



North Dallas Gazette

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'2022 will be a great year for Blacks and people of color in America'

By Roger Caldwell
NNPA Contributor

With the election of President Biden and Vice President Harris, they have quickly delivered for the American people, while helping our country recover from a pandemic and an economic crisis. It is very easy for the Republicans to talk about what the Biden team has done wrong, but with the passing of the American Rescue Plan, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, their first year in office has been extremely successful.

These two pieces of legislation will rebuild the economy and put money in the pockets of hard-working American families. Many businesses received stipends from the government, and many Americans were able to keep their businesses in the black and afloat. The American Rescue Plan was passed in March 2021, and it provided stimulus aid for families, state, local areas, and Tribal nations.

Many have forgotten the \$1,400 stimulus check every family got for each family member and the expanded tax credit for each child. President Biden and the Democrats



2022 will be a transformational year for Blacks and people of color, and we will create a new order with the national protection of voting rights, and labor reforms.
(Photo via NNPA)

delivered big for America, but everyone has appeared to have forgotten, especially the Republicans.

The economy under President Biden is doing extremely well, and the Democrats must blow their horn loud and clear. "Today, America is the only leading economy in the world where household incomes and the economy as a whole are stronger than they were before the pandemic, even accounting for price increases," says President Biden.

When Americans look at the president's cabinet, there is a diversity of people of color, which is an accurate representation of the country. This is the first reason that in 2022, Blacks and people of color will operate and grow successfully: Because the economic track record is the strongest in 50 years.

When leadership reflects people of color, America is in a better place for opportunity and progress.

See 2022, Page 4



Trauma aside, it's time to VOTE!

- See Page 3



Protection against the bitter cold

- See Page 3



DOJ asked to monitor GOP vote audits

- See Page 5



Collin College offers FasTrack courses

- See Page 6



Plano gears up for summer intern program

- See Page 7



Freedom to Vote Act fights suppression

- See Page 8



Captains named for 2022 Pro Bowl

- See Page 9



Sister Tarpley: Practical to be peaceable

- 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



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People In The News ...



Marilyn Mosby



Roma Osowo

NDG Quote of the Week: "One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings."

—Franklin Thomas

Marilyn Mosby

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby doubled down on her proclamation that she is innocent.

Attorney A. Scott Bolden and supporters of the embattled Mosby held a press conference Monday afternoon to announce that they're prepared to fight criminal charges leveled by the federal government against Mosby.

Bolden, who also serves



as corporation counsel for the National Newspaper Publishers Association, said he wants to go to trial before this year's election, which Mosby seeks reelection.

A grand jury indicted Mosby on four felony counts on Thursday.

She faces charges of perjury and making false statements. Federal prosecutors allege she lied about suffering COVID-19 hardships to withdraw money without penalty from her retirement account and falsified information on loan applications for vacation homes in Florida.

Her defense is simple, Bolden remarked.

"She received financial advice that she was eligible to withdraw money from her retirement account," he

said relating to the case's primary issue.

"I'm telling you she's not only innocent, but we have professionals who she consulted with, and she qualifies under the statute," Bolden declared.

During the news conference, the accomplished attorney quizzed media members.

"If you were not affected by COVID financially, whether you kept your job or not, raise your hand," Bolden requested.

Federal prosecutors alleged that Mosby's gross salary increased between

2019 and 2020 from \$239,000 to \$248,000. Bolden countered that his client had established two new companies, and "those businesses were running, and they were being pursued and they were legally on the books."

He said Mosby did not know about a tax lien filed in 2020 against her and husband Nick, Baltimore's city council president, for \$45,000 in unpaid taxes.

Bolden intimated that the case is part of a witch hunt and politically motivated to end the career of Mosby, who took office in 2015.

The attorney pointed out that the Mosby family only learned about the government lien through media reports.

"I'm not going to ask you where you got it from, but we certainly didn't get it," Bolden asserted. "My clients didn't get it, and it wasn't delivered to them in the normal way if you will."

For her part, Mosby stated: "Without equivocation, I am innocent on the charges levied against me. I have done nothing wrong, and I am confident that I will be exonerated, and my name will be cleared."

Roma Osowo

LOS ANGELES - This Black History Month, Pressed is raising food accessibility awareness with the help of three Black female artists who are passionate about increasing food accessibility within their communities.

Working to benefit community fridge programs, Pressed is unveiling three limited-edition labels and tote bags designed by the artists. Each label showcases the vibrancy of the artists' experiences while furthering Pressed's mission to provide food accessibility across the country.



The labels will be featured on three of Pressed's most popular juices: Greens 3, Citrus 2, and the Strawberry Orange Mango Smoothie. The limited-edition label collection will be available for purchase in all

Pressed locations throughout the month of February.

A portion of sales of each bottle sold will be donated to fund up to 60 fridges across the nation through an organization called Freedged, an international mutual-aid organization with a mission to reduce food insecurity and food waste.

Roma Osowo is a color-loving abstract artist who creates vibrant and joy-filled art. Throughout her career, Osowo has taken pride in giving back to causes near and dear to her, which includes supporting food accessibility locally by donating items to local food banks on a monthly

basis.

Other artists selected include:

- Jourdan Ash (New York City Creative) – Ash is a Harlem native and multi-faceted creative that celebrates her passions and community through art. She has been able to help her community through volunteering and curating events that help support her local community fridges.

- Uma Leoni (Los Angeles Artist) – Leoni is a self-taught artist that enjoys painting abstract faces that

encourage a sense of familiarity. Since graduating college, Leoni has donated to local organizations started by her peers that support food accessibility in their communities.

"At Pressed, we believe everyone deserves to have access to the best of what nature has to offer, which is why we're dedicated to raising awareness around food accessibility by partnering with other community leaders who share the same mission," said Michelle Peterson, Chief

Marketing Officer. "Each of these inspiring artists have brought our food accessibility mission to life by supporting community fridge programs, like Freedged, through their artwork and dedication to the local communities they live in."

All three artists will also be appearing at select Pressed locations in NYC, LA and Dallas-Fort Worth throughout February to celebrate their work and continue to raise awareness around food accessibility.

Marichelle Samples

Lewisville City Manager Claire Powell recently announced that Marichelle Samples has been hired as the city's new Director of Economic Development.

"The future is bright because the City of Lewisville has it all," Samples said. "This job made me re-evaluate what I was doing and where I wanted to be. I really wanted to be part of the team leading the development, redevelopment, and other business opportunities in Lewisville."

Samples has more than nine years of local government experience and comes to Lewisville from the Dallas City Attorney's Office, where she served as Assis-



Blackall Photography / Courtesy

tant City Attorney. While in Dallas, Samples started her career in the Litigation Division and transitioned to the General Counsel Division, where she was later promoted to serve as a supervising attorney for the Economic and Community Development Section.

"Marichelle is an upcom-

ing star in the economic development world," City Manager Claire Powell said. "Her knowledge of economic development tools and experience negotiating and drafting some of the top economic development deals in the metroplex made her the right person for the job."

Samples holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Texas A&M University-Commerce and her Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law.

During her tenure at the Dallas City Attorney's Office, Samples drafted and negotiated agreements and provided legal advice to

See SAMPLES Page 14

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2020 trauma aside, it's time to VOTE!

By Royce West
Texas Senate

Nearly a month into a new year it's cautionary, if not troubling, that much of America's political energy is still invested in events surrounding the 2020 Presidential Election, including the election itself. But those events were so traumatic and dangerous to our Democracy that it is difficult and unwise to dismiss them without resolution.

For multiple reasons, results of the Presidential Election could not be called for four days after the November 3rd Election Day. Polls say that anywhere from 40 percent to 70 percent of Republicans still refuse to acknowledge that Joseph R. Biden was duly elected President of the United States. Then there's the dubious and shameful milestone of January 6 when "visitors" to the nation's capital violently sought to interrupt the peaceful transfer of power outside, while a plot was underway inside the halls of Congress to overturn valid Electoral College totals. One party does not think the violent attack warrants investigation. And while the other presses to move forward, it is challenged by external and internal opposition.

But it is 2022 and we are weeks away from the first event of Midterm Elections cycle. In Texas, the last day to register to vote in the March 1 Primary Elections is Monday, January 31, 2022. In-person Early Voting begins two weeks later on February 14. That's right Valentine's Day (Show your love)! In-person early voting ends Friday, February 25.

There's a date within that span that pulls us back into the morass surrounding

the 2020 Elections. February 18 is the last day to apply for a ballot by mail in Texas to be able to complete the process in time for March 1. It's mail-in ballots that have become the tool used by a defeated 2020 Presidential candidate and former POTUS to sow discord and distrust of elections nationwide.

Accusations of fraudulent mail-in ballots led to calls to recount votes in several states - including Texas - which morphed into a crusade for election reform legislation by the party that lost the White House, and eventually, both chambers of Congress. But courts from coast-to-coast have dismissed alleged charges of rampant voting fraud. Even more curious in Texas is the need for election reform when the majority party has not lost a statewide election in nearly 30 years.

To the case at-hand, SB1 was finally approved by the Texas Legislature during the second Special Session of the Texas Legislature in 2021. Voting reform legislation was the main reason the Regular Session ended with both political parties furious, with one breaking quorum and leaders of the other calling for a Special Session. Voting and election reform bills are headliners of the current Washington D.C. political gridlock. SB1 is why some voters, Democrats and Republicans alike, must take extra steps to ensure that their ballots are counted.

In addition to new procedures that now apply to anyone who chooses to vote by mail, because of SB1, anyone who is registering to vote for the first time in Texas this year needs to be careful that the voter registration application they complete is

the revised version, issued since SB1 became law. In recent weeks, there's been varying interpretations within county elections departments as to whether the old applications are still valid.

SB1 eliminates and makes illegal, most all of the measures put in place in some Texas counties - most notably in Harris - when voters had to choose between exercising their rights and possible exposure to a deadly coronavirus several months before of a life-saving vaccine was available that now, has also been politicized.

The new law eliminates ballot drop-boxes used in Dallas and other counties. Now, if a voter who completes a mail-in ballot and then chooses to deliver it in-person, the ballot must be placed in the hands of an election worker. The election worker must record the voter's name and the voter must provide a signature and present approved identification.

SB1 eliminated 24 hour and outdoor, temporary or mobile, voting locations. Polling locations for early voting cannot open before 6:00 a.m. or remain open later than 10:00 p.m. Also, only seniors or voters with disabilities can have ballots brought to them by election workers to vote from their automobiles.

Historically, civic organizations and churches have assisted voters by using their buses or vans to carry them to vote. Under the new law, a person who drives seven or more voters to vote must complete and sign a form if the voters are unrelated to the driver.

In years before the 2020 elections, Republicans voted by mail (also known as absentee ballots) more than

Democrats. Now they've been demonized, by the sorest of sore losers. Under SB1, voting by mail requires additional information to be added to the ballot application and to the carrier envelope. Identifiers such as either the applicant's driver's license number or certain Social Security number information must match the identifier used when the voter registered to vote or the mail-in ballot application could be rejected.

In recent weeks, news reports highlighted the number of mail-in ballot applications rejected across the state. In Travis County, "about half" of 700 applications received at the time were rejected. Collin County reported that 20 percent of applications received were rejected due to the ID issue. Dallas County reports say about 40 percent of applications were rejected because applicants submitted old applications. Last Summer, the Secretary of State's office reported that hundreds of thousands of voter registration files either lacked a driver's license number or the SSN information or both. The numbers reportedly have decreased since.

The question is with the clock ticking toward March 1, how many of these applications problems will be fixed? I encourage voters not to wait until the last minute to find out.

Also Gov. Abbott, in recognizing there are problems procuring enough SB1 compliant applications, it would be a great time to issue an executive order authorizing ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION. I truly believe it would be in the best interest of voters in the State of Texas.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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MedStar offers guidelines to protect against cold temperatures

MedStar crews have treated five patients for cold-weather-related illnesses over the past two days. Four were serious enough to require ambulance transport to area hospitals.

They have also treated five patients for potential carbon monoxide poisoning.

MedStar has implemented its cold weather response protocol three times over the past three days due to the 'real feel' temperature dipping below 20 degrees. Under this protocol, response priorities are upgraded to patients in an outdoor area, unprotected from the cold.

As the cold weather continues, area residents are encouraged to protect themselves against serious health problems that can result from exposure to the cold by following these guidelines:

Lower your risk of frostbite and hypothermia

When exposed to cold



temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Follow the advice below to avoid cold-weather health problems such as frostbite and hypothermia:

- Wear cold weather appropriate clothing such as gloves/mittens, hats, scarves, and snow boots.
- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting clothing and cover your face and mouth if possible.
- Be aware of the wind chill factor. Wind can cause body-heat loss.
- Stay dry, and if you become wet, remove wet clothing immediately.
- Limit your time out-

doors.

• Do not ignore shivering. It's an important first sign that the body is losing heat. Persistent shivering is a signal to return indoors.

Signs and symptoms of hypothermia

Hypothermia symptoms for adults include:

- Slow, shallow breathing;
- Confusion and memory loss;
- Drowsiness or exhaustion;
- Slurred or mumbled speech;
- Loss of coordination, fumbling hands, stumbling steps;
- A slow, weak pulse;

• In severe hypothermia, a person may be unconscious without obvious signs of breathing or a pulse; and

• Shivering, which may stop as hypothermia progresses (shivering is actually a good sign that a person's heat regulation systems are still active.)

Avoid exertion

Cold weather puts an extra strain on the heart. If you have heart disease or high blood pressure, follow your doctor's advice about performing other hard work in the cold. Otherwise, if you have to do heavy outdoor chores, dress warmly and work slowly. Remember, your body is already working hard just to stay warm, so don't overdo it.

Reduce risk of cold temperature injuries

People are at risk for developing health problems from working in cold environments.

• Ensure that clothing and boots have adequate insulation.

• Dress in layers to help keep in body heat.

• Take frequent breaks out of the cold.

Avoid carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is poisonous to breathe. Operate all gasoline-powered devices, such as gas-powered heaters outdoors and never bring them indoors. Also, be careful when using other alternate heating sources such as

stoves or grills. This will help to ensure your safety from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Check often on elderly or chronically ill loved ones

The elderly or people with chronic illnesses may be at risk for Hypothermia after prolonged exposure to even mildly cool temperatures. Check on older friends or relatives often during cold spells to be sure they are acting normally.

2022, from Page 1

sive ideas for Black people. Whether you're looking forward to them or dreading them, the midterm elections will take place in November 2022. There will be more Blacks and people of color running for office than ever before in the history of America, and there will be more millions in circulation, than ever before.

In Florida, Val Deming's campaign will raise over \$60 million dollars and other races of color will raise between 10 to 50 million dollars. The opportunity for Black public relations companies, campaign jobs, the Black Media, will be tremendous, with an opportunity to make millions of dollars.

In entertainment, Black

companies will be given more opportunities to grow their companies and make millions of dollars in 2022. Black professional sports figures, which are making millions of dollars already, will start investing their money with other Black sports and entertainment millionaires and build major corporations, which will operate nationally and internationally.

As Blacks in America build major corporations, they will start to invest their money in Africa – The motherland. 2022 will be an exceptional year for Blacks and Africans on many different levels, and the opportunities will expand and grow exponentially.

Buying Black in 2022

will become a grassroots campaign for Blacks in America, and the fight for social, racial, and economic equity will bring Black organization and communities together. Young Black college students will take leadership roles in political campaigns and will create change.

2022 will be a transformational year for Blacks and people of color, and we will create a new order with the national protection of voting rights, and labor reforms. Vice President Harris as the first woman and the first woman of color in that office, will create new political power and empower workers to take collective action in the workplace.

Finally, the Black family will come together, because we are only as great as the

Black family is together. So now pick up the phone, resolve family issues, and remember to Love...

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Allred leads colleagues requesting DOJ monitor election audit targeting large Texas counties

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) today led a group of his Texas colleagues in requesting that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division closely monitor the ongoing election audit targeting Collin, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties.

“The State of Texas has already declared the November 2020 elections as ‘safe and secure’. And initial results of the audit announced by the Secretary of State Office in Texas showed that there were few significant irregularities,” the members wrote. “We



Elliot Stallion/Unsplash

ask that the Justice Department carefully oversee this process to ensure the audit is transparent and fair and not another veiled attempt to disenfranchise Texas voters.”

On New Year’s Eve

2021, the Texas Secretary of State released partial results from the audit finding few issues, and as similar processes already in place found, the 2020 election was administered with few irregularities.

Allred was joined in the effort by Reps. Sylvia Garcia (TX-29), Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07), Joaquin Castro (TX-20), Filemon Vela (TX-34), Lloyd Doggett (TX-35), Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), Al Green (TX-09), Veronica Escobar (TX-16), and Marc Veasey (TX-33).

Read the full letter below:

Dear Assistant Attorney General Clarke,

We write to call attention to the four-county election audit currently underway in Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant Counties in Texas. We have serious concern

that this audit may be an attempt to invalidate properly cast ballots in the 2020 Presidential election. We ask that your office closely monitor and work collaboratively with Texas state officials to ensure this audit does not unfairly erode any Texan’s ability to choose their leaders through the ballot box.

Following the November 2020 election, then President Trump led a now infamous campaign to undermine the credibility of those results. All subsequent investigations into those claims, including those led by Republican governors,

confirmed that there was no widespread election rigging and that the results were indeed valid. That, however, did not stop former President Trump from carrying out a maximum pressure campaign against Governors across multiple states to try and overturn the election results.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott was among those who received communication from the former President instructing him to carry out another audit even though a Texas official with the Secretary of State’s

See ALLRED, Page 6

Critical Race Theory and the banning of Black authors in schools, libraries, and prison

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Celeste Headlee paused as she contemplated how Black authors have for decades endured the banning of their books in schools, libraries, on shelves across the country, and even in prisons.

In the summer of 2020 and the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, a major publishing house turned down the opportunity to obtain Headlee’s book “Speaking of Race: Why Everybody Needs to Talk About Racism – and How to Do It.”

The reason?

“They said they had enough books on race and that this topic is covered for us,” Headlee recounted. “It was very surprising since we were offering it in the summer of 2020.”

Headlee, who co-hosts the Retro Report on PBS and is affectionately known as the “light-skinned Black Jew,” ultimately sold her book to Harper Collins Publishing, which published it in 2021.

She counts among doz-



Photo via NNPA

ens of Black authors whose works are being pulled from school libraries under the pretext that they’re teaching critical race theory.

As noted in a recent report, most of the books targeted don’t teach critical race theory but are written by and about people of color.

According to the American Library Association, its Office for Intellectual Freedom reported that 273 books were affected by censorship attempts in 2020, many with content highlighting race, gender, and sexuality.

Since September 2021, at least 230 challenges have been made against Black-authored books.

Tiffany D. Jackson, the author of the 2018 novel

“Monday’s Not Coming,” about missing girls of color, remains in the throes of a similar controversy.

Yahoo! News Writer Tat Bellamy-Walker reported that during a school board meeting in Loudoun County, Virginia, parents demanded that officials ban Jackson’s work for “sexual content.” In an email to Bellamy-Walker, Jackson, a Black woman, said the book discusses friendship, dyslexia, community, healing, and mentions sex, though it’s not acted.

Further, celebrated Black children’s author and illustrator Jerry Craft told NBC News that he received a message saying a school library in Texas pulled some of his books.

“I was caught off guard,” stated Craft, the Newbery

Medal-winning author of the 2019 graphic novel “New Kid.”

“I felt bad for the kids because I know how much they love ‘New Kid’ and ‘Class Act.’ I know what my school visits do. ... I felt bad if there was going to be some kids that would not be able to take advantage of that.”

NBC reported that the individual who sent the message to Craft hailed from Katy, Texas, a town near Houston that’s come under fire for attempts to limit the public’s access to books that teach about racism.

In October, the Katy Independent School District made headlines for temporarily yanking two of Craft’s books, which tell the stories of Black boys who experience racism in schools, from school libraries and postponing his virtual visit.

“Apparently, I’m teaching critical race theory,” Craft wrote in response to a parent confused about the ban, citing the decades-old academic and legal framework that teaches about racism in America.

The banning of works by

Black authors extends to American prisons.

Andy Chan and Michelle Dillon, who serve on the board of the non-profit organization Books to Prisoners, said the need for educational and self-empowering materials in prisons remains vast.

In an op-ed, they contended that prisons routinely impede access for arbitrary and biased reasons despite the need.

The duo pointed out that it’s a practice long overdue for public examination.

“A recent rejection from South Central Correctional Facility (SCCF) in Clifton, Tenn., epitomizes this issue. In late December, SCCF returned a package of rejected books to Books to Prisoners,” the pair summarized.

“Inside were three books we had sent to an incarcerated reader and a note scrawled by a prison guard reading simply: ‘Malcolm X not allowed.’ The offending book, ‘Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary,’ is a Scholastic biography intended for grades 7-12,” Chan and Dillon asserted.

“Prison censorship is still

shocking to us, even after years of work with Books to Prisoners, but it rarely surprises us now.”

Headlee noted that even the late Pulitzer Prize-winning author Maya Angelou endured censorship.

“For quite some time, Maya Angelou was called the most banned author in America,” Headlee recalled.

“Her book, ‘I know why the Caged Bird Sings,’ was banned several times. She is an author who won the Pulitzer Prize and an Emmy. But there was one case in which they claimed her book caused bitterness and hatred toward white people. So, here we are again. It has happened again and again. You can’t get through a decade in the United States without seeing books by Black authors banned.”

She said her book could offer some assistance.

“It’s meant to diffuse some of the apprehension that people feel about talking about race without getting into an argument,” Headlee said. “And maybe make a little progress.”

Collin College offers Spring FasTrack classes

Collin College is offering a FasTrack session this spring, providing students with the opportunity to start classes during various dates in February and March.

Students can select classes ranging from art to speech and move one step closer to their associate degrees and/or transfer the credits to area universities. Students taking these classes will still have a spring break in March. One of the best features of these classes is that they include

online student services, including access to libraries and math and writing centers all at Collin College's affordable tuition.

"These popular classes fill up quickly," said Dr. Sarah Lee, executive dean of iCollin, Collin College's virtual campus. "We are pleased to be able to offer this option to our students who are juggling so many challenges during the pandemic."

Registration for spring

FasTrack classes is now open for current students. New students should begin by applying for admission at www.collin.edu/getting-started/admissions/.

Collin College serves more than 56,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degrees and certificates, including new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity de-

grees. The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and workforce development.

For more information, visit www.collin.edu. For information, including a class listing, visit www.collin.edu/academics/fast-track/. Email studentsuccess@collin.edu any questions you have about the program.



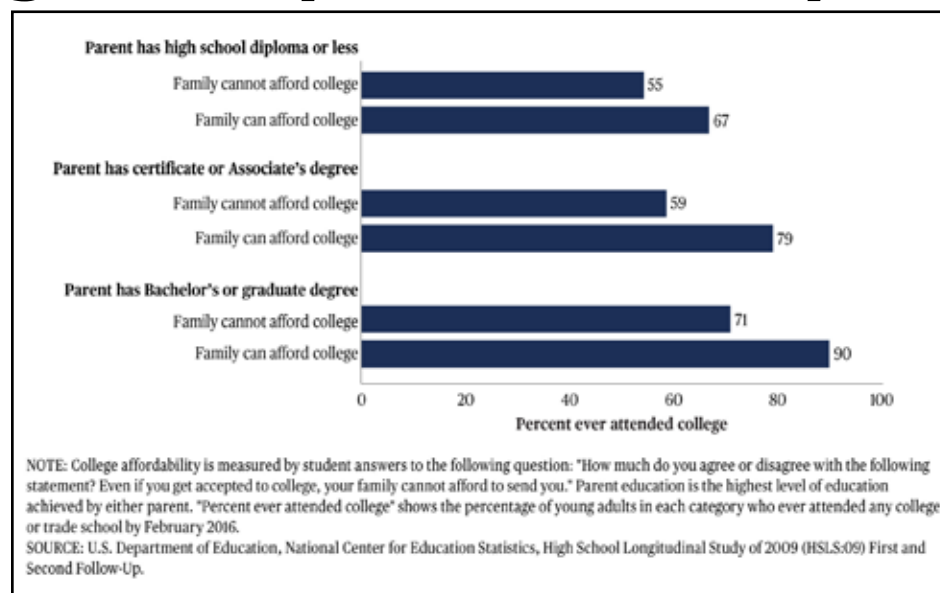
Collin College

NCES Study shows students are more likely to attend college if they believe family can afford to pay

WASHINGTON (January 12, 2022)—The average student is more likely to attend college if the student thinks their family can afford to send their child to college, according to College Affordability Views and College Enrollment, a Data Point released today by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

"College affordability is a major concern for families, and paying for college looms large for students, particularly students who would be the first in their families to earn a degree," said NCES Commissioner Peggy G. Carr. "This new analysis reveals that students are more likely to enroll in college if they believe their family can afford to send them. A student's belief in their ability to afford college may have important implications for how they search for information on paying for college while in high school or whether to apply."

Family background has



been shown in previous research to relate to the likelihood that a student goes to college. In particular, the higher the parent's education level, the more likely a student is to enroll in college. This new analysis by NCES shows that differences in enrollment according to students' beliefs about college affordability occur at all levels of parental education.

College Affordability Views and College Enrollment uses data from the

High School Longitudinal Study of 2009. This is a national study of more than 23,000 students in ninth grade in 2009. Students answered surveys between 2009 and 2016, and college transcripts were collected in 2017-18. This Data Point looks at the connection between views of college affordability in high school and college enrollment and employment 3 years after high school.

Key Findings

Perceptions of College

Affordability

- Students are more likely to attend college within 3 years of high school if they think their family can afford it. Students are also more likely to attend any college within 3 years of high school if at least one of their parents earned a college degree or certificate.

- When most of the study's students were in the eleventh grade, 32 percent of them agreed or strongly agreed that "even if you get

accepted to college, your family cannot afford to send you."

- Three years after high school, 58 percent of students who thought their family could afford to send them to college ("afforders") were enrolled in college. Only 38 percent of students who thought their family could not afford to send them to college ("non-afforders") were enrolled.

- Three years after high school, 80 percent of afforders had ever attended college, compared to 59 percent of non-afforders.

- The difference in college attendance between afforders and non-afforders exists for students whose parents attended college and for students whose parents did not attend college.

At each level of parental education, larger percentages of afforders attended college than non-afforders. The difference in college attendance between afforders and non-afforders ranges from 12 percentage points to 21 percentage

points.

Family Background

- The group most likely to have ever attended college 3 years after high school were students with at least one parent who had a bachelor's or other college degree and who believed their family could afford college. Ninety percent of those students had ever attended college.

- The group least likely to have ever attended college 3 years after high school were students whose parents, or only parent in single-parent household, had a high school diploma or less and who believed their family could not afford college. Fifty-five percent of those students had ever attended college.

- Three years after high school, 43 percent of non-afforders were employed only versus 32 percent of afforders. Twenty percent of non-afforders were not enrolled in college or employed, compared to 10 percent of afforders.

ALLRED, from Page 5

Office had characterized the 2020 election in Texas as "smooth and secure". Governor Abbott, who himself has repeated baseless claims about undocumented immigrants registering

to vote in Texas, appointed John Scott as Texas Secretary of State an office responsible for upholding Texans' right to vote and is leading the audit of election results in Collin, Dallas,

Harris and Tarrant Counties. Mr. Scott previously represented former President Trump as his lawyer in an unsuccessful attempt to challenge election results in Pennsylvania. Additionally, Mr. Scott defended Texas's restrictive voter ID law

which was ultimately partially struck down in court. This newly announced audit raises serious impartiality and fairness concerns given Mr. Scott's previous work seeking to invalidate authentic election results and Governor Abbott's his-

tory of peddling false election claims.

The State of Texas has already declared the November 2020 elections as "safe and secure". And initial results of the audit announced by the Secretary of State Office in Texas showed that

there were few significant irregularities. We ask that the Justice Department carefully oversee this process to ensure the audit is transparent and fair and not another veiled attempt to disenfranchise Texas voters.

Plano gears up for annual Mayor's Summer Internship Program

Preparing Plano's up-and-coming workforce for a successful transition to college and their future careers, the competitive "learn and earn" program provides standout sophomores and juniors with remote/onsite paid jobs at local companies and nonprofits; first 400 applications will be considered, so students are encouraged to apply early.

Registration opens Feb. 1 for the competitive Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program, a "learn-and-earn" program that places qualifying Plano sophomores and juniors at some of the area's top corporations and nonprofits. Presented by founding sponsor Capital One, the program taps students from Plano's award-winning and nationally recognized school district, connecting them with dozens of organizations, from national headquarters and government entities to small businesses, local charities and nonprofits.

The eight-week paid internship program – offering remote and on-site placements (or a combination of



Lagos Techie / Unsplash

both) – runs June 6 through July 29 (although some start dates are flexible). Students earn a minimum of \$10 per hour working 20-40 hours per week. Only the first 400 applications will be considered, so students are encouraged to apply early.

Led by Plano Mayor John Muns, the program prepares the future workforce for a successful transition into college and their life-long careers. Since its inception in 2014, approximately 700 students have received summer internships, reaping invaluable benefits from being immersed in or exposed to a professional workplace.

With internships that rival those at the college level, students get to network with upper-level management, coordinate meetings

and projects, learn how to work remotely, and gain in-the-field exposure to a wide array of careers, from automotive and aviation operations, to education, logistics, marketing, medicine and more. This year, Mayor Muns has made it a priority to increase the number of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students in the program, as well as students who will be first-generation college students.

While COVID-19 is still a challenge, the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program and its devoted business and nonprofit partners are prepared to safely offer summer placements, offering a variety of remote and on-site jobs with safety

protocols in place.

Interested businesses may email vicki@vwaitgroup.com or sign up at planomayorsinterns.org by April 15 at 5 p.m.

To qualify, students must complete an online application, which includes two short essays. Additionally, applicants must be a rising junior or senior at a Plano public high school or a rising junior or senior at Hebron High School and reside in the City of Plano; have a cumulative 3.0 GPA (minimum) and solid attendance record; be 16 years of age by June 13, 2022; be eligible to work in the United States; and be able to work the entire eight weeks of the internship from June 6-July 29 (or dates determined by the employer).

In addition, students must attend the in-depth Intern Prep virtual event on Saturday, March 19 – focusing on resume development, interviewing, business communication, professional dress and personal goal planning – to be eligible for the Job Fair on Friday,

April 22, that typically attracts dozens of employers. Selected students will receive a formal job offer via email in May. If chosen, students will then complete two days of Intern Orientation and Enrichment training June 1-2 when business soft skills, networking, teambuilding and work-readiness topics will be addressed. Also, this summer, a Community Service Day will be held, where interns come together and serve in their community through hands-on volunteering.

The program culminates with Mayor Muns hosting an end-of-summer luncheon to honor the interns, employers, partners and sponsors on Friday, July 22, at Plano Event Center.

In addition to presenting sponsor Capital One, Plano ISD is a major partner, and JPMorgan Chase is the Job Fair sponsor. (JP Morgan Chase also is underwriting 20 interns in the technology and healthcare industries and the nonprofit sector.) Other program sponsors are Atmos Energy, Bank of

America, Boeing, City of Plano, FedEx Office, Granite Properties, Liberty Mutual, NTT DATA Services and Oncor. Companies are encouraged to sign up at planomayorsinterns.org, so that more students may be selected.

Deadline for businesses and nonprofits to sign up is April 15.

Businesses and nonprofits of all sizes are encouraged to sign up and hire one or more interns. Businesses may also underwrite an intern to work at a nonprofit or government agency, or become a program sponsor. Companies pay a \$500 program fee for each intern that covers training and enrichment activities, the Job Fair and onboarding and administrative costs.

Details and the online application are available at planomayorsinterns.org. For student-related questions, contact Mary Peltier at mary.peltier@vwaitgroup.com. Companies interested in signing up may contact Vicki Wait at vicki@vwaitgroup.com.

Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program hosts virtual clinics

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association (DBA) and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and local Dallas law firms have partnered to hold Virtual Clinics in February.

Clinics are as follows:

- Thursday, February 3 – DVAP, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, and St. Mary's University School of Law – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Thursday, February 10 – DVAP, Haynes and Boone LLP, and Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP – 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- Thursday, February 17 – DVAP and UNT Dallas College of Law – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Thursday, February 24 – DVAP and JPMorgan Chase

– 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dallas County residents who would like to apply for free legal assistance should fill out the form found online at: <https://tinyurl.com/DVAPClinic>. Once the form has been completed, expect an attorney's call on the respective date. Participants should watch for a call from an unknown number that should be labeled "No Caller ID" or something similar.

For legal assistance any time, contact the DBA's Lawyer Referral Service at www.DallasLRS.org. For more information, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/>. For media inquiries about these clinics, contact DVAP Director Michelle Alden at aldenm@lanwt.org.

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The Freedom to Vote Act hopes to strike a blow against voter suppression despite stern opposition

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is all but defunct.

A battle for democracy is unmistakably on between Democrats seeking to make the voting process more accessible and Republicans who wish to make the voting process much more restrictive.

The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act was drafted by Alabama U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell as an avenue to combat voter suppression, partisan sabotage, gerrymandering, and dark money that has afflicted the American democratic



Unseen histories / Unsplash

structure.

The Freedom to Vote along with the Voting Rights Advancement Act—both of which honor the name of life-long voting rights advocate John R. Lewis—is a two-pronged attack that would ensure our nation's most basic right to the nation's needi-

est citizens. Where the Advancement Act would restore the grit once realized by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Freedom to Vote Act would serve to thwart states' assault on voting rights by establishing national standards to protect historically disenfranchised citizens.

The Freedom to Vote Act is drafted to preempt the onerous voting restrictions of recent elections by creating national standards for voting access by instituting a number of key provisions.

The bill would address the need to expand opportunities to vote by early voting; mail voting; election day holiday; protections for individuals with disabilities; and providing a wide range of forms of identification for voter validation.

The bill would also combat voter suppression by lessening the use of voter deception and intimidation; restoring the right to vote to those formerly incarcer-

ated; easing annoying excessive long lines on election day; and, providing an avenue for a private right of action when constitutional rights are infringed upon.

Other critical voter suppression areas addressed would be:

- Preventing election sabotage;
- Redistricting reform;
- Modernizing voter registration;
- Campaign finance reform; and
- Promoting election security.

Congresswoman Sewell, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, where she is Co-Chair of the Voting Rights Task Force,

is lead sponsor to both bills. In a recent interview, Sewell expressed the importance of the bill.

"We have an ongoing concerted effort by state legislatures across this country to impose greater restrictions on voting and to actually stop certain segments of the population from voting."

Sewell continued. "Frankly, what these two bills will do will provide federal oversight for those most egregious state actors, and also provide the mechanism by which we promote voting and allow people the opportunity to be able to access the ballot box."

The Dallas Foundation's Mary M. Jalonick Women's Philanthropy Institute awards more than \$300,000 to local nonprofits

The Dallas Foundation's Mary M. Jalonick Women's Philanthropy Institute (WPI) is proud to announce it has awarded over \$300,000 to five Dallas-area nonprofit organizations working to improve the lives of North Texas neighbors. Jubilee Park & Community Center received the largest grant, \$150,000 in support of The Jubilee Clinic, which will serve as a model for equitable access to health care.

Four additional agencies including ACT for Justice, Girls Embracing Mothers (GEMS), Hope Supply Company and Metrocare Services, each received grants of \$40,000.

WPI is comprised of women donors who are committed to learning about nonprofit organizations working toward a brighter tomorrow for Greater Dallas. The collective impact of these women activating their philanthropic resources alongside others has grown substantially over the past 10 years and has cultivated a vibrant and engaged community of female donors. Since its founding in 2010, WPI has awarded



Aamir Suhail / Unsplash

grants to more than 60 organizations in the Greater Dallas area. This year's grant awards were six times more than previous years and bring the cumulative total of WPI's collective giving to more than \$830,000.

2022 WPI activities will kick off in February. While the 2022 WPI site visits are still being confirmed, each visit will fall into one of the four 2022 focus areas identified by WPI participants: Domestic Violence, Early Childhood, Food & Housing, and Human Trafficking.

"Jubilee Park & Community Center is thankful to the members of WPI for their support and recognition of the importance of place-based holistic care

for our neighbors to thrive," said Marissa Castro Mikoy, President & CEO of Jubilee Park. "Our organization sits in one of the most medically underserved neighborhoods in Dallas, and we are eager to use this grant toward The Jubilee Clinic's capital campaign so that we can increase access to primary health care and preventative health resources right here in our community."

"The women of WPI are honored to impact so many North Texans across all five of these nonprofits who are inspiring and cultivating change for Dallas," said Sarah Losinger, current WPI member and a founding member of WPI. "We know each of these organizations will translate their

awards into additional – and much needed – resources for communities across Dallas."

Jubilee Park and Community Center's mission is to be a catalyst for community renewal and enrichment to the Jubilee Park Neighborhood, a 62-block area in southeast Dallas. The majority of families in this area are working poor who are under-served in terms of education and health resources. In order to fulfill its mission, Jubilee Park provides educational enhancements through the highest quality afterschool and summer programs and helps families and other members of the community identify and access resources that help to provide stability and enhance their quality of life. Furthermore, Jubilee Park offers opportunities for parent education and involvement and aims to build community relations among diverse cultures.

ACT For Justice's innovative model has equipped underserved Dallas residents to fight crime on their street while sharing with them the hope of the

gospel. Its vision is to see safe neighborhoods, where crime is no longer tolerated and hope is restored.

Girls Embracing Mothers, Inc. is a Dallas based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. GEM's primary focus is to empower girls in grades K-12 with mothers in prison to break the cycle of incarceration and lead successful lives with vision and purpose.

Hope Supply Co., formerly known as Captain Hope's Kids, was founded in 1989 as The Hope Foundation for the Homeless, serving as a clearinghouse of donated resources. During the early 1990's, mothers with babies and children became the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Because of this alarming trend, the Board of Directors voted to focus the mission on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in the community, homeless and at-risk children. In 2015, it re-branded to Hope Supply Co. to better reflect its commitment to providing hope for children.

Metrocare Services is the largest provider of mental health services in North

Texas, serving over 55,000 adults and children annually. For over 50 years, Metrocare has provided a broad array of services to people with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. In addition to behavioral health care, Metrocare provides primary care centers for adults and children, services for veterans and their families, accessible pharmacies, housing and supportive social services.

For more information about The Women's Philanthropy Institute at The Dallas Foundation, please visit www.dallasfoundation.org/WPI.

The Dallas Foundation, established as the first community foundation in Texas in 1929, brings together people, ideas, and investments in Greater Dallas so individuals and families can reach their full potential. In 2020, The Dallas Foundation, in partnership with the more than 400 fundholders, invested over \$60 million into the community. For more information, visit www.dallasfoundation.org, Facebook or Instagram.

Luke Kuechly, Reggie Wayne, Jason Witten, and Rod Woodson named 2022 Pro Bowl Legends Captains

Pro Football Hall of Famer Rod Woodson, along with Luke Kuechly, Reggie Wayne, and Jason Witten will serve as the Legends Captains for the 2022 Pro Bowl in Las Vegas.

The Pro Bowl will feature a match-up between the AFC and NFC, with each conference led by two Legends Captains – one offensive and one defensive.

Wayne (offense) and Woodson (defense) will lead the AFC, while Witten (offense) and Kuechly (defense) will lead the NFC. The four Legends Captains, who were collectively selected to 35 Pro Bowls, will serve as mentors for the Pro Bowl players and be present on the sidelines on gameday. The captains will additionally attend various events throughout Pro Bowl Week in Las Vegas, including the 2022 Pro Bowl Skills Showdown.

2022 Pro Bowl presented by Verizon, which kicks off at 3:00 PM ET on Sunday, February 6, and will be televised on ESPN, ESPN Deportes, and simulcast on ABC. Tickets are available now on ProBowl.com and will allow fans special benefits on gameday including access to the Pro Bowl Red Carpet and other family friendly activities.

LUKE KUECHLY: Linebacker Luke Kuechly, a seven-time Pro Bowl selection, was chosen in the first



Blue al-soot / Unsplash

round (No. 9 overall) by the Carolina Panthers in the 2012 NFL Draft. As a rookie in 2012, he was named Associated Press Defensive Rookie of the Year and in 2013, was named the Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year. During his eight-year career with Carolina (2012-19), he totaled 1,092 tackles, 75 tackles for loss, 18 interceptions, 12.5 sacks, and nine fumble recoveries. Kuechly posted eight consecutive 100-tackle seasons and helped lead the Carolina Panthers to a Super Bowl berth in 2015. A five-time first-team All-Pro selection, he was named to the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2010s and was named the Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award recipient in 2017.

REGGIE WAYNE: Wide receiver Reggie Wayne, a six-time Pro Bowl selection, was chosen in the first round (30th overall) of the 2001 NFL Draft by the Indianapolis Colts. During

his 14-year NFL career in Indianapolis (2001-14), he totaled 1,070 receptions for 14,345 receiving yards, both 10th-most in league history, along with 82 touchdown receptions, including eight 1,000-yard campaigns. The former Miami Hurricane appeared in 189 consecutive games from 2002-12, the third-longest such streak by a wide receiver in NFL history. The Super Bowl XLI champion ranks third all-time in postseason receptions (93) and sixth in playoff receiving yards (1,254). He was inducted into the Colts Ring of Honor in 2018 and is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame for the third consecutive year.

JASON WITTEN: Tight end Jason Witten, an 11-time Pro Bowl selection, was chosen by the Dallas Cowboys in the third round of the 2003 NFL Draft. During his 17-year NFL

career (2003-20), including 16 seasons with the Cowboys and the 2020 season with the Las Vegas Raiders, Witten appeared in 271 games, the most all-time by a tight end, while his 1,228 receptions are the second-most by a tight end all-time and the fourth-most in NFL history, and his 13,046 receiving yards rank as the second-most by a tight end in league annals. He also recorded 45 receptions for 486 yards and one touchdown in career playoff games. A two-time All-Pro, Witten was named the 2012 Walter Payton Man of the Year, considered the NFL's most prestigious honor.

ROD WOODSON: Defensive back Rod Woodson, an 11-time Pro Bowl selection, who was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2009, was chosen in the first round (10th

overall) by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1987 NFL Draft. During his 17-year career, Woodson spent time with the Steelers (1987-96), San Francisco 49ers (1997), Baltimore Ravens (1998-2001), and Oakland Raiders (2002-03). In 238 career games, he registered 71 interceptions – the third-most in NFL history – including 12 interceptions returned for a touchdown, the most in league annals. Woodson also starred as a return specialist, finishing his career with 4,894 kickoff return yards, 2,362 punt return yards, and five return touchdowns (two punt returns, two kickoff returns) on special teams. The five-time All-Pro and Super Bowl XXXV Champion was named 1993 Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year and was selected to the league's 75th

Anniversary Team, 100th Anniversary Team, and the 1990's All-Decade Team.

For the first time ever, Pro Bowl Week festivities will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada at Allegiant Stadium and across the Las Vegas area, bringing free experiences and activities to fans as well as an extraordinary number of events focused on commemorating all levels of football – from youth to high school to the NFL's best. Some of the Pro Bowl Week events include: Pro Bowl Practices, Pro Bowl Skills Showdown, NFL FLAG Championships presented by Subway, and the East-West Shrine Bowl.

More information about these and all of the events taking place during Pro Bowl Week is available at ProBowl.com.

Vote for Judge Clay Jenkins



Endorsed by: Congressman Colin Allred and The Dallas Morning News



"As we build back better, Dallas County needs Judge Clay Jenkins' experienced leadership. Whether it's helping bring a new VA hospital to Dallas County or putting American Rescue Plan funds to good use, Judge Jenkins has been a great partner in working to make sure every North Texan has the chance to chase their version of the American Dream." — **Congressman Colin Allred**

Political Ad Paid For By Friends of Clay Jenkins, PO Box 600757 Dallas, Texas 75360

DART extends free transit for riders through Feb. 6

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has extended the free ride program for the New Bus Network through February 6.

DART will also offer 50% off full-fare rides purchased with any contactless payment option from February 7 until end of service on February 21. Learn more about contactless payment methods at GoPass.org. Contactless payment options include:

- GoPass® app
- GoPass® Tap card
- Contactless Visa, Mas-

tercard, American Express, and Discover cards with contactless payment at the validators

• Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Pay, Fitbit Pay, and more with contactless payment at the validators

DART Paratransit services will be free from January 24 - February 6, and \$1.00 from February 7 - February 21.

The DART New Bus Network Free and Reduced Rides promotions are valid on all DART transit services throughout the entire DART

Service Area including buses, light rail, TRE (between EBJ Union Station and CentrePort/DFW Airport Station), GoLink, Dallas Streetcar, and Paratransit Services.

With the goal of providing greater frequency, longer service hours and improved access to destinations across North Texas, DART's new bus network launched on January 24.

More information about DART's new bus network is available at dartzoom.org.

Dallas Children's Theater Board installs new president, new trustees

Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) kicks off 2022 with the installation of a new president...James (Jim) Markus, Partner at Haynes Boone, a top tier law firm headquartered in Dallas. The Board of Trustees unanimously welcomed Markus, along with a number of new trustees, this month.

Markus has been involved with DCT for more than 25 years. He has served the nonprofit organization in numerous capacities including acting as its outside counsel, chairing the development committee and advising on legal and financial aspects of the acquisition and construction of DCT's current facility, which was purchased in 2002. Over the years, Markus has contributed hundreds of hours of pro bono services to the theater.

Markus and his wife, Ellen, have been ticketholders and donors of DCT for decades, and they consider DCT to be the best in the country when it comes to family entertainment. Additionally, Markus is proud of the longstanding reputation of DCT's Academy school, which serves children ages 3.5 to 18, and DCT's many programs that have provided children and families with an entry point to



James (Jim) Markus
Courtesy photo

the arts in North Texas and beyond. DCT has touched over five million people in its 37-year history.

In law practice for more than 40 years, Markus represents financial institutions, corporations, private equity firms and alternative lenders on a range of corporate finance and restructuring transactions. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and is a member of a number of industry organizations, including the Turnaround Management Association, the Dallas Bar Association, the Secured Finance Network, and the Texas Association of Bank Counsel. Markus recently served as a board member and officer of KidLinks, a local nonprofit organization providing music therapy and therapeutic music entertainment to children in need.

"I am honored and excited to serve as DCT's next president," Markus said. "After nearly two years of drastically curtailed operations in response to the pandemic, DCT is now poised to continue offering an unmatched season of Broadway-like performances as well as expanding its instructional programs." Markus added, "DCT is a unique and beloved North Texas treasure, and this was demonstrated by the amazing levels of support we received from staff, donors and the community at large during the pandemic."

Markus will focus on building upon the DCT successes achieved in the virtual space during the pandemic as well as ramping up for a full return to the organization's unique brand of live, family-friendly entertainment in the 2022-2023 season. Markus shared, "I am particularly looking forward to DCT's presentation of 10 SECONDS, a part of DCT's Social Justice Initiative, coming up in May.

In addition to Markus, the following eight community members have signed on to serve on the 38-member board:

Morgan Bennett has a BS from University of Texas, an MS from the University North Texas, and she also studied abroad at the Uni-

versity of Edinburgh. She is currently an Accounting Manager at HKB Investments. Morgan and her husband Kilian, have a two-year old son.

Sarah Freedman went to Franklin & Marshall College (Lancaster, PA) for her undergraduate studies and earned her MBA at NYU Stern School of Business. She is a Managing Director for Citizens Bank and is on the board of Dallas Pets Alive. She and her husband, Chris Skoog, recently saw PADDINGTON SAVES CHRISTMAS as their first DCT show.

Jacqueline Mackewicz is Vice President, Global Talent Acquisition and People Analytics at Texas Instruments. Jacqui has worked with the United Way Tockeville Society as well as UTD's Jindal School of Management Advisory Council. Jacqui and her husband, Raymond, have two children.

Elizabeth "Beth" Minton got her BA from Duke University and received her JD from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She is Managing Counsel for Toyota Motor Credit Corporation and has been a board member of the Junior League of Dallas for seven years.

Tim Mullins is a graduate of Texas Tech University and is Vice President of Digital Sales at Capital One and is the Account Executive for Capital One's CapAbilities BRG Group. He has served on UTD's Jindal School of Management Advisory Council. Tim and his two children are avid theatergoers and daughter, Ainsley, has taken DCT Academy classes and has appeared in the teen Next Stop Broadway showcase. Tim is a member of the Governance and Nominating Committee where he is leading the Sustained Board Member Program.

Amanda Schnetzer has a BA from SMU and an MA from Georgetown University. Amanda is the Founder and CEO of FirstThen (a pre-seed health tech startup focused on Families of ADHD children). She has also served on the board of Church of the Incarnation and the George Bush Institute Review Committee for North Korean Refugee Scholarships. She and her husband, David, along with daughter, Reagan, have seen many productions at DCT. Amanda is a member of DCT's Social Justice Initiative Committee.

Shanti Shahini de Venegas is the Owner/Founder

of Artisan Luxury. Shahini and her husband, Ian Venegas, have two children. Son Ian, aged 12, has attended multiple DCT Summer Camps and productions. Shahini serves on DCT's Social Justice Initiative Committee.

Evan P. Singer went to Vanderbilt University for his undergraduate studies and attended the Dedman School of Law at SMU. He is a partner at Jones Day with a focus on Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement. He and his wife, Rachael, have three children and, as a family, have seen a host of DCT productions over the years. Singer serves on the Governance and Nominating Committee.

Dallas Children's Theater features professional actors performing for an annual audience of 250,000 young people and their families through mainstage productions, a national touring company, and an arts-in-education program. As the only major organization in Dallas focusing solely on youth and family theater, DCT builds bridges of understanding between generations and cultures, instilling an early appreciation of literature, art and the performing arts in tomorrow's artists and patrons.

Baseball's greatest player snubbed for rightful spot in Hall of Fame by self-righteous, vengeful writers

Barry Bonds stands as baseball's all-time home run king, with 762 bombs over a career that lasted more than two decades.

With his fearsome and sweet lefty swing, Bonds also set the single-season home record with 73 in 2001, a year in which he also drew 177 walks.

What separated Bonds from sluggers like Babe Ruth and others? he probably had the best hand-eye coordination ever.

Bonds drew a mind-boggling 2,558 walks over his career, including 626 intentional free passes.

So feared was Bonds; pitchers intentionally

walked him with the bases loaded.

A league MVP seven times and a gold glove winner eight times, there's little question that Barry Lamar Bonds ranks among the top five players in baseball history.

Some recognize him ahead of Ruth, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and others as the greatest.

But Barry Bonds will not receive the crown jewel of his sport — entry into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

At least not yet.

Fifteen years after leaving the sport and being snubbed each year, Bonds

no longer will have eligibility on the Baseball Writers Association of America's (BBWAA) ballot.

It's the writers who vote to enshrine players, who must receive 75 percent of the vote for election.

In December 2022, baseball's so-called "Today's Game Committee" will consider Bonds' candidacy. That committee consists of 16 members from the National Baseball Hall of Fame, executives, and veteran media members.

The group forms an electorate that considers players no longer eligible for election by the BBWAA.

Many have lumped

Bonds in with others in the shameful Steroid era, where writers have repeatedly snubbed players like Sammy Sosa, Roger Clemens, and Mark McGwire.

Unlike Alex Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez, and Jose Canseco, who have either been caught or admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs, Bonds had always denied usage.

Also, he'd never been disciplined for illegal drug use.

However, baseball writers and others point to the year after Bonds' playing days ended when a federal

See BONDS, Page 11



By all objective metrics, Barry Bonds has earned a spot in the Hall of Fame. His statistics speak for themselves and unrivaled in the league. But selection for that honor comes with a subjective vote of writers, who have done their level best to keep him out.
(Photo via NNPA)

Landmark 15th year of Disney Dreamers Academy program awaits 2022 class of talented high school students

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Disney Dreamers Academy, an educational mentorship program created and hosted by Walt Disney World Resort, plans to return with a reimagined approach, March 3-6, marking its 15th year of broadening career awareness and creating exclusive opportunities for Black students and teens from underrepresented communities across America.

This year, the impactful program will introduce the Disney Dreamers to an array of new immersions designed to continue to foster the dreams of young leaders beyond imagination, including career-building workshops, networking sessions, mentorship connections, and introductions to future professional opportunities at The Walt Disney Company and beyond.

For its 15th year, Disney Dreamers Academy



Established by Walt Disney World in 2008, Disney Dreamers Academy's mission is to inspire young leaders to dream beyond imagination by providing life-long access to personalized support for the Disney Dreamer, their caregivers and community through insightful content and uplifting experts, mentors and sponsors. (Photo via NNPA)

is supporting students in even more ways. In a new initiative, Disney Dreamers Academy, in partnership with ESPN's The Undefeated and GRAMMY-nominated rap artist Cordae, is awarding college scholarships to 11 students from underrepresented communities attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Disney Dreamers program is an important

part of Disney's commitment to supporting diverse communities, such as Black America, by encouraging the next generation to think big and to carry what they learn back with them, so they can relentlessly pursue their dreams and make a difference in the lives of others.

"We are excited and honored to celebrate 15 years of Disney Dreamers Academy with this year's class,"

said Tracey D. Powell, Walt Disney World Resort Vice President and Disney Dreamers Academy executive champion. "We've embraced this opportunity to amplify the event, and we're thrilled to introduce new experiences, new career programs, and new mentors."

Since 2008, Disney Dreamers Academy has inspired more than 1,300 students from across the country by fueling their dreams and showing them a world of possibilities as they prepare for their futures. In the years following, graduates have gone on to become doctors, nurses, engineers, pilots, journalists, and more, and have transitioned into mentors to the Disney Dreamers who follow them, including event speaker Princeton Parker (Class of 2011), who is now a Disney cast member.

Each year the Disney Dreamers are selected from thousands of applicants who answer essay questions about their personal stories and dreams for the future. The students and a parent or guardian are given an all-expenses-paid trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida for the event.

These Disney Dreamers engage in a wide variety of experiences at Walt Disney World while working side-by-side with and hearing inspirational stories from community and business leaders, Disney cast members, celebrities, and other special guests.

During the four-day event, the 100 students selected for the annual program participate in sessions teaching valuable life tools such as leadership skills, effective communication techniques, and networking strategies. They also

experience in-depth career workshops in a variety of disciplines aligned with the students' dreams. These workshops introduce the Disney Dreamers to diverse career paths within the business, entertainment, and sciences, including career opportunities within The Walt Disney Company.

Past celebrity participants have included stars from the big screen and television, noted sports figures, popular musicians as well as personalities and cast members from across the Disney family including "Good Morning America," ESPN, Disney Channel, and the TV series "black-ish" and "grown-ish."

For more information, visit DisneyDreamersAcademy.com. Regular updates about Disney Dreamers Academy are also available on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

BONDS, from Page 10

indictment charged him with perjury obstruction of justice for allegedly lying to a grand jury during the federal government's investigation of BALCO, a steroid and performance-enhancing drug laboratory in San Francisco.

Leaked testimony revealed he admitted to unknowingly using "the cream" and "the clear," and a former girlfriend testified that he used steroids for an injury.

But Bonds' snub appears to run deeper and it cuts with a hint of jealousy and racism.

When Bonds set the all-time home run record, then-Commissioner Bud Selig went out of his way to demean the accomplishment citing alleged but unproven steroid use.

However, a few years earlier, Selig and others cheered McGwire and Sosa's steroid-fueled assault on the same record.

Baseball writers — the individuals' task with casting

Hall of Fame votes — jeered Bonds at every turn. With typical dog whistles, they often described Bonds as "surly," "aloof," and having "a bad attitude."

Bonds mostly ignored the media and its rhetoric, and during 22 years in two of the most challenging parks for hitters — Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium and San Francisco's Candlestick Park — he excelled.

That he refused to engage media members only served to anger them, and the dog whistles continued at a relentless pace.

Bonds once explained that the pressure he experienced as a young man on the Pittsburgh Pirates led to his combativeness with the media.

He recognized that he could have done more to better the relationship.

"I've created this fire around me, and I'm stuck in it, so I might as well live with the flames," he stated during a 2016 interview.

Still, with just about a

half dozen Black members in the more than 700 member BBWAA, Bonds stands little chance of understanding or recognition for his peerless accomplishments.

"The simple truth is that Barry Bonds is the story of the steroid era. He is a player whose physical gifts knew no limits — and whose desire for something beyond greatness took him to a place he never needed to go," ESPN Journalist Jeff Passan wrote in favor of Bonds' election to the Hall of Fame.

"His greed mirrored the league's: the ceaseless pursuit of bigger, better, more. This is the history that demands to be told, and there is no better place to tell it than in the plaque room at the Hall of Fame."

Barry Bonds' Career Statistics: 2,986 games played; 2,227 runs scored; 2,935 hits; 601 doubles; 77 triples; 762 home runs; 514 stolen bases; 2,558 walks; 688 intentional walks; .298 batting average; .444 on base percentage; .607 slugging percentage; 1.051 OPS.



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Howard University professor says Americans are quitting 'bad jobs'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

It's official, America has entered the Great Resignation.

In August, 4.3 million Americans quit their jobs, and the quit rate, measured by the government against total employment, rose to 2.9 percent in August.

But that was August.

According to the Labor Department's Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, November quits hit close to historic highs.

The number of workers jumped to 4.5 million above the prior record of 4.4 million reached in September. When broken down, 3 percent of workers voluntarily left their positions, a figure that matched September's record high.

Further, employers posted 10.6 million job openings, down from a near-record 11 million the previous month and just



Photo via NNPA

below July's all-time high. Openings have now topped 10 million for six straight months.

Economists said the decline was fueled by a drop of 261,000 openings in restaurants and hotels, leaving a whopping 1.5 available jobs for each unemployed person, the most on record dating back two decades.

After years in the restaurant industry, Colette Graack told CBS News that she left her duties in the food prep line in June 2021 in exchange for a more profound role as mom.

"I just couldn't handle keeping on that pressure when my son needed me more," Graack said.

Her son has autism and needs constant care, a job she will soon take as she trains to be his personal care assistant.

Graack told the network the leap proved difficult.

"Especially financially because I'm a single mom. Thankfully I had savings at the time that we could ride that out," she said.

Reportedly, many Americans left the workforce recently and shared Graack's

concerns.

Despite millions quitting, millions more found new jobs. So where are they going? Often, it's a different industry altogether.

"This notion that if you leave one industry, going to a new one requires, you know, a degree or a bunch of training, it might not be the case," Steve Grove, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, told CBS. "The reality is today; whether it's the state, whether it's a college, whether it's your future employer, there is a ton of support and free training available to make that shift."

William Spriggs, a professor in Howard University's Economics Department and an economist for AFL-CIO, cautioned that the government's job numbers shouldn't frighten anyone.

During an appearance on the NNPA's Let It Be

Known live breaking news program, Professor Spriggs said it's dubious calling this the "Great Resignation" or the "Great Quit."

"The problem of job matching was going to be a problem once we, the United States, showed a policy of separation as opposed to retention to make it through the virus," Professor Spriggs remarked.

"All other industrial countries held employees in place," he said.

He asserted that "what took place in Europe, Australia, and Canada were schemes where the government paid employers to keep employees connected to their jobs through the pandemic."

Professor Spriggs said the U.S. took a different route.

He said the federal government placed workers on unemployment, separating them from their jobs with no reconnection plans.

"For instance, in a place

like New Jersey where you have perhaps the best unemployment insurance system, you also have better job matches," Professor Spriggs stated.

"You didn't see the quit rate rise when we had the supplement to unemployment because you could choose jobs. Now, we force people to take a job so you will get a mismatch as you've seen in the accommodations sector."

Professor Spriggs continued:

"They're not letting people go, but they're still draining people on hours and still paying lower wages. With the shift in demand taking place and a record number of online shopping and getting tested at much higher rates, the shift in demand to other sectors is happening because workers no longer have to put up with bad jobs. It's really bad jobs where the quit rate is up."

U.S. Department of Energy kicks off recruitment to support implementation of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the launch of its Clean Energy Corps, which is made up of staff from more than a dozen offices across DOE — current staff and new hires — who will work together to research, develop, demonstrate, and deploy solutions to climate change.

DOE also announced that the Clean Energy Corps is ready to recruit an additional 1,000 employees using a special hiring authority included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help implement the Law's historic infusion of \$62 billion in funding and accelerate the nation's drive to a clean energy future.

The Clean Energy Corps' new hiring portal will help streamline the application



"This is an open call for all Americans who are passionate about taking a proactive role in tackling the climate crisis and want to join the team that is best positioned to lead this transformative work," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. (Photo via NNPA)

process for the industry veterans, experienced technical experts, and the next generation of clean energy leaders it seeks to attract.

This critical step marks the largest staff expansion at DOE since its establishment in 1977 and advances President Biden's goals to create good-paying jobs, spur economic growth and reach net-zero carbon emissions

by 2050.

Watch Secretary Granholm's message for Clean Energy Corps applicants [HERE](#).

"This is an open call for all Americans who are passionate about taking a proactive role in tackling the climate crisis and want to join the team that is best positioned to lead this transformative work," said U.S.

Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm.

"Solving the world's greatest challenge will require the inclusion of all voices, perspectives and experiences — and we need people like you to ensure that DOE fulfills on our commitment to accelerating the clean energy transition to reduce emissions and save our planet."

The Department is now collecting resumes for the Clean Energy Corps through the newly launched DOE Applicant Portal, part of a streamlined application process that will allow applicants to align their talents with their passions by indicating specific areas of interest and allowing hiring managers to review candidate profiles simultaneously.

The Department will as-

semble the Clean Energy Corps to mirror the diversity within America and ensure the inclusion of workers who have lived in communities impacted by climate change. DOE is seeking candidates with interest in leading the clean energy transition through the following industries:

- Program and Portfolio Management
- Project Management
- Engineering
- Physical Science
- Grants/Contract Management
- Legal
- Information Technology/Cybersecurity
- Safety and Occupational Health
- Business Administration
- Finance/Accounting
- Human Resources
- Public Policy
- Communications

• Legislative Affairs

Anyone interested in joining the Department of Energy's Clean Energy Corps can submit their resume, skills, and areas of interest at energy.gov/cleanenergy-corps.

LinkedIn LIVE: As part of the launch of the hiring portal and Clean Energy Corps, on Monday, January 24, at 1 p.m. ET, Secretary Granholm will join DOE Chief of Staff Tarak Shah and Chief Human Capital Officer Erin Moore for a livestreamed conversation to discuss how the Department's hiring strategy will be essential to delivering a more equitable clean energy future for all Americans.

Interested job seekers are encouraged to attend. Watch live on energy.gov/live or on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or LinkedIn.

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.

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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.

After SB 1, Common Cause Texas urges all voters to 'be your own advocates for your freedom to vote'

Amid news reports that at least two counties are having to reject about half of mail ballot applications, Common Cause Texas is urging voters to check the status of their applications and re-apply, if necessary, before next month's deadline. There is currently no clear process for "curing" applications that have been rejected.

The Travis County

Clerk's office attributed the high rejection rate to changes made by SB 1, the voter suppression bill enacted last fall.

In 2020, almost a million Texans voted by mail. To be eligible to vote early by mail in Texas, the voter must be 65 years or older; sick or disabled; out of the county on election day and during the period for in-person early voting; ex-

pected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day; or confined in jail, but otherwise eligible to vote.

Voters who have applied for a mail ballot can check their status online at <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/BallotTrackerApp/#/login>. Voters who do not have internet access can call their county clerk's office for information.

For voters planning to vote by mail in the March 1 primary election, the deadline for mail ballot applications to be received by the county's Early Voting Clerk is Friday, February 18, 2022.

Statement of Common Cause Texas Associate Director Stephanie Gómez

We said SB 1 was going

See VOTE, Page 16

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NAN Chapter President

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

The President:

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

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

Be Careful What You Smile About

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I am a student of smile-ology and have been just about all my life. If you can't smile at something, it's not worth thinking about.

Of course, certain things in life are serious, but not that many. Too many people take everything seriously and ruin their life. These are the kind of people I like to be around because they take things so seriously and because of that, the jokes on them.

When I see somebody that looks sad, I have an impulse to try to do something to make them laugh. It is that smile on our face that defines who we are.

There are times when I need to be careful about my smiling. I find so much to chuckle about, and to be truthful, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has given me quite a bit to chuckle about. I don't know if she has taught me to chuckle or if I have taught her to chuckle. The result is the only thing that matters. We chuckle

together, and that makes a good life.

We need to be careful about watching programs dealing with politicians because of the danger of dying laughing. Every politician has their role model as Charlie Chaplin.

When I told my wife this, she vehemently disagreed.

"Oh, no," she said most energetically, "their role model is the Three Stooges."

When she's right, she's right, and with this, she is absolutely right.

We enjoyed a long therapeutic session of chuckling.

Then a certain chapter in our life opened up. We were eating supper together, and my wife said, "Do you know that my friend was locked out of Facebook?"

I chuckled because I thought it was some kind of a joke.

"No," I said between chuckles, "what kind of nonsense did she do to deserve that?"

I responded, "Doesn't she know that her world

does not revolve around Facebook? Tell her to go and get a life."

In the next week, I heard of several of my friends who have been locked out of their Facebook. These friends were good people, and I couldn't figure out why in the world Facebook would lock them out. They probably did something terrible. Why else would Facebook lock them out?

It seems every week I hear someone who is being locked out of Facebook, and I never could understand the reasons for that. I just laughed it off and thought perhaps they did something that was not right.

After all, Facebook is always right. (Or do they lean left?) I could never figure that out.

Whenever I hear of one being locked out, I would just smile and chuckle and forget about it.

I've learned a lesson, don't chuckle about something when you don't know the whole story.

One day this past week, I got up, got my coffee,

and went to my chair to do a little reading, and then I picked up my iPad to check out my Facebook page.

I guess this is something automatic, and I don't think about it too much.

As I was opening my Facebook page, a message came up that said I had been locked out of Facebook. Evidently, according to them, and they never get it wrong, there have been things put on my Facebook that did not correlate with their standards.

Somebody hacked into my account and started putting on things I had no idea about.

When I told my wife about my lockout on Facebook, she just started chuckling.

"What are you chuckling about?"

"Well," she said between chuckles, "you must've done something awful for Facebook to lock you out."

Just to pause right here; I was not chuckling!

Then she reminded me of all the friends of ours locked out of Facebook

and how much we laughed and chuckled.

"Yeah," I said mournfully, "but that had nothing to do with me. I'm locked out!"

She stared at me one of those stares of hers and just kept staring. I was getting to be a little unnerved by her staring. Then she finally said, "Your world does not revolve around Facebook. Go get a life."

At this time, I was not chuckling, but was beginning to do the opposite of chuckling. I can't tell you what that is right now.

The rest of the day, I was pondering my situation. I did not know how much time I spent on Facebook and how I depended upon it for specific information. I was disturbed by the thought that my world was beginning to revolve around Facebook. What a terrible development.

At this point, I am still locked out of Facebook. I'm not sure how long I'll be locked out; it could be a month or more. I don't know how these things

work.

Although I thought it was a bad experience, I begin to realize that it was a good experience. Sometimes the best part of life flows out of the worst experiences we have. God delights to reveal himself in the dark shadows of our human experience.

I thought about a verse in the New Testament, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

(Philippians 4:4-5).

Every experience gives me a new opportunity to rejoice in the Lord. My joy certainly does not come from Facebook but from Christ.

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 jameessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

New book exposes how Defiant Political Oppressors invite a divine judgment

'Defiant Political Oppressors' is a timely analysis that is at once theologically and politically incisive. Trump—a modern-day Pharaoh—and his minions adamantly refuse to let the nation go free.

Even though more than a year has passed since the insurrection of January 6, 2021, there is yet little

doubt that the political oppression of anti-democracy forces in the nation have not abated but have intensified. The spirit and strategies of Trumpism proponents continue to permeate the society, threatening our democratic governing values, traditions, and institutions. Ex-President Trump and his advocates of Trumpism told

the "Big Lie" of a "rigged" election, incited the insurrection, and continue to foment the current crisis in American democracy.

Fear grips elected officials within this socio-political stream—fears of threats and reprisals from Trump and his Trumpism enforc-

See DIVINE, Page 15

SAMPLES, from Page 2

the Dallas City Council and various City of Dallas departments, such as the Office of Economic Development and the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization.

Over the last eight years, Samples' practice has focused heavily on economic and housing development projects, such as the redevelopment of the iconic

Statler Hotel into a multi-family/hotel/retail mixed-use development; the development of the first Alamo Drafthouse in Dallas, and the redevelopment of the historic old Dallas High School into a commercial/office space, which was seen as a major pedestrian connection between Deep Ellum the Arts District and the Latino Cultural Center.

"We are excited to welcome Marichelle to the team and look forward to growing our economy and supporting our businesses under her leadership," Powell said.

When she's not at work, Samples likes to spend time with her husband, Benjamin, and their two kids, and looks forward to exploring all that Lewisville has to offer.

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It's practical to be peaceable



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

NOTE: As we pause to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. It's hard to find a man more peaceful than he was. So much is in the news about road rage, killings, government shut-downs, etc. Therefore, we can learn a valuable lesson when we consider that . . .

Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9.

It has been told that after listening to some children hollering and screaming at each other while talking on the phone, a man wondered why the guardian didn't stop them.

And, while listening to another young lady describe her employer's conduct during her, "first and last day" of employment on that job; the man wondered



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "What is your life's blueprint?"

why an employer would speak to a "first day, especially," employee in that manner.

After all, a peaceable individual speaking in a calm voice initiates good will and actively promotes peace within a home or a place of business.

Individuals learn by watching the actions of others; some are lead to think that to get along with people and to succeed in this world, one must be intimidating, abusive, aggressive, mean-spirited and even violent.

Hence, all the current abusive behavior and death of children in homes, at the daycare and at school are seen. There are even abuses and deaths of individuals in business offices, on the street, in stores, etc.

It is wise to do unto others as you would have them do unto you; "The Golden Rule" of life.

To be peaceable means having a Calmness of Heart: "A sound heart is the life of the flesh. Proverbs 14:30(a).

cate that anger and hostility can become triggers for

strokes and heart attacks. One journal, speaking of people with heart disease, compared explosive anger to poison.

It stated that, "Getting really mad can mean getting really sick." Violence, anger, and frustration can cause sleep problems, stress, stomach and nervous conditions which can affect one's health.

On the other hand, those who pursue peace can develop "a calm heart" and reap many helpful benefits.

Learning God's purpose for a peaceful world and developing a new attitude can do wonders for cultivating a calm heart.

God's word, doctors, and many individuals can tell you from personal experience as well, that developing a peaceable spirit can improve your emotional, physical and spiritual health. Ephesians 4:22-24; Isaiah 65:17; Micah 4:1-4,

and Proverbs 15:13

Happier relationships with others will benefit when you display a peaceable spirit. "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor (screaming) and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31 & 32.

Those who display an aggressive, mean-spirited behavior and abusive speech often drive others away and find themselves along, without dependable friends, family, co-workers and employees.

When a person is enraged he/she stirs up contention, but one that is slow to anger quiets down quarreling.

A peaceable spirit shows honor and respect for mankind; and for the ex-

pressed Will of God. "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Psalm 34:14.

When we acknowledge God and learn to obey His life-giving teachings, this opens the door to a personal friendship with Him and with mankind.

With a strong relationship with God, we gain "the Peace of God" which is an excellent peace regardless of the challenges that life may bring.

Yes, it's practical to be peaceable, and then we can experience a 'calm heart', a 'meaningful relationship' and a 'solid hope for the future'. These blessings can be yours when you do your best to "be peaceable with all men."

(Editor's Note: This column was originally published in the Feb. 6, 2019 issue of the North Dallas Gazette.)

DIVINE, from Page 14

ers. Their fears have debilitated these politicians from telling the truth and acting civilly as responsible citizens and honorable elected representatives. These defiant oppressors persistently spread the "Big Lie" and other falsehoods, despite the serious repercussions of a disinformation campaign whose effects are eroding the nation's civil, political, multiracial, and multicultural integrity; their unrighteous practices are degenerating the moral ethos of the nation. Trumpism supporters have given a slap in the face to American citizens by stringently opposing and blocking voting rights—the pillar of democracy.

Rev. Dr. McCray writes with the courage of the "Watchman" who answers the people's perturbing question "What of the night?" (cf. Isaiah 21:11). He spiritually wrestles with the looming consequences

of the nation's pressing political crisis and offers a telling theological perspective on the oppressive political stratagem of anti-democracy. His perceptive warning rings true: a historical-theological trajectory indicates that serious spiritual and social consequences await unrepentant oppressors.

Those who engage in constant political and social oppression must answer to God and will find themselves paying the high price of severe suffering for their

recalcitrance. Occasionally God averts or delays a judgment. Yet—for the sake of mercifully preserving America's freedom, and in the course of time before eternity—the Divine as Sovereign may dispense an inevitable and remedial retribution upon the nation's oppressors.

In this context—especially given the tenuous current political-social milieu—a Divine intervention may prove to be the safest and most enduring option available for preserving the soul of the nation's democracy—true, just, and free.

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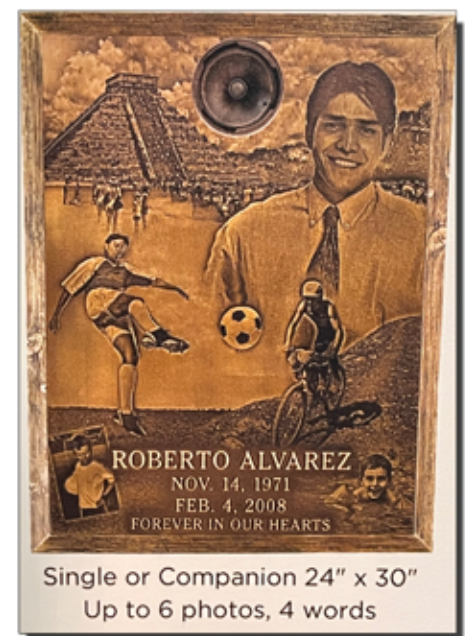
Sunday Service 7:30am & 11am
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"For Sale at Discount" Laurel Land Memorial Park - Dallas

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



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

NDG Book Review: Books based on the stories of slave ships

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can only imagine.

There was fear, of course, but also pain and a feeling of suffocation. Surely, there was a sense of embarrassment when clothes were lost and bodily smells were unavoidable. Outrage, too, that was surely present, but you can only imagine. If you're compelled to know, read these two great new books about the ships of the Middle Passage.

Not long ago, the news was buzzing with a very unexpected discovery: the remains of the Clotilda, an 160-year-old ship, were discovered in Alabama waters, half-burned but in good enough shape for its discov-



Terri Schlichenmeyer

ers to know what it was and the importance it held...

"The Last Slave Ship" by Ben Raines (Simon & Schuster, \$26.00) begins the tale of those ruins in 1860, when more than five decades had passed since

the importation of slaves from Africa had become law. Still, Timothy Meaher was a betting man. Meaher wagered that he could somehow send the Clotilda across the ocean, and back with human cargo, without

getting caught. History, of course, didn't allow that.

But this isn't just a tale of a white man and a ship. It's also a story of warfare, the capture of 110 people, and their sale in Africa by a king who showed no mercy and who almost re-captured the slaves-to-be to resell them. It's a story of peril and politics, and it extends to the descendants of the captain and his cargo today.

"The Last Slave Ship" is an action-packed, whip-smart true account that's filled with science, history, and compassion. Readers will devour it.

A nice companion to the Raines book is "The Black Joke" by A.E. Rooks.

In the time between Na-

poleon's fall in France and the very height of Queen Victoria's reign in England, the Black Joke sailed the Atlantic on behalf of England to end the slave trade – not just in Great Britain, but on both sides of the ocean.

Until its capture by the Royal Navy in 1827, the Black Joke was a notoriously fast slave ship that shuttled humans from Africa to parts elsewhere. The Brits knew exactly what to do with it, once they had possession of the ship: they recycled it, making the Black Joke into an important part of their anti-slavery fleet and a speedy way to capture slaving vessels and free the people aboard them.

Like "The Last Slave

Ship," "The Black Joke" is full of action and heroism, but in a different way: the former includes the recovery of an important bit of U.S. history, while the latter is a wider story, both in scope and geography. Readers will be happy (and very well-informed) to read one, then the other, in quick succession.

Once you've done that, you may want more information so check with your favorite bookseller or librarian. They have many more stories of slave ships at their fingertips, including firsthand accounts from many points of view. All you have to do is ask and you'll find more similar books than you can imagine.

VOTE, from Page 13

to make it harder for Texans to vote – and now we're seeing the proof.

This problem was intentionally designed, and targeted at some of our state's most vulnerable voters, including seniors and disabled people. And as things stand now, about half of those voters are being blocked from having their voices heard.

If this isn't fixed, this single provision of SB 1 could

block up to a half-million Texans from voting by mail this year.

And there are so many other provisions – Regarding ballot boxes and early voting; giving new powers to partisan poll watchers; limiting county election officials' ability to adopt safe and secure methods of voting.

Time will tell how many Texans will be affected by the whole of SB1.

In the meantime, we urge

all Texans to be your own advocates for your freedom to vote. While the politicians in charge are determined to make it as hard as possible to vote, Common Cause Texas is ramping up our Texas-sized election protection to ensure our communities can make their voice heard at the ballot box. Voters who need assistance with their ballot applications or other voting issues can call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

But we also recommend

that every voter should check your voter registration. Check the status of your ballot application and your mail ballot. Check the location of your polling place. Make a plan to

vote and think about contingency plans so that you can still vote even if you hit one of the barriers that were created by SB 1.

A 'government by the people' should encourage

people to participate – not create barriers to keep people from voting.

But this is the reality in Texas right now. And every voter in Texas needs to know that.



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 NNTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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