Jr.



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Lest we forget some of these inspiring words and quotes of Dr. King, remember the following:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others."

"There are some things so dear, some things so precious, some things so eternally true, that they are worth dying for. And I submit to you that if a man has



not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

"We've been in the mountain of war. We've been in the mountain of violence. We've been in the mountain of hatred long enough."

It is necessary to move on now, but only by moving out of this mountain can we move to the promised land of justice and brotherhood

and the Kingdom of God.

It all boils down to the fact that we must never allow ourselves to become satisfied with unattained goals. We must always maintain a kind of divine discontent."

"When our days become dreary with low-hanging clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."

"We all have the drum major instinct. We all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade. ... And the great issue of life is

to harness the drum major instinct.

It is a good instinct if you don't distort it and pervert it. Don't give it up. Keep feeling the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love.

I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity."

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

"I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice,

is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law."

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important." "Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."

Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

DISTRICTS, from Page 13

tual speakers are required to show their video when addressing the commission.

The Redistricting Commission plans to file its recommended districting plan for City Council consideration in May 2022. The Council has 45 days after the districting plan is sub-

mitted to adopt, or modify and adopt, a new districting plan. 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 districting plan will be implemented at 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 visit DallasRedistricting.com.

SEEING, from Page 14

ing the brightness of the light.

As my wife was driving me home, I happen to think of a verse of Scripture. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

Sometimes I get discouraged by the darkness around me and don't realize how dark it is. But when I put my eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible,

I see that marvelous light that lighteth the world.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine

Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Inspiring Body of Christ IBOC
Pastor Rickie G. Rush

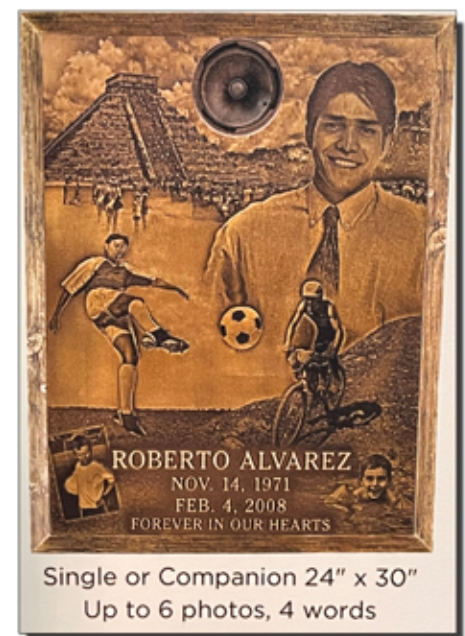
7701 S. Westmoreland Rd
Dallas, TX 75237
972.579.4262 (IBOC)
www.IBOCCHURCH.org
Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

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

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

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

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



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

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

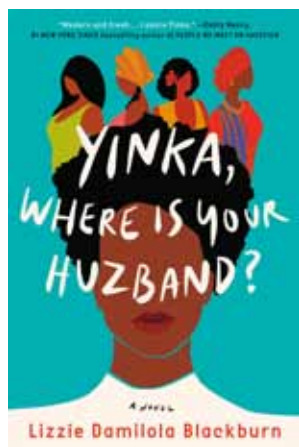
NDG Book Review: 'Yinka, Where Is Your Huzband? A Novel'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"I just want you to be happy."

You've heard that before, and yet, unsolicited advice never does. All the y'oughtas ("What y'oughta do is...") and the unexpected help make you want to scream, even though you know that people really do mean well when they offer it. The thing is, they are not the CEO of your life. As in the new book, "Yinka, Where Is Your Huzband?" by Lizzie Damilola Blackburn, they need to mind their own business...

It was almost getting so that Yinka Oladeji didn't want to go anywhere.



Every time she went out, someone – her Mum, her Auntie Debby, Big Mama – someone was asking when she was going to find a huzband. Pronounced auz-band in the British-Nigerian way, it was a total em-

barrassment.

It probably didn't help that Yinka's little sister, Kemi, was expecting her first baby, or that her friend, Rachel, just got engaged and Ola just had her third child. It also didn't help that Yinka lost her job, and the man she loved, Femi, who'd dumped her and moved to America, was back in the city with his beautiful fiancée.

Femi had broken up with Yinka two years ago.

She should have a huzband by now, right?

Maybe so. Yinka had to admit that romance would be nice, and so she created a spreadsheet and filled it with sticky-note ideas,

vowing that she'd have a date for Rachel's wedding. She agreed to let Auntie Debby fix her up with Alex, but he was pretty clear that he really liked Yinka's BFF, Nana. Yinka went online, on many dating sites and she swiped, swiped, swiped. She considered Derek, but she didn't like him like that. Donovan was kind of a jerk, Marcus wanted just one thing (ahem!), and Emmanuel had someone with lighter skin in mind.

And so, Yinka began to look harder. She even considered men she rejected once before but the more she looked for a date-slash-potential-husband, the

more her other relationships suffered. Now, nobody wanted to be around Yinka. Where's the happily-ever-after in that?

At this point in your life, the pandemic, your career, whatever, you've had your fill of nosy-but-well-meaning questions and advice you don't need. And so, "Yinka, Where is Your Huzband?" is a book for you.

Indeed, this sweet little rom-com removes any sting a busybody might leave by taking the ultimate in none-of-your-business literature and turning it upside down. Author Lizzie Damilola Blackburn inserts way too many meddlers

into Yinka's life, and the resulting mess is hilarious – especially when the lies pile up and readers are given a peek at several obvious solutions, only one of which has anything to do with a huzband. Not to be a spoiler or anything, but peace is made, but not before readers get the lightest touch of feminism from this completely enjoyable story.

Beware that there are Britishisms inside this novel but nothing that's too difficult to understand. Mostly, understand that "Yinka, Where is Your Huzband?" is going to just plain make you happy.

FILM, from Page 10

feel more like a psychological thriller than a slasher like its predecessors.

Candyman offers a smart window into the precarious world in which we're living and why we should all be horrified.

SUMMER OF SOUL (Fox Searchlight)

Iconic musician and bandleader Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson makes his filmmaking debut with the documentary that is as much a historical document as it is an homage to Black musical excellence.

Thompson, founding member the legendary

Roots crew and son of a jazz musician, escorts viewers into a world of Black music, fashion and culture at the Harlem Cultural Festival held at Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park) over the course of six weeks in 1969, one hundred miles from Woodstock. This documentary features electrifying performances and chronicles the socio-political times in which Black people in America were living.

Black musicians from all genres of music – funk, blues, jazz, classical, rock and roll, folk, gospel –

played simultaneously personifying the influence of Black innovation and creation in historic Harlem, ground zero for Black Arts and culture in the 20th Century.

Summer of Soul shows the magic that happens when Black creatives and artists come together, and it reminds viewers of the cultural significance Black music played in a revolution that was not televised.

PASSING (Netflix)

With a cast that includes Ruth Negga, Tessa Thompson, Alexander Skarsgård and Andre Holland and a story based on a novel writ-

ten by American novelist Nella Larsen, *Passing* is a must-see movie about the reality of passing at a time when being Black equated to having no rights and a life with no value to empowered Whites other than as unpaid or low-wage labor.

bor.

Writer, producer and director Rebecca Hall, captures the tension between the women as their lives become increasingly connected. The psychological dance between Irene and Clare as they literally side-

step landmines in a race war — some of their making — in which they have the most at stake, and the film masterfully demonstrates that issues of race, sex and class aren't always as Black and White as they may seem.



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.



Scan to go to:
The NDGLive
YouTube
Channel
(and SUBSCRIBE)

By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

We Buy Ugly Houses



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

CALL 972-665-0170

We Buy Houses ... Fast!