



# North Dallas Gazette

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## The quake in the wake of Eddie Bernice Johnson

District 30 fields nine candidates looking to replace a Dallas political icon

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

The 2022 Democratic Primary will mark the end of an era in Dallas politics. Eddie Bernice Johnson is not running for reelection. Johnson has been a stalwart presence in Washington, D.C. for three decades.

Johnson is quite proud to be the first nurse elected to congress, but she is also the first Black woman from Dallas to be elected to the Texas legislature, where she became the first woman to chair a major Texas House committee. Republicans running against Johnson have routinely found themselves being thrashed at the polls, with Johnson's share of the voting percentage soaring past the 70s (even hitting 91.1% in 2018).

In the primary elections, Johnson has been challenged but never threatened by fellow Democrats. In 2020 Johnson faced four challengers looking to unseat her in the race for District 30. She emerged with a 70.6% majority and remained unscathed.

Now that she is not seeking the seat in the next term, nine candidates have filed to fill her position (with one more having already withdrawn from the race). In such a wide field, avoiding a runoff could be a difficult task, so simply reach-



U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (left), pictured with legendary civil rights activist and congressman John Lewis, is not running for reelection. The opening has attracted a flood of candidates seeking her seat. (Courtesy photo)

ing the top two spots will be a high priority for every candidate.

**Arthur Dixon** is a young candidate for the position at 26 years of age. He says he understands the crippling effects of economic disadvantage, having had to leave school at the American University in Washington, D.C. and Harvard Extension School to go to work early. His experience includes professional work as an activist and community organizer. He is a proponent of Universal Basic Income, and is dissatisfied that the poverty rate in District 30 has not improved over the past 30 years. As a self-described champion of the "Green

New Deal," climate change is also high on his list of priorities.

**Jessica Mason** has garnered a lot of attention among the nine candidates. She is a daughter of South Dallas who enlisted in the U.S. Navy to put herself through school, serving as a Navy medic. She eventually earned a Master of Public Administration while also chalking up bureaucratic experience as a legislative aid in the Virginia State legislature. She has in-depth policy goals on a dozen issues listed on her website ranging from universal healthcare to veterans issues. She

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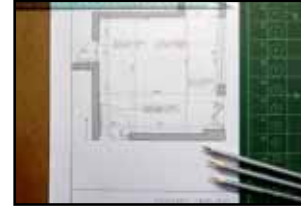
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### People In The News ...



Karhlton Moore



Erica Ford

**NDG Quote of the Week:** "Won't it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history."  
—Maya Angelou



## Karhlton Moore

WASHINGTON — Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon recently announced that President Biden has appointed Karhlton Moore director of OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Moore, whose appointment takes effect February 28, joins BJA from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, where he served as Executive Director and oversaw state and federal grants for law enforcement, victim assistance, juvenile



justice, crime prevention courts, anti-trafficking efforts, reentry, corrections programs and traffic safety.

"Karhlton Moore is known as a collaborator who gets things done, an innovator who looks for prac-

tical solutions and a practitioner-focused professional who bases his decisions on what the evidence shows," said Solomon. "Karhlton has an exceptional track record as a state administrator and will bring an invaluable perspective to the Office of Justice Programs leadership team to help us meet the difficult crime-and-justice challenges faced by communities across the country."

Moore has led Ohio's grantmaking operations since 2005. He has advised the governor and the director of the Department of Public Safety on criminal justice strategies and devel-

oped a plan to use funding under the American Rescue Plan Act to address violent crime, officer wellness and recruitment, and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the criminal justice system. He also served as the facilitator for former Ohio Governor John Kasich's Task Force on Community-Police Relations, precursor of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. The Ohio Collaborative is a multi-disciplinary panel that establishes standards for law enforcement agencies as part of the state's effort to strengthen community-police relations. Moore

has been a member of the National Criminal Justice Association advisory council and executive committee and was president of its board of directors.

"I am so pleased and honored to have the opportunity to lead the Bureau of Justice Assistance," said Moore. "I'm looking forward to working with criminal justice stakeholders, practitioners and others from across the country to make our communities safer."

Moore previously served as the chief legal counsel and legislative liaison for the Office of Criminal Justice Services. He was

also an assistant attorney general in the Court of Claims Defense and Capital Crimes sections of the Ohio Attorney General's Office and was assistant deputy legal counsel in the Office of the Governor. Moore was integral in creating the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science, an association of researchers from colleges, universities and state agencies working to provide evidence-based solutions to problems faced by local criminal justice agencies. He also helped to implement the Ohio Community Initiative to Reduce

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## Erica Ford

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

When President Joe Biden, New York Mayor Eric Adams, and Attorney General Merrick Garland pledged their full support to tackle gun violence and those who sell weapons, the trio decided to meet in Queens, New York.

With Gov. Kathy Hochul joining the excursion, talk centered on perhaps the most needed aspect of the fight against crime and gun violence in urban commu-



nities: violence interrupters.

Many viewed that the discussion — and subsequent momentous pledges — occurred in Queens counts as significant, particularly for Erica Ford, founder of Life Camp, the nonprofit whose

goals and methods center on ending gun violence in underserved communities.

"What people are starting to understand, I think, is with the George Floyd situation and COVID, where people had to sit still and watch what was going on, people started to have more empathy for how we live and the conditions in which we live in," said Ford, an internationally recognized peacemaker.

She has been at the forefront of reducing youth and community violence in New York City and other areas for more than three decades.

"There are some professional commentators who have no desire or interest to help. Instead, they want to confuse or distract, but I believe people are moving from a space of fear to a space of love," Ford decided.

She called Mayor Adams a "different kind of mayor," noting that he's stood tall on the frontlines and understands the issues facing underserved communities.

"His commitment is to

get people the things they need to live as humans, so he's dedicated to supporting the New York City Crisis Management System, and he wants to make sure things work," Ford insisted.

Much of the communities Ford serves lack the resources for residents to make intelligent decisions, and she noted the infiltration of guns.

"We are not the ones making the guns, so where are they coming from?

They are getting into the hands of our babies," Ford declared.

Both Mayor Adams and President Biden have pledged support, and each has pushed legislation to assist.

Mayor Adams stated his desire for precision policing to track down illegal firearms and "500 to 600 trigger pullers that are producing 17 percent of the vi-

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## Snoop Dogg

NNPA Newswire - In true Snoop Dogg form, holding a blunt in one hand and dancing to the thumping and soulful music blaring in the background, the iconic hip-hop superstar announced that he was "Back on Death Row."

Snoop, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, revealed that he had purchased the equally iconic label, Death Row Records.

Later, Blackstone, Inc., a private equity firm, confirmed the deal.

Snoop Dogg released his first album with Death Row Records in 1993.

Less than 30 years later, he now owns the entire company.



"I am thrilled and appreciative of the opportunity to acquire the iconic and culturally significant Death Row Records brand, which has immense untapped future value," Snoop Dogg said in a statement.

"It feels good to have ownership of the label I was part of at the beginning of

my career and as one of the founding members. This is an extremely meaningful moment for me."

Death Row's former owner Marion "Suge" Knight had created a giant in the industry with Snoop, Dr. Dre, and later Tupac Shakur turning out hits for the label.

After Shakur's death in 1996, Death Row declined amid controversy and infighting.

Hasbro Inc. purchased the label after Death Row went into bankruptcy in 2006, and Blackstone eventually bought out Hasbro.

"Back on Death Row," Snoop Dogg said in a post celebrating his new ownership, noting that he's scheduled to release the album, "B.O.D.R." on Friday, February 11.

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

# Raising the minimum wage is long overdue

By Royce West  
Texas Senate

One of the unexpected outcomes of the two year plague that is COVID-19, was that minimum and low-wage workers were able to find their voices. And although some would adamantly block out reason to maintain the status quo, it is clear that increasing the federal and state minimum wage is past overdue.

Last year, after federal COVID relief efforts included additional payments to Americans who had been cutoff from jobs, the howls began that too many recipients of weekly \$300 pandemic payments no longer wanted to work. The payments were on top of standard state unemployment benefits that have been available to separated workers since the program's inception in 1938.

During the last quarter of 2021, the average weekly unemployment benefit paid in Texas was \$407.

The maximum amount that those eligible can receive is \$549; all based on the recipient's past earned wages. The minimum weekly benefit is \$71.

Texas was among the first states to stop paying the extra \$300 federal benefit before it was scheduled to expire last September. The thought of recipients living-it-up on \$700 a week, or a little more than \$2,800 a month per person, was too much for the Texas Association of Business to stomach. They urged Texas' Governor Greg Abbott to shut it down. And he did. Keep those figures in mind.

On average, state unemployment benefits come to about \$1,630 monthly. Where am I going with this? At \$7.25 an hour, a minimum wage worker earns \$290 a week before taxes. Even without pandemic supplements, unemployment recipients on average receive nearly \$120 per week more than minimum wage workers get in

gross pay!

That's \$1,160 per month (before taxes) that a person is supposed to live on, if this level of impoverishment can be described as "living." This is before, not after paying for rent, food, transportation and clothing. And oh yes, kids cost money too! Even if there are two minimum wage workers in a household, it's still \$500 less monthly than one person received in combined pandemic unemployment benefits. So it makes sense that some minimum wage workers may not have been overly anxious to return to front line jobs where their lives could be at risk.

Let's plug those wages into how much it costs to live in 2022. Those two minimum wage workers, even without kids, cannot afford to live in a 2-bedroom apartment in the Dallas area, which according to Rent.com, now costs an average \$2,414 a month. It's consistent with 2020 findings by the National Low-

Income Housing Coalition that said a minimum wage worker cannot pay rent for a two-bedroom home in any state in the U.S.

Prices for new and used automobiles have both increased by thousands due to the COVID supply-chain, shortage of processing chips. Gas prices, even in petroleum-king Texas, hover above \$3.00 per gallon; meaning a minimum \$40 fill-up for most cars. And I don't need to mention how much more we all now spend at the grocery store or the hike in fast food prices.

Three times in the past, I've authored bills that would have increased Texas' minimum wage. None were granted a hearing.

Those who say no to increasing the minimum wage are woefully out of touch with those who work for it. Maybe they should be forced to walk in that man's shoes to see just how uncomfortable they are.

## Black history, black print, and you

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

Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the work he left behind certainly makes the case today for the study of Black History. Without his work most of us would not know who we are or how many things we have done to contribute not only to this nation but also to mankind. For 195 years, the Black Press has been a guardian and transmitter of our history. When it was against the law to teach a slave to read and write, the Black Press was already telling our story to those who could read or just listen as others read to them.

Oh, how far we have come. Today we have the freedom to read, but too few of us are reading. Social media and its abbreviated written language, along with television and the internet, have replaced

our desire too often to even open a book. But now, more than ever, is the time to once again add reading to learning and following our history in the making. The Black Press not only carries our history and stories, continuing the work of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, but our press has extended our stories to the digital world providing news and facts that we can rely on coming from our "trusted messengers". But none of this works if we don't take the time to embrace, read and digest the written story of our past and present, as told by us.

Our newspapers have survived because of "us" and not because of the large ad accounts we never had. We never had the large grocery store, department stores and automobile dealership accounts. We never had the large newsrooms, printing presses and classifieds accounts that made

white papers rich. But we continued to tell our story with the help of so many of us who volunteered services and time to share our stories with those among us.

This Black History Month is probably one of the most important in our history. We are under attack as Jim Crow racism moves on voter suppression in the form of reducing voting sites and equipment, and replacing true election officials with those who have bought The Big Lie that Trump is still President. We must speak truth to power as we remind our brothers and sisters of the racism of voter denial, the counting of jelly beans in a jar as permission to vote, and the push for what White Conservatives are calling

"Critical Race Theory" as a means of re-writing our history without racism and lynchings which they imposed upon us.

If they pass laws to re-

strict our voting, then we, as the Black Press and Media, must use "Print" and "electronic" means to remind us of why history says we can't allow those with such practices to stop us. We must ignite the perseverance of our history to rise in numbers above the challenges being placed before us. We must become so laser focused that our lives and the lives of those who agree with us outnumber our opponents. President Biden is only a symbol of what we are struggling for: to keep America an inclusive democracy. It's up to us to reignite the spirit and faith of our fathers that brought us this far so that we don't lose ground. It comes down to "Our History, Our Print and You". We must write our story, today which will be our history tomorrow, and we must make sure that we are included in telling our own stories.

Keep up with the news

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# Study finds patients treated at advanced stroke centers had better outcomes

NEW ORLEANS -- When comparing outcomes for acute ischemic stroke patients treated at various levels of stroke centers, patients who received care at Comprehensive Stroke Centers (CSC) or Thrombectomy-capable Stroke Centers (TSC) were more likely to receive rapid treatment with clot-busting medication and/or mechanical clot removal and be discharged home or to rehabilitation centers than patients treated at Primary Stroke Centers, according to preliminary research to be presented today at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference 2022. The conference is a world premier meeting for researchers and clinicians dedicated to the science of stroke and brain health being held in person in New Orleans and virtually, Feb. 9-11, 2022.

Stroke occurs when a blood vessel to or in the brain either becomes blocked or bursts, preventing blood and oxygen from reaching the brain. Treatment to quickly restore blood flow to the brain is essential to improve outcomes and survival.

"Certification status of the center where a stroke patient receives care mat-



Sharon McCutcheon / Unsplash

ters, and it's important to know that the specific requirements to become a CSC or TSC are validated by these data. The quality of care is higher in these centers, as also confirmed by our findings," said Radoslav Raychev, M.D., F.A.H.A., lead author of the study and a vascular and interventional neurologist and assistant professor of neurology at University of California, Los Angeles.

Primary Stroke Centers (PSC) are hospitals with the necessary resources to manage patients with acute ischemic stroke, the most common type of stroke that is caused by a clot blocking an artery supplying blood to areas of the brain. CSCs are hospitals that meet specific standards for managing more severe ischemic and hemorrhagic (bleeding) strokes

that require advanced endovascular and surgical interventions including endovascular thrombectomy (EVT), which is a highly effective procedure for mechanically removing a clot that is blocking an artery. TSCs meet all the rigorous standards for performing EVT and are essentially the same as CSCs in treating acute ischemic strokes. However, unlike CSCs, TSCs may not have the necessary resources to treat the less common and more complex hemorrhagic strokes.

"TSC is a relatively new designation, introduced in 2018 by the accreditation agencies in cooperation with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association," Raychev said. "This is the first study to include the new thrombectomy-capable

designation when comparing outcomes in the treatment of ischemic stroke at the different levels of stroke centers."

Researchers compared outcomes and quality of care indicators for 84,903 patients (median age 70, 49.2% female) with ischemic stroke treated between 2018 and 2020 at stroke centers participating in the Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) - Stroke Registry. The study analyzed 185 CSCs, 29 TSCs and 169 PSCs in the registry. As part of their treatment, each patient had received either intravenous clot-busting medication or EVT to restore blood flow in a blocked artery.

Among their findings on quality-of-care measures, the study found more patients treated at a CSC or TSC had:

- intravenous clot-busting treatment started within the target time period set by GWTG than those treated at a PSC; and
- the EVT procedure started within the target time period set by GWTG compared to patients treated at a PSC (however, the difference between TSC

and PSC timing was not statistically significant).

"Our data indicates that nearly one-quarter of all EVTs in the United States are being performed in Primary Stroke Centers. This is unfortunate because PSCs are not required to have close oversight and implementation of EVT-specific American Stroke Association standards. We hope that clinicians recognize the importance of the certification status and its

impact on the quality of acute stroke care, and we hope they advocate for appropriate changes within their institutions," Raychev said.

Patients also had better outcomes if they were treated at a CSC or TSC, with the analysis finding:

- CSC and TSC patients were more likely to have their blood flow successfully restored after EVT than

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## MOORE, from Page 2

Violence, a partnership of cities throughout the state that brings together communities, law enforcement officials and social service providers to reduce gang and group homicides. The initiative is credited with significant reductions in homicides and shootings in the target cities.

Moore is an Ohio native with a bachelor of arts degree from Wright State University and a law degree from American University's Washington College

of Law.

As head of BJA, Moore will oversee a wide-ranging portfolio of grant programs, training and technical assistance activities, and other resources aimed at preventing crime, reducing recidivism and promoting a fair and effective criminal justice system. BJA investments help law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, court and corrections officials, treatment providers and community-based partners address chronic and

emerging criminal justice challenges, from reentry to violent crime to behavioral health issues in the justice system. BJA's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program is the largest single source of federal funding for state, local and tribal criminal justice operations.

Moore takes over the leadership post from Kristen Mahoney, who has served as BJA's acting director since January 2021 and will resume her role as the office's principal deputy director.

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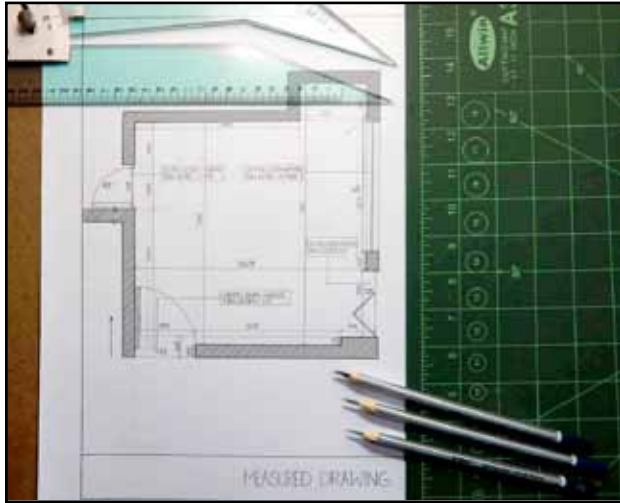


## Johnson announces creation of the Mayor's Working Group on Permitting

Mayor Eric Johnson on Monday announced that he is creating the Mayor's Working Group on Permitting and that he is appointing City Councilmember Paula Blackmon to lead it.

To help the group's efforts, Blackmon has selected Macey Small Davis, a long-time public policy consultant, as her private-sector co-chair.

Mayor Johnson and the Dallas City Council have previously declared fixing problems in the city's permitting office as a top priority for the city manager. The mayor on Monday morning sent a memo to the City Council announcing the working group.



Soham Banerjee / Unsplash

"Over the past two years, we have been inundated with complaints and concerns about the increasingly slow and byzantine nature of our city's permitting processes," Mayor Johnson said.

"Enough is enough. Dallas deserves better. It is clear that we must now intervene with a new approach."

The Mayor's Working Group on Permitting will be responsible for seeking

input, researching solutions, monitoring progress, holding city staff accountable, breaking down silos in city government, assessing potential budgetary impacts, and returning to the relevant City Council committees with any policy proposals deemed necessary to fix the problems in the permitting office.

Mayor Johnson said he selected Councilmember Blackmon because of her extensive experience in government and her proven ability to tackle complex, difficult issues. At Mayor Johnson's request last year, Councilmember Blackmon joined Ad Hoc Committee on General Investigating and

Ethics Chairwoman Cara Mendelsohn to guide the mayor's comprehensive ethics reform proposal through the Dallas City Council.

Councilmember Blackmon thanked Mayor Johnson for this leadership on this issue and stated, "I am a firm believer that we work best when we work together and when we hold one another accountable. This is an opportunity for us to really get this right and fix a process that has been broken for a long time."

Davis currently serves the city as the District 13 representative on the Dallas Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. She previously served as the president of

The Davis Advocates, a local public policy and planning firm that she founded. Prior to running her own consulting business, Davis worked as the Executive Vice President of Government Affairs for The Real Estate Council in Dallas and as the first Tax Counsel of Federal Public Policy for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business association.

"I look forward to collaborating with our industry partners – builders, developers, and customers – to provide a feedback loop at City Hall that will help us know what is working and what is not," Davis said.

## DOJ Intervenes in Black couple's home appraisal lawsuit

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

On Monday, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division filed a statement of interest in a private discrimination lawsuit where the homeowners allegedly received an appraisal for nearly \$500,000 less than the actual value because they are Black.

In 2020, Tenisha Tate-Austin and Paul Austin, a Black couple in San Francisco, sought to refinance their home mortgage.

Janette Miller, a licensed appraiser, named a defendant in the lawsuit, appraised the couple's home at \$995,000. However, a



Paul Austin and Tenisha Tate-Austin (Photo via NNPA)

few weeks later, another appraiser set the home's value at \$1,482,500.

They received the second and more significant appraisal after getting a Caucasian friend to pose as Tate-Austin.

The couple said Miller used coded phrases like "Marin City is a distinct area" when she valued the property. They said those comments were related to their race and complained to their mortgage lender.

For the second appraisal, they hid photos and artwork with distinguishing African American characteristics and replaced them with those belonging to their white friend.

"We had a conversation with one of our white friends, and she said, 'No problem. I'll be Tenisha,'" Tate-Austin told reporters last month. "I'll bring over some pictures of my family.' She made our home look like it belonged to her."

The couple filed a fair housing discrimination lawsuit against Miller and her company, Miller and Perotti Real Estate Appraisers, Inc., and AMC Links, LLC.

Miller and her company

have filed a motion to dismiss the case, claiming that the couple failed to state a claim upon which a court could grant relief.

"The United States respectfully submits [our] statement to provide an overview of the FHA and to address two questions of law raised in the defendants' motion," the DOJ said in a statement.

"The defendants assert that the FHA does not apply to residential appraisers. The statute's text and case-law make clear that it does. Second, the defendants lay out the elements of a prima facie case and argue that the plaintiffs have failed to allege these elements," the DOJ stated.

"But the plaintiffs need not allege facts that make out a prima facie case at this stage. The act simply requires that the plaintiffs allege a plausible entitlement to relief as a result of the defendants' 'discriminatory housing practices.'"

Austin said he and Tate-Austin researched the market well and upgraded their home before the first appraisal. "We did our homework," Austin told the Reparations Task Force in a panel on the racial wealth gap in October.

"We believe the white lady wanted to devalue our property because we are in a Black neighborhood, and the home belonged to a Black family."

## FORD, from Page 2

olence in this city although they are less than 1 percent of the population."

In New York, major crime reportedly jumped from 38.5 percent in January 2021 to January 2022. In addition, robberies, and felony assault both surged 33 percent.

Garland announced new federal help, while President Biden has earmarked \$8 billion in his stalled

Build Back Better bill for community violence and prevention across the nation.

"That means groups like ours who are on the frontlines helping to reduce gun violence would get some much-needed assistance," Ford remarked.

She noted that in 2021 the President signed an executive order that allowed 26 federal programs and five

agencies to change the language in their budgets on how they allocate funds to violence interrupter groups like Life Camp.

"The answer is not to defund the police. It's to give you the tools, the training, the funding to be partners, to be protectors and community leaders," President Biden said during the February 3 meeting in New York. "To know the community, you know. Police need to treat everyone with

respect and dignity," the President said.

Mayor Adams exclaimed that city residents need to have "the justice we deserve, but the safety we need, and we need to tweak some of the legislation that we have witnessed to take an account the public safety aspect of it."

The mayor also called on state lawmakers to change New York's bail reform law to allow judges to consider a suspect's danger to the

community when setting bail.

"At some point in life, we have to be about life," Ford asserted. "We have to be servants of the world and to our nation. We have to be about those people we serve, not just the constituents in our areas, but across the nation."

Ford concluded:

"There has to be a consideration to making sure that everyone has access to quality of life, to health-

care, and education. Investment in violence prevention is about helping people move those barriers that stop them from living.

"Whether you're Republican or Democrat, the question of violence, safe roads, and access to the internet is vital. And we need to help those incarcerated to come back into society. All of this allows us to build as a nation, so why not? We should want to build as a nation."



# Carter cheerleaders take off for Nationals competition



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

Carter High School's Varsity Cheer Team headed to Orlando for the National Cheerleading Competition at Walt Disney World. Thanks to the Carter High School community and alumni, who successfully raised more than \$15,000 to support the team in going to the competition. That's the way we do it! As they left for the prestigious championship event, all of Dallas ISD and especially District 6 was rooting for a win!

## Signing Day in Dallas ISD

I'm so proud of our outstanding student athletes who signed up with colleges on National Signing Day!



From Carter High School, congratulations to football players: La-traiveon Armstrong, who signed with Phenix City Academy; Janari Hyder, Benedictine College; and Brandon Jones, Angelo State University.

From Kimball High School, congrats to football players: Austin Daniels, who signed with Thomas More University; Kyron

Henderson, West Texas A&M University; Donald Miles, West Texas A&M University; and Jerqualen Parks, Bethel College.

Kimball High School basketball players signing up are: Arterio Morris, University of Texas; and Chauncey Gibson, Clemson University. Congrats to you all!

## Superintendent's Community Conversations

You can sign up now for one of Superintendent Michael Hinojosa's Dialogue and Community Conversations, where he will be meeting and talking with staff and faculty, parents and community members.

On March 30, David W. Carter High School will host one of the sessions, for Carter and Wilmer-Hutchins high schools' feeder schools, J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard, and Dr. Frederick D. Haynes Global Preparatory Academy at Paul Quinn College. However, for convenience, parents can attend a session at any of the designated high schools.

The Dialogue With the Superintendent from 5-6 p.m. is for teachers and staff, and the Community Conversations Through Collaboration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. is for parents, students and community

members. Each meeting will feature a presentation by the superintendent and time for Q&A. To register and get more information, visit [www.dallasisd.org/conversations](http://www.dallasisd.org/conversations).

## Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and in Dallas ISD, we are excited to celebrate the rich history, stories, and achievements of this community centered around the theme "Legacy." Throughout this month, the district will have many academic and cultural activities to learn and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans and their central role in U.S. history. For more information about Dallas ISD Black History Month activities, visit [www.dallasisd.org/blackhistorymonth](http://www.dallasisd.org/blackhistorymonth).

## In other news ...

Congratulations to the Carter Cowboys boys basketball team for defeating

the Roosevelt Mustangs, 60-46, in their game on Feb. 7.

Congrats again, Cowboys, for defeating Wilmer-Hutchins' basketball team, 67-55, on Feb. 1.

Shoutout to the Kimball Knights boys basketball team, which beat South Oak Cliff, 84-73, on Feb. 1. Congrats to Chauncey Gibson, who had a career high 35 points, with six three-pointers. You go!

Thanks to all who came out to the District 6 Community Meeting at Birdie Alexander Elementary School, to discuss fine arts programs in the district. We can't do it without community support.

The Dallas ISD Virtual STEM Expo will now be available until Tuesday, February 28th! If you haven't yet had a chance to view it, there is still time! Visit [www.dallasisd.org/stemexpo](http://www.dallasisd.org/stemexpo).

# Black History Month at Dallas College features author, lecturer, educator Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X

Ilyasah Shabazz carries the lessons of her parents in ways that are both intimate and public. After all, she has shared her family with the world, most notably following the 1965 assassination of her father, El Hajj Malik Al Shabazz, better known as Malcolm X.

One of six daughters born to Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, she is an award-winning author and educator whose advocacy for education is centered in building intergenerational relationships. Shabazz is continuing her parents' work of pursuing economic, social, and criminal justice for all. History, she said, is at the core of who we are as a nation.

Shabazz will discuss her work, views on the importance of history, as well as thoughts about voter suppression efforts during a virtual lecture on Feb. 23 as Dallas College observes Black History Month.



*Ilyasah Shabazz*

"I believe that every American child must learn that Black history is American history, and that American history is also Hispanic, Native American and Asian history. There's no American history unless each and every voice is heard on the pages of our textbooks," said Shabazz, who teaches perspectives on justice at John Jay College in New York. "I think that this is really the beauty of our America."

Shabazz has had a front row seat to history. She was a witness to the 1965 slaying of her father. An author

of several books, she has moved beyond seeing her parents as icons and helps others to adjust their lenses and view them as parents – humans, even. Part of Malcolm X's lectures were about the unwillingness of some to view the humanity of all races.

Malcolm X, she said, was instrumental in bringing human rights to the forefront of the civil rights movement.

"My father provided the biggest critique of America to live up to her promise of liberty and justice for all. I think that now we have the opportunity to do better and instill a value system for our children. Thank God this generation is compassionate. Black Lives Matter, too. Every child deserves to know that they're worthy of love."

Her mother, she said, taught her children to love themselves and in doing so equipped them to love oth-

ers.

"I want to see justice for you," she quoted her mother as saying.

"If we don't learn the lessons (of history), we'll continue in this cycle of divisiveness. Our humanity and the injustice of those issues that challenge one's humanity... We demand our human rights. I think a renewal of the human spirit is critical to igniting an international movement to save our planet and eliminate poverty and dispose of injustice.

"My mother fought to preserve a part of the Audubon Ballroom where my father was assassinated. It is a cultural institution that harnesses the legacy of my parents. We can't just sit back and know that it exists and do nothing," said Shabazz.

When asked how her father would view today's social justice and political climate, she said he would

be encouraged by this generation and how they have responded to injustice. The brutal 2020 slaying of George Floyd introduced new voices and new hopes to the movement, she said.

"My father said that it would be a generation of young people who would recognize that those in power have misused it and demand change," Shabazz said. "And we see that in all of the marches that took place while we were forced to quarantine ourselves, not knowing what COVID was. We were questioning immorality," she said.

Shabazz is an award-winning author and served as project advisor for the award-winning PBS documentary "Prince Among Slaves." She is also the author of "Growing Up X." She is co-chair of the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.

Shabazz will speak vir-

tually to Dallas College students at 4 p.m. Feb. 23. The event may be viewed online via Webex while the livestream will be hosted at the following campus locations:

- Brookhaven (S220)
- Cedar Valley (D230)
- Eastfield (C135C)
- El Centro (Student Center)
- Mountain View (Tree-top Lounge)
- North Lake (H237)
- Richland (SH117)

In addition to the Shabazz lecture, Dallas College has planned an engaging list of activities that celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black Americans. Events include a walk-through of recent history along with wellness and health and cooking classes. There is also a trip to the African American Museum of Dallas and an African American Read-in that features the Harlem Renaissance.



# Annual recycling truck art contest in Murphy accepting entries

Student/artists from Kindergarten to 10th grade are invited to put their drawing, painting, and coloring skills to work as the annual Keep Murphy Beautiful Recycling Art Contest entry deadline approaches.

"We've found that this is one of the most popular kid activities we put on," says Dawnelle Collings, President of Keep Murphy Beautiful, which is co-sponsoring the contest. "Not only do

young people get to express their sentiments via their artwork, but the prizes they can win are pretty popular. Apparently, getting their artwork displayed on the sides of recycling trucks, and on our Big Belly recycling collection bins is a pretty big deal."

The City's solid waste contractor, Republic Services, is a co-sponsor of the contest.

The contest requires

school-aged contestants to create a poster with a mascot depicting the phrase: "A Beautiful Murphy Starts With You." Deadline for entries is 5 p.m. on Monday, March 14.

Competition is divided into four grade-level categories: K and 1st; 2nd to 4th; 5th and 6th; and 7th through 10th. Students who reside in Murphy or who attend school in Murphy, including those who are home-

schooled, attend private schools, or attend alternate educational institutions are eligible.

Posters should be submitted on standard-sized 8 ½ by 11-inch paper, poster, or card stock. The submission must be designed in portrait or vertical orientation and should include the name of the mascot. Media can include crayons, markers,

**See MURPHY, Page 16**



Emma Frances Logan/Unsplash

# Adopt a horse at the wild horse and burro event in Corsicana

NORMAN, Okla. — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold a wild horse and burro adoption event in Corsicana, Texas, Feb. 25-26, at the Rusty Rowel Arena. The two-day event, featuring 120 wild horses and burros, will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 25. Adoptions will be held from noon-6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25, and from 8

a.m.-noon on Saturday, Feb. 26. Animals are eligible for adoption. Inquire with BLM staff onsite for more information.

As part of our efforts to find every horse and burro a good home, the BLM now offers up to \$1,000 to adopt an untrained animal. This adoption incentive will be offered for every animal in Corsicana. The BLM re-

cently announced additional steps it will take to secure the health and safety of adopted animals, including conducting an inspection of wild horses and burros adopted through the Adoption Incentive Program within six months of adoption date, rather than twelve months.

The animals offered at the event are adult and yearling horses and burros that once

roamed free on public lands in the West. The BLM periodically removes excess animals from the range in order to maintain healthy herds and to protect other rangeland resources. The adoption program is essential for achieving these important management goals. Since 1971, the BLM has placed more than 280,000 of these animals in approved

homes across the country.

BLM staff will approve applications onsite. To qualify to adopt, one must be at least 18 years old, with no record of animal abuse. Qualified homes must have a minimum of 400 square feet of corral space per animal, with access to food, water and shelter. A six-foot corral fence is required for adult horses; five feet for

yearlings; and four-and-a-half feet for burros. All animals must be loaded in covered, stock-type trailers with swing gates and sturdy walls and floors. BLM staff will be on hand to assist with the short application process.

The Rusty Rowel Arena is located at 5455 S. Interstate 45, Corsicana, TX. For more information, call 866-468-7826 or visit [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

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# CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure makes history among the most diverse White House Administration

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

A White House photo featuring dozens of African American members of the Biden-Harris administration circulated the internet during the opening days of Black History Month, and one would be hard-pressed to find anyone as proud as Chiquita Brooks-LaSure.

The first Black woman to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Brooks-LaSure offered the brightest smile when mentioning the historic photo that featured Vice President Kamala Harris and a host of Black staffers who help push the administration's work forward.

"I'm so proud and really moved," the Philadelphia-born Brooks-LaSure asserted.

"When I got nominated, I heard from women across the country, and I didn't realize how meaningful it would be for so many people for me to sit in this chair," she continued.

"I have older women and younger women come up to me and say how proud they are. That really fuels me to want to use this role in a way to change people's lives, and I feel so grateful for that opportunity."

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) resolutely salutes and congratulates Chiquita Brooks-LaSure for her outstanding leadership at Health and Human Services (HHS) CMS. We look forward to expanding the partnership between CMS and the NNPA. Medicare and Medicaid are vital to the present and future of African Americans and other communities of color," affirmed Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr, NNPA President and CEO.

A former policy official who played a crucial role in guiding the Affordable Care Act – or Obamacare – through passage and implementation, Brooks-LaSure



Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

passing several healthcare laws, including the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, as part of the Democratic staff for the House's Ways and Means Committee.

As administrator for CMS, Brooks-LaSure oversees programs that include Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the HealthCare.gov health insurance marketplace.

"I was born in Philadelphia, raised in New Jersey, and have been living in Virginia for a big chunk of my life," said LaSure, who's married with a young daughter.

"I was always interested in policy from a young age," she explained.

"When I was in graduate school, I had a friend who I took health policy and social policy, and she really got me on the healthcare policy track. I always said, 'once you start on health, you never look back because there's no policy area that has the ability to touch so many lives, especially in the federal government.'"

The COVID-19 pandemic has upped the pressure on CMS and other agencies, but Brooks-LaSure recalled similarities to when the ACA became law.

"The ACA was born out of a difficult time," she recalled.

"Before we passed the law, not everyone thought we should focus on health

that Americans now have a greater appreciation of why healthcare is vital and why the uninsured and those not having access to vaccines and drug treatments affect everyone.

"I think people have seen health disparities at a different level," she stated.

"I think we now have an opportunity to address those [disparities] if we seize this moment."

To that end, Brooks-LaSure noted the six strate-

gic pillars by which CMS would achieve its mission and measure success:

- Advance health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie America's health system
  - Build on the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage, and care
  - Engage partners and the communities CMS serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process
  - Drive innovation to tackle the health system challenges and promote value-based, person-centered care
  - Protect CMS programs' sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds
  - Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS's operations
- Brooks-LaSure said CMS has already made significant progress on those pillars, fo-

cusing efforts on improving health equity and access to coverage by working across all federal agencies.

She told NNPA News-wire that a record 14.5 million signed up for 2022 health care coverage during the enrollment period.

"Investing in financial assistance and outreach allows more people to have access to the care that they need," Brooks-LaSure stated.

As part of Vice President Kamala Harris's Call to Action to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, HHS, through CMS, has taken steps to improve maternal health and support the delivery of equitable, high-quality care for pregnancy and postpartum care.

CMS has proposed a "Birthing-Friendly" designation to drive perinatal health outcomes and maternal health equity improvements.

According to a release, the designation would ini-

tially identify hospitals that provide perinatal care, participate in a maternity care quality improvement collaborative, and implement recommended patient safety practices.

CMS has also encouraged states to take advantage of the American Rescue Plan's option to provide 12 months of postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.

Brooks-LaSure said history would ultimately smile upon the unprecedented diversity.

"I think that representation matters so much, and we will have changed this country because so many of us are in these roles with our diverse perspectives strengthen policymaking," Brooks-LaSure said.

"The more you have people who come from different experiences, you make stronger and better policies and making sure the next generation see they can sit in these roles."

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## Texas Black Invitational Rodeo returns to Fair Park Juneteenth weekend

The 33rd annual Texas Black Invitational Rodeo, presented by the African American Museum, Dallas, will return to the Fair Park Coliseum as a part of the Juneteenth Celebration Weekend on Saturday, June 18 at 7:00 pm. The rodeo is the museum's largest annual fundraiser.

The Texas Black Invitational Rodeo offers up an exciting night as approximately 300 African American cowboys and cowgirls compete for significant cash prizes in bronc and bull riding, calf and steer roping, barrel racing, a Pony Express relay race, and more.

Kicking off with the Grand Entry Parade, this fast-paced sporting event provides guests with their first glimpse of the historical contributions that African Americans contributed to the settling of the western United States. The family-friendly event also includes on-field activities for the kids.

Tickets start at \$10, plus applicable fees and are on sale now at FairParkTix.com.

Fair Park and the African American Museum, Dallas will provide additional details for the Juneteenth Celebration Weekend, in-

cluding a full lineup of programs and activities, at a later date.

The African American Museum, Dallas was founded in 1974 as a part of Bishop College. The Museum has operated independently since 1979. For more than 40 years, the African American Museum has stood as a cultural beacon in Dallas and the Southwestern United States. Located in Dallas' historic Fair Park, the African American Museum is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the collection, preservation and display of African

American artistic, cultural and historical materials that relate to the African-American experience. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas. The Museum has a small, but rich collection of African art, African-American fine art and one of the largest African American folk-art collections in the United States. Learn more at aamdallas.org.

Tickets are on sale now at Fairparktix.com.



Jesse Hornbuckle / Courtesy

## With her speedskating Gold Medal, Erin Jackson hopes to inspire more Black girls in winter sports

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

While the Super Bowl expectedly received all the attention in the sports world on Sunday, February 13, the Winter Olympics provided a most historical moment.

Erin Jackson became the first Black woman to win a speedskating medal when she took home the Gold during the 500 meters speedskating event.

Jackson's time of 37.04 seconds gave the American speedskating program its first medal at the Games in Beijing.

It marked the first individual medal by an American in a dozen years.

"Hopefully, this has an effect. Hopefully, we'll see more minorities, especially in the USA, getting out and trying these winter sports," Jackson, 29, declared.

A day after her historic medal victory, Jackson reflected on how she received her golden opportunity.

She noted that Team USA flag bearer Brittany Bowe, a childhood friend, surrendered her spot in the 500-meter so Jackson could take her place.



Erin Jackson wins Gold for speedskating (Photo via NNPA)

"She was just saying she's so proud of me," Jackson said of Bowe during a nationally televised interview.

"We did it," she exclaimed. "Yeah, it was pretty wild."

Bowe declared that Jackson had earned the right to compete.

"She's ranked No. 1 in the world," Bowe told NBC News.

"No one is more deserving than [Jackson] to get an opportunity to bring Team USA home a medal."

Hailing from Ocala, Florida, Jackson said she's roller skated for as long as she could remember. She

pursued inline speedskating in 2002, roller derby in 2012, and long-track speedskating in 2017.

A 2015 cum laude graduate of the University of Florida Honors Program, Jackson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Materials Science & Engineering.

Just two years later, Jackson transitioned from inline skating to speedskating on ice, where she quickly qualified for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

She also earned an AS in Computer Science from Salt Lake Community College in 2020 and continues

her work toward an AS in Exercise Science/Kinesiology.

Jackson said she wants to inspire other African Amer-

ican girls.

"I just hope [her gold medal win] sparks something," Jackson stated. "Maybe a young Black girl

saw my race or something, and she's like, 'Oh. Maybe I should try this.' That would be amazing, even if it's just one person."

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## NFL's Kelvin Beachum opens his collection of works by Black artists for SMU exhibit

Arizona Cardinals offensive tackle Kelvin Beachum and his wife, Jessica, are lending ten paintings from their personal art collection to SMU's Hamon Arts Library for a three-month exhibit to run February 18 through May 22. Each piece represents a unique visual narrative of the Black experience.

The exhibit "Narrative as Reality: A World Reimagined/ Selections from the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection," includes an oil on canvas by Dominic Chambers, recently included on Forbes'

"30 Under 30" list as one of the most exciting emerging artists of his generation. Artist Ryan Cosbert's painting, Mayhem No. 2, is part of a series she started after George Floyd's 2020 death. Multidisciplinary artist Robert Hodge used reclaimed paper from the sidewalk and movie posters in his Houston neighborhood for his work, The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.

Other artists represented in the exhibit include Mario Moore, Robert Pruitt, Nelson Makamo, Delita Martin, Sungi Mlengeya,

Athi-Patra Ruga and Ferrari Sheppard. "A glimpse into the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection reveals an artistic world of hope, Black joy, reality and aspiration," says exhibit curator Valerie Gillespie.

Twice nominated for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, Beachum is an advocate for equity in education and business, ending hunger, providing access to clean water and encouraging under-represented youth to pursue STEAM disciplines. A four-year starter

as offensive tackle for SMU Mustang football, Beachum graduated from SMU in 2010 with a B.A. in Economics and earned a Master of Liberal Studies in Organizational Dynamics in 2012.

The exhibit, "Narrative as Reality: A World Reimagined" will be held at the Mildred Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library, Owen Arts Center, 6101 Bishop Blvd. Attendees are invited to use visitor parking and enter the Owen Arts Center from the south entrance due to building renovation.



Dominic Chambers, "The Night is Our Friend," Jake and Nancy Hamon Arts Library. (Courtesy image)

## Jesus Christ Superstar to play Dallas' Music Hall at Fair Park

Following critically acclaimed, sold-out engagements in the UK, the reimagined 50th Anniversary tour of Jesus Christ Superstar will come to Dallas from April 5-17, 2022, presented by Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) and Broadway Across America (BAA) at the Music Hall at Fair Park as part of the Germania Insurance Broadway Series presented by DSM. The 2017 Olivier award-winning production from Regent's Park Open Air Theatre goes on sale to the general public on Friday, February 11 at 10 a.m.

Aaron LaVigne leads the show as Jesus, joined by Jenna Rubaii as Mary. Omar Lopez-Cepero joins the cast as Judas. The tour also features Alvin Crawford as Caiaphas, Tommy Sherlock as Pilate, and Tyce Green as Annas. Pepe Nufrio returns to the tour as the standby for Jesus and Judas.

Jesus Christ Superstar is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas. Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the legend-

ary score includes 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Gethsemane' and 'Superstar'.

Jesus Christ Superstar is a proven musical phenomenon with a world-wide fan base. As demonstrated by NBC's Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert, this epic work attracted over 9.6 million viewers, earned the highest ratings in its time period, and received the highest critical ranking of any live musical event on network TV. On September 17th, 2021 a variety of special edition Jesus Christ Superstar albums, remas-

tered at Abbey Road, were released. These special anniversary editions are a celebration of the original 1970 double concept album and its continued success spanning an incredible 50 years.

The North American tour of Jesus Christ Superstar

is produced by Stephen Gabriel and Work Light Productions, and will have traveled to more than 50 cities during its three-year run. The original production was produced by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

Single tickets for Jesus

Christ Superstar start at \$30 (pricing subject to change) and are on sale now at DallasSummerMusicals.org or by phone at 800-982-2787. Orders for groups of ten (10) or more may be placed by calling (214) 426-4768 or emailing Groups@DallasSummerMusicals.org.



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# Battle Royale: The Texas Gubernatorial Primary

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Contributing Writer

If one had to define the Republican agenda, it would be to save Texas from total disintegration at the hands of the Democrats. This election year, would-be saviors have flooded the field of those grappling for the state's most coveted seat. There is a total of 22 Democratic and Republican Texans (that includes three Green and Libertarian convention candidates) vying for the position of Texas governor, plus six others that either withdrew or were disqualified.

A Texas gubernatorial candidate must receive more than 50% of the vote to automatically advance to the November 8, 2022 general election. In the event of a tie the top two vote getters must advance to a primary runoff.

Despite Texas Governor Greg Abbott touting his claims of unprecedented goods works, his Republican comrades have flooded the field in hopes of usurping the incumbent in the upcoming primary on March 1, 2022. Currently there are no less than eight candidates hoping to represent the seat that the Republi-

cans have held since 1995, when George W. Bush was able to unseat Democratic Governor Ann Richards.

Of those eight Republican hopefuls, only three are considered credible; and those three are making this one of the most competitive Republican primaries in recent years. Allen Bernard West is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who served as chairman of the Republican Party of Texas in 2020, until he decided to run for governor. Real estate developer Don Blaine Huffines was a member of the Texas Senate from 2015 until losing reelection

in 2019. Incumbent Greg Abbott was first elected governor in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018. The last incumbent Texas governor to lose his party's nomination was Democratic Gov. Dolph Briscoe, who relinquished the post to then-Attorney General John Hill in 1978.

Albeit Texas vaunts its status as one of the most solidly Republican states in the nation, historically Texas has been dominated by Democrats since the state's inception. In 1874, the first elected Texas governor was

See GOVERNOR, Page 12



*A slew of Democratic candidates have set their sights on unseating current Governor Greg Abbott in the 2022 election, despite current polls showing as favored to keep the helm of Texas government. (Photo: World Travel & Tourism Council / Wikimedia)*

## QUAKE, from Page 1

has also garnered endorsements from some heavy-hitters on the national progressive stage such as Nina Turner and Marianne Williamson.

**Vonciel Jones Hill** comes into the race with a high degree of education, law practice experience, and a maximum term served on the Dallas City Council in District 3 from 2007-15. She ran unsuccessfully for the Texas 283rd District Court in 2018, being defeated in the primary by Lela Mays who went on to win the general election. Hill enters the primary touting a three-pronged approach in terms of key issues to address from the capitol, which include: "living wage jobs and equitable contracting, excellent education at every level, and equal access to quality health care."

**Jasmine Crockett** has one key advantage in the race: she is endorsed by the retiring Johnson herself. She also has legislative experience, coming in directly from serving District 100 in the Texas House of Representatives. She earned her spurs as a civil rights attorney, which remains among her primary campaign issues. In addition to earning the endorsement of the retiring Representative, she has racked up a virtual regiment of endorsements from local politicians, out-of-state interests and media

and political organizations. Many campaign watchers have defined her as the frontrunner in this competitive field.

**Barbara Mallory Caraway** is a former member of the Texas House of Representatives from District 110. She has the most experience battling Johnson in the Democratic Primary for District 30 in past elections. For a decade now Caraway has set her sights on the district seat, representing a contingent of the community which has been dissatisfied with Johnson's representation. She faces the challenge of overcoming lingering mistrust from the community over the bribery scandal that took down her husband, former Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, and destroyed the Dallas County Public Schools entity.

**Dr. Keisha Williams-Lankford** comes to the table with a background in education. She is a native of Oak Cliff with a current position on the Cedar Hill ISD Board of Trustees. Her political experience dates back to the age of 14, when she says she worked on campaigns with Eddie Bernice Johnson and Royce West. As a teacher of criminal justice, social justice reform is at the top of the list of priorities for Williams-Lankford, as well as education reform and

safety, voting rights, and a pathway to citizenship. She is active with several civic and activist organizations, and in 2021 she received the Outstanding Texan Award and Dr. Pearl C. Anderson Award.

**Roy Williams, Jr.** comes to the race from a law enforcement background. He ran unsuccessfully for Dallas County Sheriff in 2020, after having served as a Constable for Dallas County in Precinct 4. He supports improving the Affordable Care Act, amending the tax code to close loopholes for the wealthy and removing barriers to voter registration. Mental health within law enforcement, cracking down on human trafficking and expanding the Supreme Court are initiatives Williams also says he seeks to pursue if elected to congress.

**Abel Mulugheta** is a first-generation American, the son of Eritrean immigrants. His political activity began with voter registration drives while a student at the University of Texas at Austin in 2007. He then returned to Dallas to work in the district office of Eddie Bernice Johnson. He earned his law degree from SMU in 2015. He has political experience as the Chief of Staff and Legislative Director in the office of State Representative Rafael Anchia. He has eight key platform issues, running the gamut from economic

development to addressing gun violence.

### OTHER CONGRESSIONAL RACES

#### U.S Representative - District 24

There are three Democrats vying for the opportunity to unseat former Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne in the race for U.S. Representative in District 24. Van Duyne faces a primary challenger in Nate Weymouth on the Republican side of the race as well.

**Kathy Fragnoli** sees the political landscape as deeply divisive and believes she has the skills to help break congressional deadlock. She has 12 years of experience as a lawyer for American Airlines and as a national mediator. She is a strong supporter of reproductive rights, seeks to strengthen consumer protection laws and improve veterans and mental health services.

**Derrik Gay** is an attorney, and an Iraq war veteran as a U.S. Marine. Serving in the Medical Reserve Corps, he worked to vaccinate the population in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Defending voting rights, expanding the North Texas economy and improving affordability of healthcare are the top issues listed in his campaign website.

**Jan McDowell** is a CPA, which she believes gives her a better ability to scruti-

nize and analyze the financial issues congress deals with everyday. She has lived in the area since she was eight years old, and has volunteered with numerous local civic and educational support groups, and her point of view has been shared in numerous letters to the editor published in the Dallas Morning News.

#### U.S Representative - District 5

There are two Democrats running in the primary for the U.S. Representative seat in District 5. The winner of the primary will face Republican incumbent Lance Gooden in the General Election.

**Dr. Kathleen Cordelia Bailey** has a career that runs the gamut from analyzing foreign nuclear weapons programs to her current full-time career as a painter, photographer, filmmaker, and author. She says she has relevant experience and consensus-building skills that sets her apart from the field. While she holds many of the same issue-based views as other Democrats, she stands out for her interest and experience in foreign security threats.

**Tartisha Hill** has a political science degree from Paul Quinn and experience as a community health worker with Baylor Scott & White Health. She has experience on the Balch Springs City Council and working with Local Prog-

ress and the Texas Working Families Party. Healthcare issues are the primary focus of her Twitter feed, as well as systemic inequalities in the system. Hill is endorsed by Leftists 4 Congress.

#### U.S. Representative - District 33

In the race for U.S. Representative in District 33, incumbent **Marc Veasey** faces a challenge from **Carlos Quintanilla**. Veasey has occupied the seat since 2013, and his current term expires in January 2023. He is seeking reelection on the basis of his current record, as well as experience in the Texas House of Representatives.

Quintanilla is an activist and entrepreneur. He says the constituents of the district have been "abandoned" by their current representative, and that, "We can no longer be the poorest Congressional District but rather the most productive Congressional District in America."

#### U.S. Representative - District 32

**Colin Allred** stands alone as the only Democratic candidate not facing a challenge in the primary. Allred's victory in 2018 came as a surprise to many when he defeated Republican Pete Sessions. He bested the field again in 2020. He faces a determined Republican Party hoping to claim the seat back, with six candidates competing in the primary.



# EBJ retirement sends ripples into Texas House race

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

Just as Jasmine Crockett is leaving her position in District 100 of the Texas House of Representatives to enter a very heated race for Eddie Bernice Johnson's seat in Washington, D.C., her vacancy has created another hotly-contested race at the state level. There are four candidates entering the Democratic Primary hoping to replace her.

**Daniel Davis Clayton** was in the running for the seat back in 2020, when he finished fourth among six candidates in the first round of voting. This followed a third place finish in the special election of 2019. His political experience includes seven years of working in the office of Texas Senator Royce West and five years with State Representative Toni Rose. He is a 17-year resident of the district, with a heavy background in volunteerism and community organizing.

**Sandra Crenshaw** has also been a regular contender for the office, running in several previous primaries (including a bid for District 110). Crenshaw



Dale Honeycutt / Unsplash

comes to the table with experience on the Dallas City Council. She last ran for that position in 2019 but did not make the runoff. Crenshaw has faced some legal troubles along the way. Campaign material for Crenshaw's current campaign is hard to come by online.

**Marquis Hawkins** comes to the race with a background in education with Teach for America, he has held several professional positions and is currently a State & Local Government Affairs Advisor for Southwest Airlines. He

has a history of activism for progressive causes in South Dallas. Hawkins made an unsuccessful bid for a spot on the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees in 2016. He also has an internship for U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson on his resume.

**Venton Jones** is a native of District 100, and comes into the race with experience as the CEO of Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network (SBPAN), a non-profit with the mission of improving health, social, and economic conditions impacting Black communities in the U.S. South.

He has served as a consultant to officials, organizations and government entities and received a White House commendation for his work in HIV advocacy.

## Texas House District 113

Another race of interest in the African American community is the contest for Texas House District 113. In that race, incumbent **Rhetta Andrews Bowers** is facing a challenge from **Uduak Nkanga**.

Bowers took office after defeating Republican Jonathan Boos in the 2018 election. She flipped the district in the process, having lost to Republican Cindy Burkett only two years prior. She began her career in broadcast journalism in public television Washington D.C., moving to the commercial side of the industry upon her return to Texas.

Nkanga is a native of the district. A standout athlete, she went to college on a track scholarship before changing schools and pursuing a law degree. She has been active in numerous civic causes and is currently the President of the Dallas chapter of the National Congress of Black Women

# Assistant Attorney General in Virginia resigns after social media posts show her support for insurrection at U.S. Capitol

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent



Photo via NNPA

Monique Miles, the Republican deputy attorney general for Virginia, has resigned after facing a firestorm of controversy when photos of her appeared on social media applauding insurrectionists during the January 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Miles's office didn't become aware of the images until Thursday, February 10, a spokesperson said.

The social media posts – prominently displayed on Facebook, have since been deleted.

However, officials confirmed that in one of the missives posted by Miles, she declares:

“News Flash: Patriots have stormed the Capitol. No surprise. The deep state has awoken the sleeping giant. Patriots are not taking this lying down. We are awake, ready and will fight for our rights by any means necessary.”

Reportedly, Miles also hit “like” on a tweet that said rioters were members of antifa but disguised as

supporters of former President Donald Trump.

NBC News reported that, in the days following the riot, Miles retweeted a number of pro-Trump posts, including one shared a day before the House impeached Trump for inciting the attack.

“Can someone please post the part of President Trump's speech where he incited violence? I listened to the whole thing and can't seem to find it,” the outlet quoted one post by conservative commentator Tomi Lahren, in reference to Trump's speech at the White House Ellipse.

Miles also retweeted posts about audits of the 2020 election and efforts to uncover evidence of voter fraud. The Washington Post reported that Miles had also posted articles on Facebook that supported baseless conspiracy theories about the 2020 election.

## GOVERNOR, from Page 11

a democrat. All subsequent Texas governors were democrats...that is until 1979 when a stereotypical Texas oilman named Bill Clements became the very first Republican governor of Texas.

Since Clements' unlikely victory, Republicans have gone on to win every Texas gubernatorial election from 1994 to 2018 by an average margin of 16.9 percentage points. Although, in the 2018 gubernatorial race Abbott defeated Democratic rival Lupe Valdez by a margin of 13.3 percentage points.

Hoping to end the Republicans' recent winning streak are four ambitious

and determined Democrats, among them are Inocencio Barrientez, Michael Cooper, and Joy Diaz. Nevertheless, there is only one Democratic candidate that poses a real challenge to Abbott. That candidate is Robert Francis “Beto” O'Rourke, who served as the U.S. Representative for Texas's 16th Congressional District from 2013 to 2019. O'Rourke is recovering from failed attempts at the U.S. Senate in 2018, and he conceded the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020.

A multitude of candidates notwithstanding, the race for Texas governor essentially boils down to two

candidates, the Republican incumbent Greg Abbott and a near cult favorite Democrat Beto O'Rourke.

Given Texas' voting history, current voting trends, and recent polls, this race could potentially be one of the closest gubernatorial elections held in Texas.

While Abbott claims to be the only one who could possibly save Texas from the liberal thinking Democrats and hordes of immigrants, O'Rourke's mission is to save Texas from Abbott. In O'Rourke's view, the current Texas leadership has failed its citizens; and he says he's running for governor to get the state back on track.

Other than the candidates' political fodder the

only other true insight one might gain on who the eventual winner will be is found in the results of numerous opinion polls of registered voters.

A December 2-6, 2021 Quinnipiac poll of 1,224 registered Texas voters revealed:

- Abbott held a 15-point edge over O'Rourke at 52 percent to 37 percent

- Ninety percent of Republicans say they back Abbott

- Eighty-seven percent of Democrats say they back O'Rourke

- Thirty-six percent of voters say they have a favorable opinion of O'Rourke, 47 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him

- Fifty-two percent of voters say they have a favorable opinion of Abbott, and 42 percent have an unfavorable opinion of the incumbent

- Fifty-three percent of voters say they approve of Abbott's job performance, and 41 percent disapprove. In September 2021, 44 percent approved, and 47 percent disapproved.

The polls withstanding, O'Rourke only announced his gubernatorial candidacy a little over two months ago, so with the election still 11 months away O'Rourke has more than enough time to change the hearts and minds of Texas voters.

If fundraising is any indicator, O'Rourke seems to

be in good standing. In only his first month of fundraising, O'Rourke was able to bring in \$2 million in the first 24 hours after announcing his campaign. In a state the brand of Texas, fundraising is, perhaps, the biggest indicator of a potential victory.

When one chooses to set aside thoughts of party affiliation, the Great Wall of Texas, and mutant mask mandates, one is left with those qualities Texas voters want most in their governor. Texas voters want a governor who shares their values, and they want someone who can manage the state during these extremely complex and confusing times.



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### Ongoing Census Bureau

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### Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

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



### Ongoing House of Blues

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

### Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

## Irving area thoroughfares set to be shut down for construction this weekend

Drivers moving in and around the Irving area over the weekend should be aware of some significant closures which could affect traffic and their commute.

TxDOT announced weekend closures affecting traffic on State Highway (SH) 183 and Spur 482, as part of the ongoing Irving Interchange project.

Effective 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18 to 5 a.m., Saturday

Feb. 19 and again from 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19 to 5 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 20.

All lanes of westbound SH 183 will be closed from the SH 114 split to Loop 12.

Additionally, the direct connector from southbound Spur 482 to westbound SH 183 will close from 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18 to 5 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 19.

Drivers plan ahead for

extra travel time and seek alternate routes when possible.

This work is part of the ongoing \$301 million Irving Interchange project

that will reconstruct the interchanges at SH 183, SH 114, Loop 12 and Spur 482. The project is anticipated to complete in mid-2023, weather permitting.



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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.



# The Epitome Of Boredom

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I have never considered myself to be boring. I may be boring to other people but not to myself.

As you get older, you find out that there are many boring things in this world.

When younger, I can't ever remember being bored except when my father was lecturing me on how I should behave. I'm not sure he was very successful at that.

I wasn't bored with anything, and I always found something to gain my attention.

This was back in the day when there was no Internet, cell phones, or anything along those lines. How some people today live without cell phones is something I'll never under-

stand.

The other day I was downtown, stopped at a red light, and many people were walking on the left side. I watched them and didn't know if they were going to some Memorial service or what. They were all bent over, heads down, working on their cell phone while walking.

You take away their cell phone, and they will not know what in the world to do.

When I was younger, we knew what to do. We did not need some claptrap to amuse us and keep us from being bored.

Being a husband for over 50 years, I don't know what being bored is all about.

If, for example, I don't have anything to do and the Gracious Mistress of

the Parsonage finds out, believe me, I have plenty to do.

The other night, I watched the little kitties out on the back porch jumping and running around and chasing each other. One was chasing its shadow, and I don't think it ever got it.

But these kittens were having the time of their life and when they ran out of energy, they all snuggled together for a nap.

Maybe that's why older people take naps more often!

I'm not against technology at all. For example, if I go to a restaurant by myself, I take my cell phone with a Kindle app with around 300 books, so I have something to read.

Not many things bore

me, but there are times that I do get bored.

What bores me more than anything else are committee meetings. I know some people live by these committee meetings. Whether it's politics, education, or religion, meetings are their top priority.

I can't think of anything more boring than committee meetings. I try my best to keep an upper chin, but it's tough to do with so many chins on my face.

I certainly could not be a politician because all they do is go to committee meetings after committee meetings. That may explain why so many politicians are crazy. They went to so many committee meetings that it has driven them crazy. But, of course, with some of them, it's not a very long

drive.

For many years, I have gone to church committee meetings. But, unfortunately, the older I get, the more bored I am with this kind of activity.

When I'm in person at some of these committee meetings, I have to go to the bathroom if I'm not falling asleep. I remember one committee meeting I went to the bathroom probably close to 10 times. After the meeting, someone asked me how I was feeling. I didn't tell him because I didn't want to offend him.

Then something changed. During all of this health dilemma that we are facing in the lockdowns, one positive thing emerged.

That positive thing is that we don't gather together in committee, instead, we do

it virtually. That was something I never thought about until recently.

A meeting virtually means that you're not in person, instead, you're on the computer with the group. So, some of the committee meetings have been virtual.

At first, I was a little excited about this. After all, I don't have to travel a hundred miles to attend the committee meeting. Instead, I can go to my computer and join the committee online.

I was pretty anxious to get this experience, so I set up my computer on my easy chair at home and got a nice hot cup of coffee. Then, when the time came for the meeting to begin,

**See BORED, Page 15**

## STUDY, from Page 4

PSC patients.

Fewer patients treated at CSC and TSC died or were discharged to hospice than PSC patients.

More CSC and TSC patients were discharged to their homes or to rehabilitation facilities than PSC patients (however, the difference between TSC and PSC rates was not statistically significant).

Overall, there was no significant difference in outcomes between CSC and TSC patients.

The data noted differences in the baseline characteristics of the stroke patients at each center status. The patients treated at TSCs and CSCs tended to have more severe strokes. They were also more likely to have been transferred from another hospital because they required a higher level of care, and they arrived at the centers after a longer time since the onset of their stroke symptoms.

"Our findings demonstrate that patients with acute ischemic stroke receive a better quality of care and have a higher chance of improved outcome when treated at a Comprehensive

or Thrombectomy-capable Stroke Center. Patients should keep this in mind when researching the level of stroke care available in their area. The good news is that, in most parts of the country, the emergency medical systems of acute stroke care are designed to triage and expedite patients to appropriate centers based on the severity of their stroke symptoms. Patients and their loved ones should always remember to call 911 when there is a suspected stroke," Raychev said.

The study's results underscore the value of participating in the certification process to improve stroke care. "Everyone involved in the acute stroke chain of survival should be aware of the importance of certification status. One of the biggest challenges in achieving TSC-level status is that a PSC must perform 15 or more EVT's a year. In our study, the median volume at PSCs was 32, therefore, most PSCs far exceed the minimum EVT volume requirements. Advancing certification for PSCs that meet the volume require-

ment is very feasible, yet it does require coordinated efforts and additional resources. Our data should serve as strong evidence for initiating such important changes and ultimately elevate the standard of acute ischemic stroke care nationwide," Raychev said.

The analysis is limited by the relatively small number of TSCs included in the registry. Another limitation was that the sample only included centers certified by 2 accreditation agencies, The Joint Commission and DNV (Det Norske Veritas) Healthcare. Centers that have received state-specific designations or were certified by other national accreditation agencies were not part of the study.

Data in the research was collected from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke registry. GWTG is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's hospital-based, quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-based guidelines to make it easier to provide consistent quality care. Developed with

the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 10 million patients since 2001.

According to the American Heart Association's Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics — 2022 Update,

when considered separately from other cardiovascular disease, stroke ranks No. 5 among all causes of death in the U.S., causing 150,005 deaths in 2019.

Co-authors are Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., FAHA; Eric Smith, M.D., M.P.H.; Gregg C. Fonarow, M.D.,

FAHA; Steven Messe, M.D.; Ying Xian, M.D., Ph.D.; Karen Chiswell, Ph.D.; Rosalia G. Blanco, M.B.A.; Brian C. Mac Grory, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P.; Jie-Lena Sun, M.Sc.; and Jeffrey L. Saver, M.D., FAHA. The list of authors' disclosures is available in the abstract.

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# Black History Continues



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
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Editor

It has been said that Black History is a persist strength in our society.

I totally agree; it makes society aware of the great contributions made by Black Americans in our country and world.

Some distinguished Black Americans:

James Armistead an American spy; he was born a slave and was a valuable intelligence agent during the Revolution by gathering information concerning British forces at Portsmouth,



VA.

George Bonga a Black American trader of considerable wealth, served as interpreter at the signing of the Chippewa Treaty of 1837.

Ambrose Caliver was a senior specialist in the education of African Americans

in the U.S. Office of Education from 1930 to 1946.

He initiated and directed the Federal Emergency Relief Administration

(FERA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA), the U.S. emergency education programs under the

New Deal;

George Carruthers, a Physicist, one of the two naval research laboratory persons responsible for the Apollo 16 lunar surface camera/spectrograph which was placed on the lunar surface in 1972.

Elmer Simms Campbell, a master cartoonist of sophisticated humor for Esquire and Playboy magazines. His art also appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines as a syndicated feature.

Albert Cassell, an Architect, he worked on the construction of five buildings at Tuskegee Institute; as a draftsman, he was responsible for designing an industrial plan for the manufacture of silk.

Captain B. Collins patented the portable electric light in 1938.

Prince Hall petitioned the city of Boston to establish schools for Black children equal in quality to those for white students in 1787.

Black Inventions: Walter S. McAfee is the first Black mathematician and physicist who first calculated the speed of the moon in 1946; the calculation allowed a team to send a radar pulse through a special 40-foot square antenna towards the moon.

Two and a half seconds

later, they received a faint signal, proving that transmissions from earth could cross the vast distances of outer space.

Frederick McKinley Jones, born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1893 and orphaned at the age of nine, is best remembered for devising a method to refrigerate trucks carrying perishable food, an idea expanded to include air coolers for ships, planes, and trains.

*(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in February 2020.)*

## BORED, from Page 14

I did several clicks on my computer, and voilà, I was at the committee meeting.

At first something was interesting about it, but then, that boring element began to develop right there in front of me.

Watching it for 30 minutes, my head began to nod but not in agreement with anything they were proposing. Then, finally, my head began to nod, my eyes began to fade, and soon, I was sleeping.

Just then, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came in and saw that I was sleeping, but she also heard I was asleep because of the snoring I do when I sleep.

She tapped my shoulder and said, "You're not bored, are you?"

I opened my eyes, looked around a little bit, cleared my throat and looking at her said, "Of course not. I was having a time of prayer for the committee meeting."

I'm not sure when I heard her laugh so much as I did at that moment.

Later that day I remembered a verse of Scripture. "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger" (Proverbs 19:15).

If I'm bored it's my fault. I need to live a proactive life in serving God in a way that pleases Him.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472, where he lives with his wife. Call him at*

352-216-3025 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).

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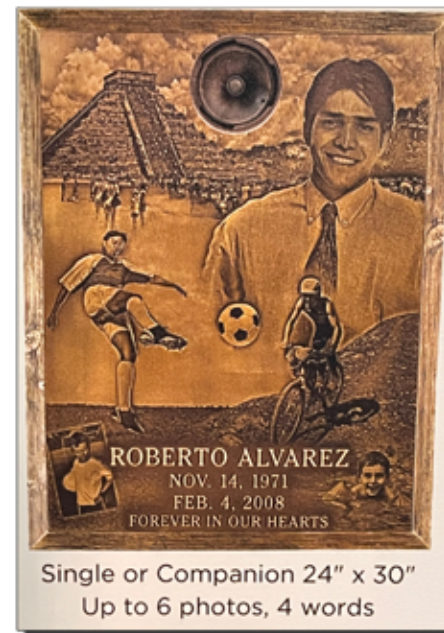
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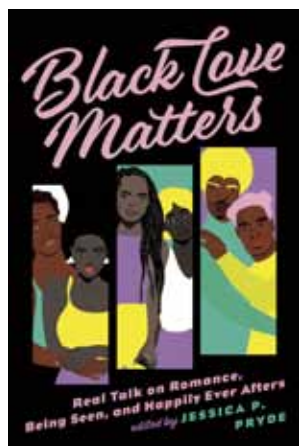
# NDG Book Review: 'Black Love Matters: Real Talk on Romance, Being Seen, and Happily Ever Afters'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Bodice-rippers.

That's what they're sometimes called: you know, those romance books that feature a hard-bodied, handsome man on the cover, and he's holding the shoulders of a lovely, swooning woman wearing a dress with a ripped bodice. Steamy inside and out, but does the couple in question look like you? In the new book, "Black Love Matters," edited by Jessica P. Pryde, they might.

For much of history, Black love didn't end in Happily Ever After (called "HEA" in several places in



this book). Black love was controlled by someone else, or it was hard to keep, or it was just plain forbidden. As for Black literature, it was much the same – until the late 1800s, when poet and activist Frances Ellen Wat-

kins Harper wrote what may be the first Black romance novel, *Iola Leroy*, or *Shadows Uplifted*.

In the couple decades after Harper's book was released, fans might've seen Black romance stories in Black newspapers here and there. In the middle of the last century, readers could find magazines with spicy titles that featured kiss-and-tell stories. It wasn't until the 1980s that romance authors began writing specifically for a Black audience, and readers in the know learned to look for certain authors or publishers to find love literature.

Seeing those books on

the shelf, says contributor Allie Parker, is a what representation is all about; the characters in Black romance books show a reader that HEA is possible and "That people like you are worth rooting for." Carole V. Bell says romance novels are "inextricably bound in Black solidarity." Nicole M. Jackson says it's now very possible to find queer Black romances, if you want them. Jasmine Guillory says that readers shouldn't be surprised if there's lots of food involved because "When I love someone... I want to feed them."

And yet, editor Pryde calls for integration.

"We might want more black couples in our media," she says, "but not at the expense of the relationships those people were already in. Just give us more. Give us balance."

It's about time, isn't it? Time that a book like "Black Love Matters" brings a rarely-talked-about subject to the forefront and asks why Black readers have had to wait to see themselves and their history inside the kinds of books that white readers take for granted.

In this book, you'll learn the history of Black romance novels. Readers and writers weigh in on the delight they've felt when they've

discovered Black romances on a shelf somewhere, the reason they sometimes hid those novels from others, and what's being done to promote Black love stories. The entire genre, overall, has often been dismissed as fluff but the contributors here explain why it's important to give Black love stories their own HEA.

In the purest sense, this is a love letter to Black romance novels. The bonus is that romance readers will find lots of great recommendations, so bring your Must-Have List with you when you start "Black Love Matters. It's a book you'll rip through, quick.

## MURPHY, from Page 7

watercolor or acrylic paints, color pencils, ink, or other similar media. Digitally created submissions or copyrighted material will not be accepted.

Entries must have the artist's name, age, grade, address, and phone number

clearly printed on the mandatory entry form as well as on the back of the entry. Entries without the official entry form cannot be accepted. Each entrant will receive a commemorative T-shirt, and there is a limit of one entry per person.

The art and accompanying form must be turned in to Customer Service on the first floor of City Hall, 206 North Murphy Road, or the Murphy Community Center, 205 North Murphy Road, during regular business hours. The deadline to enter is 5 p.m., Monday, March 14.

The four grand prize win-

ners will be announced at a reception during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 3. Prizes include gift cards of \$200 for first place winners in each category, and \$100 gift cards for

second place winners. First place grand prize winners' art will also be displayed on the sides of the Republic Services recycling collection truck that services Murphy.

Entry forms and more in-

formation can be obtained at the Customer Service desk at City Hall or by calling 974-468-4300 or by sending an email message to Collings at dcollings@murphytx.org.

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**LANKFORD**  
FOR U.S. CONGRESS DISTRICT 30

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Political Ad Paid for by Dr. Keisha Lankford for Congress, Ester Davis treasurer



## 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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