



North Dallas Gazette

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Dallas community observes the passing of long-time State Rep. Samuel William Hudson, III

The Dallas community has lost one of its longtime leaders as the passing of former State Representative Samuel ("Sam") William Hudson III, who passed away on March 7 at the age of 81.

He was born on Nov. 6, 1940 and grew up in Dallas, graduating from James Madison High School in 1957.

Hudson served 24 years in the Texas House of Representatives, beginning with the 63rd Legislature in 1973. His term of service concluded with the 74th Legislature in 1997.

He garnered much attention in 1977 when he went on a hunger strike to push a bill forward. He was a champion of civil rights, and voting rights which are still hotly debated to this day.

He served in the influential District 100 seat, which would later be held by Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson. It is currently in a heated runoff contest as the incumbent, Jasmine Crockett, is herself in a runoff to replace Eddie Bernice Johnson in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hudson's death was lamented by many local leaders.

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of Sam Hudson, who I considered to be a friend and a mentor," said Johnson in a prepared



Sam Hudson, shown above and at right from early and late in his legislative career, served 12 terms in the Texas House. (Photos: State of Texas)

statement. "Representative Hudson epitomized what it meant to be a public servant.

"He provided me with my first glimpse into public service by hiring me as an intern in his district office when I was a high school student. I am forever grateful for that opportunity, and I loved working for him.

"He was one of the kindest people I have ever known — a true gentleman. I admired him so greatly that I exclusively wore bow ties — his trademark look — for a time while I was in high school. When



I was elected to represent District 100, which he had served so gracefully for 24 years, I tried to live up to the example he set. Our city and our state are better because of his time in the Texas Legislature, and I, like many others, are better for having known him. May he rest in peace."



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People In The News ...



Jeff Boney



Valerie Boyd

NDG Quote of the Week: "I felt that one had better die fighting against injustice than to die like a dog or rat in a trap. I had already determined to sell my life as early as possible if attacked. I felt if I could take one lyncher with me, this would even up the score a little bit."

—Ida B. Wells

Jeff Boney

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Houston Forward Times Associate Editor Jeffrey L. Boney, who serves as Mayor Pro Tem in Missouri City, has received appointments to two crucial national posts.

The award-winning journalist, author, and two-term councilmember earned an appointment to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2022 Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee



(CED) and the 2022 Race, Equity, And Leadership Council –or REAL.

Re-elected to a one-year term at CED, Boney, who just released his new book, “Don’t Argue With Me! A No-Nonsense Approach

to the Issues in the Black Community,” Boney expects to provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC’s federal advocacy agenda and policy priorities.

NLC President Mayor Vince Williams of Union City, Georgia, announced the appointment.

“I have been a member of NLC’s Community and Economic Development Committee for several years, and I am honored to continue working with my colleagues from across the country to make a difference while representing the city of Missouri City at the

federal level,” Boney said in a statement.

As a member of NLC’s Community and Economic Development committee, officials said Boney would continue to play a vital role among a diverse group of local leaders in shaping NLC’s policy positions and advocating on behalf of America’s municipalities before Congress with the administration and at home.

“NLC’s federal advocacy committees are a key tool for gathering insights directly from the communities that our members serve,” Mayor Williams stated. “I am excited

to have Mayor Pro Tem Boney serve on the Community and Economic Development committee again, and I look forward to working with him to fulfill the promise of America’s cities, towns, and villages.”

The entire leadership of this year’s Committee consists of Chair Sharon Weston Broome, mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Vice-Chair Jamie Patino, Councilmember of the city of Union City, California; and Vice-Chair Richard Shaw, Councilmember of the City of Huber Heights, Ohio.

Boney’s new one-year appointment to REAL in-

cludes guiding programs among local elected officials from similar communities.

“I am extremely excited and humbled to have been appointed to serve on the Race, Equity, And Leadership Council this year,” Boney remarked. “This incredibly transformative council will allow me the opportunity to focus on issues that are important to me while working with my colleagues on the issues that matter most to cities, towns, and villages across the country.

As a member of NCL’s

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Valerie Boyd

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

Valerie Boyd, world-renowned author of the definitive biography of “Zora Neale Hurston, Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston,” died February 12, 2022, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. In the interest of full disclosure, Valerie was a colleague, collaborator, mentor and great friend.

A native Atlantan, Valerie Jean Boyd was born on Dec. 11, 1963, to Roger and Laura Jean (Burns)



Boyd. Her mother was a homemaker, and her father owned a gas station and later a tire shop in the Bankhead area of the city where she grew up. Valerie was super proud of her family, especially her father and

his accomplishments which were significant, particularly for a Black man who grew up in the segregated South.

Val would tell exciting stories of her Dad’s businesses, the interesting people that frequented the gas station and how the tire spot was so tiny, they had to roll the tires out of the shop and stack them up outside in order to work the cash register inside of the shop. Valerie’s eyes were win-

dows to the soul and the stories she told were funny, poignant, engaging and painted a vibrant picture of Atlanta, the city she loved.

Having grown up watching the trailblazing broadcast journalist Monica Pearson on television, Val was able to see herself as a journalist and decided to pursue a career in journalism.

She set her sights on Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism and

the rest is history. In 1985, she graduated with a degree in journalism. Following her undergraduate career, Val returned to Atlanta, becoming immersed in the arts and culture scene and joining the new wave of Black writers and creatives who called the southern Black mecca home.

Valerie had a storied career as an arts editor at the *Atlanta Journal & Constitution* starting as a copy editor, writer and eventually

Arts Editor. She was also Senior Editor for *The Bitter Southerner* and a contributor to the *Oxford American* and other anthologies.

Valerie was preceded in death by her parents Roger and Laura Boyd. Her older brother Michael Boyd passed away February 18, 2022, from cancer. She is survived by her younger brother Timothy, niece Kaylisha, and life partner of 23 years Veta Goler. She was 58.

OS2 Deserae Grant



IONIAN SEA -- Operations Specialist 2nd Class Deserae Grant, from Dallas, stands a lookout aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), during a replenishment-at-sea, Mar. 8, 2022. The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations in support of U.S., allied and partner interests in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Charles Blaine)

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Let's talk about Celia

By Oscar Blayton

At 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 21, 1855, Celia was hung in Callaway County, Missouri.

Her crime: Defending herself against a rapist who had sexually assaulted her for years.

There is no documentation of Celia's birthdate, birthplace or parentage. Her recorded history begins when she was purchased at the age of 14 in 1850 by a man named Robert Newsom. Records show that Newsom purchased Celia in Audrain County, Missouri, but the record is unclear as to whether the first time he raped her was on the return trip to his farm in Callaway County or immediately upon arriving at his farm.

A year after his wife's death, Newsom bought the 14-year-old for the explicit purpose of sexual exploitation. And for the next five years, he subjected Celia to repeated rapes. Newsom placed Celia in a brick cabin near the main house for his convenience and abused her often.

It is reported that Celia had appealed to Newsom's white adult daughters to intervene and stop their father's repeated assaults. But there is no evidence that they did anything to aid her.

At 16, Celia was pregnant with her first child by Newsom, a daughter. Within two years after that, she gave birth to a second daughter by her enslaver. In

the summer of 1855, Celia, now 19, was having difficulty during her third pregnancy by Newsom and was sick much of the time.

On June 23, 1855, she was desperate and appealed directly to Newsom to leave her alone. His response was to tell her that he was coming to her that night to rape her.

Unable to endure the sexual abuse any longer, Celia found a large tree branch to use as a club and took it back to the cabin she shared with her two small daughters.

That night, when Newsom entered Celia's cabin while her two children were present, Celia pleaded with him to leave her alone. He ignored her, but she managed to grab the club and struck him in the head. This blow did little more than anger Newsom who lunged at her. She delivered a second blow to his head that killed him. Realizing the extreme danger she was in for killing him, Celia attempted to dispose of Newsom's body by rolling him into the cabin's fireplace. She spent the night reducing his body to ashes and a few small fragments of charred bone.

When Newsom's family became aware of his disappearance, they instituted a search and discovered ashes that Celia had scattered along the path leading from her cabin to the stables. After intense questioning and threats by members of the family, Celia confessed to the killing and was arrested.

The record of the trial in the Callaway County court is evidence of the inhumane way enslavers denied justice to the enslaved. Celia was not allowed to testify in court. Instead, the court-appointed two investigators to take her statement and present it to the court through their testimony.

At the time of Celia's trial, Missouri law forbade anyone "to take any woman unlawfully against her will and by force, menace or duress, compel her to be defiled." However, the presiding judge, William Augustus Hall, refused to instruct the jury that the enslaved Celia fell within the meaning of "any woman," which prevented the jury from considering Celia's killing of Newsom as a justifiable act of self-defense. In most of the antebellum slave states, sexual assault of an enslaved woman was considered a trespass, and owners could not be accused of trespassing on their own property.

Celia was sentenced to death by hanging on Nov. 16, 1855. The execution date was set to allow for the birth of Celia's third child by Newsom. Under Missouri law, a pregnant woman could not be executed until after the birth of the baby.

Court records indicate she delivered a stillborn baby while in custody. While Celia was not afforded the protection of the law so she could defend herself from rape, she was considered a woman when she

was carrying a valuable unborn baby to be enslaved.

Celia managed to escape from jail before the November execution date, but she was captured, and she was hanged on Dec. 21.

We should remember Celia to honor her as someone who was denied justice in so many ways during her short life. But we should also remember her trial as a representative of the American judicial system.

Contrary to the mythical narrative, laws are not neutral. They are created by certain individuals within a community to establish and maintain a particular public order. And that public order is most often designed to serve those who make the laws and those voters who put the lawmakers in power.

The enslaved like Celia had no vote in 1855 Missouri, and what was considered justice was delivered to Celia at the end of a rope. Who knows what type of justice will be delivered to marginalized Americans if we allow the vote to be taken away from us? For this reason, we must struggle with all our might to protect the votes of people of color, poor people, members of the LGBTQ community, and other marginalized peoples.

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

Allred issues statement on former Vice President Pence using war in Ukraine to score cheap political points

Congressman Colin Allred today released the following statement after former Vice President Mike Pence announced an ad campaign targeting Texas's 32nd Congressional District.

"It is abhorrent for Mike Pence and the GOP to use

the war in Ukraine to score cheap political points. Ukrainians are fleeing their homes and losing family members to a senseless invasion by a murderous dictator.

"This is the same Vice President who stood with Trump as he cozied up to

Putin and did nothing while he blackmailed the Ukrainians and withheld the arms they needed to defend themselves."

(Early this month, Pence announced a \$10 million ad buy targeting what he described as "vulnerable Democrats.")

The aim of the campaign is to closely align these Democrat candidates with the Biden administration in the eyes of voters, and suggests that the President has been weak in dealing with Russia and a roadblock to the energy industry in recent years.)

Keep up with the news

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The impact of COVID-19 on HBCUs and Black students

By Dr. Harry L. Williams
President and CEO
Thurgood Marshall
College Fund (TMCf)

While the world has been focused on the growing numbers of COVID-19 casualties, the media has somewhat ignored the long-term educational and economic impacts of the pandemic — especially for Black students. Although there has been some attention given to the disparities between Black Americans and other groups contracting the virus, it is not an exaggeration to say that the Black community will be recovering from the impact of COVID-19, health wise, economically, and educationally for at least the next two decades.



The resilience of Black students in the face of the pandemic further illustrates the importance of HBCUs for engaging the Black community. (Photo via NNPA)

Throughout the pandemic, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been on the front lines addressing the impact the pandemic has had on students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities. In March 2020, when college campuses across the country closed

and sent students home, many HBCUs continued to house hundreds of students who did not have homes to return to. Groups of students were stuck on campus without the funds to pay for transportation back to their home cities. This challenge was a byproduct of several students losing the jobs they

used to help fund their education, along with loss of family income. Many students became both food and housing insecure without the critical resources that HBCUs often provide.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) worked with our member-schools—America's 47 publicly-supported HBCUs—and many of their corporate partners to help secure access to needed support for students. Beyond academic scholarships, TMCf stepped up to help provide grants for students, assisting them with rent, groceries, and transportation. At one HBCU, more than half of the students and faculty did not have the adequate computer hardware or broadband internet ac-

cess to participate in remote classes. Corporate partners supported the purchasing of laptops and hotspots for both students and faculty to facilitate the pivot to online learning.

Despite their long history and accolades, HBCUs as a collective have continued to struggle with proper funding, receiving less per-student aid from their states, along with less research funding from the

federal government. These institutions are highly tuition dependent, which can cause a great challenge anytime enrollment numbers are compromised. Closing campuses and sending students home meant that many schools had to return housing funds that traditionally would have supported the university's operations. Recognizing the great in-

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Barack Obama receives outpouring of love after announcing positive COVID test

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Former President Barack Obama announced on Sunday, March 13, that he tested positive for COVID-19.

"I just tested positive for COVID. I've had a scratchy throat for a couple of days but am feeling fine otherwise," Obama tweeted. "Michelle and I are grateful to be vaccinated and boosted, and she has tested negative. It's a reminder to get vaccinated if you haven't already, even as cases go down."

The response to the announcement again served as a reminder that Obama stands as arguably the most popular president in U.S. history.

"Those 6 words just terrified me to death," Twitter user Meidas_T'Sharra responded.

"I cannot begin to explain to you how greatly you changed my life, and



Photo via NNPA

we desperately need you around for many more years."

Another user, Carol Freedland, wrote: "Please take care. We need you."

In a direct response to Obama's tweet, writer Michael Ordoña remarked: "Thank you for modeling responsible behavior. Get well soon, Mr. President."

Obama recently returned to Washington, DC, after spending much of the winter in Hawaii. He tested positive in D.C., according

to various news outlets.

In a 2018 Pew Research Center survey, 1 in 5 adults gave Obama the most favorable ratings of any U.S. President.

More than 4 in 10 — 44 percent — called Obama the best or second-best president in their lifetimes. Thirty-one percent named Obama their favorite — an 11-point increase since 2011, late in his first term, when it was 20 percent.

The survey revealed that Obama fared best with mil-

lennials, the largest generation in the country, with 46 percent ranking him as their favorite.

"Here's to a speedy recovery, Mr. President," tweeted Jamie Carter, Director Partnerships at Dem Cast USA.

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Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce poised with new leadership and a history of service

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

In April of 1846 a line was drawn that demarked the boundary between Fannin and the county named for one of its first settlers and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Collin McKinney. At that time the county only had 150 residents, even though the land was literally being given away for free.

The county has grown a little since then...

The 2020 U.S. census identified Collin County as one of the fastest growing and sixth-most populous county in State of Texas. It is also the 43rd-largest



Dr. Lauren Freeman
(Courtesy photo)

county by population in the United States. Portfolio.com/bizjournals ranks Frisco, Plano, Allen and McKinney in the top 100 most affluent American cities with a population of at least 75,000 people.

Even with the tremen-

dous growth Collin County has realized over the years, it took 150 years to establish a chamber of commerce that would allow Black businesses to capitalize on that growth. This may have been due to the small Black population of Collin County, as well as an almost nonexistent number of Black-owned businesses. The formation of the Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce (CCBCC) in 2006 eventually ended that drought.

By comparison, the Texas State Negro Chamber of Commerce—predecessor to the Texas Association of African American Chamber of Commerce, one of the old-

est Black business leagues in America—was established way back in 1936. Even then, Black businessmen realized how essential an organized front was to Black businesses being able to capitalize on the state's growing economy.

Currently, African Americans comprise over 10 percent of Collin County's population, and Black-owned businesses comprise over 4.5 percent of the county's businesses.

The CCBCC, one of 16 chambers of commerce in Collin County, was founded by African Americans, Keevin Dailey, and Jamal Murray. Like the founders of Texas' initial Black

chamber of commerce, Dailey and Murray discovered the critical need for Black businesses to join forces and resources in their economic enterprises. Their aim was to provide a Black business forum based solely on R.A.C.E: Resources; Advocacy; Connection; and Education.

The CCBCC recently announced the election of a new Executive Committee for the 2021-2022 calendar year. New executive members include: Martin Fayomi, Vice President; Lisa Ford, Secretary; Verenia Hatch, Treasurer; Elders Vanessa and Virgil Watson, Chaplains; Summer Alexander, Community Public

Relations; and Shandra Colon, Economic Development.

Steering the chamber on its new course is CCBCC President Dr. Lauren Freeman, an entrepreneur, civic leader and philanthropist. Dr. Freeman is Founder, CEO and Managing Partner at Lauren Fabulous Firm, LLC.

The 2022 Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Expo will be their first big venture in a year projected to be a new level of ascension for the CCBCC. The Expo will be held at the Marriott Courtyard in Allen, Texas on Saturday March 19th.

Allred Joins President Biden in North Texas to reaffirm commitment to passing Biden's Unity Agenda and keeping nation's promise to veterans

Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) joined President Biden early this week as he visited North Texas, touring the Fort Worth VA Clinic and Tarrant County Resource Connection. The bipartisan group met with veterans and caregivers and spoke about expanding access to health care and benefits for those who served.

"It was an honor to join President Biden in North Texas today and to hear from veterans and caregivers about how we can bet-



Sarah McCarthy / Courtesy

ter serve them," said Allred. "From establishing the Garland VA Medical Center to

having my legislation to expand the Spinal Cord Injury Center at the Dallas VA

signed into law by President Biden, I've been working hard to expand access to health care for North Texas veterans. I thank the President for coming to North Texas and will continue working to pass his Unity Agenda to keep our promise to our veterans, expand health care access, lower costs for families, and protect our planet."

Allred's efforts to expand access to health care for North Texas veterans include leading the bipar-

tisan effort to establish the Garland VA Medical Center, urging the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to move forward on expanding health care services at the Garland VA for veterans and non-veterans, and his legislation authorizing construction of major VA projects including expanding the Spinal Cord Injury Center at the Dallas VA, which President Biden signed into law last August.

Allred was joined by five veterans from across North

Texas at the Tarrant County Resource Connection event. They include Marine Corps veteran and President of the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas Ken Watterson, Army veteran Elrie Freeman who Allred assisted in securing a Purple Heart he was owed for his service in Vietnam, Army veteran and head of the Garland NAACP Veterans Unit Harry Hoskins, and Navy veteran and the founder and CEO of the Women's Veteran Enterprise Center VR Small.

Biden's Focus: Russia, inflation and congressional action on voting rights

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

When President Joe Biden took the podium for the annual State of the Union Address, it marked the first time two women – Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi – sat on the dais for the official address.

The President began by addressing the elephant in the room – or at least Eastern Europe.



Photo via NNPA

He declared that the West had united in tackling Russia's invasion of Ukraine,

noting that America would join a host of nations in banning Russian aircraft

from its airspace.

"[Russian President] Putin's war was premeditated and unprovoked. He rejected efforts at diplomacy," President Biden declared.

"He thought the West and NATO wouldn't respond. And he thought he could divide us here at home. Putin was wrong. We were ready."

In both a symbolic move and a show of solidarity, the President entered the Joint Session of Congress escorted by Congresswoman Vic-

toria Spartz (R-Indiana), a Ukrainian-American.

Outside the Capitol, a host of National Guard soldiers on high alert were stationed to provide extra security.

Domestically, President Biden called on the Senate to pass voting rights legislation.

"Tonight, I call on the Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act," President Biden insisted. "And while you're at it,

pass the Disclose Act so Americans can know who is funding our elections."

He also spelled out his goal of putting a lid on inflation.

He proposed cutting the cost of childcare, noting that those living in major cities pay as much as \$14,000 per child each year.

"Middle-class and working folks shouldn't have to pay more than 7 percent

See FOCUS, Page 16

Browne Middle School a Top Performer in UIL Academic Competition



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Browne Middle School in District 6 was named a top-performing school in the UIL A+ Spring Middle School Home Academic Competition. More than 550 students from 38 middle schools participated in the competition held on Feb. 26. Academic events included in the online

competition were calculator applications, chess, dictionary skills, listening, maps-graphs-charts, math, number sense, science, social studies, and spelling. Top students received ribbons for each event. The campuses with the most students ranked first or second on individual tests were identified as top-performing schools. Congratulations, Browne!

Community Conversation with the Superintendent
Dallas ISD Superintendent

Michael Hinojosa is visiting different feeder patterns throughout this semester as part of his Community Conversations series, where he meets with district staff, parents, and community members to talk about the achievements and needs of their school communities. On March 30, he will be at David W. Carter High School to meet with the communities of Carter and Wilmer-Hutchins feeder schools, J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology Vanguard,

and Dr. Frederick D. Haynes Global Preparatory Academy at Paul Quinn College. The use of masks is still recommended, and Spanish language interpretation will be available. To register and get more information, please visit <https://www.dallasisd.org/conversations>.

Dallas ISD approves a pay increase for football coaches

To better retain and attract football coaches to Dallas ISD, the district's Athletics Department ap-

proved adjusting the current head football coach salary structure. As a result, the district will provide a one-time salary adjustment of \$15,000 to current head coaches and adjust the pay range for the position. This decision was made after collecting data from other districts in North Texas. The district will review stipends for other coaching positions.

Spring break meals

While Dallas ISD schools and offices will be closed for spring break, the district

is providing a week's worth of meals to every child, 18 years and younger, at selected schools from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, March 14. This way, we ensure that all our students have access to healthy and delicious meals during their break.

Kimball High School's basketball team made it to San Antonio to play for the state 5A title. While they did not make it to the finals, I am proud of the effort the team and coaches put forward on the court.

D.C. Rep. Norton introduces universal prekindergarten bill

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has reintroduced her Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act, which would provide federal funds to encourage states to provide universal prekindergarten to every child, regardless of income.

According to a news release, the bill would afford the benefits of early childhood education to all families, many of which are currently not able to afford it.

"The earliest years of



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) has reintroduced her Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act, which would provide federal funds to encourage states to provide universal prekindergarten to every child, regardless of income./Urban.org

childhood are critical for brain development, which means that every child should have access to the benefits of early childhood education," Congresswoman Norton said.

"Just as providing K-12 education is essential, universal prekindergarten is an investment that we must make as a nation to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed."

Congresswoman Norton's bill fills the prekindergarten education gap by using existing public-school infrastructure and standards for public school teachers, which would make prekindergarten more affordable and accessible.

Norton's bill would institutionalize prekindergarten, like kindergarten today, in publicly funded schools for parents who desire it, according to the Congresswoman's office.

"My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old

children," Congresswoman Norton stated.

The prekindergarten years are critical for children's brain development, she insisted.

"My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-old children now routinely available in public schools," the Congresswoman asserted.

"This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available day care and, importantly, would

take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools," she said.

Congresswoman Norton continued:

"My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds, to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools, regardless of income.

"The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess

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Self-image, career goals focus at Disney Dreamers Academy

By Cyril Josh Barker
The Amsterdam News

Teens learned about the value of self-image along with showcasing what they've learned on the third day of the Disney Dreamers Academy on Saturday.

The theme for the day was "JUMPSTART" focusing on the work they need to do to make their dreams come true.

Dreamers were taught how to present themselves and make a good impression. The students learned about creating their personal brand and image via their attire from some of the fashion industry's biggest names including Essence magazine Editor-at-Large Mikki Taylor and designers Misa Hylton and Jerome



Disney Dreamers learn realistic goals to make career dreams a reality. (Photo via NNPA)

Lamar.

"My hope is that the Dreamers took away the importance of packaging your brand from an imaging perspective," Taylor said. "That's part of knowing your brand. It's really about expressing your intention, what you bring to the table. Authenticity is a superpower in this day and age. People meet your

look before you open your mouth."

Several Dreamers were part of a fashion show with clothing styled by the guest speakers. Fifteen-year-old Abibat Akinyele Yusufu from the Bronx was spotlighted during the fashion show.

Students also got a chance to hear more inspiring words from those who have been there before

them. Motivational speaker Lisa Nichols spoke to the teens about reaching their goals despite obstacles that might come their way. Nichols is the CEO of Motivating the Masses, Inc.

Dreamers attended a panel discussion with several celebrities led by ABC News reporter/anchor Janai Norman. Among those who spoke were retired NBA player, Quentin "Que" Richardson, Bruce W. Smith and Ralph Farquhar, Disney+ executive producers and directors, of the "Proud Family," Demi Singleton, who recently starred in the film "King Richard" playing the role of Serena Williams, and recording artist Mali Music.

"This is one of those things you don't say no to

because you get to be part of something massive," Music said. "The kids have to know it's real. I hope this excites and gives them a boost."

Denia Smith, 17, is from Belle Mead, NJ and was selected to participate in this year's Dreamers Academy. She said the event taught her how to pursue her dreams of becoming a trailblazer and helping others in her community. Smith created her own organization to raise awareness about inequities in education and wants to be a civil rights attorney.

"I hope to bring home the connections that I've made not only amongst the Dreamers but also with the professionals here,"

she said. "We've had a lot of opportunities to do networking with people in the fields of law and civil rights really trying to see what a career in that would look like for me."

In the evening the teens showcased what they learned during their "Deep Dive" sessions on Friday at the "Dreamer Career Open Mouse" exhibit. Dreamers gathered at various stations to explain their career paths and how they plan to make their dreams a reality.

The Dreamers Academy comes to a close on Sunday with a commencement ceremony. The students will reflect on what they've learned over the weekend before bidding one final farewell and going home.

City seeks artist for Art Wrapped Traffic Signal Box public art projects

The City of Lewisville is seeking original artwork from Lewisville residents for consideration to be used in two Art Wrapped Traffic Signal Box public art projects.

Selected images will be converted into vinyl wraps to enhance the look of multiple signal boxes throughout the city. This project will give local artists an opportunity to have artwork displayed in a public space while enhancing the look of usually very plain-looking control boxes.

There are separate artist calls open for this project,



Marcos Rivas / Unsplash

one for multiple traffic signal boxes in general and one for a Fighting Farmers-themed signal box near LHS Main Campus. The

deadline for submissions for both projects is Friday, March 25, by 5 p.m. Artists will be chosen by a selection committee and will be

notified via email and/or phone.

Selected artists will be paid a stipend of \$300 for their work being selected for inclusion in this project. The artist selected for the Fighting Farmers box wrap will be paid a stipend of \$500 for their work. Payments will be made once approved works have been received by the public art project manager.

Artwork must be original to the artist submitting to the call, and only digital images will be accepted for consideration. The original work can be from any me-

dium including painting, graphic design, photography, or printmaking, but it must be able to be captured in a high-quality digital image for reproduction.

Works and images that have a landscape orientation are preferred as they will better fit the multi-sided utility box layout. Artists may submit up to three unique works on their application. Up to four designs will be selected during this phase of the project.

To read all the requirements and to complete an application form, visit the

Call for Artists page at lewislevillegrand.com. There are separate listings for the general box wraps and the Fighting Farmers box wrap.

Any questions about this call for artists should be sent to Arts Center Manager Denise Helbing at 972.219.8478, or by email at dhelbing@cityoflewisleville.com.

These two Public Art projects support the "Identity, Place and Communication" Big Move in the Lewisville 2025 vision plan. The full plan can be viewed online at cityoflewisleville.com/lewisleville2025.

Cleanup of historic Black cemetery in Lewisville scheduled

LEWISVILLE, TEXAS — A cleanup and restoration of the historic Black Fox-Hembry cemetery in Lewisville is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Several organizations are calling for volunteers to help clean up the grounds with garden tools.

The Fox-Hembry Cemetery was created in 1831 when grieving relatives buried a slave child named Malinda in it. In 1895, the slave-owning Fox family bought a one-acre plot and designated it as a "burying place for the colored people." Ninety-two percent of the Fox-Hembry Cemetery's gravesites have been photographed and posted on findagrave.com. The first restoration of the Fox-Hembry Cemetery occurred in 2011.

One of the slaves the Foxes owned was named Cassandra. Cassandra's home was the Caribbean where she was the mother of six children. After being forcibly transported to Texas, Cassandra assumed the Fox name and bore five more children: Ida Mae, Julia, Adeline, Mary Jane and Scott. Ida Mae Fox (1854-1910) married Anthony Hembry (1856-1916), and she and five other slaves founded the Lewisville Colored Methodist Epis-



Jackie Shaw / Courtesy

copal Church in Lewisville. Later, the church was renamed Lane Chapel C.M.E. to honor Bishop Isaac Lane, a founder of the C.M.E. church organization. In 2001, a historical marker was placed at the church.

"Black cemeteries are important to the history of our people," said Jackie Shaw, social justice minister of Lewisville's Westside Baptist Church. "We need to recognize our history and honor the individuals who came before us. These graves include those of founding citizens, loved family members, community leaders and veterans."

According to Shaw, the items volunteers should bring will be gas and electric lawn tools, rakes, chainsaws, 50- to 100-foot extension cords and weed eaters. Two generators will be provided for the electric tools. It would be appre-

ciated if someone would bring a riding lawnmower. A tent and porta potties will be on site.

Water and snacks will be available for volunteers.

Sponsors of the Fox-Hembry Cemetery cleanup and restoration event include Westside Baptist Church; Michelangelo Plumbing; the City of Lewisville; Denton County Precinct 3 Commissioner Bobby Mitchell; Huffines Auto Dealerships; Davoodi Family Medicine; Jeri Harwell of Republic Services; the Lewisville Firefighters Association; Ray Bowen, Kwik Kar owner; Kenny Arthur, owner of Chik-Fil-A on Justin Road; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Lewisville; Keep Lewisville Beautiful; Sam Pack's Five Star Ford of Lewisville; Bridge Property Management; Guardian Construction; Community Trash

Services; C&C Landscaping; and Denton-Lewisville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

The mission of Westside Baptist Church is to serve God by sharing Christ and loving people.

To reach the Fox-Hembry Cemetery, from I35-E take the Valley Ridge exit

(#453). Go east on Valley Ridge to Mill Street. Turn left/north on Mill Street. Just before you get to the railroad tracks/trestle/bridge, turn left onto the gravel road named Whitmore Lane. Whitmore Lane is on the south side of the railroad tracks and runs parallel to them. Proceed

westward on Whitmore Lane — it will dead end at the cemetery.

If it rains March 19, the cleanup will occur on March 26, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, email socialjusticeteam@wbccchurch.org or call 972-221-5668.

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

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Historical Society celebrates 45 years of safekeeping and uplifting Black history in Tarrant County this March

Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society's 45th Annual Gala Will Spotlight Remarkable Black Women and Their Contributions to North Texas History Tarrant County, TX

The Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society proudly announced today the official details of The Future is Now – Keeping History Relevant a Gala celebrating the organization's 45th Anniversary and its mission to preserve and share Black history with the Tarrant County community. The



Unseen Histories / Unsplash

special one-night event will take place March 26, 2022 from 7 pm to 10 pm at the Kimpton Harper Hotel.

The historic building will be the perfect backdrop to

an evening filled with the celebration of Black history, legacy, and empowerment. In concert with International Women's History Month, the 45th Anniversa-

ry is an opportunity to spotlight the remarkable contributions that Black women have made to the county's history and legacy. The celebration and program will include a salute to the honoree of the evening, Executive Director of the non-profit Historical Society and Curator of the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum, Brenda Sanders-Wise, and induct 11 new female members into the Hall of Fame, including the Grandmother of Juneteenth herself, Ms. Opal Lee. In addition to the honors awarded, the evening will

include special remarks by Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker, City Council Representative Chris Nettles, Precinct 1 Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, US Congressman of District 33 Marc Veasey, among others. Attendees will enjoy dinner during the program provided by the Kimpton Harper Hotel.

The Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society was founded in April 1977 by 21 charter members. The organization was born from the mind of Ms. Lenora Rolla, a community activist

and devoted public servant. As a member of multiple Bicentennial Committees, Ms. Rolla was concerned that the history of Tarrant County's Black citizens was unrecognized during these celebrations. She founded the organization after realizing that none of the local universities or libraries held any significant material about Black history, and essential archival material only existed in private collections. Her vision to collect, safeguard, and uplift Black history for the future has led the organization for 45 years.

U.S. Supreme Court rejects Pennsylvania D.A.'s request to hear Cosby case

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Andrew Wyatt, the long-time spokesman, and crisis manager for entertainer Bill Cosby had a simple word for Montgomery, Pennsylvania Prosecutor Kevin Steele.

"Cheating never gets you far in life," Wyatt insisted after the U.S. Supreme Court announced it would not review Cosby's case despite the hail-Mary request from Steele.

"On behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Cosby and the Cosby family, we would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the justices of the United States Supreme Court for following rules of law and protecting the constitutional rights of all American citizens," Wyatt remarked.

"Mr. Cosby's constitutional rights were a reprehensible bait by Kevin Steele, Judge Steven T. O'Neill, and their cohorts. This is truly a victory for Mr. Cosby. Still, it shows that cheating will never get you far in life, and the corruption that lies within the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office has been brought to the center stage of the world."

The high court's decision



Photo via NNPA

reaffirms that Cosby will remain free. It ends a saga that betrayed and gravely damaged the image and reputation of one of the most influential African American figures in television history.

After failing to secure a guilty verdict against Cosby in a 2017 trial, Steele vigorously prosecuted Cosby a year later.

But from the beginning, seasoned legal professionals questioned Steele's ethics in part because as he ran for Montgomery County District Attorney in 2015, much of his campaign centered on prosecuting Bill Cosby.

Many, including his opponent and former District Attorney Bruce Castor, called the theme unethical.

Steele did win the election and immediately became part of a formidable tandem with Judge O'Neil in securing a conviction against Cosby.

After serving nearly three years of a three-to-10-year sentence, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court overturned Cosby's conviction in June 2021.

Steele appealed Cosby's release to the U.S. Supreme Court nearly six months later, continuing his crusade against the "I-Spy" legend.

"Unwilling to accept its epic loss in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Montgomery County District Attorney has now filed a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court," Wyatt remarked at the time.

"In short, the district attorney asks the U.S. Supreme Court to throw the Constitution out the window, as it did, to satisfy the #MeToo mob.

"There is no merit to the request which centers on the unique facts of the Cosby case and has no impact on important federal questions of law."

After vacating Cosby's conviction, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Max Baer blasted Steele for going back on an agreement Cosby struck with former District Attorney Bruce Castor.

The agreement stipulated that a civil deposition by the famed comedian used in a civil case was off-lim-

its in any potential criminal trial.

"[Steele] didn't just break the deal. He broke the rules," Chief Justice Baer asserted. "What we said is we're not gonna let the commonwealth, the state through the district attorneys, to engage in that kind of reprehensible bait-and-switch."

He emphasized that the court's decision wasn't to protect Cosby but "13 million Pennsylvanians against that kind of conduct."

Baer concluded that it wasn't the Supreme Court's duty to find guilt or innocence on the part of Cosby.

However, what the court

See COSBY Page 11

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Film Review: 'The Adam Project' is so-so

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**) He didn't come back from the dead. He came from another time and place. 2050. Back to see his younger self in what's called a "parallel contact."

That's the foundation for this generic act/adv/com/sci-fi/fan. It starts with a good idea, then works the very primal emotions of a family in distress and an adult longing to fix his childhood. Surrounding those solid creative instincts are cheesy sci-fi effects (senior special effects technician Brandon Allen) an army of enemy soldiers dressed in cheap, plastic suits (costume designer Jenny Eagan, Knives Out) and a back to the future storyline that's indistinguishable.

The very jerky, smart-mouthed Ryan Reynolds is loved for his sarcastic wit,



Ryan Reynolds and Walker Scobell co-star in *The Adam Project*.
(Courtesy photo)

dry humor and deadpan delivery. He nearly wears out that welcome in this time-traveling family drama that sends him, as Big Adam, on a mission to save the future from an evil woman. She's Maya (poorly cast Catherine Keener), who invented a time machine powered by a magnetic processor accelerator with his deceased dad Louis (Mark Ruffalo).

Big Adam lands in a time jet in the middle of a forest (an embarrassingly fake-

looking woodland – production designer Claude Paré) next to 12-year-old Little Adam's (Walker Scobell) home. According to the big boy, if the two don't work together, Maya could cause a cataclysm.

It's an awkward yet illuminating meeting. Big Adam: "Jesus Christ Adam, I need you to be cool!" Little Adam: "How do you know my name? You're wearing my dad's watch! You are me. Holy sh--!"

Ensuing plot pieces and machinations mix in with poorly choreographed fights scenes using passe lasers and power wands. In addition, Reynolds, who fought like a demon in *Deadpool*, looks clunky in these brawls. Zoe Saldana, as his wife Laura, does too—except when she changes cartridges on automatic weapons like a pro.

If the tone is all wrong and the action scenes are light and silly, blame it on the script and its writing pool: Jonathan Tropper, T.S. Nowlin, Jennifer Flackett and Mark Levin. Also heap responsibility on director Shawn Levy. He likely used former directing gigs, e.g., *Night at*

See ADAM, Page 11



Linus Spiller-Craft dba Artist Buster Spiller and the Colour Me Queer Play Festival is supported in part by the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture.

'Colour Me Queer Play Festival' auditions to be held on April 2 at Oak Lawn Library

In-person auditions for the inaugural "Colour Me Queer Play Festival" is taking place at the Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Rd, Dallas, TX 75219 in the auditorium from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Headshots, resumes and virtual auditions are accepted via Dropbox. Call (972) 913-6511 or email: blaqueac@gmail.com for more information. This program is supported by the City of Dallas Office of Culture and Art.

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'Sin la Habana' is a spiritual wonderland for all to see

By Noah Washington
NNPA Contributor

The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival is showcasing some unique and exciting films. One of these superstar films is Sin La Habana. It seems commonplace for films set in the diaspora or located in the South American countries to have themes of escapism or a pseudo (or contrived) version of Manifest Destiny. Sin La Habana does not differ from this. Sin La Habana follows a young Afro-Cuban couple:



The film is still playing at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival so don't forget to check it out along with their other films playing from February 16-27, 2022. (Image via NNPA)

Leonardo (played by Yonah Acosta) and Sara (Evelyn O'Farrill). Leonardo is an aspiring ballet dancer

while Sarah is a determined lawyer who is striving for greater things. When it becomes apparent that their

quality of life isn't improving, they decide to enlist the help of one of the tourists who come to Leonardo's dance lessons while on vacation to help them obtain immigration rights to Canada. Nasim (Aki Yaghoubi), an Iranian Canadian who is trying to escape an abusive husband back home.

Director Kaveh Nabatian creates a magical atmosphere filled with creative camera movements and an ethereal score that transports you to a truly magical reality filled with the complexity and tragedy of

life. Leonardo's lonely excursions through the cold metropolis of Montreal are mixed with glimpses of Cuban spiritual activities. The three leads give outstanding performances in the three primary roles. In the midst of this rather dramatic situation. The emotion that these three gives is truly palpable while remaining unattainable.

This remarkable journey is one that you don't want to miss, especially if you are spiritually inclined. Leonardo and Sara of Sin La Habana represent a large

number of people who are now living in Cuba and wanting to find a way out. The people are willing to take severe measures to escape political persecution, harassment, and significant economic suffering, no matter how difficult it is. This film's examination of this event is heartbreaking and depressing, but he counteracts the film's gloomy tone by showcasing the colorful culture of music and dance that Cubans first fell in love with and the reason they chose to call it home.

ADAM, from Page 9

the Museum, as a reference point for PG-13 nirvana, when he should have modeled the film after a movie he produced, Arrival. The latter film's prescient intuition, mysterious special effects and deep emotions would have served this

project far better. As would a fight scene choreographer with a real sense of danger and innovation.

For viewers who do this time warp dance, the 1h 46m time frame (editors Jonathan Corn and Dean Zimmerman) is not torture

and the cinematography (Tobias A. Schliessler) is decent. The musical score (Rob Simonsen) is fun, and the playlist embellishes at the right time. Starting with the Spencer Davis rock classic "Gimme Some Lovin'" and Stevie Winwood wailing: "Well, my temperature's rising, and my feet hit the floor..."

Which is nicely offset by the softer recurring pop tune "Let My Love Open the Door."

The most tender and meaningful moments include a family reunion, mom (Jennifer Garner) getting parenting advice in a bar and Big Adam and Laura's fleeting time together. The most spot-

on performances might be that of Garner and Alex Mallari Jr. as Christos, leader of Maya's security squad. While some may wonder if a stronger child actor (e.g. Gaby Hoffman, C'mon C'mon) had played the lead role as Little Adam would the film feel more grounded?

This fluff will likely ap-

peal more to tweens than teens and young adults. Possibilities for The Adam Project loomed far larger than what's on screen. And what's on screen is never a credit to the sci-fi genre. Not a minus. Not a plus.

On Netflix March 11th.

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

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Check us out on Youtube!

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



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Ebony Magazine Publishing launches new podcast network

by Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



Photo via NNPA

America's most recognizable African American brand introduces a New Wave of Original Podcast. The Ebony Covering Black America Podcast Network is inspired by the stunningly designed coffee table book of the same name by Lavinia Lavette, President and Publisher of Ebony Publishing and the Ebony Podcast Network.

Much like the book, the Podcast Network covers all aspects of Black culture, creating a collective uni-

verse for authors and content creators.

The new wave of shows include a broad spectrum of podcasters from established figures such as civil rights leader, Dr. Ben Chavis, radio host and entre-

preneur, Angela Yee and daytime talk show host, Erica Cobb to new emerging voices such as former Major League baseball player Patrick Mahomes, Ron Dawson, Carla Black, Marita Thomas, Trina Blair, Tad Prescott and Elizabeth Leiba.

Twenty plus shows on the network cover the areas of entertainment, literature, sports, media, politics, lifestyle, pop culture, finance, wellness, and science.

Erica Cobb of Comeback with Erica Cobb podcast states, "I'm beyond excited to partner my podcast with a legacy media brand like

Ebony that historically has meant so much to the culture.

"As a Chicago native, Ebony symbolized Black excellence to me. I see this as an opportunity to be a part of something new and fresh and look forward to reaching new audiences together."

This sentiment is echoed by Ron Dawson:

"I feel honored to bring the Dungeons and Durags Podcast to the Ebony Covering Black America Podcast Network. To be associated with such an iconic brand is humbling. But for this particular podcast to be

on Ebony, is also comically ironic (you'll understand once you listen). I would be remiss if I did not end by saying "Ya dig. Sho 'nuff. And peace out."

Media veterans Carla Black, Marita Thomas, Trina Blair write:

"Ebony has long had a history of telling our stories in rich and authentic ways, especially those of Black women.

"Through The Petty'ish Suite, we are honored to continue the legacy of bringing fresh, Black voices and perspectives to the broader conversation. As three Black women ex-

ecutives who are also close friends, we look forward bringing our honest, lively and engaging chats to the EBONY Podcast Network."

"I am thrilled to present the Big Mahomes Show on the Ebony Covering Black America podcast network, where I can contribute to the Ebony brand legacy by featuring top figures in the world of sports to a new generation," stated retired major league baseball player, Pat Mahomes.

For a complete list of podcasts, please visit: <https://ebonypodcastnetwork.com>.

PREK, from Page 6

equivalent qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars in implementation costs."

She added that the success of Head Start and other

prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children.

Early learning programs mainly have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by the bill, Congresswoman Norton concluded.

"My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education to the working poor, lower middle class, and middle class, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children," she stated.

"We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education,

as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood."

Finally, the congresswoman said considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and

the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-old children is overdue.

The absence of viable options for families demands our immediate attention, she declared.

"My bill reflects what

jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools," Congresswoman Norton remarked.

COSBY, from Page 8

did find was an illegal prosecution on the part of Steele. "What we found was what the state did was inappropriate," he said.

Cosby and his team have argued against some who called the Pennsylvania high court's decision a technicality.

"You're sitting in a room trying to explain something, and there is a knock on the door. You say, 'who is it?' 'It is the truth.' So people start jumping out of the window," Cosby told the Black Press in his only extensive interview since his release.

"The court's decision was not a technicality," Cosby said.

"These people sound like they haven't read what the

judges have written. It's not a technicality. These [detractors] don't want to know anything. It's like the woman who said she knows five women that I drugged and raped. Well, where are they?"

Castor has told the Black Press that Steele should never have prosecuted Cosby.

The former district attorney has asserted that he didn't find the complaining witness against Cosby credible enough for a successful prosecution.

"There's a big smile on my face," Cosby insisted.

"A big smile on my face because I was there. I know what happened, and I'm watching and hearing these fascists and Nazis, and I

watched them really come out of the woodworks as termites.

"The infestation of when [former President] Donald Trump came through, and they just let it all hang out. That's who they are. That's who their ancestors are.

"They want their ancestors to be people who came here for religious freedoms after being persecuted — but by whom? Things weren't right in dear old England," Cosby said.

"They got on these ships, but you were criminals, and people signed on to look after wealthy people's findings. So, Christopher Columbus got as lost as a white man can get, but got off the boat, took a flag, and said he would name this and so forth and so on."



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The Black Press of America celebrates 195 years of pleading the cause of African descendants everywhere

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

On March 16, 1827, Samuel E. Cornish and John B. Russwurm founded the first Black-owned newspaper in the U.S.

They did so because there were no Black voices in the debate over the abolition of slavery.

In their first editorial, Cornish and Russwurm wrote: "in short, whatever concerns us as a people, will ever find a ready admission into the Freedom's Journal."

"One hundred and ninety-five years later, the mission of the Black Press has not changed," Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes wrote in an editorial.

"No matter whether Black Press journalists are invited to a seat at 'their' table, the voices of those the Black Press represents will always have a seat at ours," Rolark Barnes wrote.

From Freedom's Journal to the North Star to John Abbott's Chicago Defender, African American-owned newspapers have sparked fires for truth and equality that have burned with the passion of fighting for freedom throughout history.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, marked the 195th



anniversary of the Black Press of America, whose global impact remains undeniable. It all began with Freedom's Journal.

On March 16, 1827, they announced its presence with a front page that contained these words:

"We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us."

The 4-page edition included stories about the struggle to end the horrors of slavery, lynching, and social injustice.

It also informed the African American community of international news of particular interest like Haiti and Sierra Leone events.

Freedom's Journal featured African American men and women biographies, schools, jobs, and housing opportunities.

For nearly two centuries, the 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies, represented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association

(NNPA), have proudly carried that legacy.

The bond between Black America and the Black Press remains strong.

"Relationships, which have been the cornerstone of the Black community and the Black Press for 195 years, have always been its messenger in cementing that bond," remarked Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry.

Dr. Toni Draper, the publisher of the 130-year-old AFRO in Baltimore and Washington, also noted the enduring value of the Black Press.

"The contribution of the Black Press is invaluable. If not for the Black Press, there would be a lot of things we would not have documented in terms of the African American experience," Dr. Draper said.

"The Black Press was founded in 1827, and African Americans were not in any of the pages of the white-owned press unless

there was an advertisement of our sale, of our resale, or us having run away from slave owners or plantations."

Dr. Draper continued:

"The Black Press is one of the only places where you can find news and information and commentary about, by, and for African Americans across the spectrum. You don't have to do anything wrong to make the pages of the Black Press; you don't have to do anything famous. The Black Press covers the totality of the Black experience in the United States and beyond."

The anniversary of the Black Press is a reminder of the contributions that remain indelibly associated with the fearlessness, determination, and success of the Black Press.

Those contributions include the works of Frederick Douglass, WEB DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, and former NNPA Chairman Dr. Carlton Goodlett.

Douglass, who helped enslaved people escape to the North while working with the Underground Railroad, established the abolitionist paper, The North Star, in Rochester, New York. He developed it into the most influential black antislavery newspaper published during the Antebel-

lum era.

The North Star denounced slavery and fought for the emancipation of women and other oppressed groups with a motto of "Right is of no Sex – Truth is of no Color; God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren."

Today, the Black Press continues to reach across the ocean where possible to forge coalitions with the growing number of websites and special publications that cover Africa daily from on the continent.

"The spirit of Black journalism, which Russwurm and Cornish inspired, found its way to Houston 128 years later through a vision given to a local Black businessman to birth a newspaper that positively reflected the Black community, while also reporting the hard truths happening in our communities on the local, state, and national level," Houston Forward Times Associate Editor Jeffrey Boney declared.

The evolution of the Black Press, the oldest Black business in America, had proprietors take on issues of chattel slavery in the 19th century, Jim Crow segregation and lynching, the great northern migration, the Civil Rights Movement, the transformation from the printing press to the digital age and com-

puterized communication.

With the Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court ruling that said no black man has any rights that a white man must honor, there came a flood of Black publications to advocate for Black rights and protest the wrongs done to Blacks.

Today, the Black Press continues to tackle domestic and global issues, including the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on all citizens – particularly African Americans.

"This is an important story about the history of the Black Press of America that has consistently been the freedom fighting voice of African people in America and throughout the world for 195 years without waiver or distortion of the truth," stated NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

"Today, in 2022, the Black Press remains the vital source of news and information for 50 million African Americans," he added.

Chavis continued:

"On this momentous anniversary, the NNPA salutes all the African American-owned newspapers and media companies that are affiliated with the NNPA's expanding network of over 230 media properties and channels.

Women being recruited for construction jobs in Dallas

Women in Construction Week is March 6-11. The commercial masonry industry is a \$31 billion market according to IBIS-World, a leading market research company. Currently, there are more than 225,000 people employed in commercial masonry across the United States but women only represent approximately 1.1% of the workforce.

Women in Construction Week is a good time to bring the spotlight to an industry that is tradition-

ally male-dominated but has great opportunities for women. Texas-based Dee Brown Inc. would like to see more women enter the field as it offers many types of jobs in the field as well as in their offices.

"Our greatest challenge is finding individuals who want to work as an artisan in a centuries-old craft," said Robert V. "Rob" Barnes, III, President & CEO of Dee Brown Inc., a 67-year-old stone and masonry company with offices in Dallas, Garland, and

Houston. "We are looking for men and women who are eager to learn and take pride in their work. We provide on-the-job training and continue to train our employees for success as they continue to grow."

With a shortage of labor in the masonry industry, there are great opportunities for women. 23-year-old Lucia Trujillo moved to Dallas with her family from Guanajuato, Mexico when she was 12 years old. She graduated in 2017 from Justin F. Kimball High

School in Oak Cliff and tried several different jobs.

After working at a restaurant for the past three years, Lucia was ready for a change. Her four older brothers all worked for DBI and they enjoyed their work.

"I told Lucia we could teach her anything she needed to know if she was willing to work hard," said DBI superintendent Santos Gorrostieta. "And she has proven herself the past six months. She's done everything we've asked of her.

And she's a quick learner."

Trujillo has recently worked on the restoration of the Dallas Records Building and the AT&T Whitacre Tower in downtown Dallas.

"There is no typical day," explained Trujillo. "Some days I'm cleaning or patching. Every day I'm learning something new. I never get bored."

Trujillo plans to return to school to study architecture.

"Women are not weak," said Trujillo. "We can do

whatever we propose to do."

Dee Brown Inc. (DBI), a third-generation, family-owned stone, and masonry business, has shaped the Dallas-Fort Worth landscape over the past seven decades, building many iconic projects locally and nationally. DBI continues to recruit and train the next generation of brick and stonemasons.

DBI is looking for experienced mason tenders,

See BUILDING, Page 13

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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Ongoing Census Bureau

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

Ongoing City of Dallas

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

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

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



Ongoing House of Blues

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

Ongoing First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

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

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

On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

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

BUILDING, from Page 12

stonemasons, and bricklayers, as well as skilled and unskilled laborers, to work with one of the oldest, most progressive companies in the industry. All that is required is a willingness to work hard and proper documentation.

"We are flexible on interview times if someone has a high interest," explained Barnes. "Qualified workers can make an appointment to apply at our offices in Garland, South Dallas, and

our headquarters in Richardson. We have bilingual staff in our Garland and South Dallas locations."

Barnes began his career in 1986 working in the field at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, where he started as a non-skilled laborer and later trained to become a stonemason's helper. He received a Bachelor's in Business Management from John Brown University in 1992 and

his M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University in 2007.

DBI recently won an international Pinnacle Award for Excellence by the Natural Stone Institute for restoration work on the Hall of State at Fair Park. The company also recently completed work on Restoration Hardware and Weir's Plaza in the Knox-Henderson area of Dallas.

Founded in Dallas circa 1955, Dee Brown, Inc. is responsible for the masonry

and stonework on iconic projects, including the American Airlines Center; Nasher Sculpture Center; George W. Bush Presidential Center; Old Red Courthouse; The Getty Center in Los Angeles; Meyerson Symphony Center; Houston Museum of Natural Science; Dallas Country Club; Hunt Oil Headquarters; Trammel Crow Center; AT&T Stadium and many others. More information about the company can be found at deebrowncompanies.com.



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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.

Laughter is not for sissies

By James L. Snyder

Since birth, I have been infected with a Laughter-Virus. I'm not sure which side of the family it came from, or it could've come from both sides. But the least little thing will make me laugh. Sometimes I have a hard time stopping laughing. I have yet to find a mask big enough to cover my face while I'm laughing.

If I am infectious with my laughter, so be it. It is one thing I can give to the people around me.

I have been a laughter connoisseur for a very long time. The least little thing will make me break out in laughter. Sometimes at the most inappropriate time and place. But, what can I do?

Laughter is laughter.

I have enjoyed my years of laughter and expect many more to come.

Although I believe laughter to be very good and healthy, I must confess that sometimes my laughter has gotten me into trouble, especially with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Not long ago, she came into the living room with a worried look on her face and asked me, "Do you know where my glasses are?"

I immediately began to laugh because I assumed this was a joke. The reason I assumed it was because her glasses were on the top of her head.

She looked at me, "Why are you laughing? Do you

know where my glasses are? This is a serious question."

It's moments like this that are very difficult for me to stop laughing. I had to suppress my laughter because I did not know exactly what she was getting at. Wives always have a way of tricking their husbands into doing something. Believe me, I have been tricked quite a few times throughout the years of our marital bliss.

She turned around quickly and walked away, muttering something to the effect of, "Why is he laughing at me?"

A few minutes later, she came back wearing her glasses and said rather firmly, "Why didn't you tell me my glasses were on the top

of my head?"

With a smothered smile, I looked at her and said, "I thought you were just trying to trick me."

Looking back at me, she smiled one of those suspicious smiles, turned around, and walked out.

I couldn't help but smile, which eventually turned into laughter.

But as everybody knows, what goes around comes around.

Last Thursday was a long day, and I finally got home, walked into the living room, my wife looked at me very strangely and said, "You did not have a jelly donut anytime today, did you?"

With a hearty laugh, I responded by saying, "Of course not. You know I

don't eat donuts during the day?" And I laughed most heartily.

"You sure about that?" She said on the edge of laughing.

I laughed and shook my head, and started to walk away.

"Well then," she said rather slowly, "it looks like your shirt had a donut without you knowing it."

I stopped in my tracks, looked down at my shirt, and there it was. A drop of jelly from a donut. According to the evidence, I must've had a donut that day.

I tried to laugh it off, but in a very stern voice, she said, "That is not funny. Stop your laughing."

Laughing does have a

way of getting you into trouble; at least, that has been my experience throughout the years. But on the other side, laughter has good aspects to it.

When I'm down in the dumps, so to speak, a good laugh helps to lift me above my discouragement. It's hard to find a good laugh sometimes, but it's well worth the investigation when I do.

Whenever I'm out at a store somewhere, and I see someone that looks sad and down, I always try to do something to make them laugh. It doesn't always work, but when it does work, everyone is laughing.

Not many people have

See LAUGHTER, Page 15

HBCUS from Page 14

fringement that the pandemic placed on the schools, we shifted part of our focus of providing scholarships and career readiness opportunities to work with HBCUs to provide support restructuring their finances, securing new resources, and planning for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years.

Part of the shift also included engaging corporate partners to help find new and creative ways to help students succeed in this environment. For example, McDonald's expanded their partnership with TMCf in 2020 to provide additional scholarships beyond their original commitment for HBCU students. This commitment extended in 2021 to support students who

overwhelming were high-achieving performers but came from low-income backgrounds and needed the extra support during this unprecedented time. As a non-profit committed to the advancement of Black students, we understand that the best way to address disparities is to invest in students so they can persist in their studies, graduate, and progress to economically sustainable careers.

We also partnered with our member-schools to provide enhanced mental health resources to help students address the emotional needs that may have emerged as a result of the changing landscape of the world. Among other amenities, TMCf scholars were offered access to Shine, a minority-owned mobile app which offers self-care resources to better manage mental health challenges like stress and anxiety.

The resilience of Black students in the face of the pandemic further illustrates the importance of HBCUs for engaging the Black community. Though the pandemic has presented extraordinary challenges in the last two years, HBCUs have emerged even stronger. While many colleges had steep drops in enrollment during the pandemic, HBCUs experienced the exact opposite. Many of the country's largest HBCUs are seeing record numbers of applications. The COVID-19 crisis inspired a new approach to working together as a network and building

new capabilities in online learning, student retention and attraction, and more. This has only strengthened HBCUs' unique position to help fill the social and economic gaps Black Americans experience, given these institutions' assets, experience, and cultural and historical significance.

As a legacy corporate partner, McDonald's stepped up to support HBCU students because of their longstanding commitment to supporting the Black community and empowering the next generation by creating opportunity through educational initiatives. Today, we call on other major corporations to do the same – address inequities by investing in diverse students, who are poised to be the next generation of changemakers. Their journey to leadership starts with a college degree, and with the proper resources that degree can come from an HBCU.

Dr. Harry L. Williams is the President and CEO of Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community.

BONEY, from Page 2

REAL Council, Boney expects to play a critical role among a diverse group of leaders to encourage collaboration, networking, and developing resources and programs beneficial to communities that share demographics, size, or location that can replicate across the country.

"Our member Councils are the voices of what's happening on the ground in

our communities," Mayor Williams asserted.

"I am proud to have Mayor Pro Tem Boney join NLC's REAL Council. "Together with a team of local leaders from around the country, we will work to solve the most pressing challenges facing our communities and help fulfill the promise of America's cities, towns, and villages."

The Committee consists of Co-Chairs, Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, Washington, Councilmember Casey Thomas, Dallas, Texas; Vice-Chairs Mayor Patrick Wojahn, College Park Maryland; and Mayor Steve Patterson, Athens, Ohio.

Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor-President and CEO of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will serve as the REAL Council's liaison to the NLC Board of directors.

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Notable achievements of Black women in history



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Annie Easley (1933-2011) was a computer scientist, mathematician and rocket scientist. She worked on Centaur technology at NASA -- a high-energy rocket technology that uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen to boost rockets into space.

Cathay Williams, because of an error in correctly understanding her name, became William Cathay (a male soldier.) According to an Army doctor; William Cathay enlisted in the United States Regular Army as a Buffalo Soldier in 1866.



The Army surgeon examined William Cathay, the recruit, but failed to realize that William Cathay was a female and not a male; the surgeon determined the recruit fit for duty and assigned William Cathay to the 38th U.S. Infantry; it was established in August 1866.

Cathay Williams carved a small, but symbolically

important place in the history of American women, in the history of Black women and in the history of the United States Army.

To date, she is the only documented woman who served in the U.S. Army prior to the official introduction of women.

Nannie Helen Burroughs was one of the best known and well-respected women

of the early twentieth century. She was called 'The Black Goddess of Liberty'. She was an educator, institution and organization-builder and a major figure in the Black church and secular feminist movement.

Burroughs became a much sought after participant, particularly by the Republican Party. When Herbert Hoover was elected President in 1928, he chose Burroughs to head a fact-finding commission on housing. In 1909, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls, which was renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in 1964.

Always aware of the value of education, she went back to school at the age of 42. In each dictionary she handed out, she inscribed

the motto of the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," supplemented by her personal message, and "I challenge you not to waste yours."

Black women scientists, engineers and inventors have made important contributions to the science of chemistry.

Patricia Bath in 1988 invented the Cataract Laser Probe, a device that painlessly removes cataracts. Prior to this invention, cataracts were surgically removed. Patricia Bath

founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness.

Marie Daly in 1947 became the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry. In addition to her research, she developed programs to attract and aid minority students in medical and graduate school. Mae Jemison is a retired medical doctor and American astronaut. In 1992, she became the first Black woman in space.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran for Women's Month in 2019.)

LAUGHTER, from Page 14

much to laugh about these days. If it weren't for politicians, some people wouldn't have anything to laugh at.

Many a time, my wife and I will be sitting in the living room watching a little TV and much of that time is filled with laughter. Not so much what's on the TV, but our response to what's on TV.

Most of the time we watch TV while eating supper. Almost nightly, the ad-

vertisements had to do with some cure for diarrhea during that time. So why do I want to hear about diarrhea while eating supper? It sort of quenches my appetite at the time.

That in itself has caused us to laugh many a time. We can either laugh at it or get upset. More often than not, both of us choose the laughter element. Nothing lifts us better than laughter, no matter what we laugh at.

Thinking about how important laughter was in my life, I was reminded of the Bible verse. David said, "Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them" (Psalm 126:2).

That verse sums up the important aspect of my life. Because of the great things God has done for me that has become the platform for healthy laughter in my life.

Looking at my life from God's perspective, there are many things that would induce laughter.

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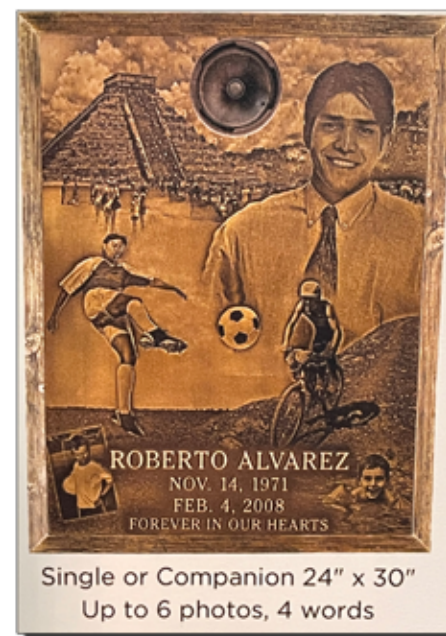
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NDG Book Review: 'Speak Up, Speak out!' celebrates changemakers

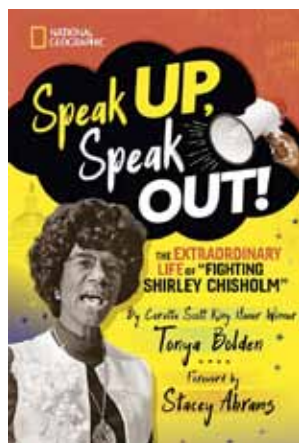
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Sometimes, you just gotta say what you're going to say.

Sometimes, you can't keep quiet. You simply just have to speak up, especially when you can make a situation better or fix what's wrong. Those are the times when it's right to state your opinion and be firm, and in the new book "Speak Up, Speak Out! The Extraordinary Life of 'Fighting Shirley Chisholm'" by Tonya Bolden, you'll have good, strong shoulders to stand on while you're doing it.

Charles Christopher St. Hill had guts and determination.

He needed it. In early



1923, at age twenty-two, he boarded a ship in Cuba to come to the U.S. to be a shoemaker on Long Island. He "regarded himself" as a Barbadian man and he "fell in with Brooklyn's tight-knit Bajan community," but he was happy to become an American.

At about this same time, Ruby Seale boarded a steamer in Barbados to come to New York City, and the two were married in late 1922. In the winter of 1924, they welcomed their first daughter, a girl they named Shirley.

For most of her life, Shirley and her sisters heard their father say, "God gave you a brain; use it." He didn't tolerate laziness or time-wasting — as proof, Shirley's parents worked constantly, with a goal of buying a house and sending their daughters to college. To give them room to do that, they sent Shirley and her sisters to live with their Granny in Barbados. She was "strict" but life was

wonderful. Barbados was nothing like Brooklyn!

Once back home, though, Shirley and her sisters settled down to become young ladies and "good Christians." They attended church and school and when she graduated, Shirley was ready for college, just like her parents dreamed. She was tiny in stature but big on joining, and she was active with causes she cared about. She fell in love and married but by then, a flame had been lit in the new Mrs. Shirley Chisholm.

Says Bolden, "She had become alive to politics."

For a kid who's just learning about the ins and outs of politics, "Speak Up,

Speak Out" is a great book to have because it does double-duty: not only does it give children a historical look at what it was like to launch a political campaign some fifty years ago, but it also introduces them to the first Black woman to run for the office of President. It's lively and relatable.

And somewhat too relaxed.

For much of the first half of this book, author Tonya Bolden repeatedly refers to Chisholm as "Shirls," which was apparently her childhood nickname. To include it is good, and makes the narrative more child-friendly; to overuse it seems somewhat disrespectful, given the rest of

the story. A little less casualness would have gone a long way here.

Still, though this book is good for 9-to-14-year-olds, and adults who don't remember Chisholm's career or her presidential bid will find it useful to read. Find "Speak Up, Speak Out!" and say yes.

For younger readers who want to know about influential women in history, "Stand Up! 10 Mighty Women Who Made a Change!" by Brittney Cooper, illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson is a great book to find. With its mini-biographies and its you-GO-girl tone, it's a winner for 5-to-9-year-olds.

FOCUS, from Page 5

of their income to care for their young children," President Biden asserted.

"My plan would cut the cost of childcare in half for most families and help parents, including millions of women who left the workforce during the pandemic because they couldn't afford childcare," he continued.

"[My plan] also includes home-and-long-term care. More affordable housing, Pre-K for 3 and 4-year-olds. All these will lower costs for families. Nobody earning less than \$400,000 a year will pay an additional penny in taxes."

The President also addressed his historic Supreme Court nominee, D.C. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, urging swift confirmation.

"No matter whatever your ideology, we all know one of the most serious constitutional duties a president has is nominating someone to serve on the United States Supreme Court," the President declared.

"I've nominated Circuit Court of Appeals Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of our nation's top legal minds who will continue in Justice [Stephen] Breyer's

legacy of excellence," he stated.

"The former top litigator in private practice, a former federal public defender, from a family of public school educators and police officers. She is a consensus builder.

"Since she has been nominated, she has received a broad range of support including the Fraternal Order of Police and former judges supported by Democrats and Republicans."

He also honored Justice Breyer, urging him to stand up and "let them see you."

Turning his attention to the pandemic, the President said cases of Covid-19 finally are falling.

"Thanks to the progress we have made this past year, Covid-19 need no longer control our lives," President Biden offered.

"I know some are talking about 'living with Covid-19.' But tonight, I say that we will never just accept living with Covid-19."

He continued:

"We're launching the 'Test to Treat' initiative so people can get tested at a pharmacy, and if they're positive, receive antiviral pills on the spot at no cost."

While Republicans will undoubtedly push back

against the President's address, several civil rights groups applauded him.

"As we assess the state of the union, without question, President Biden gets high marks for supporting legislation on childcare, voting rights, maternal health, abortion access, and worker's rights," said Marcela Howell, the President, and CEO of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda.

"But the same senators who consistently block voting rights protections also block reproductive rights protections and safety nets for working-class families. Make no mistake, the enemies of equality are determined to shut down progress at every turn," Howell stated.

She said it's time to pass the President's Build Back Better bill and protect the lives of all who live in the United States.

"It is time to protect bodily autonomy and ensure all people have access to abortion services. It is time to pass a comprehensive voting rights bill that rejects the voter suppression tactics of the far right," Howell demanded.

"Black women are even more determined to fight for our human and civil

rights. We demand the right to exercise bodily autonomy, to have the resources to raise our families with dignity and to exercise our constitutional right to vote. And nothing will stop us."

Howell continued:

"Black women are putting politicians on notice; we are holding them accountable to their oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution. It is not an easy task. We invite the country to stand and fight with us to

defend human and civil rights. Join us in demanding that elected officials uphold and abide by the Constitution. We will not stop until America's promise of liberty and justice for all is our lived reality."

Dialogue WITH THE Superintendent & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION

with Superintendent Michael Hinojosa

ALL DIALOGUES FOR TEACHERS/STAFF
5 - 6 P.M.

ALL COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS FOR PARENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS
6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

DATE	LOCATION	SCHOOLS INVITED
March 22	W.T. White HS	W.T. White and Thomas Jefferson feeder pattern schools
March 23	Woodrow Wilson HS	Woodrow Wilson and Bryan Adams feeder pattern schools
March 30	David W. Carter HS	David W. Carter and Wilmer-Hutchins feeder pattern schools

SAVETHE DATE!

DALLAS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

For More Information: dallasisd.org/conversations