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Dallas bids farewell to DJ Michael Cantu, aka 'Hollywood Hernandez'

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Fans and friends of Dallas DJ Michael Cantu, otherwise known as Hollywood Hernandez, are mourning the loss of a loved one and local talent.

Cantu spent most of his life as a DJ. He started his radio career while still in high school, playing top 40s for an AM radio station in his hometown of Beaumont. His career took off in 1976 while studying communications at Lamar University, and he has been a positive voice on the airwaves ever since.

Being a DJ came naturally to him. He was always around music. He and his sister had grown up listening to Brenda Lee, Johnny Cash and Fats Domino records with their family, occasionally sneaking a listen to his big brother's Beatles albums when he wasn't around.

Later, he'd be influenced by the folksy, R&B sounds of the Doobie Brothers and technically skilled Chicago. These groups would influence the broad mix of urban contemporary, rhythm and blues, and soul artists he became known



Known by the moniker "Hollywood Hernandez," Michael Cantu (left) was well-known to those in the music industry like John Legend. (Courtesy photo)

for playing.

It was in 1981 that he moved to Dallas, accepting a job doing overnights at KKDA-FM (K104) under the stage name, Cantu Hernandez. And though he worked as a morning show host and program director for Shreveport's KISS 92 a brief time in the late 80s, he spent most of the decade in Dallas, working as DJ for K104 almost 11 years.

Over time, Cantu moved into the midday slot, while doing pinch-hit duties for "The Fly Jock" Tom

Joyner. Paired with the likes of Barry White, Vanessa Williams, and Steve Harvey, and repeatedly traveling to Hollywood to do celeb interviews, he picked up the nickname "Hollywood" and became known as "Hollywood Hernandez."

During his time with K104, the station rose to #1 in Dallas/Fort Worth ratings and was named Billboard Magazine Urban Sta-

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People In The News ...



Otis Williams



A03 Jillian Aguilar

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.

Otis Williams

CLEVELAND – In partnership with the Motown Museum, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is proud to announce a virtual interview with 1989 Inductee and founder of The Temptations, Otis Williams.

This special event will be hosted by Rock Hall Vice President of Education and Visitor Engagement, Jason Hanley and includes longtime manager Shelly Berger and members of the Temptations as they celebrate their 60th anniversary and the release of their new album TEMPTATIONS 60 on UMe.



celebrity-photos.com / Wikimedia

The new album, nearly all-original songs, features some of the group's award-winning producers, including Smokey Robinson and Narada Michael Walden.

"The Temptations set the bar for Motown groups,"

said Hanley.

"What better way to honor and celebrate the group's 60th anniversary and new album release than by joining forces with the Motown Museum for this interview with Otis Williams. It is such a pleasure to talk to Otis, Shelly, and the group about their rich history, classic songs, and the legacy of the Temptations that continues today."

"Motown Museum is delighted to partner with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as we celebrate this milestone for Motown's legendary Temptations," said Robin Terry, Chairwoman and CEO of Motown Museum.

"This unique opportunity to hear directly from iconic original Temptations' member Otis Williams and the group's longtime manager Shelly Berger – a beloved member of our Motown alumni family – simply cannot be missed by their legions of fans around the world."

Otis Williams said, "When we started out as a part of that Motown movement that took the world by storm in the 60s, I never could have imagined we'd still be performing today."

"To mark our 60th anniversary with two of the most distinguished institutions in American music culture,

recognized for preserving, inspiring and teaching music history between generations, is such a great honor for me and The Temptations. We feel blessed and have to give thanks to God."

The Temptations, often referred to as American music royalty, are world-renowned superstars of entertainment, revered for their phenomenal catalog of music and prolific career.

Their music transcends generations, and their story is a road map through American history.

What began in Detroit, when a remarkable combination of soulful voices united, was the genesis of an epic

journey that introduced multiple superstars to the world and produced some of the greatest music of our era.

Fans can tune in to the Rock Hall's YouTube Channel or Motown Museum's YouTube Channel to view the interview at their convenience.

The interview will premiere on SiriusXM Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Radio, channel 310, and on the SXM app on February 15 th at 4p.m. ET.

Additionally, The Rock Hall has added A jacket worn onstage by Otis Williams in the 1990s to the Detroit case in the Museum's Cities and Sounds exhibit.

AO3 Jillian Aguilar

PHILIPPINE SEA – A Dallas, Texas, native and 2018 Midlothian High School graduate is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the deployed Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Charleston (LCS 18).

Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Jillian Aguilar joined the Navy in 2018 and has been assigned to Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Charleston (LCS 18) since 2021.

"I had a few opportunities slip through my fingers and I decided to take a chance in the military,"



said Aguilar. "It was at my high school graduation party that I told my family that I've already joined the Navy and that I was picking my future."

As an Ordnanceman, assigned to the "Blackjacks"

of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21, aboard Charleston, Aguilar's duties include the upkeep and maintenance of an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter as well as the safe handling of weapons and armament.

Charleston is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation.

It is designed to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The crew size for this platform is approximately 100 personnel.

"The best part about

Charleston is the smaller community, everyone eventually learns who you are and it gives you the sense that you are part of a bigger team," said Aguilar. "There is also the wealth of knowledge and I've grown as an individual from everything I've learned so far."

Aguilar has learned a lot and is proud for being able to serve in the United States Navy.

"I'm glad I made the decision to join and I'm happy I can say I'm mak-

ing the 'Aguilar' name proud," said Aguilar. "I've learned that being part of a team that operates around the world has a profound impact and I'm happy to do my part to complete the mission."

Attached to DESRON 7, Charleston is on a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the region, and to work alongside allied and partner navies to provide maritime security and

stability, key pillars of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

As the U.S. Navy's destroyer squadron forward-deployed in Southeast Asia, DESRON 7 serves as the primary tactical and operational commander of littoral combat ships rotationally deployed to Singapore, functions as ESG 7's Sea Combat Commander, and builds partnerships through training exercises and military-to-military engagements.

Ja'marr Chase

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Ja'marr Chase has been named the 2021 Pepsi Zero Sugar NFL Rookie Of The Year, Pepsi and the NFL announced today. Chase was recognized online at nfl.com/rookies and was awarded a custom designed, Pepsi Zero Sugar branded Rookie of the Year trophy to celebrate his record-breaking season on the field and off.

As the No. 5 overall selection in the 2021 NFL Draft, Chase led all rookies and ranked fourth in the NFL with 1,455 receiving yards, the most by a rookie in the Super Bowl era, while his 13 touchdown receptions were the third-most in the league this sea-



All-Pro Reels / Wikimedia

son.

In Week 17, he recorded 266 receiving yards, the most ever by a rookie in a single game. He also recorded 201 receiving yards in Week 7 and became the first rookie ever and the fifth player in the Super Bowl era to record multiple games with at least 200 re-

ceiving yards in a single season, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers Calvin Johnson (2011 & 2012) and Don Maynard (1968) as well as Josh Gordon (2013) and Alshon Jeffery (2013). Chase became the fifth rookie in the Super Bowl era with at least 1,000 receiving yards and 10 touchdown receptions, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy Moss (1998), Odell Beckham Jr. (2014), Mike Evans (2014) and John Jefferson (1978).

Chase was one of six finalists nominated for this honor. The other finalists were Steelers running back Najee Harris, Patriots quarterback Mac Jones, Cowboys linebacker Micah Par-

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Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

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

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

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STAFF**Chairman Emeritus**Jim Bochum
1933-2009**Religious / Marketing Editor**Shirley Demus Tarpley
("Sister Tarpley")**Chief Editor Emeritus**Ruth Ferguson
1965-2020**NDG Columnist**

Allen R. Gray

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Contributing Writers

Jackie Hardy

Lori Lee

Jacqueline Murphy

Dwain Price

Terri Schlichenmeyer

David Wilfong

Interim Editor

David Wilfong

Community Marketing

Nadina Davis

Senior Account Executive

Nadina Davis

Production

David Wilfong

NDG Obituary Dept.Vicky Richardson-Stewart
VP of Operations

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Build Back Better: Real dollars for media, not tax credits

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

When the Build Back Better Act passed the House of Representatives last year, there was some excitement about a provision which included a payroll tax credit for local news organizations.

It was stated that this Act, if passed by the Senate and becomes law, would provide \$1.7 billion for local media outlets. Researchers at the University of North Carolina Hussman School of Journalism found that there are at least 200 counties in the U.S. that lack a local newspaper and the Pew Research Center reported a decline of 71,000 journalism positions in 2008 to 31,000 in 2020, a 57 percent drop.

While the decline in local papers is real and disturbing, those pushing for a payroll tax credit for journalists miss the point. The legislation and the discussion misses a very important point concerning small community newspapers, in general, and Black newspapers, now in their 195th year, in particular.

Businesses operating at a loss do not need a tax credit. Businesses operating at a loss have a hard time making payrolls and as a result, most small newspapers hire journalists as independent contractors because they can't afford payroll taxes and benefits.

The issue is not a tax credit for the journalist, its sufficient revenues for the newspapers as a business that will allow them to hire journalists either on payroll or as independent contrac-

tors.

If the President and the Congress really want to help small newspapers, which appear to have declined from 5,000 community newspapers a few decades ago to less than 2,000 today, there is a means of addressing this issue as a win/win for all those concerned.

The solution is for the President to issue an Executive Order requiring that all bids for government contracts under Build Back Better must not only adhere to Title V of the U.S. Code's Administrative Procedures Act that requires the publication of "Notice" under due process, but also that such notices be inclusively published in local newspapers as a mandate for local opportunity in the solicitation of responses

to Request for Proposals (RFP).

The publication of such notices in local newspapers would bring both notice and dollars to the communities of Main Street. Those dollars would help local newspapers hire journalists in a way far more meaningful than tax credits to people who can't afford payrolls.

The President could make such an Executive Order so inclusive that the benefit would be far reaching and felt immediately. Perhaps the Vice President, who is from California and familiar with the Black Press in particular, and Mr. Sedgwick Richmond, a Domestic Policy Advisor to the President from New Orleans, might be helpful in making the case for such an Executive Order.

2022 starts with strong job growth

By Frank Steemers
Senior Economist
The Conference Board

NEW YORK -- Today's jobs report showed a better-than-expected increase in the number of jobs in January. Disruptions related to the Omicron variant do not seem to have derailed continued progress in the labor market. However, headwinds for employers persist, as labor shortages are still severe and economic activity remains healthy.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased by 467,000 in January, after an upwardly revised increase of 510,000 in December. The unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 4.0 percent, as the number of job-leavers and those on temporary layoffs increased; the labor force participation rate remained essentially the same at 62.2 percent in January after taking the new population controls into account. Overall, jobs still

number 2.9 million below prepandemic (February 2020) levels, with women representing 63 percent of these employment losses. Note that this month's release incorporates larger revisions to the Establishment Survey (used for non-farm payroll employment) and Household Survey (used for the unemployment rate). Revisions to payroll employment were especially large over the past year.

Leisure and hospitality gained 151,000 jobs in January—a possible signal that businesses have become better at continuing operations amid a surge in COVID-19 infections. A majority of other industries also added new jobs, except for construction and mining, where small job losses were recorded. On the other hand, many businesses still experienced disruptions. For example, 6 million people reported that they had been unable

to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic at some point in the past four weeks, up from 3.1 million in December.

Wages continued to rise rapidly. Average hourly earnings increased 5.7 percent over the past 12 months, signaling that recruitment and retention difficulties remain high. With the unemployment rate expected to fall to near 3 percent by the end of the year, labor markets will remain tight in 2022 and likely beyond. The US working-age population is projected to barely grow over the next decade. Employers hiring manual labor and services workers (such as transportation, construction, food services, and personal care) will face an especially hard time finding qualified workers. In such an environment, wage growth will likely remain elevated, which in turn would put more pressure on price in-

flation.

Some relief could come for employers if more people would return to the labor force, but the labor force participation rate is still at 62.2 percent—more than 1 percentage point below its prepandemic rate. Continued improvements in the labor market and higher wages should attract some people back to the job market, and participation rates may improve slightly during 2022. On the other hand, workers retiring early during the pandemic explain part of the gap in participation, and few of these older workers are expected to return.

Job growth in November and December was revised up by 709,000, implying job growth did not slow towards the end of 2021. This jobs report supports the Fed's increasingly hawkish guidance, and we are currently expecting at minimum four 25-basis-point interest-rate hikes in 2022.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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High blood pressure in younger adults linked to midlife brain changes

NEW ORLEANS, LA — High blood pressure among younger adults, ages 20-40 years, appears to be linked to brain changes in midlife (average age 55) that may increase risk for later cognitive decline, according to preliminary research to be presented at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference 2022, a world premier meeting for researchers and clinicians dedicated to the science of stroke and brain health to be held in person in New Orleans and virtually, Feb. 8-11, 2022.

According to the American Heart Association, from 2015-2019 more than 47% of U.S. adults had high blood pressure. In 2019, the U.S. age-adjusted death rate primarily attributable to high blood pressure was 25.1 per 100,000. High blood pressure death rates for non-Hispanic Black adults were 56 per 100,000 among males and 38.7 per 100,000 for females.

Studies have found that high blood pressure disrupts the structure and function of the brain's blood vessels, damaging regions of the brain that are critical for cognitive function.

"There are studies to suggest changes to the brain may start at a young age," said Christina Lineback, M.D., lead study author and a vascular neurology fellow at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. "Our study provides further evidence that high blood pressure during young adulthood may contribute to changes in the brain later in life."

Researchers analyzed 30 years of follow-up including MRI brain images (performed once at the age of 30,



Hush Naidoo Jade Photography/Unsplash

and then again at midlife - about the age of 55 years) for 142 adults from the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) study. The CARDIA study enrolled participants from four U.S. cities (Birmingham, Alabama; Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Oakland, California), in 1985-1986. In total, the study recruited more than 5,000 Black and white adults, ages 18 to 30 years, who have been followed for over 30 years.

In one follow up including 142 of the participants (42% women), researchers examined changes in brain structures in midlife (average age 55) from cumulative exposures to vascular risk factors, including high blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, smoking and glucose, from young adulthood to midlife. They also evaluated if there were any differences by race or ethnicity; nearly 40% of the study participants (n=55) were Black adults.

The analysis found:

- Younger adults who had higher cumulative blood pressure exposure (from 25 to 55 years of age) had more changes visible on brain imaging at midlife, which may increase the risk of cognitive

dysfunction in mid- and late life.

- The brain changes that occurred were similar across all races and ethnic groups examined in the study when accounting for the degree of high blood pressure exposure.

"We were surprised that we could see brain changes in even this small sample of participants from the CARDIA study," Lineback said. "Given the greater likelihood of high blood pressure in some racial and ethnic groups, this study's finding should encourage health care professionals to aggressively address high blood pressure in young adults, as a potential target to narrow disparities in brain health."

A potential next step is to develop and implement systems to better treat and monitor blood pressure in young age groups and assess for brain changes over time, according to Lineback.

A limitation of the study is that it is a retrospective analysis, which means the findings cannot prove the brain changes were caused by high blood pressure.

Co-authors are Simin Mahinrad, M.D., Ph.D.; Yufen Jennie Chen, Ph.D.; Todd Parrish, Ph.D.; Donald M.

Lloyd-Jones, M.D., Sc.M., FAHA; and Farzaneh A. Sordani, M.D., Ph.D.

The study was funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institutes of Health. The list of authors' disclosures is available in the abstract.

Statements and conclusions of studies that are presented at the American Stroke Association and American Heart Association's scientific meetings are solely those of the study authors and do not necessarily reflect the Association's policy or position. The Association makes no representation or guarantee as to their accuracy or reliability. Abstracts presented at the Association's scientific meetings are not peer-reviewed, rather, they are curated by independent review panels and are considered based on the potential to add to the diversity of scientific issues and views discussed at the meeting. The findings are considered preliminary until published as a full manuscript in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The Association receives funding primarily from individuals; foundations and corporations (including phar-

maceutical, device manufacturers and other companies) also make donations and fund specific Association programs and events. The Association has strict policies to prevent these relationships from influencing the science content.

The American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference (ISC) is the world's premier meeting dedicated to the science and treatment of cerebrovascular disease. ISC 2022 will

be held in person in New Orleans and virtually, Feb. 8-11, 2022. The three-day conference will feature more than 1,500 compelling presentations in 17 categories that emphasize basic, clinical and translational sciences as research evolves toward a better understanding of stroke pathophysiology with the goal of developing more effective therapies. Engage in the International Stroke Conference on social media via #ISC22.

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CHASE, from Page 2

sons, Falcons tight end Kyle Pitts and Dolphins wide receiver Jaylen Waddle.

The six finalists were selected for their outstanding performances through

the 2021 NFL season. Each week, six nominees were chosen for the Pepsi Zero Sugar NFL Rookie of the Week, and fans voted for the winner on NFL.com. Those

results were used to help determine the finalists.

This is the Pepsi brand's 21st year as the official soft drink sponsor of the NFL and the 20th year that Pepsi will present the NFL Rookie of the Week and NFL Rookie of the Year award.



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Civil rights leaders call for replacement of Rooney Rule during meeting with NFL Commissioner Goodell on racial discrimination accusations

Civil rights leaders who met with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell today called for the League to establish specific recruiting and hiring procedures for executive and coaching positions, with meaningful consequences for teams that do not abide by the rules.

The Rooney Rule, a policy established in 2003 that requires teams to interview candidates of color for head coaching and senior football operation positions, must be replaced, the leaders said.

National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial, National Action Network Founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation President and CEO Melanie Campbell, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, and National African American Clergy Network co-convenor Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner requested the meeting after former Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores accused the NFL and three of its teams of racial discrimination in a proposed class-action lawsuit filed last week.



Johnny Williams / Unsplash

"However well-intentioned, the effect of the Rooney Rule has been for team decision-makers to regard interviews with candidates of color as an extraneous step, rather than an integral part of the hiring process," Morial said, noting that the NFL currently has only one Black head coach, two fewer than when the Rule was established. "The gravity of the situation is long past the crisis point."

"The Rooney Rule has been proven to be something the owners used to deceptively appear to be seeking real diversity," Sharpton said. "We must have firm targets and timetables."

Sharpton said the Na-

tional Action Network will be approaching states and municipalities to stop public funding and tax incentives to NFL stadiums until these firm commitments on timetables and goals are solid and public.

"NAN also has begun talking to members of Congress about Congressional hearings since public funds are being used to uphold this biased enterprise," Sharpton said. "Lastly, we will be going to major advertisers telling them they cannot continue to use our dollars in this unacceptable economic arrangement."

The leaders, who have long advocated for an investigation into the NFL's hiring practices, said they welcomed Goodell's an-

nouncement of an independent review of the NFL's diversity, equity and inclusion policies and initiatives, and emphasized that the civil rights and racial justice community must be part of that review.

"It's simply not enough for the League to declare its good intentions," Johnson said. "This is a long-standing crisis that must be confronted with diligence and rigor."

The influence of professional football on the national culture lends a heightened urgency to the

diversity issue, the leaders said.

"While the NFL has begun making strides with regard to social justice and racial equity, it's clear that voices of color are not being entirely heard in the executive suites," Sharpton said. "Good intentions are not enough."

The leaders also reiterated their wholehearted support for Flores.

"Coach Flores has taken a principled stand for justice, at no small risk to himself and to his career," Campbell said. "He has

risen to meet a crucial moment in history."

Williams-Skinner added, "We agree that Coach Flores' lawsuit presents the League with an opportunity to engage in substantive change and we will do everything in our power to make sure that opportunity is not squandered."

The leaders and Commissioner Goodell agreed to continue working together to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion at every level of the NFL and its member teams.

SCLC calls for the nation to support NFL Coach Brian Flores and other victims of racism, discrimination and injustices in other arenas

ATLANTA — Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the organization co-founded and first led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issued the following statement today calling for Americans to support NFL Coach Brian Flores and other victims of racism and discrimina-

tion in all arenas.

"{The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the legendary civil rights organization co-founded and first led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stands with Miami Dolphins' Coach Brian Flores who has exposed racism and discrimination in the National Football League.

We are calling for our

leaders in all industries and the American people to stand with Coach Flores and other former coaches and leaders in the NFL, who have not only called for an end to racism and discrimination in the NFL but in America, because of as Coach Flores has clearly stated, this is bigger than football.

See SCLC, Page 6

FBI announces investigation into bomb threats against HBCUs

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, joined other groups and individuals in welcoming the FBI's hate crime investigation into bomb threats targeting historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and the identification of six persons of interest in connection with the case.

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force announced it was investigating the dozens of bomb threats received by HBCUs nationwide on February 1 as "racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism



Harris-Stowe University in Missouri were among the more than dozen HBCUs targeted with bomb threats. (photo via NNPA)

and hate crimes."

More than a dozen HBCUs, including Howard University in Washington, Morgan State University in Baltimore, and Harris-Stowe State University in Missouri, were targeted with bomb threats.

Federal investigators

have identified six persons of interest, described as "tech-savvy" juveniles, in connection with the case so far.

Authorities have said they believe racism played a major factor in the crimes.

"We welcome the hate crime investigation into

these threats and the progress in identifying possible suspects," said CAIR National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell. "Law enforcement agencies must take the persistent threat of anti-Black racism seriously."

Mitchell added that he's confident that "these racist threats will strengthen HBCU's resolve to continue doing their unique and important work."

CAIR also condemned similar bomb threats last month that targeted HBCUs.

"Our community is better than this, and Harris-Stowe deserves better than this," LaTonia Collins Smith, the interim president of Harris-Stowe, stated.

"What we really should be focusing on is how we

can work collaboratively together in order to improve our community here in St. Louis."

Christopher Tinson, chair of the African American Studies program at St. Louis University, told St. Louis Public Radio that outsiders are often threatened by HBCUs.

"I think Black autonomous spaces always represent a threat to some segment of our population, even though those spaces were needed precisely because of the threat," Tinson said.

He added that the people or organizations behind such threats want to disrupt the mental, physical and emotional safety of Black people.

Further, he said that many African American students

attend HBCUs to connect with Black culture and use its campuses as safe spaces to commune with peers and faculty members without being judged by their ideas or the color of their skin.

St. Louis County NAACP President John Bowman said the bomb threats bring back haunting memories of bombings in Black communities during the civil rights era.

"Many times, it was one of the tactics used to oppress Black people," Bowman said.

"Unfortunately, these threats and actions seem to be really heightened due to the rhetoric and divisiveness of some of our previous leaders, and they have continued to work to create this division among racial lines."

Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation accepting applications for 2022 Charley Pride Fellowship Program

Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation to offer five undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds a 10-week front office fellowship

The Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation has officially opened applications for the 2022 Charley Pride Fellowship Program. In its second year, the program will again see five college students from diverse backgrounds spend their summer working in the Texas Rangers front office for this unique internship program.

Prominent Dallas businessman Roland Parrish and his Parrish Charitable Foundation are partnering with the Rangers Foundation in the Pride Fellowship Program for the second consecutive year.

"Last year's inaugural class of Charley Pride Fellows proved how successful this program can be through their outstanding commitment to working in the Texas Rangers organization," said Neil Leibman, Texas Rangers President, Business Operations and Chief Operating Officer, and Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation Chairman. "Many of them have already achieved great success and received full-time job offers to continue their careers in the sports industry. In fact, Kendall Coleman accepted an offer within the Rangers own baseball operations department."

"We are looking forward to welcoming a new group of incredible Fellows who will surely leave a lasting impact on our front office."

Created in honor of late country music star and close friend of the Texas Rangers organization, Charley Pride, this program aims to build a launching



Republic Country Club / Wikimedia

pad for students from diverse backgrounds looking to gain experience in a baseball front office.

"I will forever be in debt to the Texas Rangers for giving me this incredible career opportunity in sports," said Ashley Go, former Charley Pride Fellow. "This Fellowship not only introduced me to the most supportive people, but it also gave me valuable experiences that don't come often in life. I am grateful to have learned more about baseball, but more importantly learned how many different and amazing people it takes to put together a successful organization."

The Foundation will hire, train and support five Fellows as they rotate through three front office departments. Fellows will select their departmental rotation based on their interests. These students will gain valuable skills during the 10-week program that will benefit them should they choose to pursue a career in sports or any other industry.

To apply for the 2022 Charley Pride Fellowship

Program, visit texastrangers.com/charleypridefellowship.

Additional program details and application requirements are outlined below:

Background

Charley Pride is an American icon and Texas treasure that has exemplified military service, music entertainment and America's pastime, baseball. Having recorded over 30 number 1 hits with Grammy and Country Music Association Awards under his belt, Charley's first love was always baseball. He pitched professionally in the Negro and Minor Leagues throughout the 1950s before embarking on his Hall of Fame singing career of more than 60 years. He then became a regular participant at Texas Rangers spring training camps in Pompano Beach and Port Charlotte, Florida and Surprise, Arizona, working out with the team and staging an annual clubhouse concert for players and staff, a tradition that continued through the spring of 2020.

On March 14, 2021, the Rangers honored Charley's memory by dedicating one of the practice fields at their Surprise, Arizona complex as Charley Pride Field.

The Rangers were honored to have Charley be part of the team's ownership group for more than ten years. A longtime resident of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, he was a regular at Rangers home games when his schedule permitted. He sang The Star-Spangled Banner one final time before the first regular-season game played at Globe Life Field on July 24, 2020.

Program

The Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation established the Charley Pride Fellowship Program to help create a launching pad for rising juniors and seniors in college from diverse backgrounds to gain experience inside a baseball front office. The Foundation will hire, train and support the five Fellows as they transition through a ten-week rotation within different Texas Rangers Baseball Club departments. Departments available for these fellows include IT Operations & Applications, Sports & Entertainment, Baseball Operations, Communications, Partnerships & Client Services, Marketing, Ballpark Entertainment, Promotions & Production, Ticket Sales & Service, Business Analytics & Ticket Strategy. These students will be able to experience firsthand what front office executives experience daily while exposing them to the business side of baseball. This

unique opportunity will place candidates in roles with the Rangers while providing them with valuable cross-disciplinary experience which will benefit them should they choose to pursue a career in professional baseball or any other industry.

The details of the program were in the process of being finalized when Mr. Pride passed away on December 12, 2020, at the age of 86. The program was officially announced on March 18, 2021, what would have been Mr. Pride's 87th birthday. Officials from the Texas Rangers were joined in the announcement by Mr. Pride's wife Rozene Pride, his son Dion Pride, his longtime friends and fellow Country Music stars Garth Brooks, Larry Gatlin, and Neal McCoy, and prominent Dallas businessman Roland Parrish.

Eligibility

- Seeking employees from diverse backgrounds to apply
- Candidates must be rising college Juniors or Seniors (enrolled in a bachelor's degree program)
- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- A passion for and knowledge of baseball is helpful but not required
- A ten-week commitment to participate in Pride Fellowship Program

Application Documentation

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Transcript
- A personal statement (500 words or less)
- Two letters of recommendation

mendation

Pride Fellow Implementation

The Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation will provide five Pride Fellows per calendar year for other departments within the organization. These fellows would not take the place of existing ball club internships, but rather have a different experience provided to them.

Pride Fellows would commit to:

- A ten-week opportunity, 20-hour workweek
- A three-department rotation based on their interests
- No absences (unless excused due to illness, etc.)

Fellowship Positions

A "Charley Pride Fellow" will be able to select three departments to work in during their time with the Rangers. This person will experience firsthand what front office executives experience daily while exposing them to the professional baseball industry. Departments available to fellows include IT Operations & Applications, Sports & Entertainment, Baseball Operations, Communications, Partnerships & Client Services, Marketing, Ballpark Entertainment, Promotions & Production, Ticket Sales & Service, Business Analytics & Ticket Strategy.

Timeline

- January 12, 2022: Applications Open
- April 1, 2022: Applications Due
- May 30, 2022: First Day of Fellowship
- August 5, 2022: Last Day of Fellowship

SCLC, from Page 5

And the SCLC agrees.

Since the SCLC was established in 1957, the organization remains on the frontlines fighting to end racism, discrimination and other injustices every day in all arenas.

Racism is embedded in the American fabric. It has been with us since the beginning of America. It is a disease. It is in the American DNA, and it spreads just like Covid-19.

Unless we take the same

measures to weed out racism as we are taking to eradicate our nation from the deadly coronavirus, America will never reach its ultimate greatest.

In a few days, more than one hundred million people of all races, ethnicities and religions will tune in for the

NFL's Super Bowl, which is one of the biggest sporting events in the world, and a week later, the National Basketball League's All-Star Game.

This is the opportune moment for good-hearted people in America and around the globe to support men

and women in all industries who are facing racism and discrimination, because as Dr. King said those who accept evil without protesting it are really cooperating with it.

We cannot go backward America. Our greatest moments for this nation lie

ahead of us. It is time for all of us to have a seat at the table. Business as usual is dead.

We are in a new normal. It is time to share in America's prosperity and redistribute wealth, so let us embrace it.

Irving set to begin work on two improvement projects

Irving residents will soon see new work crews in the city as two particular improvement projects are set to get underway.

The Irving City Council unanimously approved two contracts on Dec. 9 for construction on Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects along Hard Rock Road and Pioneer Drive.

Hard Rock Road and Pioneer Drive Phase 2A Improvements Project

The council approved an \$8 million contract for the Hard Rock Road and Pioneer Drive Phase 2A Improvements Project. The long-awaited project will



Matthew Hamilton / Unsplash

provide improved traffic flow, water and wastewater capacity, and drainage to an area that has seen a continued surge in construction growth and development.

The Hard Rock/Pioneer Drive project will include

concrete roadway paving and installation of sidewalks, street lights and brick paver crosswalks. Additionally, crews will improve the storm drainage system in the area with concrete box culverts, storm

pipes and retaining walls. Improvements will also be made to water and wastewater mains.

The project is part of the Road to the Future program and will include the city's CIP, Water Utilities and Traffic and Transportation departments. Funding for the project includes \$1.3 million from Dallas County. The county is funding a portion of the project because Hard Rock Road serves as a frontage road for State Highway 161.

Hard Rock/Pioneer Drive project construction is anticipated to begin in February and is slated for

completion by the end of 2023.

Pioneer Drainage Improvements Phase I and Phase II

A \$5.77 million contract for Pioneer Drainage Improvements Phase I and Phase II was awarded by the City Council during the Dec. 9 meeting. The project will help with residential drainage in the area.

The Pioneer Drainage Improvements Phase I and Phase II project supports the city's Drainage Solutions for a Better Tomorrow program, as well as the future Cedar Drive and Car-

roll/Delaware Paving Projects, which are part of Road to the Future. The drainage project will include the installation of about 2,700 linear feet of large-diameter storm pipe from Delaware Creek to North Delaware Street. Crews will also install the storm pipeline under the BNSF Railway tracks. Funding for the project is through the city's Municipal Drainage Utility fund.

The Pioneer Drainage Improvements project will begin in June and is expected to be completed by summer 2023.

Programs honor Black History Month at the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is holding several virtual events throughout February to share discoveries and stories significant to the history and conversations around Black History Month. For visitors on

site, the exhibition "Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words" remains on view.

Finding Pictures: African Americans in the Military

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 12 p.m.

This orientation ses-

sion will include a brief introduction to images in the collections that relate to the history of African American participation in the U.S. military from the Civil War through the Vietnam War, with a fo-

cus on photography. The presentation will cover library search tools, online resources, and how to prepare for a future visit to the reading room. (Orientation will not be recorded.) For more information and to

register for this event, visit the Library of Congress online.

Repatriates, Recaptives and African Abolitionists: The Untold Story of Liberia's Founding
Wednesday,

Feb. 9, 12 p.m.

This webinar will be led by C. Patrick Burrowes, Ph.D. He was born in Liberia and is called "the people's professor" be-

See LIBRARY, Page 14



Honoring leaders giving back to their communities

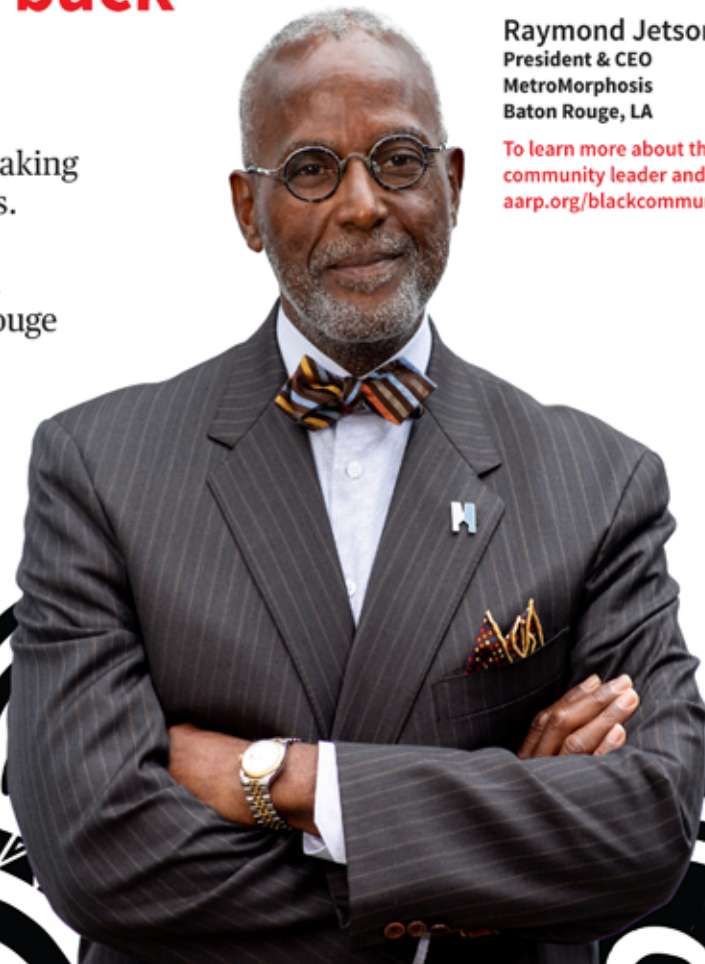
During Black History Month, AARP recognizes leaders taking action to give back and help build up their communities.

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





Judge sides with Ahmaud Arbery's family, denies plea deal for McMichael

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

US District Judge Lisa G. Wood rejected the plea deal reached by prosecutors and Travis McMichael on federal hate crime charges in the murder of Ahmaud Arbery.

The deal would have allowed McMichael to serve his sentence in federal prison

"We respect the court's decision to not accept the sentencing terms of the proposed plea and to continue the hearing until Friday, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Civil Rights Division said in a statement.

"The Justice Department takes seriously its obligation to confer with the Arbery family and their lawyers both pursuant to the Crime Victim Rights Act and out of respect for the victim," Clark said.

Before signing the proposed agreement reflecting the defendants' confessions to federal hate crimes charges, the Civil Rights Division consulted with the victims' attorneys, Clark

continued.

"The Justice Department entered the plea agreement only after the victims' attorneys informed me that the family was not opposed to it," she said.

Earlier, McMichael had agreed to plead guilty to a single hate crime charge in exchange for the prosecution recommending he serve 30 years in federal prison.

Gregory and Travis McMichael, along with William "Roddie" Bryan were convicted in state court of murder in early January.

The McMichaels were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility for parole. Bryan was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole.

Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, expressed anger and publicly lashed out over the proposed plea deal.

"Please listen to me," Cooper-Jones told the judge. "Granting these men their preferred conditions of confinement would defeat me. It gives them one last chance to spit in my face after murdering my son."

CANTU, from Page 1

tion of the Year. He loved the variety of working in radio, where no two days were alike, one day opening for a concert, the next, marshaling a parade. He appreciated the arts, and he participated, reviewing movies, helping people start their careers, and helping to promote a number of groups to gold and platinum.

Recruited to national radio in 1992, Hollywood moved to ABC's The Touch, a 24-hour adult urban format. He would spend 23 years there as an air personality and program director and later acquire an international audience on the Disney Radio network.

What was he like as a person? Without missing a beat, his sister said "[h]e was the kind of guy who lit up a room . . . He was a jokester. He was fun." He was also a "give you the shirt off his back kind of guy," who no matter how sick, would always be out caring for the homeless.

"We grew up poor, and I think that's why."

At home, he's known as "Big Poppi." He loved to cook for his two adult daughters and two grandchildren, and he's shared countless weekends with his family at Crystal Beach on the Texas coast. He was rooted in family and had a close relationship with his father, who lived with him in his later years.

Michael Cantu, "Hollywood" Hernandez, died on January 27, 2022, after a long battle with Cancer. The night prior to his passing, the group Yarbrough and Peoples honored him with a private concert. He was surrounded by family when he died.

"My friend made me a better person and so many others," his friend Gregory adds. "He believed in being positive and supportive of everyone's endeavor."

He touched so many people with his incredible heart. His presence and mark that he left on all of us will never be forgotten."

In lieu of flowers, Cantu asks for donations for Where are You? Outreach, a group he supported. The organization provides resources to the homeless and supports those who feel abandoned. (Whereareyououtreach.org.)



(Above) Michael Cantu (center back) takes time to share a moment with family members which include: Mike's nephew Cody Michael Strange, sister Theresa Strange Johnston, grandson Cade Cantu, daughter Robyn Cantu, cousin Erasmo Cantu, cousin Larry Dunham, son in law Adam Weidenkopf, daughter Lisa Cantu Weidenkopf, granddaughter Cailynn Cantu, grandniece, Zoe Strange, grand nephew Oliver Strange, and niece Kelly Strange. (Courtesy photo)

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



Deaf hip-hop artist Sean Forbes is among the slate of performers who will appear signing in the broadcast of the Superbowl LVI halftime show. (Photo: Jeffrey Sauger / Wikimedia)

Superbowl LVI halftime show will be first to feature ASL performers in broadcast

The National Football League (NFL) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) are honored to bring an elevated accessibility experience to the Pepsi Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show with talented American Sign Language (ASL) artists.

Viewers can access this elevated experience on NBCSports.com and the

NBC Sports app.

For the first time in its history, the Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show starring Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar will include ASL artists.

Famed Deaf musicians Warren “Wawa” Snipe and Sean Forbes will sign the Halftime Show.

Super Bowl LVI will take

place at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, California on February 13, 2022.

At Super Bowl LV last year, Wawa wowed the world with his ASL rendition of the National Anthem and America the Beautiful, with his performance viewed by more than 8 million people.

Wawa has been a trailblazer as an acclaimed re-

cording artist in the Hip Hop world and developed his own niche: Dip Hop, which he defines as “Hip Hop through deaf eyes.” Wawa is thrilled to return to the Super Bowl and fulfill his dream of bringing the beauty of ASL to the Halftime Show.

Sean Forbes is a long-

See ASL, Page 11

HBCU students to engage in massive Esport Superbowl event

NEW YORK -- The National Football League today unveiled its plans for the top HBCU student finalists who participated in the 2nd annual Madden NFL 22 x HBCU Tournament with a once-in-a-lifetime experience during Super Bowl LVI week. Students will journey to Los Angeles for a week filled with job shadowing opportunities and events with the NFL as well

as the finals competition of the Madden NFL 22 x HBCU tournament. To conclude the week, each student finalist will receive a ticket to attend Super Bowl LVI, on February 13, 2022, at SoFi Stadium.

The Madden NFL 22 x HBCU Tournament is driven by the NFL’s commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in both traditional sports and esports.

Throughout the week, the NFL Football Development team will host the student finalists inviting them to learn the business side of football at a variety of events and activations, including the Play Football Stakeholders Breakfast, the High School Girls NFL FLAG Exhibition, the Play Football Family Festival, and Super Bowl Experience. Students will receive valuable career

advice from NFL executives and key stakeholders while also participating in immersive job training.

As a lead up to the finals competition, Eric “That-GuyDJ” Minor from Claflin University and Rodney “RockoTuff” McKay from Virginia Union University will appear on NFL Total Access during the program’s February 8 broad-

cast at 7:00 PM ET on NFL Network to talk about their experience in the tournament.

Fans are encouraged to tune in on February 12 at 3:00 PM ET on the NFL YouTube or Twitch channels to find out if Eric “That-GuyDJ” Minor or Rodney “RockoTuff” McKay will take home the Madden NFL 22 x HBCU title. Eric and

Rodney will be competing for the Championship title from the NFL’s west coast headquarters located next to SoFi Stadium in Hollywood Park, home of Super Bowl LVI.

This year’s tournament features NFL partner prize including Microsoft Surface Pro X tablets, in addition to other official League product.

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Inspiring Passion at the Ground Level: PGA professional Demarkis Cooper is working to make golf more inclusive and inspire passion for it in others

By Anthony Witrado
PGA of America

As a preteen, Demarkis Cooper had dreams of playing quarterback. Maybe, one day, being the face of a franchise, or even the face of the NFL.

But over the span of a few minutes back in June 2008, after hitting a handful of golf balls while on vacation with his family, Cooper made a spontaneous declaration that would change his life.

"I'm never playing football again!" Cooper proclaimed to his father, Derwin, days after Tiger Woods won the U.S. Open on a fractured leg.

With that statement, the 12-year-old Cooper was on his way to becoming a PGA of America Member, one with an influential voice in golf's developing effort to diversify the sport and make it a more inclusive activity.

He was recognized for that last week at the 2022 PGA Show in Orlando as a glowing example of the Make Golf Your Thing movement.

Cooper is also a part of the 2021-22 PGA LEAD class.

PGA LEAD is a two-year leadership training program



PGA

for diverse Members committed to taking on voluntary leadership roles within the PGA at the Chapter, Section and National levels.

It's another way for underrepresented Members to have a stronger voice within the Association, and the golf industry.

If you're interested in PGA Membership, visit pga.org/membership.

As one of the PGA's rare Black Professionals – fewer than 1% of PGA Professionals are African American – Cooper, a Black man, understands his role in shaping an atmosphere that more people are comfortable in and that changes some of golf's negative perceptions.

His work at CitySwing, an indoor golf facil-

ity in Washington D.C. that strives "to change the culture of golf by eliminating the barriers into the game," reflects that.

"All of us have to do our part to make sure we bring in more people into golf," says Cooper, now 25.

"Being a part of the PGA and what they're doing to really try to make things more inclusive, that's exactly what I'm trying to do at CitySwing. So people who come from a different background, they have someone like me to look at and connect with to keep them in the game.

"I just want to be able to make the biggest difference I can."

After that family trip, Cooper, an athlete who played multiple sports,

wasted no time entering area junior golf tournaments.

To his surprise during his first competition, there was no halftime break after nine holes, and he estimates he shot "about 150" in that initial event.

Still, he fell in love with the game and went on to play college golf at the HBCU Maryland Eastern Shore while going through its PGA Golf Management University program.

The PGA's PGM programs provide classroom courses, internship experi-

ence and opportunities for player development for aspiring PGA Professionals.

Currently 18 universities offer the bachelor's degree program.

To learn more about the PGA of America's PGM program, visit pga.org/membership/university-program.

Going through the program, Cooper became fully invested in pursuing a career in golf. It was his passion, and he wanted to stay involved in any way possible.


"The way I figured, I love

golf, and if I'm a Member of the PGA, I'll always have a job in golf," Cooper says. "I knew I could make a lifelong career out of this, and that's what I wanted to do."

Earning Membership and becoming a PGA Teaching Professional is Cooper's way of making a living through that passion.

And after countless hours of lessons and his experience in talking with new golfers, he believes the way to bring more people of

See PGA, Page 16




The How To Be Project: Ten Plays for Racial Justice

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Black unemployment rate improves amid historic jobs report

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

America – and most notably Black America – is back to work, declared President Joe Biden as he announced one of the most robust job reports in modern times.

“History has been made here,” the president declared.

The economy created 467,000 jobs in January, and the unemployment rate for Black workers fell to 6.9 percent and dropped to 5.8 percent for African American women.

The president high-



Photo via NNPA

lighted the 6.6 million jobs added to the U.S. economy in the year since he took office.

“It comes alongside the

largest drop in the unemployment rate in a single year on record, the largest reduction in childhood poverty ever recorded in a

single year, and the strongest economic growth this country has seen in nearly 40 years,” President Biden asserted.

He also acknowledged the struggles that many American families still face, noting that prices have increased sharply during the pandemic.

“Average people are getting clobbered by the cost of everything,” President Biden said. “Gas prices at the pump are up. We’re working to bring them down, but they’re up. Food prices are up. We’re working to bring them down as well.”

White House officials

said they plan to enact policies to slow inflation.

Before the president’s remarks, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 222-210 to pass the COMPETES Act, a bill to help America keep up with China in the semiconductor chip industry.

The legislation seeks to tackle such economic issues as supply chain disruptions and a global shortage of semiconductor chips, essential for producing smartphones, medical equipment, and cars.

The bill would introduce several changes to American trade rules to level the playing field for domes-

tic businesses and combat China’s market-distorting trade practices.

“Democrats are prepared to build on this extraordinary economic momentum: continuing our work to lower families’ costs, strengthen our supply chains, and make more goods in America,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) declared.

“Under the leadership of President Biden and House Democrats, our nation will continue to Build Back Better to create more good-paying jobs and lower costs for families across America,” Pelosi stated.

Congress passes \$57 billion postal reform bill

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Congress has passed the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021, bipartisan legislation lawmakers said would help the U.S. Postal Service save money, balance its budget, and improve service.

The measure, which passed by a margin of 342-92, is seen by many as a critical reform that would repeal the pre-funding mandate – a rule passed in 2006 which gutted the Postal Service’s financial independence.

Reportedly, decades of falling mail use have turned the Postal Service into a “perpetual financial loser,” and the pre-funding requirement has accounted



NNPA

for \$152.8 billion of its \$206.4 billion in liabilities.

The legislation would clear \$57 billion of that amount and save the agency another \$50 billion over the next decade.

Importantly, lawmakers said the bill would help to modernize the Postal Service, ensure faster and more dependable deliver-

ies, increase oversight and accountability, protect rural newspapers, and ensure the stability of this critical American institution.

“The U.S. Postal Service didn’t care that my grandmother was a Black woman who didn’t have much and lived in a rural area,” Florida Democratic Rep. Val Demings stated.

ers worldwide and also ensures that music is artistically accessible to the Deaf Community.

Viewers can enjoy the full ASL performances of the Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show, as well as the National Anthem and America the Beautiful performed by Sandra Mae Frank, acclaimed Deaf actress from NBC’s “New Amsterdam,” on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app.

“They never failed to deliver. The U.S. Postal service is the oldest, most reliable, most trusted institution in this country. Countless Americans, including 90 percent of vet-

erans, get their medicine through the mail,” Rep. Demings continued.

“Millions of Americans rely on the Postal Service to correspond, to operate their small businesses, and

to vote. The U.S. Postal Service is fundamentally American, and I am proud to vote today to protect this exceptional public service

See POSTAL, Page 12

ASL, from Page 9

time Deaf hip hop artist from Detroit who has produced several hit songs. In 2011 Sean released a music video called “Let’s Mambo” featuring Oscar award-winning actress and two-time Super Bowl pregame performer Marlee Matlin.

In 2012 Sean released his debut album Perfect Imperfection and toured the world promoting it. In

February of 2020, Forbes released an album called “Little Victories” which reached #1 on the iTunes and Amazon charts for a hip-hop album, and #1 on Amazon for nationwide album sales upon its release.

Sean is the co-founder of DPAN (Deaf Professional Arts Network) a 501c3 nonprofit which showcases the talents of deaf perform-



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Black America deserves its fair share of the American Dream

Affordable rentals shrinking, growing mortgage denials block homeownership

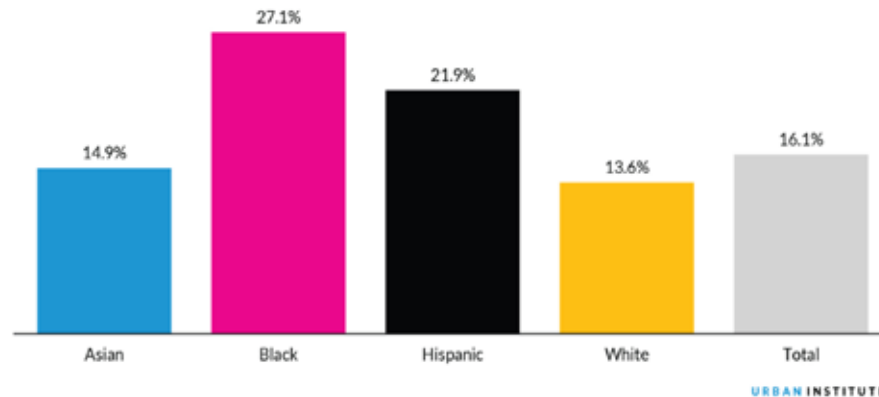
By Charlene Crowell

Regardless of locale, profession, or income, every family needs and deserves a home. But for many — especially Black Americans and other people of color — finding and maintaining affordable housing is increasingly difficult. New research documents not only escalating rental costs, but how Black American efforts to buy affordable homes are blocked by high denial rates nearly double that of white consumers.

While it is encouraging that this new research documents real-life bargains and locales to access the American Dream of homeownership, mortgage lenders must clearly account for their reasons to deny Black Americans owning their own piece of America. The longstanding racial homeownership gap is today only 43% for Black households — 30% less than that of white households at 3%. Further, as long as Blacks are forced to struggle with rising rental costs, these same families are denied the housing cost containment of a fixed-rate mortgage, as well as family stability, and the wealth-building that accrues to home owners.

Despite unprecedented federal housing assistance during the pandemic, a report by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) finds stark racial

Mortgage Denial Rate Comparison, by Race or Ethnicity



Source: Authors' calculations using 2020 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data.

and income divides in its analysis of the nation's rental market. Nearly a quarter of Black renters were behind on rent in the third quarter of 2021, as well as 19% of Hispanic renters. By contrast, the share of white renters in arrears was half that: 9%.

"This disparity reflects long-term discrimination in labor markets that has consigned many households of color to low-wage jobs in the service industry," says Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS). "And this sector suffered the most drastic employment cuts over the past two years, which has only compounded existing inequalities."

The term, 'rental affordability' is a ratio of monthly housing costs as a percentage of household income. Researchers, lawmakers and other housing stakeholder groups, consider affordable

rent to cost no more than 30%. For homeowners, this ratio must also take factors other than the mortgage payment into consideration. Property taxes, homeowner's insurance and the required private mortgage insurance for small down payment home purchases, must also be included in the calculation.

But with low rental vacancy rates in most metro areas, rental increases are widespread, and 'affordable' rentals are in short supply. The number of units renting for less than \$600 fell by 3.9 million between 2011 and 2019, the JCHS report found. Additionally, 17.6 million rentals—40 percent of the nation's supply—are located in areas with at least moderate risk from threats caused by climate change. And the 7.2 million renter households headed by a person age 65 and over is expected to continue rising over the next two decades.

"Given that people of color are more likely to have lower incomes and to rent rather than own their homes, the geographic concentration of rental housing helps to perpetuate patterns of racial and socioeconomic segregation," noted Whitney Airgood-Obrycki, a JCHS Research Associate and lead author of the new report.

A transition to homeownership can be key to containing family housing costs. Other recent research documents how affordable homeownership is still possible for moderate-income families.

In its 2022 Rental Affordability Report, ATTOM, curator of a national property database, found that paying a monthly mortgage on a median-priced home is more affordable than the average rent on a three-bedroom property in 666, or 58 percent, of the 1,154 U.S. counties analyzed for

the report.

"[H]ome ownership still remains the more affordable option for average workers in a majority of the country because it still takes up a smaller portion of their pay," said Todd Teta chief product officer with ATTOM. "For now, though, rising wages and interest rates around 3 percent are enough to offset recent price runups and keep ownership on the plus side of the affordability ledger compared to renting."

In general, according to ATTOM, homeownership is the most affordable in the Midwest and in the South. Moreover, many of these areas are already home to large numbers of Blacks and other people of color.

The most affordable homeownership among counties with a population of at least 1 million are Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), PA; Bexar County (San Antonio), TX; Cuyahoga County (Cleveland), OH; Harris County (Houston), TX; Hillsborough County (Tampa); Philadelphia County, PA and Wayne County (Detroit), MI.

Homeownership is also a viable option in smaller locales with populations of 500,000 or less including: Lake County (Gary), IN; Seminole County, FL (outside Orlando); Knox County (Knoxville), TN; East Baton Rouge Parish (Baton

Rouge), LA, and Jefferson Parish, LA (outside New Orleans).

But as long as mortgage application denial rates disproportionately impact Blacks, Black homeownership will continue to lag behind the rest of the nation. Now, while interest rates remain low, Blacks are being locked out of cost-savings enjoyed by others and the resulting wealth growth.

The Urban Institute's new analysis of the annual Home Mortgage Disclosure Act compares the race and ethnicity of those denied mortgages in 2020 for purchase loans as well as home improvement and refinance loans. In each of these loan types, the largest gaps in denial occurred between Blacks and whites. In home improvement loans, 63% of Blacks were denied compared to only 39% for whites. Similarly, nearly a quarter — 24.5% of Blacks were denied home purchase loans, while the corresponding number for whites was 13.4%.

Instead of being locked out, it is time to bring the benefits of home equity and wealth-building to more families. Black America must have its fair share of the American Dream.

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

POSTAL, from Page 11

and save our post offices."

Rep. Demings noted that the bill would require future Postal Service retirees, who have been paying into Medicare their entire careers, enrolling in Medicare.

Currently, roughly a quarter of postal retirees do not enroll in Medicare even though they are eligible.

"This means the Postal Service is stuck paying far higher premiums than any

other public or private sector employer," Rep. Demings remarked.

The Postal Service estimates it could save approximately \$22.6 billion over ten years by closely integrating Medicare.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that the Postal Service pre-fund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future.

"No private company or other federal government entity is required to comply with such a burdensome requirement," Rep. Demings declared.

The Postal Service estimates this provision would drastically reduce its pre-funding liability and allow it to save roughly \$27 billion over ten years.

Additionally, the legislation requires the Postal Service to develop a public-facing, online dashboard with national and local

level service performance data updated each week to provide additional transparency and promote compliance with on-time delivery of mail.

The measure also requires the Postal Service to deliver mail and packages at least six days per week across an integrated network.

It allows postal officials to enter into agreements with state, local, and tribal governments to provide non-commercial property

and services that enhance value, does not detract from core postal services, and provide a reasonable contribution to Postal Service institutional costs.

Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), who has sponsored the Senate version of the bill and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee chair, said his chamber would move quickly on the legislation.

"I have worked hand in hand with the bipartisan

leaders of my committee and the House Oversight and Reform Committee to craft this bipartisan bill," Peters said in a statement.

"[The bill] will help the Postal Service overcome unfair and burdensome financial requirements, provide more transparency and accountability to the American people, and continue its nearly 250-year tradition of service to every community in our nation," Peters said.

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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

Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

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Ongoing House of Blues

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

Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

'One-Stop Shop for Small Businesses Act' legislation passes through committee this week

Reps. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX) and Rep. Antonio Delgado's (D-NY) One-Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021 (H.R. 4877) passed through the House Small Business Committee today.

The bipartisan legislation helps small businesses navigate the web of federal regulations governing their business operations.

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fair-

ness Act requires federal agencies to publish small business compliance guides for certain regulations.

However, these guides are housed on different agency websites, making it difficult for small businesses to find and utilize them. The One-Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2021 would make these guides more accessible by creating a centralized, online "one-

stop shop" for small business owners. The online clearinghouse would also list contact information for the appropriate agency staff who could provide regulatory assistance to small businesses.

"Now more than ever, we must pursue common-sense legislation that allows small businesses to thrive in our struggling economy," said Van Duyne. "Often times, small busi-

nesses are unaware of their new responsibilities as federal laws are updated. The One-Stop Shop for small businesses will consolidate the resources necessary to navigate the seemingly never-ending web of bureaucratic red tape."

The One-Stop Shop for Small Businesses Compliance Act of 2021 passed both committees and the House by voice vote last year.



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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.

It was a Murphy's Law kind of week

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I am not what you would call a superstitious person. [Knock on wood.] I am a realist in a modified definition of that word, and I usually take things as they come.

My past week, however, was an open commentary on "Murphy's Law." Offhand I am not quite sure who come up with this concept, but they must have had a week somewhat like my week this past week.

If I had it within me, I would establish "Snyder's Law," which simply stated means, what can go right will go right. Then all would be right with the world. Well, except for those who are left-handed.

It all started Monday morning when I had an early morning meeting. I meant to set my alarm clock for 6 AM, but for some reason, I set it for 6 PM and overslept. Have you ever noticed

when you are 15 minutes late in the morning, the day ends up being 90 minutes late? Do not ask me how that happens. Ask Murphy.

In the mail, I got a notice from the bank that I was overdrawn, and they were charging me an insufficient fund fee. Well, I was furious. After all, I know how to add and subtract and I know how to take care of my bank account. I was about ready to call them and give them a piece of my mind when I noticed, how it happened I will never know, I forgot to include two checks I had written last week. I hate when that happens. My whole checkbook is now screwed up. I think it might be easier for me just to close my account and start all over again.

It was Tuesday but I had to go across town and endure all that traffic. It is not my favorite place to drive, I will tell you right now. Just

as I turned onto a street, my engine sputtered a little bit. Then, much to my chagrin, the engine stopped completely. I hate when that happens.

I turned the key several times and then, I do not know why I did it, but I glanced at the gas gauge and the arrow was pointing way beyond the E. My gas tank was about as empty as my bank account. It is bad to run out of gas, but the worst thing for me about running out of gas is calling the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and asking her for help. I would walk 100 miles not to tell her I am out of gas.

She always comes and bails me out. However, for the next six months, I am reminded and reminded and reminded to put gas in my tank.

Thursday also had its issues. My wife wanted me to go to the store and pick

up something, and for some reason, I cannot remember it now, I used her car. Maybe it was because I did not want to run out of gas!

I got to the store, paid for my purchase, came out and tried finding my truck. I walked up and down, and my truck was nowhere in sight. The only thing I could think of at the time was that somebody had stolen my truck.

I thought about calling the police, and then I thought better and decided I would call my wife first. You know what it is like when your wife hears something secondhand. And so I called her.

"I can't find my truck," I said trying to keep my voice as calm as possible not to get her upset, "I think somebody stole it. Should I call the police?"

Silence on the phone. Then I heard her say in a very calm voice, "Whoever

stole your truck parked it in our driveway.

I then remembered I was driving her car.

I tried to chuckle within but I knew that this incident would hang in our house for months to come and I have Mr. Murphy to thank for that.

It was such a horrific week, and I was so deep in trouble with my Better Half, I decided to take her out Friday night for a nice meal on the town. I took her to her favorite restaurant, and we ordered our supper, then set back and kind of sighed the week away. Maybe all that could go wrong has gone wrong, and the week was about to turn around.

We chatted; I tried to skew the conversation away from running out of gas and misplacing my truck. Then the waitress came with our meal. I was ready to settle down, enjoy a scrumptious meal and end the week on a

happy note.

The waitress set my wife's plate in front of her, and she smiled. Then the waitress set my plate in front of me, and I freaked out. For some reason the waitress got my order mixed up with somebody else's order, and right in the middle of my plate was a pile of broccoli.

The only hope I have is that it cannot get any worse than this. I think David, the psalmist, understood this when he wrote, "... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5 KJV).

As bad as it gets as a Christian, I have some great things to look forward to in Jesus Christ.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Ocala, FL. Call him at 1-352-216-3025 or e-mail jameessnyder51@gmail.com. His web site is www.jameessnyderministries.com.

LIBRARY, from Page 7

cause of his willingness to share his deep knowledge of Liberian history freely with others. Before returning to Liberia in 2017, he was a tenured professor of communications and humanities at Penn State University.

In August 2021, he uncovered a handwritten document missing since 1835 that sheds light on the 1821 purchase of land that became Monrovia, the capital city for the only United States colony in Africa. Burrowes says this is the most significant discovery of his career. This webinar does not require registration. To join the webinar, click here.

Made at the Library:
Bruce Ragsdale "Washington at the Plow"
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 12 p.m.

Join us for a conversation between Kluge Staff Fellow and historian Julie Miller and historian Bruce Ragsdale, whose recent book "Washington

at the Plow: The Founding Farmer and the Question of Slavery" (Harvard University Press 2021) explores the relationship between farming and enslaved peoples, drawing on the George Washington Papers held by the Manuscript Division.

Washington's passionate interest in farming was central to his identity, and his commitment to the "New Agriculture" of the 18th century shaped the lives of the hundreds of people held in bondage at Mount Vernon. To register for this event, visit the Library of Congress online.

The Maritime Underground Railroad
Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 7:00-7:45 p.m.

A Black History Month panel discussing how enslaved people achieved their freedom and what the journey by sea looked like for many African Americans. The panelists

include, Timothy D. Walker, professor of history at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, who edited the book, "Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad," as well as contributors to the book, Cheryl Janifer LaRoche, a lecturer in the Department of American Studies for the University of Maryland College Park, and Cassandra Newby-Alexander, dean at the College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University.

This event will be moderated by former Kluge Center Director John Haskell. The event will premiere on the Library's YouTube channel. The presentation will be available for viewing afterward at Library's YouTube channel and in the Library's Event Videos Collection.

Explore "Rosa Parks – In Her Own Words"
"Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words" is the first exhibition of the Rosa Parks Collection at the Library,

which holds the civil rights icon's personal writings, photographs, records and memorabilia. Visitors are immersed in Parks' handwritten notes, reflections

and images from throughout her life. The ongoing exhibition is available online at loc.gov/rosaparks. The gallery also remains open to visitors on site on

Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors must reserve advance timed entry passes for admittance. The exhibit will close May 31.

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Editor

Dr. Henry T. Sampson is the inventor of the "gamma-electric cell" which pertains to Nuclear Reactor use. This technology is used in the cellular phone.

Dr. Sampson received a Master Science (MS) in Engineering from the University of California. He was awarded a MS and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois.

He is the first Black person to receive a Ph.D in Nuclear Engineering. In 1971 he was awarded a patent for his "gamma-electric cell."

During the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Centennial Meeting held in Philadelphia in November 2008, Dr. Sampson was honored among the "Twenty Chemical Engineers in Other Pursuits."

He is the recipient of a variety of awards including the Atomic Energy Commission Award (1964-1967), Black Image Award from Aerospace Corporation (1982).

Dr. Sampson also was the recipient of the Blacks in



Dr. Henry T. Sampson

Engineering, Applied Science and Education Award and Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers (1983), and was named a fellow in the U.S. Navy (1962-1964).

In addition to his work in engineering fields, Dr. Sampson is a writer, film historian, and documentary film producer who focus on the African American presence in the film and entertainment industries.

He has written five books about the portrayal of Black people in movies, cartoons, and on radio. Sampson is married to Laura Howzell Young-Sampson, a professor at California State University-San Bernardino.

On July 6th, 1971, according to Dr. Sampson, his Gamma Electric Cell, patented July 6, 1971, Patent No. 3,591,860 produces stable high-voltage output

and current to detect radiation in the ground.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 1956. He went on to the University of California, Los Angeles where he graduated with a MS degree in engineering in 1961; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, MS in Nuclear Engineering in 1965, and a Ph.D in 1967.

Mobile Communications took a big step forward in 1983 with the invention of the Cellular System regulating the portable telephones, which use radio waves to transmit and receive audio signals.

Before this time, mobile telephone service in the United States, consisting mainly of car phones, was extremely limited because metropolitan areas had only

one antenna for these purposes.

In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assigned only 12 to 24 frequencies to each area, which meant that only that many calls could occur at a time.

These limitations often meant a wait of up to 30 minutes for a dial tone and a five to 10 year waiting list just to acquire the service. With the invention of cellular phone service in 1983 personal communications no longer depended on wires.

In the 1990s it would become possible to connect to the Internet from virtually anywhere in the world using a portable computer and a cellular modem with satellite service.

Technologies that developed from different fields, such as personal communications, computation, and space exploration often worked together to serve the constantly evolving hu-

man needs of the information age.

Dr. Sampson worked as a research Chemical Engineer at the US Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California in 1956-61.

He then moved on to the Aerospace Corp, El Segundo, California. His titles include: Project Engineer, 1967-81, director of Planning and Operations Directorate of Space Test Program, 1981.

Dr. Sampson holds patents related to solid rocket motors and conversion of nuclear energy into electricity.

He pioneered a study of internal ballistics of solid rocket motors using high-speed photography.

He was also a producer of documentary films on early Black filmmakers and films and a member of the board of directors of Los Angeles Southwest College Foundation

Dr. Sampson was a technical consultant to Historical Black Colleges and Universities Program.

(Editor's note: This column originally ran in February 2017.)

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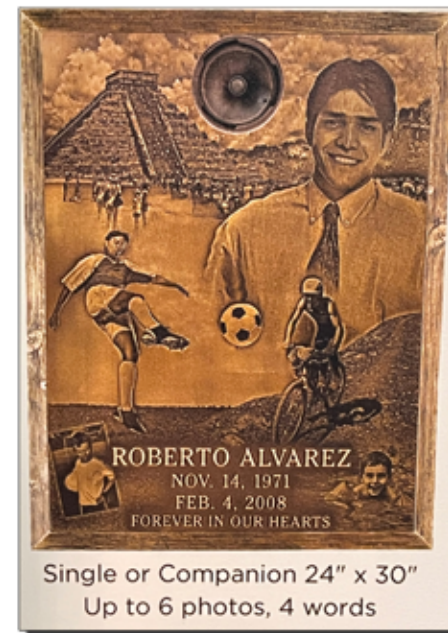
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NDG Book Review: 'Didn't We Almost Have It All' is a fan's fave

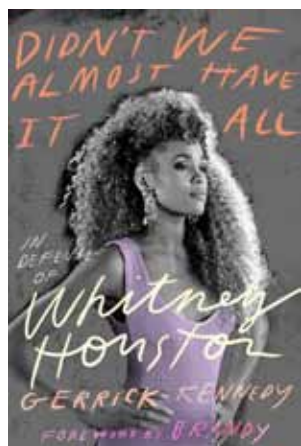
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

That song.

It always makes you want to dance with somebody. It gets your feet shuffling and your behind bouncing and the lyrics pour out of your mouth. And that singer who first sang it to you...? You know what happened to her, but in "Didn't We Almost Have It All?" by Gerrick Kennedy, you'll get a few more pieces of the puzzle.

She died two days after he met her "in a room inside the Beverly Hilton..."

Gerrick Kennedy fell in love with Whitney Houston in a movie theater when he was just five years old. He



purchased her music as a teen, followed her career closely, he met her once, and even now, his partner knows whose music is blasting when he sees Kennedy "floating away" with "earbuds poking out of my

ears." Now, nearly ten years since her death, Kennedy believes it's time for a reckoning.

"We missed so much the first time around," he says, and we need to look at Houston's contribution to "our dialogue around celebrity, addiction... mental illness, and Blackness in America..."

"To fully appreciate the anointing that graced Whitney's voice, it's essential to understand the almighty power of Cissy Houston."

Indeed, Houston learned at her mother's knee about God and gospel music — knowledge that came from a far-back source: Cissy's

parents put church and choir center in her life. God was a beacon to Whitney, and other musical talents — cousins Dee Dee and Dionne Warwick and "auntie" Aretha — further guided the young Houston.

Her first album rose to Number One on the charts; "She was on fire out the gate..." says Kennedy. Most people remember the power of her biggest hit, that "BOOM," he says, before Houston's voice soars, but a combination of drugs, bad decisions, and a bad relationship plagued her toward the end of her life. We watched "in horror" as she slid and "By the early

aughts we were all watching, waiting... for the worst to happen..."

In his introduction, author Gerrick Kennedy indicates that he wanted his book about Houston to be different from all the others, more meaning, less trouble.

He succeeded. To a point.

It's difficult to extricate Houston the icon from Houston the megastar — they are mostly one in the same — and stepping back two generations or profiling other singers and music executives doesn't help as much as Kennedy asserts. That stuff is all fluff; interesting, but covered elsewhere.

The best part of "Didn't We Almost Have It All?" comes in the latter third of the book. It's there that Kennedy examines the depth of Houston's contributions and the "meaning" of her decline and death to the Black community. There's a lot of introspection in it, as well as a shift in how we think about our celebrities.

Tackle "Didn't We Almost Have It All?," therefore, and you can expect to see things you already know, but you can also expect to be delighted. It's a fan's book, for sure, and reading it might be the greatest love of all.

PGA, from Page 10

color into the game, the industry and potentially PGA Membership, is by sparking their love for the game at the grassroots level.

Programs like PGA Jr. League and PGA Family Cup, he believes, are great ways to attract new audiences of young people and create that love at an early age. And along with non-

traditional facilities like CitySwing, those experiences can focus on giving people a comfortable, welcoming experience that keeps them playing and finding their love.

Cooper also says promoting diverse golf influencers like NBA star Stephen Curry, a PGA Jr. League Ambassador, and influencer

Roger Steele, the founder of progressive content agency HIPE Media, can be ways to get people of color interested in golf, even if they've never considered it before.

The emphasis being that the more people see others who look like them playing the game, the more likely they'll gravitate toward it.

As Cooper sees it, there won't be another "Tiger

boom" that fuels an influx of diverse players. While it's certainly possible that another African American golfer has massive influence, odds are they won't dominate as Woods did, or captivate society enough to create the same phenomenal impact.

That means it's up to people like Cooper to welcome in the next wave.

"If you don't play golf, you're not watching golf. So I'm focused on the ground level, what I can do and embracing those people," Cooper says.

"The more people of col-

or that are playing golf, the more interested they'll be in working in golf and joining the PGA [as Members]. It just has to be a big group effort."

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a PGA Member, visit pga.org/membership.

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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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