



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Bomb threats disrupt classes at more than a dozen HBCUs across the U.S.

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Senior  
National Correspondent

Six more historically Black colleges and universities received bomb threats on Monday, January 31.

The threats occurred at Southern University and A&M College in Louisiana, Howard University in Washington, D.C., Bethune-Cookman University in Florida, Albany State University in Georgia, Bowie State University in Maryland, and Delaware State University.

The threats disrupted each campus and have led to police investigations.

Classes were canceled at five of the schools, and students were told to remain in their dorm rooms until an all-clear is issued. University operations were also suspended until further notice.

A Washington Metropolitan Police Department spokesperson confirmed to a CNN reporter that at Howard University the "scene has been cleared with no hazardous materials found."

It was the second time this month HBCUs have received bomb



Several historically Black universities this week fielded bomb threats on their campuses. Though no actual devices were found, authorities are investigating. (Photo via NNPA)

threats, effectively shutting down classes and operations.

On January 5, at least three HBCUs, including Howard University, received bomb threats. Nothing was found on any of the campuses that received threats, university officials said.

Then on Tuesday, more than a dozen universities received further bomb threats. For some, this was a repeated threat from earlier in the week. The FBI told news sources that it was investigating the wave

of threats in conjunction with local law enforcement.

So far, the universities have been able to resume after a short disruption.

"Coppin State University has received an all-clear status from Campus Safety related to the bomb threat received, today," the university's website announced late Tuesday. "No evidence of a bomb or other explosive device was found. The campus is safe to return for students and employees."



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#### People In The News ...



Cheslie Kryst



Judge J. Michelle Childs

NDG Quote of the Week: "We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers. Our abundance has brought us neither peace of mind nor serenity of spirit."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Cheslie Kryst

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

As a lawyer, Cheslie Kryst worked pro bono for low-level drug offenders, founded White Collar Glam, a fashion blog dedicated to helping women dress professionally for office jobs, and modeled for Express's retail company.

Kryst, who won the 2019 Miss USA pageant and worked as a correspondent for the entertainment news television show "Extra," reportedly committed suicide on January 30.



Authorities said the beauty queen, 30, jumped to her death from her 29th floor New York apartment.

"In devastation and great sorrow, we share the passing of our beloved Cheslie," the Kryst family wrote

in a statement.

"Her great light was one that inspired others around the world with her beauty and strength. She cared, she loved, she laughed, and she shined."

The statement continued: "Cheslie embodied love and served others, whether through her work as an attorney fighting for social justice, as Miss USA, and as a host on EXTRA. But most importantly, as a daughter, sister, friend, mentor, and colleague — we know her impact will live on."

Tributes poured in through social media and other outlets for the beauty queen, who famously wore

her crown atop her naturally curly hair.

"Such incredibly sad news," Bernice King, the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, tweeted. "Depression creates deep despair and an overwhelming illusion that there's no way forward in life," King advised. "Remember, looking good and doing good doesn't equal feeling and thinking good."

Officials at Miss Universe also tweeted their devastation.

"We are devastated to learn about the loss of Miss USA 2019, Cheslie Kryst. She was one of the brightest, warmest, and most kind people we have ever had

the privilege of knowing," pageant officials tweeted.

"Our entire community mourns her loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family right now."

The 68th Miss USA, Kryst was born in Jackson, Michigan, to Rodney Kryst and April Simpkins.

She was raised by her mother and stepfather, David Simpkins, and Kryst had four brothers and one sister.

In 2013, Kryst won the 1L Trial Bar Competition Finals and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in marketing and human resource management.

A track and field star,

Kryst turned her attention to law and beauty pageants.

She began work at the Poyner Spruill firm as an attorney in civil litigation.

In 2016, she earned fourth runner-up at the Miss North Carolina USA pageant.

In 2018, she finished in the top 10 in the Miss North Carolina USA competition but earned her law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law.

She won the Miss North Carolina USA title a year later and then became a correspondent for EXTRA.

For assistance, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

## Judge J. Michelle Childs

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Black women stood on the frontlines to help push President Joe Biden over the top in the 2020 election.

As the nation awaits word on whom the President nominates to fill the newly vacant Supreme Court seat, there's little debate whether an African American woman will be that pick.

Among the few remaining questions is whether that individual will deliver progress on a high court that will maintain its 6-3



conservative advantage.

"As a longtime advocate for Diversity and Inclusion at the highest levels of leadership in our nation, I am looking forward to the President's appointment of a highly-qualified and ex-

perienced jurist to our nation's highest court," said Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio).

"We know that when America's boardrooms, legislatures, and even the Supreme Court start to resemble America, we all benefit," Beatty stated.

"I will continue to push in my capacity as a member of Congress and Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus to ensure that the President upholds his promise to the American people and that the Senate confirms a Black woman to the Supreme Court without any unnecessary delay."

One candidate has already emerged.

The White House confirmed the candidacy of South Carolina U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs.

A 1992 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, Judge Childs was appointed in 2010 by President Barack Obama to serve as a United States District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Upon graduation from

law school, Judge Childs went to work as an associate attorney at Nexsen Pruet Jacobs and Pollard law firm, becoming the first Black female partner in a major law firm in South Carolina.

She earned two gubernatorial appointments to become the Deputy Director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (2000-02) and a Commissioner on the South Carolina Worker's Compensation Com-

mission (2002-06).

Judge Childs then won election from the South Carolina General Assembly as an at-large Circuit Court Judge (2006-10).

"In law school, you learn early on that your reputation and credibility will follow you throughout your career," Judge Childs said in an interview with her alma mater.

"Your classmates will be on opposing sides in cases

See CHILDS Page 12

## Don King

Warren, Ohio Mayor Doug Franklin knew that he was going to honor iconic boxing promoter Don King for bringing 'Return to Greatness,' a six-championship blockbuster, to his city on January 29 at WD Packard Music Hall, but he did not know how.

What King or nobody else knew was that Franklin, the 35th Mayor of Warren, now in his 11th year, would present King with a proclamation declaring January 26, 2022 as Don King Day at the Grand Resort ballroom during the final press conference.

"It was actually something that I demanded, that



Don King Day be placed in the proclamation because I know a lot more about Don King other than his promoting career," said Mayor Franklin. "His benevolence to the community what he's done for Ohio so that has always inspired me. So, I made sure that when we

were extracting things from his biography, everything jumped out and I said I got make this his day."

Don King Day is a ceremonial token of Warren's appreciation for what he has done for the city in the past and what he's doing for the city today.

Mayor Franklin admitted that he does not make such proclamations often, but because it was such short notice, and he did not have the time to present King with the Key to the City.

"That would have been what I would love to do, and I might still be able to get that done before he leaves town."

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publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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editor@northdallasgazette.com

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Allen R. Gray

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**Interim Editor**

David Wilfong

**Contributing Writers**Jackie Hardy  
Lori Lee  
Jacqueline Murphy  
Dwain Price  
Terri Schlichenmeyer  
David Wilfong**Community Marketing**

Nadina Davis

**Senior Account Executive**

Nadina Davis

**Production**

David Wilfong

**NDG Obituary Dept.**Vicky Richardson-Stewart  
VP of Operations

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# The time for truth telling is now

By Oscar H. Blayton

On Nov. 24, 1768, an advertisement appeared in the Virginia Gazette, a newspaper printed in Williamsburg and widely distributed in Virginia, Britain's largest North American colony.

This advertisement screamed in large black letters, "A SCHEME of a LOTTERY," and below that in letters almost as large were the words, "For disposing of certain LANDS, SLAVES, and STOCKS, belonging to the subscriber."

Among the "CONTENTS of PRIZES" listed, which could be acquired by this raffle, were 24 enslaved men, women and children. Their values were assessed from a high of 280 British pounds for a blacksmith and his wife who was described as "a young wench who works exceedingly well both in the house and field," to a low of 20 British pounds for another woman named "Lucy" and described as "outlandish." In what would be considered heartbreaking today, this raffle broke apart families, as most family members were sold in separate lots.

This type of raffle was a common occurrence in colonial Virginia and would not be considered a remarkable historical event except for the fact that the 17 managers who conducted this raffle were laser focused on their own liberties and freedoms.

Among these managers were men who attended the Continental Congress, fought in the Revolutionary War and signed the Declaration of Independence. Most prominent among them was George Washington. Several of these men are often identified as "Founding Fathers" of our nation. And it is telling that they could treat their fellow human beings with such casual cruelty.

This raffle in late 1768 was not an isolated incident for the man who later would become America's first president. Four months later, Washington helped to set up another lottery to

pay the debts of a Virginia planter who owed money to his stepchildren. This lottery also was advertised in the Virginia Gazette.

While apologists for Washington try to whitewash his inhumanity by imagining that he was merely a man of his times who earnestly sought a way to end slavery, the record is clear: These raffles show us a man who had no concern for the humanity of the enslaved.

In the April 1769 lottery, while the more valuable married males were raffled together with their wives and children, less valuable slaves were separated from their families and placed arbitrarily into different lots. For example, the ledger reportedly shows that a slave named Robin and his wife Bella were raffled together as husband and wife, but their daughters, 12-year-old Sukey and 7-year-old Betty, were listed in a separate lot. Washington and his colleagues issued 1,840 tickets for this lottery, so the chances were extremely unlikely that those enslaved family members would remain together.

It is important to illustrate this bit of history because it demonstrates the challenges people of color have had to overcome to have their humanity recognized. And it reveals the casual ease with which American social structures, policies and practices trampled our humanity.

After a long, hard and bloody journey through American history, where people of color have given so much and gotten so little in return, it should be unimaginable that so many Americans still cling to notions of white supremacy with religious vigor. So firmly do they cling to their belief in the incontrovertible truth of their world view that the dogma of their religion of white supremacy is "Your Fault." This creed lays blame at the feet of everyone victimized by white supremacy and shields racially motivated bigots from

any sense of responsibility for the misery they have inflicted upon their fellow humans.

Because the doxology of white supremacy has been performed so fervently over and over again for so long, no other chorus could be heard. It has rung out from most American newsrooms, motion picture studios, radio stations, courts of justice and legislative halls for centuries.

This dogma of Your Fault is the cheapest form of insurance against liability and social accountability. Its logic is based upon adolescent thinking, like that of a teenage motorist who explains to his uncle that his automobile insurance coverage is "Your Fault." People who are unable to accept liability are unable to understand consequences.

When the unatoned fail to acknowledge their unregenerate behavior, they can believe in their own righteousness despite the depravity of their actions. And it is only by the continuous performance of their long-lived doxology that they can have faith in the religious righteousness of their race-based bigotry.

The struggle for white supremacists to maintain this belief system is an existential one. Without this belief, they are not special or exceptional or extraordinary. They are not supreme. And thinking of themselves as "supreme" is an integral part of the self-worth of white supremacists.

It is because they cannot alter their belief in who they are, that white supremacists must find fault in those whom they have victimized. This explains why, for many past decades, white social scientists like Daniel Patrick Moynihan sought to address the ills afflicting Black and brown communities in this country by constantly trying to "fix" the people broken by victimization rather than fixing the victimizing system.

It is within this context that Washington's raffles must be seen as elisions in

the history of this nation. They are not hidden; the records are there for anyone to see. They merely have been omitted when we have recounted our national narrative.

When we testify to the character of our nation, its history and its culture, we are obligated to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, otherwise, we perpetuate a lie.

Today, attempts to conform the American narrative to a fiction of a just and enlightened settlement of an empty land through the rational and tolerant use of a savage and undisciplined workforce to form a fair and equitable society have reached a fever pitch. Bigots seek to hide the true past of this nation and build a memorial to a just society that never was. Accounts of the cruelties and depravities of their ancestors are being culled from libraries and banned from being taught in schools.

We are called now to give witness to the true and factual history of this country. We must not shy away from removing the cloaks from the grotesque nakedness of the twisted form of racial bias that has defined this country's history. We must fight to keep the truth and the honest telling of America's history in our schools. We must push with all our might against the distortion of our country's narratives that aggrandize the villainy of racial bigotry clothed in patriotism and progress. We must call out our neighbors, co-workers and those we encounter in the street, who believe it is acceptable to do anything other than tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We must all speak truth to power now. There can be no other course than this.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>

Keep up with the news

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# 5 ways to reclaim your rhythm during American Heart Month

(American Heart Association) Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific data indicate deaths from heart disease and stroke have risen significantly[1] and more people are reporting lower physical and emotional wellness. [2] This February during American Heart Month, the American Heart Association, the leading voluntary health organization devoted to a world of longer, healthier lives for all, is helping everyone reclaim their rhythm and take back control of their mental and physical well-being.

Over the past two years, evidence suggests many people have adopted unhealthy behaviors like skipping exercise, eating unhealthy foods, drinking more alcohol and using tobacco, which can all increase the risk for heart disease and stroke. Additionally, people who had mild cases of COVID-19 may have changes to their heart and brain health as a consequence of their encounter with the virus.[3] The American Heart Association is urging everyone to create healthy habits that work best for their life, because losing even one mom, brother, friend, or neighbor to heart disease is one too many.

"Managing and reducing stress can improve feelings of happiness, purpose and gratitude, all of which can keep hearts and minds healthier, and make it more likely for people to stick with healthy habits," said American Heart Association



President Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, M.D., Sc.M., FAHA. "Managing stress means managing your health, so reclaim control of your schedule and build in time to invest in a healthier you."

Incorporating music in one's daily routine can help create healthy habits. As part of a collaboration with music streaming service Pandora, the American Heart Association will have a station takeover of Pandora's Dance Cardio Radio. Three Modes featuring specially curated tracks by Pandora will be available for the month of February:

- **Reclaim Your Heart:** Surviving and Thriving, featuring the anthems of the 2022 Go Red for Women Real Women Class, national volunteers for the American Heart Association, each with a unique heart or brain health journey.

- **Reclaim Your Day,** featuring celebrated Black artists in recognition of Black History Month

- **Reclaim Your Beat,** featuring music you can dance

to, groove to, and keep the beat, 100 to 120 bpm, for Hands-Only CPR

Curating a personal playlist can help reclaim rhythm, whether it's cardio, meditative, or a soundtrack for resting. Additionally, below are five ways to create healthy habits:

- **Mellow out and reduce stress:** Stress can lead to depression or anxiety, as well as unhealthy habits like overeating, physical inactivity, smoking and risk factors for heart disease and stroke like high blood pressure.

- **Move to the music:** Create a playlist that will get listeners moving and grooving. Staying active is one of the best ways to keep body and mind healthy. Not only can it help everyone feel, think, sleep and live better, it also improves overall quality of life. Physical activity is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.[4]

- **Feed your soul,** rocking Don King Day) was the right thing to do. It was sort of God inspired."

Warren benefited economically from King-promoted fighters patronizing businesses in the community.

your recipes: The meaning of "family" may have changed, but family meals still make an impact. Regular meals at home with family can help reduce stress, boost self-esteem and make the whole family feel connected.[5] Try new heart-healthy recipes that can be made at home from the American Heart Association Heart-Check Recipe Certification Program.

- **Stay on beat with your blood pressure:** High blood pressure is a leading cause and controllable risk factor for heart disease and stroke and can contribute to worse outcomes for people who contract COVID-19. [6] Close to half of American adults have high blood pressure.[7] Of those, about 75% don't have it controlled and many don't even know they have it.[8] The best way to know your blood pressure numbers is to have it measured at least once per year by a health care professional. If your blood pressure is normal and you are at least 20 years of age, regularly monitor it at home with a validated monitor and discuss the

numbers with a doctor.

- **Keep the Beat!** Learn Hands-Only CPR: Each year, more than 350,000 EMS-assessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States and about 70% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes. When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby. CPR, especially if performed immediately,

can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival. Help your community reclaim their rhythm by learning the two simple steps of Hands-Only CPR: Call 911, then press hard and fast in the center of the chest. Visit [heart.org/handsonlycpr](http://heart.org/handsonlycpr) to watch the Hands-Only CPR instructional video and share it with the important people in your life.

Learn more at [heart.org](http://heart.org).

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## KING, from Page 2

The mayor is old enough to remember when Don King Training Camp in nearby Orwell was built.

"All of those fighters, world renown fighters were

coming to Warren to go to restaurants and some of our clubs. Michael Spinks, Michael Dokes and Roberto Duran, I saw them all out there training. So, (declar-

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# The filibuster effect

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Contributing Writer

The act of cloture is the political equivalent of abruptly hanging up the phone to quash a conversational topic you'd rather not hear. Cloture is the guillotine that brings sometimes idle senatorial prattle to an immediate and brutal halt. A filibuster is when a senator might elucidate incessantly on a topic that might not even be relevant. That's the idle senatorial prattle an act of cloture seeks to halt.

When it comes to blocking a proposed piece of legislation on Capitol Hill without ever having considered the bill's merit, the filibuster, together with a subsequent act of cloture, has proven to be a most formidable foe to politicians hoping to pass a transformative piece of legislature.

Before 1917, an ambitious and determined senator was allowed to filibuster, which meant one might prolong the debate, thus delaying or preventing a vote on a bill or some other



Darren Halstead / Unsplash

debatable topic in question. The filibuster allowed a politician to prattle on incessantly in a prolonged debate to delay or prevent a vote on a proposed bill.

Then came 1917, when the Senate adopted a rule to allow a two-thirds majority vote to end a filibuster. That terminating procedure is known as "cloture." Eventually, two-thirds vote required in a two-party political system proved to be far too stringent.

The filibuster to end all filibusters came courtesy of a defiant sophomore senator from South Carolina, a 54-year-old Strom Thur-

mond. Prior to his filibuster, Thurmond essentially trained his mind and body to endure the rigors of the task as an athlete might train prior to a marathon.

And so it began...

On August 28, 1957, at 8:54 p.m., Thurmond began his "speech" that would prevent a vote on a bill that he and other Southern senators vehemently opposed. Thurmond occupied the time by reading a number of laws and other legal documents he argued would prove the proposal unnecessary and unconstitutional. Thurmond's inconclusive prattling carried

on until 9:12 p.m. the next day, a total of 24 hours and 18 minutes. That is a Congressional filibuster record that still stands to this day.

What was the proposed legislation that Thurmond so vehemently opposed and that compelled him to risk health and sanity so that the bill might die?

That bill was the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which was designed to protect and secure African Americans' right to vote. Certainly, the 15th Amendment (1870) granted men of all races the right to vote, voter suppression at the state level—in the form of erroneous laws, voter tests, poll taxes, and other onerous laws—successfully ended or greatly crippled Blacks from voting in local and federal elections.

Thurmond called the Civil Rights Act of 1957 "cruel and unusual punishment."

So, in 1975 the Senate reduced the number of votes required for a cloture procedure from two-thirds of senators voting to three-

fifths of all senators, or 60 of the 100-member Senate to prevent other would-be record breakers from giving it a go.

Today, with Senate seats being polarized and evenly divided at 50-50, Democrats are saying that even the 60-vote filibuster rule is undemocratic, racist and undermines the needs of people of color. Democrats argue that the filibuster needs to go.

The filibuster is a killer of righteousness and a slayer of what might be best for America and the American voter. Not only does a filibuster dissuade good-intentioned voters, but this useless and outdated process has also left many a valid and noble cause in its wake. Other victims of the filibuster and cloture idiosyncrasy are: It forces the senate into inaction, and it is used to obstruct the passage of popular legislation for good

cause or no cause at all.

The filibuster has its admirers, nonetheless. In fact, there are nearly as many Democratic senators that find the filibuster attractive as there are Republican senators. The original intent of the filibuster was pure in nature. It was supposed to give some voice to the minority party to assuage the tyranny of the majority party and bridge a path toward compromise. Albeit, what the filibuster has become, though, is the more onerous part of American politics, which is something other than attractive.

In the wrong hands, the filibuster becomes a maliciously divisive, destructive, and devious tool used exclusively to halt progress merely to spite a political opponent—and despite the vital needs of America's poor and underserved citizens.

## Arbery prosecutors ripped for 'backroom' plea deal

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The family of Ahmaud Arbery has lashed out at a plea agreement prosecutors sent to a judge this week that may allow Gregory and Travis McMichael to serve their sentences in federal prison.

The father and son duo convicted in Arbery's killing reportedly has agreed to serve at least 30 years in what many believe is a more inmate-friendly federal lockup.

Arbery's family wants the convicts to serve time in the harsher conditions of a state prison.

Attorney S. Lee Merritt said Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, will express opposition to the deal when a judge sets a hearing.

Typically, judges con-

sider the wishes of victims' families.

"The United States Department of Justice has gone behind my back to of-

fer the men who murdered my son a deal to make their time in prison easier for them to serve," Cooper-Jones said in a statement.

"I have made it clear at every possible moment that I do not agree to of-

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2292	<b>Wild \$10</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.69	\$10	3/23/22	9/19/22
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### Annual Educational Performance Report for 2020-2021

The Dallas Independent School District will hold a public hearing to share information with the community regarding the educational performance of the district. The Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2022, Conference Area, 5151 Samuell Blvd.

Persons interested in making comments at the public hearing must register to speak by contacting Board Services at (972) 925-3720. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., Monday, February 14, through Wednesday, February 16, at 5 p.m.

# Collin Corporate College partners with TEDxPlano to offer four-part series on innovation

Collin Corporate College is partnering with TEDxPlano to offer a four-part series on innovation. The first two sessions are scheduled for February.

The first session will be about transforming health care culture with speaker Adriane Vazquez, director of patient experience with Texas Health Frisco. She will discuss the innovative approach to reimagining the patient and patient support network experience inside a health care setting. This free event will be held on Feb. 8 from 6-7 p.m.

The second session will be about transforming the education experience with speaker Dr. Kenyatta



Ryan Gagnon / Unsplash

Lovett, managing director of higher education within the Communities Foundation of Texas' Educate Texas initiative. He will discuss the innovation of several initiatives he managed for the Governor of Tennessee that drove degree and cre-

dential completion. He will also discuss his work with the Communities Foundation of Texas and how he hopes to accomplish similar results in Texas.

This free event will be held on Feb. 22 from 6-7 p.m.

Both events will be held at the Collin College Courtyard Center, 4800 Preston Park Blvd, Suite 424, Plano.

To register for these events, please visit [www.collincorporatecollege.com/tedx/](http://www.collincorporatecollege.com/tedx/). The remaining two sessions are scheduled for May.

TEDxPlano is an annual event celebrating the innovation, creativity, and inspiration found within the North Texas region. Since 2014, TEDxPlano has been organized by a group of idea-lovers who bring people together, focused on sharing ideas with the potential to transform our community. The culturally

diverse audience of TEDxPlano are learners, scientists, innovators, explorers, activists, visionaries, students and the intellectually curious. TEDxPlano hosts an annual main stage event with local speakers and year-round TEDxPlano Salons focused on specific topics of interest. For more information, visit [www.tedxplano.org](http://www.tedxplano.org).

Collin Corporate College partners with area chambers and local businesses to offer quality resources for corporate leaders in the community to further develop and grow their teams. Its monthly webinars feature leading experts who cover topics relevant to today's

business climate. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/corporatecollege](http://www.collin.edu/corporatecollege) or call 972.599.3110.

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 degrees. 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](http://www.collin.edu).

## Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Dallas Summer Musicals partner with Dallas Independent School District in an arts education initiative during February 2022

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) and Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) are launching a new initiative to advance arts education accessibility during the pandemic. Between February 1-18, 2022, Dallas Black Dance Theatre will make available a virtual matinee performance of the highly acclaimed work ODETTA to every student and grade level in the Dallas Independent School District during Black History Month 2022.

This arts education initiative is in keeping with



Samantha Weisburg / Unsplash

the mission of the National Endowment for the Arts, to support arts learning, affirm and celebrate America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and ex-

tend its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director of

the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre choreographed the work ODETTA which DBDT performed on stage in 2019. The virtual matinee is made possible at no charge by Dallas Summer Musicals in partnership with Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Dallas Independent School District.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) presents a dramatic lesson on the emotional and spiritual struggle of the American Civil Rights Era through the virtual Cultural Awareness performance of ODETTA.

Odetta Holmes, known as Odetta, often referred to as "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement," was a singer, actress, guitarist, lyricist, and civil and human rights activist. In 1963, Odetta sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at the historic March on Washington. In 1965, Odetta sang for Civil Rights marchers who walked from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama.

While DBDT has performed ODETTA on the concert stage, Dallas ISD students will view a reinvented version that takes

the dance from the stage to unique locations across Dallas. DBDT filmed the dance in 2021 during the pandemic at White Rock Lake, the Meyerson Symphony Center, the Trinity Groves area, the Dallas Design District, Bishop Arts District, and Bonton Farms to make for a robust cinematic experience.

For information on how Dallas ISD teachers can access this virtual student matinee performance, please contact Allison Bret at [abret@dallassummermusicals.org](mailto:abret@dallassummermusicals.org).

## McDonald's USA and media entrepreneur Roland S. Martin launch scholarship to help HBCU students on the path to graduation

CHICAGO — McDonald's USA and Roland S. Martin, a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., are awarding more than \$100,000 in scholarships to rising juniors and seniors attending Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). The effort, in honor of the fraternity's 115 years of scholarship and Black excellence, is to help address the often-insurmountable fi-

nancial challenges faced by HBCU students attempting to fund a four-year college education.

Data shows that on average, scholarships and grants only cover 25% of the total cost of college per year, and often scholarships for HBCU students are centered on transitioning them from high school to college. For upperclassmen, the rising costs of tuition and growing loan debt paired

with the limited scholarship funds offered for this group can make it financially difficult to graduate.

"HBCUs and their students are vital to the fabric of our nation and I will always champion for their success," said Roland S. Martin. "I've witnessed first-hand the financial struggle that impacts Black college students, especially those in their final semesters. So, I'm pleased to partner with McDonald's

and TMCf to celebrate my beloved fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, and provide a resource that will help Black students graduate."

With the help of Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), seven rising juniors and seniors will be awarded \$15,000 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. In alignment with Alpha Phi Alpha's century-long commitment to scholarship, McDonald's

continues its longstanding support of community, education and feeding and fostering community with this scholarship, which is additive to its existing Black & Positively Golden Scholarship program that awarded \$500,000 to HBCU students last year.

"We know the outstanding work being done at HBCUs, which is why our team is devoted to use our scale and resources to expand ed-

ucational opportunities for Black students," said Reginald J. Miller, Vice President and Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at McDonald's. "Our hope is that this scholarship effort helps build and support the pipeline of diverse talent that will go on to be changemakers in our society for decades to come."

Applications are now

See GRADS, Page 10



# City of Irving saves \$60.6 million in refinancing debt over 20 years

Irving City Council recently took action to issue General Obligation Pension Bonds at a lower interest rate, resulting in more than \$60.6 million in savings over the next 20 years.

By taking advantage of historically low interest rates, the city capitalized on the opportunity to refinance existing pension obligation debt in a way that is like refinancing a home loan at a lower interest rate.

The city issued \$86.22 million in General Obligation



City of Irving

Pension Bonds on Nov. 15, 2021, to fund the Unfunded Actuarial Ac-

rued Liability for two of the city's pension plans for employees: Texas Mu-

nicipal Retirement System (TMRS) and Supplemental Benefit Plan (SBP).

The bonds have a 20-year life, which was the same duration as the prior service amortization period for SBP, but the amortization period for TMRS was shortened by four years, resulting in additional savings.

The true interest cost on the bonds was 2.65% over the 20-year life of the bonds, which is significantly lower

than the 6.75% assumed average rate of return for both TMRS and SBP. The savings associated with the bonds totaled \$44,213,904 — \$28,878,195 for TMRS and \$15,335,709 for SBP. Shortening the duration of the amortization period for TMRS saved an additional \$16,424,414.

The total projected savings to the city over the next 20 years is more than \$60.6 million or 34.83%.

The city's third pension

plan, the Irving Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund (FRRF), is a separate fund for Irving's Fire civil service employees. The city is currently working with the board of the FRRF to issue pension bonds for a significant portion of the FRRF's actuarial liability. If interest rates remain favorable, the city anticipates issuing pension bonds for the FRRF in the next few months resulting in additional long-term savings.

## Opinion: The President and Voter Suppression

By Dr. John E. Warren  
Publisher, The San Diego  
Voice and Viewpoint

With the failure to overturn the Filibuster Rule in the United States Senate, it would appear that the John Lewis Voting Act and the Voting Rights Act are dead because of two "Dixiecrat Senators" and a Republican blockade in the Senate that

has long forgotten the Oath of Office that each of them took when taking their positions of office.

However, there is hope that the President will start using the power of his office on behalf of the people who put him in the presidency. Without the Black Vote, there would be no Joe Biden presidency. This fact has to become more impor-

tant than preserving the traditions of the U.S. Senate. The President must now formulate a complete plan of Executive Orders that will prepare to send federal monitors to each state that has enacted Voter Suppression laws such as the reduction of polling sites, the purging of election rolls so as to reduce the number of persons who can vote, and

inserting a federal presence at every point of the electoral process permitted by Federal law. The President must show, through action and not just speeches as if on the campaign trail, that he is serious about using all the powers of his office to protect the electoral process.

This also means that the United States Depart-

ment of Justice must move forcefully and quickly in responding to the call for investigations which will follow a more aggressive course of action by the President. Senator Schumer must decide whether he is in control of the U.S. Senate or Mitch McConnell, who appears to still be in charge in spite of the would-be Democratic ma-

jority in the Senate.

The two Senate Democrats-in-name-only who are now openly voting with the Republicans against their own party's President, should just change their party registration and complete the transition to the other side. It's time for a visible plan, Mr. President. The American people are waiting.



## Honoring leaders giving back to their communities

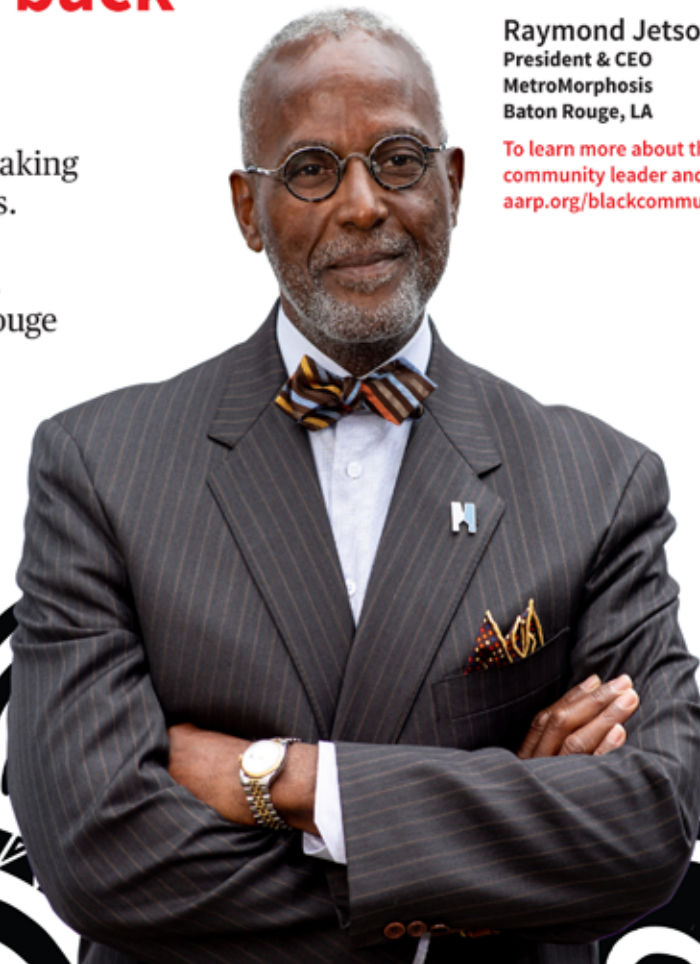
During Black History Month, AARP recognizes leaders taking action to give back and help build up their communities.

Raymond Jetson, President and CEO of MetroMorphosis, partners with change-lead organizations to give Baton Rouge communities access to resources that help them thrive.

AARP believes the efforts of one person can truly make an impact. But when our efforts drive change for the greater good, we thrive together.

Raymond Jetson,  
President & CEO  
MetroMorphosis  
Baton Rouge, LA

To learn more about this  
community leader and their journey, visit  
[aarp.org/blackcommunity](https://aarp.org/blackcommunity)





## The BLK Experience Pop-Up Museum returns for 2nd Immersive Installation, eight unique exhibits showcasing Black culture

The BLK Experience Museum, an innovative pop-up museum dedicated to celebrating black lives and black excellence returns to Dallas' Urban Arts Center for the month of February 2022. The limited engagement exhibition will open to the public on February 5th and run throughout Black History Month.

Transport into the black experience at this fully immersive popup art gallery that spans black lives, black excellence, black history and black triumph. Step onto the stage of the world-famous Cotton Club. Dive into the black hair mosh pit. Journey through the His-

Urban Arts Center, 807 Hutchins Road, Dallas, Texas starting February 4, 2021

### Tickets

Children under 3 Experience - FREE

Children under 13 Experience - \$7

General Experience - \$15

### Experience Hours

Friday - 6pm - 10pm

Saturday & Sunday - Noon-6pm

Private Tour available for purchase upon request.

tory of Black Dallas. The BLK Experience Museum features iconic images and nostalgic commentary that will soon fill up your social media feed.

"Even in a pandemic, the 2021 BLK Experience

Museum was a major success," said Jiles R. King, II, Producing Executive Director, Urban Arts Collective. "It was gratifying to watch patrons of all races, genders and socio-economics levels be proud as they experienced

each of the 8 exhibits."

Artists and activations featured in each section of the BLK Experience Museum include: JuNene K, Tonesha Winters, The Beehive Design Studios, Loc N Box Designs, Clear Motion and I-Dee Productions.

Entrance times will be staggered to uphold social distancing protocols and masks are required. Each time slot is limited to 10 visitors, advanced ticket purchases are encouraged. To learn more about the BLK Experience Museum or to reserve a time to visit the museum, go to [www.blkmuseum.com](http://www.blkmuseum.com) and follow @blk-expmuseum on Instagram.



The Digital Marketing Collaboration / Unsplash

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra receives grant from the National Endowment For The Arts as part of the American Rescue Plan

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce it has been approved for an American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), designed to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. The DSO has been recommended to

receive \$150,000 and this funding will be used to support the organization's education team as they work to meet the needs of the students served in Southern Dallas.

"We are incredibly appreciative of the NEA for their support and quick rollout of this funding op-

portunity," said Kim Noltemy, Ross Perot President & CEO of the Dallas Symphony. "We are grateful for all who advocated for this bill and prioritized funding

for the arts, especially Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson for her advocacy and strong support for the arts. This funding makes a significant difference in our

ability to continue reaching out to the students and families who need music now more than ever."

In total, the NEA will award grants totaling

\$57,750,000 to 567 arts organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washing-

See DSO, Page 12

### ARBERY, from Page 5

fer these men a plea deal of any kind. I have been completely betrayed by the DOJ lawyers," Cooper-Jones asserted.

Merritt referred to federal prison as "a country club compared to state prison."

He said federal prisons are less populated, have better funding, and are "generally more accommodating" than state lockups.

The McMichaels received life sentences without the possibility for parole in a Glynn County, Georgia, court for murdering Arbery.

A third man, William "Roddy" Bryan, also was convicted but wasn't listed in the latest plea deal.

On Saturday, January 29, prosecutors sent the plea

agreement to the US District for the Southern District of Georgia for consideration.

"By admitting they were motivated by hate when they hunted and murdered Ahmaud Arbery, these men get to transfer to safer, less crowded, and more orderly federal detention facilities," Merritt stated.

"In essence, they get to brag about their hatred publicly and then be rewarded by the federal government."

Merritt continued, calling the agreement a "back-room deal."

"This is an example of the Department of Justice literally snatching defeat from the jaws of victory," he said.

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<sup>1</sup>Additional restrictions apply; all loans subject to credit approval.  
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# Black films thrive at Sundance Film Festival 2022

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

At the last minute, due to Omicron concerns, the 2022 Sundance Film Festival morphed from an in-person and virtual event to a purely digital experience. Thanks to streaming, Black filmmakers and Black films were on center stage all over the world. Check them out...

## Aftershock (\*\*\*)

According to WHO, the U.S. ranks 60th on the list of countries with the lowest maternal mortality ratio. The Population Reference Bureau cites, "Black women are three times more likely to die in pregnancy postpartum than white women." Directors Paula Eiselt and Tonya Lewis Lee's illuminating documentary breaks down the contributing factors and possible solutions for maternal mortality in the aftermath of two specific women's deaths. Shamony Gibson and Amber Rose Isaac both died after labor and a grassroots movement for birth justice and equity, in their honor, is heroically launched by Omari Maynard and Bruce McIntyre, the fathers of their children. The courageous dads, like shamans, guide you through the perils and needs for a change in obstetric care from pregnancy to births, to aftercare.

Systemic issues (hospitals profit more from risky, fast-buck C-Sections than slow vaginal births), disparities, root causes and communication errors are revealed. Notably a job once done by black slave midwives is now the domain of white male OB-GYNs. Watching the consciousness-raising support groups of widowed Black men is as inspiring as a thousand Million Man Marches. Very solid doc filmmaking instincts reflect an empowering movement born from painful experiences. The revolution in pre- and postnatal care for



Black women will be Instagrammed, Twitted, Facebooked...

## Descendant (\*\*\*/1/2)

A yearning for a definitive history is the driving force of this heart-warming doc. The Cotilda schooner was the last American slave ship to bring Africans to the U.S. The imprisoned captives from Benin arrived in Mobile Alabama in 1860. The Black descendants of that ship settled in Africatown, which has since been parceled away by public domain highway projects, a lumber yard and other businesses. Still the proud residents keep their history alive, orally, passing on info, names and dates to future generations who become historians and record keepers.

Director Margaret Brown captures the spiritual experiences of these chosen Alabamians. She films their interviews just as a white journalist and white owner of a mechanic's shop decide to look for the ship that was burned by its owner Timothy Meaher and hidden in neighboring swamps.

Brown's chronicling of this hunt and what it means to the heirs of the Cotilda's last passengers is never obtrusive. Her style is reminiscent of the grassroots doc Something in the Water. Culture, history, reckoning and reparations all add a richness that makes the film emotionally compelling. Grainy footage of the ship's last survivor Cudjo Lewis, as filmed by author Zora Neale Hurston in the 1930s, is as astound-

ing to see as an heir of Meaher's showing up for a ship discovery ceremony. These stalwart descendants of slavery save their culture and history. Their tenacity and courage prevail in a very illuminating way.

## Emergency (\*\*)

In Weekend at Bernie's, three white guys tooled around with a dead body in a mildly funny one-joke movie. In this similarly premised college life satire, the laughs aren't as easy. African American director Carey Williams and Mexican American screenwriter KD Davila's spoof delves into the hazards of Black life at a predominately white school. Kunle (Donald Elise Watkins, The Underground Railroad) is a brilliant pre-med student. His loosely wired, vape-smoking buddy Sean (RJ Cyler, The Harder They Fall) is a devil-may-care pothead. They intend to go on a legendary party circuit bender, but before their first beer pong, they discover a drunk, unconscious white blonde (Maddie Nichols) on their living room floor. A Latino roommate Carlos (Sebastian Chacon) is oblivious. The trio tries get the cataleptic girl to safety, which takes them down a deep rabbit hole of mishaps.

What's on view is a very shallow attempt at exploring racism that turns into nothing more than a trivial excuse for comic debauchery. The very young black hip-hop influenced dialogue is the film's strongest element. Stagnant dialogue-

heavy scenes thwart most good intentions. Watkins and Cyler exhibit a Harold and Kumar chemistry that would feel better in another movie. There's just enough story and humor here for a SNL skit. Not much more. Trying to make serious points in a pointless film is a worthless endeavor.

## Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul (\*\*)

"Where's Tyler Perry when you need him?!" Pastor Lee Curtis Charles (Sterling K. Brown) and his wife Trinitie (Regina Hall) run a Southern megachurch named Wander to Greater Paths. The place is near empty. Why? Evidently a preacher man being caught up in a sex scandal drives congregations away. But the duo is charting a comeback, even if it requires standing at the side of a road with placards begging for parishioners and humiliating themselves while

being filmed.

The Ebo twins (writer-director Adamma Ebo, producer Adanne Ebo) start with a promising parody that descends unto a two-character thud. The dearth of solid narrative and consistent comedy leaves Brown and Hall stranded. The twins frame shots well, but don't know how to milk moments or sustain scenes with biting verbal or physical humor. Brother Brown's interpretation of a clueless, smarmy minister is glorious (Can I get an amen?!). Sister Hall perfectly finds the nuances of the put-upon wife (Praise be.). Funniest scene is when they drive a Cadillac Esplanade singing to a rap song, cursing and screaming like gangstas. Pity the film runs out of gas. Madea would have known what to do. Looks low budget. Feels low rent. Jesus wept.

jeen-yuhs:

## A Kanye Trilogy (\*\*\*)

Ten minutes into this lively documentation of 21-year-old Kanye West the unsettling contrasts between this hopeful, humble adolescent and his embittered and inflated persona these days is quite jarring. Chicago public access TV host Coodie chronicled West's pilgrimage from Chicago to New York in the late '90s as he tried to transition from music producer to superstar rapper. Fuzzy-looking footage reveals all. Consider Coodie's homage to be more like a home movie/travelogue with famous people (Damon Dash, Pharrell) than a typical doc. No video tricks. No gimmicks. No mounds of news footage, interviews etc. Just largely an unfiltered look at West fighting for a record deal at

See SUNDANCE, Page 11

## Vote for Judge Clay Jenkins



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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

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# Janet Jackson documentary debuts on Lifetime Friday

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.  
NNPA Culture and  
Entertainment Editor

5-4-3-2-1. The countdown has begun to the premiere of the Lifetime/A&E documentary of the life of pop superstar Janet Jackson. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Janet Jackson's eponymous first LP Janet Jackson (1982), the four-hour television event will take place over two days.

The fiercely private five-time Grammy award-



Janet Jackson performs at Chastain Park in Atlanta, GA, September 26, 2015. (Photo: Yvonne Cowser Yancy)

winner who is part of the Jackson clan, an American musical dynasty, will open up about her rise to superstardom, complicated

relationship with her superstar brother Michael, the infamous 2004 Super Bowl incident and subsequent blacklisting by the

entertainment industry and becoming a mother at age 50. The internet is buzzing over speculation that Justin Timberlake, with whom the triple threat has had a seemingly precarious friendship, makes a surprise appearance in the documentary, executive produced by Janet and her brother Randy.

Producers Workerbee spent more than three years filming the documentary and were granted exclusive access to archival footage and Janet's never before seen home videos, along

with star-studded interviews.

This documentary is being hailed as the definitive story on Janet Jackson, one of the best-selling and highest-earning artists in music history.

The documentary will be simulcast on Lifetime and A&E. Part one of the documentary debuts at 8 p.m. ET. and Part two will premiere the following night at 8 p.m. EST.

This post was written by Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D., founder & editor-in-chief

of *The Burton Wire*. In the interest of full disclosure, Nsenga is one of Janet Jackson's biggest fans and will not be reviewing the documentary because

Nsenga cannot be unbiased in this instance. She knows her limits. Follow Nsenga on Instagram or Twitter @Ntellectual or @TheBurtonWire as she will be live tweeting the documentary while sitting in her living room, sipping champagne and rotating her Janet Jackson t-shirts.

## DMA mourns passing of Board Chairman William M. Lamont, Jr.

The Dallas Museum of Art greatly mourns the passing of William "Bill" M. Lamont, Jr., Chairman of the DMA's Board of Trustees and a longtime friend and supporter of the Museum. A beloved friend and inspiring leader, Mr. Lamont was known for his steady leadership, wise counsel, and love for the institution, along with his quick wit and charm. His deep and personal com-

mitment to the work and mission of the DMA has shaped the Museum into the strong institution it is today.

Mr. Lamont's contributions to the Museum of time, expertise, and support over the years were many. He has served on the Board of Trustees since 2013 and was elected Chairman in 2018. Since 2004, when Mr. Lamont first joined the Board's Budget and Finance

Committee, the Museum greatly benefited from his extraordinary expertise and dedication. Most recently, Mr. Lamont's constant and calm direction during the Museum's closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related financial challenges ensured the institution's stability and survival through this challenging period. Mr. Lamont will also be fondly remembered for his good cheer, kindness, and friend-

ship. He never hesitated to express his encouragement and appreciation of the DMA's accomplishments and successes.

Mr. Lamont and his wife, Mary Noël Lamont, were dedicated supporters of many of the Museum's initiatives. Married since 1974, Mr. and Mrs. Lamont joined the Museum

as members in 1988 and supported major programs and exhibitions, including Art Ball and Silver Supper, the Ellsworth Kelly in Dallas exhibition catalogue, and the presentation of Mexico 1900-1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, José Clemente Orozco, and the Avant-Garde, as well as the construction of the Inge-

Lise Eckmann Lane Paintings Conservation Center. In 2005 one of the Museum's quadrant galleries was named the Mary Noel and Bill Lamont Gallery in recognition of the couple's philanthropy. Mrs. Lamont has also served as a DMA trustee and member of the

See DMA, Page 14

## GRADS from Page 6

available on the Thurgood Marshall College Fund website at [TMCF.org](http://TMCF.org). Award winners will be announced prior to the start of the Fall 2022 semester. Students interested in applying must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be 18 years or older
- Be enrolled as a junior or senior at a TMCF member institution and private HBCUs in Fall 2022
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or higher
- Submit a brief essay on how they demonstrate Black excellence and leadership within their campus community
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551

In addition to the scholarship funds, recipients will also have the unique

opportunity to engage one-on-one with McDonald's executives currently working in their respective fields of study. This real-world learning opportunity will provide additional benefit to students as they plan for the next step into their professional careers.

"For more than two decades, we've worked with McDonald's to provide critical resources to students when they need it most. Matriculating through college can be tough, and funds to support navigating that journey is a crucial part of ensuring graduation is attainable," said Dr. Harry L. Williams, President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. "And we're excited to extend our partnership with this scholarship to offer even more funds to HBCU students next year."

This scholarship is just

one of the many ways that McDonald's continues to support its commitment to the Black community, building on brand initiatives that provide skills training, mentorship and education resources to support people who are building a path forward and achieving their goals. Since 2020, through strategic initiatives like the partnership with TMCF, the company and its owner/operators have awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to deserving HBCU students who are positioned to be the next generation of transformational leaders across business, STEM, politics, law, the arts, and a multitude of other careers.

For more information on the scholarship or to apply, visit [www.TMCF.org](http://www.TMCF.org). For more information on McDonald's commitment to uplifting the communities it serves, visit [www.blackandpositivelygolden.com](http://www.blackandpositivelygolden.com) and [@wearegolden](https://twitter.com/wearegolden).

## Dialogue WITH THE Superintendent & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION

with Superintendent Michael Hinojosa

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



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | 5PM - 6PM**

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Locations/format could change based on health protocols. For more information, visit [dallasisd.org/conversations](http://dallasisd.org/conversations).





# Study reveals the major contributors to the \$300 billion cost of smoking

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

With more than 34 million tobacco users in the United States, the estimated financial cost of smoking over a lifetime has reached above \$2.3 million per smoker.

According to a new report from the Washington, D.C.-based financial planning website WalletHub, the average out-of-pocket cost per smoker stands at \$133,911 over a lifetime.

An analysis revealed



Photo via NNPA

that smokers in the District of Columbia would pay the highest cost, \$197,801,

two times higher than in Missouri, where smokers will pay the lowest price at

\$96,535.

Further, each smoker will incur an average of \$545,166 in income loss over a lifetime. In the District of Columbia, those who smoke will lose the highest amount, \$746,669, or 1.9 times higher than in Mississippi, where smokers will yield the lowest amount at \$389,500.

Experts said each smoker would incur an average of \$177,599 in smoking-related healthcare costs over a lifetime. Smokers in Massachusetts will pay the highest amount, \$316,377,

which is 2.6 times higher than in Arkansas, where smokers will pay the lowest amount at \$120,430.

Further, WalletHub's latest report quotes the American Lung Association, which stated that tobacco use accounts for nearly 500,000 deaths in the U.S. each year and ranks as the leading cause of lung cancer.

Those who smoke also may have an increased risk of severe symptoms from COVID-19. In addition, even those around tobacco smokers aren't safe from

its harmful effects. Since 1964, smoking-related illnesses have claimed over 20 million lives in the U.S., 2.5 million of which belonged to nonsmokers who developed diseases merely from secondhand smoke exposure.

However, the report revealed that the economic and societal costs are just as huge. Every year, smoking costs the U.S. more than \$300 billion, including medical care and lost productivity. Unfortunately,

See SMOKING, Page 16

## SUNDANCE, from Page 9

hop-hop's holy grail, Roc-A-Fella Records.

The most touching scenes are West and his wise, nurturing schoolteacher mother who wants him to remain humble: "You can stand on the ground with your head in the air at the same time." The most awkward scenes are watching Jay-Z, RR's CEO, keep Kanye at bay: he wants the milk (West's "jeen-yuhs" producing) but not the cow (Kanye as a rapper). The fly-on-the-wall filmmaking lets you cavort with family, friends, adversaries, mentors and hangers-on. Discovering West's middle-class background explains his early brand of rap and its often-spiritual elements, which are evidenced in the making of his classic hit "Jesus Walks." West, with no gangsta cred whatsoever, was on a mission: "I'm gonna bridge the gap to hip-hop." And he did, with a verve and naiveté that was reflected on his smiling face. Luckily, Coodie documented the good old days, or no one would believe the 1990's West and the 2022 Ye were the same people.

### Nanny (\*\*1/2)

African immigrant stories often possess an innate appeal. In this instance, Senegalese writer/director Nikyatu Jusu's odd mixture of horror, thriller, romance and muddled family drama has the opposite effect. Aisha (Anna Diop), a twen-

ty something from Senegal, leaves her young son behind to find work in New York. A white couple (Michelle Monaghan and Morgan Spector) hires her to tend to their young daughter Rose (Rose Decker). The wealthy spouses are lax with pay, Aisha loses communication with her son and weird visions of a boy in rain haunt her.

Supernatural aspects and cryptic images have no context for 90 minutes of this 97-minute motion picture. Regardless of the iffy narrative choices, Jusu and cinematographer Rina Yang make a very attractive film that displays their excellent taste in staging, composition, angles, lighting, etc. Scenes look fresh and modern. The director also excels at depicting a love story between Aisha and an understanding doorman (Siqua Walls, American Soul). Jusu shows great promise as a director. Even a genre-messy film can't hide her talent.

### We Need to Talk About Bill Cosby (\*\*\*)

Really?! Is there some explosive secret about the shamed comedian that has yet to be revealed? Stand-up comic turned documentarian W. Kamau Bell thinks so. To make his case, he assembles an exhaustive array of talking heads (Roland Martin), comedians (Hannibal Buress), rape crisis coun-

selors and even a journalist who investigates date rape drugs. Cosby's well-publicized fall from '60s TV pioneer (I, Spy), to 1980s/'90s quintessential all-American boob tube daddy (The Cosby Show), to convicted, imprisoned felon is meticulously charted. Victim after victim exposes his pattern of drugging, assaults and rapes. The black community's initial ambivalent feelings are pondered. His hypocritical jabs at young black men while he's molesting women are documented too.

Two hours of this in-your-face negativity is more than enough. Four one-hour segments are overkill. Too many clips of Fat Albert. Too much faux indignation over stupid stuff like Cosby playing an obstetrician on The Cosby Show. The barrage of info will test your patience. Also, watching folks hypothesize as they sit on expensive leather coaches, dressed like fashionistas and lit like they're in a fashion shoot is off-putting. But credit Bell for his inventive style. Incriminating words dance across the screen and victims are noted on a horizontal calendar that pinpoints Cosby's crimes from the '60s, '70s, '80s and 90s. Plus, Bell's insights into black culture, history and the TV industry are thorough and sometimes profound.

Indicting rapists like Cosby is fair game and newsworthy. But many viewers

may wish the second two hours of this doc were spent teaching women how to beware of predatory situations, detect rapists, self-defense, report incidents and find supportive aide (e.g., rape crisis centers). We have talks with our sons about encounters with police. Why don't we have talks with our daughters

about dealing with people like him? Bell and this doc had a chance to be an advocate for rape victims and provide a public service. It's a missed opportunity that would have given the series some depth.

There wouldn't be a President Obama without a Bill Cosby. There wouldn't be 60+ rape victims without a

Bill Cosby. It's an ugly paradox now captured on film.

For more information about the annual Sundance Film Festival go to: <https://www.sundance.org/festivals/sundance-film-festival/about>.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).



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## Mark Cuban's drug company celebrates milestone for Dallas headquarters

(PRNewswire) Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company (MCCPDC) celebrated "topping out" of its pharmaceutical production facility in Dallas' Deep Ellum neighborhood yesterday. MCCPDC leadership was joined by DPR Construction, Jacobs Engineering Group, and other industry leaders for a ceremony at 3015 Taylor Street near downtown. MCCPDC CEO Alex Oshmyansky, Stephanie Hudiburg of the Deep Ellum Foundation, and additional project participants spoke on the manufacturing plant's significant role in helping bring generic medications to millions at the lowest possible prices. Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson provided remarks which were read at the event.

"Our city must continue to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment in our communities," said Mayor Johnson.

"The Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company can serve as an important example of all three. I want to thank you for investing in Dallas, helping to grow and strengthen our local economy, and working to address the critical healthcare needs of our residents."

The celebration comes on the heels of MCCPDC officially launching its online pharmacy [www.costplusdrugs.com] and establishing its pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) operation [www.costpluspbm.com]—two key milestones in the company's journey to dramatically expand consumers' access to safe, affordable pharmaceuticals.

"This new facility brings us one step closer to drastically expanding access to life-saving medication," said Mark Cuban, majority investor in MCCPDC. "By making them ourselves, we're going to dramati-

cally lower the price of extremely high-cost generic drugs. We're adding SKUs as quickly as possible—the health equity impact is enormous. I can't wait to make costplusdrugs.com the go-to pharmacy in the U.S."

As a registered pharmaceutical wholesaler, MCCPDC offers patients the ability to fill prescriptions and immediately purchase a variety of medications at a lower cost than what most insurance plans' deductible and copay requirements would total. The pharmacy cuts out the middlemen, instead pricing drugs as the actual manufacturer cost plus a flat 15% margin and pharmacist fee. For example, the leukemia treatment Imatinib typically retails at \$9,657 per month, but through MCCPDC, the price plummets to only \$47 per month.

As a PBM, the company

provides prescription coverage to partner companies via employee benefit plans. The company is dedicated to disrupting the traditional PBM model by unveiling the true costs it pays for drugs and eliminating spread pricing and misaligned rebate incentives.

"This company started when I had some patients get sick and die because they couldn't afford their medications," said Alex Oshmyansky, CEO of Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company. "I never want that to happen again. We are the wealthiest country in the history of human civilization and we can't have people in our society getting sick because of their inability to pay for what should be cheap medicines."

The pharmaceutical factory in Deep Ellum is an

extension of the company's mission to shield consumers from inflated drug prices and introduce transparency to the industry. The 22,000-square-foot fill-finish facility is intended to provide low-cost versions of traditionally overpriced drugs. Its initial capabilities will include supporting the formulation, filling, and packaging of sterile medicines, with later plans to expand into private label injectables.

"In a country where 18 million of our fellow Americans were recently unable to pay for at least one prescription medication for their household and 1 in 10 Americans have skipped doses to save money, Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company will change healthcare and lives," said Stephanie Hudiburg, Exec-

utive Director of the Deep Ellum Foundation. "As a neighborhood that thrives on neighbors looking out for neighbors, we fully embrace this venture and its urgent mission to serve the common good."

MCCPDC expects the plant to be a designated site for producing drugs that nobody else thinks are profitable enough to make. It will be registered with the Food and Drug Administration, allowing for a rapid response to drug shortages. The facility's design enables the production of small batches, which allows MCCPDC to offer drugs considered by the FDA to be in short supply or those intended for a small population, like the treatment of rare diseases.

See CUBAN, Page 16

## DSO, from Page 8

ton, DC.

"Our nation's arts sector has been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Endowment for the Arts' American Rescue Plan funding will help arts organizations, such as the DSO, rebuild and reopen," said Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, chair of the NEA. "The arts are crucial in helping

America's communities heal, unite, and inspire, as well as essential to our nation's economic recovery."

The American Rescue Plan was signed into law in March 2021 when the NEA was provided \$135 million for the arts sector. The funding for organizations is the third installment providing more than \$57.7 million for arts organizations.

In April 2021, the NEA announced \$52 million (40 percent) in ARP funding would be allocated to 62 state, jurisdictional and regional arts organizations for regranting through their respective programs. The second installment in November 2021 allocated \$20.2 million to 66 local arts agencies for subgranting to local artists and art organizations.

President Biden said he would make his selection by the end of February.

"Our process is going to be rigorous. I will select a nominee worthy of Justice Stephen Breyer's legacy of excellence and decency," the President said.

"While I've been studying candidates' backgrounds and writings, I've made no decision except one: The person I will nominate will be someone with extraordinary qualifications, character, experience, and integrity. And that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court."

consideration.

Others reportedly being considered include 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Holly A. Thomas, federal Circuit Court Judge Tiffany P. Cunningham, civil rights attorney and 11th Circuit Court candidate Nancy G. Abudu, 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals nominee Arianna J. Freeman, NYU law professor Melissa Murray, 7th Circuit Judge Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, District Judge Wilhelmina "Mimi" Wright, North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls, and 2nd Circuit Judge Eunice Lee.

## CHILDS from Page 2

or matters and will be leaders in various firms, agencies, and organizations in the state, so you always want to be known for having good character as your reputation can affect your ability to resolve matters entrusted to you."

In a statement, the White House said "multiple individuals" are under consideration along with Judge Childs.

DC Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, California Supreme Court Justice Leandra Kruger, and civil rights attorney Sherrilyn Ifill count among those under

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 65-foot COW/COLT Communications Tower. The Site location is [1600 West Campbell Road, Garland, Dallas Co., TX 75044], Lat: [31-58-44.617 N], Long: [96-39-2.956 W]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1208221.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS** – Interested persons may review the application ([www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications)) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review ([www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest)) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Cristian, c.sigala@trileaf.com, 2550 South IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78704*



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### 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](http://census.gov) to apply.

### Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

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



### Ongoing House of Blues

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

### Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

# DeSoto ISD opens superintendent search for next district leader

Amid a period during which an unprecedented nine superintendents have announced plans to resign or retire from their roles as system leaders in North Texas school districts, DeSoto Independent School District is seeking its next leader with the support of the O'Hanlon, Demerath and Castillo Law Firm.

The application and posting opened Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2022, via the law firm's website, following the conclusion of a series of community meetings seeking feedback to develop the profile for the 10-school district located just 15 miles south of downtown Dallas. Serving 7,400 students from DeSoto, Glenn Heights and Ovilla, DeSoto

ISD enjoys community support of academics, arts and athletics. With taxpayer support for upgraded facilities, technology and instruction, every school provides viable and relevant high-quality learning experiences supported by pyramids of intervention, enrichment and advancement.

DeSoto is known for its

tight-knit, socially and civically engaged active community, beautiful parks and robust arts-focused programs which bring visual and performing arts alive for city residents.

DeSoto is home to just over 55,000 people. The average home is valued at \$225,000 and the average

See DESOTO, Page 15



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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.



## New Normal: If It's Free, It Ain't for Me

Dr. James L. Snyder

Once when I wore a younger man's suit I would take anything free. I assumed it was my right to get something free.

Then I had a conversation with my grandfather. If anybody knew how to squeeze a buffalo out of a nickel, it was my grandfather. But you couldn't trick him by offering him something free.

He said to me, "Son, if it's free, it ain't for me."

Explaining that, he said, "For everything free, somebody, somewhere has to pay for it."

At the time, I just chuckled and fluffed off this advice. After all, if I'm offered something free I'm going to jump and even dance to get it.

Getting something free wasn't too bad, and I tried to be careful about some of these free offers. But that was back in the day when there was no Internet or websites. Oh, those were the good old days.

I would see a free offer

in the newspaper and immediately cut it out and send it in and wait for that free offer to come. I must say I did get a lot of free things back in those days, but if I would examine them, they weren't worth the postage I used to send for them.

Also, there were free offers on TV programs at the time. I applied for as many as I could get.

But then came the Internet, and everything has changed.

When I first started seeing these "free" offers, I jumped at the opportunity. After all, it was the Internet, and you didn't have to spend any money on postage. So I was in my glory. After all, you can trust the Internet.

I got free pens, a free hat, a free notebook, and boy, it goes on and on and on. All I had to do was send my name and address, and everything was fine.

My fun was just beginning.

The change was that now I could get something

free if I just paid the shipping. I didn't think that was too bad, I was just thinking about what I was getting for free.

Not being too sophisticated about how this works, I entered my name, address, phone number, and then [drumroll] my credit card number. After all, I was getting something free, and I only had to pay the shipping.

I know I'm an old country boy that's very naïve along these lines. I wouldn't rob anybody, so I don't think anybody would rob me. It goes both ways.

Pretty soon, those sunny days were overcome by a dark cloud of rain and thunderstorms.

In checking my bank account, I noticed some suspicious withdrawals on my account. I thought maybe I bought something I had forgotten about, so I didn't give it much thought.

Then one day, I noticed in my bank account a withdrawal of \$1,699, which took place in California. I was in California, but that

was 20 years ago. How I was able to purchase something in California for such an amount of money, I don't know.

Then the next day, a withdrawal of \$3,699, which took place in Texas.

I rode my snorting horse to the bank to see what in the world was going on.

"Have you ever," the banker said to me, "ordered something online and used your credit card?"

"I don't order anything online, particularly that expensive."

She looked at my account very carefully and then look back at me, "Have you ever used your credit card online?"

"The only time I do is when I am taking advantage of some free product where I only pay the shipping."

"So," she said rather hesitatingly, "you have used your credit card online for some purchase."

There was a long pause in the office while she continued looking at my account online.

"You do know that when you use your credit card online, some people can scam that account and use it to make purchases?"

Staring at her, I said, "Who in the world would do something like that?"

I don't think I heard a chuckle but I thought I sensed a smile in her direction.

"Who would do something like that?" Then she read to me from my account the fraudulent companies that extracted money from my account.

She then explained to me the new normal for online transactions. According to her, when you apply for some free gift and only have to pay the shipping, you expose yourself to some fraud scheme.

"Somebody out there," she said very soberly, "is interested in your money, and they don't care how they get it."

From my side of the room came a deep, heartfelt sigh. I never expected people just to take advantage

of me to get my money. They need to find out that I don't have enough money to go around.

She then explained to me that she could reverse all of these transactions and turn them over to the bank's fraud department, and they would take care of it.

In a few days, those transactions disappeared from my account. I then understood what my grandfather used to say, "If it's free, it ain't for me."

I can only trust God. "O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me" (Psalm 7:1).

God will never scam me.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.*

### DMA, from Page 10

Collections Committee and, along with her family, endowed the Lupe Murchison Curator of Contemporary Art position in 1995.

"Bill was a special friend and a superb leader to all of us at the DMA," said Dr. Agustín Arteaga, the DMA's Eugene McDermott Director. "He was known for his wide-ranging interests in all facets of the Museum's operations, and he was always eager to learn more and provide insight and guidance where he could. His influence on

me was tremendous. Most recently, Bill played a significant and immeasurable role in guiding us through difficult times and charting our course for the future as a truly 21st-century Museum.

"I am thankful I had the opportunity to know and learn from Bill, and I offer my condolences to his wife, Mary Noël, and to his sons, Max and Miles, and their families. We will miss his keen insights, brilliant mind, kind and steady influence, and sly humor. His

loss will be felt deeply."

"Bill loved our museum as he loved our city. The future of the Dallas Museum of Art is brighter because of his stalwart leadership and dedication as our Chairman and longtime trustee," said Catherine Marcus Rose, President of the DMA's Board of Trustees. "He was my partner and our friend. The Board of Trustees and Museum leadership are deeply grateful for his innumerable contributions and his steadfast and enthusiastic support of our mission."

## Let us hear from YOU!!!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:  
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# Recognizing the value of Black History Month



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

The month of February is the United States' observation of Black History.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) founder, Carter G. Woodson, once wrote that "If you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race."

It is disheartening to think of the controversy surrounding this very important holiday.

Some people have joked, "We were given the shortest month of the year to celebrate our history." This is not just Black History that we are celebrating, not just America's history, but history of the world.

Many great and useful inventions that are being used worldwide and that are taken for granted were invented by Black people.

The "gamma-electric cell" that makes possible



*Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History Month*

our use of the mobile phone was invented by a Black man, the car battery and open heart surgery to name a few essential things that are in use today.

Some people think that it's by pure accident that some Black people, the same ones that we hear about year after year; have done something worthwhile.

People easily accept that we have a few famous entertainers, sports figures and a few entrepreneurs making millions of dollars.

However, they are slow

to recognize that there are many Black people that have excelled and are continuing to excel and inventing devices.

And, they use math and science to make a difference in how we live, work, play, and entertain today.

As a retired teacher, I too wish that all history of great magnitude is put in our textbooks, especially Black History, which is American's history; in spite of what we have been taught.

But wishing it is not going to get the information in our textbooks on the grand

scale that it needs to be.

The district's 2020 Strategic Plan focuses on individualized learning, quality teachers, equal access and relationships in an effort to provide a holistic and well-rounded educational experience to students and families in DeSoto, Glenn Heights, and Ovilla.

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Pastor Rickie G. Rush

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Monday School 7pm & Men's Fellowship Friday 8pm

scale that it needs to be.

The story of Carter Godwin Woodson, Father of Black History (December 1875 – April 1950) is a captivating and inspiration story in itself.

Dr. Woodson said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

When Dr. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public.

The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention the important developments that merit emphasis.

He believed that Blacks should know their past in

order to participate intelligently in the affairs in our country.

Dr. Woodson strongly believed that Black history—which others (even some Black people) have tried so diligently to erase—is a firm foundation for young Black people to build on in order to become productive citizens of our society.

Prior to "Negro History WEEK," Dr. Woodson and several of his friends established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In the 1960s it was established as Black History MONTH.

In 1912 Dr. Woodson, received his Ph.D in history from Harvard University. He developed an important philosophy of history.

History, he insisted, was not the mere gathering of fact. The object of historical study is to arrive at a

reasonable interpretation of the facts.

History is more than political and military records of people and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions of the period being studied.

Dr. Woodson often said that he hoped the time would come when Negro History Week would be unnecessary; when all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black people as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

His concept has given a profound sense of dignity to all Black people; and we must not forget it! Nor should we stop Black History Month.

*(Editor's note: This column first ran in Black History Month in 2017.)*

## DESOTO, from Page 13

annual household income is roughly \$80,000.

Serving students from early childhood through graduation, DeSoto ISD's mission is to ensure students, without exception, learn and grow at their highest level.

The District's 2021 Be The Future Strategic Plan focuses on equity, access and excellence in an effort to provide a holistic and well-rounded educational experience.

Interested candidates may view the application packet on the O'Hanlon, Demerath and Castillo Law Firm's website at: <https://www.808west.com/superintendent-searches>.

DeSoto ISD is a public independent school district serving more than 8,400 students and 1,000 employees. The district is comprised of 12 campuses serving students from early childhood through graduation. DeSoto ISD's mission statement is preparing students academically and so-

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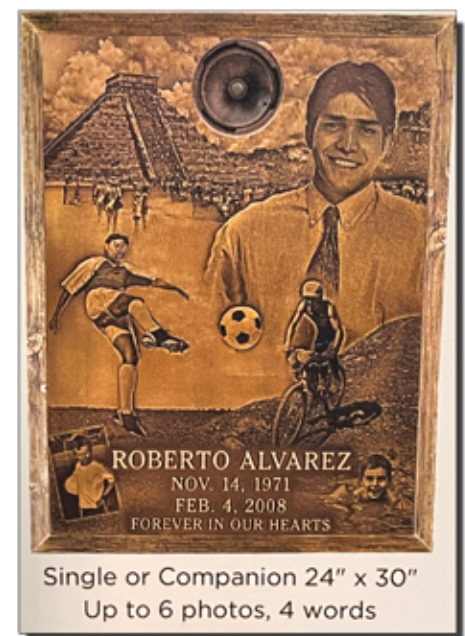
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1- Double Deck Lawn Crypt with Concrete Liner Vault  
Section: Court of Freedom, Crypt 48, Row J (A,B)

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

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



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

**To Make Offer Contact:**  
**Harry "Rick" Jordan 972.665.0170**  
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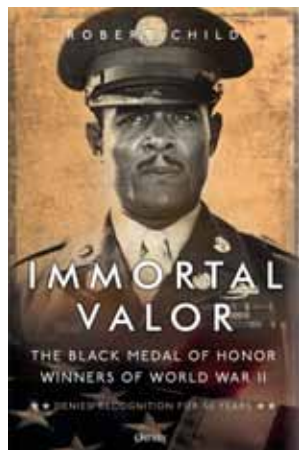
# NDG Book Review: History unfolds brilliantly in 'Immortal Valor'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You'd need that pin to get in.

Put it on your chest and you'd get access to an exclusive club. The pin tells the world what you did, that you were elite, that you acted with honor. If you earned the pin, you'd wear it with pride. In "Immortal Valor" by Robert Child, it's a beribboned thing that you'd definitely deserved.

Almost since the birth of this country, soldiers who have exhibited bravery above and beyond their normal duties have been given medals for military merit. Says Child, almost 3,500



Medals of Honor have been awarded so far in the history of America; "Less than 3 percent... have been awarded to... African Americans..." Of the 500 Medals of Honor awarded for service during

World War II, just seven of them went to Black soldiers.

That may not be a surprise. Racism was an everyday occurrence then and Black soldiers "knew only segregation" which "meant inequality." Even so, the men in this book didn't let racism stop them from serving their country. It didn't stop them from exceptional acts.

Charles Thomas was working at Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, when he was drafted into the Army. In the midst of battle in Climbach, France, Thomas was injured but continued to lead his men.

If Vernon Baker hadn't

seen much racism at home in Wyoming, he surely saw it after he enlisted in the Army. It was never as blatant, though, as it was when a white officer was given credit "for the actions [which Baker] performed..."

Willy James was killed trying to reach "his fatally-wounded platoon leader." Edward Allen Carter Jr. was fifteen years old and living in Shanghai with his missionary family when he volunteered to fight with the Chinese; four years later, he visited the American embassy and asked to be assigned to Abyssinia with the American troops.

George Watson lost his

life attempting to save one. Ruben Rivers went into the Army with his younger brother. John Fox left a prestigious college to attend one with an ROTC program, so strong was his desire to serve...

So what makes these men unique? Author Robert Child explains the rest of the story: in 1993, a study showed that these men didn't get the honors for which they were recommended. It took another four years before they finally received their medals, more than five decades after wars' end. Child tells readers how this happened; he also says that other men are still waiting.

That all makes "Immortal Valor" part irritation, part history. The former lies waiting, wrapped in small biographies of those men, Jim Crow tales, and stories of valor so long unrecognized. The latter could be a bit of a challenge for civilians: along with tales of American society, it's a lot of battles-and-dates information that, even so, pulses with adrenaline, blood, screams, and jaw-dropping bravery.

Go into "Immortal Valor" knowing this and you'll burst with outrage and pride at nearly every word. Especially for veterans and their families, this is a book to pin down.

## SMOKING, from Page 11

some people will have to pay more depending on the state in which they live.

"Evidenced-based strategies, including the combination of FDA-approved medications like nicotine-replacement therapy and nicotine-free medications

and behavioral support, increase the chances of successfully quitting," stated Dr. Mary Rezk-Hanna, a WalletHub expert and assistant professor at the School of Nursing at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Setting a quit date and sharing it with friends and loved ones for support increases the likelihood of quitting success. As far as the method, both quitting abruptly or gradually, by reducing smoking slowly until the quit date and then quitting, produce comparable cessation rates," Dr.

Rezk-Hanna remarked.

Dr. Steven A. Schroeder, the director of Smoking Cessation Leadership Center and a professor of health and health care at the University of California, San Francisco, said most smokers want to quit.

"But it often takes mul-

tipple attempts before quitting is achieved, often up to 20 or more," Dr. Schroeder insisted.

"But the good news is that there are now more ex-smokers than current smokers. In addition, the odds of quitting are increased if the smoker gets counseling

combined with smoking cessation medications such as nicotine replacement therapy and varenicline. Unassisted quitting – or cold turkey – is less helpful and living with someone who smokes is also a handicap," he concluded.

## CUBAN, from Page 12

The facility will eventually employ up to 80 MC-CPDC team members. Jacobs serves as architect on the project and DPR Construction acts as General Contractor. It's slated for

completion by the end of the year.

"Our dedicated team has been proud to help bring to life what we think will be an asset not only to Dallas, but to people across the

country," said Matt Diehl, Superintendent at DPR Construction.

"This community has been an excellent partner during this process and we look forward to putting the finishing touches on this state-of-the-art facility by the end of this year.



## Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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